

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 2 October 2009

Best-ever finish for Australia

The Australian team has ended their 2009 Baseball World Cup campaign on a high over the weekend. The Australian's defeated Europe's highest-ranking team the Netherlands to secure their best ever ranking in World Cup competition. Australia came in to the competition ranked 11th in the World, and after victories over Japan, Chinese Taipei, The Netherlands, Mexico and Canada and with close 1-run defeats against Cuba and the USA finished the World Cup with a World ranking of #5.

SASI had three graduates in the Australian Team, **Paul Mildren**, **Stefan Welch** and **Dusan Ruzic**. All three athletes performed at a consistently high level to assist the Australian Team in securing their best ranking since 2007.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 25 SEPTEMBER 2009

2009 World Cup

The Australian Team have put together some fantastic performances since the 2009 World commenced on the 10th of September and have made it through to the final round. This alone is a significant achievement for the Australians, as it will alter their world ranking. The last game of the round robin play will see Australia play Puerto Rico with huge implications for both teams. With a 3-3 record in the third round, Puerto Rico is currently tied for second place in Pool 1 and with a victory on Friday, will give itself a shot to play for third place on Saturday. With a win, Australia, who is 2-4, will assure itself the opportunity to play in the fifth place game by virtue of its third place finish in Pool 2.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 19 SEPTEMBER 2009

2009 World Cup Results

After narrowly losing to Chinese Taipei on Wednesday Australia has come away with a 5-4 win against Italy in Parma over night. The win has placed Australia tied for 2nd place in their Pool and potentially just one win away from a quarterfinal berth. Australia face reigning World Champions the United States next before taking on formidable opponents Japan and Mexico to round out their schedule.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 11 SEPTEMBER 2009

The Australian Baseball Federation announces team for the 2009 World Cup.

Three SASI graduates have been named in the 2009 Australian World Cup Team **Paul Mildren** (LHP), **Stefan Welch** (INF) and **Dushan Ruzic** (RHP).

The 2009 World Cup commenced on Wednesday and will run through to the 27th September. Games will be held at various venues throughout Europe. Australia is playing its 1st Round games in Prague in the Czech Republic from the 9th – 12th. Australia's 1st round opponents will be Mexico, Chinese Taipei and the Czech Republic.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 28 AUGUST 2009

SASI Athlete at the Australian Baseball Academy

The MLBAAP (Australian Baseball Academy) concluded recently with 3 SASI Athletes winning awards. After 8 weeks of intensive training the following awards were presented to SASI Athletes.

Golden Arm – Best Pitcher in the Academy **Chris Doyle**

Batting Award **Dylan Child** (Dylan also signed to professional team the Pirates)

MVP of the Academy **Ben Lodge**

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 24 JULY 2009

AA Australian Team Selected

The AA Australian Team has been selected for the World Championships in August. There are 3 SASI athletes on the team **Jackson Lodge**, **Jarryd Klemm** and **Jackson Brebner-Russ** (reserve). SASI Coach Warwick Marks is also a member of the team's coaching staff.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 17 JULY 2009

Pirates Pounce to sign Another South Australia

SASI athlete **Dylan Child** has recently become the first member of the 2009 Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program to sign a professional contract with a US Major League team. 18-year-old Dylan has been a scholarship holder with SASI for the past 4 years. Pittsburgh Pirates Australian scout Tony Harris, who also coaches Dylan at club level in Adelaide made the offer through Runway Sports Management agent Stuart Hanrahan. There was a 'catch' though, the agreement means that Child will have to turn his hand to catching, a position where he has undergone some basic instruction, but has had little game time.

Previously Dylan has played middle infield for his state and club but Harris has been working with him on his catching in the lead up to the MLB Academy. Clearly the young Woodville Senator did enough to convince Harris that with some hard work and rigorous training he could make the transition to catcher. 'Dylan is an athletic, projectable kid who already exhibits many of the tools required to be a solid ML calibre catcher' said Harris

from the Gold Coast. 'He is a good receiver with an above average arm and he should only continue to progress as he gets adjusted to the position switch. Offensively, he has a line drive stroke and profiles to have decent gap-to-gap power'.

Dylan's excitement can be best summed up after he met with Harris at the camp and it was evident that the Pirates were considering making an offer. 'I couldn't sleep last night' said Child when he was informed of the offer early the next morning. 'This is what I have been working for over the last few years. While the change to catcher will be difficult I am looking forward to the challenge'. Child also recognises the advantage of having an international quality coach and scout in his own backyard. 'Having Tony coach at our club this past season has been fantastic. I have learned so much from him already. I am looking forward to improving my catching knowledge and skills this season over the summer under his guidance'. What better tutor to have than the current Australian Junior team Head Coach and former South Australian Claxton Shield catcher?

Harris has been busy since being appointed by the Pirates in late 2008. He recently signed fellow SASI Athlete **Mitchell Fienemann** and SASI Graduate **Paul Mildren** to the Buccaneers. Fienemann is currently pitching in Florida's Gulf Coast League at Bradenton, the location of the Pirates Spring Training complex and where Child will begin his career as a catcher. The newly renovated 'Pirate City' boasts state of the art facilities and it is expected that Dylan will be welcomed there for Spring Training in March 2010. The plan is then to return to Australia to participate in the MLB Academy in June where he will have the opportunity to hone his developing skills in game play.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 10 JULY 2009

Australia to establish new league

The Australian Government has pledged \$400,000 to help develop a new professional baseball league in Australia. The league could start as early as next year and would possibly consist of eight to ten teams and schedule games between November and February.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 12 JUNE 2009

SASI off to Australian Major League Academy

Nine SASI Athletes depart this Saturday to attend the Australian Major League Academy for an eight-week intensive training program. At the completion of the program the Australian AA Under 17 National Baseball team will be selected to represent Australia at the World Championships in Taiwan, the team will depart directly from the Academy. SASI's Strength and Conditioning Coach Michael Riggs will also be making the trip to Brisbane to interact with fellow international and national coaches and international athletes at the Academy. SASI Head Coach Warwick Marks will be attending the camp in Brisbane and then travelling to Taiwan with the Under 17 team as the National Pitching Coach.

National School Boys Tournament

South Australia finished 4th at the recent National School Boys Tournament recently. South Australia was beaten by ACT 6 – 5 in the Bronze medal game. SASI athlete **Daniel Lee** was awarded Most Valuable Player of the Tournament. Daniel along with fellow scholarship holder **Wilson Lee** were both named in the All-Star Team and both selected to the Australian Schools Team, that will tour North America later this year.

2009 MLBAAP Scholarships Announced

With the summer seasons either having just concluded or coming to an end in most states around the country, attention in the baseball community turns to the MLBAAP. The MLBAAP, Australia's world leading training Academy run in conjunction with major League Baseball will run from June 13 – August 8 on the Gold Coast.

This year, 74 of the best young athletes from around the country have been awarded full or partial scholarships to the program after a rigorous scouting and selection process that draws on players performances at the national youth championships, state-based Academy programs and a raft of other events and programs run throughout the year.

Now in its 9th year, the Academy has been the catalyst for over 140 professional player signings boasts 2 Major league players among its alumni (Rich Thompson & Brad Harman) and has seen many more progress through the ranks of the Australia Senior team.

This year SASI is represented by 10 athletes; **Jackson Brebner-Russ, Patrick Burns, Dylan Child, Christopher Doyle, Jarryd Klemm, Daniel Lee, Wilson Lee, Ben Lodge, Jackson Lodge,** and **Tom Teague.**

2009 Australian Schools National Championships

The 2009 Australian Schools National Championships are currently underway in Canberra.

10 SASI athletes have been selected in the South Australian side. **Daniel Lee, Wilson Lee, Jarryd Klemm, Jackson Brebner-Russ, Troy Weinert, Dayle Child, Nathan Van Der Linden, Blake Horrocks, Anthony Webster, Dylan Chuck** and **Jay Sanderson.** The Tournament runs from the 4th to 9th May. South Australia's record so far is one win and two losses.

MLBAAP

A total of 12 SASI athletes have been offered scholarships to the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program (MLBAAP) **Christopher Doyle, Ben Lodge, Patirck Burns, Daniel Lee, Wilson Lee, Dylan Child, Thomas Teague, Jackson Lodge, Jarryd Klemm, Jackson Brebner-Russ,** and **Mitchell Fienemann.** This is an

intensive eight-week live in program held on the Gold Coast. The academy dates are June 13th to August 8th; at the completion of the camp the AA (under17) Australian Team will be selected and will fly out straight to Taiwan to compete in the Junior World Championships.

Professional Signing

Last week SASI athlete of 5 years and member of the West Torrens Baseball Club, **Mitchell Fienemann** signed a professional contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Mitchell was going to be signed last year but unfortunately he injured his shoulder and had to undergo Labarum surgery. He has proved is determination and desire to get to the next level in his career by working extremely hard with the SASI support staff in the gym and rehabilitation throwing sessions and as a result will head off to join the Pittsburg Pirates spring training in a couple of weeks. SASI wish him all the best in his new career.

New World Rankings Released

Australia climbs the IBAF world rankings

With Japan's World Baseball Classic victory, it moves to No. 3 in the world. Cuba holds on to the No. 1 position and Korea moves past the USA into second. The new top 10 is as follows:

1. Cuba
2. Korea
3. Japan
4. USA
5. Chinese Taipei
6. Netherlands
7. Mexico
8. Canada
9. Australia
10. Puerto Rico

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 13 MARCH 2009

No mercy for Mexico

Australia showed Mexico no mercy on Monday in their first game of the 2009 World Baseball Classic, claspng a 17-7 victory over their host nation, a win that saw the mercy rule invoked to end the game in the eight innings.

With 22 hits, the Australian line-up set a new WBC record, exceeding Team USA's previous WBC record of 18 hits, a benchmark that was set in 2006.

In a game where no one gave Australia a chance to win, the Australians proved once again that teamwork, determination and Aussie pride can prevail.

SASI graduate **Paul Mildren** pitched two innings, allowing 2 hits, one run scored and 2 walks. Mildren changed the momentum of the game in his first inning of work, shutting Mexico down and allowing just one run in his second inning.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 20 FEBRUARY 2009

SASI Graduates

The National Senior Squad is currently playing a six game series against Chinese Taipei, leading up to the World Baseball Classic to be played in March 2009.

The first two games were played in Perth with four games being played in Melbourne. The series concludes on Thursday the 19th February. SASI Graduates **Paul Mildren**, **Stefan Welch** and **Tom Bryce** have been selected to play in this pre Classic Tournament.

Tom Brice has also been selected in the Australian Team to play in Japan. This Team heads off on the 22nd February. While Paul Mildren and Stefan Welch head back to the States with their MLB clubs.

Final roster for the World Baseball Classic will be announced on the 28th February.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 30 JANUARY 2009

SASI Baseball News

The Under 18 National Championships held in Perth earlier in the month saw SA finish a credible 4th, loosing in the Bronze medal game to Victoria. SA finished the first round in 2nd place with a 5-2 win loss record. The reseeded second round consisted of Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales. VIC and WA finished 1st and 2nd with SA 3rd after the round. NSW were eliminated out of the medal round.

Similarly in the Under 16's in Geelong, SA finished 3rd after the first round then ranked 4th after the second round and were out of medal contention. All players did themselves, the State and SASI proud. Selection to the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program will be made in February.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 23 JANUARY 2009

Australian #10 in World Rankings

The International Baseball Federation (IBAF) released their first ever world rankings last week, positioning Australia in the number 10 spot on a list that totalled 44 nations.

The ranking list was generated through a grading system based on results from IBAF sanctioned events throughout the past four years.

Cuba secured the world's top ranking, Korea followed closely behind, assisted by their gold medal in last year's Beijing Olympic Games. The United States came in at number three, Japan and Chinese Taipei rounded out the top five.

Considering the quality of the countries the nation outranked such as the Puerto Rico, China, Dominican Republic and Venezuela, Australian Baseball Federation (ABF) President Geoff Pearce was pleased with the overall result.