



2017-08-28

Burnett, basketball and badminton | Day 9 wrap

Alysha Burnett bursts home to take silver in the heptathlon, the Aussies gear up for the basketball final and a busy day at the badminton as Taipei 2017 enters it's finals days.

Just as Kyle Cranston took gold in the decathlon two nights ago, Australian Catholic University classmate Alysha Burnett too has a souvenir to bring home as she takes silver medal in the heptathlon on athletics' penultimate day of competition at Taipei Stadium.

With both athletes studying a Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science degree, Burnett closed out her most successful heptathlon campaign ever setting a new personal best of 5835 points.

Also at the athletics, Nick Hough (The University of Sydney) would be excused for feeling hard done by in the men's 110m hurdles after being incorrectly disqualified and having little preparation for the final where he finished in 6th.

The athletics venue at Taipei Stadium seems to be the only place in the city where it rains. Three days out of four it's bucketed down at the venue and the men's pole vault final was delayed an hour. Angus Armstrong (The University of Sydney) finally did take to competition and finished 5th. Other Aussies including long jumper Chris Mitrevski (RMIT), 800m runner Steve Knuckey (RMIT) and the women's 4x100m and men's 4x400m relay teams progressed to their respective finals.

Day nine was also about the rosy afterglow of the Emerging Opals sensational win over the hosts in the women's basketball semi-final as anything, however competition continued as the Games draw towards the closing ceremony on Wednesday.

Swimming – After the completion of the pool events, attention turned to the open water swimming at the New Taipei City Canal.

After days of debate and concern regarding the water temperature, and despite the efforts of officials to cool down the 30-degree water by pouring ice into the water, the UniRoos team officials decide the conditions were unsafe, with a water temperature in the low 30's at 5.30am.

The team of Oliver Signorini (University of Technology Sydney) and Kai Edwards (Griffith University) in the men's and Kareena Lee (University of the Sunshine Coast) in the women's 10km events did not start. Close to half the entrants withdrew with the UniRoos joining swimmers from the USA, Great Britain and Canada who decided not to start. Italy's Olympic 1500m champion and winner of the 800m and 1500m here in Taipei Gregorio Paltrinieri won the men's event in a predictably slow 1-hour 54minutes with the women's event going to Anna Olasz of Hungary in 2 hours and 4 minutes.

Badminton - The badminton courts at Taipei Gymnasium got a solid workout on Day 9 of the Games, hosting 172 matches across all tournaments in men's and women's singles and doubles plus mixed doubles.

Leading the Australians on a busy day was Daniel Fan (Curtin University) who won both his allocated matches to see himself start in tomorrow's round of 16 in the men's singles. Also victorious on the day was women's doubles pair Claudia Lam (University of New South Wales) and Sirina Fan (Curtin University) who won their encounter with Bhutan a convincing 2-0. Lam then backed up in the mixed doubles round of 32, pairing with Eric Voung (La Trobe University) to beat Philippines 2-1. See results for full scoring sheets.

Rhythmic Gymnastics – Competition commenced in rhythmic gymnastics with the individual all-around and individual apparatus qualifications.

Zoe Ormrod (Queensland University of Technology) and Enid Sung (The University of Sydney) were the UniRoos in action at the Nangang Exhibition Centre.

Ormrod scored 9.40 in her ball routine (28th) and followed up with 12.00 with the hoops (36th) for 32nd place overall. Sung produced a 12.475 hoop routine (26th) and 11.350 with the ball (27th) for 27th place overall. They return tomorrow for the second half of the competition, with ribbon and clubs.

Men's Basketball – The Emerging Boomers took on Estonia in the first of the 9th-16th bracket matches, dispatching the opponents 105-83. The boys move up to the 9th-12th place group, where they meet the winner of the Mexico v Norway match. The bad news is the game is scheduled for the same time as the Emerging Opals gold medal game.

Volleyball – Up against the United Arab Emirates in the 17th-22nd group match the Unirooms prevailed in straight sets, 25-22, 25-16, 25-17 to move into a clash with the USA on Monday in the 17th-20th place group.

Men's Water Polo – The Unirooms took on the USA in the 9th-12th place classification round, with the US proving too strong, chalking up an 8-4 win. The Unirooms will now meet Korea on Tuesday in their final encounter of the Games in a battle for 11th and 12th place overall. The women's side take on France on Monday in the first of the 9th-12th place playoffs.

Wushu - Jessica Lim (The University of Western Australia) finished 9th in pool A of the Talou and Elizabeth Lim (Curtain University), who has been battling illness and almost withdrew from the competition, placed 9th in pool A of the Nandao.