

# School Sport Australia Football

## 2010 Tour of China, United Kingdom and Ireland

### Results

20/1/10

#### **Boys**

Game 1 vs Guangdong FA U18

Venue: ZUL LAO, Guangzhou

Result: 0-0

Match Report:

A good opening game against a good quality representative provincial team. Gaining experience in this environment is an excellent preparation for the boys, most of whom have not encountered Asian opposition before. So it was a good learning experience all round.

Keeping the opposition scoreless was pleasing but we need more composure in front of goals ourselves.

#### **Girls**

Game 1 vs Guangdong Haiyen Women

Result: 2-4 (Half Time 1-2)

Scorers: Emma Stewart (12<sup>th</sup>), Stephanie Haim (89<sup>th</sup>)  
Guangdong (14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 57<sup>th</sup> (o.g.), 78<sup>th</sup>)

Match Report:

A good first hit out for the players but we were guilty of turning over possession too much. We defended well against a quality opposition but a few lapses in concentration cost us dearly. The Guangdong team finished well and maintained pressure for long periods.

Once the combinations develop then the overall team game will improve. A few players were a little short of match fitness.

**22/1/10**

## **Boys**

Game 2 vs Welsh Schools

Venue: Port Talbot FC, Swansea

Result: 0-1 H/T 0-0

Scorers: Welsh Schools (82<sup>nd</sup> pen.)

Match Report:

A really quick, tough and competitive game against a very willing opposition.

Australia took a little time to click but produced some bright football and had several chances which were unconverted. Correspondingly Welsh Schools defended well and then countered with some good attacks of their own, but rarely threatened to score.

Wales came more into the game as time wore on with Australia just winning the battle on points until a late penalty to Wales was converted and sealed the match for the home side.

## **Girls**

Game 2 vs English Schools

Venue: Filton College, Bristol

Result: 1-1 (H/T 0-0)

Scorers: Emma Stewart (38<sup>th</sup>),  
English Colleges (75<sup>th</sup>)

Match Report:

Until 10 minutes from kick off the game was still in doubt due to the waterlogged artificial 3-G pitch. But play got underway 30 minutes late and from the outset both teams showed they were here to get the result. Fast, free flowing football was the order of the day, despite the slipperiness and both goalkeepers were called into action often.

England was first to crack when Emma Stewart slid through between defenders and slotted past the keeper. Try as they might no one else got close until a misdirected cross from the right fooled the Australian defence late in the game and snuck in at the near post. Both teams were congratulated on their performance in very difficult conditions.

**24/1/10**

## **Boys**

Game 3 vs Welsh Colleges

Venue: St Helens, Swansea

Result: 0-1 H/T 0-0

Scorers: Welsh Colleges (88<sup>th</sup>)

Match Report:

Again, another high quality game with plenty of passion and commitment from both teams. Australia moved the ball around well, but Wales controlled play for long periods, but without success in front of goal. Conversely, Australia defended strongly but were giving away possession too much.

Australia clawed their way back during the second half, however as the game wore on and still the Australians couldn't hit the target there was always the chance that something out of the box might happen – and it did. The Welsh boys won a free kick near the death and from the ensuing cross Australia failed to pick up their opposition at the near post and a glancing header went in for the only score of the game.

## **Girls**

Game 3 vs Welsh Colleges

Venue: South Gower AFC, Scurlage

Result: 5-2 (H/T 1-2)

Scorers: Ashleigh Palombi (43<sup>rd</sup>), Stephanie Haim (60<sup>th</sup>),  
Georgia Yeoman-Dale (66<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>), Emma Stewart (77<sup>th</sup>)  
Welsh Colleges (4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>)

Match Report:

Australia began poorly, conceding 2 goals inside the first 10 minutes and missing a penalty themselves. The Welsh girls were confidently moving the ball around and the Australians were a little shell shocked and having difficulty on the heavy surface. But slowly they got back into the game and scored just before half time to boost their confidence.

The second half was incomparable to the first, with Australia becoming more and more dominant and scoring 4 more times to finish well on top. Australia had possession for long periods and played some attractive football, which was favourably commented on by the locals.

**25/1/10**

## **Boys**

Game 4 vs Swansea City

Venue: Swansea University

Result: 4-4 H/T 1-0

Scorers: Ian Kamau (42<sup>nd</sup>), Brendan MacLean (51<sup>st</sup>, 76<sup>th</sup>), Mitchell Robinson (88<sup>th</sup>)  
Swansea City (75<sup>th</sup>, 78<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>(o.g.), 93<sup>rd</sup>)

Match Report:

More than ever this was the one that got away. In every aspect Australia dominated for 75 minutes of the game, moving the ball well, maintaining possession much better than in previous games, and creating several chances, all of which went unrewarded until late in the first half.

After that the players really settled into their game, and goals followed at regular intervals. The problem was that each time Australia scored, they allowed Swansea to reply, conceding 4 in the last 15 minutes to relinquish the lead they had established and having to settle for a draw. Although the boys were a little disappointed, the signs are still good.

## **Girls**

Game 4 vs South Wales U18

Venue: Swansea University

Result: 5-0 (H/T 2-0)

Scorers: Ashleigh Palombi (22<sup>nd</sup>, 57<sup>th</sup>), Stephanie Haim (38<sup>th</sup>), Emma Stewart (80<sup>th</sup>, 81<sup>st</sup>)

Match Report:

Playing on a good surface allowed the Australians to move the ball around and run their opposition ragged. Although South Wales began with plenty of enthusiasm it waned as the Australians got on top and by half time the home team was struggling.

More goals in the second half were incidental compared to the footballing dominance of the Australian girls. Strong running and slick passing produced the desired result and confirmed the girls' development during the past two games. The major issue (for both teams) at the moment is injuries, which are being carefully monitored and managed.

**27/1/10**

## **Boys**

Game 5 vs Northern Ireland Schoolboys

Venue: Seaview Ground,  
Crusaders FC, Belfast

Result: 1-1 H/T 0-1

Scorers: Brendan MacLean (70<sup>th</sup>)  
Northern Ireland (23<sup>rd</sup>)

Match Report:

The Australian boys really stepped up to the plate today, and in front of a crowd of several hundred put on a classy performance. Passing was good, movement on and off the ball was ever present and it was a little unfortunate when Northern Ireland took the lead when a corner wasn't cleared and from the resulting scramble a N.I player poked the ball home.

The Australians didn't panic and continued to play some enterprising football. Mid way through the second half Ian Kamau went on a run down the right, taking the ball past opposition players and getting to the by line before crossing for Brendan MacLean to neatly finish off. This wasn't the end of proceedings by any stretch though as the home team rallied and pressured the Australian goal, but our boys replied with several late charges of their own, with the Northern Ireland goalkeeper making three outstanding late saves to keep them in the game.

## **Girls**

Game 5 vs Northern Ireland Schoolgirls

Venue: Ashfield Boys High School,  
East Belfast

Result: 2-5 (H/T 0-0)

Scorers: Loren Mahoney (55<sup>th</sup>), Stephanie Haim (80<sup>th</sup>)  
Northern Ireland (48<sup>th</sup>, 72<sup>nd</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, 88<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>)

Match Report:

The game was evenly poised through the entire first half, with both sides having chances but failing to convert. The Northern Ireland team was taking the game to Australia but the defence was holding firm.

Then it all erupted in the second half. N.I. scored right at the beginning of the half, but Australia replied with an absolute cracker from Loren Mahoney who collected the ball on the volley from the edge of the 18 yard box and smashed home. Things were controlled for 15 minutes but then N.I scored 2 in 3 minutes as the Australian defence tried to cope with several waves of attacks. Stephanie Haim finished off a sweeping move from Australia but the home team came back again with 2 more to claim their first ever victory over Australia.

**28/1/10**

## **Boys**

Game 5 vs Ireland Schoolboys

Venue: Oscar Traynor Centre, Dublin

Result: 1-3 H/T 1-1

Scorers: Tom McNeish (28<sup>th</sup>)  
Ireland (21<sup>st</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 63<sup>rd</sup>)

Match Report:

What a difference a day makes. The Australian boys were ready to play after yesterday's positive performance but quickly the game fell into a pattern of much kick and chase from Ireland and disjointed football from Australia. On the rare occasions Australia played the ball wide, particularly down the left flank, they looked dangerous, but all too often the ball went down the middle and was cut out. Ireland scored from a looping free kick into the 6 yard box which no Australian defender challenged for and was duly nodded in by an attacker. Australia replied when McNeish slotted home after good build up, but that was it for the first half – or so it seemed until Ireland snuck a goal in the final minute.

Australia did attack well early in the second half but to no avail, and Ireland, with a sniff of a victory piled on the pressure and scored again to finish the game 3-1.

## **Girls**

Game 6 vs Ireland Schoolgirls

Venue: AUL Centre, Clonshaugh, Dublin

Result: 3-0 (H/T 2-0)

Scorers: Emma Stewart (28<sup>th</sup>), Stephanie Haim (40<sup>th</sup>), Liz O'Reilly (92<sup>nd</sup>)

Match Report:

This was a great comeback from the Australian girls after their disappointment of yesterday's game. Two first half goals demoralised Ireland who never really recovered as the Australians moved the ball around well in the icy conditions.

Although not threatening the scoreline until the death Australia played attractive football in the second half, maintaining possession for long periods and shutting Ireland out of the game. Especially pleasing was the concentration and commitment of the girls, ensuring that they got back on track and into a winning groove again.

**29/1/10**

## **Boys**

Game 6 vs England Independent Schools

Venue: Nantwich Town FC

Result: 4-0 H/T 2-0

Scorers: Devon Gibson (8<sup>th</sup>, 76<sup>th</sup>)  
Tom McNeish (25<sup>th</sup>, 87<sup>th</sup>)

Match Report:

Due to the wet ground the pitch was changed to the adjacent 3-G surface, but it didn't make any difference to the resolve of the Australian boys who took a stranglehold on the game from the opening whistle. Today, unlike many of the previous games, they scored early and went on with the job, scoring again mid half, defending resolutely and attacking with plenty of pace and variety.

The Independent Schools began the second half keenly but the pressure was absorbed by Australia and 2 more goals were added in the last 15 minutes to round off a very entertaining and convincing victory. Of particular interest in this game is that it was refereed by FIFA, Champions League, EPL and soon-to-be World Cup referee Howard Webb, who 2 days earlier had refereed the Manchester derby between United and City.

30/1/10

## **Girls**

Game 6 vs England Independent Schools

Venue: Bewdley Town FC

Result: 10-0 (H/T 8-0)

Scorers: Stephanie Haim (6<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>), Ashleigh Palombi (20<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>), Carlie Ikonomou (22<sup>nd</sup>), Monique Solar (36<sup>th</sup>), Emma Stewart (40<sup>th</sup>), o.g. (70<sup>th</sup>), Susy McKeen (72<sup>nd</sup>)

Match Report:

As the score would suggest Australia was in control from the outset, but the scoreline was incidental to the occasion. England Independent Schools are just starting on their representative path and are looking for competitive games such as this to learn from and develop their players. As such it was successful for both teams.

Australia kept possession and moved the ball around well, resulting in desperate defending, but the defence couldn't stop Australia scoring freely. To their credit England did perform better in the second half, holding Australia to only 2 more. The game was played in a wonderful spirit, and the link is now made to continue this new relationship into the future.

**31/1/10**

**Boys**

Game 8 vs England Schools

Venue: New Saints FC, Oswestry

Match cancelled due to snow on pitch.

**1/2/10**

**Boys**

Game 9 vs Scotland Schools

Venue: Oscar Traynor Football Centre,  
Glasgow

Result: 2-3 H/T 1-2

Scorers: Brendan MacLean (12<sup>th</sup>), Peter Sawan (65<sup>th</sup>)  
Scotland (14<sup>th</sup> o.g, 25<sup>th</sup>, 61<sup>st</sup>)

Match Report:

After the disappointment of missing out on their game the day before the Australian boys were well up for this game, and they began in sensational style by taking the lead early on. Unfortunately they dropped off the pace for just 10 minutes and let Scotland in twice, taking a lead to half time which wasn't really earned.

Australia came out in the second half determined to make amends and, despite conceding again mid way through the half, the boys upped the ante and replied quickly with a well taken free kick, and then pressed for the equaliser. Running and passing were excellent and even a draw would have been a good result for Scotland, but an equaliser wouldn't come. A great footballing display from Australia today, just without the result they wanted.

**Girls**

Game 8 vs Scotland Select U18

Venue: Oscar Traynor Football Centre,  
Glasgow

Result: 3-0 (H/T 2-0)

Scorers: Georgia Yeoman-Dale (8<sup>th</sup>), Stephanie Haim (30<sup>th</sup>),

Match Report:

The Scotland girls showed a lot of skill and composure on the ball and Australia had to work hard to contain their opposition. Nevertheless the girls scored first and raised their workrate to overcome the enthusiasm of their opposition. The beautiful surface allowed both teams to show off their ability, with the Australians drawing praise from the many observers present.

The second half was again evenly contested but Australia held firm and even advanced the scoreline with a last minute goal. Especially pleasing in this game was keeping the opposition scoreless.

**3/2/10**

**Boys**

Game 10 vs Walsall

Venue: Bescot Stadium, Walsall

Result: 1-1

Scorers: Gearin (63<sup>rd</sup>)  
Walsall (31<sup>st</sup>)

Match Report:

This proved to be a very even encounter, with Walsall playing close to their full strength youth team. The Australian boys stood up to the challenge and provided some quality football which didn't go unnoticed by the scouts around the ground.

**Girls**

Game 9 vs England Universities

Venue: University of Warwick

Result: 1-4

Scorers: Emma Stewart (13<sup>th</sup>)  
England Universities (20<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 41<sup>st</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>)

Match Report:

Although in disarray because of coaching staff changes Universities put out a very competitive team consisting of no less than 10 players from the women's premier league clubs. This showed on the pitch but Australia went ahead early as they took the game to the older girls. But slowly Universities gained control and wore the Australians down, moving the ball around with confidence on the slippery surface

**4/2/10**

## **Boys**

Game 11 vs British Colleges

Venue: New Bucks Head Stadium,  
AFC Telford

Result: 2-3

Scorers: MacLean (5<sup>th</sup>), Gearin (70<sup>th</sup> pen)  
British Colleges (11<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 88<sup>th</sup>)

Match Report:

The Australian boys were desperate to put on a good showing in their final game and they didn't disappoint. From the outset Australia attacked and were rewarded very early on, only to concede soon after. The match ebbed and flowed with both teams looking to gain the ascendancy. Withn only 2 minutes left it looked to be heading for a well deserved draw but Colleges scored an absolute bomb from 35m to sink the heartbroken Australians. Terrific display from the boys.

## **Girls**

Game 10 vs British Colleges

Venue: New Bucks Head Stadium  
AFC Telford

Result: 0-5

Scorers: British Colleges (3<sup>rd</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 52<sup>nd</sup>, 78<sup>th</sup>, 86<sup>th</sup>)

Match Report:

For their final game the Australians were hoping for a better showing but they came up against a Colleges side brimming with confidence and intent on controlling the game. Australia did have several good passages of play but were overrun by a physically strong and very determined opposition. Although the scoreline did not flatter the visitors it was a much closer game than this, and the teams could well have gone in at half time level, but alas it was not to be. Errors at crucial times let Colleges in and they made the most of their chances. A disappointing result but a productive tour.