

1st June 2009

SLOW START DOOMS OPALS IN PARIS

This article is courtesy of Bill Baxter, Basketball Australia.

Australia's women's basketball team, the Opals, lost to France 80-60 this morning in the final game of the Euroesonne Tournament in Paris.

Dogged by another slow start, the Opals trailed by thirteen points at the first break and never bridged the gap against their stronger and faster opponent.

Canberra Capitals forward Abby Bishop led Australia with 13 points and 7 rebounds while Deanna Smith and Kathleen McLeod added 8 points each.

France's Sandrine Gruda was the game's high scorer with 16 points and was awarded the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

Opals Head Coach Carrie Graf said her team's 39-38 rebounding victory was a positive, as it was throughout the Opals' overseas tour, but her team was left ruing another slow start.

"It was a great challenge put to us by the French and next time we need to respond quicker," Graf said.

After four wins from eight games on tour, the Opals depart for Australia tonight.

FRANCE 80 (Sandrine Gruda 16) bt **AUSTRALIA 60** (Abby Bishop 13, Deanna Smith 8, Kathleen McLeod 8) at the Arenes de l'Agora in Evry, Paris
Australia finishes 2nd.

For more information please contact:

Bill Baxter Basketball Australia

T: 02 9469 7218

M: 0423 378 644

E: bill.baxter@basketball.net.au