

Well the day is finally upon us. Australia in about 7 hours time.

We have settled in well in Whitehorse and have conducted a couple of training runs and an exhibition game yesterday V Singapore. Although only an exhibition game the 7-1 win was a confidence booster.

We have had a semi successful build up for playing a total of 12 games and had a 50% success winning 6 games. The competition that was arranged for us was of a high standard and tested the boys well.

Our accommodation in Vancouver was ideal and the University of British Columbia looked after us well. The university is an excellent place to stay and recommended for future tours.

During our time in Vancouver we travelled away to Kelowna where we played the Kelowna Mens Major Fastball All Stars. This was a great overnight trip and we were well hosted by Mr Rich Hadane. During the visit we were welcomed by the Okanawa people and were presented a canoe paddle to mark our visit.

Local Salmon and Halibut were on the menu for the after meal. A long drive but well worth the trip.

Vancouver was the ideal location for the build up as it is in the same time zone as Whitehorse so time adjustments were not an issue.

There have been a couple of minor injuries with the worst being a fracture to the nose of Dante Matakatea after being hit by a bad hop in Kelowna. He has mended well and is looking forward to the series. All other players are well.

The families who are touring, arrive this afternoon just as we play Australia so that will be a great boost to the boys, not only those who have parents and friends coming. Some more kiwis around us will be great.

Game results from the build up tour as follows:

30 June,
V Sar Majors 8-2 win
V Rebels 9-1 win

01 Jul
Roco Angels 8-3 loss
Richmond Stealers 6-2 win
02 Jul
KMMFA Allstars 4-7 loss
KMMFA Allstars 7-4 win
04 Jul
Vancouver Meralomas 6-2 loss
05 Jul
Saskatoon Diamond Backs 1-0 win
Sooke Loggers 2-7 loss (this team were tournament runners up)
06 Jul
Canadian Juniors 8-1 loss
7 Jul
Canadians (club team) 2-3 loss
Mariners 4-5 win

The boys are excited, nervous, anxious, proud all rolled into one. The nerves will disappear come game time I am sure.

Kind regards

Wayne Small

