



FOOTBALL FEDERATION
TASMANIA

FROM THE DESK OF THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

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CANBERRA: The Tasmania under 13 females playing in the national championships this week were described by two coaching observers from Western Australia as “the best Tasmania state team, male or female, they had ever seen.”

Tasmania won two games and lost three, but perhaps the best indicator of how they performed is that three players, Caitlin Stalker, Isabella Gee and Lucy MacGregor were picked for the All-Star game, during which MacGregor was the best player on show.

The senior Matildas coach, Tom Sermanni, said the Tasmanian team and its coaching staff, Sandra Chisholm (Head Coach) Brent McKay (assistant coach), helped by Jodie Terry (manager) and Jennifer Ayton (sports trainer) had put on a “fantastic display” on and off the field.

The results of the games are secondary to the player development process at this age, so I am not going to repeat them here. What is important is that the Tasmania team always tried to play possession football from the back and the number of times passes were made in the air could be counted on one hand.

Not once did either of the goalkeepers kick the ball from their hands in free play – the only team to achieve this statistic - and not once did the players stray from their aim to pass and move and be creative.

Some of the play was a joy and considering this is the first time Tasmania has entered an under 13 female team in the nationals the players, two only 11 years old, put on a tremendous display.

It is never going to be easy for Tasmania to overtake the likes of New South Wales, who have so many players to choose from that they could field eight competitive teams at the nationals, let alone four, but the gap is closing.

The females travelled home Wednesday, crossing paths with the arriving under 13 males at the airport.

The first games for the males were yesterday (Thursday) against the same opposition as the females, Victoria Country and Northern Territory.

Tasmania set about both teams from the outset with some superb attacking combinations, beating Victoria 4-2 and Northern Territory 7-1.

In both cases, Tasmania’s opponents can consider themselves fortunate that the score line was not much higher.

Today, Friday, the going gets much tougher, just as it did for the females, as Tasmania matches up against New South Wales Metro 2 and New South Wales Country.

The only difference with the males schedule is that they play ACT on Saturday, whereas the females played Western Australia.

As a point of interest, the games are 20 minute halves and only two outfield players, plus the goalkeeper, can be substituted during a game.

Every player has to be on the field for at least 100 minutes total during the tournament.

The females used a system of substitutions during games. The males are trying another approach, fielding a different team for each game during which substitutions will only be made if there is an injury.

The two keepers will play every other game and then swap at half-time during the final match, as the female goalies did.