

## AUSTRALIA v USA - 12 July @ AIS

With only one change to the starting line-up from two days ago, NSW Schools were again represented by eight players in the starting team:

- Mathysen-Whyman (NSWCHS)
- Carpenter (NSWCHS)
- Hunt (NSWCHS)
- Torpey
- Wheeler (NSWCHS)
- Flannery
- Maher (c)
- Sayer (NSWCIS)
- Siemsen (NSWCIS)
- Lowe (NSWCIS)
- Ibini (NSWCHS)

Taking off from where they did two days ago, from the onset it was a physical game. Early nerves from Australia enabled the US to dominate in the early minutes, with Ellie Carpenter (CHS) and Clare Hunt (CHS) having to work overtime to keep them at bay. The US committed all 11 players to defend in their defensive third and this made attacking opportunities scarce for Australia. It wasn't until the 10<sup>th</sup> minute that the Australians had their first chance. Carpenter was able to connect with a corner which deflected off a defender to Remy Siemsen (CIS), but the ball rifled just over the bar.

From the 15<sup>th</sup> minute the game opened up. The Australian midfield was able to gain some ascendancy. Amy Sayer (CIS) and Rachel Lowe (CIS) combined well with Maher (c) on several occasions to create considerably more opportunities, particularly for Siemsen and Princess Ibini (CHS). Nevertheless, there was no score at half time.

The second half started again as a hard fought contest. In the 48<sup>th</sup> minute, a great combination between Siemsen and Lowe resulted in a penalty that was brilliantly taken by Maher. Unfortunately for Australia, the goal signalled a lapse in concentration and intensity. The rest of the second half was dominated by the US. They were able to take the lead with two goals in 7 minutes. Three substitutions, including Hannah Bourke (CHS) and Alyssa Rose (CHS), could not subdue the now dominant US attack. Australia looked tired and the defence was suddenly more porous.

In summary, an evenly challenged first half gave way to a determined US side in the second. The result, a 4-1 US victory.

Great action photos of the game can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/auswomensgame/>