



Geckos Again Runners-Up

The Bali Geckos again have to be content with being the second best Aussie Rules team in Asia after being defeated by the Hong Kong Dragons in the 2007 Asian Australian Football Championships, held in Bangkok recently. In a thrilling grand final, the Geckos relinquished their lead to the more experienced Hong Kong team, with the final going into extra time in a match that had the noisy crowd of more than 1,000 on the edge of their seats.

After the Dragons jumped out of the blocks with slick ball work and strong running, the Geckos steadied to gain the lead and were 10 points ahead with six minutes to play. However the Dragons were able to hit the lead with persistent forward movements. After a mark on the boundary line by Geckos forward Jake Smart, the siren sounded to leave the Geckos needing a goal to win. It was a demanding angle which proved too difficult for Smart, who kicked a behind to level the score and take the match into extra time. Two five minute halves of extra time were then played. Into the extra 10 minutes, with the crowd cheering loudly for the popular Geckos, the Hong Kong boys scored a scrappy goal with two minutes to go, followed by another behind on the siren to take a 43-34 victory.

It was a fitting finale to the biggest Australian Rules football tournament ever held outside Australia, which saw 10 teams from Asia and the Middle East in action. The quality of football was the best ever seen in Asia, with a number of former AFL stars as well as WAFL current and former players ensuring the standard of play was at a high level.

After the game Geckos coach Peter Muir said that he was extremely proud of his team's performance. "Considering we have a number of guys who do not have much senior football experience, including a Texan and a Brit, we performed really well. The Dragons were a really good team with a number of very good, experienced players. It's very disappointing for the club, but hopefully we can learn from the experience and go one better next year" Muir added. *Full report page 2.*

The Gecko Gazette is emailed quarterly to all Gecko members. For any contributions etc, email coach@baligeckos.com

Proud sponsors:



Bank Commonwealth sign up **Bank Commonwealth** have signed up as major supporters of the Bali Geckos for the remainder of 2007. "We are very happy to confirm the support from Bank Commonwealth, which will enable us to tour more extensively as well as work on our development programs" said Geckos President Dan Brooks. Bank Commonwealth join long time supporters PT Sinar Terang Abadi and Lightcom as major financial supporters of the Geckos. Apart from normal banking services, Bank Commonwealth also provides specialized services for expatriates. For a free consultation regarding your finances, or that of your business or your family's, contact financial solutions on financialsolutions@commbank.co.id



Bangkok ping pong tour



2007 Asian Championships Report

Game 1 Vs Thailand Tigers

The Geckos took a little while to get their running game started and get used to the slippery conditions after a pre-game shower. After having much of the play in a crowded forward line it took a few breaks from Hughesy to get clear and kick truly from outside 50. The midfield of Sammy, Smarty, Ging provided great drive, as did the half-back line who repelled all of the Tigers attacks, while Rugby convert Mick Serong kicked a great snap over his shoulder to score his first goal for the Geckos. The Geckos finished the game off well, clearing the cobwebs for the rest of the day.

Bali Geckos	5	7	37
Thailand Tigers	2	2	14

Bali Geckos Goals: Leigh Hughes 2, Mick Serong 1, Shane Pritchard 1, Simon MacGregor 1,

Game 2 Vs China Reds

Going into the event not much was expected from the China team. However, boosted by a number of recruits, including 2006 AFL Tigers, Stafford and Chaffey, there was pressure on the Geckos to play cohesively. The Geckos were up to it, providing some great creative play in the first half. The backline, led by Gun, Jacko and

PD, gave great run out of defense, while the silky finishing by Hughesy was a highlight. The team then held of a determined China in the second half. Aided by the wind the Reds teamed up well, but the pressure, chasing and tackles from the Geckos minimized their effective scoring opportunities. Geckos' ruckman Gobbles performed well against a much more experienced opponent.

Bali Geckos	4	8	32
China Reds	2	0	12

Bali Geckos Goals: Leigh Hughes 3, Stewart Henderson 1

Game 3 Vs Vietnam Swans

After kicking the first goal within a minute from a Hughes break, the Geckos underestimated the opposition and took the foot off the pedal. With a lack of pressure and poor manning up from the Geckos, Vietnam then kicked three easy goals while any forward attacks from the Geckos only resulted in behinds. Shane Pritchard was sent off in a questionable decision by the umpire, which added to the Geckos woes.

After a good smacking at half time from coach Gun, who was himself sent off early in the second half for an again questionable decision, we peppered the goals for the entire second half. Rover Brad Fraser was forced from the field with a badly corked thigh, leaving the team with less crumbing ability. An inspirational chase and great spoil by Gus on the HBF to force a throw in added to the Geckos' momentum. The wind proved to make things difficult, but enough behinds were scored for us to run out eventual winners.

Bali Geckos	3	12	30
Vietnam Swans	3	1	19

Bali Geckos Goals: Leigh Hughes 1, Stewart Henderson 1, Chad Paul 1.

Game 4 Vs Jakarta Bintang

The Geckos were pumped for their clash against their old rivals, spurred on by the fact that the winner of the game would finish on top of the pool and thus progress through to the grand final. It was not a start that the Geckos wanted, being jumped by the twangs with two quick goals, one from a dubious free kick. From then on it was all the Geckos, who started to physically dominate and intimidate their opposition with fierce attacks on the ball and strong pressure when the Bintang gained possession. Gun ran off Killer at CHB to take a mark in the goal square, and after a quick handball to Ed we had our first score on the board. Killer stood his ground at CHF only to be given a spray from a Gecko for not chasing. Mark shut down Bintang playmaker Jolly and the play was all the Geckos from there. A great snap from Pizza on the boundary



levelled the score. Inaccuracy kept the twangs in it but their pushes forward were repelled with Schonell and Gun running well out of defense from Thommo and Killer who didn't fire a shot.

Bali Geckos	5	9	39
Jakarta Bintang	4	3	27

Bali Geckos Goals: Leigh Hughes 2, Dan Brooks 1, Ed Andrews 1, Stewart Henderson 1

Final Vs Hong Kong Dragons

Hong Kong bounced out and looked a slick unit with great run, back up and skills. The back line was under fire. After their initial onslaught we managed to settle. Gun was on the player of the tournament and managed to hold him goalless and made numerous runs out of defense himself. Dave Schonell lined up on Dragon key forward Byrnsey and had the better of him. Great battling from all midfielders and forwards kept us within range and then gave us the lead. We had much of the ball in our forward line in the latter stages of the first half, but we failed to capitalize. Not having a lightning crumbing forward hurt us, as did our poor accuracy. Riki Nolan was dominating in the ruck and provided much of the ball to our midfielders, while Hinchy continued to sweep the ball out of defense. We scored a couple of good goals in the second half to give us a 10 point lead with five minutes to go before two goals against the run of play gave the Dragons the lead. We again thrust forward, with Pritch not awarded an obvious mark and continued inaccuracy leaving us one point down. Jake Smart took a great grab 35 metres out on the boundary. The siren sounded, leaving Smarty with a difficult shot to score let alone kick a goal into the stiff breeze. Scoring a behind, we then went into extra time – two five minute halves.

Physically and mentally drained, we battled on. Again our backline managed to hold off their attacks, but with the Dragons dropping back an extra defender, we found it hard to score. Going into the breeze they managed to have much of the play in their forward line. Although they did not score a goal, this gave them a mental advantage as well that on the scoreboard going into the last five minutes. Our backline was again under pressure, but worked together well to move the ball into attack but unfortunately our forward attacks were continually thwarted. During the dying minutes of the game the Dragons sealed their lead with a goal and remained in front until the final siren.

Hong Kong Dragons	7	6	48
Bali Geckos	5	9	39

Bali Geckos Goals: Jake Smart 2, Shane Pritchard 2, Stewart Henderson 1



The Bali 9s Masters, traditionally held in March, has been rescheduled for 2008. The date for next year's event has been confirmed for Saturday June 7. After consultation with Masters Australia Football, the change of date will be more attractive for Australian teams to attend the event. More details will soon be available on www.balinines.com.



Bank Commonwealth  presents

2007 Java-Bali Cup

Bali Geckos v. Jakarta Bintang

3pm sat august 25th, Lapangan tri sakti, kuta

followed by

Bali Geckos 10th Anniversary Dinner

7.30 till 11 at Contiki 18-35 Resort, Seminyak





A very big thanks to Paul "PD" Davies for the substantial personal donation he made to the Geckos to assist in getting the team to the recent Asian Championships in Bangkok. PD was also performed very well on the field in the tournament, where he starred on the bank-flank. For those who also wish to assist the Geckos in their cause, you can make a donation into the following bank account:

Account No. 1004978095
 Account name: Stewart Henderson
 Bank Commonwealth
 Swift code: BICNIDJA



GECKOS TOUR OF DUTY



ANZAC CUP
HELLFIRE PASS
THAILAND 2007

Match Report

April 28 2007

Veteran forward Chad Paul scored 4 goals to lead the Bali Geckos to victory over the Thailand Tigers in difficult conditions. Played on a water sodden surface and in emotional circumstances, the Geckos produced a controlled and skillful all-round team performance to cement their position as one of the strongest teams in Asian Footy, and an outside tip for the upcoming Asian Champs.

Invited to participate in the 4th Annual ANZAC memorial game in front of a crowd of some 200 onlookers and a small group of POW Diggers who had worked on the infamous Hellfire pass excavation, the Geckos also bid a farewell to Former President John Lincoln in his final game in the blue and green colors in which he has served so well.

Despite a torrential downpour, which delayed the start of the game by an hour, the game still showcased some great skills and effort by both sides, but eventually the determination of the Bali team proved too much for a full strength Tiger outfit.

Kicking to the wetter end in the first quarter, the Geckos drew first blood through some tireless play in the mid field, moving the ball close to the Tigers goal boundary, where the Nudester did a fair imitation of Christian Ronaldo, dragging the ball back in-field with his left, taking a two tap dribble across the goal mouth before calmly slotting home the points.

Both teams then took some time to adjust to the conditions, with few clear marks and a lot of effort over the ball. Close to the end of the quarter, debutant Gecko and heir to the throne of Helmet, B-Rad, grabbed an important sliding mark at the edge of the goal square after some great effort in the ruck from Gobbles and a neat low pass from the Ging. Showing no first match nerves, the little chatterbox was well on target and helped the Geckos extend their lead.

The Tigers responded with a neat passage of play which saw them work their way into Gecko territory, ultimately scoring a goal to narrow the gap.

Moving into the 2nd quarter, the Geckos made good use of the slightly drier goal area to exert continued pressure on the Tiger back line and put some space between the two teams. Good work in the middle from Buckets and solid work in the backline from JL and Sampras denied the Tigers any opportunities, whilst Texas and Mark worked hard to disrupt any balls moving the Tigers' way. At centre half forward, Hendo battled to keep the ball in the Tigers' half whilst up front Nude and B-Rad made the most of the chances that came their way with one or two charitable goal decisions. Nude in particular seemed to have been in favor with the footy Gods as one kick to goal saw head hanging shame turn to goal scoring jubilation as the goal ump ruled in his favor.



With a few key players rested for the majority of the 3rd quarter, it looked for a while as if the Tigers might get right back into the game, but neither side made many chances, only the Tigers scoring one and the Young Geckos drafted in from the touring school party worked hard to defend the Geckos slender lead. Towards the end of the quarter however, as the Geckos returned to full strength, a neat series of marks, highlighted by Buckets' over head grab of a slippery ball and by the fluid movement of the ball out of defense right to the top of the goal square, clearly signaled the Geckos intentions. Though the Ging failed to convert the goal, there was a clear sense that the Geckos had regained the ascendancy.

With JL facing his last 15 minutes of Gecko football, the team gathered close in between the quarters and came out for the 4th full of determination to do the Former President proud. With only a couple of goals separating the teams, Troy's soccer goal early in the quarter greatly reduced the pressure on the Geckos, and they dominated from then on to close out the game. In the backline Gunny and Pritch strangled every attempt the Tigers made to get close to goal, and the midfield worked tirelessly to present the forwards with numerous opportunities, with Nude scoring one more and Pizza finally getting on the score sheet late in the game taking one of the deck and ignoring an on-rushing Hinchy to snap a second on the turn.

In the end the Geckos won the ANZAC memorial cup, becoming the first touring side to claim the Trophy. Best on Ground was awarded to Gunny, who was presented with his award by one the Diggers, and he and Captain Buckets were similarly award the Cup.

Final score

Bali Geckos	9	6	60
Thailand Tigers	3	5	23

Best: Sammy Gosling, Shane Pritchard, Brad Fraser, Chad Paul, Peter Muir in a good team effort.

Goals: Chad Paul 4, Dan Brooks 2, Brad Fraser 2, Troy Sinclair 1.

The special occasion was made more so by a early morning trip out to Hellfire pass the next day for a short commemorative service to honor all those who lost their lives, both Australian, Allied and Asian, and to celebrate the spirit of mate-ship that binds us all together.



Left: The team at the infamous Hellfire Pass.
Right: The Bali Geckos wreath laid at a ceremony at the Memorial.



AFL
2007 Footy Tipping Comp

The Bali Geckos footy tipping comp is in full swing with over 40 tipsters vying for prizes. As this edition of The Geckos Gazette goes to print at the completion of Round 17, last year's winner Tony Haritos is again on top with 95, a whole 7 tips clear of Paul Turner in second position with 88.

Stay tuned for details of the Bank Commonwealth AFL Grand Final Function presented by the Bali Geckos

AFL 2007
Grand Final Function

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