

WATER POLO HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 23 NOVEMBER 2007

National Training Centre Challenge

Both the Australian Men's and Women's programs are holding their National Training Centre Tournaments in the coming week. SASI athletes **Sophie Ricketts**, **Lisa Callahan** and **Luca Vezzosi** will be competing under the banner of a Composite team comprised of SA, VIC and ACT athletes. The Composite teams will be looking to outperform the highly fancied NTC teams from QAS, NSWIS and WAIS.

For the men, the NTC Tournament is a prelude to an Australian Men's Training Camp which leads into the Oceania Olympic Qualification games versus New Zealand over the weekend of 30 Nov to 2 Dec. SASI Coach **Eddie Denis** will travel to Auckland with the Men's team as Assistant Coach for these games.

▪ **Australian Goalkeeping Coach Appointment**

The Australian Water Polo website has officially announced SASI coach **Eddie Denis** as Goalkeeper coach for all Australian Senior and Junior teams for the coming year. Eddie has been acting in this capacity with the Australian Women's team for the last 3 years but will see his role expand in the coming year to encompass all Australian Senior and Junior teams. Apart from attendance at selected National Camps and competitions, the role will involve coordination of goalkeeping programs for athletes in the NTC programs around Australia, as well as coaching clinics in each State to help address the lack of goalkeeping knowledge at the Club level.

WATER POLO HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 12 OCTOBER 2007

16U National Championships

SASI Scholarship holder **Thomas Dayman** was among the highest goalscorers at the 16U Nationals in Sydney last week. Tom averaged 3.5 goals per game and finished the competition equal second on the highest goal scorer list. Tom impressed the Australian selectors with his high work rate, strength and overall game skills. He was the only South Australian male to be named into the Australian Youth Squad.

From the women's competition, four South Australian athletes were named in an extended Australian Squad, with the stand-out athlete, **Isobel Bishop**, already training with SASI coach **Eddie Denis** in preparation for the 20U Nationals and National League starting early next year.

Junior Talent Squad

This week, SASI coach **Eddie Denis** will run an introduction session for South Australia's talented young athletes in preparation for an 8 week program to be held

during November and December this year. Thirty one athletes have nominated for this program which aims to develop the athletes' breadth and depth of knowledge in regard to the individual and team skills required to be successful at water polo. It is hoped that 2 or 3 of these talented athletes might rise to SASI scholarship standard in the next year or so.

DTC Challenge

Caitlin Shem, **Victoria Risby** and **Sophie Ricketts** will be part of a 12 strong group of athletes traveling to represent South Australia at the Development Training Centre Challenge in Canberra this weekend. The group will compete as a SASI team against the most talented athletes from Victoria, ACT and NSW Country. This competition will lead to selection of a Composite side which will be part of an NTC tournament played in late November against teams from NSWIS, WAIS and QAS. In the past, the DTC and NTC competitions have proven to be important selection 'stepping stones' for athletes wishing to be considered for Australian Junior and Senior Teams.

WATER POLO HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 31 AUGUST 2007

Aussie Junior boys just miss out on medals

Australia hammered the United States of America 14-4 to take fifth place at the FINA junior men's water polo world championships. USA had no answer to the runaway Australians, who finished the tournament without losing a game in real time. The only loss was to eventual winners Hungary in the quarterfinals, a game that needed 6 quarters and penalties to decide the outcome. SASI athlete **Patrick Harmer** was a solid and consistent contributor to the Aussie Junior Sharks averaging one goal and two exclusions per game.

WATER POLO HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 24 AUGUST 2007

Patrick To World Championships

Patrick Harmer was selected last week as a member of the Australian Junior Men's team to the World Championships in Long Beach California. The competition started on Saturday morning and in its first two games, the Australian team has beaten New Zealand and drawn with tournament favourite Serbia.

WATER POLO HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 3 AUGUST 2007

International Experience

After successful Australian Camps and trips in recent weeks, three SASI athletes are traveling overseas for further international experience. **Patrick Harmer** has been selected into the final 16 to tour to Europe before heading to USA for the World Junior Men's Championships. **Luca Vezzosi** is part of the World Student Games team to compete in the Universiade in Bangkok in August while **Lisa Callahan** travels to Hungary this week to trial with First Division Team Dunaujvarosi Vizilabda Egyesulet. Lisa is hoping to secure a one year contract to play in Hungary's high standard women's league.

WATER POLO HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 29 JUNE 2007

SASI Athletes Tour With National Teams

Eight out of ten SASI Water Polo full scholarship athletes will be touring with Australian Teams during the coming International competition period.

Lisa Callahan, recently named in the All Star Team from the Australian National League, has been chosen in the Australian Senior Women's team to compete at the World League Super Finals in Montreal. The team will travel firstly to the USA for a training camp with the World Championship Gold Medalists and then fly to Montreal to compete for the World League title against the worlds best.

Luke Northcott, **Josh Frost** and **Stephen Sloan** are traveling with a Youth Boys B team to New Zealand. This trip will be a first Australian experience for all three athletes.

Caitlin Shem and **Victoria Risby** will be traveling to Sydney for an Australian Youth Girls International Series and training camp. This series will see a Born 89 and a Born 90 team from Australia take on the National Youth teams from USA and Canada.

Luca Vezzosi and **Patrick Harmer** will be traveling to Sydney in late July to attend a joint Australian Junior Men and Australian Universiade team selection camp. Vezzosi is trailing for the World University Games (Universiade) team which travels to Bangkok in early August. Harmer is looking to cement a spot on the Australian Junior Men's tour to Europe and then California in August for the World Junior Championships.

WATER POLO HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 23 FEBRUARY 2007

U20 Australian Selection

Patrick Harmer was named in the Australian U20 Squad last week, after a grueling U20 Nationals and Selection training camp in Perth last month. Harmer was able to overcome the discomfort of a patella dislocation which occurred a month before the tournament to play a solid role for the South Australian team during the Nationals and show a consistent performance during the Australian Junior Squads training camp versus the Canadian National Men's team. His final selection hurdle for the Junior Men's World Championships will occur in Sydney in March where the Australian Junior Men's squad will compete against senior international teams in Australia for the senior World Championships (Melbourne, March 18 - 31).

U20 Nationals

SASI athlete **Luke Northcott** had a bloody introduction to Junior National competition in Perth last month. In South Australia's second round game against the Australian 16U squad, Luke received a blow from an opponent in the first quarter and had his upper lip split open from front to back. Northcott was unaware of the extent of the injury until he found himself covered in blood while sitting on the bench nursing his injury. After a promising 3 goal haul in the first game, he was devastated by the injury, but to his credit returned to play later in the tournament scoring 5 goals in 5 games with limited water time. He is obviously looking forward to a more successful campaign next year.