

HK10

"Spring Training" - Taichung, Taiwan

February 2 - 5, 2010

Phoenix Cup - Hong Kong, China

February 6 - 9, 2010

HK10 - Tue, Feb 2

Taichung, Taiwan - Sakura Ballpark
Aussie Hearts 8 - Kapok Flower 1:

As is traditional for Aussie Hearts tours the morning started with some team-building fun games to help the team get to know each other. A game of "musical gloves" saw a full length dive from **Christina Kreppold** making sure she went on to the next round. **Shae Lillywhite** was the eventual winner with the consensus being that she won due to being so close to the ground.

Our first match was held at **Sakura Ball Park**, against **Kapok Flower**. Kapok is a team we fell to 7-5 in a crucial must-win game at the 2009 HK Phoenix Cup last year. On the scoreboard today, we were listed as the home team and fielded first.

We had two hours practice before lunch and prior to the game. The training session saw some outstanding fielding and hitting demonstrating the team was ready to play.

Coach **Mick Wearne's** fast balls in batting practice may have been too good for the Aussie Hearts, with a slow start in the game with the bats, struggling to hit the Kapok pitcher throwing junk.

In the fourth innings the Hearts bats woke up, started off by **Kim McMillan** with a long double, stealing on a ball in the dirt, scoring the first run off a single to centerfield by **Emma Binks**.

The Kapok defense faltered after that, with a walk to **Lel Anglin**, wild throw on a hit from **Erin Fox**, walk to **Lou Binet**, and singles to both **Lillywhite** and **Straumeitis**. **McMillan** the elder had a second bat in the same innings and hit a triple to score the 8th run of the inning.

Although originally this friendly match was slated for a 7 innings, but we were cut short due to university team training and only completed 4 ½ innings.

Jacinda Barclay, Aussie Hearts veteran on her team-leading 5th tour (tie w/ **Binet, L**), started the game on the mound and threw four solid innings, issuing only one walk and only giving up 2 hits.

Sam Ostrom, the Canadian from Baulkham Hills, came on to close in the 5th. **Ostrom** struck out her first batter, then a fly ball to **Lillywhite** at SS. After two runners reached base with two outs and a first and third split, catcher **Anglin** took the initiative to throw out the stealing runner at 2nd to finish the game as an 8-1 win.

All in all a serviceable start to the tour, with promises of much to come.

Injury Note:

-**Fox** tweaked an ankle on 2nd base. She is listed as day-to-day, with the expectation that she will be able to play without discomfort tomorrow.

Tour Notes:

-The late afternoon saw a visit to **Taichung Sport College** to watch a university game, followed by a visit to the **National Taiwan College of Physical Education** to meet the **Athletics Director Mr Yang Shien Ming**, who is also the coach of the Sport College Women's team. The College is very successful in multiple sports and we were taken on a tour to see the many trophies the college has won.

-The evening ended with a banquet Chinese dinner with the Kapok team. The night was a lot of fun, with "Side Show Bob" impersonator **Erin Fox** demonstrating her physical abilities and improving ankle, **Jacinda** proposing to one of the Kapok assistant coaches, and **Tammy** and **Tay** being adventurous with the food choices.

HK10 - Wed, Feb 3

Taichung, Taiwan - Intercontinental Stadium

Aussie Hearts 8 - Taichung College of Sport 6 (8-innings)

The **Aussie Hearts** took the mound for their second game today. Leading the charge was starting pitcher **Vic Brown** of Victoria who threw a solid 3-2/3 innings against a strong **Taichung College of Sport** team

Being the visitors on the scoreboard, the Hearts struck first with one run in the top of the opening frame. The Hearts also gave up two more runs in the top of the third inning

In total, **Brown** gave up three runs, all earned, as well as five hits, two walks, and two strikeouts. After leaving the game with two outs in the bottom of the 4th innings, the score was tied 3-3.

Christina Kreppold of Western Australia threw until she completed the 6th gave up no runs in 2-1/3 innings . A key moment was getting a two-out strikeout with the go-ahead run on third base in the bottom of the 6th.

But **Kreppold** was most notable for her bat. Stepping up to the plate to lead off the top of 7th, Chris smacked a 325-foot-plus home run, making the score 4-3. **Shae Lillywhite** followed with a triple and was plated on **Renee Straumietis'** sacrifice fly to make the score 5-3.

Reliever **Sam Ostrom** gave up two runs in the bottom of the 7th to the talented **Taichung Sport College** team, making the score 5-5. The runs were created on an error, a walk, and two hits.

In the extra 8th inning, **Kim McMillan**, led of with a walk and advanced to second before a 2-out line-drive single to leftfield by **Leslie Anglin** broke the tie. Anglin then scored as **Kreppold** hit her 2nd home run, this time an inside-the-park blast to the fence that she had to sprint out all four bases. This made the score 8-5.

The bottom of the 8th, the **College of Sport** leadoff hitter walked off new pitcher **Kim McMillan**. The leadoff eventually scored making it 8-6 with a runner on third base and two outs. Facing the potential tying run at the plate, McMillan struck her out to secure an Aussie Hearts victory.

After a brief lunch break, the **Hearts** will face **Sunflower** this afternoon. Today's games are being played at [Intercontinental Stadium](#), making Kreppold's exploits today that much more impressive. Intercontinental Stadium is one of Taiwan's very best fields and was home of the 2007 Intercontinental Cup.

-Report telephoned in by Head Coach Narelle Gosstray

Aussie Hearts 23 - Sunflower 0

In the second game of the day the **Aussie Hearts** backed up to post a 23-0 win against **Taiwan Sunflower**. In this friendly game the Hearts continued to hit the ball hard, hitting gaps and forcing errors, showing they could handle the junk ball pitching.

Taylor McKay pitched 5 innings, giving up 1 hit, 3 strike outs and 2 walks with no earned runs. **Laura Neads** closed the game without giving up a run. The Hearts smashed 17 hits, and forced 12 errors through good pitch selection and hitting the ball hard. Highlights include an in the park home run by **Renee Straumeitis**. **Kim McMillan** and **Neads** each had 3 hits.

Jacinda Barclay hit a triple and single.

Overall the game showed the depth of the Hearts lineup with every able bodied player getting a hit. An 8 run 5th innings showed that the hearts were able to stay consistent and keep heads in the game even when well ahead.

Sunflower played the game with passion, a tough coach dragging players after making errors, meant the also went deep into their reserves.

Tomorrow the **Hearts** again face **Taichung Sport College**, as well as **Fieri Clouds**...our last day before heading to Hong Kong and the Phoenix Cup.

HK10 - Thur, Feb 4

Taichung, Taiwan - Intercontinental Stadium

SPECIAL THANKS TO SOPHI, YING-JEN, YU-HAN, AND ALL OUR TAIWANESE FRIENDS

Today's games were again played at Intercontinental Stadium.

Aussie Hearts 15 – Taichung Sport College 13

Emma Binks the winning pitcher today- throwing four (4) innings, giving up four (4) hits and three (3) runs. Two (2) runs were earned, Binks also struck out three (3) and walked three (3). An outstanding performance against a strong team from the **Taichung College of Sport**.

On offense, the Hearts bats came out swinging with seven (7) runs in the first dig, three (3) runs in the second, as well as two (2+2) runs in both the third and fourth innings.

After four innings, the **Hearts** led 14-3 before the strong **Taichung** team fought back.

Pitching the 5th inning in relief, **Laura Neads** gave up five (5) hits and six (6) earned runs. Lots of chinkers, so the consensus is that Lulu was unlucky.

The **Hearts** offense answered with one (1) run in the bottom of the sixth to maintain a lead of 15-9.

Jacinda Barclay threw the 6th inning, giving up four (4) hits, one (1) walk, and four (4) runs with three (3) of them being earned.

Suddenly the score was 15-13 going into the top of the 7th. **Kim MacMillan** came on to close the door pitching a scoreless inning and secure the win for

the Hearts.

On offense, **Shae Lillywhite** knockout out three (3) hits while making a heads-up throw on a relay to catch a sleeping runner at first base. **Vic Brown** and **Kim McMillan** also had three hits. **Erin Fox**, **Taylor McKay**, and **Leslie Anglin** each had two (2) hits, while Anglin added three (3) walks to lift her on-base percentage.

Christina Kreppold caught well behind the plate, catching several foul pop-ups.

Sinead Flanigan will pitch the 2nd game today against Fiery Clouds. This will be the 5th and final game of the Taichung "Spring Training" tour.

Aussie Hearts 32 – Fiery Clouds 1

Sinead Flanigan the winning pitcher as the Hearts go five-from-five in their warm-up schedule. Flanigan threw five (5) strong innings that included two (2) hits, four (4) strikeouts, three (3) walks, and one (1) run (earned).

Victoria Brown on in relief. Throwing two (2) scoreless innings, Brown gave up one (1) hit and one (1) walk, while recording her final three (3) batters for strikeouts.

Offensively, the following players had three hits: **Tammy McMillan**, **Erin Fox**, **Kim McMillan**, **Laura Neads**, **Jacinda Barclay**, and **Shae Lillywhite**.

It's worth noting that Neads had a long triple that likely would have been an inside-the-park home run if **Head Coach Narelle Gosstray** had waived her home. This sportswriter applauds the cautious move in a warm-up game.

Tour Notes:

The **Aussie Hearts** visit the **All-Star baseball equipment factory** in Taipei on Friday before flying to Hong Kong in the afternoon.

On Friday, managers from all **Phoenix Cup** teams will meet at 8pm **Hong Kong** time at the **Metropark Hotel** in **Kowloon**.

Saturday after the 10am opening ceremony at **Sai Tso Wan Field**, the **Aussie Hearts** open the 6-game round-robin with games against **Taiwan Vanguard** and **Hong Kong Allies** at 11am and 1:30pm respectively. Starting pitchers have not yet been named.

HK10 - Sat, Feb 6

Hong Kong, China - Phoenix Cup

Opening Ceremony

Certainly another fantastic and classy opening ceremony from our hosts at the **Hong Kong Baseball Association**. Concise and heartfelt speeches from Hong Kong baseball leaders were enjoyed, as well as a troop of school traditional Chinese drummers and dragon dancers.

But a real highlight was the visit from **Riccardo Fraccari**, the president of the **IBAF** (International Baseball Federation). He made time to chat at length with Coaches **Narelle Gosstray** and **Mick Wearne**. It was heartening to hear him speak of his clear commitment to women's baseball.

Another fantastic highlight was a chance to take photos with the actual **World Series** trophy that is currently in the care of the 27-time World Series champions New York Yankees!

The trophy was brought by **Jean Afterman**, Yankees assistant general manager who works with Brian Cashman. She also let the Hearts take photos with her 2003 American League Championship ring. Jean also took time to meet many players and speak at length on a number of topics with staff. It was a pleasure to meet this first-class woman...indeed a very inspirational person as she is one of a very few women working on the baseball operations side of a MLB front office.

Aussie Hearts 16 - Taiwan Vanguard 3

Visitors on the scoreboard, the Aussie Hearts got off to a slow start in the top of the 1st. **Renee Straumeitis** had the lone hit as **Shae Lillywhite**, **Kim McMillan**, and **Chris Kreppold** all flew out.

In the bottom of the first, **Vanguard** scored three runs off starter **Jacinda Barclay**. A single and a hit batters started the inning, followed by two strikeouts. Then two singles, a walk, and error and led to three Vanguard runs in the opening frame.

But in the top of the 2nd, the **Hearts** bounced back with five runs. **Erin Fox** had 2 rbi's on a double, **Straumeitis** had one on a sacrifice fly, and **Kreppold** has an rbi single.

Barclay held the Taiwanese scoreless in the bottom of the 2nd inning, and indeed the rest of the game they only had one hit. Her final line was 4 innings, 4 hits, 4 strikeouts, 1 walk, and two hit batters. Two of the three runs were earned.

In the third, the Hearts scored five runs again, this time on hits by **Taylor**

McKay, Neads, Lou Binet. Leslie Anglin and **Straumeitis** had walks.

A 6-run fourth sealed the game by the mercy rule. McKay led off with her 2nd hit. In the inning Binet and Straumeitis also singled, while K. McMillan tripled and Kreppold hit an inside-the-park home run.

Renee Straumeitis, Chris Kreppold, Taylor McKay, and **Lou Binet** were the offensive leaders, each with two hits in the game.

Aussie Hearts 10 - Hong Kong Allies 0

It is pretty clear that the **Hong Kong Allies** have improved noticeably from last year. It was a pleasure to see our old friend **Kitty Au** on the mound.

But they were no match starting pitcher **Vic Brown** who threw the first no-hitter in Aussie Hearts history! Brown walked two, while striking out one in the mercy-shortened four-inning affair.

Shae Lillywhite and **Chris Kreppold** (incl. double) let the way with three hits each. **Sinead Flanigan** had two hits (incl. double), while **Laura Neads** and **Emma Binks** doubled for their only hits. **Sam Ostrom** and **Tammy McMillan** also had singles.

HK10 – Sun, Feb 7

RAIN DAY!!

HK10 - Mon, Feb 8

Hong Kong, China- Phoenix Cup

Aussie Hearts 25 - Korea NineVics 0

After losing a day of games to the heavy showers at two fields yesterday, the tournament committee has gone to great lengths to ensure all games are still played. One concession is that games are limited to 90 minutes.

Emma Binks took the hill today against the **NineVics**, coached by the head coach of the Korean national team and featuring four players on their national squad. In the top of the first Binks, the longtime Australian national team veteran, retired the Koreans with three groundball outs.

In the bottom of the inning, the Hearts exploded. **Shae Lillywhite** and **Renee Straumiets** singled and **Chris Kreppold** cleared the bases with another inside-the-park home run. From there the inning just kept rolling as

the **Hearts** batted around twice, including a single and a double by **Taylor McKay**. The Hearts scored 13 runs on 11 hits, 3 walks, a sacrifice fly, and 1 error.

In the top of the second inning, **Binks** again held the NineVics scoreless and hitless, while striking out one and hitting one.

In the top of the second, the Hearts again came out swinging with the top of the order again leading off. **Lillywhite** singled, **Straumietis** reached on a hard-hit error and **Kreppold** again hit another inside-the-park home run. **Taylor McKay** again singled and doubled in the inning. In the inning, the Hearts scored 12 runs on 9 hits, 3 walks, and 1 error.

With the Hearts batting for so long and the short 90 minute time limit, the game was finished after two innings. **Emma Binks** held the Koreans hitless for the duration of the game.

Here is the batting line:

Lillywhite 1B, 1B, 1B, 1B

Straumietis 1B, 1B, E6, 2B: rbi

Kreppold HR, 1B, HR, HR: 10rbi

McMillan, Kim E7, BB, BB, HBP

McKay 1B, 2B, 1B, 2B: 4rbi

Anglin HBP, 2B, FO9, BB: rbi

McMillan, Tam SACFLY, HBP, 1B: rbi

Binet FO3, 1B, GO5: 2rbi

Fox 1B, FC6, 2B: rbi

Barclay K

Aussie Hearts 19 - North America Shenzhen 0

Again the home team, the Hearts again fielded first. This time Sinead Flanigan took the hill. She walked the first batter who catcher Lel Anglin promptly threw out. The second batter also reached but was later thrown out at the plate by leftfielder Christina Kreppold to end the inning.

In the bottom of the first, Shae Lillywhite walked and Laura Neads doubled to center. Both scored on Kreppold's double. Then Taylor McKay and Kim McMillan followed with back to back doubles. In the inning, the Hearts scored

8 runs on 6 hits, 3 walks, and 1 error.

In the top of the frame, Flanigan held them to a scoreless 1-2-3 inning with a ground out and two flyouts.

In the bottom of the inning, the Hearts hit the ball hard again. Kim McMillan led off with a hard-hit error to the shortstop, then Anglin, Emma Binks, and Vic Brown singled. Erin Fox hit a 2 RBI triple, then Lillywhite, Neads, Kreppold, McKay, McMillan Kim all singled. In the inning, the Hearts scored 11 runs on 12 hits, 2 errors, and no walks.

To end the 90-minute game in the top of the third, pitcher Flanigan induced a groundout from the leadoff hitter. She walked the 2nd batter, but catcher Leslie Anglin quickly threw out her second runner before Flanigan struck out the final batter.

Flanigan: 3IP, 1 hit, 2 walks, no runs.

Here is the batting line:

Lillywhite BB, BB, 1B: rbi

Neads 2B, BB, 1B, 1B

Kreppold 2B, 1B, 1B: 4rbi

McKay 2B, GO6, 1B: 2rbi

McMillan Kim 2B, E6, 1B: 3rbi

Anglin E6, 1B, FC: rbi

Binks 1B, 1B, GO6

Brown GO3, 1B, E5: 2rbi

Fox LO6, 3B: 2rbi

Binet GO6-4

Barclay 1B: rbi

Wins tomorrow again Korea TOP and the 2x defending champion Japan Far East Bloomers would allow the Hearts to become tournament champs.

HK10 - Tues, Feb 9

Hong Kong, China - Phoenix Cup

Aussie Hearts 10 - Korea TOP 0

With the tournament schedule backed up by a full days games lost on two fields, the shortened 90-minute game schedule continued today in order to fit all games in at Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground.

With eyes on the looming showdown with Japan and a depleted Korea TOP pitching staff, the Hearts were a little flat this morning. Unfortunately, Top was did not challenge us to play as well as we have in other games.

It should be noted that pitcher **Taylor McKay** threw well to catcher **Tammy McMillan**, pitching three scoreless innings. It was a fine outing with a lot of strikes. She surrendered three hits and one walk, while striking out three.

Also of note, former current Korea TOP player and Aussie Hearts SBK08 teammate Hyangmi Ahn blasted a deep double off McKay reminiscent of her batting that inspired adding her to the Hearts for that tour to South Bend and Kenosha.

Here is the scoreline:

SS Lillywhite: 2B, HBP, BB

2B Straumietis: BB, 1B, FO9, rbi

DH Neads: BB, E5, rbi

3B McMillan, Kim: FO1, E1

LF Anglin: 1B, FO9, rbi

CF Fox: HBP, GO6-3

1B Ostrom: BB, GO2-3

RF Flanigan: BB, E6

C McMillan, Tammy: 2B, FC4-6, rbi

Aussie Hearts 11 - Japan Far East Bloomers 0

With the rain rescheduling, the scheduled grand final was eliminated and the schedule slotted so the two favorite teams would clash in the final game of the round robin.

Pitcher **Jacinda Barclay** quickly got the first two hitters on groundouts before walking the third batter. According to the scouting plan, Barclay and catcher **Lel Anglin** kept the ball low and away from the Far East Bloomers big-hitting cleanup hitter who pulls the ball when she hits for extra bases. A subsequent hard seeming single to right field was played aggressively and flawlessly by right fielder **Taylor McKay** who gunned the runner out at first base, a rare 9-3, to retire the side.

In the bottom of the first, shortstop **Shae Lillywhite** led off with a hard-fought walk and then stole second. Then second sacker **Renee Straumietis** walked before McKay hit into a 5-3 double play. But with Straumietis on second, **Kim McMillan** smashed a groundball single between short and third to score the Hearts first run. McMillan is to be acknowledged for making a specific adjustment and really hitting the ball well tonight.

In the top of the second, Barclay struck out the leadoff hitter and retired the Bloomers in order. Throwing in the mid-60s (mph), Barclay was clearly impressing a number of the Hong Kong contingent who are just beginning to appreciate how well women can play baseball.

In the bottom of the second, the Hearts came out swinging. Catcher **Lel Anglin** led off with the first of her three hits. She stole second and advanced to third on Left Fielder **Tammy McMillan's** one-out single. McMillan had two hits and a walk on the night, capping an impressive advancement from bench player to key starter in the course of the tour.

Center Fielder **Erin Fox** then proceeded to smash a deep triple in left-center to drive both Anglin and McMillan. An impressive shot by a talented player whose baseball IQ has increased tremendously over the course of 11 international games. At the end of two digs, the Hearts led 3-0.

In the top of the third inning, Barclay and Anglin continued to cruise, opening with two strikeouts and ending with a groundout to Kim McMillan at third. The battery was really impressive tonight as they spotted pitches well and could throw both fastball and off-speed for strikes. It really shone through this inning as Barclay both began to throw the off-speed for 1st pitch strikes and threw a slider 3-2 to record one of her strikeouts. Indeed both strikeouts were on sliders this inning.

In the bottom of the third, the Hearts really began to take control. After **Emma Binks** reached on the first error of the game with two outs, Anglin singled and **Lou Binet** doubled to left-center to drive both them in. At the end of three, the Hearts led 5-0.

In the top of the fourth, the Bloomers leadoff hitter tried to bunt her way on and was retired in a close play by an agile Kim McMillan at third throwing to first base sacker Binet who made a very impressive stretch. A subsequent double was the lone hit surrendered by Barclay and she quickly got the next two hitter to ground out.

In the bottom of the 4th, the Bloomers changed pitcher and their defense faltered with two errors and a walk. A muffed sacrifice fly by Kim McMillan and a two-run single by designated hitter **Emma Binks** made the score 8-0. This was followed by an impressive and deep triple by catcher Anglin to drive in two more runs. This put the Hearts up 10-0. An RBI single by Tammy McMillan sealed the game as Anglin plated the 11th run and the mercy rule was invoked at the end of the inning.

Summary Thoughts

This game was a fitting way to finish for the HK10 edition of the Aussie Hearts- a team that played very consistently and maintained a great deal of professionalism and effort regardless of opponent.

Pitchers threw strikes and minimized walks, giving up only nine (9) hits in six games (albeit shortened games).

The defense played nearly perfectly with only two (2) total errors at the Phoenix Cup.

The hitters patiently swung at good pitches all tour long resulting in a hitting display that was incredibly impressive.

Scoreline

SS Lillywhite: BB, K, E6

2B Straumietis: BB, FO8, BB

RF Mckay: DP5-3, BB, E5

3B McMillan, Kim: 1B, DP6-4-3, SACFLY, 2rbi

DH Binks: GO4-3, E6, 1B, 2rbi

C Anglin: 1B, 1B, 3B, 2rbi

1B Binet: FO4, 2B, FO9, 2rbi

LF McMillan, Tammy: 1B, BB, 1B, 1rbi

CF Fox: 3B, FO1, DP1-3, 2rbi

Tournament Awards

Most hits: Kreppold (12)

Most home runs: Kreppold (4)

Best Pitcher: Barclay (2 wins)

Hearts MVP: Lillywhite

Best Coach: Gosstray

HEARTS WIN PHOENIX CUP IN HONG KONG

MEDIA RELEASE - February 10, 2010

On Tuesday night the Aussie Hearts beat the Far East Bloomers of Japan 11-0 to win the Phoenix Cup in Hong Kong, China.

The Far East Bloomers were the two-time defending champions of the third annual event, which this year included teams from America, Australia, China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and host Hong Kong . Pitcher **Jacinda Barclay** of Western Australia threw the deciding game, striking out three and giving up one hit. Catcher **Leslie Anglin** of Victoria had three hits, including a triple to drive in two runs. **Erin Fox** of Western Australia also hit a triple to drive in two runs. **Tammy McMillan** of Queensland had two hits, a walk, and an RBI. **Barclay** was named the best pitcher of the tournament. Centre fielder **Chris Kreppold** of Western Australia was named the event's top hitter as well as home run queen. Shortstop **Shae Lillywhite** of Victoria was acknowledged by the tournament organising committee as the Heart's Most Valuable Player. **Narelle Gosstray** from the Northern Territory was named as best coach of the tournament.

Pitcher **Vic Brown** of Victoria also threw a no-hitter earlier in the Hong Kong event. Last week during a game on the Taiwan leg of the tour, Kreppold hit a home run over the 325 foot sign on the outfield fence at Taichung 's Intercontinental Stadium. The eleven-game HK10 tour encompassed five warm-up friendlies in Taichung, Taiwan and concluded with the six-game Phoenix Cup in Hong Kong . It is the sixth Aussie Hearts international women's baseball tour since 2005. The program was established to help provide international opportunities for girls and women who love to play baseball. "I am very proud because this group clearly valued the team far more than any individual accomplishment," said Head Coach Narelle Gosstray.

"They unselfishly supported each other to create an environment that allowed everyone to find the best in themselves and to play their best baseball."
"From there, the results looked after themselves," Gosstray said.

Simone Wearne and **Mick Wearne** were the assistant coaches of the Aussie Hearts team. Also on the Hearts coaching staff was **Jeneane Lesko**, a former pitcher for the Grand Rapids Chicks of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

"I can't begin to tell you how impressed I am by these Aussie players and their coaches," Lesko said. "The way they conducted themselves on this tour reminds me of everything that was good about our league all those years ago. I am thrilled they ask me to be part of this."