



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 19 May 2005

AUSTRALIA'S OPALS SET TO SHINE AT THE WORLD SUMMER UNIVERSITY GAMES

Five members of the Australian women's basketball Opals Squad will represent their universities and their nation when they participate at the 2005 World University Summer Games (WUSG) in Izmir, Turkey, August 11-21.

Jessica Foley, Michelle Musselwhite, Gabrielle Richards, Jennifer Screen and Carly Wilson present an impressive line up for Australia, with all girls having extensive game experience and international recognition on overseas tours.

Athens Olympian Alison Tranquilli (Victoria) will add additional international experience to the side in her administrative role as manager of the WUSG women's basketball team.

Tranquilli, who recently returned to Australia after leading her team the "Pecs" to the Hungarian national league title is excited about her role in the team and expects athletes will enjoy the highly competitive nature of the Games.

The Games provide an excellent platform for developing elite athletes and providing experience at a multi-sport event similar in size and format to the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

The competitiveness of the WUSG has been recognised internationally by sporting organisations such as the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), who have identified the WUSG as the third most important basketball event behind the Olympic and World Championships.

The WUSG are held every two years under the banner of the International University Sports Federation (FISU).

The 2003 WUSG held in South Korea saw 177 countries participate, with Australia ranked 16th in the medal tally.

The sports being contested by Australia in Turkey are Athletics, Basketball, Diving, Gymnastics – Men's Artistic, Sailing, Swimming, Taekwondo, Tennis, Volleyball, Water Polo.

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