



Media Release – Australian Youth Olympic Festival 2007

Saturday 20th January, 2007

Gold, silver and bronze awarded to youth sailors at Australian Youth Olympic Festival

The sailing competition at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival wrapped up today with a 10-15 knot east nor easterly breeze in Farm Cove on Sydney Harbour.

After some tough competition on the water over three days, Great Britain (GBR) won the gold, the Australian team from Western Australia the silver and New Zealand took the bronze.

In race one, Great Britain was in the number one position when they rounded the first mark and their luck continued for the rest of the day. Ben Saxton, skipper of one of the GBR teams said “We hoped we would win and the team implemented a strategy of being tactical on the start line and sailing fast”.

“The whole team felt relief and were elated when we finally won the gold medal” he added.

Western Australia had been neck and neck with Great Britain for the duration of the competition. 17 year old Nadia Punselie, from Perth, commented “The team was slightly disappointed not to win the gold medal but as this was my first international competition, I am happy to walk away with a silver medal”.

Punselie continued “It was also great to see some patriotic spectators on the foreshore watching the action”.

The final day of competition saw New Zealand slip from overnight position of first to third place. Stephanie Hazard, originally from Perth, said “The racing has been so close and the festival has been awesome. I have learnt a lot about crewing, tactics and made some really great friends along the way”.

The medals will be presented tonight at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron (RSYS). The gold medals will be presented by ISAF Vice President - David Kellett, the silver medals will be presented by Stephen Leahy- Yachting NSW

CEO and the bronze medals will be presented by Bill Woods – RSYS Commodore.

Final results are as follows:

1. Gold - GBR – won 3 out of 5 races (Finals)
2. Silver – AUS – won 1 out of 5 races (Finals)
3. Bronze - NZL – won 3 out of 5 races (Petit Finals)
4. NSW - won 10 out of 17 rounds
5. VIC - won 9 out of 17 rounds
6. QLD – won 9 out of 17 rounds
7. TAS – won 8 out of 17 rounds
8. USA – won 8 out of 17 rounds
9. SA – won 6 out of 17 rounds
10. CAN - won 2 out of 17 rounds

For further information on the AYOF07, log onto www.olympics.com.au/ayof

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