

RYDE

Murder charge expected for Aidan stabbing

Spirit FC holds memorial match to honour teen

Steven Deare

POLICE are preparing a murder charge over the stabbing death of 16-year-old Aidan Smith at a birthday party in Ryde earlier this month.

Jacob Lusted, 20, is likely to see his charge of affray upgraded to murder after his court case was last week postponed to October 19 so police could gather more evidence.

Prosecutors said the delay would allow Ryde Local Area Command detectives assigned to Strike Force Berkley to conduct a “forensic procedure”.

DNA may give detectives the answer as to who stabbed whom in the melee that erupted at what had been an orderly party for about 50 people.

Ryde LAC crime manager Glyn Baker told the *Times* Strike Force Berkley, the team of detectives set up to investigate the death, was continuing its work.

“We’re still appealing for witnesses or anyone with information to come forward,” he said.

“The circumstances of the murder are still being investigated.”

Aidan and six others were treated for wounds inflicted during a brawl at a house party on Victoria Rd late on Saturday, August 6.

Aidan died at Westmead Hospital that night of puncture wounds to the chest.

Family and friends have remembered him as a loyal mate and a talented sportsman.

Teammates have paid



Western Sydney Wanderers goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne (back left) and captain Nikolai Topor-Stanley (back right) join the teams in the Aidan Smith match. The wigs were symbolic of Aidan, known for his long curly hair.



tribute to his contribution to his team in the Gladesville Hornsby Football Association.

Spirit FC held a memorial football game at Christie Park on Sunday.

Western Sydney Wanderers captain Nikolai Topor-Stanley and goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne were on hand to help coach and run the line for the game, which featured a select group of Spirit FC members who knew, coached or played with Aidan during his junior years at the club.

“We are honoured to be able to support one of our

own and GHFA who has been affected by this tragedy,” said Western Sydney’s community engagement manager Josh Hunter.

“Our thoughts are with Aidan, and his family and friends who have been affected by the recent tragic events.

“This is a time of need and, as a community club for those in western Sydney, we were honoured to be called in to offer support to our football community.”

All proceeds raised from the day will go towards supporting Aidan’s family.