

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are certainly all aware a very exciting year with regard to Australian Volleyball and - even more so - Victorian Volleyball is now behind us. Whilst it brought great success it serves only as a stepping stone for future developments. All our achievements are due to a quite successful re-organization of the Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association, stable committees which allow forward planning and the untiring help from committee and club members as a whole.

This year's report appears in a new form, as it contains quite substantial information covering the First Asian Volleyball Championships held in Melbourne in August 1975 as well as all relevant information with regard to the Australian National Volleyball Championships held at Easter 1975 at the Albert Park Basketball Stadium. Furthermore detailed registration figures covering the Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association and comparative figures between Victoria and the other Australian States. These figures show that Victoria is way ahead with registrations as against the other states. And finally the plan of the rotational order of Australian Championships for the coming years and proposed events of general interest for the year 1976.

Good relations have been established with the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation which resulted in a number of Government grants - First Asian Volleyball Championships \$5000.-, State Director of Coaching \$7500.- and Junior High School Championships approx. \$2500.-

The past year has seen quite substantial involvement of V.A.V.A. with the High School Sports Association in running the High School Finals. Facilities and the organization were made available free of charge to the schools and prizes were given to the winners and place getters. There was also involvement with the Technical Schools, but in a smaller scale. The Regional Centre 'Rusden' has been developed in such a way that it will be able to provide administrative staff for future centres to be established in the eastern and southern area. A course has been run at Rusden - mandatory for phys.ed. students - covering all aspects of Volleyball in theory and practice, most valuable as these students will all be future High School Teachers.

V.A.V.A. participated for the first time in a sports and recreation exhibition at the Exhibition Building in Melbourne, giving us valuable experience in the organization of such ventures for the future.

Finally, our thanks go to all committee and club members alike as well as friends from outside of the organization, which allowed us to achieve the results of the past year and let us trust that their support will be available for the tasks which lay ahead of us.


W. Gollong
(Honorary Secretary)

VICTORIAN AMATEUR VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

1.) PLAYERS REGISTRATIONS WITHIN VICTORIA

<u>Regions of Associations</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Total</u>
Country Volleyball Council	986	465	1451
Melbourne Volleyball Council	247	92	339
University High Centre	46	45	91
Rusden Centre	128	26	154
<u>GRAND TOTALS:</u>	<u>1407</u>	<u>628</u>	<u>2035</u>

2.) PLAYERS REGISTRATIONS WITHIN AUSTRALIA

<u>State</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Total</u>
Queensland	286	254	540
New South Wales	334	207	541
A.C.T.	36	65	101
Tasmania	395	148	543
South Australia	407	44	451
Western Australia	148	20	168
Victoria	1407	628	2035
<u>GRAND TOTALS:</u>	<u>3013</u>	<u>1366</u>	<u>4379</u>

VICTORIAN AMATEUR VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

ROTATIONAL ORDER OF AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>Under 20</u>	<u>Under 17</u>
1976	QLD.	S.A.	A.C.T.
1977	W.A.	TAS.	N.S.W.
1978	S.A.	VIC.	QLD.
1979	N.S.W.	A.C.T.	VIC.
1980	TAS.	W.A.	S.A.
1981	A.C.T.	N.S.W.	TAS.
1982	VIC.	QLD.	W.A.

LIST OF EVENTS FOR 1976
(Not complete)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
January	2nd Oceania Championships	Nelson (N.Z.)
January	Invitation Tournament (Wallabies)	Rusden
Easter	National Championship	Brisbane
May	International Coaches Course	Adelaide
undated	Junior Championships - Under 20	Adelaide
undated	Junior Championships - Under 17	Canberra
undated	Asian Volleyball Confederation Conference	Manila or Tokyo
November	Inter-regional Championships	Tokyo
November	Good Neighbour Tournament	Canberra
undated	Club Championships	
December	Invitation Tournament	Morwell
December	Southern States Tournament	Melbourne
December	First Asian Junior Volleyball Championships	Melbourne or Sydney

V I C T O R I A N A M A T E U R V O L L E Y B A L L

A S S O C I A T I O N

REPORT

14th AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HELD AT

ALBERT PARK BASKETBALL STADIUM

MARCH 29, 1975 to APRIL 1, 1975

This report deals solely with technical matters as financial details are not fully available at this stage. Two sub-groups have been formed, one dealing with all women's matches whilst the second deals with all men's matches. The details extracted from the score sheets are most comprehensive and should form a valuable guide for the staging and organization of future Championships.

1.) W O M E N

Total number of matches	--	21
Number of matches played		
in 3 Sets	--	10
in 4 Sets	--	6
in 5 Sets	--	5
Total playing time	--	24 hrs. 27 mins. (1467 mins.)
Average playing time	--	1 hr. 10 mins.
Longest match (W.A.-A.C.T.)	--	1 hr. 54 mins.
Shortest match (S.A.-TAS.)	--	43 mins.
(VIC.-TAS.)	--	43 mins.

Matches played by -

	<u>TOTAL PLAYING TIME</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>
A.C.T.	450 mins. = 7 hrs. 30 mins.	1 hr. 15 mins.
VIC.	409 mins. = 6 hrs. 49 mins.	1 hr. 8 mins.
N.S.W.	458 mins. = 7 hrs. 38 mins.	1 hr. 16 mins.
QLD.	393 mins. = 6 hrs. 33 mins.	1 hr. 5 mins.
TAS.	364 mins. = 6 hrs. 4 mins.	1 hr. 4 mins.
W.A.	479 mins. = 7 hrs. 59 mins.	1 hr. 20 mins.
S.A.	381 mins. = 6 hrs. 21 mins.	1 hr. 4 mins.

Final Placings -

	<u>Matches</u>		<u>Sets</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>Points</u>	
	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>		<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
1. S.A.	5	1	17	4	425	291	189
2. VIC.	5	1	17	5	340	296	197
3. QLD.	5	1	15	7	214	262	222
4. W.A.	2	4	8	16	50	281	286
5. TAS.	2	4	7	15	46.7	195	289
6. N.S.W.	1	5	8	16	50	240	314
7. A.C.T.	1	5	7	16	43.75	234	302

2.) M E N

Total number of matches	-	21
Number of matches played		
in 3 Sets	-	11
in 4 Sets	-	5
in 5 Sets	-	5
Total playing time	-	29 hrs. 49 mins. (1549 mins.)
Average playing time	-	1 hr. 14 mins.
Longest match (QLD.-N.S.W.)	-	2 hr. 10 mins.
Shortest Match (VIC.-A.C.T.)	-	37 mins.

Matches played by -

	<u>TOTAL PLAYING TIME</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>
A.C.T.	428 mins. = 7 hrs. 8 mins.	1 hr. 11 mins.
VIC.	355 mins. = 5 hrs. 55 mins.	59 mins.
N.S.W.	434 mins. = 7 hrs. 14 mins.	1 hr. 12 mins.
QLD.	529 mins. = 8 hrs. 49 mins.	1 hr. 28 mins.
TAS.	364 mins. = 6 hrs. 4 mins.	1 hr. 1 min.
W.A.	448 mins. = 7 hrs. 28 mins.	1 hr. 15 mins.
S.A.	540 mins. = 9 hrs. 0 mins.	1 hr. 30 mins.

Final placings -

	<u>Matches</u>		<u>Sets</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>Points</u>	
	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>		<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
1. VIC.	6	0	18	3	600	297	162
2. N.S.W.	5	1	16	5	320	290	227
3. QLD.	4	2	14	11	127.3	318	284
4. S.A.	3	3	13	12	108.33	312	302
5. A.C.T.	1	5	7	16	43.75	225	314
6. W.A.	1	5	6	16	37.5	235	300
7. TAS.	1	5	4	15	26.7	176	264


WOMEN

										<u>Sets</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Time</u>
VIC.	d S.A.	8:15	15:7	15:13	8:15	15:3	3:2	61:53	105 mins.			
TAS.	d N.S.W.	3:15	15:5	7:15	15:9	15:8	3:2	55:52	82 mins.			
QLD.	d A.C.T.	15:7	15:4	3:15	15:10		3:1	48:36	70 mins.			
TAS.	d W.A.	5:15	15:7	15:13	15:10		3:1	50:45	72 mins.			
S.A.	d TAS.	16:14	15:4	15:2			3:0	46:20	43 mins.			
N.S.W.	d A.C.T.	15:8	15:5	11:5	17:15		3:1	58:43	88 mins.			
QLD.	d W.A.	3:15	15:11	15:12	15:7		3:1	48:45	76 mins.			
S.A.	d N.S.W.	15:6	15:10	12:15	15:12		3:1	57:43	82 mins.			
QLD.	d VIC.	9:15	15:6	5:15	15:9	15:9	3:2	59:54	100 mins.			
QLD.	d TAS.	15:1	15:8	15:8			3:0	45:17	44 mins.			
VIC.	d N.S.W.	15:2	15:5	15:10			3:0	45:17	50 mins.			
W.A.	d A.C.T.	13:15	15:15	15:7	15:13	15:2	3:2	69:52	114 mins.			
VIC.	d A.C.T.	15:5	15:5	15:7			3:0	45:17	46 mins.			
S.A.	d W.A.	15:9	15:2	15:8			3:0	45:19	51 mins.			
S.A.	d QLD.	15:4	15:9	15:3			3:0	45:16	48 mins.			
VIC.	d TAS.	15:2	15:8	15:6			3:0	45:16	43 mins.			
A.C.T.	d TAS.	15:12	11:15	15:2	15:6		3:1	56:57	80 mins.			
W.A.	d N.S.W.	15:6	12:15	15:6	11:15	15:3	3:2	68:45	101 mins.			
S.A.	d A.C.T.	15:9	15:10	15:11			3:0	45:30	52 mins.			
VIC.	d W.A.	15:12	15:9	16:14			3:0	46:35	65 mins.			
QLD.	d N.S.W.	15:5	16:14	15:6			3:0	46:25	55 mins.			

OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

- 1.) It is essential that two courts should be used at all times and only States which have the necessary facilities - 2 courts - should apply for and should be granted to hold the Australian National Championships.
- 2.) All teams should be ready to commence Actual Play and not Warm-Ups 15 minutes before the advertised starting time, unless direct T.V.-coverage is involved.
- 3.) It is advisable to play the National Championships over a 4 day period in the future. Women's matches have taken times between 7 hours-59 mins. and 6 hours- 4 mins. to play in a 6 match tournament, whilst men's matches took between 9 hours and 5 hours-55 mins. for the same number of matches, surely it is not too much for a team to spend between 2 hours-15 mins. and 1 hour-28 mins. a day on the court.
- 4.) Officials involved in coaching or managing teams should not be either players or referees, as this does not help either the teams nor the organizers of the tournaments.
- 5.) Officials and Delegates of the A.V.F. should be free from involvement in the tournament resp. coaching and managing of teams for at least one afternoon so that they can attend the A.V.F. Congress. Any of their reports and discussions should be kept to minimum time in order to save time.
- 6.) The shortages of linesmen/women and scorers emphasizes the need for States to conduct extensive coaching and organizing of these officials well before the Championships. Naturally - due to the fact that the Championships are held over the Easter holiday period - a great number of otherwise qualified people are just not available due to other commitments.
- 7.) No disputes arose over the period of the Championships underlining the good will of players and officials alike and assuring that the image and spirit of our sport was not spoiled.
- 8.) On behalf of the Executive of the Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association, our thanks go to all players and officials - Interstate as well as Victorian - which have rendered their assistance to bring the Championships to a successful and amiable end.

VICTORIAN AMATEUR VOLLEYBALL
ASSOCIATION


W. Gollong
Secretary.



by

W. Lebedew
Executive Secretary
Asian Volleyball Championships
Organising Committee

FIRST ASIAN VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Melbourne 1975

It was almost three years ago that the Australian Volleyball Federation received the first indication from the world governing body that an Australian application to conduct the first ever Asian Volleyball Championships would receive favourable consideration. At that stage there appeared to be little hope to bring to Australia a large scale tournament of this nature, yet the prospect was exciting and challenging and thus the first steps were initiated. Three years and many set backs later on Tuesday August 12th a small group of officials gathered at the Tullamarine International Airport to welcome the first teams to arrive in Australia. As the teams from the People's Republic of China walked through the customs exit, it appeared to some of us to be the real starting point of the great event, a realisation that no matter what happened now, the championships would go on. Such feelings can only be understood in the light of the events of the time, when Iran, Sri Lanka and India had withdrawn at short notice and there was little information on Korea, Indonesia and the Phillipines.

The rest of the week passed in frantic activity with the picture brightening slowly and by Saturday afternoon all the teams for better or for worse were settled at the Monash Halls of Residence. All that is but the Indonesians, whose whereabouts were shrouded in the proverbial oriental mystery. The teams' managers meeting on Saturday night revealed the presence of one solitary Indonesian delegate, who could not shed any light on the subject and since the Indonesian women's team was due to play Japan in the opening match the next day, the first programme change had to be made and they were replaced by Australia. As far as humanly possible everything was ready for the First Asian Volleyball Championships for Men and Women

Sunday 17th August

The Opening at the Festival Hall, Melbourne attended by many Australian and international dignitaries was impressive, although the general attendance had been disappointing. The Naval Band of Victoria provided a colourful and melodious background to the Ceremony, which saw all the participating teams parade on to the court led by their standard bearers. The Sportsmen's Oath was spoken by representatives from each nation in their own language and after a brief introduction by the President of the Australian Volleyball Federation, Mr. E. Hayman, the Honorable Frank Stewart, Minister for Tourism and Recreation declared the Championships open.

ralian and Japanese women commenced. The Australian girls led by South Australian Sue Dansie caused a minor sensation when after losing the opening service they scored the first point against the world champions and forced four service changes before the Japanese finally opened their score. Although going down in straight sets, the Australians played an inspired game and time and time again it was a pleasure to see our girls hit the ball hard into the open spaces past the diving Japanese or retrieve in the back-court. It is a pity that the tremendous, continuous pressure proved too much in the later stages of the tournament and their game markedly deteriorated and fell away. The second match proved a triumph for the Australian men, who opposed to the Phillipines faced their first real test against a major Asian nation. After close but convincing wins in the first two sets, the team lost concentration and at 6:8 in the fifth was facing defeat, before fighting back to win their first match of the tournament.

Japan d. Australia (W) - 15:4; 15:0; 15:2

Australia d. Phillipines (M) - 15:13; 15:13; 8:15; 6:15; 15:10

Monday 18th August

The social highlight of the day was the Lord Mayoral Reception at the Melbourne Town Hall attended by the team managers and other dignitaries. Unexpected news was received that a group of Indonesians were waiting at the airport. In a flurry of activity transport was arranged and the new arrivals were brought to Monash University. They turned out to be the Indonesian men's team, which had been travelling for some twenty hours and which also brought a notification that the women's team would not be putting in an appearance. The tournament continued in the afternoon at the Albert Park Basketball Stadium. The scheduled match involving Indonesian women was replaced by the women's match between Australia and New Zealand, which the Australians after a shaky start won predictably in straight sets, to score their solitary victory for the tournament. In the men's match, Olympic gold medalist Japan outclassed the New Zealanders, who scored with a Maori Haka before the match, but had very few winners after that. During the evening session at the Monash Sport Stadium, the Australian girls substituting for the absent Indonesian in a non-competitive encounter were overpowered by South Korea in a ruthless and uncompromising display of world class volleyball. Later in the evening the men's team from the People's Republic of China annihilated Indonesia in just over half an hour, the Indonesians having little choice but to catch up on their lost sleep, whilst going through the motions of playing volleyball.

Australia d. New Zealand (W) - 15:9; 15:2; 15:5

Japan d. New Zealand (M) - 15:1; 15:5; 15:1

Korea d. Australia (W) - 15:0; 15:0; 15:1 (friendly match)

China d. Indonesia (M) - 15:3; 15:5; 15:1

Tuesday 19th August

A minor crisis was precipitated by the Chinese officials, when they discovered that in a certain place in the Championships Programme, their nation was referred to as the 'Republic of China' instead of the People's Republic of China. Whilst to many of us the difference may be unimportant this was far from being the case for the Chinese as the Republic of China is the name of Nationalist China, a country which they are committed to eliminate.

During the afternoon at Albert Park the girls from the People's Republic of China made their debut on the court in a 'friendly' against Australia. The colourful and attractive playing uniforms contrasting sharply with their drab, navy blue off-court attire, the team gave a fast powerful performance without applying real pressure. The friendliness of the encounter being reflected in the flattering scores. The match between Phillipine and New Zealand men did not reach any great heights. Faster on the court and superior in attack the Phillipinoes were relatively untroubled to win in straight sets.

to take place in the next few days.

Sunday 24th August

The morning saw a scheduled conference attended by officials of the participating nations. For reasons too complex and tedious to quote here, the conference was classed as 'informal' and resulted in a friendly discussion and exchange of opinions, which unfortunately failed to resolve any of the vital problems affecting the volleyball administration of the Asian Confederation, even to the time and place of the formal conference.

The matches continuing at Albert Park in the afternoon, followed a predictable pattern. The Japanese men continued their dominance with an easy victory over the Phillipines and the Chinese had an equally easy task against the Australians, who, possibly suffering from the physical and psychological tension of the previous weeks, turned in their worst performance of the series. In spite of all the Australian team had gained a highly commendable fourth place against the cream of Asian volleyball. It can look back on a magnificent achievement and regard the challenges of the future with confidence.

The evening session at Monash, before a capacity crowd of over 1500, brought the eagerly awaited clash between the women's teams of Japan and China. The Chinese proved worthy opponents for the favorites and for long passages of play matched the world champions with powerful spiking, blocking and serving. From the onset when it took the Japanese ten service changes to score their first point, to the third set where the Chinese girls after leading 10:5 hung on grimly for nine service changes before the final crucial breakthrough, the teams treated a receptive crowd to a brilliant exhibition of volleyball and set the stage for the final clash between the outstanding teams of the tournament. In the second match the plucky New Zealanders delighted the audience by taking the lead against Korea in the first set and fighting every inch of the way in their best performance yet, to go down 9:15 after saving three set points. However in the succeeding sets the machinelike precision of the Koreans took its toll and the New Zealand 'blitz' collapsed.

During the afternoon four senior members of the Japanese team including their legendary captain Katsutoshi Nekoda flew in from Moscow to participate in the final of the championships. The Japanese had been competing in an annual series against the U.S.S.R., where, weakened by the absence of top players in Australia, they lost all the four matches contested.

Japan d. Phillipines (M) - 15:3; 15:5; 15:3

China d. Australia (M) - 15:4; 15:4; 15:5

Japan d. China (W) - 15:6; 15:5; 15:12

Korea d. New Zealand (M) - 15:9; 15:0; 15:1

Monday 25th August

Amidst growing interest and increased spectator support the matches at Monash saw the Australian girls participate in yet another 'friendly', this time with a struggling performance against a keen rather than skillful New Zealand team. In the following match the New Zealand men gave a splendid performance in matching the powerful Chinese throughout a hard fought three setter.

Tuesday 26th August

Back at Monash the New Zealand women showed little opposition against the Chinese team and in the second match the Indonesian and New Zealand men's teams met to decide last place. The New Zealanders culminated the steady improvement they had shown throughout the tournament with a splendid performance. The vastly more experienced Indonesians playing under the additional incentive of having to win this match to earn participation in the Asian Games next year, had to pull out all stops to overcome their opponents in a clash where the 'kiwis' repeatedly fought back from the brink of defeat to throw the match wide open.

China d. New Zealand (W) - 15:5; 15:4; 15:3

Indonesia d. New Zealand (M) - 15:12; 10:15; 15:10; 15:8

innumerable chances to wrap up the match in straight sets. The match which did not lack its highlights proved conclusively that Australia could easily emerge in the forefront of Asian volleyball. The team has height, speed and the basic development, which dedication and hard work could weld into a formidable combination.

China d. Australia (W) - 15:4; 15:9; 15:3 (friendly match)
Phillipines d. New Zealand (M) - 15:2; 15:9; 17:15
Korea d. New Zealand (W) - 15:1; 15:1; 15:2
Australia d. Indonesia (M) - 15:9; 11:15; 15:5; 7:15; 15:4

Wednesday 20th August

The afternoon men's encounters Korea versus Phillipines and Japan versus Indonesia indicated the tremendous gulf separating the top teams of the Asian region. The higher ranked teams required little effort in keeping down any potential challenges from their outclassed opponents to win in straight sets.

In the afternoon all players and officials tramped to the Government Offices for a State Reception hosted by The Honorable R.J. Hamer Premier of Victoria. The reception gave the competitors and officials the first and unfortunately as it turned out the only opportunity to mingle freely outside the pressures of the competition. Replying to the welcome address by the Honorable Premier, Justice Ramon Nolasco, Leader of the Phillipine delegation, representing the President of the Asian Volleyball Confederation scored a popular point by reflecting that Australia far from being "down under" was in effect "on the up and up".

Back in the Festival Hall for the evening a disappointingly small crowd witnessed the friendly encounter between the women's teams of China and Japan. Surprisingly the Chinese offered little resistance to the power volleyball turned on by the world champions and faded away to go down in straight sets. In the second match the Australian men made hard work of subduing the weak New Zealand team, but were never really threatened in notching up their third straight win to lead the tournament at that stage.

Korea d. Phillipines (M) - 15:4; 15:4; 15:0
Japan d. Indonesia (M) - 15:2; 15:6; 15:5
Japan d. China (W) - 15:1; 15:1; 15:4 (friendly match)
Australia d. New Zealand (M) - 15:6; 15:6; 15:4

Thursday 21st August

Approaching the half way mark in the tournament, the afternoon matches with Korea and China opposed to Indonesia and the Phillipines respectively appeared to be foregone conclusions. This view was vindicated when the Koreans effortlessly brushed aside the ragged Indonesian combination, which throughout the tournament appeared to be unable to establish any strong points. However the Phillipines proved a hard nut to crack for the strongly fancied Chinese team. Using the low sets to great effect the smaller but faster Phillipine players repeatedly left their opponents flat footed in maintaining the lead throughout the first set to go down eventually in an exciting fighting match.

The evening session at Festival Hall brought about the long awaited first clash between two of the strongly favoured teams when the Chinese women's team faced Korea. The taller, more powerful Chinese started off at a furious pace and ran up to an 8:0 lead before the Korean girls could stem the onslaught, though too late to save the set. However as the match progressed the superior team work and court play by the Koreans swung the match decisively in their favour and virtually clinched a berth in the 1976 Olympic Tournament in Montreal. A remarkable exhibition was given by the Korean In Sil Park, who at 170 cm (5'5") one of the shortest players in the tournament seemed to be able to outjump and outhit consistently her much taller opponents, an ability which gained her selection in the World Six at the Women's World Cup in Uruguay in 1973.

In the second match of the night the Australian men faced their moment of truth, with Japan, one of the greatest teams in the world on the other side of the net. Opposing a team with an average height of 190 cm (6'3"), which had not been defeated in Asian volleyball in the past twenty years, the Australians

fought with tremendous courage and considerable skill to try and avert the inevitable, and in numerous passages of play matched their exhalted opponents hit for hit. At one stage in the final set with the score at 5:8 they forced no less than eleven service changes, before succumbing to the awesome power of the Japanese attack in a match lasting over one hour. The boys could look back with pride on a magnificent performance. They had not done the impossible yet did Australian volleyball a great service.

It should be mentioned at this stage that for the connoisseur the volleyball treat was not restricted to the competition matches. The real addicts, and there were many, began the day about 9 a.m. by attending team trainings. The tough, well disciplined sessions conducted by the Japanese, Korean and Chinese coaches were particularly popular. Some of these sessions, especially the Japanese women, produced the most remarkable volleyball seen in Australia - and all that at no cost to the beholder.

Korea d. Indonesia (M) - 15:4; 15:4; 15:2
China d. Phillipines (M) - 15:11; 15:9; 15:6
Korea d. China (W) - 11:15; 15:6; 15:10; 15:4
Japan d. Australia (M) - 15:3; 15:5; 15:5

Friday 22nd August

Immediately after breakfast six tourist coaches carrying the teams and officials departed for their country destinations, taking top volleyball to Wangaratta, Bendigo and Warnambool.

Before a capacity crowd in the beautiful Wangaratta Sport Center, the Korean women in what has become a typically ruthless and uncompromising display overwhelmed the Australian team. After a fighting opening the Australians folded up to gain only six services in the last two sets. In the keenly awaited encounter between China and Japan, the Japanese asserted their superiority in great style, underlining their claim to favoritism. Taking control early in the game, the Japanese smashed their way to a two set lead before the Chinese rallied to slow down the onslaught without being able to avoid a straight sets defeat. A brilliant exhibition of backcourt play was given by Syoji Yoshimatsu, at 5'9" the 'dwarf' of the Japanese side. His quick reflexes and brilliant diving recoveries would have done honour to a top line soccer goalkeeper.

Korea d. Australia (W) - 15:7; 15:0; 15:0
Japan d. China (M) - 15:4; 15:6; 15:9

In Bendigo the absence of the Indonesian women's team resulted in the Chinese being opposed by an Australian scratch combination which predictably could offer little opposition to the steady, talented Chinese playing at half pace. The men's match between Australia and Korea was virtually the decider for the one Asian region berth in the Montreal Olympics, as Japan had already qualified being the 1972 Olympic Champions and China does not participate in the Olympic Games. With the best will in the world, on current performances it was difficult to imagine Australia upsetting the hard hitting fiercely competitive Korean combination, which established a reputation in Asia, second only to the Japan. The Australian boys did their best, but in the end had to succumb to the brilliant multi pronged attacks and barring sensational upsets Korea had won the right to compete in the Olympic Tournament.

China d. Australian Selection (W) - 15:1; 15:4; 15:5 (friendly match)
Korea d. Australia (M) - 15:5; 15:3; 15:5

In Warnambool the Japanese women continued their progress to the gold medal with an easy victory over New Zealand. The match between the Phillipines and Indonesia produced a lively encounter much appreciated by the capacity crowd, the steadier and more versatile Phillipinoes eventually drawing away to a four set win.

Japan d. New Zealand (W) - 15:1; 15:2; 15:0
Phillipines d. Indonesia (M) - 15:9; 15:5; 13:15; 15:9

the Australian women playing in their eighth match including the 'friendlies', faced China in the deciding encounter for the bronze medal. Once more against top class opposition the Australians showed little method or cohesion, although a remarkable total of ten players took the court throughout the match. In the contest between Korea and China, the largest crowd of the tournament to date witnessed one of the greatest matches seen in Australia. It had all the ingredients of world class volleyball as well as the drama of fluctuating fortunes and magnificent recoveries in a tense, exciting spectacle lasting 154 minutes. From the onset it was clear that the slightly more favoured Koreans had a hard job ahead. With the teams evenly matched in all facets of the game, the scores were locked together until the Koreans clinched the set with a superb demonstration of sustained attacking play. The picture was repeated in the second set, the Koreans holding a slight edge. With the scores tied at 7:7 the Chinese forced no less than 19 service changes, but were unable to break through to be down 0:2. The third set brought an amazing transformation. An inspired Chinese team playing brilliant volleyball smashed through the Korean defence to lead 14:6, before in an equally amazing reversal the Koreans fought back to 13:14, saving seven set points in the process until a desperate Korean attack failed to pierce a towering block and the match stood 2:1. For the huge crowd, which clearly favoured the Chinese this was champagne volleyball and its appreciation and response was tremendous. China continued its hard earned domination and when it went to a 9:7 lead it appeared the end for Korea. Yet once again with what had become typical tenacity and tremendous application, the impassive and seemingly unemotional men of the Republic of Korea fought their way back and amongst tumultuous applause clinched the final set and match to be assured of the silver medal. No one who had witnessed that brilliant exhibition of volleyball from two great teams will forget the elation of the victors and the misery of defeat and thought that if there could be a draw, surely that would have been the fairest result.

China d. Australia (W) - 15:1; 15:7; 15:6

Korea d. China (M) - 15:11; 15:7; 13:15; 10:15; 15:9

Thursday 28th August

On the final evening, a crowd of over three thousand, far in excess of any previous volleyball attendance in Australia filled the Festival Hall to witness the play offs for the top teams in the Asian region. Amidst great expectations the women's teams of Japan and South Korea, first and third respectively in the 1974 World Championships, took the court. The opening went badly for the smaller Korean girls and they were overwhelmed by an avalanche of powerful hitting from their towering opponents, whilst their own efforts were blocked out with comparative ease. The outlook was even grimmer in the second set, as the Koreans although forcing 23 service changes managed only one solitary point and the match appeared to be all over. Yet once again the Korean team underwent a typical transformation. Using tricky multi pronged attacking combinations to outmanoeuvre the Japanese block, supported by superb back court play, the Koreans led throughout the third set and held three set points, before a Japanese resurgence in the dying moments of the game snatched set, match and gold medal for the world champions. The match although somewhat disappointing in duration, was a demonstration of the Asian school volleyball at its very best, the taller, powerful Japanese clearly maintaining the upper hand throughout.

In the final match of the tournament two great teams produced unforgettable volleyball, which defies verbal description. In spite of the closeness of the scores in the first two sets, it appeared that the Japanese always had something extra in reserve, when the situation required it. Each time the Koreans were in the lead in the final stages of the set and each time the Japanese big men smashed their way to victory. Both coaches handled their charges superbly, with subtle substitutions at crucial times, to strengthen a spearhead or relieve a potential weakness. The third set was a complete reversal, the Japanese having most of the play only to falter in the final stages allowing Korea to surge ahead and kindle the hopes of yet another great revival. However the hopes were short lived as the Japanese piled on the pressure in the fourth set to go to an unassailable 10:0 lead, the Koreans fighting tenaciously to save four match points before the final whistle of the Indonesian referee ended the memorable encounter.

State Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, Sir Edgar Tanner, President of the Australian Olympic Federation and W. Lebedew. With the court filled by a milling crowd of players, officials and well wishers, the First Asian Volleyball Championships were over.

Japan d. Korea (W) - 15:4; 15:1; 17:15
 Japan d. Korea (M) - 16:14; 15:13; 12:15; 15:6

Final Results

<u>MEN</u>	Matches		Sets			Points		
	W	L	F	A	%	F	A	%
1. Japan	6	0	18	1	1800	283	111	255
2. Republic of Korea	5	1	16	5	320	296	157	189
3. People's Republic of China	4	2	14	6	233	256	183	140
4. Australia	3	3	9	13	69	206	265	78
5. Phillipines	2	4	8	13	62	216	258	84
6. Indonesia	1	5	6	16	38	173	301	58
7. New Zealand	0	6	1	18	6	127	282	45
<u>WOMEN</u>								
1. Japan	4	0	12	0		182	52	350
2. Republic of Korea	3	1	9	4	225	166	93	179
3. People's Republic of China	2	2	7	6	117	148	127	117
4. Australia	1	3	3	9	33	72	151	48
5. New Zealand	0	4	0	12		35	180	20

Australian Teams

<u>MEN</u>		<u>WOMEN</u>	
George Mraz	(Vic.) - captain	Sue Dansie	(S.A.) - captain
Jack Atkins	"	Diane Biebrick	"
John Hiller	"	Mirva Korhonen	"
Wolfgang Woerner	"	Marta Ostermayer	"
Andrew Burns	"	Ingrid Randva	"
John Kruk	"	Aija Ranniko	"
Tony Naar	"	Janelle Chuter	(Qld.)
Sakkari Ryoopponen	"	Denise Evans	"
Ilke Veijalainen	"	Lynne Newman	(Vic.)
Hillary Ranniko	(S.A.)	Jan Stoll	"
Stewart Uher	(N.S.W.)	Sue Fisher	"
Roy Bruynius	(Qld.)	Julie Kelaher	(N.S.W.)

Coach: Joe Hiller (Vic)
 Ass. coach: Jim Wilson (S.A.)
 Manager: Peter Marr (Qld.)

Coach: John Olesk (S.A.)
 Ass. coach: E. Kolodoczka (S.A.)
 Manageress: Inne-Lee Prima (S.A.)

Teams Review

The main attraction of the tournament were undoubtedly the Japanese teams, which, with the U.S.S.R., have dominated world volleyball for the past decade and which produced all that was expected from them. Tall, powerful with tremendous agility and jumping strength, they demonstrated the new school of Asian volleyball, which blends precision and speed with sheer power that for years has been the prerogative of the top Eastern European teams.

The Korean teams lacked the height and power of the Japanese and were therefore forced to make up the deficiency with speed and complex combinations, which under the circumstances did not suffice.

The Chinese, matching the Japanese in height and power, but much slower than either of the two top teams, strangely enough demonstrated the traditional Eastern European school of high sets and hard hitting, with very little finesse, undoubtedly due to the influence of Russian coaches in the early stages of Chinese volleyball development.

and emerged as the leading team in what is regarded as the 'B' Division in Asian volleyball, on par with the Phillipines, Iran, India, etc. The unofficial 'A' Division which is at least a class above the rest consists of Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan (now expelled from the I.V.B.F.) and China, which has only recently entered international competition. The Australians, being European origin are physically and mentally better suited to the European style of play and with the incorporation of some of the more elementary facets of the Asian techniques and more extensive international experience, have the capacity for developing into a crack combination capable of challenging the top teams. The women's team lacks very badly in basic fundamentals of ball handling and court coverage, without which no system can be adopted successfully. These fundamentals are normally taught at an early stage of a player's development and their absence indicates the lack of effective coaching at school and early club levels, a problem which has to be remedied before any progress can be made. Unfortunately the Australian women were pitted almost exclusively against world class teams and whilst no match for the 'giants' could be expected to hold their own against lower ranking teams in the Asian region.

The Phillipines, top team of the Central Sub-Region of the Asian Confederation, played fairly basic volleyball without reaching great heights. Indonesia, which will conduct the Central Sub-Region Championships next year, similar to the Phillipines, relies on individual skills rather than team work, and indication of low key team training attitude, probably for basic reasons such as distance. The New Zealand teams showed very strong deficiencies in basic fundamentals, which, in opposition to highly trained teams cannot be overcome solely by the spirit of self sacrifice. In general the Australian men's team emerged from the tournament as a potential power and future encounters with teams from the Western Asian region and Western Europe could produce interesting results.

Players

It is not the author's intention to recount foreign names, which would have little meaning to the Australian supporters, but to highlight a few individual performances. Perhaps the outstanding playernomination could go to the Korean born member of the Japanese women's team Mariko Yoshida. Tall, yet extremely fast and agile, she was equally at home crashing the ball through or over the opposing block as she was in a defensive role in the back court. The team captain Echiko Maeda fulfilled the requirements of a perfect volleyball player an unobtrusive, yet steady and continuous performance. Korea's In Sil Park who must be one of the shortest front line spikers in volleyball history gave a remarkable exhibition of spiking and court play. Among the men until the arrival of the Japanese stars for the final match, individual performances were overshadowed by the towering Japanese captain Tetsuo Sato, whose tremendous hitting power made blocking a virtual impossibility.

Among the Australian men the stars in attack and court play were Jack Atkins and John Hiller respectively. Supported by Tony Naar, captain George Mraz and Hillary Ranniko, when playing they carried the brunt of the Australian effort. In the women's team outstanding players were difficult to find, with reasonably consistent performances coming from captain Sue Dansie, Diane Biebrick, Janelle Chute and Lynne Newman.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly the tournament has provided a tremendous boost to volleyball in Victoria and to lesser degrees in other States. The most important problem facing the administrators now is how best to capitalise on the current wave of enthusiasm in promoting the sport at player and spectator level. Australian players who have held their own against world class opposition are capable of playing volleyball at its spectacular best and it should be possible to convince and demonstrate to the general public that volleyball offers an exhibition of speed, precision, physical agility, team work and drama unsurpassed by most other sports. - Then, and only then shall we achieve recognition and greatness for our sport.