

World Junior Championships

Australia has recently been involved in three World events.

In July the Australian Under 21 Team (Sapphires) won Silver at the FIBA Under 21 World Championships in July, losing to USA in the final and ending the tournament with a 6 – 2 win/loss record. Young SASI graduates **Abby Bishop** and **Cayla Francis** both played prominent roles throughout the tournament.

Bishop and Francis then backed up at the FIBA Under 19 World Championships this month, where the Gems finished 5th, the best possible finish after a narrow quarterfinal loss on a “buzzer-beater” by Spain. SASI graduates **Nikita-Lee Martin** and **Mia Newley** were also part of the team. Newley led the Championship in three point shooting.

In between those two tournaments the Emus contested the FIBA Under 19 Men’s Championship in Novi Sad, Serbia. SASI graduate **Shannon Seebohm** was our only representative in this team. Similar to the Gems, they were eliminated from the medal rounds due to a one point loss to Brazil, and also had to settle for 5th position despite an overall 8 – 1 record.

Camps

AIS Basketball will be conducting AIS selection camps in Canberra at the end of August (males) and early September (females) for a total of 36 players. Six SASI athletes have been invited to attend. They include **Tess Madgen**, **Bree Farley**, **Kelsey Ireland**, **Georgia Minear**, **Claybrin McMath** and **Warrick McGinty**. These players are all eligible for the 2009 World Junior Championships.

Later in September Basketball Australia will also be conducting a camp in Canberra. It will be the first camp for players eligible to compete at the 2011 World Junior Championship. 57 players identified at the recent Australian U16 National Championships in Terrigal have been invited, 9 of them from the SASI/NITCP squad. They include **John Marriott**, **Nathan Spehr**, **Caelum Cousins**, **Scott Grenville**, **Georgia Minear**, **Nicole Harris**, **Hannah Richards**, **Nicole Seekamp** and **Aneeka Smith** who at 14 years of age is still in our underpinning squad.

Australian Development Camp

Five SASI players and one coach attended an Australian Development Camp in Canberra last week. The camp was for players turning 16 and 17 this year who have

been identified as potential candidates for the 2009 Under 19 World Championships squads.

Tess Madgen, **Bree Farley** and **Kirsty Williams** were in the girls squad and **Claybrin McMath** and **Warrick McGinty** were in the boys squad.

These players will be further assessed at the national championships in July and hopefully selected to attend the next camp scheduled for August.

Senior Network Coach **Paul Mesecke** was also invited to attend. Mesecke has also recently been appointed as Assistant Coach to the men's team for the next World University Games.