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## **UNDEFEATED ROLLERS TOP KOREA**

**This article is courtesy of Marc Howard, Basketball Australia**

Australia's men's wheelchair basketball team has won its fourth game in a row at the IWBF Asia Oceania Championship for men in Dandenong with victory over Korea by thirty-two points, 86-54.

Wins over Kuwait, Malaysia and Japan in the earlier rounds mean that China is the only nation not to have been defeated by the reigning Paralympic Champions at the six nation event.

Australia (4-0) plays China (1-3) at 12 noon AEDT tomorrow before advancing to the medal round matches on Saturday, with the top three teams qualifying for next year's wheelchair basketball World Championship in Birmingham, England.

Forward Justin Eveson led Australia against Korea with 22 points at a 70 per cent clip to go with 6 rebounds and 5 assists while his Paralympic team mates Shaun Norris (16 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists) and Captain Brad Ness (16 points, 7 rebounds) were outstanding in support.

Not to be outdone, 19-year old forward Bill Latham added 15 points and a game high 11 rebounds while Seung-Hyun Cho top scored for Korea with 15 points.

Ness scored the opening basket of the match before Korea took an early lead and held it for five minutes until Norris found Eveson under the basket for a three-point play that put the Rollers up 12-10 with 4:39 left in the quarter.

Eveson then contributed eight points in a 10-2 run that saw Australia ahead by nine points after one period of play, 23-14.

Cho opened the second quarter with a three-pointer before Latham took control for Australia with eight points in the stanza to guide the Rollers to a fourteen point lead at half time, 40-26.

Norris, Ness and Eveson manufactured a 15-3 burst to open the second half, with Norris shooting 6-of-7 from the field in the period to open up a twenty-five point lead at three-quarter time, 71-46.

Rollers Head Coach Ben Ettridge experimented with his line up in the fourth quarter and Australia's scoring dried up as a result but when Ness made a field goal when five minutes remained the margin was out to 30 and Australia was assured of victory.

In other men's matches today, China plays Kuwait (12pm AEDT) and Japan takes on Malaysia (4pm AEDT).



Starters:

AUS – Brad Ness, Jeremy Doyle, Michael Hartnett, Shaun Norris, Justin Eveson  
KOR – Ho-Yong Kim, Dong-Hyeon Kim, Kwang-Yub Ko, Seung-Hyun Cho, Sang-Ha Baek

Quarter by quarter:

1. AUS 23 KOR 14
- H. AUS 40 KOR 26 (17-12)
3. AUS 71 KOR 46 (31-20)
- F. AUS 86 KOR 55 (15-9)

**AUSTRALIA 86** (Justin Eveson 22, Shaun Norris 16, Brad Ness 16) bt  
**KOREA 55** (Seung-Hyun Cho 15, Dong-Hyeon Kim 12, Ho-Yong Kim 12)  
IWBF Asia Oceania Championship for Men  
at Dandenong Stadium, Victoria

In related news, Australia's women's wheelchair basketball team defeated Japan today in the second of four friendly matches at Dandenong, 66-47.

Sarah Stewart led the Gliders with 16 points and 6 rebounds while Kylie Gauci added 12 points, 3 rebounds and 6 assists in the nineteen point victory.

Japan's Mari Animoto led all scorers with 25 points.

The Gliders won yesterday's friendly match by eleven points, 45-34, and will contest the third of four matches against Japan at 4:00pm AEDT tomorrow.

Quarter by Quarter:

- 1: AUS 20 JPN 13
- H: AUS 34 JPN 21 (14-8)
- 3: AUS 58 JPN 29 (24-8)
- F: AUS 66 JPN 47 (8-18)

**AUSTRALIA 66** (Sarah Stewart 16, Kylie Gauci 12, Amber Merritt 12) bt  
**JAPAN 47** (Mari Amimoto 25, Ikumi Inoue 11)  
at Dandenong Stadium, Victoria  
AUS leads best-of-four series 2-0

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