

Match Report Under 20 Men 1980

Coach - P. Carolan

Practice

Heidleberg 1, 2 : Weekly  
Sisu 1 : Friday before departure  
Wangaratta : Saturday (en route)  
Self : Sunday (practice day)

DAY 1 : V ACT

Result win : 3 sets to one  
15:4, 15:4, 5:15, 15:7

Very impressive start - annihilation. Our boys became "carried away" with free ball situations and failed to adjust to clever, experienced play by ACT (to flick, drop easy balls over block into centre and deep position one). Fourth set recovery : first six players and realisation the game was not over. Better serving.

DAY 2 : V NSW

Result win : 3 : 0  
15:7, 15:7, 15:13

Outstanding service allowed our blockers an easy win in the first two sets. Exposed a lack of attack by NSW (using 5 : 1 system), when setter was on front line against a six foot two inch line. Third set was a real struggle : no service allowed NSW to come back late in the set. Former SA recruit Raoul Fuvel setting excellent, especially using right cross combination - of 'flaried' (same ball).



Our blockers were caught too wide in our position 4. Nevertheless I was pleased with our 3 : 0 win and didn't expect to play NSW in the final. SA should have beaten them to play us in the final.

DAY 3 : V Tasmania

Result win : 3 : 0  
15:5, 15:5, 15:3

Tasmania are just a "social" team in junior ranks and with injured players of second six. Three players: slight calf trouble, a back injury and a toe injury. These players easily accounted for Tasmania.

DAY 4 : V SA

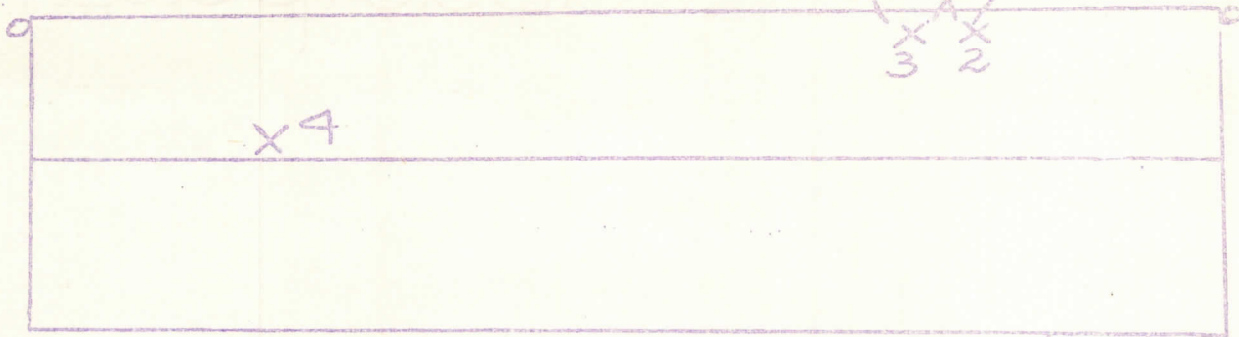
SA are by far the best opposition - they only lack fighting spirit - a trait with which our players have become involved. When the game was so even in the fifth set, we won because our players fought harder: they always sensed they were going to win, especially after last year.

Result win : 3 : 2  
15:4, 13:15, 15:6, 12:15, 15:12

We outclassed them in sets 1 and 3, yet could have won either two or four with better play early in the set.

Once more we used the 'round robin' to sort out difficulties of co-ordination of city/country players and some basic weaknesses of COUNTRY teams.

# 1. Non-blocking spiker weakness



When defending against a spiker, our blockers in perfect position, player 4 (or 2 in attacks from other antenna) goes back and almost out of court, providing SA in particular, with points from flick balls. Graham Stewart, Mark O'Brien, Shaun O'Neil have all had two years of being told, Wayne Osborne - one. All are "country" players and UNDER PRESSURE go back to giving easy side-outs points to their opponents, VCVC officials may wish to take this point up with either Antjie or myself. Certainly Tomas hopes to do something about it. The second and related weakness is not exclusively a 'country' weakness and is related to WEAK AUSTRALIAN BLOCKING.



Our outside blockers block the antenna even on 'half' sets, so that when the centre blocker (admirable?) "closes" the block as required by all coaches it allows the spiker so much area of the court that winners can be hit in too many areas cross court.

Everyone puts their best blockers in the centre - a plus but fails to get outside blockers to do their job in setting the block.

I pay a great compliment to our players in their fighting spirit and self-confidence (I was never as sure as they were, we were going to win). It we had lost this match, we would have made the final only on percentage. (ACT took two sets from NSW where we lost one) - that's how close it was, yet our players on court were supremely confident that they would eventually win. Perhaps the case with which they won the first and third sets gave them this feeling. They certainly showed old fashioned courage at the end and quite calm in victory at the end.

## DAY 5 : V Queensland

Result win : 3 : 0  
15:2, 15:4, 15:9

An easy win against weak opposition, 'blooding' next years players - and other second six players. A day off for some first six players after SA match.

## DAY 6 FINAL V NSW

Result win : 3 : 0  
15:12, 15:8, 15:4

Too easy, too quick to enjoy and savour NSW tried but were almost a beaten force after the halfway mark of the first set.

MISTAKE: I did not insist on enough warm up before the game and it nearly cost us the first set. A late start, but then experience, courage and determination of Brook Ramage, Ted Kalkhoven, Peter Clayden, Mark O'Brien, Wayne Osborne (grew up alot during the Championships) Martin Knopp, Graham Stewart (saved a special effort for his last junior final after a mediocre start day 1 - 5).

Garry Mitchell deserves special commendation playing with a shoulder

ONE The two mistakes mentioned be passed on to coaches commission, the VCVC for dissemination.

TWO The diet before games was a disaster. It is very hard for coaches to insist on certain foods before competition when they are used to pies, pasties, soft drinks before a match. Some recommendation for Junior teams need to be worked out, so that good habits are begun at all tournaments.

THREE We should not introduce 5:1 system until Victoria finds a surperb setter. Some states are introducing it willy willy regardless of players at hand. Aptfæ points out the Chinese use 4:2 very successfullly. We have no "professionl", full time athletes who can set all the time without error.

I would like to thank Tomas Santamaria and John Barker, both of whose valuable help was so important in our morale, good organisation on and off the court.

I hope our success in some way encourages the Executive of our VAVA to continue giving such support to the coaches of our teams - whether they be state or club teams in the future.