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BOOMERS BUMPED BY STAR-STUDED BRAZIL

This article is courtesy of Bill Baxter, Basketball Australia.

Australia's men's basketball team was unable to recapture the form that saw it defeat Athens gold medallist Argentina yesterday and fell to a star-studded Brazilian side today in the final game of the Super 4 tournament in Rio de Janeiro, 95-67.

Ahead 14-10 midway through the opening quarter, Australia could not hold back a wave of Brazilian scoring that saw the South Americans put on a 27-4 run across the first and second periods that effectively sealed the result.

Australia battled hard in the second half against a formidably talented opponent but could not bridge the gap, with the 17-point half time margin extending to 28 points at the final buzzer, the Boomers biggest losing margin from six games on tour.

Point guard Adam Gibson was Australia's best with five three-pointers on his way to 22 points, 7 rebounds and 2 assists, Beijing Olympian Joe Ingles added 16 points, while no other Boomer scored in double figures.

Phoenix Suns guard Leandro Barbosa led Brazil with 15 points and Cleveland Cavaliers centre Anderson Varejao had 13 points with a game high 9 rebounds. Former San Antonio Spurs Alex Garcia and Tiago Splitter also had good games, with Garcia adding 13 points and Splitter 11 on 4-of-4 shooting while restricting Boomers power forward Nathan Jawai to 8 points, 4 rebounds and 4 assists.

Boomers head coach Brett Brown was disappointed with his team's first half performance but was pleased that his young team showed great determination to fight to the end.

"After such a positive win last night our first half was a backward step, but in the second half we fought hard and competed with an extremely talented team and even though we lost we lost with some dignity and that's important," Brown said.

"A run like Brazil put on, they're deadly.

"We were shell shocked and caught in the meat grinder and we couldn't get out of it.

"You blink and you're down 20 and we have to learn how to control the tempo or the lessons we learned tonight are going to be revisited.

"Our group showed it has pride and this was a fantastic learning situation not only for the players but the coaching staff as well.



"These games allow you to see the truth and the truth was we were underdone in some skill areas."

Brown made special mention of his starting point guard Adam Gibson, "Gibbo was solid again and to me he has been our Most Valuable Player on tour," Brown said.

"All day, every day he's been steady and he's put in some really mature performances on a game by game basis.

"He's in shape, he's focused, he ran the team well and he has professional qualities that our young players can observe and understand."

In today's other game, Uruguay upset an Argentinean side without star forward Luis Scola, 84-79, to take third place in the four nation tournament.

The Boomers will arrive back in Sydney on Tuesday afternoon at 5:50pm and after a five day break will go into a training camp in Sydney on Monday August 17th.

Australia is preparing for the 2010 FIBA Oceania Championship against New Zealand, where 2010 FIBA World Championship seedings are on the line.

Game one will be played at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre on Sunday 23 August at 6pm before the second game is played in Wellington on August 25.

Quarter by quarter:

1. BRA 22 AUS 14
- H. BRA 48 AUS 31(26-17)
3. BRA 76 AUS 54 (28-23)
- F. BRA 95 AUS 67 (19-13)

BRAZIL 95 (Leandro Barbosa 15, Anderson Varejao 13, Alex Garcia 13) bt **AUSTRALIA 67** (Adam Gibson 22, Joe Ingles 16, Nathan Jawai 8, Oscar Forman 8) at Barueri Arena, Barueri, Super 4 Tournament, Brazil

Final standings:

1. Brazil
2. Australia
3. Uruguay
4. Argentina

The Australian Boomers face the New Zealand Tall Blacks at 6pm on Sunday 23 August at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre in a 2010 FIBA World Championship qualification event. Go to www.basketball.net.au for more information or www.ticketek.com to reserve your seats today. Adults \$30, Children \$18, Family \$80. Show your true colours. Support the Boomers! Buy tickets today.

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