

BARRACUDAS

Water Polo Club Newsletter | Issue 3 June/July 08

In this Issue:

Three Barras Beijing Bound

Club AGM Reminder

Club honour Senior Players -
Senior Award Winners

Barracudas Olympians Profile -
Kate Gynther, Rhys Howden and
Melissa Rippon

Olympic Water Polo Preview

Australian Representative Update

Around the Pool

Barracudas 2008 Executive Committee:

President - Jacque Giles

Vice President - Greg Smith

Secretary - Cara Tyler

Treasurer - Janita Johnston

Check out the latest club news:
www.barracudaswp.com.au



With most of us on a well deserved break from water polo enjoying the off-season, a number of the Barracudas players have been keeping busy with selection to elite state squads, teams and representative roles that require some globe trotting proudly wearing the Australian Green and Gold. The 2008/09 season is sneaking up soon so hopefully the Beijing Olympic Games will motivate and inspire us all to achieve great things in the year ahead. This edition of the Club's newsletter features some exciting news - profiles of our Olympic Team members, updates on our touring Australian reps and much much more. Enjoy and don't forget to attend the Club's AGM August 3rd at 10AM and Musgrave Pool and get involved in making next season even better than the last.

Three Barracudas Beijing Bound!!!

All the years of hard work and preparation have paid off for three of our Barracudas club members who have earned themselves the ticket of a lifetime to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Rhys Howden, Melissa Rippon and Kate Gynther have all been named to the team that will represent Australia at the Olympic Games which starts in August. For the ladies, Kate and Mel, this is their second Olympic Games with Mel receiving the honour of captaining the women's side.



For young Rhys, this is his first Olympic games - quite an amazing feat when one considers he is only 21 and was added to the Australian Senior Men's Squad just 18 short months ago. Rhys has catapulted himself into the forefront of senior men's water polo following two sensational seasons as captain of the Barracudas men's national league side and representing Australia internationally at the Junior level.

Read more about our three Barracudas Olympians on Page 3-5. Also check out the Olympic Preview including the Olympic Water Polo Games schedule (Page 6 + 7).

REMINDER: Barracudas Club Annual General Meeting (AGM) Sunday August 3rd | 10AM at Musgrave - ALL WELCOME

The Club committee has set the date for the 2008 Barracudas Club Annual General Meeting (AGM). The meeting will be held Sunday August 3rd at 10:00AM in the Club room under the stands at Musgrave Pool. All registered club members are invited to attend and participate in voting on important club matters. The main agenda item will be the election of the 2008/09 Club Committee. All positions will be available and the club is looking for enthusiastic individuals who are willing to contribute to the continued growth and success of the club over the next year. All are welcome including both Junior and Senior club members. Be sure to mark this important day in your calendar. Please visit the club website for to download the 2008 AGM agenda as well as the nomination form for elected positions.



70 Barras club members + guest prepare for dinner at the Piney.



NL Team members: Emma Jackson, Claire Miller, Alice Miller and Mel Rippon enjoy the celebration.



Men's National League coach Ray Mayers gives a recap of the season before presenting the major award winners.

Club honours Senior Players - Barracudas Annual Presentation Dinner

The Club honoured an outstanding season and the achievement of the teams and individual players May 16th at the Annual Presentation Dinner. The dinner marked the resurrection of a tradition that had not occurred for the last few seasons. A total of 70 club members, supporters and guests attended the function at the Pineapple Hotel. The evening kicked off with Dave Miller recapping a very successful Junior season and paying special tribute to the U16 boys team. The senior awards followed with the club's most prestigious awards of Club Person of the Year going to Rob Edwards who has dedicated enormous time and energy to the club this season and to Gabby Wikman who was awarded the 'Player Most Likely to Represent Australia' award. The award winners for each of the teams are listed below. Congrats to all who participated in the season and to the major award winners.

	Best and Fairest (MVP)	Most Improved/ Coach's Award
U18 Boys	BJ Howden	Brendan McMahon
U18 Girls	Kelsey Wakefield	Margot James
X Grade Men	Rob Edwards	Peter Lang
C Grade Women	Emma Huang	Emma Swete Kelly
B Grade Men	Darcy Temple	Tyler Sinclair
B2 Grade Women	Janita Johnstwon	Grace Gillett
B1 Grade Women	Kelsey Wakefield	Maddy Coburn
A Grade Men	Rhys Howden	Clay Douyere Pate
A Grade Women	Kayla Bryce	Jamie Lee Lewis
National League Men	Rhys Howden	Damien Hicks
National League Women	Melissa Rippon	Nanda Stoltz
Club Person of the Year/ Presidents Award	Rob Edwards	
Junior Club Person of the Year	Annabelle Giles	
Player Most likely to represent AUS	Gabby Wikman	

Prizes and games were enjoyed by all with Amanda Van Eyk picking up the lucky door prize, Jane Moran winning the raffle, Clay Douyere Pate winning Heads or Tails and Helen Thomas winning the best prize of all, a prize pack containing a signed water polo ball by all of the Olympic Women's Squad and a selection of CDs. All in all it was a very enjoyable night. Thank you to all who attended and we hope that the event will continue to occur annually in the future.

Barracudas Olympian Profiles

Three of our Barracudas have made the Olympic Games team. Find out more about these elite players from our Club as they share some insights into themselves. Be sure to be watching and cheering them on!



Kate Gynther

Send Kate a Hero Message while she is competing at the Olympics. Go to the website - <http://hero.telstra.com/olympics/>



Position	Driver
Date of Birth	05 July 1982
Age at start of Games	26
Club	Brisbane Barracudas,
Coach(es)	Greg McFadden - AUS Aleks Osadchuk - QAS Fabio Pavanello - Barras
Olympic Games	2004 Athens (4th)
Secondary Education	Brisbane State High School, QLD
Tertiary Education	Justice Open Learning Institute of TAFE, QLD
Career Highlights	Being part of the team that won the 2006 World Cup
Recent Performances	3rd - 2008 World League Super Finals (Tenerife, Spain) 2nd - 2007 FINA World Championships (Melbourne, Australia) 1st - 2006 World Cup (Tianjing, China)

Interesting Facts

Kate was 10 years of age when she first started playing water polo. Both her parents played and she was always at the pool. Her first club was Tugun/Barracudas in Brisbane.

Kate competed at the 2001 Junior World Championships in Perth winning a silver medal. The following year she was a member of the senior team placing 6th at the World Cup.

At the 2002 Commonwealth Championships Kate was a member of the gold medal winning team. At the 2003

World Championships Kate and the team finished 7th. The following year she made her Olympic debut along with step-sisters Melissa and Rebecca Rippon. The team finished 4th at the Games. 2006 was a great year for Kate and the team, winning the gold medal at the World Cup in China. The team finished second at 2007 FINA World Championships in Melbourne and more recently third at the 2008 Super League World Finals in Tenerife. In March, Kate was voted in the FINA World Championships all-star seven.

Kate's father Neil is a water polo coach and active masters player. He is involved with the junior boys in the Barracudas Club. He played for Australia in the late seventies. Kate's brothers Scott and Drew both play water polo also for the Barracudas.

After water polo Kate is thinking about becoming a police woman.

Quirky Stuff about Kate

Childhood ambition	I wanted to be a marine biologist.
Proudest Moment	Winning gold at the 2006 World Cup.
Favourite Food	Thai Food
Perfect holiday	Anywhere with a great beach and sun.
Greatest band	U2 or Live
Finest sports person	Michael Jordan
Best sport team	Brisbane Broncos
Inspiration	My parents
Tattooes/Piercings	Olympic rings on my right foot and the Southern Cross on my left wrist.
I began this sport	Because I was always around the pool when my dad was playing and coaching
Participation in other sports	Swimming and netball at school
When I am not training/competing I am	Relaxing, catching up with friends, working or studying.



Rhys Howden

Send Rhys a Hero Message while he is competing at the Olympics. Go to the website - <http://hero.telstra.com/olympics/>



Position	Driver
Date of Birth	02 April 1987
Age at start of Games	21
Club	Brisbane Barracudas, QLD
Coach(es)	John Fox - AUS Simon Daley - QAS Ray Mayers - Barras
Olympic Games	Debut
Secondary Education	Lake Ginninderra College , ACT
Career Highlights	Making the touring team to China for the World League Preliminaries
Recent Performances	3rd - 2008 FINA World League Super Finals (Genoa, Italy) 1st - 2007 World League Preliminary Qualifier (Shanghai, China) 5th - 2007 World Junior Championships (Long Beach, USA)

Rhys has played for the Brisbane Barracudas since he was in the U14s and has been in the club's National League team since 2004. He was named in the National League's All -Star Team in 2007 and 2008 and was a member of the Barracudas squad which won the National League in 2004. Rhys has captained the Barracudas NL Team since 2007 and has been the team's top scorer each season since then.

Rhys has run his own franchise company since mid 2006 and is also involved in a partnership franchise with a Barracudas Club mate.

Rhys' father, Phil Howden, was captain of the Great Britain water polo team from 1977-1981. Rhys' younger brother BJ also plays water polo and made his debut for the Brisbane Barracudas in 2007 and also made his debut on the Australian Youth Team this year being named Captain. Rhys has a younger sister Samantha who has represented Barracudas and QLD in Water Polo as a junior. Rhys is keen to travel overseas to play water polo, possibly to play at college in the US or in the Spanish League.

Quirky Stuff about Rhys

Proudest Moment	Making the Australian team
Favourite Food	Mum's cooking
Perfect holiday	Straddie.. the beach house
Greatest band	Blink 182
Finest sports person	John Eales
Best sport team	Chelsea Football Club
Inspiration	Peter Osgoods' Chelsea Jersey that he wore on his final game
Motto	Life's a garden, dig it. (Joe Dirt)
I began this sport	at the age of 14
Participation in other sports	Rugby union & basketball at school
Famous relative	Phil Howden (father) - captain of the Great Britain water polo team from 1977-1981 and got me into the sport.
When I am not training/competing I am	spending time with family and friends at his families beach house in Stradbroke Island.

Interesting Facts

Rhys started water polo at the age of 14 after watching local games with his dad and was selected on his first QLD state team in 2002.

In 2004 he made the Australian youth team; won the QLD water polo award for Junior Player of the Year and was awarded an AIS Scholarship for 2004 and 2005 subsequently moving to Canberra.

He made his first Australian Junior Team in 2005 and in 2007 competed at the Junior World Championships in Long Beach California and was named the team's MVP. He made his senior team debut in the preliminary rounds of the World League in 2007 before helping the team to a bronze in the World League superfinals.



Melissa Rippon

Send Mel a Hero Message while she is competing at the Olympics. Go to the website - <http://hero.telstra.com/olympics/>



Position	Utility
Date of Birth	20 January 1981
Age at start of Games	27
Club	Brisbane Barracudas, QLD
Coach(es)	Greg McFadden - AUS Aleks Osadchuk - QAS Fabio Pavanello - Barras
Olympic Games	2004 Athens (4th)
Secondary Education	Sefton High School, NSW
Tertiary Education	Applied Science QUT, QLD
Career Highlights	Captaining Australia to victory at the 2006 World Cup and going to first Olympic Games in Athens
Recent Performances	3rd - 2008 World League Super Finals (Tenerife, Spain) 2nd - 2007 FINA World Championships (Melbourne, Australia) 1st - 2006 World Cup (Tianjing, China) 4th - 2004 Olympic Games (Athens, Greece)

was a member of the gold medal winning team at the 1999 Junior World Championships. Two years later she won silver at the same event as captain. In 2002 Mel was a member of the team that finished 6th at the World Cup and 1st at the Commonwealth Championships in Manchester. The following year she played at the 2003 World Championships and World League, finishing 7th at both events. Melissa made her Olympic debut at the 2004 Games where the team finished 4th.

Melissa captained the gold medal winning team at the 2006 World Cup in Tianjing China as well as captaining the team that finished 2nd at the 2007 FINA World Championships in Melbourne and 3rd at the 2008 World League Super Finals in Tenerife.

Melissa was voted in March's FINA World Championships all-star seven at the 2007 World Championships. She is the captain for the 2008 Olympic Team.

Quirky Stuff about Mel

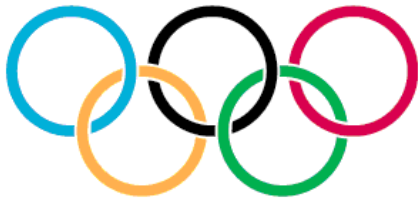
Childhood ambition	To be a flight attendant - but I hate flying!
Proudest Moment	Making the decision to go to university and getting in!
Favourite Food	Chocolate
Perfect holiday	African Holiday
Greatest band	U2
Finest sports person	Michael Jordan
Best sport team	Sydney 2000 Women's Water Polo team
Motto	No regrets.
Superstition/s	Always chew gum in the warm up.
Tattooes/Piercings	Three tattoos & six piercings in ears. Olympic rings on my right foot, a tiny star next to the rings, and the southern cross on the right shoulder, after we won the World Cup.
Famous relative	Rebecca Rippon (sister) Olympic water polo player, Kate Gynther (step sister) - Olympic water polo player
When I am not training/competing I am	Doing anything for a laugh

Interesting Facts

Melissa first started playing water polo at the age of 13 for Sefton High School in NSW. She chose water polo as a sport as she was keen to follow in the footsteps of her older sister and fellow Olympian Rebecca Rippon.

Melissa's first club was St George. She played one season there before moving to Cronulla Water Polo Club. She was with Cronulla until 2002 when she moved to Brisbane where she has since played for the Barracudas. She has been twice named the NWPL All-Star team and captained the Barracudas for the last three seasons.

Melissa made her debut for Australia at the 1997 Junior World Championships and won a bronze medal. Melissa



2008 Olympic Water Polo Preview and Game Schedule

The gruelling 12-team tournament for men and 8-team women's Olympic event will be held at the Ying Tung Natatorium in Beijing (pictured Page 7). Australia's women are one of the favourites for gold along with the United States. Australia's men will be looking for a best-ever result of a top-four finish. Here is everything you need to know to keep up with the Olympic water polo action. TV Coverage will be on both SBS and Channel 7 with the bulk of preliminary games on SBS and Finals matches on Channel 7. Yahoo will be featuring live web casts of games - check the Australian Water Polo website for updates on watching games over the web and more information on TV coverage.

Men's Competition

Group A: Spain (ESP), Australia (AUS), Hungary (HUN), Montenegro (MNE), Greece (GRE), Canada (CAN).

Group B: Serbia (SRB), Croatia (CRO), USA, China (CHN), Italy (ITA), Germany (GER).

The men's Olympic water polo tournament has a rich history of epic battles and this year looks to be no different. Australia find themselves in Group A where they are closely matched with Spain and Montenegro - Australia defeated Montenegro recently to claim the bronze at World League Finals. Reigning Olympic champions Hungary are always a dominant force in men's water polo and will be favourites in this group. Australia have beaten both Greece and Canada by 3 or more goal margins in their last encounters however neither of these teams can be underestimated. Australia will be looking to have two or more wins in the round games to ensure progression through to quarter and semi finals.

Group B contains the powerhouse nations of Serbia and reigning World Champs Croatia. Italy and Germany are consistent top finishers internationally rounded out by the USA who have much to prove at this tournament. Host nation China are likely to rise to the challenge in front of the home crowd however are unlikely to test the stronger more experienced nations.

Men's Schedule of Matches

Men - Preliminary Matches				
Sun 10 Aug	Tues 12 Aug	Thurs 14 Aug	Sat 16 Aug	Mon 18 Aug
9:30 ESP - CAN	9:30 CAN - MNE	9:30 CRO - GER	9:30 GER - ITA	9:30 SRB - ITA
10:50 HUN - MNE	10:50 ESP - AUS	10:50 USA - SRB	10:50 CAN - GRE	10:50 HUN - CAN
12:10 SRB - GER	12:10 ITA - USA	12:10 HUN - ESP	12:10 CRO - USA	12:10 MNE - AUS
14:00 AUS - GRE	14:00 GRE - HUN	14:00 MNE - GRE	14:00 ESP - MNE	14:00 USA - GER
15:20 CRO - ITA	15:20 SRB - CRO	15:20 AUS - CAN	15:20 AUS - HUN	15:20 ESP - GRE
16:40 USA - CHN	16:40 GER - CHN	16:40 CHN - ITA	16:40 SRB - CHN	16:40 CHN - CRO

Men Quarter Finals	Men Semi Finals	FINALS
Wed 20 Aug	Fri 22 Aug	Sun 24 Aug
31 - 9:30 6A-5B	35 - 9:30 L31-L32 (11,12)	9:30 L36-L37 (9,10)
32 - 10:50 5A-6B	36 - 10:50 4A-W31	10:50 W36-W37 (7,8)
33 - 16:00 3A-2B	37 - 17:00 4B-W32	13:00 L33-L34 (5,6)
34 - 17:20 2A-3B	38 - 18:20 1A-W33	14:20 Bronze Medal L38-L39 (3,4)
	39 - 19:40 1B-W34	15:40 Gold Medal W38-W39 (1,2)

Women's Competition

Group A: USA, Russia (RUS), Italy (ITA), China (CHN).

Group B: Greece (GRE), Hungary (HUN), Netherlands (NED), Australia (AUS).

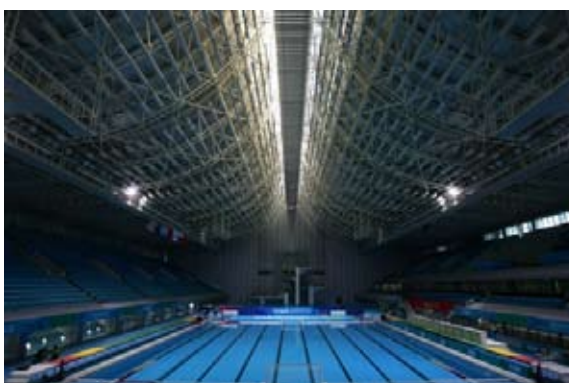
The women's competition will be tight with not much between the majority of the teams. Group A is led by two of the tournament front-running teams – World ranked No 1 USA and No. 3 Russia. These two sides will be a force in this group. Russia are in excellent form following their recent victory in the European Championships and the USA managed two convincing wins over Australia in their recent friendlies. However, one cannot discount the always gutsy Group A team Italy who are reigning Olympic champions from Athens. Meanwhile host nation China, who are considered a fledgling team in women's international water polo, have shown significant improvement following their 2008 preparation competing in the Australian NWPL competition. The Chinese women have given the top ranked teams in the world a run for their money in recent outings and will be a force to be reckoned with in front of their home crowd.

Group B is a well-rounded bunch with four very strong teams. The front-runner in this grouping is world ranked No 2 Australia who is in solid form following a bronze medal finish at World League Finals. The Australians will be challenged by European No 1 qualifier, the Netherlands, Athens Olympic bronze medallists Greece, and European Championship Bronze medallists and always fierce competitors, Hungary. Australia will need to finish in the top of their group to guarantee a birth in the Medal matches.

Women's Schedule of Matches

Women Preliminaries		
Mon 11 Aug	Wed 13 Aug	Fri 15 Aug
13:00 HUN - NED	13:00 HUN - AUS	13:00 NED - AUS
14:20 RUS - ITA	14:20 GRE - NED	14:20 RUS - USA
15:40 GRE - AUS	15:40 USA - ITA	15:40 HUN - GRE
17:00 USA - CHN	17:00 RUS - CHN	17:00 ITA - CHN

Quarter Finals	Semi Finals	Finals
Sun 17 Aug	Tues 19 Aug	Thurs 21 Aug
13 - 13:00 4A-4B (7,8)	16 -13:00 L14-L15 (5,6)	17:00 – Bronze Medal L17-L18 (3,4)
14 - 14:20 3rdA-2ndB	17 -14:20 1stA-W14	18:20 - Gold Medal W17-W18 (1, 2)
15 - 15:40 2ndA-3rdB	18 -15:40 1B-W15	



The Ying Tung Natatorium will be where all the water polo matches are played.

AROUND THE POOL

Global Challenge in Brisbane

USA were too strong for Australia's best youth girls with victory in the Global Challenge water polo tournament held at Brisbane's Valley Pool. Barracudas Gabby Wikman and Jamie Lee Lewis were part of the silver medal winning side. The highlight of the tournament for Gabby came on day 4 of competition when she sent the ball into the opposition's goal from her own goal-line in the last second of the third period against NZ demonstrating her long range precision. In the bronze-medal play-off, the younger Australia team, Born 1991, beat New Zealand 9-6 after being just 7-6 ahead at the final break. Barras own Steph Thomas and Kelsey Wakefield were part of the Bronze medal Australian team.

Barras named to Queensland U16 Squad

Congrats to Maddy Coburn, Kimberly Cochrane, Bronte Colenso, Kate McAfee, Chloe Wuth, Sarah Connolly and Emma Bullcock who were all named in the Queensland U16 Squad.

Two Barras named in AUS Country Team

Congrats to Fabio Pavanello and Amanda Russell who were named in the Australian Country Team following the Australian Championships held on the Gold Coast.

Queensland men won the Championship for the first time defeating NSW comfortably in the final. ACT got the better of the Queensland women in the Gold medal match.

NOAS Level 1 Water Polo Refereeing and NCAS Coaching Course

Queensland Water Polo are offering level one Refereeing and Coaching courses in September and early October. As numbers generally fill up quick, it is important that interested persons submit their applications as soon as possible. Download a nomination form on the Barracudas club website or the Queensland Water Polo website to attend the course.

Refereeing Course:

DATE: Saturday, 4th October
TIME: 8:00am – 5:00pm
VENUE: Sports House, 150 Caxton Street, MILTON
COST: \$110-00 per participant

Coaching Course:

DATE: Saturday, 13th September and Sunday, 14th September
VENUE: Sports House, 150 Caxton Street, Milton
TIME: 8:00am – 5:00pm
COST: \$165-00 per participant

For those interested in attending these courses the Club can assist financially - Please email Jacque at tjgiles@bigpond.net.au to find out more.

Barracudas are proudly sponsored by:



Munich 1972-Sydney 2000 and on

Musgrave Pool



AUS Youth Boys win Bronze at Vikelas Cup in Greece



AUS Youth Girls win Silver at Pythia Cup in Greece

AUS Youth Girls Tour Report

The Australian Youth Girls (pictured above) are touring Europe and recently won silver at the Pythia Cup in Greece finishing behind Russia in the six-nation round-robin tournament.

Barracudas Steph Thomas and Kelsey Wakefield were among the 16 member squad that defeated Italy in the Bronze medal match.

Pythia Cup Results:

Bronze medal match: Australia 11, Italy 8 (Z Arancini 1, S Thomas 1, S Grunberger 1, R Flint 1, B Appel 2, A Southern 4, H Buckling 1)

Round results: Australia 14, AUS 9 (Z.Arancini 1, E.Graham 1, R.Flint, B.Appel 3, A.Southern 2, C.Pierce 1, S.Johnes 1); Spain 9, Australia 8 (Z Arancini 2, B Appel 4, E Graham 1, A Southern 1); Australia 16, France 5; Australia 11 (Z.Arancini 2, S.Thomas 1, S.Johnes 1, R.Flint 1, H.Buckling 1, K.Leathem 5, E.Pittorino 1, E.Graham 3, C.Pierce 1), Greece 5.

AUS Youth Boys Tour Report

Australia's Youth Boys (pictured left) team have just completed a successful tour of Europe where they claimed the Bernhard Baier Cup in Germany, beating three of the world's leading nations, then defeating Montenegro in a penalty shootout to claim the bronze medal at the Vikelas Cup youth boys' water polo tournament on the island of Syros.

The Aussie boys missed out on topping their group in the eight-nation Vikelas Cup event by losing to eventual winner Croatia 11-9 in their third match after beating Italy 12-5 and Serbia 11-8. Barracudas Matt Giles, BJ Howden and Blake Edwards were all part of this European tour.

Vikelas Cup, Youth Boys, Syros, Greece Results:

Day 1: Australia 12 (J Fannon 5, A Younger 3, W Eames 2, M Giles, J Davie) Italy 5

Day 2: Australia 11 (A Younger 3, J Fannon, J Davie 2, A Polivka, W Eames, J Howden, J Burton) Serbia 8,

Day 3: Croatia 11 Australia 9 (A Younger 4, J Davie 2, J Howden, W Eames, A Polivka),

Day 4: Play-offs 3rd & 4th, Australia 15 (A Younger 4, W Eames, J Davie 3, P Short 2, BJ Howden, J Fannon, M Giles) Montenegro 14 in penalty shootout (FT: 7-7. ET: 8-8. Shootout 7-6)

Final placings: Croatia, Spain, Australia, Montenegro, Greece, Serbia, Germany, Italy.

AUS Junior Women's North America Tour Report

Barracudas Emma Jackson debuted her Australian career with a tour to the US with the Australian Born 88 team. Barracudas teammate Gabby Wikman was also named to the team. Australia, reigning Junior World Champions finished second in the Global Championships in Los Alamitos.

In the double round-robin event, the 20 and under team could not beat the strong USA Born 1988 team in their two encounters, needing a big win in of more than 4 goals in the final game to secure the title.

Australia bowed 8-4 in the final game while the earlier result was 11-8 in the North Americans favour.

Final Placing: Gold - USA 88, Silver - Australia, Bronze - Canada, 4th - USA 91.