

AHL UPDATE

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MATCHES – MEN'S FINALS WEEK

DAY 1

Saturday 21st August

11am – WA vs ACT

1pm – SA vs NSW

3pm – VIC vs NT

5pm – TAS vs QLD

DAY 2

Sunday 22nd August

11 am – SA vs ACT

1pm – NT vs TAS

3pm – QLD vs VIC

5pm – WA vs NSW

PREVIEW



OAMPS Queensland Blades

Every game will be a final for the OAMPS Queensland Blades during AHL Finals Week who will be eager to impress their home crowd and secure their first national title since 2007.

The return of reigning World Hockey Player of the Year Jamie Dwyer and hockey legend Troy Elder to the Queensland line-up will boost the already impressive mix of talent including 2010 World Cup-winning Kookaburras Liam De Young, Mark Knowles, Rob Hammond, Nathan Burgers and Matt Swann as well as Jason Wilson who was recently crowned as the 'Most Promising Player' of the 2010 Champions Trophy tournament.

The OAMPS Queensland Blades will begin Finals Week comfortably positioned in fourth place on the national ladder.



Tassie Tigers

Eagerly looking forward to the massive challenge of beating Queensland on their home soil. Day one, Tassie vs Queensland is probably the key game of the day, with the Tigers one point behind Queensland and just outside the four. Unfortunately David Guest was ruled out through injury, continuing his horror AHL run over the last two years. Coming in to replace him is the feisty Sam McCambridge who has been playing in the Italian League. The new format requires that the Tigers must win pretty close to all of their games to be a chance to play in the final. The team has had a couple of good wins whilst ensuring it scores the maximum bonus points through goals scored. No doubt a massive challenge ahead but the Tigers have beaten Queensland before in the Finals week. Ben Creese has kept well in the net and Phil Marshall continues to cause headaches. Overall the team is well well balanced and very capable on their day!

POINTS TABLE

MEN

Team	Win	Loss	Draw	Points
VIC	5	0	0	44
WA	3	1	1	32
NSW	3	2	0	32
QLD	2	2	1	27
TAS	2	3	0	26
ACT	2	3	0	21
SA	1	4	0	14
NT	1	4	0	11

GOAL SCORERS

MEN

G Cock (TAS)	– 6
T Mitton (WA)	– 6
G Turner (ACT)	– 5
S Orchard (NSW)	– 5
A Mclennen (VIC)	– 5
J Miller (NSW)	– 5

NEXT ROUND

Men's

Sunday 22nd August

11am – SA vs ACT
1pm – NT vs TAS
3pm – QLD vs VIC
5pm – WA vs NSW

Check www.hockey.org.au
for all fixtures



NSW Waratahs

NSW Waratahs Coach Larry McIntosh is pleased to see both Matthew Butturini and Brent Livermore returning from intensive rehabilitation over the past 6 weeks to join the Waratahs lineup at this week's Finals. The side will also be bolstered by the injection of enthusiasm and peak match fitness of Kieran Govers, Simon Orchard and Mark Paterson, fresh from their victorious Champions Trophy campaign.

McIntosh said "We have to be on our game right from the first match which is against South Australia on Saturday. We can't afford to have a slow start, we need the points on the board.

"Our second game is against the 2008 and 2009 Champions, Western Australia. We're going to need everything we've got against these guys if we're going to have a chance of making the medal games".

The NSW Waratahs last claimed an AHL Championship in 2005. With mixed fortunes and lower placings since then, the team has clawed back to medal contention over the past four years, recording a 3rd place in 2009, behind runners-up, Queensland and the champions, Western Australia. Their sights are firmly set on an AHL Championships victory in 2010.



Victorian Vikings

The Victorian Vikings enter the finals week of the 2010 AHL brimming with confidence, following a highly successful round robin campaign.

With impressive wins over ACT, TAS, NSW, SA and WA the Victorian Vikings find themselves perched on top of the AHL ladder.

After tasting success at the recent Champions Trophy in Germany, Victorian stars Russell Ford, Luke Doerner, Chris Ciriello and George Bazeley will be looking to emulate their Champions Trophy Success in the 2010 AHL finals.



Darwin Airport Territory Stingers

The Darwin Airport Resort Territory Stingers will be looking to improve on their round two performance in the last two round matches of the AHL men's finals week. With the inform Des Abbott and Joel Carroll coming off a successful Champions Trophy we will look to their leadership and experience to inspire their team mates to a successful finals series.

The leadership group of Des Abbott, Joel Carroll and Adrian Lockley will be joined by NSW import Cody Tribe. With Leon Hayward in the net and Adrian Lockley in the midfield there will be great opportunity for both players to play an integral part in the success of the Stingers campaign. The young Territorian's will be looking to play with a level of maturity and composure with the intent of working on their continuous development as a team moving forward.



OAMPS Southern Hotshots

The OAMPS Southern Hotshots are young, keen and very determined to turn around and improve their overall performance, which started brilliantly this season when it beat QLD 3-2 in Adelaide. There has, however been a glimpse of its capabilities in subsequent rounds and although there have been some disappointments with the score-lines, the positives certainly outweigh the negatives.

Given a recent high occurrence of injuries the OAMPS Southern Hotshots are determined to step up to the plate and take this as their 'challenge' to make their opposition work and earn respect for their results.

This is going to be a fight to the end for the Hotshots who understand that it is always possible to overcome whatever adversity it needs to confront. It has a goal to not only improve but to show their pride in being South Australian.



SmokeFree WA Thundersticks

The SmokeFree WA Thundersticks are currently sitting in equal second position after Round 2 of AHL competition. Despite losing to Victoria in Round 2 and drawing with Queensland in Round 1, the team are well positioned to be in the finals. This has been aided by the fact that Queensland has only won two games and NSW are behind on goal difference.

The Smoke Free WA Thundersticks team due to compete in finals week team is very similar to the team that won the AHL Final in 2009 with 13 players returning. Goal keeper Ross Meadows will be in charge of a strong back line with Ian Burcher and Mark Boyne in deep defence. Kiel Brown was injured last finals week is back with a strong presence in the team along side mid-fielders Kookaburra Fergus Kavanagh and retired Kookaburra Bevan George. Craig Boyne is back for finals week after recovering from a head injury gained in France over summer.

The first two games of the week are the last round matches and goals scored add to the points table. Strikers are important so watch out for young gun Trent Mitton who has recently been talent identified by Ric Charlesworth as well as Greg Hearn and Travis Taylor. There is no doubt the Smoke Free WA Thundersticks will be keen to win an historic third consecutive AHL title whilst individual honours are on the line with Australia's Commonwealth Games Team due to be announced following the current AHL series.



Canberra Lakers

The Canberra Lakers go into the AHL Men's Finals Week bursting with confidence after their round 2 victories against Queensland and the Northern Territory. Strengthened by the return of Kookaburra Glenn Turner and New Zealand international Ryan Archibald, the Lakers will aim to continue their good form and push for a place in the top four.

Despite having one of the youngest sides in the league the Lakers are optimistic that their skill in defence and firepower upfront will pressure the more experienced teams. The Lakers side will face second placed Western Australia in their first match and will call on the experience of Aaron Hopkins and Josh Hawes to lead the side to a successful 2010 AHL campaign.

MATCH REPORTS

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2010 AHL Men's Results Round 2

Games played in Melbourne

Victorian Vikings 6 def. OAMPS Southern Hotshots 2

Goals - Dan Mirecki (VIC) 17m FG, Grant Schubert (SA) 26m FG, Alister McLennan (VIC) 31m FG, Dan Mirecki (VIC) 45m PC, Glenn Simpson (VIC) 49m PC, Russell Ford (VIC) 57m FG, James Webster (VIC) 66m PC, Tom Wickham (SA) 70m FG

WA Smokefree Thundersticks 4 def. Tassie Tigers 3

Goals - Trent Mitton (WA) 2m FG, Greg Hearn (WA) 8m FG, Trent Mition (WA) 27m FG, Greg Reece (WA) 31m FG, Tim Deavin (TAS) 32m FG, Tim Deavin (TAS) 42m FG, Geoff Cock (TAS) 44m PS

Victorian Vikings 2 def. SmokeFree WA Thundersticks 1

Goals - Paul McKinnon (VIC) 9m GF, Ian Burcher (WA) 21m PC, Russell Ford (Vic) 49m FG

Tassie Tigers 4 defeated OAMPS Southern Hotshots 3

Goals - Eddie Ockenden (Tas) 14m PC, Adam Clifford (Tas) 16m FG, Matthew Claxton (SA) 17m FG, Tom Wickham (SA) 46m FG, Geoff Cock (Tas) 49m FG, Daniel Cox (SA) 52m FG, Tim Deavin (Tas) 63m PC

2010 AHL Men's Results Round 2

Games played in Canberra

OAMPS Queensland Blades 4 def NSW Waratahs 3

Goals – QLD Jason Wilson 26m PC, QLD Robert Hammond 34m PC, NSW Matthew Butturini 46m FG, QLD Michael Bates 53m PC, NSW Mark Paterson 58m PC, 64m PC, QLD Jacob Whetton 69m FG

Canberra Lakers 3 def Darwin Airport Resort Territory Stingers 0

Goals - ACT Glenn Turner 11m PC, 48m FG, ACT Jack Wallace 33m PC

NSW Waratahs 6 def Darwin Airport Resort Territory Stingers 1

Goals - NSW Keiran GOVERS 19m FG, NSW Simon ORCHARD 23m PC, 55m FG, NSW Josh MILLER 30m PC, 44m PC, NT Adrian LOCKLEY 54m PC, NSW Thomas LOBSEY 59m FG

Canberra Lakers 4 def OAMPS Queensland Blades 3

Goals - ACT Garry BACKHUS 5m FG, QLD Jason WILSON 41m PC, QLD Michael BATES 43m FG, ACT Jack WALLACE 58m FG, QLD Robert HAMMOND 68m PS, ACT Glenn TURNER 32m PC, 69m FG