

# The Courier-Mail

## Tribute paid to brothers

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December 20, 2006 11:00pm

Article from: 

**A SELECTION of cricket bats, a pile of footballs and a Bible represented the passions of Brisbane brothers Daniel and Toby East at their memorial service yesterday.**

Just over a week since the boys were killed in a car accident on their way home from a Christmas shopping trip, about 1500 mourners packed the Kenmore Baptist Church where they had made so many friends in their short lives.

People came from just about every corner of Brisbane's southwestern suburbs: family, friends, Moggill United Soccer Club in their uniforms, Wests Cricket Club in their whites carrying bats, and the firefighters and ambulance officers who pulled Daniel, 17, Toby, 12, and their injured brother Ruben, 10, from the car wreckage at Pinjarra Rd.

Amid the tributes to two sports-loving and committed Christian boys, a homemade music video of Men At Work's *Down Under* the East boys had filmed was played.

Ruben, his broken legs strapped having left hospital for the morning, couldn't help but laugh at the embarrassment his brothers would have felt at having their antics shown to such a big crowd.

Their parents Adam and Riekje were too upset to speak, but were represented by their other son Jordan, 15, in the service program.

"I will be missing those fun times we all had together," Jordan said. "But I'm sure there will be many more in heaven one day. I will be missing you bros."

Daniel was remembered for his serious side, his influence over his siblings and his gift as a talented cricket all-rounder.

His family was presented with his senior certificate and OP -5 score from his final year of studies this year.

"I think of Daniel as the essence of faith and truth," his mentor Ray Peck said.

On Toby's side of the ledger, Citywest Church member Clinton Probst spoke of that smile and the way the little boy would be in a friend's ear instead of listening to the group leader.

"We knew he was a great kid, always smiling, always full of life," Mr Probst said.

Pullenvale State School teacher Ben Austin recalled how Toby, the captain of the soccer team, used to streak down the touch line on the right wing.

"Goodbye Tobes, we are really going to miss you, mate," Mr Austin said.

And there was cricket coach Brett Henschell, who left after the service to return to the Gold Coast where Toby should have been with his representative team at the state titles. It was summer and, as the East family had replied when asked if Toby's teammates could attend the service instead of the game, there was a game of cricket to be played.



Image 1 of 2



SHATTERED ... the East family before the tragic crash, from left, dad Adam, Toby, mum Riekje, Daniel, Jordan and Ruben.

VICTIMS ... the two brothers killed in last week's crash, Daniel, 17, and Toby, 12.

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