



HEAD TO HEAD

by Henry Benjamin



David Sofaer



Alex Sanders

Two Australians will meet in the final of the Maccabiah Junior Tennis Championship.

Alex Sanders and David Sofaer were seeded 1 and 2 in the competition being held at the plush Ra'anana West Tennis Centre. Although they have known each other for seven years, this will be only the fourth time these two gifted players have been pitted against each other.

Sanders won his way into the final by beating Israeli Genya Gamazov 6-2, 6-3 and Sofaer defeated Daniel Tyntarov [Israel] 6-4, 6-2

The 18-year-olds have both played internationally including Wimbledon and are highly ranked players on the world Junior circuit. Sanders, who lives on the Gold Coast is ranked 37 in the world and has represented Australia in the Junior Davis Cup, being a member of the winning team in 2007.

Sydneysider Sofaer is ranked 60 in the world. Both boys are ranked highly in the Australian Open listings headed by Lleyton Hewitt. Sofaer is ranked 78 with Sanders not far behind him at 84.

One hour after winning their semi-final matches which were played concurrently, the boys paired in the Doubles beating a combined Swiss-German pair 6-2 6-4. The boys were in top form and never under threat. They moved about the court effectively and Sanders' volleys were a joy to watch.

As a partnership, the boys will meet the French pair of Jonathan Zaouche and Jeremy Klifa in the Doubles Final...two players they each beat on the way to the Singles Final.

Tennis fans will pack the Ra'anana courts today to watch the two Aussies battle it out for gold. The head to head tally to date has Alex leading 2 games to 1. Whatever happens it will be another Gold and Silver plus a Doubles medal for Australia today in Junior Tennis..

Photos: Peter Haskin

HOCKEY GIRLS REACH STICK IT OUT TO THE SEMIS

by Daniel Garb

The unlikelyst of goalscorers has put away Australia's first goal of the women's hockey tournament which was enough to send the girls in green and gold through to the semi-finals.

Burdened with a threadbare squad to get them through the whole tournament, a range of injuries and illnesses has meant Australia has had to play reserve goalkeeper Sophie Gathy as an outfield player for the entirety of nearly every game. With defender Kate Horin ruled out for yesterday's crucial clash with Germany, Gathy was again asked to do the job up front and her presence was invaluable as she tapped in a late goal at the backpost to secure a 1-1 draw.

The European outfit were always going to be a difficult proposition for Australia and they threatened Mikki Hofbauer's goal early but the Aussie skipper was equal to the task, pulling off a fantastic save to keep the scores level.

Gathy, who was in the right place at the right time to stab the ball home. Australia had a late chance to win the clash when Nicky Sevel crossed for Penny Stern but her shot was blocked at point blank range.



Her raking pass down the right flank found Penny Stern who crossed for the dangerous Lisa Kaufer who had her shot blocked.

Photo: Daniel Garb

The remainder of the first half belonged to Australia. Defender Nicky Sonenberg was again resolute in protecting her goal, while Carly Bogatin denied the German strikers time and time again, while also setting up numerous attacks from the back

MEDALS IN THE POOL

by David Weiner

A bumper night in the pool ended with Aussie medals in all three relay events, adding one silver and two bronze medals to the account in the 4x100 freestyle relays.



Marni sports silver p. Henry Benjamin

The night opened with a bang for the Green and Gold, with Marni Burger swimming a hot 1.02.84 to nab a silver medal in the 13-16 year old 100 metre butterfly, to go with her gold and silver from day one of the competition.

Greg Shein backed up his day one showing with a brave performance. Racing against Israeli Olympian Nevo Gal, he smashed nine seconds off his PB in the 400 individual medley to finish fifth with a time of 4.38.80.

He followed it up minutes later to anchor the Aussie quartet – the Mean Machine – with a 54 second split to bring home the bronze behind a US squad with Jason Lezak and the Israelis

The Aussie quartet kicked-off with Yuriy Burunov, before Michael Goldstein mowed down the pack to put the side in the bronze position. David Schnabl held his own in the third leg, before Shein brought the boys home 12 seconds quicker than the fourth place finisher.

The junior boys were also celebrating a bronze performance until news filtered through of the second placed team's disqualification. Julian Kowal, Josh Blumberg, Josh Balsim and Avi Bart swam 3.54.69 to round out the action packed night with a silver.

Burger and Ashleigh Smart teamed up with two Mexican girls to snare bronze in a composite team in the girls' relay. The medal counts towards their individual tally, but not Australia's collection. Smart swam a powerful first leg to set the girls up, before Burger powered home in typical fashion.

Earlier, Yuriy Burunov and Michael Goldstein swam the 100 fly A-grade final, while David Schnabl won the B grade race with a much improved time from his morning swim.

Other results included Josh Balsim's fourth in the 14-16 years 100 meters fly; a sixth place for Smart in the 200 free; and seventh for Bart in the boys 200 free.

Happy Jeff Sher p. Peter Haskin



What a day for the Aussies masters' swimming squad!

Jeff Sher kicked-off the gold rush with a win in the 50-54 years 200 freestyle, before Brian May grabbed double gold in the space of 20 minutes, with wins in the 45-49 50 metre fly and 100 back.

Margot Mann enjoyed the taste of silver in the 60-64 years 50 fly and bronze in the 4x50 free, while Warren Kotkis nabbed silver in the 4x50 35-49 year group.

Hannah Court then found space near the German goal and let go with a powerful backstick shot only for it to be saved on the line to deny the Aussies as the half-time whistle blew.

On track for gaining the necessary point, Hofbauer again came through with a big save at the beginning of the third quarter to frustrate the Germans.

But the pressure was eventually too much and her goal was breached shortly after from a short corner.

1-0 nil down and the arrival from members of the Aussie Rugby team seemed to inspire the girls who proceeded to dominate the final term.

Court looked desperate to ensure Australia's campaign was not going to end in the pool stages, as she drove her side on in search of an equaliser.

And some more hard running and a hard cross from Bogatin helped create it for Gathy, who was in the right place at the right time to stab the ball home.

Australia had a late chance to win the clash when Nicky Sevel crossed for Penny Stern but her shot was blocked at point blank range.

The girls will now play either the Netherlands or USA in today's semi-final.

BASKETBALLERS READY FOR BRONZE

by David Weiner

The youth basketball side warmed up for today's bronze medal play-off with a 92-37 win over Germany.

The side breezed through the contest, with all team members getting on the scoresheet for the third match in a row.

Benji Tamir and Sam Hyman led the way with 22 and 21 points, with Simon Tsapepas on 14, David Burns 10, Dean Marco and Matthew Koadlow 9, Jarred Kaiser 4 and Samson Baron 3. Burns was particularly strong in defence.

The side cruised through the match, showing off a few party tricks at the end – but tomorrow's rematch with Canada will be a different story, as the boys look to overturn a 17 point loss on the first day of competition.

They might start underdogs, but coach Andrew Solewicz told Hayom that the boys have made enormous strides since then.

"We are a really young team for this age group and they were really nervous for game one," he said. "We've improved in every game since and got confidence [from their positive results, including competitive losses to Israel and USA]."

He says the side has played beyond themselves to get this far, and "hopefully tomorrow is the reward at the end of the journey"

YOUTH BASKETBALL PREPARE FOR BRONZE

by David Weiner

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NETBALL UPDATE

The Open Netball team has again accounted for Israel with a comfortable 42-32 win.

The girls play Great Britain tonight in what will be a preview to the gold medal match on Wednesday evening.

OVER FOR THE JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS

Today we played the last Junior Football match of the 2009 Maccabiah games. Our 2-1 win over Great Britain resulted in us being placed 5th overall. To put things into more perspective we won 4 from 6 games, which is an outstanding achievement.

Goal scorers against Great Britain were: Dale Borowsky and Aaron Cohen

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MASTERS TENNIS SERVING THEIR TIME

by Daniel Garb

Australia's Masters Tennis squad will be contesting an astonishing 5 gold medals over the next two days of competition with three doubles teams and two singles competitors qualifying for the finals of their respective age groups.

Sydney's Michelle Rubin will have the chance to snare two gold medals having qualified in the doubles with partner Caron Stein and the singles with an easy semi-final win over her American opponent 6-2, 6-1 yesterday.

John Gering will get the chance to defend his gold medal from four years ago after a bizarre walkover victory in his semi.

His Israeli opponent was disqualified after first taking an illegal 5 minute break in the first set and then walking from the court in the second to have an icecream.

Paul Ehrlich and Lance Rosenberg have also made it through to the doubles final while Bert Rosenberg and his Israeli partner will also play off for gold.

SQUASH MEDALS ON TARGET

Our squash squad could end up as Australia's gold mine at these Maccabiah Games, with three players through to Wednesday's grand finals.

Dan Mossenson will contest the over-60s and David Alperstein will vie for the over-65 title, after both won comfortably today to cruise to the decider.

The tightest match of the day was Irvin Gordon's tie in the over-45s. Gordon thought he had been knocked out in a five-set thriller that went 12-10 in the fifth – but an Australian protest was successful when it was found that his Israeli opponent was not a registered competitor.

Anthony Shear will vie to join them when he plays his over-35 semi-final tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Australia is guaranteed to take home the 'plate' in the open's field, with the final to be played between Adam Mossenson and Jonathan Spero.

The plate tournament is contested by players that were eliminated in the first round of the main draw.

