



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday August 16, 2005

AUSTRALIA'S WOMEN BASKETBALLER'S THROUGH TO WUSG SEMI

The Australian women's basketball team has cruised into the semi finals at the World University Summer Games in Izmir, Turkey with a 59-47 victory over Germany today.

Australia led by two points at both half and quarter time before drawing away in the third term to lead by ten, 47-37.

Once again the Australian's were led in scoring by 19-year-old centre Rachel Warren who was starting for the first time in the tournament.

Warren has dominated in the paint throughout the week and also grabbed nine boards to go with her game high 16 points.

Tomorrow's semi final match up against undefeated Serbia & Montenegro will be a far tougher assignment for the Australian's while Russia will face the USA in the other semi.

At Narlidere Swimming Pool, divers Carlie Gidman and Nicole Ng finished 6th and 10th respectively in the women's 10m platform final.

China's 2004 Olympic finalist Li Ting won the event from the USA's Cassandra Cardinell and 2000 Olympic silver medallist Li Na (China).

Gidman and Ng found themselves in the final 12 with consistent dives in the semis, ending the round in 8th and 11th respectively.

The pair will team up tomorrow in the 10m synchro with a genuine chance of winning Australia's first medal of the WUSG.

The third Australian in the event, Adele Meager also scored enough points to progress through to the semi-finals but unfortunately missed out on progressing through due to a WUSG ruling that only two participants from each country could continue in the competition.

Far from walking away from the event unhappy, Meagher was excited about her form and scored a personal best 272.16.

After a close game against Lithuania two days ago, the Australian men's basketball team was again defeated today, going down to the Ukraine 85 – 69.

It was a lack luster performance by the Australian's who have now put themselves in a do-or-die game against Greece tomorrow and must rely on Ukraine to beat Lithuania to remain in contention for a quarter final berth.

Best on court for Australia was University of Wollongong guard, John Philip, who put on 14 points for the team while pulling down nine rebounds.

At Karsiyaka Tennis Centre Lauren Breadmore and Thomas George breezed through their first round mixed doubles clash against Kazakhstan duo Madina Rahkin and Vadim Ivchenko, winning 6-1, 6-1.

Forced to wait courtside by the Kazakhstan pair who arrived to play 20 minutes after the conclusion of the preceding match, violating ITF rules that allow a maximum of 15 minutes, the Australian's took their frustrations out in the best possible manner.

Breadmore and George broke Rahkin's serve in the third game of the first set and it wasn't until Ivchenko held serve in the second game of the next set that the Aussies lost another game.

Overall it took Breadmore and George just 47 minutes to book a meeting with Japanese fifth seeds Tomoko Dokei and Joji Miyao.

Earlier Breadmore's singles campaign came to end in her third round match, losing in straight sets to tenth seeded Austrian Petra Russegger 6-3, 6-2.

Seeded eighth, Breadmore came into the match in great form following yesterday's 6-1, 6-0 thrashing of Hong Kong's Po Kuen Lam and with a world ranking of 312, 75 places ahead of the Austrian, was favoured to win.

Breadmore led 3-1 earlier in the first set before a controversial line call, that would have seen her go up 4-1, went against her and the Victorian let Russegger back into the match.

That was all the Austrian needed and she cruised to victory against a frustrated Breadmore.

At the Ataturk Swimming Pool Australia scored seven goals in an almost perfect second quarter to set up their 14-5 defeat of Belgium.

After a solid start that saw them lead 2-1 at the first break the Australian's turned it on in the second period, scoring on all five shots at goal as well as converting two of three extra man opportunities.

The quarter was punctuated by a piece of Grant Richardson brilliance midway through the period.

Richardson stole the ball before scoring a swim away goal from over half way, his push shot to score totally bamboozling the Belgian keeper.

Although Australia still struggled in extra man situations, converting just two from eight chances in attack and allowing the Belgian's to score three of their five opportunities, it was a much improved performance.

The Australian's defense was near faultless and allowed the Belgium side just eleven shots on goal the entire match.

Coach John Fox was pleased with the effort and said his side had talked about their defense and counter attacking.

"We set a strong defense and that allowed us to counter strongly and that is how we scored most of our goals," Fox said.

"That's the best we have played and I am happy because we talked about defending well and getting our shots on the counter."

Fox praised the entire team's effort but made special mention of the passing game of goal keeper Daniel Lees who allowed the Australian fast break to set up many scoring chances.

Krystal Weir continued her good form at the Karsiyaka Sailing Centre, placing 3rd and 6th in today's two women's laser radial races to leave her 8th overall with eight races remaining.

Women's 470 class pairing Jacqueline Bonnitcha and Rashele Martin were 8th and 9th in their races to also sit in eighth overall, while Jacqueline's brother Jonathon improved to 15th in the men's mistral with a 13th and 15th.

Two Australian's were in finals at the Manisa Swimming Pool with Jonathon Newton and Lauren Winter finishing seventh and eleventh in their respective 50m butterfly events.

Swimming in the "A" final, Newton clocked 24.55 behind Ukranian winner Sergiy Breus who set a new University Games Record of 23.63.

Winter was third in the women's "B" final in 27.90.

In Taekwondo, Australia's only player in action today, Amy Ash, lost a close first round match to American Christina Park, three-two.

COMPLETE LIST OF AUSTRALIAN RESULTS

Women's Basketball – Quarter Final

Australia 59 defeated Germany 47

Men's Basketball

Ukraine 85 defeated Australia 69

Diving

Carlie Gidman 6th women's 10m platform

Nicole Ng 10th women's 10m platform

Adele Meagher 12th in prelims women's 10m platform (failed to progress because WUSG only allows 2/ nation in semi finals)

Swimming

Jonathon Newton 7th men's 50m butterfly (24.55)

Jeff English 27th men's 50m butterfly (25.20)

Andrew Thompson 17th men's 200m freestyle (1:52.17)

Lauren Winter 11th women's 50m butterfly (27.90)

Kate Lynch 27th women's 50m butterfly (28.95)

Sailing

Jacqueline Bonnitcha / Rashele Martin 9th womens 470 class (race 3)

Jacqueline Bonnitcha / Rashele Martin 8th womens 470 class (race 4)
progressive 8th overall

Jonathon Bonnitcha 15th men's mistral (race 3)

Jonathon Bonniticha 13th men's mistral (race 4) progressive 15th overall
Krystal Weir women's 3rd Laser Radial (race 3)
Krystal Weir women's 6th Laser Radial (race 4) progressive – 8th overall

Taekwondo

Amy Ash women's 72kg defeated 1st round (3:2)

Tennis

Petra Russegger (Austria) defeated Lauren Breadmore (6-3, 6-2)
Breadmore / George defeated Rahkim / Ivchenko (Kazakhstan) (6-1, 6-1)

Water Polo

Australia 14 defeated Belgium 5

Ends

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