



MEDIA RELEASE

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VICTORIA'S RICHARD JEREMIAH TAKES GOLD ON DAY ONE OF 2005 AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES

Victoria's Richard Jeremiah recovered from a disappointing World University Summer Games to take Gold in the men's cross country on day one of the 2005 Australian University Games in Brisbane.

Ranked second and third in Australia over 3000m steeplechase and 3000m flat course respectively, Jeremiah took a comfortable lead after the first of three 4km laps around the Toohey Forest course only to extend his lead across the finish line by 1minutes 43 seconds.

After a disappointing showing at the World University Summer Games in August in Turkey, where the 22 year old failed to complete the 3000m steeplechase due to a calf injury, Jeremiah was happy at his hit out today.

"While I could feel my leg, I was happy with the run today and looking forward to continuing to recover further,

"I'll sit down tonight with my coach and then see what else I will do during the week," said the Bachelor of Commerce/Arts student.

In the women's race, The University of Sydney's Kathryn Archbald ran a convincing race in challenging conditions to take Gold ahead of Claire Fitz of La Trobe University and Bryony Coleman from The University of Melbourne.

With temperatures reaching the high 20's, the steep cross country course provided the athletes with no relief, quickly segregating the packs.

At Griffith University Mt Gravatt, hopes dived, spirits soared and finally it all came down to the Gold medal match between Australian Catholic University's (ACU) Glenn Harris and The University of Queensland's (UQ) Pita Taufatofua in the Taekwondo competition.



While Harris had a game plan of basically just picking off his opponent and staying sharp in the men's black heavy division, Taufatofua's tactical approach was simply to not get kicked in the head.

In the end it was the aspiring UQ Olympian, whose tactics stood the test of time, winning the bout by four points.

All up 34 Gold medals were won at the Taekwondo competition in the only day of the discipline for the Games.

Further south six titles were won at Shailer Park's Rocksport with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) dominating the competition.

One of four additional sports included in the 2005 Games, competitors were only given five minutes to view their climbs before being taken into isolation to wait for their chance to scale the wall.

QUT's Sarah Allen, Joel Byrnes and Teresa Vella completed the day with Gold medals in the beginner women's, men's and intermediate women's categories respectively.

The University of Melbourne's Timothy White took out the Advanced Male title with Deakin University's Andre Hah winning the Female equivalent. University of Adelaide (AU) climber Peter Matulich grabbed Gold in the men's intermediate division.

Rockclimbing competition manager, Christophe Ellis said rockclimbing is becoming increasingly popular and it's great to see it being embraced by university students.

"Being part of the games is good exposure for the sport and has brought a high standard of competition to Brisbane," said Ellis.

Numerous preliminary matches were also played today, setting up some exciting clashes for day two with rowing the only sport out of the 26 yet to commence.

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