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## **BRAZIL BUMPS BOOMERS IN TIGHT ONE**

**This article is courtesy of Bill Baxter, Basketball Australia.**

Australia's men's basketball team lost a close game to Brazil in Argentina today with the South Americans winners by three points.

Olympian David Barlow had a three point shot to tie the game go wide under intense physical defensive pressure and Australia went down, 74-71.

Barlow top scored for Australia with 13 points while power forward Nathan Jawai continued his international emergence with 12 points and 8 rebounds in support.

Cairns product Aron Baynes scored 10 points in his second game for Australia while starting point guard Adam Gibson was productive at both ends of the floor and finished with 10 points.

Brazil's 206cm centre Bruno Fiorotto led all scorers with 22 points.

"It was a frustrating game to lose as we were up for the majority of the game," Boomers head coach Brett Brown told Basketball Australia.

"Our guys came out with a far greater focus after a fantastic learning experience against a multiple medal winning team in Argentina and we put ourselves in a position to be ahead in the fourth period and to win our first game on the road.

"But late in the game a combination of bad turnovers and a lack of execution at the defensive end enabled Brazil to find some cheap baskets.

"It's frustrating that we didn't win after the time spent working hard in Sydney and making adjustments after our first game against Argentina.

Brown made mention of his starting point guard and two of his rookie Boomers before looking ahead to Australia's next game on Tuesday.

"Adam Gibson continued to play well and lead the team. Aron Baynes was consistently solid inside and we got some good contribution from Luke Nevill."

"Tomorrow we will get into recovery as we've got another two games back to back, which will be four games in five days, so it is an important time to analyse the video tapes and focus on getting the bodies right for what's ahead."

Australia had its most promising start on tour to the delight of a small Aussie contingent in the crowd as Jawai caused problems in the paint and Gibson got the scoreboard ticking for the Boomers.



Brazil's Jonathan Tavernari continued to light it up in the second quarter as his team's compact zone defence tested the Boomers but Australia went into the main break ahead by two points, 36-34.

The Boomers picked up the defensive intensity in the opening minutes of the second half and took a five point lead behind tough baskets from Barlow and Jawai. Matt Burston was effective in short bursts off the bench and in 11 minutes he racked up six points and four rebounds.

With Baynes chiming in Australia pushed out to a nine point lead in the fourth quarter before lapses in defence let Brazil get back into the game.

With 44 seconds on the clock and the game all tied Joe Ingles had the ball stripped from him and he immediately fouled the Brazilian player to prevent a fast break, but it was called an unsportsmanlike foul, giving Brazil two foul shots and possession of the ball.

Australia had one final chance when four seconds remained to send the game into overtime but Barlow's shot was unsuccessful.

Quarter by quarter:

1: BRA 15 AUS 14

H: AUS 36 BRA 34 (21-20)

3: AUS 59 BRA 52 (23-18)

F: BRA 74 AUS 71 (22-12)

**BRAZIL 74** (B Fiorotto 22, J Tavernari 17, D Zimmer 9) bt

**AUSTRALIA 71** (D Barlow 13, Nathan Jawai 12, Aron Baynes 10, Adam Gibson 10) in Rosario, Argentina

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