

# **Australian Youth Olympic Festival Report**

## **Juniors Shine with medals and experience, 4 Silver, 5 Bronzes at "Junior Olympics"**

Taekwondo Australia has recently had the privilege to enter a team into the Youth Olympic Festival (7-12/1/03). The selection process had included all the age eligible athletes that went to the 2002 World Junior Championship or finished second at the selection for this event, finished first or second at 2002 National Championships, or had shown enough dedication to be invited by selectors. Subsequently the final team was announced. The team had a gelled well at the selection camp and everyone supported each other. Coaches and a team manager were then added after selection for these positions were advertised and chosen.

The Australian Youth Olympic Festival (AYOF) was inaugurated in 2001 as a legacy to the 2000 Sydney Olympics; the AOC had wanted to give young athletes an Olympic type event for them to experience a larger scale World Class competition. The idea is to get used to the similar situation of an Olympics in a small scale, none the less the AOC officials had an enormous job to logistically make everything happen.

Taekwondo had players from Korea, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, Greece and New Zealand attend, providing our athletes with great competition. The Australian players proved they were more than up to the task.

### **Day 1 –7/1/03**

We arrived at the St Ignatius College staying at Lane Cove, Sydney. A historical boys college that has excellent facilities for all who stay there, many of the kids likened the main building to one the Harry Potter buildings. All the teams were in the same campus for Taekwondo; this made an interesting environment that saw some friendly interaction. Later that afternoon we held our first training session, where the athletes trained with the coaches that they selected to coach them. The AOC filmed and cut together a Taekwondo AYOF video clip (soon on TAI website). With Heads of Team, staff and athlete meetings out of the way it was time for bed.

### **Day 2 –8/1/03**

0850hrs we were taken to Homebush Olympic Park for the official training at the event site, the State Indoor Sports Centre. Again the athletes trained well going over their game plans for their first fights.

The players were sussing out the techniques of the countries, all getting both nervous and excited about the impending competition. It was this day that Daniel Trenton (AUS #1 ranked Heavyweight) Olympic Silver Medallist 2000 and Lisa O'Keefe (Now Sports Psychologist) Olympian 2000 joined the team as our Olympic Ambassadors. They were such a great help; we had almost a double sized team (37 athletes) with 2 extra coaches and now Daniel and Lisa to assist. The Olympic pair provided encouragement and assistance with training. I was really impressed with the whole Australian support crew. Quick lunch at Homebush then on to the bus back to our accommodation

village, with hour an hour to spare till the Anti-doping seminar. This was very enlightening for the athletes, having ex Olympians chatting about their testing regime from their time in the sport. Many related some funny experiences and this made it less clinical, none the less very serious. "Your responsible for what you put in your body!" Said Susie O'Neil, one of these athletes. Our team would see Susie again as on competition day Susie spent time chatting with the females inquiring about their upcoming events.

The day is not over yet; off to opening ceremony rehearsals, we spent the next 2 hours at rehearsals and waiting for the event. Beau Olsen (u/63kgs) was selected from our ranks to make the athletes oath along with a female cyclist. It was a great honour for Beau and Taekwondo; Beau's performance was great! We finally walked in, 17 Australian sport teams as one, moving in to the music and applause. Then it was off to the stand to be treated to a fantastic opening ceremony. Finally time to go to sleep back at village, everyone was buzzing with excitement.

### **Day 3 -9/1/03**

Weigh-in, all Australian players made weigh-in and tucked into some food and hydrated themselves ready for tomorrows competition. Then it was off to training again, another session that went off well. Excitement was in the air competition was close players could feel it, and coaches had prepared the team well. Finally some free time for the team to move about Homebush watching different events then it was back to the village where we had a swim to loosen up. It was to be an early night, but difficult for the players to settle down as tomorrow was the big day!

### **Day 4 -10/1/03**

Weigh-in again the rest of the team, no worries then off to breakfast then to the event. We were the last team into the event. The Australian supporters were there, waiting for us with a big cheer as the athletes walked into the venue. That really fired up the athletes, not that they needed it as everyone was prepared and massaged (thanks Ronnie Branca) - ready to go!.

Our athletes fought very well during the two days of competition. Some lifted to higher levels and others had tough draws and would have like more of themselves. They can hold their heads up high with their own individual results many beating the so called "Super powers", and others going so close and were very unlucky not to win. We achieved what was required, a great experience and moving closer to beater consistency and beating the "superpowers". Head Coach Paul Lyons, said ` we are proud of you all, you gave 110% today!" This summed up the feeling we all had. Unfortunately two of our athletes were injured, Tamara Florent sustained a back injury and Nicholas Te Aute has appendicitis and could get on the plane. Both athletes were very disappointed with this outcome.

**All scores are after deductions.**

**The competition was conducted with a repechage, so players who lost their matches to the eventual finalists played off for the bronze medal.**

**U/44kgs females;** Bianca (5-3) fought the final well against Chinese Taipei and matched with her, the disappointment came when a controversial referees decision went against her, costing Bianca the gold medal. Janelle Zanatta (7-1) was beaten in the 1<sup>st</sup> round by the eventual Gold Medallist. The eventual Bronze Medallist also beat Daniella Taranto (6-0).

**Gold – Ju Yi Ting, Chinese Taipei**

**Silver – Bianca No, Australia**

**Bronze – Anna-Maria Breza, Greece**



**U/49kgs females;** Donna Kosta picked up a Silver Medal. Donna Kosta went into the final after a bye and then beat a tough Australian opponent in Trista Ellison (3-1). Donna fought Chinese Taipei in the final going down (5-4) this was a great result. Melissa Pasquale (2-0) was beaten by the eventual Gold Medallist and was beaten by Malaysia (3-3) for the Bronze Medal after defeating Trista Ellison (0-0) in a play off. Trista Ellison (injured ankle badly in 2nd fight) defeated Greece (3-2) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round then was beaten by Donna Kosta and then Melissa Pasquale. Sinead Smyth (12-6) was defeated by Malaysia in the first round.

**Gold – Hung Wen Wei, Chinese**

**Silver – Donna Kosta, Australia**

**Bronze – Noornadia Norrizan, Malaysia**



Our boys didn't let us down either, the Fram brothers; Charbel (u/73kgs) and Bshara (u63kgs) fought great matches to take a Bronze Medal each.

**U/73kgs males;** Charbel (5-0) was defeated by Korea in the 1<sup>st</sup> round then defeated Adam Underwood (3-1) and Jason Underwood (4-2) respectively to win Bronze. Jason Underwood (2-1) defeated Chinese Taipei in his 1<sup>st</sup> round, in a great effort overcoming one of the strongest nations in the world, then was defeated by Korea (4-0) in his 2<sup>nd</sup> round a very tough draw. Adam Underwood defeated New Zealand (6-3), then to be defeated (1-1) by superiority by Greece in a match that many thought should have gone our way

**Gold – Jae Hak Kim, Korea**

**Silver – Athanasios Kostopoul, Greece**

**Bronze – Charbel Fram, Australia**



**O/73kgs males;** Bshara (3-0) defeated Chinese Taipei another outstanding effort in kicking first with commitment, before being defeated by a huge Greek (3-2) player. Bshara then went on to defeat Adam Gorodecky (6-0) and Weng Sun Cheong (3-0) to get the Bronze Medal. Aydin Ozalp (2-0) was defeated by the Greece in the 1<sup>st</sup> round, and then defeated by Weng Sun Cheong (2-0) in the repechage. Adam Gorodecky (6-2) was defeated by Korea 1<sup>st</sup> round and Bshara in the repechage..

**Gold – Joon Young Song, Korea**

**Silver – Stergios Roidis, Greece**

**Bronze – Bshara Fram, Australia**



These boys will provide some great depth in our ranks in the next couple of years.

### **Day 5 -11/1/03**

Back at competition, 6 divisions to go.

**U/55 kgs females;** saw Rachael Lee (8-4) win a Silver Medal against Korea lifting and pushing the Korean until the end, a great effort by Rachael. It also saw a tough Hayley Jones win a Bronze Medal against fellow Aussie Jessica Jordan. Rachael fought her way through a New Zealand (bye) then defeated Sheena Sutton (8-2) to take on Korea in the final. While Hayley Jones was defeated in the 1<sup>st</sup> round by Korea (7-4) then defeated Sheena Sutton (7-4) and Jessica Jordan (2-1) for Bronze. Jessica Jordan (4-4) defeated Chinese Taipei in the 1<sup>st</sup> round then was beaten by Korea (9-8) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round before being defeated by Hayley Jones. Sheena Sutton defeated Greece (2-2) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round then succumbed to Hayley in the repechage.

**Gold – Jin Hee Kim, Korea**

**Silver – Rachael Lee, Australia**

**Bronze – Hayley Jones, Australia**



**U/63kgs females;** saw Carmen Marton win a Bronze Medal, Carmen was defeated in the 1<sup>st</sup> round by Chinese Taipei (6-1) the eventual winner. Carmen then defeated Melissa Coe (3-2) and Laura Bartels (2-1) to win the Bronze in a very close match, her fellow teammate did not give an inch in two tough matches. Laura Bartels defeated New Zealand (6-2) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round then was defeated by Chinese Taipei (10-0), Laura then defeated Brigette Price (injury withdrawal) in the repechage and match her match against Carmen Marton (2-1). Brigette Price meet Korea (3-1) 1<sup>st</sup> round and was defeated, injuring her achilles tendon. Melissa Coe put up a great performance against Greece (3-0) to win her 1<sup>st</sup> round to be defeated by Korea (5-2) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, Melissa is a tough athlete pushing Carmen Marton (3-2) in the repechage to be defeated.

**Gold – Pei Hua Tseng, Chinese Taipei**

**Silver – Jae Young Jung, Korea**

**Bronze – Carmen Marton, Australia**



**0/63kgs females;** saw our girls put up tough competition but alas no medals. Rebecca Russell started great defeating New Zealand (4-0) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round, then to be defeated by Chinese Taipei (7-4) in the next round. Rebecca then was defeated by Asimina Ramirez (2-0) in the repechage. Asimina Ramirez was defeated by Korea (3-0) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round then went into the repechage to defeat Rebecca and be defeated by Greece (3-1). Amanda Jukic was defeated in the 1<sup>st</sup> round by Greece (2-2) the eventual Bronze Medallist. Our girls all fought well and will learn from the experience.

**Gold – Min Jung Kim, Korea**  
**Silver – Chin Yun Hsiao, Chinese Taipei**  
**Bronze – Niki Athanasopoulou, Greece**

**U/48kgs males;** saw Safwan Khalil won a Silver Medal that could have been our first Gold, after another controversy with refereeing. Safwan defeated Chinese Taipei (2-0) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round then defeated Korea (2-2), setting up a final against Malaysia (3-3), which went to the wire, Safwan fought very well to win the Silver Medal he went up against the best in the world and should hold his head high, we expect we will see great results from Saf. Allan Biller was defeated by Korea (7-4) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round the eventual Bronze Medallist. Guven Erol was defeated by Greece (2-0) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; Guven carried an injury picked up in preparation. While Frank Fichera was defeated by Malaysia (7-4) the eventual Gold Medallist, Frank was defeated by Korea in the repechage (3-1).

**Gold – Ryan Chong, Malaysia**  
**Silver – Safwan Khalil, Australia**  
**Bronze – Tae Kwang Oh, Korea**



**U/55kgs male;** Carlo Leobrera was defeated in the 1<sup>st</sup> round by Greece (5-0) the Bronze Medallist. Jason Rocca was defeated by Malaysia (4-3) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round in a close match up, while Hugh Tjahjana was defeated by Chinese Taipei (5-0) the Silver Medallist in the 1<sup>st</sup> round and went into the repechage to be defeated by Greece (3-0), Greece winning the Bronze medal.

**Gold – Sae Byul Lee, Korea**

**Silver – Chih Wen Yu, Chinese Taipei**

**Bronze – Aggelos Kotsokolos, Greece**

**U/63kgs male;** saw Beau Olsen our star at the Opening Ceremony defeated Chinese Taipei (6-5) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round then to be defeated by Korea (7-1) the eventual Gold Medallist in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Eric Iape was up against Korea (5-3) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round but was defeated, sending him into the repechage. Eric beat Malaysia (3-3) by superiority then Beau Olsen (5-2) in the repechage to win the Bronze Medal. Thomas Power put in a great effort but was defeated by Malaysia (2-1) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round.

**Gold – Dong Hyeon Jang, Korea**

**Silver – Athanasios Leontarid, Greece**

**Bronze – Eric Iape, Australia**



We are sure to see these players go onto greater things with the Asian Juniors coming up mid-year. There were some standout performances but to name a few would be a injustice. The team, the coaches, the staff, the medical support all worked very well together for the benefit of the team. We would like to thank the AOC, ASC, Taekwondo Australia Inc, Referees, Supporters, Tournament volunteers, Olympic Ambassadors, and the overseas teams for coming. The athletes and coaches willingly gave up a lot of holiday time to prepare for this event. Many players and coaches only had a few days off over Christmas, so well done and congratulations to the club coaches that prepared the athletes so well for the selected national team coaches. I believe that the continued effort that everyone is putting in is paying off. To beat nations such as Korea, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia and Greece is resounding positive for Taekwondo Australia Inc.

I personally would like to thank everyone that I dealt with and the team. Congratulations you should be proud of yourselves.

Robert Cooley  
Team Manager  
AYOF Taekwondo



"Team Australia"

**Players**

**U/44 kgs**

Bianca No  
Daniella Taranto  
Janelle Zanatta

**U/49 kgs**

Trista Ellison  
Donna Kosta  
Melissa Pasquale  
Sinead Smyth

**U/55 kgs**

Rachael Lee  
Hayley Jones  
Jessica Jordan  
Sheena Sutton

**U/63 kgs**

Laura Bartels  
Mellissa Coe  
Carmen Marton  
Brigette Price

**O/63 kgs**

Amanda Jukic  
Asimina Ramirez  
Rebecca Russell  
Tamara Florent

**Officials**

Robert Cooley  
Jo Lyons  
Helen Donoghue  
Paul Lyons  
Nichols Tsioulos  
Charles Rawlins  
Domenic De Stafano  
Andrew Rozinsky  
Warren Hansen  
Ron Branca

**U/48 kgs**

Alan Biller  
Guven Erol  
Frank Fichera  
Safwan Khalil

**U/55 kgs**

Carlo Leobrera  
Hugh Tjahjana  
Jason Rocca  
Nicholas Te Aute

**U/63 kgs**

Eric Iape  
Beau Olsen  
Thomas Power

**U/73 kgs**

Charbel Fram  
Adam Underwood  
Jason Underwood

**O/73 kgs**

Weng Sun Cheong  
Bshara Fram  
Adam Gorodecky  
Aydin Ozlap

**Team Manager/ Head of Team**

**Chaperone**

**Chaperone**

**Head Coach**

**Coach**

**Coach**

**Coach**

**Coach**

**Coach**

**Masseuse**