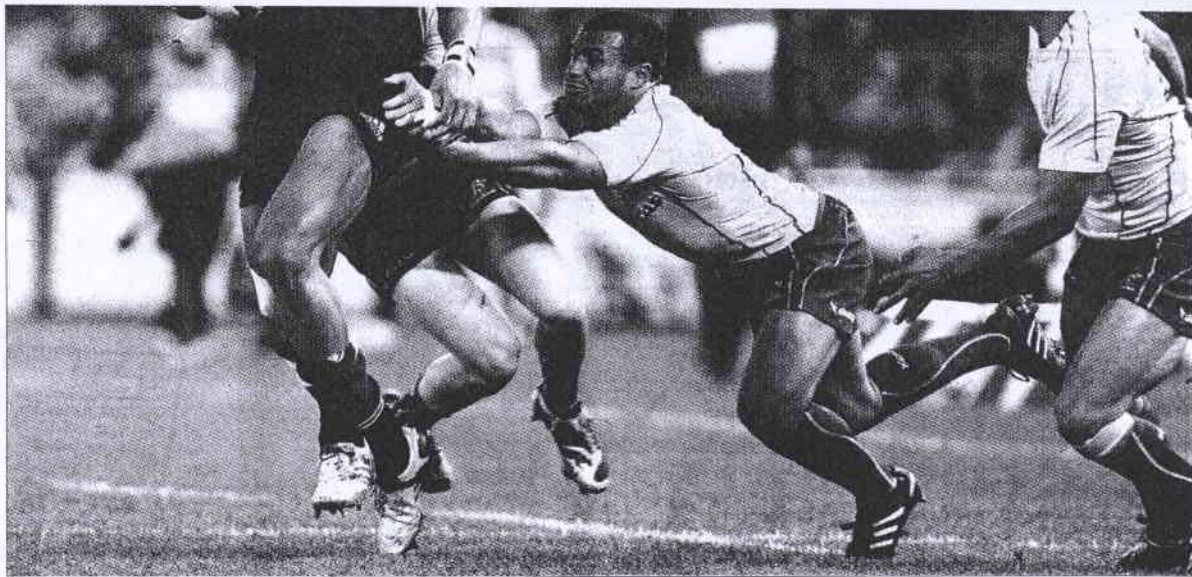


over Australia, with South register a point. acks scored seven tries to ere far too strong for the ho played the last 37 min- it winger Drew Mitchell, 1 carded by South African g Joubert after his second

All Blacks' 50-21 romp n 2003 ranks above their e against the Wallabies. k the Wallabies will be Christchurch to prevent cks from stretching their uence over them to nine worst losing run in the s of Bledisloe Cup trans- ts. seven tries against Austra- lia is a great performance," oach Graham Henry said. t there was some scintillat- and the game has improved this year as a spectacle, leased to be part of that." Mills Muliaina scored two : 86th international, and a Carter claimed 19 points four conversions and two



New Zealand All Blacks winger Joe Rokocoko (left) is tackled by Australian Wallabies Will Genia (centre) and Kurtley Beale (right) during their Tri-Nations and Bledisloe Cup rugby union Test match in Melbourne. AFP

penalties for New Zealand.

While the All Blacks were again dynamic following their two home Test wins over South Africa, they were

helped along by the error-prone Wallabies and had the game shot to bits with a 32-14 halftime lead.

"We didn't have any consistent pos-

session in the first half, and that was a big contributing factor to our circumstance," Wallabies' coach Robbie Deans said. AFP

Siddikur clinches Brunei title after tense playoff

became the first to win on the r after defeating a's Jbe Kruger in a ing play off at the n yesterday. secured his career gh with a par on the hole as Kruger 0-foot putt on the 18th hole at the tel and Country ight leader Siddikur e last hole in regu- for a four-under- ip into the play off er established the target of 16-under-

par 268 in the US\$300,000 tournament.

Filipino Juvic Pagunsan secured third place after a sizzling 64 for 269, while India's Gaganjeet Bhullar, last year's runner-up, was one stroke back on 270.

English duo Nick Redfern and Simon Griffiths shared fifth place on 271, while Malaysia's Ben Leong, tied for the third-round lead with Siddikur, finished a disappointing tied 10th after a closing 73.

"It is very exciting. I'm the first Bangladeshi to play on the Asian Tour and in the two years that I'm on Tour, I have finally won a tournament," said the unheralded man from Dhaka.

Siddikur grew up from humble beginnings and worked as a ball boy at a Dhaka golf club to pay for his school fees. He learned the game by fashioning his first golf club with a seven iron head on a piece of metal rod.

Siddikur showed signs of a breakthrough at the Queen's Cup in Thailand in June, where he was in contention before settling for a career first top-10 on the Asian Tour, the region's elite professional circuit.

Kruger, who claimed his best Asian Tour finish, said: "It is always disappointing when you lose in a playoff, but to finish second is a good result in any tournament. AFP



Bangladesh claimed his Asian Tour victory at pen. AFP

Migrating Swans crush Cobras

David Boyle

Vietnam Swans 13.21 (99) def. Cambodia Cobras 1.9 (15)
Best on ground: Brett Jota (Vietnam)

IF political history is anything to go by, then an Aussie Rules footy match between Cambodia and Vietnam should serve up a regional equivalent to the bitter rivalry fought out biannually between Carlton and Collingwood down-under. Though the result of Saturday's match at Northbridge International School was as unequal as the curtain raiser played in Melbourne between those two famous foes, there was no equivalent hostility between the Cobras and the Swans, who served up an entertaining and well-spirited contest.

The revamped Cambodian Cobras were partaking in their first outing and from the beginning it was clear that, though their intent was genuine, their foot skills were not. Vietnam booted four goals in the first term, thanks largely to their midfield dominance spurned by the handy ruck work of Mark Greensheilds, hard running from midfielder Luke Creamer and relentless pressure of small forward Brett Jota. Cambodia failed to hit the board with a major.

In the second term, the Cobras lifted through the middle, with

rover and team captain David Murphy upping his work rate and their "ring-in" centre half forward from Singapore, known only as "Rooster," starting to assert himself in the packs.

However, tough work in the clinches was wasted through wayward kicking, and despite Cambodia controlling the majority of the possession, Vietnam needed just the slightest opportunity to pounce. The blistering run and carry of Cambodian full-back Chhaya Hang staved off many a forward attack by Vietnam but as the lone hand down back, even his usually raking drop-punt clearances succumbed to the pressure, resulting in some costly turnovers in front of goal.

At half time, midfielder/utility Conor Wall's exhaustion reflected the Cobra's lack of match fitness and when quizzed about whether the team suffered from inaccurate disposal, he replied: "only on the toilet."

If that is truly his yardstick, then I'd stay well clear of his bathroom, indeed his entire house. David Boyle, an official from the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, pointed out that the team had come a long way since being forced to recruit spectators into their under-manned team during a game two years ago.

"People like me standing on the sidelines ended up playing, but today they're definitely

going to go all the way," he said.

With the resumption of "hostilities" in the third term, the Swans came out looking hungry to quash the Cobras' resurgence, applying pressure through their superior fitness. Swans forward Brett Jota showed great volition when he smothered and intercepted early in the premiership quarter, and was rewarded for his efforts soon after, snagging a goal in the right forward pocket.

Some joy finally came for the Cobras in the fourth quarter, when forward Rory Hunter drilled home their first. After the game, Cobras captain David Murphy was philosophical about the 84-point-loss.

"It's not the result we were looking for, but three or four months ago, not having a club and then being able to get 28 players on the track today was a huge achievement," he said.

"We kicked one goal, we kicked many points but we were very competitive and we came up against a side that really know what they're doing."

The match practice should help the Cobras work more fluency and structure into their game when they tackle the Swans on home turf in Vietnam in three weeks' time. On Saturday's performance, they should consider putting Chhaya Hang in the middle and letting him run wherever he wants.