

JANUARY 2003



AVF NEWSLETTER

AVF

General Manager

Happy New Year to everyone in the Australian Volleyball community. 2003 will be another important year for our sport with discussions continuing on developing a model for our sport that will better deliver services to our participants.

We are more than half way through an outstanding Peter's Ice Cream Australian Beach Volleyball Tour, with our talented beach athletes contesting events every few weeks and the highlights being shown on Channel Ten, check your local guides.

For the first time, we will contest Asian Youth Championships for Boys and Girls with a large number of our athletes in full-time training at the Australian Institute of Sport, in Canberra.

2003 will also provide an enormous challenge for our Senior National Teams, with Asian Championships for Men and Women, followed by the Asian Qualification Tournaments for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

2003 will also see the AVL move to September and the finals are planned for the weekend leading into the 20th Australian Volleyball Schools Cup.

The AVF is also finalizing arrangements for interviews for the vacant position of High Performance Manager. An appointment is planned for mid-February.

National Junior Championships

This important event on the Australian Volleyball Federation calendar, is to be held July 6-12 in Logan City, Queensland and may seem a long way off, but for many aspiring State and Territory Junior Representatives, the all-important Team trials will be held in the weeks to come.

Junior Players should contact their State or Territory Office early, to establish trial dates and venues.

FIVB



FIVB have recently produced a new videotape on mini volleyball. The tape, which was produced with the help of Canadian school teachers and coaches, will support the promotion of mini volleyball worldwide. The video, which has been sent to all National Federations, is a comprehensive guide to this important development model for our sport.

Beach Volleyball World Tour 2003

The prize money for the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour, for 2003 will be the highest in the sport's history, with US\$5.3 million up for grabs. The calendar for 2003 (the start of the Olympic qualification process) has recently been announced with the Beach Volleyball World Championships in Rio De Janiero, Brazil a highlight of this year's tour.

Volleyball Team Australia Programs



VTA Men

Most of our professional players are performing well in their respective overseas leagues. Dan Howard, Shane Van Beest, Ben Hardy and Steven Keir are in the Italian League. Luke Campbell and Andy Earl are in Spain. Matt Young is in Indonesia. Brett Alderman is in Belgium and Grant Sorensen is in Austria. The focus at the AIS is currently on the National Youth Team. This team is preparing for the Asian Youth Championships in Visak, India in April.

VTA Women

Our women also have good representation in foreign leagues. Sil Ruddle, Louise Bawden and Eileen Romanowski are playing in the Netherlands. Tamsin Barnett is in Spain and Adrienne White is in Indonesia. The AIS program will focus on technique development and preparation for Asian Youth Championships in Sriskaret, Thailand in April and the Qualification for World Junior Women's Volleyball Championships, also in Thailand in May.

Peter's Ice Cream Beach Volleyball Tour



Round 3 of the Peter's Ice Cream Beach Volleyball Tour was held in Manly, Sydney on the 21st and 22nd December. Kerry Pottharst and Natalie Cook played quite brilliantly to defeat Canadians Sarah Maxwell and Marie Lessard in straight sets in the Women's Final, while Andrew Schacht and Joshua Slack had a close battle before defeating Julian Prosser and Mark Williams in the Men's Final.

Round 4 of the Peter's Ice Cream Beach Volleyball Tour was held in Glenelg, SA on the 11th and 12th of January. A scorching hot weekend in Glenelg saw some world class volleyball with visiting International teams from Switzerland (men's) and Germany (women's) taking on Australia's best. However, world no 3 pair, Australia's own Natalie Cook and Kerri Pottharst accounted for Geelong champions Kylie Gerlic and Summer Lochowicz in 2 sets (21-18, 21-16). After two classic semi-final matches Josh Slack and Andrew Schacht faced Lee Zahner (current Australian champion) and Dain Blanton (2000 Olympic gold medalist) in the Final. A three-set finale ensued with Zahner/Blanton defeating Schacht/Slack 2-1 (21-23, 21-14, 15-5). TV Highlights of this round on Channel Ten from 4pm on January 26th.

All attention now turns to the Australian Championships in Surfers Paradise, Qld. Due to the huge response to this years Tour the promoters and the AVF have decided to expand the draw for the Australian Champs to 24 teams with matches to start on Friday January 24th at 10.00am. The Men's draw includes Glenelg champions Zahner/Blanton, World No. 3, the Laciga brothers from Switzerland as well as Australia pairs Schacht/Slack (Geelong and Manly champions) and Prosser/Williams, the winners of Round 1 in Coffs Harbour. The Women's draw includes winners of three out of four rounds in this year's Tour, Natalia Cook and Kerri Pottharst and German pair of Stephanie Pohl and Okka Rau. Geelong champions Kylie Gerlic and Summer Lochowicz will also keep the Aussie Olympic Gold Medallists honest in one of the best fields in the history of the event.

National Junior Program

83 Junior Men's Team

Asian Qualification Tournament for World Junior Championships – This event will be held in China in May. After defeating Japan in their final match at Asian Junior Championships last year, in Iran, it is hoped that the Team will perform well at this event.

84 Junior Women's Team

Asian Qualification Tournament for World Junior Championships – This event will be held in Thailand, in late April. It is expected that a full strength Junior Women's Team will contest this event, with the return of a number of players who were unavailable last year, due to school commitments.

85 Youth Men's Team

Asian Youth Championships – This event will be held in India in April. This is the first Tournament for this age group. Most Team members are AIS scholarship holders, with a number of the players gaining valuable Senior Team experience in 2002.

86 Youth Women's Team

Asian Youth Championships – This event will be held in Thailand, in April. This is the first Tournament for this age group, although this Team contested the Junior Women's Trans Tasman against the New Zealand Junior Team, late last year. A number of Team members are current AIS scholarship holders.

Sport Development Report

The position of Sport Development Manager was advertised at the end of 2002 and an appointment will be made by the end of January.

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