



Volleyball Australia Newsletter – 2006/7

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Chief Executive Officer's Introduction

This month will see Michelle Slack-Smith commence in the new role of Competitions and Events Manager. This position will manage the portfolio of events, both national and international, for Volleyball Australia with an initial focus on implementation of the Events Report, including running of the 2006 AVL season and planning for 2007 and beyond, review of the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships and finalizing 'new' structure for the 2006/07 Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour.

The AVF Board has also received the Review on Women's Volleyball Report from Bob Crudgington and already implemented one of the main recommendations to create a Steering Committee, made up of 5 members of the Volleyball community, charged with the responsibility of building a plan for the next 12 months. Nominations for this Committee has now closed but anyone interested in being involved with Women's Volleyball I encourage you to contact Adam Sachs, upon his return from overseas (visiting events on the SWATCH-FIVB World Tour and the AIS European hub).

The revamped AVF website has received a lot of compliments and the next few weeks will see the introduction of photo galleries on Volleyball activities. If you have any activities or information that you would like to see on the AVF website then please contact Cheryl Bollard at info@avf.org.au.

Continue to check out the AVF website – www.avf.org.au for the latest on what's happening in Australian volleyball, here and overseas.

Andrew Scottford
Chief Executive Officer

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Sport Development Report

Sport Development Managers visits to States

In late June the AVF Sport Development Manager was able to visit five Member States and had very productive discussions with various staff in an effort to identify means for improving delivery of national programs by each Member State. The priority topic was Spikezone®, but other areas of focus were coaching, officiating and other participation opportunities.

National Review of Coach Training Programs

This review continues to progress with a summary of the input provided for the second stage now being compiled. This will then enable the third stage to occur, which will allow for comments to be submitted on the proposed content areas of each training program within the structure.

Anyone that would like to be involved and contribute to the structure and content of the Coach Education & Development Program, and is not already receiving the relevant emails, is invited to communicate this to Tim Shannahan (sdm@avf.org.au) and will be included in all ongoing correspondence as part of the review.

National Referee Uniform

The uniform was worn for the first time at last week's Australian Junior Volleyball Championships in Canberra, and received very positive feedback in terms of both the quality of the uniform and the image it created for the professionalism of the referees.

Anyone wanting more information about the uniform or an order form to purchase a uniform can contact Tim Shannahan (sdm@avf.org.au).

New Web Resource for Coach & Referee Educators

A new area has been created on the ASC Coaching and Officiating website, aimed at those people and organisations that develop and deliver education programs for coaches and officials. The 'Coach & Official Educators' area can be accessed at:

www.ausport.gov.au/coachofficial/education/index.asp. This new area houses a range of information

including; curriculum documents, worksheets, presenter's guides and PowerPoint slides for the coaching and officiating general principles courses, assessor and mentor training.

National Junior Program

Aussies Boy's retain the "Murray Mansfield" Junior Trans Tasman Trophy Series.

The 2006 instalment of the "Murray Mansfield" Junior Trans Tasman Series saw a combined 87 Junior Men's and 89 Youth Boy's team defend the "Murray Mansfield" Junior Trans Tasman trophy for an unprecedented fifth straight series win against the New Zealand Junior Men's Team this July with a 4 – 1 series win.

Match Results:

- 17/07/06 Game 1– AUS def NZL 3 – 0 (25-23, 25-22, 25-14)
- 18/07/06 Game 2 – AUS def NZL 3 – 0 (25-20, 25-15, 25-17)
- 19/07/06 Game 3 – AUS lost to NZL 0 – 3 (22-25, 21-25, 24-26)
- 20/07/06 Game 4 – AUS def NZL 3 – 2 (21-25, 25-23, 22-25, 25-14, 15-12)
- 21/07/06 Game 5 – AUS def NZL 3 – 2 (25-20, 23-25, 23-25, 25-19, 15-9)

The five match series was contested in Canberra, July 17 – 19, and Nowra, NSW, July 20 – 21 in what was the closest series to-date in recent years.

With the series being played the week following the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships, Game 1 and 2 saw a dominant Australian outfit outplay and out blocked a weary and cohesive New Zealand opposition. This was quite evident in the 3 sets to nil score lines and the large number of blocks attained in the two games totalling 26 kill blocks and 13 control blocks.

With Kiwi pride on the line, Game 3 of the series saw a resurgent New Zealand team take out the match and keep the series alive with a 3 – 0 win over a flat Australian outfit.

With Australia leading the series 2 – 1 the series move to Nowra on the south coast of New South Wales.

Unlike the first three matches, Game 4 and 5 was like an arm wrestle with neither team able to take out a match in convincing fashion. For the Australian team, this proved to be a true test of character for both the athletes and coaching staff having to come from behind in both matches to

take the match to five sets. With momentum behind them, the young Aussie boy's were able to take out the matches and the series 4 – 1.

The National Junior Program would like to congratulate all the athletes and staff involved in retaining the "Murray Mansfield" Junior Trans Tasman Trophy. In addition, we would like to thank the Shoalhaven Volleyball Association, especially the Rogers and McCormac families, for hosting the series in Nowra.

Congratulations to the following athletes and coaches who represented Australia in the series:

- Benjamin BELL (AIS/QLD)
- Jarryd Christensen (AIS/QLD)
- Thomas EDGAR (AIS/QLD)
- Nick Goldsbrough-Reardon (AIS/VIC)
- Alex Rogers (NSW)
- Travis PASSIER (AIS/QLD)
- Michael SNART (WA)
- Johnathon STOCK (VIC)
- Greg Sukochev (SA)
- Samuel SVERDLOFF (SA)
- Josh Thorpe (TIS/TAS)
- Adam WHITE (AIS/QLD)
- Aidan ZINGEL (AIS/NSW)

- Head Coach: Stephen Benson (VIC)
- Assistant Coach: Darren Wilson (QLD)
- Coaches: Greg Tompos (USA) and Steven Burton (QLD)

88 National Junior Women's Training & Selection Camp

Following the completion of the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships in Canberra, July 9 – 15, a select number of athletes from the 88 National Junior Women's Team attended a three and a half day training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport for a position on the upcoming tour to Thailand to contest the 13th Asian Junior Women's Volleyball Championship.

The official travelling team for this tour and that of the '87 National Junior Men's Team and '90 National Youth Girls Team will be announce the next edition of this newsletter for the upcoming activities in September/October.

Upcoming Competitions in 2006

- Sep 2 – 9 Friendly Series with China Junior Men's Team – Canberra
- Sep 13 – 21 13th Asian Jnr. Men's Volleyball Championship – Iran
- Sep 20 - 26 "Jenny Kirk" Junior Trans Tasman Series – New Zealand
- Sep 29 – Oct 10 13th Asian Jnr. Women's Championship – Thailand

AIS/AVF Beach Volleyball, National Centre of Excellence

2006 SWATCH-FIVB U19 & U21 Beach Volleyball World Championship

Preparations for the 2006 World Championships continue during the month of July with training camps for our touring Australian Junior teams.

The Women's team of Alice Rohkamper and Becchara Palmer had an intensive 3 day training camp in early July which included technical and tactical sand sessions, Strength & Conditioning, Sports Psychology and Sports Medicine sessions. The team's main focus was to further develop a strong offensive system to take on the world best junior teams in a little over 5 weeks time.

The Men's Team training camp is currently being conducted with all 3 Men's teams training with and against each other in a competitive training environment in Adelaide.

Following the men's training camp, the teams will continue to train hard and prepare for the tour with physical athlete preparation in their home training environment. Overall this is the youngest squad of athletes Australia has ever sent to Junior World Championships with 6 of the 7 athletes being under 19 years of age. Based on previous years experience a priority has been placed on competitive opportunities leading into the major events.

The Aussie U19 & U21 teams touring schedule is as follows:

Liechtenstein FIVB Satellite event (Vaduz)

August 16 – 20

Alice Rohkamper (NSW) / Becchara Palmer (SASI)
Sam Boehm (SASI) / Brad Tutton (SA)

FIVB Under 21 World Championships - Poland (Mysłowice) August 22 – 27

Alice Rohkamper (NSW) / Becchara Palmer (SASI)
Sam Boehm (SASI) / Brad Tutton (SA)

Poland FIVB World Tour Event (Warsaw)

August 30 – Sept 2

Alice Rohkamper (NSW) / Becchara Palmer (SASI)

FIVB Under 19 World Championships - Bermuda Sept 5 – 10

Alice Rohkamper (NSW) / Becchara Palmer (SASI)
Sam Boehm (SASI) / Trent Irwin (QAS)
Chris McHugh (SASI) / Harrison Peacock (SASI)

SWATCH-FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour

Mid-Season Update

Events year to date – Men-8, Women-7 (excluding Russia)

Team	Events Played	Current World Ranking	Best Result	Matches Won:Lost	Sets Won:Lost
Cook/Sanderson	6	9 th	7 th – China	16 – 12	36 – 23
Gerlic/Kloedon	7	36 th	17 th – Greece	10 – 12	21 – 28
Barnett/Lochowicz	3	34 th	9 th – Norway	7 – 5	16 – 13
Schacht/Slack	6	12 th	5 th – Croatia	15 – 12	35 – 29
Prosser/Richardson	1	68 th	17 th – Canada	1 – 2	3 – 5
Byron/Suan	8	58 th	25 th – China	7 – 9	15 – 21
Wardrop/Thomas	7	79 th	41 st – France	3 – 6	6 – 13
Moran/Boehm	2	159 th	57 th – Croatia	0 – 2	0 – 4
Zunker/Hannan	1	126 th	41 st – Canada	1 – 1	2 – 2

Cook/Sanderson

Nat & Nicole have returned to the World Tour scene after and interrupted domestic season due to Nicole's injury. The team resumed their participation in a selective manner so that they did not over compete and risk further injuries which would delay their Olympic qualification and participation.

The team has been steady but yet to breakthrough, not finishing better than 9th since the tour left Asia.

Our highest ranked women's team for the World Tour is steadily improving their World Ranking to be sitting at 10th for the past 2 weeks.

The girls are not competing in Russia, choosing to spend time resting in comfortable surroundings doing some fine tuning to their team in preparation for the Grand slams in Paris and Klagenfurt.

Nat and Nicole remain our strongest medal prospect for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Barnett/Lochowicz

After an interrupted domestic season due to Summers injury, the team is now back on the World Tour, resuming their international season in the Switzerland Grand Slam event. In their first full international season, Tamsin and Summer have qualified 66.6% of their events this season. (Qualified for 2 of 3 events) and due to their best result of 9th in the Norway Grand Slam, will

automatically qualify for the Main Draw in Russia. Like Cook/Sanderson, Tamsin and Summer have been selective in their events this season.

Schacht/Slack

In their 5th season together, this team started the 2006 season strong after posting a 4th in 2005 Greece World Tour event. The long hard domestic preparation was starting to be reflected with two quality results early this season; i.e. 7th China and 5th in Croatia, however an injury which resulted in their withdrawal from Italy has interrupted their steady progress.

The team had added Russia to their competition calendar to make up for the loss of Italy, which will give them much needed competition for the last 2 major events of the season.

Prosser/Richardson

Commenced back on World Tour scene from Canada and looking to play Russia, France, Austria and Poland WT events. Automatically made Main Draw after withdrawal of teams in Canada and Russia WT event. Will have to play qualification tournaments to qualify for Main Draw for remainder at this stage.

Byron/Suan

Second year on World Tour for this team. Qualified in their own right for China WT event for the first time after extensive preparation over summer.

Playing the European core events on the tour with Russia, Cyprus (Challenger), Paris, Austria & Poland remaining for this season.

Have improved on last year, making the last round of the qualification tournaments.

Wardrop/Thomas

First year on World Tour for this new combination from the QAS programme. Represents exciting new challenges for this team who joined forces after the 2005/06 Vodafone Tour.

Currently on route back home to put their collective experiences and lessons and learning's in context to prepare for the 2007 FIVB World Tour season.

Like the majority of new teams, the guys have yet to crack their first qualification to the Main Draw.

Moran/Boehm

This team gained much valuable experience and insight at their first World Tour event.

The young team demonstrated an ability to be competitive and the experience provided them with clarity of the amount of work and the areas to improve before their next International competitive experience.

For the latest results on-line:

www.fivb.ch/EN/BeachVolleyball/index.asp

2006 FIVB World Tour comprises:

- 16 Events for Men
- 15 Events for Women

The major objectives for the Australian teams outside of the obvious of consistent performances and medals at International events, is to position ourselves so that we are automatically qualified in the Main Draw for the events at the beginning of the 2007 season which forms the Olympic qualification season.

2008 Beijing Olympics - 747 Days to go!! (as at 21 July 2006)

Opening ceremony - 8 August, 2008

Closing ceremony - 24 August, 2008

Beach volleyball competition dates – 9 – 20 August, 2008

The 2008 Olympic qualification criteria were announced by the FIVB on 28 May.

The Australian Olympic Committee has commenced its planning processes for Beijing with the first of many seminars with Head Coaches. These seminars are to provide sports with information on Beijing, and to also work on strategies to assist our sport to enhance overall performances at the Olympic Games.

Birthdays

August

2nd Craig Marshall

2nd Lyndie Harrison

16th Travis Moran

Injuries

Update

Allister Lyne: Progressing well and will resume full time training in 6-8 weeks.

Next Competition Opportunities:

World Tour

July 25-30 – Paris, France – Grand Slam – Men & Women

August 2-6 – Klagenfurt, Austria – Grand Slam – Men & Women

August 9-13 – Stare Jablonki, Poland – Open – Men

August 30 – September 3 – Warsaw, Poland – Open - Women

National Tour:

November 17-19 – Manly, NSW

December 15-17 – Port Macquarie, NSW

January 12-14 – Glenelg, SA

January 20-21 – St Kilda, VIC

February 2-4 – Perth, WA

February 16-18 – Surfers Paradise, QLD (Australian Championships)

Coming Events:

2006 Benchmark Event - Austria Grand Slam WT [Men & Women] August 2-6

2006 U21 World Championships – Myslowice, Poland [Men & Women] August 23-27

2006 U19 World Championships – Bermuda [Men & Women] September 5-10

2007 World Championships – Switzerland [Men & Women] 19-24 June 2007

2008 Beijing Olympics

AIS/National Men's Program

Season Launch Photo's



2006 AIS Squad

2006 AIS Season Launch



Russell Borgeaud



Ben Hardy receives the 2005 Ted Kalkhoven Award from Chris Schacht

AIS SEASON LAUNCH

On Wednesday 19th July, AIS Assistant Director, Phil Borgeaud, officially launched the 2006 AIS/Volleyball Team Australia Men (VTAM) Program at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

Borgeaud said since its inception in 1990, the AIS/VTAM Program has become internationally recognised for its athlete development and rapid improvement in international competitiveness. 'The AIS program has provided the impetus for the Australian Men's Team to achieve Olympic Qualification in its own right through overcoming traditional powerhouses such as Japan, Korea and China,' Borgeaud said.

'The AIS, through our partnership with Volleyball Australia, can take a lot of credit for this improvement through this outstanding national development program striving for excellence.' The Australian men's volleyball team is currently preparing for the 16th World Championships in Japan (November 17 – December 3).



The head coach of the AIS/VTAM Program, Russell Borgeaud said his squad was looking forward to playing against the best volleyball players in the world. 'It will be tough competition but with a strong squad I'm confident we will perform well,' Borgeaud said.

'I am pleased with the depth and level of talent we have within our squad. With the core of our squad playing in strong European competitions, our chances of doing well at the world championships can only be enhanced.'

The official World Championships team will be announced on the 24th October.

Van Beest Announces Retirement



Hidde Van Beest announced his retirement from the National Team yesterday (19th July 2006)

after 12 years of service to Volleyball Team Australia. Van Beest has had a long and distinguished career playing for Australia at 2 World Championships (98 & 02) and is also a Dual Olympian playing in Sydney and Athens Olympic Games.

Hidde is retiring due to injury and is now looking to settle in Canberra with his family while pursuing a career in real estate. VTAM would like to wish Hidde and his family all the very best in the future and would like to thank him for his commitment and dedication to the National team over the past decade.

Career Highlights Include

- **Dual Olympian – Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004**
- **World Championships – 1998 and 2002**
- **222 International Games played for Australia**
- **AIS Scholarship Holder 1997-2006**
- **Australian Senior Team Representative 1995 – 2006**
- **Ted Kalkhoven Award Recipient – Most Outstanding Male Player 1999/2000**



National Team Tour to Europe in August

AIS/VTAM are all set for departure on their European/Canadian Tour for the month of August in preparation for the upcoming World Championships. The team are set to depart on 1st August from the AIS and will travel to London to play Great Britain, Varese, Italy to play against Dan Howard's club team, Tunis to play against the Tunisian National Team and then will finish their tour in Kelowna & Vancouver, Canada competing against the Canadian National Team. The traveling

AIS Team Take Another Title

The AIS Youth/Junior Team recently won the local ACT Premier Men – State League competition in which they remained undefeated for the entire season.

ACT State League - Grand Final - AIS defeated Australian National University **3:0** 25-17, 25-16, 25-18

The AIS Team played very strongly to defeat a gallant ANU Team in the Grand Final of the ACT State League in July. After the match, AIS Head Coach, Russell Borgeaud, addressed the players, praising them for their improvement during the season and the manner in which they played in the Grand Final. The Team remained undefeated during the 16 week season. In the early rounds they struggled against a number of the local senior teams, but by the end of the season they were proving to be difficult opponents for all of the other teams in the competition.

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06/07 Vodafone Beach Volleyball tour

The following dates have been confirmed for the 2006/07 Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour:

Rd 1	17-19 November, 2006	Manly, NSW
Rd 2	15-17 December, 2006	Port Macquarie, NSW
Rd 3	12-14 January, 2007	Glenelg, SA
Rd 4	20-21 January, 2007	St.Kilda, VIC (NEW 1 set tournament)
Rd 5	2-4 February, 2007	Perth, WA
Rd 6	16-18 February, 2007	Surfers Paradise, QLD (Australian Championships)

For the 2006/07 season there will NOT be pre-Tour qualifiers in the various States rather the Qualifier, for 4 spots, will be held on the Friday (Saturday in St Kilda) before each Tour event.

The Main Draw, commencing on Saturday (Sunday in St Kilda) will feature 16 teams, determined from;

- 8 teams from 2005/06 season
- 2 International wildcards
- 2 wildcards

- 4 from Qualifier event

Additional information will be provided in the next few weeks on the official Tour website;

www.beachvolleyballtour.com.au



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