



INTERNATIONAL VOLLEYBALL ARRIVES IN DANDENONG

AUSTRALIA TO TACKLE FULL STRENGTH CANADIAN TEAM ON JULY 2 and 3

Volleyball Victoria will host their first full International games since 2006 when Australia play Canada at the Dandenong State Volleyball Centre on Friday, July 2 and 3, 2010.

Both games are expected to have capacity crowds of 2,000 plus.

Both teams will be at full strength in the lead in to the World Championships that will commence in Italy October 2010.

There are two Victorian players in the team namely
Tom Bawden (202cm aged 24) and **Igor Yudin (199cm aged 23)**

Some Interesting facts

Canada, like Australia, is a team on the way up in World Volleyball terms. Both teams are very young by World standards and have been showing improved performances. With a best ever result being a 4th at the 1984 Olympics Canada will be competing in their 9th World Championships, while Australia will be working hard to improve on finishes at their four previous World Championships. Canada had a creditable 11th place finish last time, while Australia finished 21st.

Head Coach of Team Canada, Glenn Hoag, is a past Olympian himself and was Assistant Coach for the French National Team that finished 3rd at the 2002 World Championships. Australia will be looking to reverse the result of last year's excellent 4-test match series in Canada which the Canadians took 3 - 1.

Canada will select their team from their 40+ professional athletes mainly playing in the European Leagues. With an increased number of Australian's playing professionally in various international teams, we now boast 24 athletes who will compete for places in this year's team. Key players for Canada are Gavin Schmitt (205cm) and Dallas Soonias (202cm) both of whom are World Class players in the opposite position. It will be a challenge for the Canadian coaching staff to see how they can best use these two key players. Australian Men's Head Coach Russ Borgeaud said that "Playing Canada, at home, is a great opportunity for our young guys to show their supporters what they are capable of. We have a lot of difficulty attracting teams down to Australia, so the chance to play a team of this calibre, at home, is fantastic and I encourage Volleyball fans not to miss this chance to see some great Volleyball. There is no doubt that Canada is a very good team and a great way to begin our preparation for this year's World Championships."

The Match Schedule is as follows:

State Volleyball Centre, 270 Stud rd Dandenong North

1 July – 7.00 pm VIP Coach Event

2 July – 12.00 Clinic with National Players - TBC

2 July – 7.00 pm Match Start time

3 July – 3.00 pm Match Start time

2007 Asian Senior Men's Champions - Australia

