

AUSTRALIA AT THE OLYMPIAD

Summary: The Open Team qualified in 4th place for a Knockout Round of 16 match against Italy, which we will describe here tomorrow. They are the first Australian Team (Open or Women's) ever to qualify from the Round Robin of an Olympiad. The Women came 13th out of 20, and due to Zone 7's performance in this event, Zone 7 will have only one spot in the Venice Cup in 2001 and 2003, making the Final of the next Easter's Zone 7 Women's Championships a more vital match than it has been. The Seniors came 5th of 24 teams, close to the Bronze Medal.

OPEN Team (NPC Denis Howard, players Paul Marston - Stephen Burgess, Peter Newman - Matthew Thomson, Bob Richman - Matt Mullanphy) Qualified 4th of 18 teams behind USA, Netherlands and Russia in Group 2, and move into the Knockout Round of 16.

Round	Opponent	VP Result	Progress Score	Position	Lead By (VPs)	VPs from 5th
O 1	Romania	19-11 win	19	7/18		
P 2	Liecht'n	23-7 win	42	1/18	3	
E 3	C Taipei	22-8 win	64	1/18	4	
N 4	Bangl'h	25-4 win	89	1/18	11	
5	Hungary	22-8 win	111	1/18	18	
6	Nethl'ds	20-10 win	131	1/18	18	
7	Russia	22-8 win	153	1/18	22	
8	USA	12-18 loss	165	1/18	19	
9	Guad'pe	20-10 win	185	1/18	14	32
10	Luxem'g	14-16 loss	199	1/18	4	32
11	Scotl'd	14-16 loss	213	2/18	-7	22
12	Portugal	8-22 loss	221	3/18	-24	9
13	Lebanon	25-5 win	246	2/18	-13	11
14	Finland	9-21 loss	255	4/18	-29	15
15	Monaco	7-23 loss	262	5/18	-42	1 to 4th
16	Greece	23-7 win	285	3/18	-44	15
17	Philipp	20-10 win	305 (av 18)	4/18	-42	22 to 5th

WOMEN'S Team (NPC Seamus Browne, players: Lidia Beech - Margaret Bourke, Felicity Beale - Di Smart, Sue Lusk - Therese Tully)

Did not qualify. Some will probably play in the World Transnational Mixed Teams which starts soon. Others might rest and recall the team's good start.

Round	Opponent	VP Result	Progress Score	Position
W 1	Mexico	17-13 win	17	7/20
O 2	Egypt	25-4 win	42	=3/20
M 3	China	10-20 loss	52	8/20
E 4	Pakistn	25-5 win	77	5/20
N 5	Czech R.	18-12 win	95	3/20
6	Wales	10-20 loss	105	=7/20
7	Argnt'a	16-14 win	121	8/20
8	Germany	14-16 loss	135	6/20
9	France	21-9 win	156	7/20
10	Canada	7-23 loss	163	7/20
11	Poland	4-25 loss	167	9/20
12	Nethds	12-18 loss	179	10/20

Note: The Women played against five of the top six seeds in Rounds 8 to 12.

13	Turkey	4-25 loss	183	12/20	VPs to 10th
14	India	14-16 loss	197	12/20	-----
15	Venez	15-15 draw	212	13/20	7

16	Greece	11-19	loss	223	12/20	13
18	Morocco	16-14	win	239	12/20	12
18	Sth Afr	12-18	loss	251	12/20	no longer relevant
19	Scotld	8-22	loss	259 (av 13.6)	13/20	29 to 10 th , 40 to 8th

SENIORS Team (NPC Bob Evans, players: Ron Klinger - Alan Walsh,
Jim Borin - Bill Haughie, Gabi Lorentz - John Lester)

Gold = USA, Silver = France, Bronze = Sweden (no Finals)

Had we won our last match 20-10 we would have won the Bronze Medal.

Last Australian Medallists at World Champs: 1991 Junior Team. Before that: 1986 World Pairs, 1979 Open Team, 1971 Open Team. Curiously this year's Open and Senior teams include players from all four previous Australian medal-winners (Newman, Mullanphy, Marston, Burgess, Borin).

Round	Opponent	VP	Result	Progress	Score	Position	
S 1	Nethl'ds	14-16	loss	14		13/24	
E 2	Venez'a	20-10	win	34		8/24	
N 3	Belgium	8-22	loss	42		14/24	
I 4	Germany	17-13	win	59		12/24	
O 5	Ireland	22-8	win	81		9/24	
R 6	Italy	19-11	win	100		8/24	
7	Turkey	17-13	win	117		8/24	
8	Canada	17-13	win	134		8/24	
9	Aruba	25-5	win	159		7/24	
10	Egypt	13-17	loss	172		8/24	
11	Wales	25-0	win	197		8/24	
12	Scotl'd	21-9	win	218		8/24	VPs from Bronze Medal
13	San M'o	14-16	loss	232		6/24	-----
14	USA	15-15	draw	247		6/24	10
15	Engl'd	22-8	win	269		4/24	3
16	France	5-25	loss	274		6/24	15
17	Finland	20-10	win	294		=6/24	12
18	Ne Antil	17-13	win	311		6/24	14
19	Czech Rp	17-13	win	328		6/24	13
20	Israel	11-19	loss	339		8/24	14
21	Switzd	24-6	win	363		=5/24	12
22	Poland	23-5	win(fines?)	386		4/24	8, 8.25 VPs from 2 nd
23	Sweden	12-18	loss	398(av 17.3)		5th	14

Notes:

1. NZ Open came =5th/18 in Group 4, 12 VP behind 4th, a very good performance.
2. NZ Women came 14th/20 in Group 1 (their team included Jillian Hay).
Because at least one of Australia & NZ did not finish in top half of Women's, Zone 7 now has only one instead of two spots in 2001 and 2003 Venice Cup.
3. To check out the performance of the Australian Open or Women in ANY MATCH from the Round Robin: go to www.bridgeolympiad.nl/results.html, click on the red Round Number for the result of the match, then click on the red number to the left of Australia's result (giving you the lineups and the scorecard of the match), then click on the red Board Number (on the left) of any hand where the imp turnover is interesting to see the Hand Record of that hand. We would have let you know this earlier had we known about it ourselves.
4. In an interview in Daily Bulletin #1 (page 4), WBF President Jose Damiani was asked: "**The Olympics: what is the latest news?**"
"We have a strategy ... we are working to be present in Salt Lake City, even with a single exhibition match, but our aim is really Turin 2006."
5. In the 1st World University Championship, Austria took the Gold Medal. Vienna

Uni had defeated an Aussie team in the Final of the Online equivalent event earlier this year but we don't know if their players were the same. Italy (with basically the same team that easily won the 1999 World Juniors where Australia came 7th) took the silver here. Although Australia did not send a team to the Maastricht event, Tan Siew Chuan from Tasmania Uni did OK (15th/22 teams) as a member of the Singapore team.

6. Tomorrow = Australia vs Italy (winner plays winner of Brazil vs Indonesia). While Australia is still alive in Olympiad, check this spot.
7. You want to know what the Italians are like? They were expected to win their Group and they did. Lauria-Versace are one of the world's very best pairs. Lauria's record goes back to Italy's halcyon days, and Versace had almost as big a reputation as Helgemo at the World Juniors in the early to mid 1990s. Bocchi-Duboin are highly regarded too. Dano de Falco also was around in the halcyon days of Belladonna and Garozzo. Dano chatted to me at some length in USA during the 1998 Cavendish Teams about the crushing defeat which my team had inflicted on him. Hopefully this is a good omen for Australia because we need all the luck we can get. Stephen Burgess has a chance for revenge as his team was eliminated in the recent Spingold by some other Italians. I don't know Dano's partner Ferraro. Italian teams have a good recent record e.g they won the 1998 Rosenblum Teams in Lille with a sponsor (Angelini) in the team.