

# Broomball a boom sport

**WHILE** not a sport familiar to many people, Broomball is a fast becoming one of the boom team sports in the Territory.

A 12-team mixed Summer Broomball competition was launched last week at the home of ACT Broomball, the Phillip Ice Skating Rink.

While it has yet to take hold in NSW, Broomball is very popular in Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and the ACT, who are already touted as the unofficial Australian champions.

Very similar to indoor hockey, Broomball is played on a polished mirror-like ice surface with the players wearing sneakers and minimal padding.

Since its inception in Canberra in 1980, Broomball has been dominated by local Southside team 'The Animals'.

Captained by Phillip Ice Rink Manager John Raut, the Animals have won the past 27 competitions on the trot, losing only two Grand Finals in the history of ACT Broomball. A number of the Animals lineup boast years of experience with the Canberra Knights Ice Hockey side, while one of the stars of the side is Goal-tender Chrissie Jaecle. While admitting that many of his players



**PHILLIP** Ice Rink manager and 'The Animals' captain, John Raut, prepares to demonstrate how Broomball is played.

are in the veteran class, Raut is confident that the teamwork and desire to win will carry the side to another success this season. One notable absentee at the launch of the summer season was ACT Sport and Recreation

Minister Bill Stefaniak who was due to carry out the official duties.

The Minister left a trail of local media in his wake when he cancelled his appearance nearly an hour after the scheduled start time for the launch.