

2012 International Youth Cup

July 2nd 2012 – July 6th 2012

Blacktown Softball Complex

Report – Andrew McManus

I would like to start out by thanking the NUS and Softball New Zealand for providing the opportunity to participate in this tournament, as well as the North Harbour Softball Umpires Association for the consistent winter training to help me prepare for this tournament. The skills, knowledge and friendships I acquired while attending the International Youth Cup was invaluable.

On the afternoon of July 1st I arrived at Auckland International airport and boarded the plane that would take me to my first overseas tournament and also mark the first time I had ever ventured into Australia. Upon arrival at Sydney Airport I was greeted warmly and picked up by Scott Rindflesh who was waiting at the arrivals gate. He took me directly to my accommodations for that night, and introduced me to several umpires who I would be working with in the upcoming days. Scott had informed me that the original accommodations were not available until Monday so for tonight I had the pleasure to enjoy the comforts of a high class hotel. The alarm clock went off nice and early at 6:00am on the 2nd of July where I got myself freshened up and repacked for my accommodation change and the first day of the tournament. Meeting outside I was reunited with my fellow New Zealand umpire Judi Leaper, as well as introduced to some other Aussie umpires before we departed towards the grounds.

Arriving at the Blacktown Softball Complex, I was taken back with the size and quality of the facilities. All 4 diamonds were in amazing condition and this was the first time seeing a softball stadium the size of the one which surrounded diamond 1. However there was little time to sightsee as there was a pre-tournament meeting where I was introduced to the entire crew and our TUIC Leanne Gearside. We discussed the key focuses for the tournament which included; hustle, bat checks, game balls, and tournament by-laws. This year the IYC incorporated several new rules which included not charging teams with a defensive conference, when coming out to assist their pitcher after an illegal pitch was called. Once the meeting was finished the first 2 crews headed out for the first games of the tournament as the rest of the crew completed bat checks on the competing teams.

My first game was at 11am on the plate, and it was my first time getting to umpire with an Aussie umpire since the NZ Men's open. We worked in 3 umpire crews the entire tournament and I was

very impressed with the hustle shown by every umpire throughout the ranks. From the level 1's all the way to the level 6's. My first plate game went smoothly getting all 7 innings down within the 90min time limit. The rest of my day was occupied with 2 more base games, before calling it a day and heading off to our new (and original) accommodations. All out of state and overseas umpires were lodged at a cottage park which was just a short 10min drive from the park. The camaraderie was great between all umpires and every night we all gathered in one cabin to relax and tell socialize, aside from Wednesday where all the focus was on the State of Origin.

After day one had passed I had become accustomed to the subtle differences between New Zealand and Australian umpiring. The games all had great hustle and great respect was given between players, coaches and umpires. It was truly a great atmosphere to be in, and one which supported the key focus of the tournament; Development.

The weather throughout the tournament had been cold but good otherwise until finals where a few showers had flooded the fields overnight. The ground crews worked amazingly and got 2 of the diamonds game ready in time. This cut the number of games to be played that day in half. I was honored with my appointment as the plate umpire for the Men's Grand Final. The game was wonderful, with Namadgi Dragons coming back to win it in the late innings 6-2, thanks of a few huge home runs. And just like the days before, the game finished the 7 innings prior to the 90min time limit. Once the game was done all the umpires exchanged gifts and headed out for one last crew dinner before parting ways.

I was invited by Scott Rindflesh to stay an extra day and participate in an exhibition double header between the NSW Men and the Australia U19 team. It was a pleasure to work with my TUIC Leane, as well as Scott and Andrew Rindflesh. The games were followed by another dinner. I was able to take a look around Sydney thanks to Vicki Lansley prior to my flight on Sunday.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following:

- Eugene and Softball New Zealand for organizing flights and accommodation for me.
- Softball NSW and Softball Australia for putting on this wonderful tournament.
- North Harbor Softball Association for supplying me with souvenir badges.
- Wyane Saunders and the rest of the NUS for allowing me this opportunity.
- Vicky Lansley for showing me around the city and providing transportation every day.

- Leanne Gearside and the rest of the crew for being so welcoming and providing such a great atmosphere
- Scott Rindflesh for giving me the opportunity to umpire the exhibition games and for picking me up at the airport
- Mark, Ryan and Steve for putting up with me. You guys are great rommies!!

Games Officiated

Monday July 4th

Game Type	Home	Away	Plate Umpire	1 st Base	3 rd Base
Men's Round Robin	Western Civil	NSW Metro Boys	Andrew McManus	Vicki Lansley	Todd Winsor
Men's Round Robin	South Australia	U19 Aus Gold	Mark Toft	Ryan Thorneycroft	Andrew McManus

Tuesday July 5th

Game Type	Home	Away	Plate Umpire	1 st Base	3 rd Base
Men's Round Robin	U19 Aus Gold	NSW Metro Boys	Andrew McManus	Kevin Tannebring	James Townsend
Women's Round Robin	NSW Metro Girls	SE Metro Vic	Vicki Lansley	Andrew McManus	Brett Tyler
Men's Round Robin	South Australia	NSW Country boys	Brett Tyler	Steve Wallace	Andrew McManus

Wednesday July 6th

Game Type	Home	Away	Plate Umpire	1 st Base	3 rd Base
Men's Round Robin	NSW Metro Boys	South Australia	Ryan Thorneycroft	Joe Kellermeier	Andrew McManus
Men's Round Robin	New Zealand	U17 Aus Boys	Kevin Tannebring	Andrew McManus	Ryan Thorneycroft
Men's Round Robin	NSW Country Boys	U19 Aus Green	Andrew McManus	Robert McIntosh	James Townsend

Thursday July 7th

Game Type	Home	Away	Plate Umpire	1 st Base	3 rd Base
Woman's Playoffs	Aus U17 Girls	South Australia	Andrew McManus	Ryan Throneycroft	Joe Kellermeier
Men's Round Robin	NSW Metro Boys	U17 Aus Boys	Brett Tyler	Vicki Lansley	Andrew McManus
Woman's Playoffs	Aus U17 Girls	NSW Country Girls	Andrew McManus	Katrina Bulmer	Andrew McManus

Friday July 8th

Game Type	Home	Away	Plate Umpire	1 st Base	3 rd Base
Men's Grand Final	Namadgi Dragons	Western Civil	Andrew McManus	Brett Tyler	James Townsend

Saturday July 9th

Game Type	Home	Away	Plate Umpire	1 st Base	2 nd Base	3 rd Base
Men's Exhibition	U19 Aussie Colts	NSW Men	Leanne Gearside	Scott Rindfleish	Andrew Rindfleish	Andrew McManus
Men's Exhibition	U19 Aussie Colts	NSW Men	Andrew McManus	Andrew Rindfleish	Scott Rindfleish	Leanne Gearside

Total

Plate: 6 games

1st Base: 2 games

3rd Base: 6 games