



Volleyball Australia Newsletter – 2006/2

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General Manager's Introduction

With the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour only just completed planning has already begun on how to improve the event. In the coming weeks a review of the event will be sent to athletes which will be considered by a meeting of Tour stakeholders in March. Congratulations to Andrew Fraser, Sportstage Events, and his team for their tireless work this year as the Tour promoter.

The AVF is also pleased to announce the signing of a 3-year partnership with SportingPulse as their technology and marketing partner. This partnership will not only provide the AVF, its Member States and their Clubs & Associations with a website portal for their use but also access to a complete competition and club management system which will increase the professionalism of Volleyball at all levels.

Next week will see the report from the event review, undertaken by Jenny Becker, circulated to AVL clubs for their consideration and final feedback. The report will also be available for other interested stakeholders for comment via the AVF office.

For all the latest information about Australian volleyball continue to check the AVF website: www.avf.org.au

Andrew Scotford
General Manager

Competitions & Events Program

Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour

The 2005/06 Vodafone Beach Volleyball tour came to its grand finale last weekend with the holding of the Australian Championships on the Gold Coast on the 17th – 19th Feb.

The Women's event was won by Australia's Natalie Cook and Tamsin Barnett and the Men's event by Hans Stolfus and Ty Loomis from the USA.

Women's Final results

N.Cook (AIS/QAS)/T. Barnett (AIS/VIC) [1] **def.** M Lessard (CAN)/S.Maxwell (CAN) [7]
Result: 2-0 (21-10, 21-15)

Men's Final results

H. Stolfus (USA)/T. Loomis (USA) [4] **def** B. Soderberg (DEN)/A Hoyer (DEN) [3]
Result: 2-1 (18-21, 21-12, 15-12)

2005/06 Tour Champions

(decided on an accumulation of team points from throughout the season)

Men's – Julien Prosser (NSW)/ Brett Richardson (NSW)

Women's – Kylie Gerlic (SA)/Stacey Kloeden (SA)

The AVF would like to thank all athletes who took part in the tour, especially our International guests

For all the latest information on the Tour see the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour website – www.beachvolleyballtour.com.au.

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Sport Development Report

Upcoming Presenters & Assessors Workshops

In the month of March the AVF is hoping to take significant steps towards addressing the issues the sport currently faces with regard to quality and quantity of presenters and assessors for its respective NCAS coach and NOAS referee training programs. The first weekend in March will see a select group of representatives from around the country come together to develop a process for the training of presenters and assessors for the Coach Education & Development Program. A similar workshop will occur on the last weekend in March for Referees. Anyone who has any views on what

should be implemented to enable improved standards of delivery of these programs or to enable greater flexibility for delivery of these programs in regional areas is invited to submit their thoughts to Tim Shannahan via email (sdm@avf.org.au) or by phoning the AVF office.

Scholarship Coach – living out of a suitcase

Now into the second year of his two-year ASC NCSP scholarship, Steve Benson has barely had a moment at home to date in 2006. Steve recently toured Europe with the AIS Men's Volleyball team and having been back for just on a week is now preparing for a five week stretch in Adelaide with the AIS Beach Volleyball Program. Following his time in Adelaide, Steve will return his focus to Volleyball and assist in the preparation of the VTAM squad for its World Championships campaign.

ASC holds workshop for elite officials of the future

Over the past weekend Carla Hoorweg (2006 scholarship official) and Dean Turner (scholarship mentor) attended an ASC workshop in Sydney as the start of Carla's 2006 scholarship program. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an induction to the 20 scholarship officials and their mentors and establish best practice methods for communication between the scholarship official and their mentor. This workshop also represented an opportunity to consolidate Carla's program, with attendance at an FIVB International Referee Candidate Course in Morocco at the start of April the first major activity.

January's Club Development E-newsletter

The first edition of the AVF's quarterly Club Development E-newsletter was circulated in January. In addition to the regular content, this edition included an article on the value of creating a dedicated volunteer coordinator's position within a club or association. The e-newsletter can be accessed on the AVF Club Development web page at: www.avf.org.au/avfclub/

As always, Madison Sport and the AVF are offering clubs and associations the opportunity to share in \$1,000 worth of volleyball equipment through completing various tasks identified in the e-newsletter. With entries closing next week for the February prize draw, and limited entries received to date, those clubs and associations that do enter will have extremely high chances of winning a share of the prizes on offer.

AVF Website – Where To Play

The AVF is keen for more clubs, associations and schools to submit information for inclusion in the

'Where To Play' section of the AVF website. The target is to have at least 50 listings by July and while this target could be reached in a matter of days, this is dependent on the willingness of 'clubs' to submit information. Clearly a listing has positive benefits, especially given the number of approaches the AVF receives on a weekly basis from people wanting to participate in either discipline of Volleyball. For further information, please contact Tim Shannahan (sdm@avf.org.au) or visit the 'Where To Play' section of the website, complete the questionnaire and submit it to the AVF.

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AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball National Centre of Excellence

AIS Beach Volleyball squad members competed on the weekend at the Australian Championships as part of the Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour. AIS athletes whose teams were represented in the event in the Men's, **Andrew Schacht** (AIS/SASI)/**Josh Slack** (AIS/SASI), **Marty Suan**(AIS/WAIS)/**John Byron** (AIS/SASI, **Travis Moran** (AIS/SASI)/**S.Maycock** (SASI), and in the Women's, **Natalie Cook** (AIS/QAS)/**Tamsin Barnett** (AIS/VIC), **Kylie Gerlic** (AIS/SASI)/**Stacey Kloeden** (AIS/SASI).

Prior to the tournament injuries to AIS athletes, Summer Lochowicz, Nicole Sanderson and Allister Lyne meant some last minute pairing changes. As expected, Cook & Barnett teamed up and then went on to win the Women's event in convincing style. This is the first time a Victorian has taken the podium at a National Championship and the experience for Tamsin playing with Natalie Cook will go down as a great learning experience for her.

In probably the hottest and very humid conditions of the day, the upset of the tournament was the failure of the teams of Andrew Schacht and Josh Slack and Julien Prosser and Brett Richardson to win their way through to the final. This was a surprise considering these two teams have fought it out in the last four National events. This upset led to a Gold Medal final being an all international affair between Hans Stolfus/Ty Loomis from the USA and Bo Soderberg and Anders Hoyer from Denmark. The team from USA won in three sets.

The TABV coaches and athletes will go through the Performance Analysis data which was trialed and captured at this event and will now look forward to their next challenge, The World Tour 2006.

Training and Competition will resume after a week's break in preparation for the World Tour.

Volleyball Team Australia Men (VTAM) Program Update

The AIS team have returned to Canberra and are back into training after a successful European Tour through Sweden, France and Slovakia. The team endured some tough matches from experienced Senior Men's Club teams and also playing against Junior National Teams, which will no doubt benefit the '89 National Youth Team members during their upcoming campaign to Taipei at the end of April.

It was a successful tour especially for some of the senior athletes looking for links with professional clubs overseas, with Aden Tutton staying in Europe and signing on for a few months with a Spanish 1st Division side.

Head Coach, Russell Borgeaud and Assistant Coach Andrew Strugnell have stayed in Europe to visit and support the Senior National Team athletes currently playing professionally in Europe. They will be assessing training loads, styles of play and also looking at injury assessment of athletes, all with the focus on the preparations for the upcoming World Championships in November. They will also visit the new AIS Euro Hub, which will provide support and services to AIS athletes while in Europe. Volleyball will be looking to utilise this new facility which includes accommodation and sports science and medicine services while touring in Europe and also for our Senior Men's team athletes who are residing there.

While the majority of the AIS team were overseas, the intake of five new athletes were hard at training under the supervision of replacement coach Greg Tompos. The new athletes have already been through some physiology, psychology and strength and conditioning sessions with the sports science and medicine staff to ensure they are progressing well and ready for the training load ahead. They have already adapted very well to their new surroundings and we are looking forward to seeing their improvements and mixing in well with our older squad members from 2005.

Achievements

The AIS Athlete and Coach of the Year Awards were held at the AIS on Tuesday 21 February to honour the hard work and achievements of the AIS for the 2005 year.

Two of our AIS Volleyball athletes were nominated for the following Awards:

Nigel Pangopka AIS Education
Achievement Award

Igor Yudin

AIS Junior Athlete of the
Year Award

Nigel ended up winning the AIS Education Achievement Award for his hard work and dedication to his studies in 2005. He ended up with the top UAI score of any 2005 AIS Athlete of 88.65, he won an Academic Excellence Award in Accounting and also was top of his class in Accounting and also in Maths Applications. Congratulations Nigel!

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Review of Volleyball Team Australia Women's (VTAW) Program

ASC to Partner with AVF in VTAW Review

The AVF is pleased to announce that the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) will partner it in the delivery of the VTAW Review which was due to commence in late January/early February 2006. The ASC's support is a direct outcome of discussions held between the AVF and its key stakeholders at the December (2005) meeting of the Beijing Athlete Program (BAP) Management Committee for Volleyball.

The AVF welcomes the ASC's involvement in the VTAW Review. AVF President, Chris Schacht, said: "It is critical that the AVF's key provider of High Performance funding (i.e. the ASC) is acutely aware of the issues which have affected Women's Volleyball in Australia in recent years. This must include the impact that the ASC's withdrawal of its support for an AIS Women's Volleyball Program will have on the development of this country's elite female Volleyball athletes – Indoor and Beach - now and in the future."

"Whatever the outcomes of the VTAW Review, the ASC will need to understand and be comfortable with the strategies which are to be implemented for Women's Volleyball moving forward as it is their funding which will underpin this change. Who knows, the ASC's involvement in the Review might even prompt it to increase its funding/support for Volleyball for the remainder of the 2008 Olympic cycle." Schacht said.

The AVF is currently working with the ASC to finalise the terms of reference for the VTAW Review, and the process of identifying and engaging a suitable consultant from outside the sport to coordinate and facilitate the process is already underway. The AVF remains committed to completing the Review in time for its outcomes to be incorporated in the organisation's operational and budget planning for 2006/07.

Volleyball Australia is proudly supported by:

National Junior Program

Since the last E-Newsletter the National Junior Program has been busily organising for upcoming tours to Taiwan (88 NJW and 89 NYB) and a Training & Selection Camp (90 NYG) in April over the Easter holiday period.

The tour to Taiwan (April 18 – 26) will be the first competitive opportunity for the 89 National Youth Boy's group. Whereas, for the 88 National Junior Women's Team, this will be their last competitive hit out before the Team competes at the 13th Asian Junior Women's Volleyball Championship in Thailand this October.

Since the last edition of this E-Newsletter, the Easter Training & Selection Camp (April 16 – 21) for the 90 National Youth Girls group has been relocated from Brisbane to Canberra due to the availability of venues. The camp itself will see the participants not only learn about the techniques and skill models used by Volleyball Team Australia but they will also be competing for a spot on the touring team to New Zealand later this year to contest for the "Jenny Kirk" Junior Trans Tasman Cup.

Key Competitions in 2006

- 16 – 22 Jul "Murray Mansfield" Junior Trans Tasman Series - Canberra
- 13 – 21 Sep 13th Asian Jnr. Men's Championship – Iran
- Sep/Oct "Jenny Kirk" Junior Trans Tasman Series – New Zealand (TBC)
- 1 – 9 Oct 13th Asian Jnr. Women's Championship – Thailand

Volleyball on TV

There are two Beach Volleyball events left to be shown on TV. The Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour continues on Channel Ten but also, keep an eye on Fox Sports for coverage on other Volleyball events from around the world.

Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour on Channel 10:

Round 4 (St Kilda) - Sun 26th Feb, 4-5pm
Aust Champs (Surfers) - Sat 11th Mar, 4-5pm

Note: all above times are EDST. Please check your local guides.



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



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