

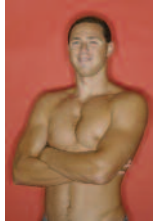


U.S. SWIM STAR GETS AUSSIE HELPING HAND

by Daniel Garb

The most sought after athlete at the 18th Maccabiah, American swimmer Jason Lezak, has turned to the Australian camp for extra assistance in his bid to dominate the pool in Israel.

A three-time Olympic gold medallist, Lezak's status as the number one athlete at the Games is unquestioned and it was no great surprise when he was granted the honour of lighting the Maccabiah torch in Monday night's Opening Ceremony.



Jason Lezak

Sydney physio Keren Tuch got the shock of her life when the 33 year old approached the Aussie physio team asking for some extra attention as he builds up to the start of the swim meet.

Speaking to Hayom, Lezak said he had no hesitation in entrusting the Australians to attend to his valuable 6 foot 4 frame.

"I just needed some extra work on my legs and the Americans didn't have a spare table so in the usual Aussie way they were kind enough to offer their services," he said.

"I've been to Australia plenty of times and had lots of physio treatment there so I was more than comfortable asking them to do the job."

Happy with the treatment he received, Lezak said he has no hesitation calling on the Aussie crew again. "If there are no Americans free, then sure I'll be asking the Aussies for help. I'm not so sure they'll want to help out an American as we get closer to the events but if they are then I'm keen."

Entrusted with daunting task of looking after one of the world's best swimmers, 25 year old Tuch admits Lezak is the biggest star she's ever worked with. "He's a lovely guy, very open and polite," she said.

"I was lucky that he came when I happened to be free so I could give him plenty of time on the table," she said.

It is a sure thing that Lezak will have a swag of gold medals to take home from Israel with him to join those won at the Olympics.

And as he winds down his distinguished career, he says his Maccabiah experience will be a memorable part of his time as an elite swimmer.

"I gave up the World Champs to come here and the thinking was that if I didn't do it now I might not ever have the chance."

"In four years I might not be swimming anymore so I was keen to take the opportunity this year. It's just great to be involved in the Games."

He added: "I'm not sure what the competition is like but Australia and America always have a great swimming rivalry, and the Israeli team is very strong so it won't be easy."



Keren Tuch

ONE TOURNEY ENDS - ANOTHER BEGINS

The Stableford golf event was won by Spain's Iranit Spinner. Australian Jeff Rubenstein [l] took second spot and newcomer Michael Roth [r] narrowly missed out on a top three position finishing fourth.

A team spokesman said: "Michael did really well for a first-timer. The golfers shone in their teamwork...my only problem is that I will lose them as they are already considering competing in the full medal event in 2013."

In the Masters, Australian golfers are chasing South African Greg Smith who has taken out the previous two Maccabiah Golf Masters championship.

After the first day's play, Australia is running 4th out of 9. The golfers are trailing the leader by nine strokes with Maccabiah flag-bearer Roy Vandersluis in 6th position and newcomer Keith Robertson in 10th spot.



PROTEST UPHELD! SECOND MEDAL FOR THE AUSTRALIA

by Henry Benjamin

The Aussie Maccabian Cycling Team Trial protest against Mexico's third-placing result in the 50+ division has been upheld, resulting in another Bronze for Australia.

Julian Rifkind, Michael Besser, Joel Blum and John Cohen had competed in the gruelling 25km Team Trial in the Negev and had been beaten by Mexico into fourth place.



L-R: Rifkind, Besser, Blum

But Rifkind protested on the grounds that the rules had been unfairly changed. The result of the team trials in which the cyclists compete against the clock are based on the sum of the two fastest times. However, the rules also state that the minimum number of team members is three and Mexico had competed with only two. Rifkind told Hayom: "I have no idea what will happen to the Mexican medals but in the true Maccabiah spirit, we think this is simply a technical error and it has been deemed to be so. We certainly don't want anyone upset over this."

The Australian team was made up of four riders, basically competing in preparation for Friday's triathlon. The top three times get the medals and they have gone to Julian Rifkind, Michael Besser and Joel Bloom.

Australia has already won Bronze in the Open. Besser said: "They had changed the rules. I am not too sure of them so this is a great surprise for me. Julian said he would protest but I really wasn't sure if it would be upheld."

The cyclists, who were using the event as training for Friday's Triathlon, will receive their medals at the training camp in Tiberias later today.

AUSSIES MEET THEIR HEROES

by Henry Benjamin

Australia's Masters basketballers took on an Israeli team jam-packed with serious talent.

The home side beat the Aussies 101-60 but for co-captain Eddie Tamir, it was a defeat worth suffering as the Israeli team boasted former professional Maccabi Tel Aviv stars, Assaf Datan, Chaim Markovitch, Willi Simm, Leor Ardit, Danny Got and basketball legend Doron Jumpchi, a former captain of the Tel Aviv side.

Tamir, who plays small playing big, said: "It was beautiful. It was playing against Israeli heroes and if nothing else it shows the Maccabi spirit. Not necessarily about winning but thoroughly enjoying your sport. They beat us by 40 points. We played tough but they treated us like athletes and with respect. To play against guys who were my heroes as I grew up it just too wonderful...and they embraced us after the game. They didn't let up on us and played us man for man...it really was a special match."



The Israeli basketball legends with the Australian team

AUSSIE BASKETBALLER SCOUTED BY ISRAELIS

by Daniel Garb

16-year-old Sydney basketballer Sam Hyman has been asked by one of Israel's top junior basketball clubs to consider leaving Australia to play for them after a series of sterling displays at the Games.



The 6 foot 2 point guard, who plays for the North Bears in Sydney's top junior league, was Australia's leading scorer in losses to Canada and then the home nation - sparking interest from the Gilboa basketball club in the Israeli Division One Premier League.

He swapped e-mail addresses with club officials following the clash with Israel and says he now has to weigh up whether he's prepared to leave home to pursue his dream of making it as a professional basketballer.

"I've got to discuss it with my parents and think about it. I'm only 16 and still in year 11 so it would be a huge move."

"But it sounds like an amazing thing to do. It's what I'm working at so i'll need to research it properly," he said.

Having lost comprehensively to the Israelis, Hyman is well aware of their ability to develop players. Hd said: "The Israeli team were pretty awesome so it looks like they've got a better program than we do."

The offer has also drawn attention to the profile of the Maccabiah Games and the opportunities that might be presented to young players who perform on the international stage.

His coach at Maccabiah, Andrew Solewicz, says the youngster needs to think seriously about the move but has the ability to make it in professional ranks. "He's got the physical attributes and a great basketball brain but this sort of commitment requires huge dedication. He's got to be prepared to leave home and his comfort zone and that's a massive decision to make," said Solewicz.

FIRST UP WIN FOR NETBALLERS

by Daniel Garb

Australia's netballers have had the perfect preparation for this evening's blockbuster clash with Great Britain by comprehensively beating Israel 47-13 last night.

With a boisterous home crowd to deal with, the Aussie girls were a bit nervous in the opening stages, struggling to land their early shots and fumbling a few easy passes.

But they soon settled showing their class with the slick ball movement of mid-court trio Talia Silberman, Kylie Grynberg and Nat Ritterman which proved to be too much for the Israelis to handle.

Goalkeeper Lisa Paneth was outstanding, combining well with Nat Miller to shut out the Israeli shooters and build wave after wave of attack from the defensive third.

And as the Aussies built their confidence so too did goal-shooter Elise Kausman. Up against a towering Israeli defender she drained shot after shot and along with goal-attack Nat Mizrachi, ruined any chance Israel had of an upset victory. Lainie Bejer entered the game in the second half to help continue the Aussie onslaught which they hope will provide them with the confidence needed to beat the Brits tonight in what is looming as a dress rehearsal for the gold medal match.

JUNIORS SMASH SOUTH AFRICA

It was a similar story with the Junior girls who annihilated South Africa 64-4, enhancing their tag as gold medal favourites.

As the scoreline suggests, the Australians were far too strong for their southern hemisphere rivals in what was a dominant team display.

Casey Levitt shone at centre while shooter Shayna Slotar was literally unstoppable in front of the net.

GYMNASTS DO US PROUD

By Daniel Garb

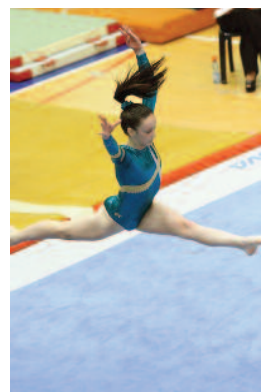
14 year old Victorian gymnast Janey Nestadt has qualified for three Maccabiah games finals - leading the junior Australian team that performed well above expectations in the teams event.

Nestadt finished 11th overall and will now compete tomorrow for medals in the vault, floor and beam as well as being a reserve in the floor event - a remarkable achievement in a competition of high quality.

12-year-old Morgan Baum, the youngest member on the Australian Maccabiah team, was the other standout, finishing 15th overall and qualifying as first reserve for both the beam and the bars. No'am Geffen is a reserve in the floor event.

Overall the team of Nestadt, Baum, Geffen, Vered Mazin and Stephanie Goldberg finished fourth in the teams event which Israel won ahead of America and Canada. "They've really done us proud," said assistant junior manager Laura Mazin. "We just didn't have the skills on the bars and we were a bit wobbly on the beam but otherwise they were up to the standard."

Ma'ia Aviram and Elizabeth Zimmet competed in the open event as individuals but missed out on finals places.



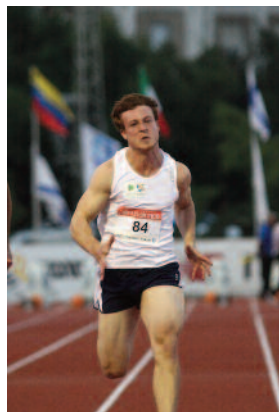
Janey Nestadt p Peter Haskin

BASKIN JUST MISSES A MEDAL

by Daniel Garb

Gun Australian sprinter Robbie Baskin has missed out on a medal for his second Maccabiah games in a row, finishing fourth in the 100 metre final last night.

The 20 year old Sydneysider ran 11.01 against a strong wind but was beaten out of a podium place by three Israeli's, proving just how tough it is to claim an individual medal on the track.



Robbie Baskin pic Peter Haskin

Baskin finished 4th in similar circumstances as a junior four years ago. He will run the 200 metres tonight and is again expected to test the Israelis.

In the junior division, West Australian David Lazarus finished 5th in the 1500 metres which was won by the Britain's Cross Country champion.

He contests his pet event the 3000 metres today.

Simonne Cohen ran 7th in the 100 metres while Jordan Lebenbaum was 7th in the boys 400 metres.

Olympian David Zalberg might be missing from our table tennis squad, but that didn't stop our open men's team claiming a 3-1 win over USA yesterday. The group went down 1-3 to Germany earlier in the day, meaning their energies are now focused on securing a bronze medal result.

Guy Sainbloom won both his matches comprehensively, while Barak Mizrachi notched a very encouraging come from behind 3-2 win in one of his matches.

The Masters' group also tasted one victory and one defeat in their Davis Cup style format competition. Against Russia, Raymond Rozen's singles tie was the only match won by the Aussies, but they had no such problems later in the day, handing out a clean-sweep drubbing of Slovakia. Raymond Rozen and Sam Parasol won their singles 3-0, before Rozen and Roman Kluger came back from 2-1 down to clinch the doubles.

The junior group met their match against the top-class Russian and German outfits.



Levi Romanov in action P. Haskin

Levi Romanov, Justin Tyler and Effie Block's chances of a bronze medal will become clearer after tomorrow's duels with USA and Sweden.

JUNIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL

by David Weiner

After a slow start the Aussies ended first quarter 8 - 14 down. Half time saw Aussies score 21 points and stopped Canada scoring at all to finish the half 29 - 14 up. Final score feedback was 52 - 31! Our girls all played well! Expected to beat UK tomorrow which would put our girls in the finals after matches against Israel on Thursday and USA on Sunday.

AUSTRALIA'S junior girls basketball side wasted no time getting off the mark in their competition, claiming a 52-31 win over Canada yesterday.

It took some time for the girls to attune to the physical clash, but they sorted out their defence and never looked back after keeping the Canadians scoreless in the second quarter.

Dani Phillips and Tamara Epshtein were the marshals at the back, and even though Canada tried to come back in the third, Australia counter attacked with a run of deep three-point shots.

Stepanie Perch and Lauren Ehrenfeld were the pick of the scorers, as the side kept a constant gap in the final term to round out a comfortable first-win.

The Junior Basketball boys are on the board, claiming their first win with a 78-48 win over Azerbaijan, with Sam Hyman, Simon Tsapepas and Benji Tamir leading the scoring rout.

It gives the boys a 1 win, 2 loss record with three vital matches ahead of them. The contest against the USA looks a difficult prospect, but wins against Argentina and Great Britain would fire the side into contention for a Bronze medal.

GOT SOME GOSS? CALL HAYOM ON 052 8522781 or e-mail us to media@teamaus2009.com.au

NEWS SNIPPETS AND RESULTS

DAVID WEINER REPORTS

AUSTRALIA'S "Macctildas" claimed the country's first ever win in Maccabiah women's open football on Sunday, but have quickly tasted the highs and lows of tournament football competition, copping a master class from heavyweight favourite USA on Tuesday.

The football girls were the toast of the Aussie team on day one of competition, after Rachel Bach's strike sealed the famous 1-0 win over Great Britain.

Both Bach and strike partner Nicky Goldberg looked dangerous all match, and were unlucky not to have a couple of goals by half-time.

With the constant service being provided by Bec Sheridan, Dara Podjarski and Lani Kahn, the strikers were a constant menace in the second period, and it came as no surprise when Goldberg capitalised on Kahn's ball-winning tackle to race down the wing and drill a low ball across the face, which was expertly finished by Bach with a remarkable one-touch finish.

With an inspired Amy Seskin in goal, and Terri Lazarus, Di Kensell, Naomi and Tal Mossenson and Raquel Lewis doing the dirty work, the girls held on for a famous win.

The match against the USA was always a David versus Goliath prospect, as the Americans, who boast an array of division one and college players, are a class above the field. The 7-0 loss was no disgrace, particularly when one considers that Brazil went down by eight to the Americans. The Australian side took the loss in their stride, as they witnessed a demolition at the hands of a fine football side.

The Australians face two crunch matches against Israel and Canada over the next couple of days that will sort out the congested table below the Americans.

On one hand, it would seem that the Macctildas have felt the full breadth of the highs and lows of tournament football within the space of 3 days after suffering a 7-0 defeat at the hands of the USA yesterday afternoon.

On the other hand, the US team is so far ahead of the pack in the women's football competition that Tuesday's game became something of a master class for the Aussie girls. And there's no shame losing to a side that thrashes a Brazilian team 8-0!

The entire squad enjoyed game time against a side filled with US College and first division players. The side's more realistic goals are the upcoming matches with Israel and Canada, which will help sort out the heated competition amongst the rest of a very unpredictable field.

While the match was somewhat of a downer after the hype from day one, the girls soldiered on throughout the contest and showed a fantastic spirit at the end of the contest. They knew they had played a damn good side.

HOCKEY REPORT

Playing with the disadvantage of no substitutes for the majority of the game, the women's hockey team were humbled 5-0 by the USA putting their medal chances at the games in serious doubt.

In stifling conditions, the Americans had the luxury of three substitutes to the Australians one - but it was the green and gold that looked the more dangerous side in the early stages.

Hannah Court was at the heart of nearly ever Australian move and a constant threat throughout, while Toni Hamilton was providing solid support down the right.

Penny Stern had a good chance foiled by the Americans early and it seemed a matter of time before the Aussies took the lead.

As the half went on though the Australians began to tire. Their personnel predicament then worsened when Lisa Kaufer, who battled bravely to play through a stomach bug that ruled her out of the opening ceremony, was ruled out for the rest of the game.

That forced reserve goalkeeper Mikki Hofbauer to play on the field and left the girls without any bench support.

The Americans seized their chance, scoring twice before half-time and leaving the Aussies with an uphill battle.

Carly Bogatin and Nicky Sevel joined Court in trying to inspire a fightback but it wasn't to be, the Americans adding three more goals in the second half.

Australia's next game is against the Netherlands on Thursday.

JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Junior Boys

Australia 80 d Great Britain 27

Junior Girls

Australia 52 d Canada 31

SQUASH REPORT

Suash results

A surprise was waiting in store for 82-year-old George Oshlack when he arrived at the courts for the opening of the Masters Squash competition in the 18th Maccabiah.

Originally expecting to compete in the 70+ age group, George happily accepted the change to 65+ due to numbers. But he was to betold the organisers had now dropped the age limit to 60+ so the octogenarian is now doing his best to contend with players twenty years younger than himself. Joe Rozen, who is 74, also found himself up against youngsters of 60 +

Yesterday's results:

Open Round 1 Australia 2 matches 7 games defeated Brazil 1 match 4 games

Anthony Shear lost 1-3
Jonathon Spero won 3-1
Ronnie Kowadlo won 3-0

Open Round 2 Australia 3 matches 9 games defeated France 0 matches 0 games

Adam Mossenson won 3-0
Jonathon Spero won 3-0
Ronnie Kowadlo won 3-0

Over 35 Round 1 Australia 2 matches 8 games defeated Graet Britain 1 match 4 games

Ivan Marggolis lost 2-3
Ilan Zimmerman won 3-1
David Gabriel won 3-0

Over 35 Round 2 Australia 1 match 7 games lost to Israel A 2 matches 6 games

Ivan Marggolis lost 2-3
Ilan Zimmerman lost -31
David Gabriel won 3-0

Over 50 Round 1 Australia 0 matches 4 games lost to Canada 3 matches 9 games

Dan Mossenson lost 2-3
Irvin Gordon lost 0-3
Jack Iglicki lost 2-3

Over 60 Round 1 Australia 0 matches 0 games lost to USA 3 matches 9 games

Daviud ALpersdtein 0-3
Joe Rozen 0-3
George Oshlack 0-3

Shear and Mossenson had to combat flu and bronchitis as well as aggressive opponents.

TENNIS REPORT

MASTERS TENNIS SCOREBOARD

Australia had the better of Russia in their Masters Tennis matches yesterday.

Lance Rosenberg, Joihn Gering, Steve Gostin, Stephen Fine, Robert Steinhart and Anton Rosenberg all won their matches while Brent Lobel, Steve Goldberg and Gary Abrams were defeated.

The hot property of the Australian Maccabiah team started competition today.

David Sofaer and Alex Sanders are two young tennis stars with a bright future.

Sanders won Davis Cup in 2007 for Australia and both boys have played in the Wimbledon championships.

Today, Sanders won 6-2, 7-5

Sofaer won 6-3, 6-0

In other results in Junior Tennis

Ronen Slonim won 7-5, 6-3

Greg Fine lost 5-7, 6-4, 4-6

Justyn Levin lost 3-6, 3-6

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