



2017-08-24

Fourth place for platform pair while badminton team score best ever result | Day 6 wrap

10m platform mixed synchro pair final Brittany O'Brien (Western Sydney University) and Nicholas Jeffree (University of Technology Sydney) placed fourth on Day 6 of the 2017 Summer Universide in Taipei.

In the athletics, Bundaberg's Taryn Gollshewsky has captured the bronze medal in the women's discus.

Battling rain and a slippery circle, Gollshewsky benefited from her 2015 experience, plus an appearance at the recent world championships in London, to handle the tricky conditionx, launching the platter 58.11m in round five to reach the podium.

It was the Uniroos sole medal on day six, and takes the overall tally to two gold, a silver and two bronze.

Elsewhere, the Emerging Boomers had a big win over Russia in basketball to reaffirm their position on the pool table as they head into their last group match against Mozambique.

Diving - Brittany O'Brien and Nicholas Jeffree almost hauled themselves onto the podium in the 10m mixed synchro platform event, eventually finishing fourth, after being down in sixth place during the competition.

O'Brien had already combined with Emily Meaney to win the silver in the women's 10m synchro and fresh off a fourth place in the final of the individual event on Wednesday returned to the University of Taipei pool.

In a tight contest, the Uniroos moved from 6th after the opening dive, to fifth and then up to fourth on the final dive to score 264.54, just behind the USA in third with 269.52.

Double gold medallist from this meet and 2015 world champion Kim Kuk Hyang partnered with Hyon Il Myong of North Korea to win the gold medal with 304.80. Russia pair Nikita Shleikher and Iulia Timoshinina won silver with 304.80.

Badminton – The Australian badminton team faced a do-or-die clash with Canada in the mixed teams event at Taipei Gymnasium. The consolation quarter-final went right down to the final wire, with women's doubles pair Tiffany Ho (University of Technology Sydney), and Jennifer Tam (Macquarie University) prevailing in the deciding set of the deciding match to win 3-2.

"There was a bit of pressure in it," admitted Tam.

"It was great to get the win at the very last set."

"We really wanted to do it for the team, they were a great support and I just really wanted to get across the line for our teammates who played so well before," added Ho.

Earlier in the contest Daniel Fan (Curtin University) won his clash against Giguere 2-0 while men's doubles pair Athithan Salladurai (Monash University) and Eric Vuong (La Trobe University) triumphed over the Canadian pair of Bauer/Lai winning 2-1.

The victory granted the team entry to their consolation semi-final clash with Poland which they lost 3-0 to finish their mixed teams campaign in 11th/12th place, the highest ever by the Australians at the Universiade. Individual badminton events begin on Sunday.

Swimming - After the excitement of Sian Whittaker's second gold medal on Wednesday night, it was a quieter day in the pool for the Uniroos with no finals but a series of semi-final swims which included Kian Melverton making her way through to the 800m final a day after she placed 4th in the 1500m final.

In the morning heats. 4x200m freestyle finalists Abbey Harkin (Griffith University) and Gemma Cooney (The University of Queensland) were first up in the 200m freestyle heats.

Harking clocked 2:04.14 for 7th in her heat to place 24th overall, with Cooney moving to the semis with 2:01.86 for 5th in her heat and 15th fastest overall. In the semi's, Cooney improved to 2:00.72, for 13th fastest overall.

Whittaker (Deakin University) retuned for the 50m backstroke heats, which by her own admission is too short... but she still qualified for the semis as 7th fastest, clocking 28.79 for third in her heat. Teammate Hayley Baker (The University of Melbourne) was 5th in 29.04 in her heat to qualify 12th for the semis. In the semis both went quickest, with Whittaker finishing 6th in a fast semi in 28.69 to sneak into the final in 8th fastest. Baker went 28.97 for 7th and 15th overall.

Melverton cruised through her heat of the 800m to place third behind 1500m winner Simona Quadarella (ITA) in 8:36.21. Melveton won the bronze medal in the event two years ago in Gwangju and will have her sights set on the podium again in Friday night's final after setting the 6th fastest time in the heats.

In the third and final heat, Kareena Lee (University of the Sunshine Coast) clocked 8:44.74 for 6th in her heat – 11th fastest overall.

In the 100m butterfly heats, Nick Brown (The University of Western Australia) didn't start, still suffering the effects of a stomach bug which has also hampered teammate Brayden McCarthy (Brisbane TAFE) who finished 6th in his heat in 53.46 – the 17th fastest time.

Alex Milligan (The University of Western Australia) went in the heat of the 50m breaststroke, finishing 3rd in 29.32 – the 42nd fastest time from the heats.

Volleyball – After three tough losses, including a five setter against Hong Kong, the Uniroos notched their first win of the Taipei Games with a 3 sets to 1 win over Chile 25-8, 14-25, 25-21, 25-19. The team will meet Romania in the final pool match on Friday.

Taekwondo – Three fighters were in action with Jack Marton (Curtin University) in the 74kg category having a first round bye followed a first and second round win, before falling to Jason Ishida (USA) 21-9 in the quarter final.

In the women's 62kg competition, Stephanie Freeman (Australian National University) lost to Jisoo Moon of Korea 22-2 in the first round.

In the Men's Over 87kg category, Adam Meyers (Swinburne University) had a first round bye, but met his match 7-1 at the hands of Tseng Tzu-Yu of Chinese Taipei in the second round.

Tennis - After a first round bye the Australian duo of Danielle Wagland (University of Texas) and Nick Horton (North Carolina State) faced the 8th seeded Russian pair of Pivovarova and Muzaev in the 2nd round, with the Russians proving too strong winning 6-2, 6-4.

Table Tennis – It was a tough day for the Uniroos in the world class table tennis competition, with the two men's doubles team of Jake Duffy/Erny Tsao losing in their second round encounter as did Hemming Hu/Kane Townsend.

In the women's doubles Sarah Tan/Antonia Zhang lost in the opening round and in the mixed doubles, it was second round defeats for both Antonia Zhang/Hemming Hu and Sarah Tan/Kane Townsend.

Weightlifting – Joshua Quinn (La Trobe University) was the sole Uniroo in action on day six, lifting in the 105kg class, he snatched 127kg and lifted 150kg in the clean and jerk to total 277kg for 5th in group B and 15th overall.

Water Polo – in the women's water polo the Uniroos fought hard in a close encounter against France before going down 8-6. It's a win and three losses for the Uniroos form their four games to date, with a match up against Argentina in the final pool game on Friday prior to the 9th-12th place classification games.