

3rd July, 2009

EMUS ECLIPSE SPAIN AT WORLDS

This article is courtesy of Kimberly Lewis, Basketball Australia.

Australia's Under-19 Men's team, the Emus, held off a fast-finishing Spanish outfit for a 69-62 victory, their second at the FIBA Under-19 World Championship in Auckland, New Zealand this afternoon.

Spain showed glimpses of brilliance but the Emus' lightning quick start once again set them up with a lead that could not be overrun.

197cm guard Ryan Broekhoff kept the Emus in front with a team high 16 points and seven rebounds. He had support from Brock Motum who backed up from his impressive performance yesterday to add 14 points and six rebounds. Spain's Toni Vicens led all scorers with 17 points.

Broekhoff said the Emus were pleased to get their second win in as many games.

"The Spanish are very tough, they press hard, run hard and shoot well," Broekhoff said.

"We're happy to come away with a win but we need to box out better and limit our turnovers as well."

The Emus started the game with their trademark scoring blitz in the first quarter. They mixed up their defence to keep the Spanish guessing and the tactic worked, forcing Spain to take their chances from 3-point range, where they converted only 1-of-8 for the quarter.

An unsportsmanlike foul given to Jorge Santana unsettled the Spanish making it all too easy for Emus forward Motum who scored two easy baskets, pushing the lead out to nine points at the first break, 20-11.

The Emus began the second term with an emphasis on defensive pressure, and their determination forced Spain into a shot clock violation early in the quarter. Despite their composure Australia momentarily caught the shooting yips and went scoreless for three minutes, allowing Spain back into the game before Broekhoff broke their drought to stretch the lead back to seven points.

The margin was out to 10 when Broekhoff drained a trey and despite another timeout from Spain, the Emus picked up where they left off and were ahead 33-23 at halftime.

The Emus seemed to have all the answers to any Spanish challenge as they extended the lead to 14 points off quick transition baskets in the third quarter.

Spain was out on the floor and waiting for the Emus before the start of the final term, eager to get into the game and chip away at the 55-41 margin.

The Spanish looked to push the tempo and the Australians began to tighten up.

Emus Coach Marty Clarke called his team to the bench with 6:30 left on the clock and asked for composure as Spain had drawn within 11 points. Motum answered the call, stamping his authority in the paint and getting to the basket for two points but Spain was still in it.

The Spanish sharp-shooters finally began to hit their mark from beyond the arc and reduce the margin to seven points late in the term but it was too little too late.

The Emus play Syria at 9.00am AEST tomorrow. A win for the Emus will guarantee them the top seed from Group C and a more favourable draw in the Eighth Final round. You can follow Australia v Syria tomorrow with [LIVE STATS](#).

In other games the USA finished off France 71-55, Egypt escaped with a win over Iran 95-91, Canada topped Syria 99-53, Greece overcame Puerto Rico 107-98 and Argentina defeated Kazakhstan 98-69.

Quarter by quarter:

1: AUST 20 ESP 11
H: AUST 33 ESP 23 (13-12)
3: AUST 55 ESP 41 (22-18)
F: AUST 69 ESP 62 (14-21)

AUSTRALIA 69 (Ryan Broekhoff 16, Brock Motum 14, Jordan Page 10) bt
SPAIN 62 (Toni Vicens 17, Daniel Perez 10, Jorge Santana 8)
At North Shore Events Centre, Auckland, New Zealand

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