

Highlights from 2008

2008 Was an extremely successful year for the SASI Hockey program. Many new initiatives were undertaken and a wide range of athletes were exposed to the new SASI culture and some new coaching techniques/strategies, coupled together with state of the art technology.

Both of our National Hockey League teams had their most successful campaigns in over a decade with the Women's Southern Suns team finally lifting themselves off the bottom of the table into 5th position, whilst the men placed in 6th. More than 80% of our SASI athletes were involved in these campaigns in the toughest league in the world and applied themselves extremely well with the new SASI diligence and hardnosed approach to being an athlete. **Deanne Gilbert** was selected in the National Development squad whilst **Grant Schubert** continued to excel at the top level and was included in the Kookaburras Olympic squad for Beijing and ultimately going on to win a bronze to add to his gold from Athens.



With a large focus on youth within both male and female SASI squads for 2008 we saw continual rapid progression from many of our athletes culminating in some fantastic results for our SA junior teams. Our under 21 women in particular shone through with a third placing in Hobart and the inclusion of **Bianca Greenshields** and **Georgie Parker** in the National Junior World Cup program. Bianca has also recently returned from a 3 week A.I.S tour of Europe straight to Junior World Cup qualifiers in Brisbane.

Tom Wickham will soon put on the green and gold for the first time as part of the Australian contingent at the Australian Youth Olympics along with Georgie Parker and another tournament on the very busy hockey calendar for Bianca Greenshields. We wish them all the best of luck and have no doubt they will do SASI proud given the amount of preparation they have put in.

▪ **SASI Hockey Intra Series 08**

The SASI intra series was unequivocally the most successful ingredient on the SASI Hockey programs 2008 calendar. The concept of this series was to play games with our best kids pitted against each other and they were put through a range of experiences that the challenges of touring and playing games allow. A competitive in-house/internal competition, comprising of two men's and two women's teams. The competition was staged over four weeks, and involved two home matches and two away matches held in Berri for the women and Port Lincoln for the men.

The lack of quality match competition has been identified as a weakness in the SASI Hockey Program over a number of years, so the series was developed to bridge the gap and provide opportunities to simulate a National League Championship competition.

The series was a huge success and we would like to thank all those involved. The series has already been reaping benefits for many in our junior systems and the concept will absolutely be included in the 2009 calendar.

SASI Hockey News

SASI Athlete **Scott Hughes** has been selected to play in the Kookaburras Development intra series - Nov 30 to Dec 8.

SASI's Bianca Greenshield who was called up to represent Australia was part of the team that defeated Belgium 3-1 in the first game of the AIS's Europe Tour.

SASI Hockey Intra Series results

Men's winners - Red (3 wins, 1 loss)

Women's winners - Red (2 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss)

Men's intra series MVP - **Jake Stacy**

Women's intra series MVP - **Elise Stacy**

Men's intra series Junior MVP - **Ryan Edge**

Women's intra series Junior MVP - **Merinda McMahon**

HOCKEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 7 November 2008

SASI Representation at National Level

SASI Scholarship holder **Tom Wickham** has recently been selected to make his debut for the Burras in the AYOF (Aus. Youth Olympic Festival) 14-18 January, Sydney. Also representing SASI at the AYOF are **Bianca Greenshields** and **Georgie Parker** who are both selected as part of the Jillaroos.

Bianca has also been selected for the Junior World Cup Qualifier v NZ to be played in Brisbane on the 11th-14th December and selected to replace an injured athlete on the Hockeyroos – AIS Development tour in Europe during November.

HOCKEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 26th September 2008

Hockey SA Awards Night winners from the SASI Hockey Program

AHL Suns MVP – Holly Evans

AHL Hotshots Leading Scorer – Grant Schubert

Olympic Bronze Medallist presentation – Grant Schubert

Rising Star (men) – Matthew Claxton

Rising Star (women) – Amelia Bath-Kitto

Ex Players Encouragement Scholarship (men) – Daniel Mitchell

Ex Players Encouragement Scholarship (women) – Karri McMahon