

Torch heralds athletes

Switch to soccer brings results



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ON THE BALL: Shaun McKee is heading off to the Special Olympics in April to play soccer.

IF it runs, has a round ball, an oval ball, one with six stitches or even involves a backboard or tryline, Shaun McKee will follow it.

While the 19-year-old from Bracken Ridge spends endless hours following the fortunes of any sport going, come April he has his own chance to shine at the Special Olympics.

McKee has been selected to play soccer after little more than a year in the sport.

Previously showing talent in cross country, and attending a Special Olympics in Townsville to compete in it, the sports-mad teen switched sports with instant success.

Guardian Pamela Burrows said he was "your typical sportsman".

"Not only are Special Olympians athletes, they are sportsmen in every sense of the word," Ms Burrows said.

"Shaun nurtures his teammates and it's great to see."

McKee has Asperger's syndrome and intellectual impairment.

He said he was confident of doing well in Adelaide.

"I think we're a good chance to have a gold medal around our necks," he said.