#

**Result:**

**Cuba 4**

**def.**

**Australia 3**

Round 1- Game 3



# Australian Baseball Team

# International Competition

Game Summary

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date: | 31 July 2016 |  Tournament: | Under 15 World Cup |
| Venue: | Nambu Stadium, Iwaki, Japan | **AUSTRALIA**  | **vs. CUBA** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Inn / Team** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **R** | **H** | **E** |
| **V** | Australia  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| **H** | Cuba | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  | 4 | 7 | 1 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bat** | Australia | **Pos** | **At Plate** | **Hits** | **RBIs** | **Walks** | **Sacs** | **Stolen****Bases** | **Runs****Scored** |
| **1** | H. Lyberopoulos | CF | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **2** | B. Cavill | 3B | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **3** | C. Shepherd | RF | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| **4** | M. Martin | LF | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **5** | T. Horne | 1B | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **6** | B. Fierenzi | SS | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **7** | JD. WinlawC. Burke | C | 22 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| **8** | W. KortekaasB. Townsend | PP3B | 211 | 010 | 000 | 000 | 000 | 000 | 000 |
| **9** | D. BannonL. Evans | 2BPH | 31 | 10 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 10 |

**Pitchers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Australia**  | **Innings Pitched** | **Ks** | **Hits** | **Walks /****HPB** | **Runs** | **Earned Runs** |
| W. Kortekaas | 4.67 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| B. Townsend | 2.33 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| B. Cavill | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Today we were up against Cuba at the beautiful Nambu Stadium. We batted first and after our first two hitters were retired, Shepherd cracked a double down the right field line. Martin then singled to bring in Shepherd and we’d taken an early 1 - 0 lead. Kortekaas began the game on the mound for us and Cuba hit back straight away to score a run of their own after a brutal call at first base went against us and that runner ended up scoring to tie up the game.

It stayed that way until the third when the Cuban lead off hit a triple, and this was followed by another two hits and a walk which saw three runners cross the plate and they were now leading 4 - 1.

We got one back in the 4th to make it 4 – 2 after Shepherd led off with a single, his second hit of the game. The pitcher then baulked him through to second and he ended up scoring after a Horne infield single followed by a Fierenzi fielder’s choice.

The score stayed that way until the top of the 5th when Bannon doubled down the left field line, was moved over to third by a Lyberopoulos fielder’s choice, and then scored on a wild pitch to make it a 4 - 3game. Kortekaas came out of the game with two out in the bottom of the 5th and he’d done a fine job against what is undoubtedly one of the strongest hitting line ups in the world. He was relieved by Townsend who got the final out of the innings.

We threatened in the 7th when Townsend singled, Cavill walked and Shepherd hit a very hard hit ball between first and second but their right field made a great play to throw him out at first for the third out. Their lead off doubled and got to third on a botched pickoff attempt which meant they had a runner on third with none out. But some great infield defence held them out and so going into the 8th it was still a 4 - 3 game.

In the bottom of the 8th their first two hitters walked and a pass ball saw them with second and third with none out and Cavill came in from third to pitch. Stevens went out to third and immediately pulled off a screamer of a solo double play. We got the next hitter out to hold them out again and so it was 4 - 3 into the 9th. But unfortunately we couldn’t score and this was the final result.

Today’s performance had been light years better than yesterday. We played with far more intensity, our defence had been superb, the pitching was good and our hitting was a lot better. It was particularly pleasing, as after yesterday’s inept performance, we challenged the kids to step up and that’s exactly what they did.

Even though we are 0 and 3, surprisingly we are still in with a chance of making the play-offs. Japan does not look like losing a game, and if Cuba beats everybody else, then if we win the next two days we would be tied with either Korea or Colombia, but would beat them on a head to head basis. So the challenge is certainly there, but if we play like we did today then we can make things happen. However, obviously Korea and Colombia are also aware of this equation and I’m sure we’ll be facing some of their best pitching so it will be game on.

Tomorrow’s game is against Colombia at 10.00am.