

AUSTRALIAN

Lacrosse

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JOURNAL



2008 World Championships

Lacrosse is the most fortunate of all sports in having such a rich and 'romantic' history - the origins of the game from the native Americans on a global scale, and locally the introduction of the game to Australia from 1874 - stories no other sport can match.

The evolution of lacrosse over many centuries to the game we play now has influenced the lives of millions of people and contributed to the culture of communities all over the world.

When we look at the big picture it becomes clear that the game is not simply about a few people running around a field playing catch and throw with a ball and sticks. The skills, demands, challenges of lacrosse contribute to the development of each individual's character. The lessons learned about 'team' are lessons for life skills - not just game skills.

The game has a different role, or is managed in a different way, in different countries where the culture is different. It is most significant in the culture of the originators of the game, represented on the international scene by the Iroquois Nationals. Lacrosse has a significant religious meaning and lacrosse games are still played when people are sick, or to resolve disputes. There is still considerable ritual associated with the game for the Iroquois and this is valued and recognised by the world lacrosse community by the inclusion of the 'tobacco ceremony' at the commencement of World Championship events.

Lacrosse in USA is commonly, though not necessarily correctly considered to be an 'Ivy League' college sport and it is part of the USA National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) program. This results in the game being presented in a very professional way and involves people who are the future professionals and community leaders in the game (the current Mayor of Baltimore was on the USA team which played in the 1974 World Championships in Melbourne).

Like most sports in Australia, lacrosse is managed through clubs which can loosely be termed a 'federal' system with clubs united by the common game of lacrosse, but with a lot of independence for clubs and State Associations. And this system adds great value to the game of lacrosse. The opportunity for personal development through not only playing the game but becoming involved as a volunteer in the coaching, officiating, administration and other facets of the game have been grasped by thousands of people whose lives have been enriched by it.

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to become involved with lacrosse have a responsibility to not only protect the game, but to promote it and ensure that future generations also have the opportunity to enjoy lacrosse.

Lacrosse doesn't just produce good lacrosse players - it produces good citizens.

Malcolm J Stokes
Editor

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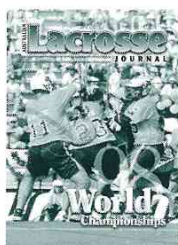
Next Issue:
 Queensland and Tasmania
 at the U15 Tournament
 Deadline for material - Nov. 14, 1998

Apology:
 The editor regrets the error which resulted in the names of three referees being displayed under the wrong photographs on the back cover of the previous issue. This is obviously the best read area of the Australian Lacrosse Journal as it attracted more comment than any article on the other 31.75 pages!



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Front Cover
 1998 World Championships Action



Back Cover
 1998 Under 17 Winners



Australian Sports Commission

*The Australian Lacrosse Council Ltd
 acknowledges the support provided by the Australian Sports Commission.*

1998 Australian Championships Under 17



ALC President's, Blake Taylor, lines up for one of his 16 goals.

Victoria completed the Australian Championships double again in 1998, following up their Senior Championships win in May, with the Under 17 title in July. This was the first time in a number of years that there was no visiting team and an ALC Presidents team was created to provide four participating teams.

This was a close Championships - total goals scored were Victoria 49, WA 45 and South Australia 44. The 22 to 14 Victorian win over SA in the first game was the only Championship game with a result higher than two. And in the Tournament the difference between the ALC President's team and State teams was only once in double digit figures.

Congratulations to the Organising Committee which comprised:

Chairman	Kevin McRae
Secretary	Geoff White
Treasurer	Greg Lund
Billet Co-ordinator	Carolyn Rainey
Work Party Control	John Rose
Catering Co-ordinator	Pam Vallis
Referees Co-ordinator	Ian McRae

The ALC appointed Tournament Director was Helen Keen.

Highest goal scorer was South Australian captain, Leigh Perham (19 goals) with runner-up, Blake Taylor from the ALC President's team with 16 goals.

Results

Championships	Vic	22	def	SA	14
	Vic	12	def	WA	10
	SA	16	def	WA	15
Final:	Vic	15	def	SA	14

Tournament (Championship games plus following)

WA	21	def	ALC Pres	12
SA	30	def	ALC Pres	10
Vic	18	def	ALC Pres	9

Victoria were winners of the Tournament

Referees:

Neville Balfour (Chief Referee), David Ayre, Ian McRae, Keith Chamberlain, Rolf Kraus, Laslo Tiszavolgyi, Greg Harrison, John Toogood.

Australian All Stars Team

From SA:

Justin Casagrande, Leigh Perham, Peter Greenhalgh

From Victoria:

Nick Davies, Rodney Kisar, Luke Moore, Scott Larkins, Josh Sedgwick.

From WA:

Tim Forbes, Sean Clarke, Scott Press, Kim Delfs, Jesse Stack.

Coach:

David Joy (Victoria)

Championship Fairest and Best (Volk Trophy)

Scott Larkins (Victoria)

Tournament Fairest and Best

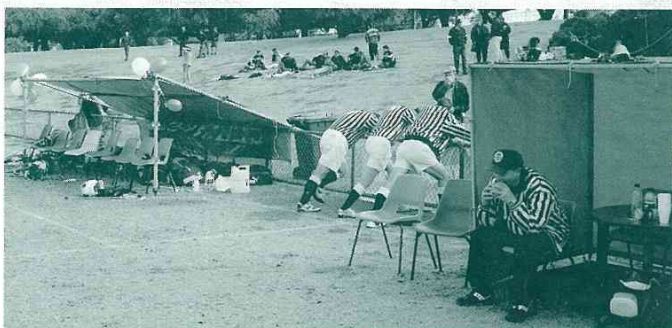
Luke Moore (Victoria)



WA goalkeeper, Tim Forbes, waits for a Victorian shot.



Victorian goalkeeper, David Balfour, has this shot covered.



The running referees stretch their hamstrings while the Chief Bench Official stretches his.....jawbone!



"I'm gettin' out of here!"

A R O U N D The Nation

VICTORIA

Eltham: Positive growth in younger members this year, especially in the Under 11 and Under 13 age group. 1998 season was successful with Under 13s and Under 17s to play off in grand finals and other junior teams competitive throughout the season.

Our senior women's team took out the A reserve trophy for the fifth successive year and our senior men's teams are also in the finals.

Many of our players wore the big "V" this year, and three, the green and gold in Baltimore.

An Eltham touring team of young men aged 16 to 18 years, played 12 games throughout the US, winning nine and drawing two, and then stayed in Baltimore for the World Championship. The highlight of their trip was witnessing the amazing World Championship final played out between the US and Canada, and the naming of Eltham champion, Terry Sparks, in the World Team.

MCC: MCC's State League team has been very competitive in many close games throughout the season. Our second team has been very successful and will play in the Division 2 finals.

Personal milestones have been reached this year by Philip Sherrard and Stan Mellor (both 150 games), Paul McFall (200) and Michael Bridges and Ross

Mason who both passed the 300 mark.

However, the jewels in the MCC Lacrosse crown are the junior Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 grades - all being contenders for the finals.

Robbie Stark earns our congratulations and good wishes on his selection for the Australian team, as does Ken Nichols, who was chosen as Assistant Coach.

We record our appreciation to coaches Paul Mollison (State League) and Brian Hemming (a visiting American player/coach), Michael Bridges (Division 2), Peter Spranaitis (Under 15s), Ian and Geoff Bullock, Ken Nichols and John Neilson (Under 13s) and Gino Iuliano (Under 11s).

Camberwell: Have been working hard on recruitment over the past few years and results are showing. Both Under 13 and Under 15 teams are playing in grand finals. Seniors are also doing well and the State League semi final against Malvern saw Camberwell down 3-12 at half time. A remarkable turnaround saw scores tied 16 all at full time and Brad Ross popped in his fifth consecutive goal during extra time to score a Camberwell victory. Brad had injured his AC joint the previous week and at half time removed the strapping from around his shoulder to put in a gutsy performance for his team. It is no surprise to hear that Brad was instrumental in the Adelphi (USA)

College win to achieve the NCAA Division 2 Championship in May.

Malvern: Last year's premiers finished fourth in State League in 1998 and will have to recruit more players to gain extra depth.

Williamstown: Did very well across the board this year with Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 teams all into grand finals and State League and Division 1 teams also playing off in finals. Williamstown has experienced coaches at all levels and a great depth of playing talent.

Footscray: Have had a reasonably successful year with the Under 17 team just missing out on going through to the grand final and the Division 1 team playing in the preliminary final. Congratulations to Luke Moore who was Captain of the Victorian Under 17 team and won the Australian Under 17 Tournament Fairest and Best Award, and named in the Australian All-Stars team. Footscray Lacrosse Club's intentions are to field a State League team in 1999. The club is interested in hearing from any prospective future players and is accepting coaching resumes up until November 30, 1998. All interested parties should apply in writing to:

The Secretary, Footscray Lacrosse Club, PO Box 43, Kingsville Vic 3012.

Email: scoster@ozemail.com.au



Victorian Australian Under 19 Squad Activities

Members of the squad from Victoria were treated to a nourishing breakfast from chief cook, John Harris, assisted by his wife, Ging, Pam and Ken Read and Lyn Caldwell from Altona Club. An information session and discussion regarding fund raising etc followed. The team to represent Australia in the World Under 19 Championships next year in Adelaide is planned to be named after December trials.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Our resources will be geared towards rejuvenating and establishing junior development programs. The Lacrosse in Schools Committee was established in December and has decided that the long term goal is to establish non-contact lacrosse as a self running school sport. The following goals have been set:

1. Research current practices in schools with regards to teaching of lacrosse. Use this information to target areas for future development.
2. Establish links with Department of Education - School Sport Unit, Department of Sport and Recreation programs, Independent Schools Sport Association, Combined Catholic Schools Sport Association.
3. Market non-contact lacrosse to all schools in Sydney via a schools newsletter.
4. Provide teacher training through conducting Level 0 and 1 courses.
5. Provide training to undergraduate students in human movement courses.
6. Conduct one day lightning carnivals in target school sport competition areas in Sydney.
7. Provide schools with information on purchasing lacrosse equipment and resources and hiring of equipment.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Wembley Lacrosse Club successfully hosted the 1998 Australian Under 17 Championships on behalf of WALA and ALC.

Only three clubs have teams competing in the WALA Under 15 competition so only one team will be competing in the Australian Under 15 Tournament in Melbourne this year in Sept/Oct.

All clubs have a home page established on the internet and WALA has established some protocols and standards for WA lacrosse websites.

The WALA has adopted a Code of Conduct and a large framed copy of the document has been provided to each club for display in clubrooms. The Code of Conduct is as follows:

CODE OF CONDUCT

The WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE ASSOCIATION seeks to provide all players, officials and supporters with a high quality, enjoyable and energetic competition.

It is expected that all involved will display, as their prime objectives, good sportsmanship and fellowship to attain maximum enjoyment, recreation and improvement both physically and socially.

To help achieve these objectives, the Board of Directors has established a CODE OF CONDUCT for ALL to follow.

1. Be an ambassador for LACROSSE at all times.
2. Show a spirit of co-operation in every aspect of the game.
3. Refrain from the use of derogatory and abusive language, especially based on gender, race or ability. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being.
4. Respect those in leadership positions.
5. Be a proper role model to those younger than yourself.
6. Endeavour to develop and improve the sport of lacrosse.

In the Spirit of Fair Play, Players Should Always

Play by the rules.

Never argue with an official. If you disagree, ask your captain or coach to approach the official during a break or after the game.

Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players is not acceptable.

Work equally hard for yourself and for the team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.

Be a sports-person. Acknowledge all good players, whether they are in your team or the opposing team.

Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of others.

Co-operate with your coach, team-mates, officials and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.

Ignore as much as possible any isolated incident of unsporting behaviour you might encounter. Highlighting such behaviour is unproductive and unsporting.

Provided by the Western Australian Lacrosse Foundation

The WALA Modcrosse Interclub Tournament was once again hosted successfully by the Wanneroo Lacrosse Club and included softcrosse, modcrosse and demonstration junior lacrosse games.

The Hedland Modcrosse Club is developing well under the guidance of Grant Moir, and a promising young player is a good prospect for the Under 15 Team from WA to compete in the national tournament.

The Steering Committee for the 2002 World Lacrosse Championships in Perth arranged production of promotional car stickers and also promotional material which was distributed at the 1998 World Championships in Baltimore.

The end of the qualifying rounds saw minor premierships decided. Once again the Bonus Premiership points system has determined which team won the Division 1 Minor Premiership and which teams participate in the Division 1 finals. Clubs which have a team participating in each Junior division (U13, U15 and U17) are eligible for 25% bonus premiership points above the regular 5 points for a win, 3 for a draw, 1 for a loss and 0 for a forfeit for their Division 1 team. Clubs which were not eligible for points the previous year but who increase their junior teams by at least one this year are also eligible for points.

As was the case in 1997, the Subiaco Club were not eligible for bonus premiership points in 1998, and, as a result missed out on the Division 1 Minor Premiership trophy which they would have won had they fielded junior division teams.

In 1997, the Phoenix Club did not field junior teams and missed out on fourth position because they were not eligible for bonus premiership points. This year, Phoenix fielded an Under 13 team, so became eligible for bonus points. The Bayswater Club did not field junior teams in all divisions and so were not eligible for bonus points in 1998 and this has enabled the Phoenix team to claim 4th position on the Division 1 ladder and a place in the finals, ahead of the Bayswater team.

East Fremantle are winners of Division 1 and Under 17 Minor Premierships, Subiaco the Division 2 and Wanneroo the Under 15 and Under 13 divisions. The Under 15 award was very tight

with both teams locked on 55 points and playing against each other in the final qualifying round game - which resulted in a 9 all draw. As Wanneroo had scored two goals more than East Fremantle in games played between those two teams throughout the year, they won the title.

The WALA finals are being played over four weeks at Rosalie Park, hosted by the Subiaco Club on behalf of WALA.

The 1998 WALA Awards Presentation is to be conducted at the Bayswater Lacrosse Club on Wednesday, September 16 at 7.30pm.

QUEENSLAND

As the southern States are slowing down we in Queensland are still going strong and are looking forward to our next season being a twilight competition which is perfect for our warm balmy nights.

Our Under 15 team for the nationals in Victoria is proceeding well but still the players need to put a lot more hard work together.

Our Caboolture and Camira teams are getting on well together and are looking forward to going to the nationals.

I would also like to say that trip would not be possible without a very dedicated bunch of parents who have run raffles, car washes and anything else possible to raise money for this trip south.

Our Indoor Competition is still going strong with some of our younger players making up their own team and making the older players run a bit harder for their teams.

Men's and women's has arrived at a stage where there is no competition at the moment but with a few changes we should be able to stimulate some interest again.

Paradise 2000 is well on the way to being a great success again this year.

So if you haven't got a team together or you need a team to play with give Ray Trevaskis a call and he will help you into a team. (See telephone numbers as follows.)

Remember Paradise 2000 is Indy time and will be played at the Broadbeach

Soccer Club from October 8-11. Registration is \$75 for participants, \$45 for supporters. For more information contact Ray Trevaskis or Kym Hudson on tel: 0418 727 266 or 07 5495 5088. So come to the Gold Coast, play lacrosse, watch the Indy and party on.

TASMANIA

During June, Jorge Menidis, from Victoria and Rex Wigney, the ALC Development Officer based in Queensland, spent one week in Hobart conducting a special recruiting project. ALC President, Doug Fox, also visited Hobart for an evening meeting and participated in one day of the recruiting program.

Although it was a cold wet week, and being mid-term was not ideal for recruiting, new players secured have enabled Tasmania to conduct a four team Under 13 boys competition and a 4-6 team girls Under 13 competition.

Parents are being encouraged to take a leadership role in the junior program with good results and Tasmania will be represented in the Under 15 Australian Tournament to be held in Melbourne commencing September 27. This is a first - and a positive development in the history of Tasmanian lacrosse.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

With only a week to go before the minor round concludes, it appears that traditional foes West Torrens and Woodville will face-off for the grand final. Sturt will finish in third position and the big fight is for fourth position.

Glenelg who in the past has been strong finals contenders may miss out on fourth position unless fortune favours them. Burnside the big improvers for 1998 has a real chance of making their first finals appearance in over five years.

The women's finals sees Glenelg retain their minor premiership by one point this year, with Brighton finishing second. University of South Australia, back in the competition for the first time this year, finished third whilst Uni Eagles round out the final four on a goal difference over Sturt with whom they tied.

In both grand finals the heavy tipping will be on West Torrens and Glenelg to continue their dominance.

Lacrosse SA is on the Move

Come some time in October, Lacrosse SA will move its headquarters into the new \$300,000 plus clubrooms at Glenelg Lacrosse Club.

The move will see Lacrosse SA with its own office and boardroom facilities, and the use of the clubrooms to entertain corporate sponsors.

The Glenelg clubrooms are also the venue of the 1999 World Under 19 Championship, Senior and Under 17 Australian Championships, and the Under 15 Australian Tournament to be held in South Australia in July. Accommodation for 300 people is available for teams and is located only 100 metres from the ground.

Lacrosse SA Awards Night

This gala event will be held at Unley Sports Centre, Oxford Street, Unley on September 16, starting at 7.00pm. Tickets are \$25 per head and numbers are strictly limited to 200 people. Contact Eric Freeman at the LSA office for tickets.

Premiership Table as at August 22, 1998

League	W	L	D	G+	G-	Pts
West Torrens *	17	2		312	151	34
Woodville	14	5		309	170	28
Sturt	10	8	1	262	241	21
Burnside *	6	13		223	334	12
Glenelg	5	13	1	206	263	11
Brighton	3	14	2	156	309	8

(* West Torrens deducted 2 pts. Burnside gained 2 pts.)

Reserves

East Torrens						
Payneham	16	1		238	66	32
North Adelaide	13	3	1	177	132	27
West Torrens	11	6		201	129	22
Sturt *	10	7		190	171	20
Glenelg *	10	7		152	184	20
University	8	9		99	169	16
Brighton	7	10		111	188	14
Woodville	6	10	1	126	137	13
Burnside	3	14		102	220	6

* Sturt 4th on goal average

B grade

Southern						
Districts	16	1		350	120	32
Woodville	13	4		219	135	26
North Adelaide	11	6		252	168	22
Glenelg	9	7	1	173	201	19
East Torrens						
Payneham	5	11	1	143	217	11
Sturt	2	15		87	308	4
Burnside *	1	6		16	91	2

* Burnside withdrew

Under 17

Brighton	14	1		218	102	28
West Torrens	14	1		220	67	28
Glenelg	11	4		158	95	22
Burnside	8	7		140	121	16
Sturt	6	9		85	145	12
East Torrens						
Payneham	5	10		54	190	10
Woodville	2	13		54	209	4

Under 15

East Torrens						
Payneham	13	1	1	151	55	27
Brighton	13	1	1	177	87	27
West Torrens	11	4		239	87	22
Burnside	9	6		116	85	18
Glenelg	7	8		99	122	14
Sturt	4	11		65	165	8
St Michaels	2	13		21	267	4

Under 13

Glenelg	14	1		348	49	28
North Adelaide	14	1		257	90	28
Burnside	9	6		179	99	18
West Torrens	9	6		181	143	18
Brighton	7	8		161	194	14
Sturt	4	11		87	211	8
East Torrens						
Payneham	2	13		58	247	4
Mitcham	1	14		58	296	2

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“...When a Plan Comes Together”

Ray Shannon, former administrator of Eltham Lacrosse Club, and Junior Co-ordinator of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, was the architect of the junior program which began in 1980, and introduced many hundreds of young people to our game. Many willing workers helped to achieve the results at junior level, that Ray and his committee had predicted in their forward planning (five and ten year plans!). The Eltham State League team will play in the 1998 VLA grand final for the first time in the 35 year history of the club; 18 years since the junior program commenced and ten years after being accepted into the State League fixtures.

For those interested how in 1979 one small struggling club, Eltham, pulled itself out of near extinction (ie it had only one Division 3 senior team and one Under 16 junior team) to being one of the largest and overall strongest lacrosse clubs around, here are a few tips on what they did.

They concentrated a large part of the club's resources (both financial and manpower) on recruitment and development of juniors, eg:

- a) established an annual local primary schools competition to run in the lacrosse pre-season and from which most of its players were recruited;
- b) over time outlaid a significant amount of money in acquiring the necessary amount of gear and playing equipment to run large numbers of juniors;
- c) lifted the profile and involvement of junior awards to a showcase event that would impress both players and parents of the professionalism of the club.
- d) recognising that young kids initially play sport for many reasons, the club funded and organised regular non-lacrosse and social events for their junior teams (eg: sleep overs, pie nights and camps). A specific event that has both bonded players and many parents has been the overseas touring teams that have mixed both a playing roster and social/cultural events;
- e) recognising that to win over new youngsters to your sport you first need to win over the parent(s). Club officials realised that they needed to spend much time nurturing the interest of parents if they were to gain their confidence and respect and therefore their child to your sport;
- f) established a club standard that was built on all teams being treated relatively equal and that the club was for all, not just the elite. (Whilst aiming to achieve the highest status possible on the field, it was not to be at the expense of lesser able players or teams. These people may very well be the backbone of the club AND they deserve to feel part of any club triumphs.)

ensure its survival but its longevity and secondly, through building a larger base of junior players, improve the quality of its teams (ie, the simple pyramid principle - the higher the level you aspire for the pyramid, the wider the base at the bottom). To achieve this large base of juniors the club pursued recruiting strategies such as encouraging grades 3 and 4 (9 and 10 year olds) to join in and it gave them competition at their age level. By attracting players in this age level it was then better able to interest athletes to our game before they had become fully committed to another sport (note: this is often the case for boys by the time they are 11 or 12 years old).

Some useful points to consider if you are wanting to grow your club's junior program are:

1. Carefully nurture contacts with schools because you will be competing for their time or help with many other sports, some much bigger and with paid recruiting officers. You can overcome this by the personal touch and by being part of the local community, but you MUST be reliable and work within the school standards, and no matter how much the school might disappoint you, you must keep smiling and try again.
2. Wherever possible, try to locate your club grounds for the introductory ages as close to the schools as possible. You are bound to be more successful in recruiting reluctant parents if travel and trouble for them is minimised. (Once the kid is hooked, then it will not matter how far away your ground is, they will convince mum or dad it's all worth it.)
3. Show the young players and their parents that you value each one of them. Give them all a small reward on Presentation Night. Try not to have "A" and "B" teams at the junior levels. No one wants to have their young prodigy labelled a dud at age 12!! In any case how can you tell who will be a champion when so many other factors besides talent or size come in to play at senior level (eg: guts, application and determination to name a few).
4. Whilst winning is great (winners are grinners), do not over emphasise it at the young junior levels. Make the effort put in by the player or team what you value, not the result. Remember many kids initially play sport to be with their friends or peers, not to help a coach or a club to put another trophy on their mantelpiece, so don't turn them, or their parents, off the game or the club before they get hooked on it. As the child gets older, the winning philosophy or competitiveness will come out anyway, so let them enjoy now.

Hope this helps those looking for ideas or reinforces the views of others that they are on the right track.

The motive of the above approach was not altruism, but firstly to grow the club numbers so that not only did this



The team - all formal like!

'THE WORLDS'

1998 in Baltimore

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland USA
July 16-26, 1998

Kate Cox is a professional journalist/photographer who, through her employment with JP Publications, was engaged to report on the 1998 World Lacrosse Championships. Kate joined the Australian Team in Washington and "lived" with them till the end of the Championships. She sent media releases on all games to a wide range of media and lacrosse contacts throughout Australia.

Kate completed her Bachelor of Communications in 1996, and after a variety of freelance work and a traineeship at the Sydney Morning Herald, has been Assistant Editor at JP Publications since March, 1997. Since returning to Australia she has been recruited by the Sun Herald Newspaper and will be involved in reporting on the Olympic Games.

Kate had no previous experience with lacrosse and has done a great job in reporting on this event, becoming an avid lacrosse fan in the process, indicating her willingness to continue reporting on lacrosse matters. This is how Kate saw the Worlds in 1998.

It's a fast, high scoring, team game. It takes finesse, skill and speed to excel. It's an addictive sport, passed down through generations. It has something no other sport has: the centuries old Native American heritage. And Australian players are among the world's top lacrosse performers.



The tour starts with a practice game against the Capital team.

After two years of meticulous, tough preparations, the Australian Sharks arrived in the USA to contest the world's biggest lacrosse event. The confident team was hoping to better their number two world ranking, with many of the players stating that this was to be their last championship campaign. It was never going to be easy.



Iroquois Chief, Oren Lyons, ready for the tobacco ceremony at the Opening of the World Championships

World champions the United States had been billed as a lacrosse "dream team", filled with experienced national stars. Coach Bill Tierney had told US media he could have fielded 10 competitive world championship teams with the players that had turned up to trial.



Two gold players / dancers were a feature of the Opening



The teams and band parade for the Opening

More than 200,000 Americans play lacrosse and the NCAA Division I Championships attract more than 100,000 lacrosse enthusiasts. Indoor, or "box" lacrosse, players in the National Lacrosse League earn an average of \$10,000 per season (January to April). The sport - high school, collegiate, club, NLL (National Lacrosse League) - is televised on every major regional cable sports network in the United States. Lacrosse is regularly featured in publications throughout the country and there are a number of high-circulation magazines devoted entirely to lacrosse. Teams attract masses of high-profile sponsors. For the Sharks to match this force would be something special.

Canada, still reeling from their agonisingly close loss to the Sharks in the 1994 World Championship semi final in Manchester, were determined to take revenge. On paper, their team looked intimidating, with twins Paul and Gary Gait - arguably the best lacrosse players in history - joining big names like Tom Marechek, John Tavares and goalie Chris Sanderson.

Lacrosse is the official summer sport of Canada, with more than 200,000 men and women participants of all ages. But the Sharks had beaten them before and could do so again.

The Iroquois Nation were a much-improved team, with more than half the team spending the lacrosse season playing with top US and Canadian



These well dressed officials enjoyed the Opening Reception - Terry Culley, Dennis Mulroney, Peter Knight and Brad Scibak from Canada

They came to soak up the atmosphere of the home of lacrosse. They came to witness 300 dedicated world players and thousands of lacrosse-mad fans. Basically, they came to live, breathe and eat lacrosse.

From the outset, it was obvious that these championships were something special. Companies worked day and night to set up trade booths, which became one massive tent city. Newspapers, clothing, telephones, equipment, food, posters and beer were all on offer at this giant fair. You could make a free phone call, listen to bands, record the speed of a shot at goal, get autographs signed.

teams. As usual, they had their sentimental passion for the sport on their side as well.

It was rumoured that the England team had come to America with one aim: to defeat the Sharks. Like the Australians, they had an energetic and vocal support base and were determined not to go down lightly to their traditional antagonists.

It was unanimously agreed that this was the most competitive world games in history. The Sharks were ready.

Many had toured the USA in 1996 in preparation for these championships. The team had completed three training camps at the Adelaide Police Academy and spent two weeks before the championships attending training clinics and playing top US teams. Not only did these matches help the team acclimatise and get used to playing at a top level, but they enabled head coach John Denic and assistant coaches Ken Nichols and Kevin Sheehan to establish preferred midfield strings and defence and attack lines. They also helped increase confidence, with the Sharks working well together to take a clean sweep of all preliminary games (against Capital Lacrosse Club, Tobay All Stars and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes).

But the tour wasn't just about men running around on a lacrosse field.

Every team member made huge sacrifices just to get to Baltimore, and it wasn't merely to play top level lacrosse.



And the Aussie crowd goes wild!!



The team meetings



Physiotherapist, Lisa Hutchinson, was busy keeping them on the track

A loyal group of Sharks fans travelled to Baltimore from all around the globe to watch the team play. More than 200 had purchased official supporters club tickets, with 70 buying a package which also entitled them to Sharks merchandise, a “meet the players” supporters party and tickets to the Presentation Banquet. They were not merely there for a good time, but provided essential support to players both on and off the field.

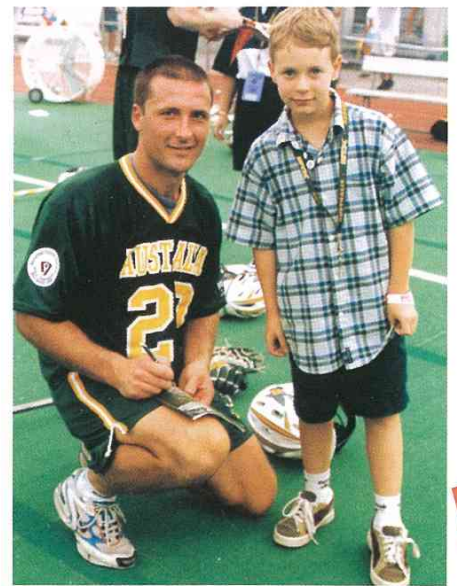
Official Australian Team support crew included a masseur, physiotherapist, three managers, four referees, three coaches plus the Executive Director. Sharks team manager, Sue Gandy summed up the feeling of the support

team nicely. “We love it here, but it’s hard,” she said. “We’d love to be out there playing, scoring the goals, making the saves. It’s so hard to just watch and not play. But the standard is so high and it’s fantastic to be part of that.”

At one point during the Sharks game against the USA, the scores were locked and the Aussie supporters were going wild. Their cheering easily drowned out those of the typically patriotic American crowd. As a group of Sharks fans tangoed around the field waving a banner and chanting “Aussie! Aussie! Aussie!, Oi! Oi! Oi!”, Executive Director Allan “Barney” Frederick turned excitedly to me. “This is what the sport of lacrosse is all about!,” he yelled, his face glowing, his eyes alight.

The crowd did go quiet at one point in the championship. This was during the very special opening ceremony, when chief Oren Lyons introduced the lacrosse community to the tobacco ceremony, a traditional ritual that has much spiritual significance for native Americans. Chief Lyons is a legend not only in lacrosse circles, but in the wider world of world politics. He is highly regarded as a wise and tactful diplomat and his advice is regularly sought from the US President down.

Lacrosse must be one of the most friendly and social sports in the world. Perhaps this is because of its noble beginnings. How could a game traditionally played by native American Indians to help their medicine man cure the sick fail to be anything else but special?



Brad Skepper signs an autograph for an admirer



The Supporters dinner with the team was enjoyed by all



It's all go behind the scenes - 'waterboy' Managers, Craig Wilson and Sue Gandy prepare for the break while the TV camera catches the action.

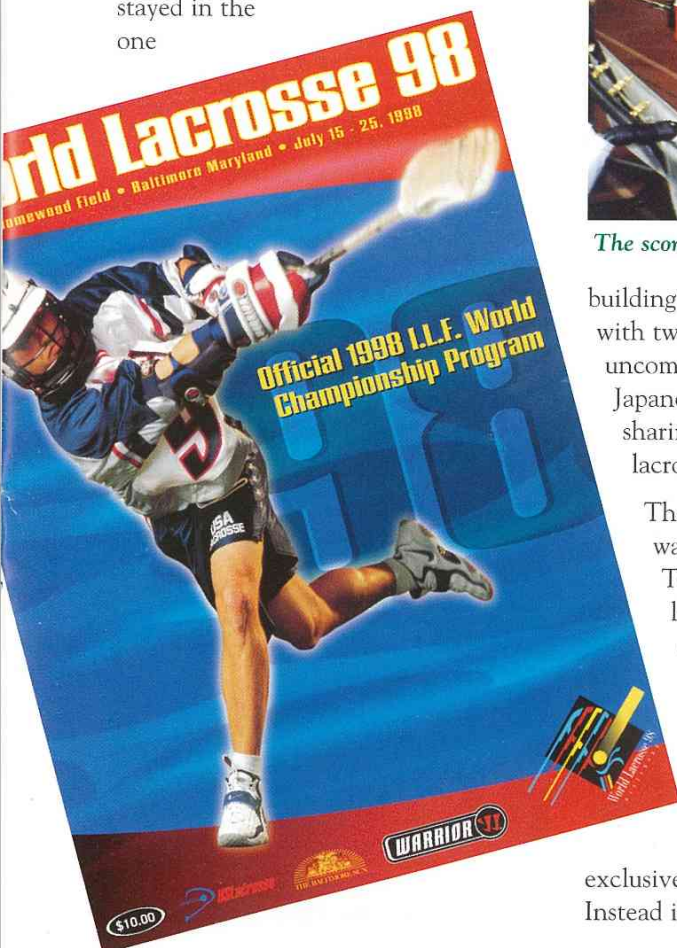
countries trading war stories and jokes, swapping shirts, exchanging addresses. The prevailing feeling was of togetherness.

Lacrosse is special precisely because of its most oft quoted weakness - the fact that it is fairly small on the world scene (especially in Australia, where it barely competes with the mass marketed sports of rugby, football and cricket). Yet, the people the sport attracts mean that growth and expansion will never alter this endearing aspect. Lacrosse players are passionate about their sport. They love the costumes, the smells, the plays. They pore over videos and analyse statistics. They can talk about it day and night. They live and breathe lacrosse.

Opposing players are rivals on the field, but would do anything for one another off the field. The international friendships formed mean that no Sharks team member will ever have to stay in an international hotel again. They have made everlasting friends around the world. The experience gained and knowledge learned from playing elite lacrosse can never be underestimated. All eleven world teams stayed in the one



The scoreboard shows 7 each into the 3rd quarter and the USA bench is a little concerned



building at Johns Hopkins University, with two teams per floor. It was not uncommon to find Americans, Japanese, Czechs, Welsh and Swedes sharing a lift, comparing notes on lacrosse in their country.

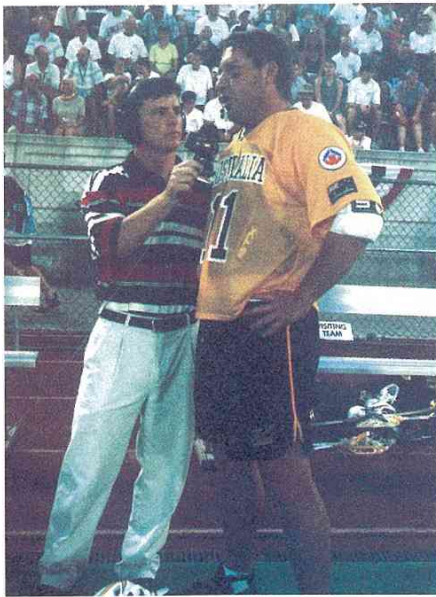
Then there was the beer tent that was the central point of tent city. Televisions showed competitive lacrosse matches and daily championship scores were scribed on large blackboards behind the bar. But there was no atmosphere of rivalry. It was rare to find teams sectioned off in their own corner, talking exclusively to their fellow teammates. Instead it was common to find rival

And they spend masses of money to play, coach and officiate it. Here's why.

GAME ONE: Australia vs Iroquois, July 16

Initially surprised by the improvement of a passionate Iroquois team in the four years since they had previously met, the Sharks began slowly. But a concerted effort from most valuable player of the game Jamie Buchanan (who scored three goals in as many minutes) and top-scorer Nathan Roost, enabled the Sharks to rally.

Down 3-4 after the first quarter, their strong defence and "never-say-die" attitude allowed them to claw their way back to 6-5 at half time. They never looked back from there, outscoring the



Goalkeeper/Captain, Murray Keen, explains it to the television audience

Iroquois Nation in all areas and eventually decisively taking the game 13-9.

But they had Head Coach John Denic looking nervous for a while! "We

Darren Gibson, James Inge, Darren Nicholas, Gordon Purdie, David Spreadborough) d Iroquois 9 (Rex Lyons 2, Scott Burnham 2, Owen Benedict 2, Matthew Alexander, Cory Bomberry, Neal Powless).

match locker room chats.

Goalie Murray Keen was well-deserved man of the match, strutting some of the stuff that made him 1990 All World goalie. He made a massive 14 saves and was consistently aggressive in



The "Super Masters" pose after the game



Assistant Coach, Ken Nichols, has the ear of the defence

lacked a bit of discipline and I'd rather we won by more, but overall I'm happy," Denic said after the game. Iroquois captain Tony Gray praised the skills of the Australian team. "We weren't expecting to win but we were glad to be so competitive for a while. We tried to play their type of game and hold the ball on them, but in the end they were just too good."

Results: Australia 13 (Nathan Roost 4, James Buchanan 3, John Brewer,

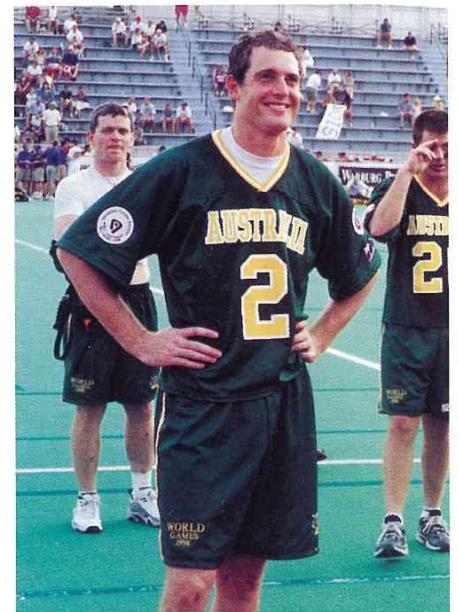
defence. Many frustrated US attack players gave away penalties for crease violations.

With many Australian supporters still to arrive, the Sharks support group made up less than 200 of the 6519 crowd. Yet the vocal campaigners in the brightly decorated D block proved the Aussies were not going to go away. They sang, they chanted, they heckled, they laughed.

GAME TWO:

Australia vs United States, July 17

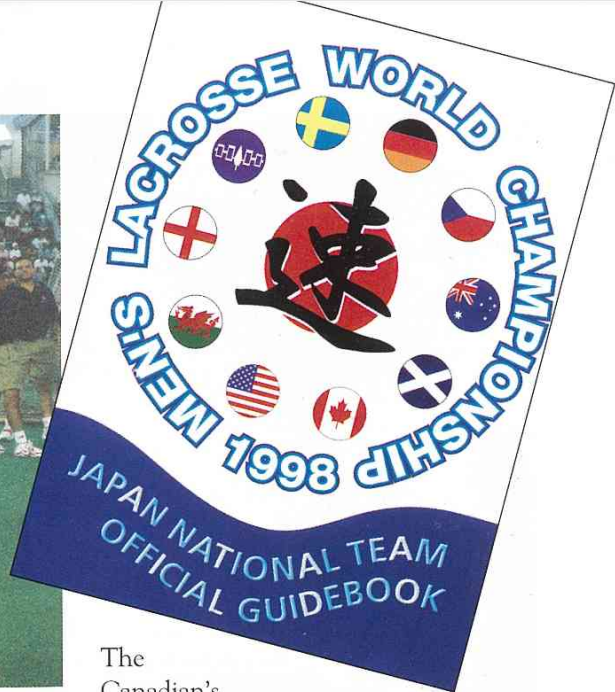
The Sharks proved they could take it to the American "dream team", going goal-for-goal in the first two quarters, before collapsing in the final half and going down 10-13. Despite the three goal deficit, John Denic, Kenny Nichols and Kevin Sheehan were on a high after the game. So were most of the team. "We can easily take these guys," was a common theme of the post



Australian defender, Terry Sparks, was named in the 1998 World Team



The "support" team - back row: Allan Frederick, John Denic, Craig Wilson, Roger Attenborough, Gary Mortimer, Ken Nichols, Kevin Sheehan. Front row: Lisa Hutchinson, Sue Gandy, Raelene Sutton



The Sharks had 75% of possession and led the game on a number of occasions, but became disorganised in the final quarter and allowed the USA to convert transition and extra man opportunities into goals. The Sharks had the next day off to work on a few points this game had exposed.

Results: USA 13 (Mark Millon 4, Ryan Wade 2, Michael Watson 2, David Curry, Jesse Hubbard, Darren Lowe, Tim Soudan, Brian Voelker) d Australia 10 (Nathan Roost 3, John Brewer, Kim Gillespie, Scot Griffin, Peter Inge, Matt Windsor, Darren Nicholas, Gordon Purdie).

GAME THREE:

Australia vs Canada, July 19

Amazingly, this grudge match attracted 1000 more spectators than the US/Australia game, and the crowd was not disappointed.

After their previous solid game against the world champions, the Sharks came out firing, with Robbie Stark scoring in the first 45 seconds of the game. The two quality teams then traded goals, until, with the Sharks in the lead 3-2, Canadian midfielder Fred Jenner made a fast break to score with just one second left in the first quarter. This goal led to a crucial change in Canada's offensive attitude. They won six out of seven face-offs and quickly answered James Inge's early second quarter goal with five consecutive goals, to go into half time 8-4.

Coming into the third quarter, top-scorer (with five goals) John Grant dodged skilfully to take Canada to a five goal lead. However, the Sharks answered immediately, with Darren Nicholas scoring two goals and Scot Griffin a third with just three seconds left on the clock. James Buchanan continued his impressive form of previous games, scoring early in the fourth, but it was not enough.

The Canadian's fierce determination to avenge their one goal semi final loss of 1994 was witnessed by their eight penalty send-offs. However, the Sharks were able to convert just two of these into goals. Eventually these missed goals and lost extra man opportunities saw the Sharks go down 12-9.

John Denic praised the fast, tight Australian defence, which did not allow Canadian legends Paul and Gary Gait into the game, but was disappointed with the great amount of



After it is all over

The Sharks displayed steady defence and fast turnovers, but were frustrated at the net, taking a massive 38 shots at goal, 23 of which were saved by the impressive goalie, Chris Sanderson (later named in the 1998 World Team).

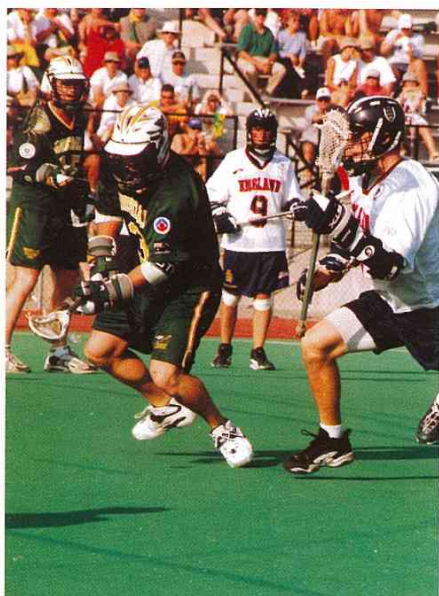
lost chances. "We were so close to grabbing it - we had all the chances but we didn't know how to do it. When the boys look at the tape they are going to hurt with every shot they took because they had so many chances."



Take off - a shot away against USA

Gordon Purdie summed up the feeling of the team after the game, describing it as an “emotional letdown”.

Results: Canada 12 (John Grant 5, Fred Jenner 3, John Tavares 2, Gary Gait, Del Halladay) d Australia 9 (Darren Nicholas 2, James Buchanan, Kim Gillespie, Scot Griffin, James Inge, Gordon Purdie, Nathan Roost, Robbie Stark).



Under pressure from England

GAME FIVE:

Australia vs England, July 20

The Sharks cruised into the semi final by comfortably disposing of England 11-6. England needed to defeat Australia by at least three goals for a spot in the semi finals ahead of the Iroquois Nation. But more important

for them was their pride – they were very keen to beat their traditional sporting rivals.

The game was a fun one at all levels. While some good-natured heckling was occurring on the field, it so happened that the English supporters were occupying the upper half of the Aussie support stand. Never shy of a chant or two, the Pommie fans went chant-for-chant with the Aussies, making the match a musical (not necessarily tuneful) event.

Despite intense heat and high humidity, the Sharks never let up, taking 43 shots, winning 31 ground balls (compared to England's 16) and clearing 18 of 19 loose balls. From Nathan Roost's first sharp goal in the initial 30 seconds of the match until his fourth in the final 30 seconds, the Sharks were never troubled by England, who did not win a Division I game these championships (something that apparently has a large impact on their government funding).

After a slow start the Sharks went into half time up by just two goals at 4-2. But a quick run of goals in the middle of the third quarter allowed the Sharks to take a five goal lead, which they held onto in the final quarter.

In what head coach John Denic described as “the start of a great Australian lacrosse career”, the youngest player of the championships, 18-year-old Victorian, Thomas Garnsworthy, scored his first world

championship goal, rolling dramatically to get past the US-based English goalie, Brian Carcaterra (just 19 years of age himself). Another impressive goal came from defence Michael Wann - scoring after a steal and pass from Mark Mangan.

Centres Robbie Stark and Peter Inge were key players in the Sharks victory, winning 60 per cent of face-offs.



The shot's away!

Denic again praised the Sharks defence, particularly in-form goalie Murray Keen, who made 18 saves. “It’s good to send England home without a win,” he joked. “It was a workman-like performance but there were still too many missed goals and slow turnovers.”

Results: Australia 11 (Nathan Roost 4, James Buchanan 2, Thomas Garnsworthy, Scot Griffin, Peter Inge, Mark Mangan, Michael Wann) d England 6 (Paul Fullerton 2, Steve Morley, Alex Mitchell, Colin Carr, Phil Lynch)

GAME SIX:

SEMI FINALS – Australia vs Canada

In the most upsetting match of the Australian campaign, the courageous Sharks lost the semi final to Canada 15-11.

But they went down fighting, coming back from 10-2 (10-4 at half time), scoring five quick goals to make the score 10-7 and winning the second half 7-5. But it wasn't enough to take the game out.

"It hurts," said a depressed John Denic. "There's a lot of sore, sad and sorry boys out there now. "But they've got nothing to be ashamed of. They can hold their heads high, in the way they conducted themselves on and off the field. No one can doubt our character and our will. Their traditional Aussie fighting spirit resurrected and redeemed us to come back from behind."

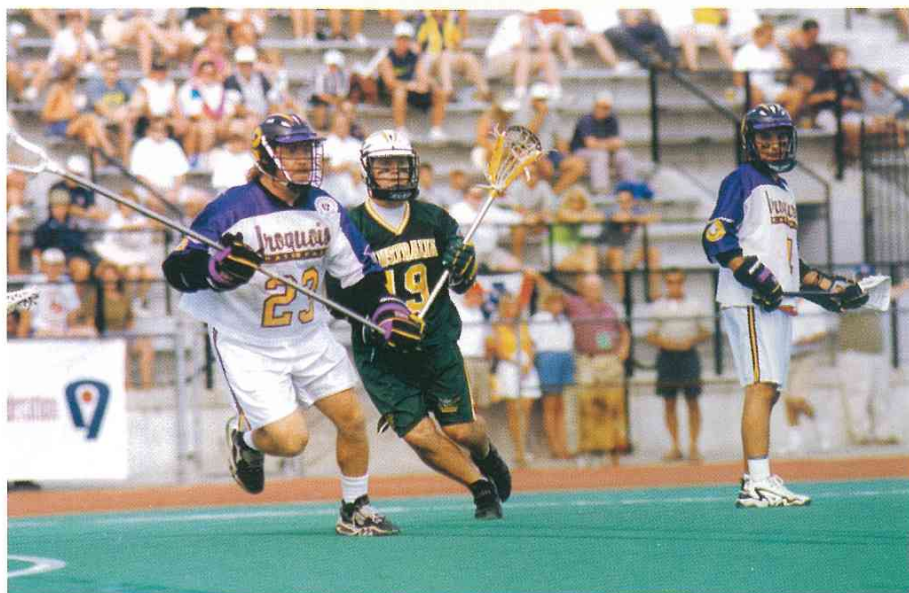


Fine balance - and a big stretch for the English goalie!

The Sharks showed moments of brilliance, such as Gordon Purdie's early run through defence for an unassisted goal and Chris Warren's three goals. A fearless Australian defence lineup did an impressive job, forcing the confident Canadian attack to fight for every goal.



One that got away



Nathan Roost around the goals against the Iroquois

But the Sharks only took possession of 25 ground balls (compared to Canada's 41) and had few shots at goal (28 compared to Canada's 41).

On Canada's side, the famous 31-year-old Gait twins, Gary and Paul, playing in probably their final world championship, scored four goals between them, former Syracuse standout Tom Marechek scored two goals and assisted five, while indoor all-star John Tavares scored three goals and assisted two.

Results: Canada 15 (John Tavares 3, Gary Gait 3, John Grant 2, Chris Gill 2, Tom Marechek 2, Paul Gait, Tom Phair, Steve Govett) d Australia 11 (Chris Warren 3, Peter Inge 2, Darren Nicholas 2, James Buchanan, Scot Griffin, Mark Mangan, Gordon Purdie).

GAME SEVEN: CONSOLATION FINAL

After losing their semi final match to the USA 24-4, Iroquois were looking to regain some pride. But so were the Sharks, who had seen their world number two ranking slip away and did not want to fall further.

Although they were down 2-4 in the first quarter, they never looked like losing and allowed just one goal in the final three quarters. Relaxed but determined, they displayed some of the best quality lacrosse of the championship.

"We all know in our hearts how hard we tried and how close we came to winning the championship," an inspired Ken Nichols said after the game. "But the team were out there to just enjoy the game and it payed off."

Stylish performances from an organised attack team sealed the win. Most valuable player, Chris "Rabbit" Warren, was awe-inspiring, scoring four goals and assisting another two, while East Fremantle teammate Matthew Schomburg was also impressive, winning many face offs and making several fast breaks to assist and score goals.

US-based Hobart College scholarship player Nathan Roost scored three goals to take his championship tally to an impressive 15 - despite being marked tightly. Greg Moore also stood out, scoring two polished goals from his position as defence.



Coach, John Denic, "minding" Manager, Sue Gandy, at the Presentation Banquet

Four time world championship Australian team member, co-captain Darren Gibson, 34, announced after the game that this tournament would be his last. "In 14 years of touring, this is the best group of guys I've ever been away with," he said. "The friendships that have developed and strengthened over the past few weeks will last forever. It was a pretty special time, a good time to call it quits."

the score to 13-13 at full time. 109 shots were taken at goal. The win – in front of 11,000 enthusiastic fans, took the USA's world championship record to 26 consecutive wins and 55 wins to one loss (at the hands of Canada in the world championships in England in 1978).

Results: Australia 17 (Chris Warren 4, Nathan Roost 3, Scot Griffin 2, Greg Moore 2, James Buchanan, Paul Cook, Thomas Garnsworthy, Matthew Schomburg, Robbie Stark, Michael Wann) d Iroquois 5 (Scott Burnam 2, Dan Burnam, Rex Lyons, Gewas Schindler).

New York and the 1994 World Championships in Manchester, England. He has played in the State League since he was 16-years-old, and played four State and seven National series. His next goal is the 2002 World Championships in Perth.

"Lacrosse is my life, all my friends are there," he said. "It's my home away from home. Even though I've played very well during the tour, I wasn't expecting to be honoured. It was overwhelming and even a bit embarrassing to be named in the team with people like Tom Marechek and the Gait brothers. They're



A hard to shut-out Gait takes Australia on

THE AWARDS CEREMONY

Terry Sparks was the only Australian named in the prestigious All World lacrosse team, which features the top players in each position, selected by representatives from each of the 11 countries that participated in the World Lacrosse Championships.

The talented defender from Montmerency, Victoria, played superbly all week – "minding" the world's top players (such as the Gait brothers, John DeTommaso).

He joined Eltham Lacrosse club 15 years ago after the game was introduced to his school.

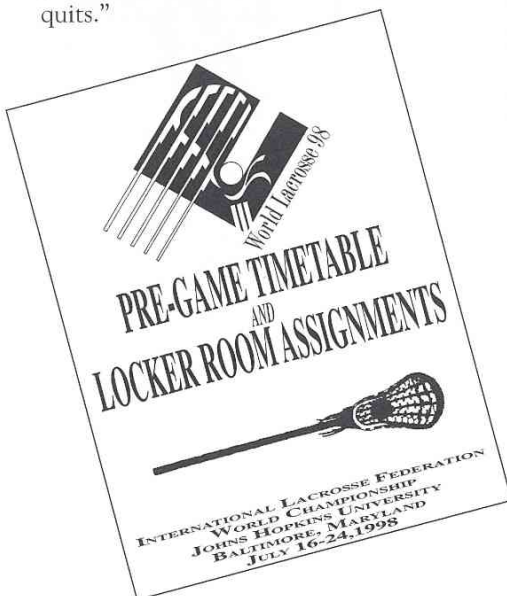
The 26-year old cabinet maker represented Australia at the 1992 Under 19 World Championships in

professionals, they get paid to play. Hopefully my win will give Eltham a lot more exposure and give the juniors something to strive for."

John Denic received the spirit of lacrosse award for Australia.

Other world team members were: Chris Sanderson, Canada (best goalkeeper); Brian Voelker, USA (best defender); Darren Lowe, USA; David Morrow, USA; Rodney Tapp, Canada; Ryan Wade, USA (best and fairest), Mark Millon, USA (best attack); Gary Gait, Canada (best midfielder) and Tom Marechek, Canada.

When Ryan Wade was named World best and fairest, the Sharks cheered him as if he were their own (some say they cheered louder than his USA



The USA beat Canada 15-14 in one of the most exciting grand finals in world championship history. After being down 11-1 in the third quarter and needing seven goals in seven minutes to take the game to sudden death, Canada put up a spirited fight, scoring nine goals in the final quarter to take

teammates). "We taught him everything!" yelled the Subiaco men, claiming him after two seasons spent playing with the top WA club.

Although three Australians (Chris Brown, Gordon Purdie and Steve Mounsey) were named in the team at the last championships in Manchester, England, many players and officials believed this was the best Australian lacrosse team to compete in the world championships.

RED DIVISION

The 1998 tournament field increased by five nations since the games were last played in 1994. The Czech Republic, Germany, Scotland, Sweden and Wales joined Japan to make up the Red Division pool.

Although passionate about, and devoted to, the sport of lacrosse, Red Division teams were a little more laidback. They were also overwhelmed by the support lacrosse attracts in the US. Most of the Red Division teams receive no government assistance, sponsorship or support.

In Sweden, for example, there are less than 200 lacrosse players. Despite this, they competed extremely well, winning two and losing four closely fought matches to finish fifth.

Early standout performers were Japan, who had the heaviest schedule of the championships – seven tiring games in seven days. However, unused to such a workload, the Japanese were unable to hold out until the end, eventually finishing third in the Red Division teams. They remained competitive against the Iroquois Nation, going down by three goals to finish 9-12, but this late game took a lot out of them. They lost 4-5 to Germany in the semi finals the next morning and 9-10 in overtime to Scotland in the playoffs, despite decisive wins against both teams in the preliminary rounds. Germany were Red Division winners, with Scotland runners up.

Stay tuned for the 2002 world games in Perth, with Korea, China, Finland and Argentina all aiming to field national teams.

World Championship Match Results

Day 1	Japan 10	Scotland 7
	Germany 14	Czech 10
	Sweden 7	Wales 6
	Australia 13	Iroquois 9
	Canada 18	England 9
Day 2	Germany 16	Wales 9
	Scotland 13	Sweden 7
	Japan 11	Czech 3
	Iroquois 10	England 9
	USA 13	Australia 10
Day 3	Czech 8	Wales 6
	Japan 10	Sweden 3
	Germany 12	Scotland 10
	Canada 23	Iroquois 8
	USA 16	England 8
Day 4	Japan 11	Germany 4
	Scotland 14	Wales 9
	Sweden 9	Czech 8
	USA 20	Iroquois 8
	Canada 12	Australia 9
Day 5	Scotland 15	Czech 14
	Japan 15	Wales 2
	Germany 13	Sweden 10
	Australia 11	England 6
	USA 14	Canada 12
Day 6	Iroquois 12	Japan 9
	(Play-in Game)	
Day 7	Czech 10	Wales 5
	Germany 5	Japan 4
	England 13	Scotland 6
	Canada 15	Australia 11
	USA 24	Iroquois 4
Day 9	Czech 12	Sweden 8
	Scotland 10	Japan 9
	England 21	Germany 6
	Australia 17	Iroquois 5
	USA 15	Canada 14

Ranking after 1998 World Championship

1. USA
2. Canada
3. Australia
4. Iroquois
5. England
6. Germany
7. Scotland
8. Japan
9. Czech Republic
10. Sweden
11. Wales

BALTIMORE BITES

Australia had two areas of interest in the team from Sweden - Mark Jackson from Victoria, who has been in Sweden for some time, was a member of the team from Sweden as also was Matthias Larsen who played in Western Australia and other States on a visit down under.

Congratulations to the four officials from Australia - Terry Culley, Peter Knight, Mike Slattery and Dennis Mulroneo who all officiated in at least four World Championship games, including Blue Division games, with Peter Knight earning selection for the final Championship game between USA and Canada.

This was the first World Championship event which had live television broadcasts and these televised games required special consideration to satisfy the television requirements. This included a time-out in each quarter which was two minutes (instead of the usual one minute) and, if there was no team time-outs in a quarter a TV timeout would be called. Head referees were "wired" with a microphone and start times were critical. The televised games were broadcast live in USA and will be broadcast by Foxtel in Australia as follows:

Foxtel Sports CHANNEL 2

Friday, September 4, 11am-12.30pm
USA vs Australia

Friday, September 11, 11am-12.30pm
USA vs England

Friday, September 18, 11am-12.30pm
Canada vs Australia

Saturday, September 19, 2.30pm-4.00pm
Semi Final #1 - Canada vs Australia

Sunday, September 20, 11am-12.30pm
Semi Final #2 - USA vs Iroquois

Friday, September 25, 11am-12.30pm
Final - USA vs Canada

Australia was not represented in the Masters or Grand Masters competitions which both played full contact lacrosse. However, our team of "Super Masters", playing modcrosse, lost the prized "walking stick" trophy to the team from England which had several advantages - fitness, skills etc.



Goalkeeper, Murray Keen, has eyes for the ball as the USA attacker is dispensed.

ADELAIDE IN 1999

THE CENTRE OF THE LACROSSE UNIVERSE!

The World Under 19 Lacrosse Championships are being played in Adelaide in 1999 and all Australian Championships and Tournaments have been scheduled to be played in Adelaide at that time to maximise the opportunity for the lacrosse community to see the action and enjoy the party.

Here is the proposed schedule for events:

July 2	Friday	World Under 19 Championships commence (Note: This may be rescheduled to Saturday, July 3)
3	Saturday	Australian Under 17 Championship/Tournament commences Australian Under 15 Tournament commences
9	Friday	World Under 19 Championship Rest Day Australian Senior Championship/Tournament commences Australian Under 17 Championships Final Australian Under 15 Tournament Final
10	Saturday	World Under 19 Championship final and Presentation Banquet
17	Saturday	Australian Senior Championship/Tournament Final

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SPORT and the LAW

Disclaimers, Consents and Warnings

"Common risk management tools (that seek to limit liability) are disclaimers, consents and warnings. In this article Ian Fullagar, Rigby Cooke Lawyers, examines these tools and how they can be most effective in protecting the party seeking to rely upon them"

Disclaimers, waivers, consents and liability release forms are common in all areas of life. They are particularly common in areas involving sport and recreation. They arise predominantly in two areas of the law: tort and contract law. Waivers and releases are based in contract law. Where a contract is involved it is possible at common law to insert a clause to waive or exclude liability for negligence provided that:

1. The clause is incorporated into or forms part of the contract; and
2. It is drafted in such a way that it clearly covers the situation faced by the party seeking to invoke it.

It is not possible to automatically exclude liability for the sort of negligence by use of a waiver, consent, disclaimer of liability or exclusion clause. The common law imposes a general duty to take reasonable care. This will depend upon the particular circumstances. Such a particular circumstance is a disclaimer of liability. This will be considered by a court when determining liability. It may also be considered in determining whether a duty of care actually exists in those circumstances.

In any event, it must be stated that release forms do not amount to protection against legal action. A release or waiver must be drawn to the attention of the person signing the form - for instance, with bold lettering, rather than being set out in extra fine print on the reverse of the form. They are unlikely to be effective where the person relying on the release has been found to be grossly negligent. If that person makes any representation that it does not intend to rely on the release, it is likely that a court will then not allow it to rely on the form to absolve itself from liability. However, in some

circumstances, they are effective, and so should be incorporated into standard documentation where there is such documentation.

A release must spell out the intention of the parties to absolve the club from liability unambiguously. Further, it must spell out the intentions of the parties with necessary particularity.

Courts demand very particular drafting, before they will give effect to an intention to escape liability. A release should be upheld, which:

- is in clear and unambiguous terms;
- enumerates risks; and
- distinguishes assumption of risks and the signed acknowledgement indicating the person recognised the risks.

Minors

It is noteworthy that contracts may not be enforceable against minors in many circumstances. Generally, minors do not have capacity to enter into contracts, and accordingly, waiver forms signed by minors may have no effect in excluding liability. Parental consent to the minor's participation in activities is recommended. However, a waiver of liability signed by the parent on behalf of the minor may not have any effect in excluding liability. This remains a difficult area for persons involved in children's activities. However, it is recommended that the normal forms and parental consents are signed as they make parents and (possibly) children aware of the risks, and ensure that parents are aware their child is undertaking such a risk.

Warning

Warnings are more directed at the tortious duty of care and usually arise in circumstances where a contract is not available or appropriate. Warnings are highly appropriate for outdoor recreation activities. A warning sign by an occupier which tells of the existence of the danger may satisfy the standard of care or go to the discharge of the duty, and thus limit or extinguish

potential liability in tort. Conversely the failure to erect such a sign may lead to a finding of negligence.

Warnings of Natural Area Dangerous Conditions

Warnings have an important role, and on occasion are essential, to remove or limit liability. The essence of a good warning is communicating the warning to the individual, so that that person will be aware of, and knowledgeable about, the risk he or she is about to undertake and understand its meaning. Warnings should be obvious and direct, specific to the risk, comprehensible and at the point of hazard.

The key principles are essentially:

1. Warning to the participant/user must be given where there is a latent or hidden hazard, the hazard is unknown to the participant and not easily identified, the entity responsible had actual or constructive knowledge of the danger and, an invitation has been given to enjoy the outdoors with the presumption of no hazardous situations/conditions.
2. There is no duty to warn the participant/user when the danger is open and obvious to the user, when there is no duty to the person, or the condition is totally natural. (However, where there is a responsible authority it may be reasonable in the circumstances for that authority to give a warning of a danger even where the danger is open and obvious or where it is totally natural.)

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AROUND The World



ILF Delegates - Meeting Baltimore, July 1998.

The 1998 World Lacrosse Championships saw all 11 members of the International Lacrosse Federation competing for the World Championships title for the first time.

Representatives from Korea, where lacrosse development is being undertaken, were in Baltimore to check out the scene. As well, the ILF Development Committee had reports of activity in China, where the Japan Lacrosse Association has conducted clinics, and Argentina, Ireland and Finland.



Some faces we may see in Perth in 2002 - from China.



Japan Lacrosse Association representative working a clinic with Chinese participants in Beijing



ILF President, Tom Hayes (right) in discussion with

In addition to conducting clinics in Shanghai and Beijing, Japan has also donated equipment and are planning clinics in Hong Kong. The German Lacrosse Association is looking to foster lacrosse in Switzerland and a demonstration game is planned for Zug in April, 1999.

Six nations advised they will be competing for the Under 19 World Championship title in Adelaide - 1999 - they are Australia, Canada, England, Iroquois, Japan and United States.

Japan submitted a proposal to the ILF meeting for the conduct of a Pan Pacific Championship involving non-European countries which currently are not involved in the European Lacrosse Championships. This was well received but further consideration of the proposed 2004 date was required.

The next meeting of the International Lacrosse Federation will be held in Adelaide, associated with the 1999 World Under 19 Championships.



three representatives from lacrosse in Korea.

Customer Service and Lacrosse

Lacrosse clubs have several different groups of 'customers' and they have different needs. Customers are players, coaches, administrators, officials, spectators, sponsors and other people who are a part of a successful lacrosse club.

Know Your Customers

Any organisation must learn about its customer base, including current, prospective and lost customers.

Take lost customers as an example. There is research that reports that US companies lose up to 35% of their customers and don't even realise it. This is a remarkable statistic, and very worrying if it is even close to accurate.

Business is all about keeping and winning new customers - not losing them. Consequently, we need to know if we are losing customers and why. We need systems in place that regularly inform us about:

- Who we have lost as customers
- Why we lost them as customers
- Whether the reason we lost customers were under our control, ie could we have done anything to prevent losing these customers?

Along with our current customers, our prospective customers represent the potential for growth in our business.

Businesses need to ask some key questions about prospective customers:

- Who are our best prospects?
- How are we currently marketing to our prospective customers?
- Are we marketing in the best ways to our 'best' prospective customers?
- Why are our prospective customers not customers?

Check Up Constantly

It doesn't matter what an organisation thinks about the quality of the service it provides. Unless the customers regard the service as good, then it isn't. This means it is imperative that organisations get feedback from their customers. I am aware of six strategies

that can be used to acquire this feedback. Some of these include:

- Surveys
- Focus Group sessions
- Telephone interviews

The key here is getting good feedback and acting on it.

Build a 'Winning' Team

One quote I am aware of says "I know of no organisation renowned for its commitment to customer service that simultaneously abuses its internal customers. The task of customer service begins within."

This is a powerful message as it says that our internal house must be in order before we can deliver great customer service. Ensuring we operate as a happy, efficient and productive team is essential.

Establishing Standards of Service

McDonalds have a catch cry that says "this is the way we do things around here." They have systems and standards that are clear and are not negotiable.

Organisations can spend time clearly identifying the 'bottom line standards' that customers can expect, to ensure that there is no weak link in the chain. These bottom line standards of service can be reviewed regularly to ensure consistent and high levels of service.

Does customer service apply to sports? Could we replace the word 'customers' with 'players'? Could we replace the word 'customers' with 'volunteers'? You be the judge.

Steve Simpson is a Director of Keystone Management Services. He has completed a number of consulting projects in the sport and recreation sectors, and is working with a number of organisations in the area of customer service. He is the WA Vice President of the Australian Customer Service Association, and the author of a recently published book titled "Service Into Profit". Steve can be contacted on (08) 9448 4571.

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Eliminating Harassment from Sport

People participate in physical activity and sport for a variety of reasons and have many expectations. Some want to attain a personal goal, some love the pure joy or high they get from sport, some enjoy the competitive nature, others the social side, and for some it is their livelihood. Whatever the reason, most of us believe that it is, or should be, fun, safe and welcoming.

One of the reasons frequently given for the dislike of sport is poor coaching practices. This can include being harassed or abused. Harassment or abuse can take many forms and may include from forcing someone to do excessive exercises as punishment, embarrassing them in front of others, pushing someone towards unrealistic goals, subjecting them to negative attitudes, constantly yelling at them to 'motivate' better performances, or even making them feel physically uncomfortable when demonstrating techniques and skills.

The increasing concern about poor coaching practices, along with disturbing recent events involving coaches in different sports at a range of levels, highlights the need for the issue of harassment to be taken seriously and dealt with responsibly and appropriately.

Participants in sport can be particularly vulnerable to harassment because it happens in an environment characterised by close physical and emotional relationships and power dynamics. Relationships where power is a factor may include those between athletes, coaches, trainers, administrators, teachers, sport managers, parents, spectators, officials, physicians, dietitians, psychologists

and other sports specialists and support personnel. Coaches in particular often have enormous influence over athletes and their sense of self-esteem. If used recklessly, irresponsibly or illegally this influence could cause great harm. Participants' experience and enjoyment of sport and life can be enhanced or destroyed by this coach-athlete relationship.

So what is meant by harassment and abuse? Harassment may involve physical contact, verbal remarks or non-verbal conduct. It consists of offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening behaviour directed at a person usually because they are different or perceived to be different from the person subjecting them to the behaviour. The difference may be in gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, power (relative to the harasser) or some other feature. It is behaviour that is unwelcome and that could reasonably be expected to upset the person to whom it is directed. Harassment is different from normal friendly jokes or conversations. It upsets people and is usually intended to. It makes participation in sport, or in work related to sport, unpleasant, humiliating or intimidating for the person(s) targeted by this behaviour.

Harassment in sport must not be confused with legitimate comment and advice from supervisors or coaches on work or athletic performance, or on the work or sport related behaviour of staff, officials or an athlete. Feedback differs from harassment in that it is intended to assist the staff, official or athlete to improve performance or the standard of their behaviour.

Not all harassment is based on grounds such as sex, race or disability. It can sometimes consist simply of

abusive behaviour such as:

- coaches bullying and humiliating athletes (for example: comments about their lack of skill, or 'excessive' weight)
- abuse and insults directed by players or parents at opposing teams
- abuse of umpires by players
- on-field physical intimidation of other players
- practical jokes which cause embarrassment or endanger others safety.

Harassment and abuse which is not properly addressed can result in:

- undermining self-esteem
- physical and psychological health problems
- increased turnover of staff and volunteers
- increased drop-out rate of participants
- anti-social behaviour
- violence
- diminished work, academic and/or athletic performance
- family and personal problems
- increased organisational liability, insurance and legal costs
- diminished reputation and image of sport in the community.

To assist individuals and organisations to deal with these issues, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is developing a national anti-harassment in sport strategy. The strategy involves:

- a model anti-harassment policy which can be adopted/adapted by organisations

- guidelines for administrators on what harassment is and is not, legal obligations, complaints procedures and mechanisms and strategies for implementing a policy (large and condensed versions available)
- guidelines for athletes
- guidelines for coaches
- educational brochure on eliminating harassment in sport (aimed at everyone, including parents)
- education awareness-raising seminars for coaches, athletes, administrators, parents and other interested people
- skills training for harassment contact officers and grievance officers.

The strategy includes guidelines that show how athletes, coaches and parents can contribute to a positive and safe environment by ensuring their behaviour is appropriate at all times.

Coaches, for example, should:

- ensure the safety of their athletes
- respect athletes' dignity - verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable
- at no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes (including requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such requests)
- treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity regardless of gender, ethnic background, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status
- direct comments at the performance rather than the person
- refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches or other athletes
- refrain from the use of profane,

insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language

- treat opponents and officials with respect, both in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly.

Athletes should:

- play by the rules and in the spirit of the game
- control temper, fighting and 'mouthing off'
- respect opponents and not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player
- remember coaches and officials are there to help - accept their decision and show respect
- participate because you want to, not because your parents, teacher or coach want you to
- refrain from making sexist, racial or homophobic jokes or jokes about a person's disability
- refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language
- at all times avoid intimate relationships with a coach.

Parents should:

- check to see if the club has an anti-harassment policy which ensures children are protected and kept safe from harm
- know how to voice your concerns or complain if there is anything you are not happy about
- remember your child plays sport for his/her enjoyment, not yours
- ensure your child feels comfortable with their coach and encourage them to talk with you if they have any concerns about their coach
- talk to your child about what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour (for both the child and the coach)

- get to know your child's coach (ask about their qualifications, discuss training rules and standards of behaviour, attend practices and games to watch the coach in action, pay attention to the interaction with the children)

- listen to how the children talk about the coach
- never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game
- support all efforts to remove verbal and physical harassment and abuse from sporting activities
- respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.

It is hoped that over the next several years through the implementation of the above strategy, awareness will increase and harassment will decrease in sport.

We all expect and desire a safe, fun and healthy environment in sport - it is up to all of us to ensure that we play our part in ensuring that this is so. Encourage your organisation or club to develop/adopt an anti-harassment policy, ensure there are appropriate and, where possible, trained contacts to whom people in your organisation can go for advice, and ensure you treat others as you wish to be treated - with respect, dignity and fairness.

CHECKLIST

Are you or your community group, club, State association or national organisation capable of dealing effectively and appropriately with this sensitive issue? Are you, or is anyone else in your organisation, trained to deal with these issues? Does your organisation have a policy and mechanism in place to deal with complaints? Do people know where they can go if they have a concern? Do you know what behaviour is appropriate and inappropriate and how you can contribute to providing a positive environment?

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Why it Makes Sense to Play Games

ROD THORPE from Loughborough University in the UK visited Australia in 1996 to run workshops on the 'Game Sense' approach to coaching and teaching.

Nicole den Duyn, Coaching Consultant with the Australian Coaching Council, writes about the game sense approach.

The Game Sense Concept

Game sense is an approach to coaching that uses games to develop tactical/strategic thinking, as well as skill development. How often have we seen techniques being taught in isolation, not requiring players to think and bearing little resemblance to the skill required in the game? (Note: Thorpe distinguishes between technique and skill. A simple equation to explain this difference is $\text{Technique} + \text{Pressure} = \text{Skill}$.) I'm sure we have all seen players practising technique - undertaking numerous repetitions of a tennis swing, or religiously practising shots for goal. While the technique itself is an important part of the overall skill, coaches are questioning the value of technique practice that doesn't take into account the other factors involved in executing the skill (eg making a decision on which shot to play or deceiving the goal keeper on the shot for goal).

Probably the best reason for adopting a game sense approach is that games are challenging and fun! How many times have coaches heard the cry from their players "when can we play a game?" But as well as being fun, games can be

the best teachers of many of the tactical aspects of the 'real' game. Coaches often spend a great deal of time teaching technique, but not much time on teaching aspects such as decision making, risk, deception, special awareness, understanding/counteracting an opponent and recognising scoring opportunities.

An Over Emphasis on Technique?

Traditionally, coaching has been very 'technique based'. While this may be appropriate for some of the more 'closed skill' sports (for example, rowing), for other sports it is an over emphasis. One of the interesting aspects of the game sense approach is that incorrect technique is not necessarily seen as a 'bad' thing that must be immediately changed. If the athlete is achieving the desired result, then a technique change should be carefully considered. Many elite athletes use unorthodox techniques that still achieve the right result (and often bamboozle their opponents!).

If 'incorrect' technique is hindering the athlete's development, then the coach probably needs to work with the athlete to change the technique. However, before changing an athlete's preferred style, the coach should ask themselves questions such as: "can I make the correction in the time available?", "have I got the ability to fix it?", "will changing it affect the end result?". Sometimes it may be better to teach a 'new' technique rather than fixing the old one, eg adding a new shot to their repertoire.

Where do Games Fit into the Training Session?

During his visit to Australia, Thorpe challenged coaches to look at the format of their training sessions and where games are placed within the training.

The traditional training session has looked something like this:

- warm up
- skill practise (often just technique)
- drills
- minor game / game practise
- cool down

An alternative model proposed by Thorpe is:

- warm up
- game sense game
- what are we trying to do?
- how can we do it better (tactical, perceptual, decision making - only then technical)
- back to game
- progression of game (additional challenges)
- repeat the above cycle.

The Coach's Role

An important aspect of the game sense approach is the role that the coach takes in relation to their athletes.

Traditionally, training sessions have been coach dominated, with players being told where to stand, how to defend a situation etc. The emphasis with the game sense approach is on the players making decisions rather than the coach. The coach's role is that of a facilitator who creates situations where players have to think out the solutions for themselves (ie problem solving).

Self-reliance is an attribute that most coaches would agree is desirable. But do we practise it in training? Most educators would agree that finding out the answer for oneself is far more effective for long-term learning than being 'told' the answer (in this case by the coach).

Questioning

One of the key roles of the coach is the use of questions. The coach should ask the athlete questions which will promote tactical thinking. For example:

- where is the best spot to throw the ball?
- where will it be more difficult for your opponent to score from? and how can you force them to that position?
- what is the best way to defend this situation?
- if your opponent evades you, what will you do?
- is it better to pass or run with the ball in this situation? why?
- But before asking questions such as this, the coach must be able to create a situation or game where problem solving can take place. So how does the game sense approach work in practical terms?

Modification for Exaggeration

For many years now in Australia, we have modified sport to cater for the needs of our young players. In a game sense approach the coach also modifies, but to exaggerate or emphasise particular tactical aspects. For example, to emphasise the front and back spaces of the court in badminton. The court can be modified to be long and thin. The players will then gain an understanding of how to move their opponent in the front and back spaces of the court to win a point.

Modifications a coach can make include:

- the dimensions of the field.
- positioning of goals (and more than one set of goals per team?)
- number of passes allowed
- number of players in attack and defence

- penalty or bonus points for particular plays
- time allowed
- adding/deleting normal game rules (eg netballers running with the ball to exaggerate defensive aspects). Rules can be added to the game (or removed) as it increases in complexity.

Developing Game Sense Games

Some examples of the tactical aspects than can be emphasised and developed using game sense games are listed below.

Many of the basic 'games' that can be used within a game sense approach already exist within our sports. For many coaches and teachers the key will be modifying them to emphasise tactical aspects, and using questions to enable players to find the answers for themselves.

For those wanting to develop new game sense games, a few key questions:

- what is the aspect/tactic/skill you are trying to develop within this game?
- what modifications/exaggerations can I make, to best set up this situation?
- are there aspects of another sport I can 'borrow' to enhance this?
- what are the key questions I need to ask the players?
- am I catering for all the individuals - do I need to give some choices in equipment and skill execution?
- how will I place the game within the training session?
- what progressions can I make to increase the complexity?
- can I give the players some choices in these progressions?

The game sense approach has a number of benefits for both the coach and athlete. Coaches may find that it challenges some of the traditional ways they have been taught to coach. However, they will undoubtedly find that the coaching process and the games themselves are more challenging for themselves and their athletes.

Tactical Aspects

Questions (Coach)

Deception

How can you make your opponent go to their left?

Risk

Is the long pass worth the risk in this situation?

Shot selection and placement in relation to opponent(s)

Your opponent is close to the goal, what could you do?

Time

How can you give yourself time to recover from the last shot?

Stage of the game (time remaining)

Two points down with two minutes to go. How will you attack the next play?

Space (spacial awareness / creating space)

Where is the best space to run to receive the ball? How will this impact on where your team-mates are?

Decision making Which is the best option for passing?

Where is the best place to defend against a left hander?

Defensive patterns (in relation to particular opponents and situations)

Do you think you should use a zone defence, or double team the key scorer?

Minimising angles of attack

How can you reduce the angle for the attacker moving towards the goal?

Attacking patterns

Would it be better to use the width of the field, or try to penetrate the line?

Keeping possession

Should you run away from your opponent or pass the ball?

This article, by Nicole den Duyn, is reproduced with kind permission of the Australian Coaching Council, and was previously published in Sports Coach, Spring 1996.

Under the MICROSCOPE

Coach/Team Assessment

COACH / TEAM ASSESSMENT

Match Details

Date: _____ **Venue:** _____
Home Team: _____ **Visiting Team:** _____
Coach: _____ **Coach:** _____

	Home Team	Visiting Team
Team goal for game is commensurate with ability		
COMMUNICATION/LANGUAGE WITH PLAYERS		
* Focus is on skills or tactics.		
* Language took into consideration player ability.		
* Players ridiculed or abused by own side.		
* Physical contact made on players by own side.		
SPORTSMANSHIP		
* Coach set example in good behaviour towards all officials and opponents.		
* Coach controlled players, team officials and team supporters in their comments and behaviour towards officials and opponents.		
* Players who have demonstrated poor sportsmanship taken aside and quietly spoken to.		
PENALTIES		
* Level of penalties - Acceptable (less than 10) - Unacceptable (more than 10)		
* Number of "unsportsman like" penalties.		
* Number of players who received personal fouls.		
* Players who received penalties as a result of uncontrolled behaviour withheld from the game until spoken to.		
GAME TACTICS		
* Players wanted the ball not opponent.		
* Team members supported one another.		
* Players knew what position they were required to be in without having to be screamed at.		
* "Just average" players afforded reasonable field time.		

Additional comments

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Many times a club is so thankful that they have finally obtained the services of someone to take on the role of coach that they do not want to look too closely at what sort of team is being developed.

Having watched the odd number of games at all levels it is obvious that many teams, while having good skills and tactics, display a level of sportsmanship that loses potential players and supporters.

Club committees should regularly review each team to make sure they know what is happening and that if there are problems they are able to take the necessary steps to rectify them.

Clubs also need to evaluate the performance of teams which carry their colours and the coaches who are working with those teams. More often than not the only factor which is evaluated in relation to teams performances are the game scores after each match. When the club appoints a coach to a team the club is delegating that responsibility to the coach - not abdicating their responsibility. There are situations other than game performance (eg training sessions) where coach/team behaviours can be evaluated but the form below provides a guide for some of the factors which may be considered by clubs in relation to games. Evaluation of teams can be useful in identifying problems early and taking corrective action before players are lost, and also identifying good things which may be learned from opposing teams or different teams from your own club.

Referee Recruitment

This letter was directed from the ALRA (VIC) President (Mr Don Lovett) to Club Secretaries in Victoria. It no doubt can also be applied in other States.

Referee Recruitment Program

As you would no doubt be aware by now the number of referees in the ALRA (Vic) ranks is dangerously low.

In an ideal situation it would be desirable to have three ALRA accredited referees controlling every senior lacrosse game being played in Victoria and provide officials to junior games as well. However, as would be obvious to all clubs in the current climate there is no guarantee that even one ALRA referee will be available to officiate in senior games. As a consequence more and more reliance is being placed upon clubs to provide an accredited referee. We have arrived at this situation for a variety of reasons, including retirement and injury. Unless something happens, it is my belief that this downward trend will continue in the future.

In the past ALRA has informally approached players, late in their playing careers, with a view to planting the seed of why don't you become an ALRA referee next year. This method is only possible during the season when players have their minds on the game and has only been moderately successful. In order to initiate a more pro-active recruitment campaign, ALRA would like to approach recently retired players regarding the possibility of them taking up refereeing. However, without any knowledge of who has or is about to retire, approaching these people is difficult.

To assist us in this matter, it would be appreciated if contact details for any players who have either recently retired, may be considering retirement or may be interested in refereeing (if approached) could be provided to the ALRA Secretary.

Please help us to help you to keep lacrosse growing.

Sports Officials Code of Ethics

The Sports Officials Code of Ethics comes from the Australian Coaching Council.

- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Accept responsibility for all actions taken.
- Be impartial.
- Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.
- Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
- Value the individual in sport.
- Seek continual self improvement through study, performance appraisal, and regular updating of competencies.
- Encourage inclusiveness and access to all areas of officiating.
- Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.

Under 17 Australian Championships



"The 1998 Under 17 Australian All Stars Team"



"Victorian Captains, Steve Higgs, Josh Sedgwick and Luke Moore, with the Australian Tournament Trophy."