



Hockey Australia Media Release  
Saturday 28th August 2010

Australian Hockey League Finals Day - South Australian Hotshots Get Stung

Darwin Airport Resort Territory Stingers 3 def. OAMPS Southern Hotshots 1

Goals - NT Spry 22m FG, Claxton 31m PC, Abbott 36m FG; SA Hughes 56m FG

RDW Photography



The first match of finals day has seen the Darwin Airport Resort Territory Stingers play the OAMPS Southern Hotshots for 7th and 8th position on the AHL ladder. Both teams started strongly and although a medal placing was well out of their reach, the teams came out with the same aim which was to finish their AHL campaign with a win.

The Hotshots pushed the ball hard in the first ten minutes with the majority of possession being within their half. Their hard-work was rewarded by multiple goal scoring opportunities but they could not capitalise on this and no goals came to fruition.

Strong runs by the Stingers Captain and Kookaburra, Des Abbott, snapped the flow of the match as the Stingers began to warm up and well and truly establish themselves with Adam Spry scoring the first field goal in the 22nd minute.

A penalty corner in the 31st minute resulted in the Stingers Cody Tribe scoring their second goal and the Stingers went into the first half with a 2-0 lead over the Hotshots.

The second half began much as the first had ended with the Stingers, Des Abbott, scoring an early goal in the 36th minute to further consolidate their lead and put them in a comfortable position for the remainder of the match.

The Hotshots were eager to not let the match blow out and their constant pressure on the Stingers was rewarded with their first goal of the match being scored by Scott Hughes in the 56th minute.

Unfortunately for the Hotshots time was against them and the Stingers finished with a deservedly 3-1 win.

Northern Territory Stingers coach Baden Sharp said this year's AHL tournament has been very encouraging for the Stingers.

"The win today was very rewarding for the boys," Sharp said.

"Last year we only won one AHL game so to finish more competitively this year has been quite good," he said.

"We have no one over 25 in our team, so we will be looking to develop this group further to come back stronger next year," he concluded.

OAMPS Southern Hotshots coach Mark Dell'Oro said it has been a difficult week for his inexperienced side but they are looking forward to next year.

"We can take pride from the way we stood up to some of the top teams," Dell'Oro said.

"Despite the loss we made ground today which was pleasing," he said.



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Australian Hockey League Finals Day – Canberra Lakers destroy Tassie Tigers  
Canberra Lakers 7 def. Tassie Tigers 2 (Halftime 2-1)

Goals – ACT Turner 15m FG, Turner 32m PC, Turner 42m FG, Wallace 48m FG, Gilson 50m FG, Backhus 58m PC, Davidson 67m PC; TAS Deavin 5m FG, Tremayne 49m PC

The Canberra Lakers have secured 5th spot on the 2010 AHL ladder with a 7-2 victory over the Tassie Tigers. The win puts the Lakers three spots ahead of where they finished in 2009 which is an impressive result for the new Lakers coach and former Kookaburra, Ben Bishop, who came on board this year.



RDW Photography

In this high scoring match, Tassie Tiger Tim Deavin started off the scoring with an outstanding field goal in the 5<sup>th</sup> minute which was quickly eliminated by Lakers striker and Kookaburras squad member, Glen Turner who scored twice before the end of the first half. It was a hard-fought, physical first half with the teams going into half-time with a much more evenly matched 2-1 scoreline.

The Lakers came out after half-time with renewed energy and smashed through a remarkable four goals within the first 15 minutes of play. The Tigers were not able to stick with the Lakers as they applied consistent pressure which enabled them to run away with the match in the second half and end their AHL campaign with a very satisfying 7-2 victory.



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**Australian Hockey League Finals Day – Victoria wins in close call**

Victorian Vikings 2 def. SmokeFree WA Thundersticks 1 (half-time 1-0)

Goals – VIC Ford 5m PC, Wischusen 55m FG; WA Burcher 56m PC

The Victorian Vikings have beaten the SmokeFree WA Thundersticks in the bronze medal game at the AHL Finals in a fast-paced, evenly matched game that saw the teams fight it out until the dying minutes.

The Victorian Vikings pushed the ball hard from the start and took advantage of an early penalty corner with the captain Russell Ford putting his team on the board at the 5 minute mark.

As predicted, the Thundersticks found it tough to score against Kookaburras' star goal-keeper George Bazeley who continued his impressive form following his stints at the World Cup and Champions Trophy this year.

With the score at 1-0 in Victoria's favour at half time, both teams came out energized and eager to finish with a win. A goal to Victorian striker Tim Wischusen in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute saw the Thundersticks bronze medal hopes slip further away.

The Thundersticks persisted and continued to push hard in attack every chance they got. Their hard-work paid off with a penalty corner goal to striker Ian Burcher in the 56<sup>th</sup> minute to get WA on the board for the first time today.

Despite the Thundersticks best efforts, the Vikings were able to hold on to their lead and defeat the reigning 2008 and 2009 champions to the bronze medal placing.

Victorian Vikings coach Jay Stacy said finishing with a win was great for the team's morale but they will have work to do finish higher on the ladder next year.

"I was happier with the way we performed in round one and two than in Finals Week," Stacy said.

"It was difficult to get the players together to prepare for Finals Week because so many of the players have to juggle other commitments," he said.

"We have a lot of young talent coming through so I think there is a promising future for this group," he added.

Western Australian Thundersticks coach David Bell said he was disappointed with the Thundersticks finish at the tournament.

"Overall, I am a bit disappointed about our couple of losses," Bell said.

"Today we didn't take opportunities and the quality of our shots at goal wasn't good enough," he said.

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**Australian Hockey League Finals Day – Queensland crowned 2010 AHL Champions**

**OAMPS QLD Blades 7 def. NSW Waratahs 1**

Goals – QLD Dwyer 3m FG, Hammond 6m PC, Whetton 29m PC, De Young 41m PC, T. Bates 53m FG, Whetton 62m FG, Wilson 70m PC; NSW Miller 21m FG

The OAMPS Queensland Blades have beaten the NSW Waratahs convincingly to be crowned the 2010 AHL Champions. The win for Queensland is even sweeter having been runners-up for the past two years, and they left nothing to chance with Kookaburras stars Jamie Dwyer and Rob Hammond scoring two early goals in the hope of putting the match away early.

Top goal scorer of the tournament, striker Josh Miller, continued his excellent form scoring NSW's only goal in the 21<sup>st</sup> minute. The momentum however was with the Blades for the entire match, not allowing the Waratahs even a glimpse of the gold medal position.

RDW Photography



A penalty corner in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute saw Blades striker Jacob Whetton score to extend the Blades lead to two going into halftime.

In the second half the Blades continued their dominance pushing the lead out to 6 goals with De Young, Bates, Whetton and Wilson adding a goal each to solidify Queensland's outstanding performance.

With four senior members of the Kookaburras, Liam De Young, Jamie Dwyer, Mark Knowles and Rob Hammond,

the Blades were the team to beat and today proved themselves the worthy recipients of the title, 2010 AHL Champions.

OAMPS Queensland Blades coach Matt Wells said he was thrilled with the victory.

"We were no certainty coming into the week and we had to work hard to get the result," Wells said.

"The boys really put it together in the last two days. We proved we are a team and not just a bunch of guys, which is really pleasing," he said.

"I think we have exposed a couple of guys this year who have had a big involvement in the team," he added.

New South Wales coach Larry McIntosh said the Waratahs were beaten by a better team today but is very pleased with their efforts.

"Full credit to Queensland who were very clinical in all aspects of their performance," McIntosh said.

"We were two goals down within ten minutes of the match and Queensland only continued to build momentum," he said.

"We weren't clinical in the areas that we needed to be today, but it was pleasing to make the grand final," he concluded.