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Claxton Shield

2008

DECEMBER 28, 2007 – FEBRUARY 10, 2008

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2008



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2008



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2007 Financial Wealth CLAXTON SHIELD FAST FACTS



- The 2008 IndependentAdvice.com CLAXTON SHIELD is the premier event on the Australian baseball calendar and will feature over 120 of the country's best baseball players in head-to-head battle for State based supremacy.
- In 2008 the CLAXTON SHIELD makes a return to a "Home and Away" format giving all Australian baseball fans the chance to watch their heroes compete on home soil for the first time in seven years.
- Six teams will contest the 2008 IndependentAdvice.com CLAXTON SHIELD; Queensland Rams, Victorian Aces, NSW Patriots, Perth Heat, South Australia and Australian Provincials. Australian Provincial is made up of players from country Associations and Territories and the best young talent from around the country.
- The 2008 CLAXTON SHIELD will be split into two divisions; SOUTHERN and EASTERN. The Southern division (WA, SA, VIC) winner will meet the Eastern division (NSW, QLD, AP) in the 3-game CLAXTON SHIELD final, February 8-10.
- The Victoria Aces are the reigning National Champions after defeating the NSW Patriots in the 2007 final. The win even more special after the Aces had finished runners-up in three of the previous four contests.
- First staged in 1934 the CLAXTON SHIELD is one of Australia's oldest national sporting events and will celebrate its 74th anniversary in 2008.
- Victoria currently holds the record with 21 Claxton Shield titles, followed by South Australia (15), NSW (13), Western Australia (10) and Queensland (9).
- The 2007 Financial Wealth CLAXTON SHIELD will double as the selection trials for the Australian team that will contest the final round of qualification for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Scheduled for early March 2008, the Aussies will battle it out for one of three places in the eight-nation repechage final held in Taiwan.
- Australia are the reigning Olympic Silver Medallists and the 2008 CLAXTON SHIELD will feature many players who were part of Australia's historic campaign in Athens.
- The 2008 IndependentAdvice.com CLAXTON SHIELD will also feature several of Australia's Major League stars including; Phil Stockman (Atlanta Braves), Travis Blackley (Philadelphia Phillies) and Justin Huber (Kansas City Royals)



2008 IndependentAdvice.com CLAXTON SHIELD GAME SCHEDULE



Series 1: FRIDAY DECEMBER 28 – SATURDAY DECEMBER 29

| Date | Teams | Time (Local) | Location |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 28 th DEC | South Australia v Victoria Aces | 3:30pm | Woodville Baseball Club, SA |
| | Australia Provincial v NSW Patriots | 7:30pm | Narrabundah Ballpark, ACT |
| 29 th DEC | South Australia v Victoria Aces | 11:00am/3:00pm | Woodville Baseball Club, SA |
| | Australia Provincial v NSW Patriots | 3:30pm/7:30pm | Narrabundah Ballpark, ACT |

Series 2: THURSDAY JANUARY 3 – SATURDAY JANUARY 5

| Date | Teams | Time (Local) | Location |
|---------------------|--|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 rd JAN | Perth Heat v South Australia | 6:35pm | Baseball Park, WA |
| 4 th JAN | Perth Heat v South Australia | 6:35pm | Baseball Park, WA |
| | Queensland Rams v Australia Provincial | 7:30pm | Redlands Baseball Club, QLD |
| 5 th JAN | Perth Heat v South Australia | 6:35pm | Baseball Park, WA |
| | Queensland Rams v Australia Provincial | 3:30pm/7:30pm | Redlands Baseball Club, QLD |

Series 3: FRIDAY JANUARY 11 – SATURDAY JANUARY 12

| Date | Teams | Time (Local) | Location |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 11 th JAN | Victoria Aces v Perth Heat | 7:00pm | Altona, VIC |
| | NSW Patriots v Australia Provincial | 7:30pm | Blacktown Olympic Park, ACT |
| 11 th JAN | Victoria Aces v Perth Heat | 3:00pm/7:00pm | Altona, VIC |
| | NSW Patriots v Australia Provincial | 3:30pm/7:30pm | Blacktown Olympic Park, ACT |

Series 4: FRIDAY JANUARY 18 – SUNDAY JANUARY 20

| Date | Teams | Time (Local) | Location |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 18 th JAN | South Australia v Perth Heat | 3:30pm | Woodville Baseball Club, SA |
| 19 th JAN | South Australia v Perth Heat | 11:00am/3:30pm | Woodville Baseball Club, SA |
| | Queensland Rams v NSW Patriots | 7:30pm | Redlands Baseball Club, QLD |
| 20 th JAN | Queensland Rams v NSW Patriots | 3:30pm/7:30pm | Redlands Baseball Club, QLD |

Series 5: THURSDAY JANUARY 24 – SATURDAY JANUARY 26

| Date | Teams | Time (Local) | Location |
|----------------------|--|---------------|---------------------------|
| 24 th JAN | Perth Heat v Victoria Aces | 6:35pm | Baseball Park, WA |
| 25 th JAN | Perth Heat v Victoria Aces | 6:35pm | Baseball Park, WA |
| | Australia Provincial v Queensland Rams | 7:30pm | Narrabundah Ballpark, ACT |
| 5 th JAN | Perth Heat v Victoria Aces | 4:00pm | Baseball Park, WA |
| | Australia Provincial v Queensland Rams | 3:30pm/7:30pm | Narrabundah Ballpark, ACT |

Series 6: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1 – SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2

| Date | Teams | Time (Local) | Location |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 st JAN | Victoria Aces v South Australia | 7:00pm | Altona, VIC |
| | NSW Patriots v Australia Provincial | 7:30pm | Blacktown Olympic Park, ACT |
| 2 nd JAN | Victoria Aces v South Australia | 3:00pm/7:00pm | Altona, VIC |
| | NSW Patriots v Australia Provincial | 3:30pm/7:30pm | Blacktown Olympic Park, ACT |



TEAM PROFILES

QUEENSLAND RAMS



OVERVIEW

After a fourth place finish last year, the Queensland Rams will be looking to bounce back in 2008 and regain the kind of form that has seen them capture two Claxton Shield titles in the past five years.

The Rams will look to the guidance of Head Coach Peter Gahan who enters his third Claxton campaign in charge of the Queensland troops - and after taking up a full-time position with the Cleveland Indians organisation in the United States, a National Championship would be an ideal way to commence his professional coaching career.

Queensland has the benefit of several emerging stars on the verge of National team selection that will bolster a core group of well established Claxton Shield veterans.

PEAK PERFORMERS



Phil Stockman (left), RHP:

Stockman missed the 2007 Shield as he recovered from a severe hamstring tear. Now fully fit, the 6'8" right hander is one of the most intimidating relief pitchers in the game, boasting a 95mph fastball that has many opposing hitters nervous about facing his electric stuff. As one of only 24 Aussies to appear in the Major Leagues any team with "Stocky" in their ranks will be tough to beat.

Brett Roneberg, 1st Base:

Roneberg has been a mainstay of QLD teams for the better part of a decade, winning national titles with the Rams in 2003 and 2006. A former Helms Award winner and two-time Olympian, his left-handed bat could prove the difference at the heart of the Queensland line-up.

Tristan Crawford, RHP:

Fresh off a successful World Cup campaign Crawford has now established himself as a regular on the National Team. Recently picked up by the Washington Nationals after seven years with the Minnesota Twins, Crawford will form a formidable 1-2 punch with Stockman in the late innings for the Rams.



TEAM PROFILES

QUEENSLAND RAMS



STRENGTHS: Pitching - Bullpen

Gahan has the luxury of calling on three established relief pitchers in Stockman, Crawford and PJ Bevis. If the Rams are in front after the first six innings it might be "game over" for their opponents

WEAKNESSES: Speed

With the rumoured retirement of Major League veteran Trent Durrington and no real standout to fill the void, QLD are left without any real "burners" on the base paths. In tight ballgame the lack of speed might make it hard for the Rams to manufacture runs

SUMMARY

Queensland's hopes in 2008 will fall squarely on the shoulders of their pitching staff who, if healthy, can be classed as one of the best in the competition.

However the biggest difference may come from an unlikely source if former Major League All-Star David Nilsson overcomes some long-term injuries to make a surprise return to the Claxton Shield.

PROTECTED ROSTER

| | SURNAME | FIRST NAME | D.O.B | BATS | THROWS | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | POSITION |
|----|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Paewai | Riki | 28/03/86 | R | R | 181 | 80 | Pitcher |
| 2 | Naylor | Drew | 31/05/86 | R | R | 192 | 94 | Pitcher |
| 3 | Mowday | Chris | 24/08/81 | R | R | 193 | 108 | Pitcher |
| 4 | Veitch | John | 23/01/78 | R | R | 184 | 88 | Pitcher |
| 5 | Searle | Ryan | 22/06/89 | R | R | 181 | 91 | Pitcher |
| 6 | Holland | David | 09/03/95 | L | L | 180 | 79 | Pitcher |
| 7 | Morriss | Simon | 21/08/85 | R | R | 188 | 98 | Pitcher |
| 8 | Luchterhand | Aaron | 26/04/89 | R | R | 187 | 89 | Pitcher |
| 9 | Bevis | PJ | 28/07/80 | R | R | 187 | 81 | Pitcher |
| 10 | Timms | Matt | 18/01/87 | R | R | 190 | 115 | Pitcher |
| 11 | Crawford | Tristan | 22/07/82 | R | R | 184 | 84 | Pitcher |
| 12 | Stockman | Phil | 25/01/80 | R | R | 202 | 118 | Pitcher |
| 13 | Naughton | Joel | 27/08/86 | L | R | 185 | 86 | Catcher |
| 14 | Utting | Andrew | 09/09/77 | L/R | R | 186 | 90 | Utility |
| 15 | Nilsson | Jay | 01/11/87 | R | R | 183 | 86 | Utility |
| 16 | Nilsson | David | 14/12/69 | L | R | 187 | 110 | Catcher |
| 17 | Sutherland | David | 02/05/85 | L | L | 194 | 92 | Infield |
| 18 | Lamb-Hunt | Daniel | 20/05/87 | R | R | 180 | 85 | Infield |
| 19 | Dutton | Brad | 11/05/82 | R | R | 184 | 92 | Infield |
| 20 | Roneberg | Brett | 05/02/79 | L | L | 187 | 90 | Infield |
| 21 | Bylett | David | 22/03/84 | L | L | 181 | 84 | Outfield |
| 22 | Roberts | Josh | 17/07/86 | L | R | 185 | 92 | Outfield |



TEAM PROFILES VICTORIA ACES



OVERVIEW

The Victoria Aces finally put to rest the tag of perennial "bridesmaids" in 2007 winning the crown that had eluded them in three of the previous four Claxton Shields.

This year Victoria is again headed by David White, who in four years at the Aces Helm has quickly established himself as a no-nonsense Manager willing to leave his "superstars" on the bench if their performance isn't up to scratch.

With the parochial Melbourne fans able to watch the Vics compete on home turf for the first time on 5 years, look for a raucous crowd to intimidate visiting teams.

PEAK PERFORMERS



Brad Harman, SS:

Harman - a former Helms Award winner - is probably the standout defensive wizard in the country. Recently invited to his first stint at Major League Spring training with the Phillies, Harman's freakish talent provides him the opportunity to single-handedly change the outcome of a game. He also carries a big bat to go with that prodigious glove - he will definitely be a key to the Aces chances for back-to-back titles in 2008.

Brad Harman (left) is one of Australia's most exciting young stars

Greg Wiltshire, RHP:

Wiltshire was the MVP of last year's CLAXTON SHIELD final limiting the potent NSW offence to just 3 runs while striking out 11. Having just finished his debut tour with the Australian team at the recent World Cup in Taiwan, Wiltshire is brimming with confidence after rumours his performance on the international stage earned him a six-figure contract for 2008.

Mathew Kent, Catcher:

Kent's presence in the Aces' line-up cannot be overlooked. The left hand hitting slugger in the reigning Helms award winner and adds another dimension to their team in terms of leadership. Always good for a couple of home runs at Claxton Shield time, Kent will be the danger man for opposing pitchers.



TEAM PROFILES

VICTORIA ACES



STRENGTHS - Defence

When all his troops are on board, David White will have the advantage of the tournament's strongest defensive with shortstop Harman backed by the likes of centerfielder Paul Weichard, second baseman James Beresford and the reliable Kent behind the dish.

WEAKNESSES – Player availability

One of White's biggest headaches will be trying to get his bevy of young stars all on the field at the same time. With many of his best players limited by their professional commitments, the Aces' manager will need to effectively juggle his line-up to maximise their performance in the early rounds.

SUMMARY

While there may be a few unfamiliar names in the Victorian side during the first series, look for big league stars like Justin Huber and Travis Blackley to emerge later in the 2008 campaign.

With 21 National Championships already under their belt, Victoria could easily run away with the Southern Division if a few bounces of the ball go their way. The hunt for back-to-back titles is a definite possibility.

PROTECTED ROSTER

| | SURNAME | FIRST NAME | D.O.B | BATS | THROWS | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | POSITION |
|----|-----------|------------|------------|------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| 1 | Beresford | James | 19/1/1989 | L | R | TBA | TBA | INF |
| 2 | Berg | Daniel | 21/11/1984 | R | R | TBA | TBA | INF |
| 3 | Biddle | Elliot | 23/11/1988 | R | L | TBA | TBA | P |
| 4 | Blackley | Adam | 22/2/1985 | L | L | TBA | TBA | P |
| 5 | Blackley | Travis | 4/11/1982 | L | L | TBA | TBA | P |
| 6 | Blackmore | Matthew | 19/6/1982 | R | R | TBA | TBA | P |
| 7 | Blejwas | Jason | 3/2/1980 | R | R | TBA | TBA | P |
| 8 | Booth | Ryan | 22/5/1983 | L | R | TBA | TBA | OF |
| 9 | Bright | Adam | 11/8/1984 | L | L | TBA | TBA | P |
| 10 | Harman | Brad | 19/11/1985 | R | R | TBA | TBA | IF |
| 11 | Hendricks | Donovan | 9/3/1986 | L | L | TBA | TBA | P |
| 12 | Huber | Justin | 1/7/1982 | R | R | TBA | TBA | OF |
| 13 | Johnston | Rikki | 2/4/1981 | L | L | TBA | TBA | UTIL |
| 14 | Karlsen | Grant | 21/2/1985 | R | R | TBA | TBA | C |
| 15 | Kent | Matthew | 7/2/1980 | R | R | TBA | TBA | C |
| 16 | Lindsay | Shane | 25/1/1985 | R | R | TBA | TBA | P |
| 17 | Russell | Andrew | 27/4/1984 | R | R | TBA | TBA | OF |
| 18 | Rutgers | Paul | 17/1/1984 | R | R | TBA | TBA | INF |
| 19 | Stokes | Peter | 27/4/1977 | R | R | TBA | TBA | INF |
| 20 | Weichard | Paul | 7/11/1979 | S | L | TBA | TBA | OF |
| 21 | Wilson | Brendan | 7/10/1985 | R | R | TBA | TBA | P |
| 22 | Wiltshire | Greg | 1/3/1980 | R | R | TBA | TBA | P |



TEAM PROFILES

NSW PATRIOTS



OVERVIEW

The Patriots are perennial powerhouses when it comes to Claxton Shield competition boasting the bulk of National Teams stars for the better part of the last decade.

After winning back-to-back titles in 2004 and 2005, NSW were narrowly edged out of last year's contest by a Victorian side hell bent on victory.

Shane Barclay continues in the top job for the Patriots but will have to draw on all his expertise as he manages a much younger side in 2008, missing many of the marquee names that made NSW such a feared opponent in previous events.

PEAK PERFORMERS



Trent Oeltjen, OF:

Oeltjen enjoyed what was probably the best month of his baseball career during the recent World Cup where he led the Australian side in almost every offensive category. The speedy centerfielder was named to the World All-star team before going continuing his good form against some of the best pitcher's on the planet in the Aussie side's exhibition series in Japan. If Oeltjen is on fire he will be hard to stop at the top of the Patriots' line-up.

Trent Oeltjen (pictured) had an amazing World Cup for Australia

Josh Hill, RHP:

Hill had a breakout year in the United States pitching at AA level for the first time in his career. After recently becoming a father for the first time, Hill who makes his home just outside of Chicago in the US, showed his commitment to Patriots by returning to Australia to pitch for NSW. A "power" pitcher with a dominant fasball, Hill's homecoming could spell disaster for opposing line-ups.

Trent D'Antonio, Catcher:

D'Antonio will be one of the keys to the Patriots' success in 2008. After losing current Australian catcher Andrew Graham to a severe arm injury, NSW will need D'Antonio to prove himself as a strong leader behind the plate.



TEAM PROFILES

NSW PATRIOTS



STRENGTHS – Starting Pitching

If Hill is joined by 2004 international player of the year Chris Oxspring in the starting rotation for NSW it could virtually guarantee the Patriots a spot in the finals. Southpaws Matthew Bennett, Tim Cox and Brad Thomas could also play a decisive role.

WEAKNESSES – Inexperience

With Andrew Graham out and a few injury clouds hanging over other key veterans, there may be a flood of young players expected to shoulder the heavy burden that comes with pulling on the sky-blue jersey for NSW. While it is listed here as a weakness, it could well prove a blessing in disguise as the Patriot rookies take centre stage.

SUMMARY

For the first time in many years the Patriots don't enter the Claxton Shield as standout favourites. Look for their home series against Queensland in early February to be the deciding factor in a tightly fought Eastern division.

PROTECTED ROSTER

| | SURNAME | FIRST NAME | D.O.B | Bats | Throws | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | POSITION |
|----|-----------|------------|---------|------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| 1 | ATHERTON | Timothy | 07Jun89 | R | R | 183 | 90 | RHP |
| 2 | AUTY | Timothy | 21Dec85 | R | R | 182 | 85 | OF |
| 3 | BENNETT | Matthew | 19Oct81 | L | L | 183 | 80 | LHP |
| 4 | COX | Timothy | 08Jul86 | R | L | 178 | 75 | LHP |
| 5 | D'ANTONIO | Trent | 14Aug85 | L | R | 174 | 82 | UTY |
| 6 | DENING | Mitchell | 17Aug88 | L | R | 187 | 85 | OF |
| 7 | EACOTT | Jarrad | 02Aug88 | L | L | 178 | 80 | LHP |
| 8 | FERRIS | Andrew | 12Dec82 | R | R | 188 | 95 | RHP |
| 9 | FINGLESON | Gavin | 05Aug76 | S | R | 176 | 77 | IF |
| 10 | HILL | Josh | 27Mar83 | R | R | 193 | 105 | RHP |
| 11 | GRATTAN | Todd | 07Sep86 | R | R | 184 | 90 | RHP |
| 12 | HARRIS | Vaughan | 10Jun81 | R | R | 181 | 75 | RHP |
| 13 | KINGMAN | Brendan | 22May73 | R | R | 185 | 112 | IF |
| 14 | LYSAUGHT | Michael | 30Sep85 | R | R | 180 | 84 | UTY |
| 15 | MAAT | Patrick | 15Sep87 | R | R | 185 | 108 | CAT |
| 16 | OELTJEN | Trent | 28Feb83 | L | L | 185 | 87 | OF |
| 17 | OXSPRING | Chris | 13May87 | L | R | 183 | 88 | RHP |
| 18 | PENDER | Shannon | 21Jun86 | R | R | 179 | 70 | IF |
| 19 | ROSSER | David | 14Dec69 | R | R | 183 | 92 | RHP |
| 20 | SOUTHAM | Joel | 26Feb81 | S | R | 175 | 75 | IF |
| 21 | THOMAS | Bradley | 12Oct77 | R | L | 191 | 93 | LHP |
| 22 | WILLIAMS | Matthew | 28Feb87 | R | R | 182 | 82 | RHP |

TEAM PROFILES PERTH HEAT



OVERVIEW

As hosts of last year's Claxton Shield, Perth were expecting their talented young squad to produce something special in front of the home fans.

What eventuated was a lacluster performance that saw the Heat finish in last place for the first time in recent memory.

This year Canadian import Gordon Gerlach will take over as Head Coach of a Perth side that on paper appears to have the perfect mix of young pros and returning veterans to challenge any side in this year's competition.

PLAYERS TO WATCH



Ben Risinger, OF:

Risinger is your prototypical "hard nosed" player who adds another dimension to the already imposing Heat line-up. Probably the biggest power threat in the entire competition, Risinger is an early favourite in Helms award voting after his clutch performances at the plate helped deliver Australia's best ever result at the 2007 World Cup.

Ben Risinger could be the key ingredient for the HEAT in 2008

Luke Hughes, 2B:

Like Risinger, Luke Hughes is a player that Perth will turn to with the game on the line. A solid second baseman with a potent bat, Hughes will be playing in his 7th Claxton Shield at just 23 years-of-age.

Brendan Wise, RHP:

During the recent World Cup, Wise was one of Australia's most consistent performers out of the bullpen – using his nasty "sinker" to baffle some of the best hitter's in the world. Wise was underdone at last year's Shield, but don't expect the same in 2008 as he attempts to make the significant leap from "promising youngster" to "established star".

TEAM PROFILES PERTH HEAT



STRENGTHS - Offence

In addition to Risinger and Hughes WA has the luxury of calling on "bash Brothers" Lachlan and Brandon Dale as well as veteran sluggers Clint Balgera and Ben Needle. Look for them to put up big numbers if they are allowed to get rolling.

WEAKNESS - The "Unknown"

With a "Rookie" Claxton Shield manager at the Helm the only risk to this red-hot Perth side might be losing their way when the action starts to really heat up. There may also be a few question marks surrounding the depth of their starting pitching, but in truth these weakness both may prove to be "unknown" strengths.

SUMMARY

For the first time almost a decade opposing teams will face the horror "Road Trip" west that gave the Heat such a distinct advantage in years gone by. If the offence can fire on all cylinders Perth might just be the team to beat in 2008.

PROTECTED ROSTER

| | SURNAME | FIRST NAME | D.O.B | BATS | THROWS | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | POSITION |
|----|---------------|------------|----------|------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| 1 | Balgera | Clint | 05.08.75 | L | R | 186cm | 94Kg | OF |
| 2 | Dale | Lachlan | 22.06.83 | R | R | 190cm | 100Kg | INF |
| 3 | Dale | Brandon | 10.11.80 | R | R | 193cm | 98Kg | OF |
| 4 | de San Miguel | Allan | 01.02.88 | R | R | 175cm | 89Kg | C |
| 5 | Floyd | Daniel | 17.01.83 | R | R | 175cm | 82Kg | OF |
| 6 | Goadby | Chris | 02.05.85 | R | R | 185cm | 82Kg | P |
| 7 | Graham | Mitch | 17.02.86 | R | R | 183cm | 88Kg | INF/OF |
| 8 | Hendriks | Liam | 10.02.89 | R | R | 184cm | 88Kg | P |
| 9 | Hughes | Luke | 02.08.84 | R | R | 182cm | 90Kg | INF |
| 10 | Kelly | Mark | 18.04.84 | S | R | 195cm | 90Kg | P |
| 11 | Kennelly | Matthew | 21.04.89 | R | R | 187cm | 88Kg | C/1B |
| 12 | Kennelly | Tim | 05.12.86 | R | R | 183cm | 89Kg | OF/INF |
| 13 | Kyle | Andrew | 01.03.81 | S | R | 178cm | 73Kg | INF |
| 14 | Lamb | Cameron | 20.05.89 | R | R | 191cm | 95Kg | P |
| 15 | Mitchinson | Scott | 28.12.84 | R | R | 188cm | 88Kg | P |
| 16 | Murphy | Travis | 15.11.84 | R | R | 191cm | 96Kg | P |
| 17 | Needle | Ben | 08.07.77 | R | R | 180cm | 100Kg | INF |
| 18 | Peacock | Dylan | 29.04.86 | R | R | 193cm | 96Kg | P |
| 19 | Risinger | Ben | 25.11.77 | R | R | 183cm | 100Kg | 1B/OF |
| 20 | Thomas | Brendon | 28.02.79 | R | L | 180cm | 83Kg | P |
| 21 | White | Dean | 12.02.83 | R | R | 193cm | 90Kg | P/INF |
| 22 | Wise | Brendan | 09.02.86 | R | R | 190cm | 95Kg | P |

TEAM PROFILES SOUTH AUSTRALIA



OVERVIEW

Without question South Australia has enjoyed one of the richest histories in Australian baseball. Perennial powerhouses in the first few decades of Claxton competition; prior to 1980 no other state had enjoyed more success than SA, with the Shield heading to Adelaide a record 15 times.

Unfortunately that is the last time the "City of Churches" has seen a National Championship go their way, with a 26 year drought in effect despite having some of the most talented players on offer during that time.

In 2008 Mark Haylock will again be in charge of a nearly unchanged SA side looking to build on the momentum of a year ago when they only narrowly missed a berth in the CLAXTON SHIELD final.

PEAK PERFORMERS



Tom Brice, OF:

At six-foot-five and 100 kg Tom Brice has a rare blend of size and athleticism that sets him apart from many of his contemporaries in Australian baseball. Brice spent the latter part of 2007 playing in Japan and when you throw in his stint at the World Cup he should be primed for a dramatic assault on the 2008 Claxton Shield.

Left: Tom Brice in flight during the World Cup in Taiwan

Dushan Ruzic, RHP:

"Roo", as he is affectionately known, is the reigning Claxton Shield pitching champion thanks in large part to his shutout against the QLD Rams in last year's semi-final. This enigmatic righty could easily replicate that performance in 2008 given the added experience of a year spent with the Cincinnati Reds at "AA" level.

Stefan Welch, 3B:

19-year-old Welch is one of the wild cards up Coach Mark Haylock's sleeve. He got his first taste of Claxton Shield in 2007, and his left hand bat could be decisive given South Australia's predominantly right handed line-up. Look for Welch to shine on home soil in his sophomore campaign.



TEAM PROFILES SOUTH AUSTRALIA



STRENGTHS – Pitching depth

South Australia has always enjoyed a wealth of outstanding pitchers and they make no exception in 2008. Ruzic will play a key role along with Paul Mildren and 2007 standout “rookie” Taj Merrill who proved he is more than capable of neutralising any offence. Throw in veterans John Challinor and Darren Fidge and you have the makings of a very deep roster.

STRENGTHS – History

With all those pitching weapons you would think the South Australian’s were locks for the 2008 finals, but if the last three decades are anything to go by, history is not on their side. Call it fate, call it Karma, but for some unknown reason these southern stars just can put it all together to win a championship

SUMMARY

The Southern Division looks set to be a very close race with Perth’s offence, SA’s pitching and Victoria’s omnipresent Claxton “swagger” making for some breathtaking baseball action. With the old adage that good pitching will always trump good hitting, South Australia could well upset the apple cart in 2008.

PROTECTED ROSTER

| | SURNAME | FIRST NAME | D.O.B | BATS | THROWS | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | POSITION |
|----|-----------|------------|----------|------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| 1 | Brice | Tom | 24-8-81 | L | L | 195 | 100 | Outfield |
| 2 | Cakebread | Josh | 25-01-85 | L | R | 175 | 73 | Infield |
| 3 | Challinor | John | 31-1-75 | R | R | 192 | 107 | Pitcher |
| 4 | Cresswell | Jeremy | 31-3-87 | R | R | 176 | 76 | Infield |
| 5 | Fidge | Darren | 12-11-74 | R | R | 187 | 94 | Pitcher |
| 6 | Fiebig | Tom | 24-03-89 | R | R | 188 | 90 | Pitcher |
| 7 | Galpin | Simon | 20-10-80 | R | R | 176 | 75 | Outfield |
| 8 | Golotta | Josh | 27-4-89 | R | R | 182 | 76 | Infield |
| 9 | Green | Tyler | 27-5-84 | L | L | 180 | 81 | Pitcher |
| 10 | Langmann | Todd | 11-10-81 | R | R | 185 | 98 | Utility |
| 11 | Lawson | Chris | 3-5-82 | R | R | 195 | 108 | Pitcher |
| 12 | Merrill | Taj | 11-12-73 | L | L | 190 | 108 | Pitcher |
| 13 | Mildren | Paul | 3-5-84 | R | L | 186 | 90 | Pitcher |
| 14 | Pett | Brendan | 24-9-87 | R | R | 183 | 84 | Catcher |
| 15 | Redden | Daniel | 16-2-84 | R | R | 189 | 80 | Pitcher |
| 16 | Rex | Jonathon | 10-8-85 | R | R | 188 | 83 | Pitcher |
| 17 | Ruzic | Dushan | 05-01-82 | R | R | 198 | 112 | Pitcher |
| 18 | Tols | Josh | 6-10-89 | L | L | 170 | 70 | Pitcher |
| 19 | Welch | Stefan | 12-8-88 | L | R | 193 | 84 | Infield |
| 20 | Wigmore | Ben | 17-1-82 | R | R | 184 | 85 | Infield |
| 21 | Williams | Torey | 12-5-84 | R | R | 185 | 94 | Catcher |
| 22 | Wilson | Daniel | 05-07-84 | L | R | 185 | 84 | Utility |



TEAM PROFILES

AUSTRALIA PROVINCIAL



OVERVIEW

Since their inclusion in the re-vamped Claxton Shield, the Australian Provincial team has never made the playoffs – but don't let that fool you into thinking they are the tournament easy beats.

Perpetually cursed by a lack of preparation time and the ability to train together as a team, AP usually start the tournament at a distinct disadvantage - but they more than make up for it courtesy of some outstanding young talent.

This year the provincials will be moulded by Paul Elliott who has the distinction of being the longest serving Australian born coach in professional baseball. His experience coupled with some prodigious young talent may be the perfect mix to upset highly favoured Eastern opponents NSW and QLD.

PEAK PERFORMERS



Michael Collins, C/1B:

It is hard to go past Collins as the standout talent on the Provincial's roster. Canberra fans will enjoy the opportunity to see this ACT born and bread star in action during the 2008 Claxton Shield – an competition that Collins has made his personal "hit-fest" since bursting onto the scene as a 19 year old in 2002. Look for him to anchor the AP offence again this year.

Michael Collins (left) has a lifetime .337 Claxton Shield batting average

Phil Brassington, RHP:

At 37, Brassington is old enough to be the father of some of his Australian Provincial team mates – but don't let that fool you. This cagey vet will use his infamous "knuckleball" to bamboozle opposition bats.

Josh Davies, RHP:

Victorian based Davies is returning for his third stint with the Provincials in 2008, with the only difference this year being his move from the infield to the mound. Recently converted into a pitcher, Davies addition to the staff could boast well for the young side.



TEAM PROFILES

AUSTRALIA PROVINCIAL



STRENGTHS – Untapped Potential

With a roster full of young prospects eager to impress on the main stage, the Australian Provincials might just be able to catch the opposition unawares. With at least six players set to debut in 2008 and a host of veterans on board to steady the ship, the provincials could easily compete for the top spot in the east.

Weaknesses – Limited Preparation

When you are drawing players from all over the country, the biggest hurdle facing the Provincials will be their inability to develop the all important “chemistry” that so often defines a champion team. Look to Elliott to call on his vast knowledge to quickly bring the team together.

SUMMARY

There is no doubt the provincials will have their work cut out for them. But when you consider a potential starting rotation that feature Brassington’s knuckleball, Atlanta Braves prospect Steven Kent, and the always tricky Cam Hardy there is no way you can discount the provincial side in a 3-game series.

When all is said and done after the 2008 Claxton Shield, there is sure to be no shortage of surprises out of the plucky provincials.

PROTECTED ROSTER

| | SURNAME | FIRST NAME | D.O.B | BATS | THROWS | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | POSITION |
|----|-------------|------------|----------|------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| 1 | NAYLOR | Clint | 3.08.88 | L | R | TBA | TBA | C |
| 2 | FIENEMANN | Mitchell | 28.05.90 | R | R | TBA | TBA | RHP |
| 3 | KANDALIS | David | 14.09.90 | R | R | TBA | TBA | OF |
| 4 | ROEGER | Angus | 26.04.90 | R | R | TBA | TBA | OF |
| 5 | BROOKES | James | 12.10.88 | S | R | TBA | TBA | SS |
| 6 | DAVIES | Josh | 15.10.82 | R | R | TBA | TBA | RHP |
| 7 | GRIFFIN | Ryan | 3.06.89 | L | L | TBA | TBA | LHP |
| 8 | HARDY | Cameron | 5.04.78 | R | R | TBA | TBA | RHP |
| 9 | HIPKE | Ross | 11.08.86 | R | R | TBA | TBA | RHP |
| 10 | LAWMAN | Matthew | 26.06.87 | S | R | TBA | TBA | INF |
| 11 | LENNOX | Michael | 25.08.89 | R | R | TBA | TBA | 3B/RHP |
| 12 | McDONALD | Tristan | 6.07.79 | R | R | TBA | TBA | C |
| 13 | McKENZIE | Andrew | 28.03.76 | L | R | TBA | TBA | OF |
| 14 | RYAN | Matthew | 4.04.86 | L | L | TBA | TBA | LHP |
| 15 | SAUNDERSON | Mark | 10.08.79 | R | R | TBA | TBA | 1B / DH |
| 16 | WILKINS | Luke | 27.12.89 | R | R | TBA | TBA | RHP |
| 17 | GRIBBIN | Andrew | 4.09.88 | R | R | TBA | TBA | RHP |
| 18 | COLLINS | Michael | 18.07.84 | R | R | TBA | TBA | C / 1B |
| 19 | VINCENT | Tom | 3.03.82 | L | R | TBA | TBA | OF /DH |
| 20 | BRASSINGTON | Phil | 19.04.70 | R | R | TBA | TBA | RHP |
| 21 | KENT | Steve | 8.05.89 | L | L | TBA | TBA | LHP |



CLAXTON SHIELD HISTORY



First Claxton Shield

In 1934 Norrie Claxton (1880-1951) donated a trophy to be awarded to the State winning the annual Australian Championships. Claxton, the first president of the South Australian Baseball League in 1913, originally intended the team that won the trophy for 3 successive years to become the permanent holder. After South Australia won the first 3 years of competition involving presentation of the trophy, all States agreed that it become a permanent competition trophy and named it the Claxton Shield Competition.

1930's

For many Claxton Shield players of this era, the late 1930's marked the golden age in Australian Baseball. The players were mainly club and Sheffield Shield cricketers, who saw each other on the cricket pitch in summer and the baseball diamond in winter. It was the lull of the decisive war which was to change the style and face of Australian baseball.

1940's

The post war years of Claxton Shield produced many new players. Some of the leading players who started to reach new heights with Australian baseball were Jack Rowley, Ray Lawler, Bob Black, Jim Dore and Ern Toovey.

1950's

The early 1950's saw a fully restored national Claxton Shield held in Sydney, with Queensland returning to the competition after a four year absence. Each capital city held at least one series during the decade with Brisbane hosting its first ever in 1953.

1960's

The 1961 series was the first time all teams got to play each other twice. In 1962, the longstanding Claxton tradition of hosting the event in August was broken by host Adelaide who scheduled the series in October. This was as close to cricket season as the Australian Baseball Council dared to venture. The immediate benefit was to bring the national competition closer to a season with warmer weather.

1970's

In 1977, 1978, and 1979, Western Australia won the shield with one of the strongest sides of all times, led by Manager and coach Rod Byrne, Don Knapp as captain and a team including Bob Harris, Ray Michell, Bob Ossey, Don Kyle, and Doug Mateljan.

1980's

The 1981 series in Adelaide was dominated by some great names such as Tony Adamson, Doug Mateljan, Graeme Lloyd, Brett Ward; the lists go on and on. 1987 saw the arrival of 17-year-old phenomenon Dave Nilsson. Nilsson was part of a baseball dynasty started by his father and perpetuated by himself and his brothers Gary and Bob. The 1988 Claxton Shield was destined to be the last six state national competition before the introduction of the IBLA.

IBLA

After 53 successful years of Claxton Shield competition, the ABF decided in 1988 to form a National Competition under the banner of the **AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL LEAGUE**. The League initially consisted of eight teams from around Australia and in order to continue the Claxton Legacy the winning team was awarded the Shield at the conclusion of each year. Unfortunately 1999 saw the demise of the National League, but with a ground swell of public support, a brand new league is almost certain to remerge in the near future.





CLAXTON SHIELD HISTORY

THE RETURN OF CLAXTON SHIELD

Claxton Shield returned in 2001 with a very impressive line-up. Since the final series of Claxton Shield in 1988, Australia had introduced several players into the US Major Leagues, most of which had returned home for the event. 2003 and 2004 saw the line-up grow as more Australian players joined the professional ranks overseas.

Following from the success of winning the 2004 Olympic Silver Medal, Australia now has over 90 professional players in the United States and Japan; many of whom will be competing at this year's Claxton Shield, making the level of play world class.

This year's event is sure to be the most impressive yet with a return to "Home & Away" format that will bring the game to more Aussie fans than ever before

CLAXTON SHIELD WINNERS BY YEAR

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1934 | South Australia | 1962 | Victoria | 1985 | Western Australia |
| 1935 | South Australia | 1963 | New South Wales | 1986 | Victoria |
| 1936 | South Australia | 1964 | South Australia | 1987 | Queensland |
| 1937 | New South Wales | 1965 | Victoria | 1988 | Queensland |
| 1938 | New South Wales | 1966 | South Australia | 1989 | New South Wales |
| 1939 | New South Wales | 1967 | South Australia | 1990 | Victoria |
| 1940-5 | SERIES SUSPENDED | 1968 | Victoria | 1991 | Western Australia |
| 1946 | New South Wales | 1969 | South Australia | 1992 | Queensland |
| 1947 | Victoria | 1970 | South Australia | 1993 | Victoria |
| 1948 | Victoria | 1971 | South Australia | 1994 | Queensland |
| 1949 | Victoria | 1972 | Victoria | 1995 | Victoria |
| 1950 | New South Wales | 1973 | Victoria | 1996 | New South Wales |
| 1951 | New South Wales | 1974 | Victoria | 1997 | Western Australia |
| 1952 | Western Australia | 1975 | Western Australia | 1998 | Victoria |
| 1953 | New South Wales | 1976 | South Australia | 1999 | Queensland |
| 1954 | Victoria | 1977 | Western Australia | 2000 | Western Australia |
| 1955 | New South Wales | 1978 | Western Australia | 2001 | NO SERIES (IBLA) |
| 1956 | Victoria | 1979 | Western Australia | 2002 | Victoria |
| 1957 | South Australia | 1980 | South Australia | 2003 | Queensland |
| 1958 | Victoria | 1981 | Victoria | 2004 | New South Wales |
| 1959 | South Australia | 1982 | Queensland | 2005 | New South Wales |
| 1960 | South Australia | 1983 | Queensland | 2006 | Queensland |
| 1961 | South Australia | 1984 | Victoria | 2007 | Victoria |



CLAXTON SHIELD HISTORY

Claxton Shield 'Helms' Award Winners *Ron Sharpe Medal*

Since 1962 The 'Helms' Awards has been awarded each year to the most outstanding player at the Claxton Shield. Former winners include Major League All-Star David Nilsson and Olympians Richard Vagg (1996), Rod van Buizen (2004), Craig Lewis (2004) and Brett Roneberg (2000, 2004.)

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1962 | Anthony Strand – NSW | 1978 | Ray Michell – WA |
| 1963 | Kevin Cantwell – NSW | 1979 | Brian Wonnacott – Vic |
| 1964 | Adrian Pearce – SA | 1980 | John Galloway – SA |
| 1965 | Graeme Deany – Vic | 1981 | John Hodges – Vic |
| 1966 | Kevin Greatrex – SA | 1982 | Geoffrey Martin – Qld |
| 1967 | Garry Thompson – SA | 1983 | Doug Mateljan – WA |
| 1968 | John Swanson – Vic | 1984 | Brett Ward – Vic |
| 1969 | Neil Page – SA | 1985 | Tony Stall – WA |
| 1970 | Paul Russell – NSW | 1986 | Lindsay Orford – Vic |
| 1971 | Ron McIver – Vic | 1987 | David Nilsson – Qld |
| 1972 | Donald Knapp – WA | 1989 | Richard Vagg – Vic |
| 1973 | David Mundy – SA | 2002 | Rod van Buizen - NSW |
| 1974 | Neil Buszard – Vic | 2003 | Craig Lewis – NSW |
| 1975 | Laurence Home – Qld | 2004 | Brett Roneberg – Qld |
| 1976 | Alan Albury – Qld | 2005 | Brad Harman – Vic |
| 1977 | Alan Albury – Qld | 2006 | Brad Dutton – Qld |
| | | 2007 | Mathew Kent - VIC |

GENERAL INFO ON AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL



- The game of baseball was first seen on Australian soil in the 1800's when American miners played it as a recreational sport on their days off.
- There are almost 600 baseball clubs throughout Australia with players as young as 5 years of age.
- Each year Australian baseball teams travel the world to compete in international tournaments and championships. In 2007, the ABF had representative teams travel to Japan, Taiwan and the United States of America.
- In 2007 Australia enjoyed their best ever result at the Baseball World Cup Finals finishing sixth in the 16-nation event.
- There are over 90 professionally signed baseball players in Australia. As of 2007, 25 of these players had played baseball at the Major League level.
- The ABF has sports development programs in nationwide academies and institutes aimed at developing more Australian players into professional athletes.
- One of the major contributors to Australian Baseball's success on the international stage, and the increased level of Australian players that have been integrated into the US professional system is the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program. The MLBAAP is a two-month baseball camp that is supported by US Major League Baseball and used as a development camp for players who have recently signed professional baseball contracts or are looking to sign a professional contract. It is utilized by American Major League clubs to prepare their players for the rigorous training they will endure in the US professional system. It draws candidates from all around the world including China, Japan, Korea, Oceania regions, USA and Europe.
- Australian Baseball also has an extremely strong women's program. The Australian Women's Baseball Team has had several successes on the international stage including a gold medal at the 2002 Women's World Series. In 2003, the Australian women's team placed second at the World Series and also performed admirably at the 2004 and 2006 World Cup events.
- Australia's success at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games has identified Australia as a serious contender on the international baseball circuit. As they move toward Beijing in 2008, Australia has their sight set firmly on the Gold.



OLYMPIC BASEBALL FACTS



Baseball has a long and distinguished history in Olympic competition. Baseball has been a demonstration Sport in the Games of:

| | | |
|------|---|-------------|
| 1904 | - | St Louis |
| 1912 | - | Stockholm |
| 1936 | - | Berlin |
| 1952 | - | Helsinki |
| 1956 | - | Melbourne |
| 1964 | - | Tokyo |
| 1984 | - | Los Angeles |
| 1988 | - | Seoul |

The 1992 Barcelona Olympics saw Baseball as a full Medal Sport with teams from Spain, Italy, Cuba, USA, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico.

The 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games saw Australia participate in their first official Olympic baseball competition, finishing seventh.

The 2000 Sydney Olympic Games for the first time saw inclusion of professional baseball players in the tournament. As host nation, Australia again ended the event in a disappointing seventh place.

In 2004, Australia defeated Japan 1-0 in the semi-finals to secure a place in the 2004 Olympic final against Cuba. Unfortunately the Cubans were too strong and defeated Australia 6-2 for the Gold – their third win in four Olympics.

Despite the loss Australia returned home Olympic heroes, after having achieved the single greatest result in the history of baseball in this country.

2005 saw a change to the Olympic qualifying criteria, making future attempts to qualify for the Olympics extremely difficult for the Oceania region.

Regardless of the tough road ahead, Australia remains focused on gold in 2008. Their final hurdle towards qualification will be the 8-nation repechage final schedule for early March 2008 in Taiwan.

The Aussies will match up against Canada, Korea, Taiwan, Mexico, South Africa, Great Britain and Spain for one of 3 remaining berths in the Beijing Olympic Games.



2007 CLAXTON SHIELD SPONSOR PROFILES



A Message from naming rights sponsor AIOFP / IndependentAdvice.com

The Association of Independently Owned Financial Planners (AIOFP) is an Australia-wide network of state-based, Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) holders.

We share a common vision that everyone has the right to expect professional financial planning advice that is competent, objective, ethical, and, above all, based solely on his or her needs."

Our membership is drawn from the leading independently owned financial planning groups in each State and Territory to form a powerful and dynamic professional alliance.

Association members are committed to using a mutually agreed, well-defined and fully transparent financial planning process. As independently owned financial planners, we are not tied to any particular product provider. We are client centered and not product driven.

Our vision and professional methodology binds us as a group and ensures the highest possible level of consistency and continuity for clients dealing with our members anywhere in Australia.

The advantage for ABF members is far reaching, with expert service Australia wide, great choice and more options when planning for your financial future. ABF members can access contact details for a financial planner in their area by going to www.IndependentAdvice.com

A note regarding premier sponsor DOLA On-Line Auctions

DOLA On-Line Auctions offers buyers the opportunity to bid for items over the internet in a secure environment. This online service also enables clients to offer surplus assets to staff through an exclusive staff sale prior to entering them into public auctions.

DOLA is one of the few auction houses in Canberra that also conducts regular online auctions for general items, office furniture and other goods.

DOLA has agreed to become the 2008 Claxton Shield Premier Sponsor.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



2008



THE ABF WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR TREMENDOUS SUPPORT

AIOFP
DOLA On-line Auctions
Astarra Funds Management
Australian Sports Commission
Australian Olympic Committee
Major League Baseball International
International BAseball Federation
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority
Western Australia Sports Institute
South Australia Sports Institute
ACT Academy of Sport
Queensland Academy of Sport
NSW Institute of Sport
Victorian Institute of Sport
Mizuno
Meat & Livestock Australia
SMP Images
G T Sports Imports
Madison Sports Pty Ltd
Easton
Wilson Sporting Goods
Baseball World Australia – K2 Baseball
Greatrex Australia
Ausport Sporting Goods
Fielders Choice
Ausball Sports Equipment
Dynamic Sports & Leisure
Greenfly Pty Ltd
Sportswear Queensland
Ball Park Queensland
Wembley Sports Wear
Emmsee Sportswear
Triple Play

P S L Digital Screenprint
Excel Sportswear
Champion Sportswear
W B Sports Supplies
Rider Sportswear Pty Ltd
Red Dog Clothing
Athletic Knit
B & C Tackle Pty Ltd
Fourex Clothing Pty Ltd
Vis Tech Sports Management
Striker Sports Pty Ltd
Attack Sports
Shirts North
Tackers
Brown's Mensland
Rally Point
Daves Work 'n' Safety
Eye4Sport
P & C Uniforms
Hyperactive Merchandising
Blacktown Venue Management
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