

## School Sport Australia Football

### Tour of China, United Kingdom and Ireland

29/1/10

#### Boys

Game 6 vs England Independent Schools

Venue: Nantwich Town FC

Result: 4-0 H/T 2-0

Scorers: Devon Gibson (8<sup>th</sup>, 76<sup>th</sup>)  
Tom McNeish (25<sup>th</sup>, 87<sup>th</sup>)

#### Match Report:

Due to the wet ground the pitch was changed to the adjacent 3-G surface, but it didn't make any difference to the resolve of the Australian boys who took a stranglehold on the game from the opening whistle. Today, unlike many of the previous games, they scored early and went on with the job, scoring again mid half, defending resolutely and attacking with plenty of pace and variety.

The Independent Schools began the second half keenly but the pressure was absorbed by Australia and 2 more goals were added in the last 15 minutes to round off a very entertaining and convincing victory. Of particular interest in this game is that it was refereed by FIFA, Champions League, EPL and soon-to-be World Cup referee Howard Webb, who 2 days earlier had refereed the Manchester derby between United and City.

30/1/10

#### Girls

Game 6 vs England Independent Schools

Venue: Bewdley Town FC

Result: 10-0 (H/T 8-0)

Scorers: Stephanie Haim (6<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>), Ashleigh Palombi (20<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>), Carlie Ikonomou (22<sup>nd</sup>), Monique Solar (36<sup>th</sup>), Emma Stewart (40<sup>th</sup>), o.g. (70<sup>th</sup>), Susy McKeen (72<sup>nd</sup>)

#### Match Report:

As the score would suggest Australia was in control from the outset, but the scoreline was incidental to the occasion. England Independent Schools are just starting on their representative path and are looking for competitive games such as this to learn from and develop their players. As such it was successful for both teams.

Australia kept possession and moved the ball around well, resulting in desperate defending, but the defence couldn't stop Australia scoring freely. To their credit England did perform better in the second half, holding Australia to only 2 more. The game was played in a wonderful spirit, and the link is now made to continue this new relationship into the future.