

Senior Dellacqua has team in No.2 spot

Casey's mum flies flag



By BRAD McGRATH



AUSTRALIA'S new golden girl Casey Dellacqua isn't the only one in her family that is handy with a racquet.

Her mother, Nita, has been busy representing Western Australia at the Australian Seniors Championships on the Border.

The WA40s are second in their pool having dropped just the one match to New Zealand on the opening day when Nita was absent watching her daughter lose to Serbian No.3 seed Jelena Jankovic at the Australian Open.

Despite the loss it is with great pride that Nita looks back on her daughter's achievements.

"We're very very proud of her," Nita said.

"She has worked hard and it is all paying off now."

Dellacqua captured the Australian public's imagination over the past week with a giant-killing run which includes the scalp of former world No.1 Amelie Mauresmo.

In five previous attempts at the Australian Open, Dellacqua had failed to pass the first round.

"She beat some quality players and a few seeds along the way so I was

surprised how well she was hitting the ball," Nita said.

"I think she is much more mentally tougher now and believes that she belongs out there."

Nita said it had been "nerve racking at times" watching her daughter's progress through the Australian Open as she failed to win a first set.

She said it showed the work that Dellacqua had been putting into her fitness was paying off.

"It has really helped her being at the AIS," Nita said.

"She is fitter and more mentally tough."

Meanwhile, Victoria has increased its lead in the teams championship.

Despite NSW having the biggest representation at the championships, with 22 teams, the Victorian side has claimed the past two titles.

Officials said NSW and Queensland were still within striking distance.

The teams championship will run until tomorrow with 540 men and women playing in age divisions from 35-40 to 80-plus.