

REPORT - UNDER 15 AUSTRALIAN VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS.  
27TH AUGUST - 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1984.

The seventh U15 titles were held in the "City by the Bay" (Geelong) and were a great organizational success, with Northern Territory participating for the first time in a National Titles. The friendship and enthusiasm was evident throughout the titles and the only notable disappointment was the absence of W.A.

The Boys division looked from the early stages to be a two way struggle for the Gold between NSW & SA, with NSW finishing the rounds undefeated and SA going down to NSW 3-1 on the third day. Last year NSW went through the round undefeated then lost to ACT in the Final. This year however, the combination of brilliant setting by Ian Barnard and awesome spiking by 193cm Ashley Johansen made NSW too tough for the S.A. team who lost in four sets in an interesting see-saw final. Andy Molo was the strength of the SA attack and was well supported by setter/captain Alexis Lebedew with the team covering the court well and playing safely minimizing errors, but it was not enough to stop the determined NSW boys from taking Gold. The Bronze was a close tussle between ACT and Vic with ACT taking it in 5 sets, a match which could have gone either way.

The Girls division was wide open and on Day 4, any two of the top four (NSW, QLD, SA & VIC) were eligible to play off for Gold. Upsets were the order of the day, it was impossible for any team to be confident enough to assume a place for Gold as NO team had a free run through the rounds. The last desperate day of matches sorted out Victoria and SA (respectively) to playoff for Gold and QLD & NSW to playoff for Bronze. Although VIC defeated SA 3-0 in the rounds it was not to be the same in the final, with a determined S.A. taking the Gold in a hard 5 set match. Vizna Bruns, setter/captain of SA, played a major role with solid backing by Nicole Feetham, overcame a courageous attempt by Victoria, to win. Cathy Male and Vera Rava, both setters from Geelong, played consistently but to no avail. The QLD girls could not stop NSW from grabbing the Bronze in a good 3 set match.

In summary, the girls standards varied from good to mediocre, but the top four teams were similar in strength which made for an interesting and exciting tournament. Most girls teams had some tall players who were used effectively. All had teams had strengths and weaknesses, with the service being a strong point for some teams yet others barely managing to get it over the net, and similarly spiking.

Most boys teams lacked consistency, with serves and spikes often going into the net or out of court for no obvious reason. Court cover was also a problem for many teams, except SA who always tried to keep the ball with good backcourt defence, but they lacked an attack. However NSW had one almost unstoppable spiker and two or more backup hitters.

The skill level of the top teams, both boys and girls, was quite high, and showed they have obviously had a lot of experience playing in other tournaments, for their age-group. The lower place-getters had a sprinkling of good players but generally lacked an overall basic understanding and court movement. These players obviously gained valuable experience

benefit to them in future tournaments.

The organization and the venue, Corio Leisure Time Centre, was excellent - congratulations to the host Geelong Amateur Volleyball Association.

The standard of refereeing, under Chief Referee Jeff Kostas, was generally very good with few complaints from coaches. Linesmen could have been better trained as a few young ones were overwhelmed by the titles and occasionally lost concentration. The young players were well behaved and had a good understanding of the rules.

The A.V.F. relaxed the age-limit and allowed Northern Territory to compete with a few Under 17 players in their teams, and although they didn't get a medal we extend our thanks and encouragement to N.T. Their girls finished last but were never disgraced, and their boys defeated Tasmania in their last match. We hope N.T. will continue to support Australian Championships in the future.

Finishing Order (after minor round)

Boys	Points	Girls	Points
N.S.W.	12	VIC	11
S.A.	11	S.A.	11
A.C.T.	10	N.S.W.	10
VIC	9	QLD	10
QLD	8	A.C.T.	8
N.T.	7	TAS	7
TAS	6	N.T.	6

	TAS	NSW	QLD	SA	ACT	VIC	NT
TAS	1984	-2, -9, -3.	-7, -9, -6.	-9, -1, -1.	-1, -5, -2.	-4, -7, -4.	-4, 12, -10, -10.
NSW	-1, -1, -6.	U	8, 8, 13.	6, 7, -14, 12.	5, 15, -12, 13.	13, 14, -11, 12.	0, 6, 8.
QLD	-8, -8, -12.	8, 12, 9.	N	-3, -1, -8.	-12, -8, -6.	7, -4, 3, -5, -8.	6, 9, 7.
SA	12, -1, -8, -9.	-14, 7, -12, 10, -12.	9, -14, -12, -6.	D	13, 12, 9.	12, 5, -8, -8, 14.	4, 3, 10.
ACT	-12, -10, 9, -2.	7, 7, 3.	9, 4, 11.	4, 7, 8.	E	-7, 5, 8.	5, 3, 12.
VIC	-3, -3, -2.	5, -12, -13, -9.	-13, -14, -10.	-10, -6, -12.	-5, -8, -7.	R	1, -13, 10, 4.
NT	3, 12, 6.	1, 2, 4.	0, 3, 8.	5, 7, 4.	11, 14, 11.	4, 0, 8.	15 S

← U15 GIRLS →

↑ U15 BOYS ↓

BOYS:-

Gold/Silver - N.S.W. def. S.A. 15-8,15-1,12-15,15-12  
Bronze - A.C.T. def. Vic. 15-13,15-13,13-15,10-15,15-13

GIRLS:-

Gold/Silver - S.A. def. Vic. 15-10,15-9,7-15,12-15,15-4  
Bronze - N.S.W. def. Qld. 15-13,15-8,15-12

BOYS HONORARY AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE 12.

Ashley Johansen, Ian Barnard & Mark Farrant (N.S.W.)  
Andy Molo, Alexis Lebedew & Andrew Lynn (S.A.)  
David Sneddon & David Harris (A.C.T.)  
Toan Ly and Gary Reade (VIC)  
Richard Mallon & Peter Fischer (QLD).

GIRLS HONORARY AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE 12.

Vizma Bruns, Nicole Feetham & Sue Dowley (S.A.)  
Vera Rava, Michelle Williams & Cathy Male (VIC)  
Tara Payne & Fiona McDermott (N.S.W.)  
Debra Marr & Anita Doblo (QLD)  
Sharon O'Neil (A.C.T.)  
Louise Enkelaar (TAS)

The Under 15 Titles were run with good sportsmanship from all States, something which we are sure will continue through to the next titles in Adelaide in 1985.