



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **AUSTRALIA TO COMPETE AT INAUGURAL WORLD UNIVERSITY SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

A 20-member Australian squad will head to Florida, USA on Thursday (21 October) to compete in the first ever World University Softball Championship (WUSC) to be held by the International University Sport Federation (FISU) from 26-31 October, 2004.

Under the tutelage of Head Coach Paula McGovern, the Australian team comprises 15 players and five officials including 2004 Australian Olympic squad member Jocelyn McCallum (Griffith University), 2003 and 2004 South Australian Junior Softballer of the Year, Catherine Bishop (University of Louisville, USA) and Australian Institute of Sport scholarship holder Leah Quackenbush (University Western Australia).

Paula McGovern is confident the calibre of the Australian team will place them in contention to take out the inaugural event.

"Given the standard of the team which includes several junior national representatives, we are very excited about the prospect of performing well at the first World University Softball Championship," said McGovern.

Hosted by the USA in conjunction with the International Softball Federation, the WUSC will include 150 participants from Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Guatemala, Japan, Netherlands, Russia, Uganda and the USA in the six day tournament.

In other AUS news, the Uni Reds scored a tight 22-21 victory over the Uni Blues in the inaugural AUS rugby union selection game held in Brisbane over the weekend.

With the Uni Blues leading for the entire match, Uni Reds winger William Caswell (Queensland University of Technology) broke the backs of the defence in the 85<sup>th</sup> minute, scoring his second try and securing the win for his teammates.

Competitors in the stand alone event were vying for selection in the AUS Rugby Union Team to tour Great Britain in January 2005. Announcement of the team will take place in the coming weeks.

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