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GEMS TOP GROUP AT WORLDS

This article is courtesy of Kimberley Lewis, Basketball Australia.

Australia's Under-19 Women's team, the Gems, have finished at the top of their group after the Preliminary Rounds of the FIBA Under-19 World Championship for Women by routing Korea 99-41 in Bangkok, Thailand tonight.

The Gems sent a warning to the rest of the teams at the championship with their commanding display and advance to the Eight-Final Round on Monday as the top seed from Group A.

It was an all-round affair from the Gems who out muscled the Koreans from the tip off. Forward Rachel Jarry posted 24 points to lead all scorers while Alice Kunek and Opals squad member Elizabeth Cambage added 15 points apiece. Kerryn Harrington and Gretel Tippett each tallied 11 points to also score in double figures.

The Australians were too strong for Korea as the Gems bigs set up in the post and had no trouble getting to the hoop, helping to get a 10-0 start and shut out Korea in the first quarter to lead 28-6 at the break.

The Koreans were not intimidated and gave themselves every chance of getting back into the game in the second quarter and outscored the Aussies 17-16 for the term as they started to find their range.

The Gems dominance in the paint helped them weather the storm and, holding a 44-23 lead, Australia wrested back control of the match and buried Korea 31-9 in the third term to put the game beyond reach with a 33 point lead at the final break.

The Gems never let up and finished the game in a clinical manner, powering on to the final buzzer to celebrate their most convincing win of the tournament.

In earlier games Argentina held off France 60-58, Russia overpowered Tunisia 93-21 and Canada beat Japan 73-51.

The Gems next take the court in the Eight-Final Round at 8.30pm AEST Monday 27 July against the third seed from Group B, likely to be Lithuania or the Czech Republic.

Follow the Gems World Championship campaign with [LIVE STATS](#).

Quarter by quarter:

1: AUST 28 KOR 6
H: AUST 44 KOR 23 (16-17)
3: AUST 75 KOR 32 (31-9)
F: AUST 99 KOR 41 (24-9)

AUSTRALIA 99 (Rachel Jarry 24, Elizabeth Cambage 15, Alice Kuneck 15) bt
KOREA 41 (Jeonghyun Lee 12, Hongjin Cha 8, Hyojin Ahn 4, Seungah Lee 4)

[2009 FIBA Under-19 World Championship for Women – Official Website](#)

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