

2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010

## **NSW MEN START STRONG BUT FADE AT AUSTRALIAN UNDER 20 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The annual Australian Under 20 National Championships were held last week at Gawler, South Australia.

NSW sent two young squads along to the championships, with the Men's squad containing 6 bottom age players and the Women's squad containing 5.

The NSW Men started the tournament extremely strongly, sweeping aside the other 3 teams in their Pool to finish top of Pool 2 with maximum points.

Unfortunately, despite their impressive showing in the Pool games, the Men's team were unable to recapture the same form in the Finals, possibly showing a lack of experience, first losing to South Australia, before going down to Queensland in the Bronze Medal match to finish fourth.

In the Women's tournament, there was just the one Pool, with NSW finishing fifth.

The NSW Women's team went on to defeat New Zealand in the 5 v 6 Playoff to finish 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

It is expected that both the NSW Men's and Women's teams will be far better for the experience and should challenge strongly next year for medals.

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