



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA CONTINUES WINNING BASKETBALL RUN AT WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

Ricky Ponting and company might be struggling against the Poms in the Ashes at present but Australia has turned the tables on “The Old Enemy” with a convincing basketball victory at the World University Games in Izmir.

In their second game for the competition the Australian men’s team outclassed a determined Great Britain outfit, winning an intense battle, 80-72.

Trading basket for basket through out much of the first half, a strong defensive effort in the third quarter deprived Great Britain of points while Australia’s sharp shooting added to the tally, ending the session eight points ahead.

A quick three points by Ben Hunt in the fourth quarter set the tone for the rest of the game with Australia shaking up the Great Britain team who struggled to break the Aussie defence.

Australian coach Brett Cocksedge paid tribute to his team’s defence and their ability to gel together with all but one player attending college in the USA and only meeting for the first time in Izmir.

“Our defence in the second half stepped up a notch and our ability to keep their scores down won the game for us.

“Everyone contributed to the team effort and the guys’ ability to gel came to the fore.”

Hunt and fellow guard John Phillip top scored for the Australian’s with 20 points each while Brent Hobba grabbed a team high eight boards.

The team will play Lithuania tomorrow in a top of the Group battle.

In Tennis, Victorian Thomas George won his first round singles match against Belgian Philippe Berthe in straight sets, 7-5 6-1.

George was down twice in the first set but broke back and held serve to win the set 7-5.

The Australian dominated in the second set closing the match with a blistering forehand down the line to punctuate a 6-1 scoreline.

George's next match up is against Ukraine's 6th seed Serhiy Yaroshenko.

Lauren Breadmore also won her first round match, defeating Chinese 15th seed Lei Huang 6-2 6-2.

In other events Australia's men's water polo team were defeated by defending champions Hungary, 8-6.

The Australian's were down 5-2 at the end of the second quarter but came within a goal of Hungary in the third, scoring three goals of their own.

However, the defending champions were too strong scoring two goals to Australia's one in the fourth to take the match.

Grant Richardson and Luke Gavin scored two goals a piece for the Australian's, with Robert Maitland and Anthony Martin scoring a goal each.

Tomorrow Australia will play Kazakhstan.

In women's volleyball Australia went down fighting for the second game in a row, losing three sets to one to Portugal.

After a tit-for-tat start Portugal ended up dominating the first set, winning 25-18 despite the efforts of Eileen Romanowski at the net.

Australia then got off to an early lead in the second set before Portugal rallied to win 25-22 and take a two set to nil lead.

The third set started off the same way as the second but this time the Australian's twice fought off comeback bids from Portugal to eventually take the set 25-21.

Romanowski, who ended up with a team high 14 points at the net, was again outstanding and along with team captain Renae Maycock also won some critical serves late in the set.

Portugal came out fired up in the fourth set and despite a committed effort by the entire Australian squad the Portugese triumphed 25-21 to give them the victory.

The Australian's play Taipei tomorrow.

At the Manisa Swimming Pool Queenslander Belinda Nevell finished a close seventh in the final of the 50m backstroke in a time of 29.58.

The event was won by Japan's Aya Terakawa in 29.06 from Canadian Jennifer Carroll (29.32) and Belarusian Sviatlana Khakholva (29.42).

Lauren Winter finished 10th overall after placing 2nd in the "B" final of the women's 100m butterfly in 1:01.36.

Winter's time was actually the fifth fastest of the evening but the Western Australian failed to make the final at the morning heats session.

Poland's Otylia Jędrzejczak, who was involved in the controversial one hand finish that denied Australian Jessicah Schipper a gold medal and world record at the FINA World Championships in Montreal last month, won the "A" final in a University Games record of 58.74.

Lucy Saville also contested a "B" final, finishing 15th in the 100m freestyle in a time of 57.64.

COMPLETE LIST OF AUSTRALIAN RESULTS

Day 2

Men's Basketball

Australia 80 def Great Britain 72

Swimming

Lauren Winter 10th women's 100m butterfly (1:01.36)

Kate Lynch 23rd women's 100m butterfly (1:03.50)

Belinda Nevell 7th women's 50m backstroke (29.58)

Andrew Thompson 15th men's 800m freestyle (8:14.55)

Lauren Winter 24th women's 100m freestyle (58.50)

Lucy Saville 15th women's 100m freestyle (57.64)

Australia 14th men's 4x100m freestyle relay (Tim LaForest, Jonathon Newton, Jeff English, Andrew Thompson) (3:27.26)

Tennis

Lauren Breadmore def Lei Huang (China) 6-2 6-2 (1st R women's singles)

Thomas George def Philippe Berthe (Belgium) 7-5 6-1 (1st R men's singles)

Women's Volleyball

Portugal 3 defeated Australia 1 (25-18, 25-22, 21-25, 25-21)

Water Polo

Hungary 8 defeated Australia 6

Ends

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Australian Government

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