



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday August 18, 2005

## **AUSSIE HOOPS TEAM GO DOWN TO USA STUDENTS IN TURKEY**

The Australian men's basketball team has gone down to the USA by 20 points in their quarter final at the World University Summer Games in Izmir, Turkey.

The American's came out hard in the opening quarter to lead by 16 at the first break and despite a determined fight back early in the second half Australia eventually lost 88-68.

With the American team chock full of high profile Division 1 College players, including star University of Syracuse guard Gerry McNamara, it was always going to be a tough assignment for the smaller Australian team who were down to only ten fit and available players.

McNamara was on fire in the first half racking up 13 points, five rebounds and a steal to ensure the American's led 55-33 at the half with an embarrassing blowout looking likely.

Someone forgot to tell the Australian's and the third quarter was a different story altogether with Aussie Captain Ben Hunt's "anything you can do I can do better" attitude helping him score eight unanswered points, including two from three-point range to bring Australia back into the match.

Thanks largely to Hunt's 11 points Australia outscored the USA 17-9 for the quarter and went to the last break trailing by 14 with the faintest glimmer of hope for a monumental upset.

However that was as far as the brave Australian comeback went.

Hunt ended with a game high 28 points and more than held his own against the bigger name American's while team mates Daniel Dillon, Drew Williamson and John Philip also had their moments.

Australia now goes into a classification match against Turkey that is sure to be played in front of a hostile local crowd tomorrow.

Victorian Krystal Weir remains in medal contention in the women's Laser Radial class at the Karsiyaka Sailing Centre after today's seventh and eighth races of the 12 race regatta.

Weir finished third in the seventh race and fourth in the next and now sits just three points behind Mexican Tania Elias Calles in fourth.

Jacqueline Bonnitcho and Rashele Martin moved up to eighth overall after a pair of 6th placings today in the women's 470 class.

Jonathon Bonnitcho fell from 15th to 17th in the men's mistral.

At the Narlidere Swimming Pool Briony Cole dived well enough to finish sixth in the final of the women's 3m springboard.

Cole qualified tenth after the preliminary and semi final rounds but her semi score saw her enter the final in seventh.

The Deakin University student nailed her first two dives of the final to move into fourth place, just over two points from the bronze medal position.

Cole then dropped a position on her third dive and a further spot in the last round for sixth overall.

Amey Moors-Chantry was 18th and Carlie Gidman 25th.

The last of Australia's Taekwondo team were in action today with Eliza Kwan in the 47kg class and Adam Underwood in the 72-78kg division.

Both fighters stood up to a day of tough competition, with penalties against their opposition handing the pair first round wins.

While Underwood succumbed to the quick reflexes of his Jordanian opponent in the second round, Kwan thrashed her Canadian challenger, 11 – 3, to move to the quarter finals.

Up against Russia's Svetlana Klimova, the University of Canberra student kept the scores level until the final period when Klimova notched up two quick points to take the fight 6 – 4.

At the Ataturk Swimming Pool the Australian men's water polo team finished their 2005 WUSG campaign in ninth position after beating Greece 6 – 5.

After a scoreless first half both teams picked up the pace in the third session with Australia putting four shots into the net thanks to Grant Richardson, Robert Maitland, Chris Corbin and Mark Murphy.

Richardson teamed up with Luke Gavin in the final quarter to put two more goals on the scoreboard to take victory from the Greeks by one.

Having claimed the bronze medal at the 2003 Games, the team struggled to replicate that form and lost some tough match ups during the event leaving the team disappointed with their result.

In women's volleyball Australia seized some revenge for the Wallabies humiliating defeat against the All Blacks last weekend with a straight set victory over the Kiwis.

Australia won the first set 25-21, dominated the second 25-10 and clinched the match 26-24 in the third thanks to a superior blocking performance at the net.

The win was Australia's first of the tournament but comes late in the classification stage.

## **Complete Australian results**

### **Day 7 (Aug 18)**

#### **Men's Basketball**

USA 88 defeated Australia 68

#### **Diving**

Briony Cole 6th women's 3m springboard

Amey Moors-Chantry 18th women's 3m springboard

Carlie Gidman 25th women's 3m springboard

#### **Sailing**

Krystal Weir women's Laser Radial 3rd (race 7) 4th (race 8) progressive 4th overall

Jacqueline Bonnitcho / Rashele Martin women's 470 class 6th (race 7) 6th (race 8) progressive 8th overall

Jonathon Bonnitcho men's mistral 20th (race 7) 17th (race 8) 20th (race 9) progressive 17th overall

#### **Taekwondo**

Adam Underwood men's 78kg defeated 2nd round (7:11)

Eliza Kwan 5th women's 47kg defeated quarter final (6:4)

## **Volleyball**

Australia defeated New Zealand 3 - 0 (25-21, 25-10, 26-24)

## **Water Polo**

Australia 6 defeated Greece 5 (9th v 10th playoff)

Ends

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