



WELCOME TO CARRUM - DAY THREE

AUSTRALIAN ROWING NATIONALS - March 1992

In beautiful conditions at 8.30am the regatta got underway for a day forecast to be pack with National semi finals and Australian school boy and school girls heats. Weather conditions unfortunately saw the rowers blown off course around 10.30am.

The big race of the morning was the Men's Senior A Coxless Pairs semi finals, which started in spectacular fashion before a blade was even wet. Sam Patten, former world champion (1990), was withdrawn from the first semi final due to a nagging rib injury which was reported in Firm Finishes on day one. It is unknown at this stage whether the injury will effect his racing in the Senior A men's coxed four and the Victorian Kings Cup eight. If he is unable to row this could effect him making the men's coxed four team to go to Barcelona in July.

Both pairs from the "Oarsome Foursome", Tomkins/Cooper & McKay/Green, cruised to victory in their respective semi finals, however the excitement built for the minor placings and the remaining spots in Saturday's semi final. In the 1st semi final Mathew Roach & Simon Guerke took second place followed by the Mercantile pair stroked by Ben Dodwell. The defending title holders from the AIS in Canberra, Scott/McDonald Crowley, came a close fourth, unfortunately eliminating them from tomorrow's final. In the second semi final, the Corio Bay, Tim & Gerome Ryan placed second with a photo finish for third place with Uni of Qld getting the edge over the AIS 2 crew.

The results of the men's coxless pairs is critical to the chances of these rowers making the Australian Olympic Team to go to Barcelona.

Peter Antonie, ranked four in the world in heavy weight single sculling, and undefeated this season in Australia, was beaten in the first semi final by Stephen Hawkins from Tasmania. Stephen is a member of Australia's World Champion lightweight quad

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scull from 1991 and was a surprise winner in this event considering he was last away from the blocks and rowed through his heavier apponents to take the lead at the 1500m mark.

Mathew Dingle, with the new blades, rowed through Paul Reedy, his Melb Uni team mate to sneak into Saturday's final. The second semi saw Craig Jones, from the AIS in Canberra, eliminated after having the fastest time in yesterday's repechages. The second semi final was noticably slower than the first, with Hamish McGlashan, Robyn Bakker & Alistair McLachlan all getting through to the final.

Jason Day, Australian double sculling representative, came down with an unknown viral infection and was forced to withdraw from the firstsemi final of the men's single scull. Jason was one of the rowers that was favored for this event.

The mens senior lightweight coxless pairs again provided some exciting racing with Raoul Leuscher & Simon Pringle from MUBC missing out on a place in the final by 0.5 secs to Brian Digby & Lyle McCarthy of Barwon Rowing Club.

In the Women's racing the most exciting event of the morning was the Women's senior A single scull. The first semi final was won by Gillian Campbell from the Leichhardt Rowing Club (Qld), who is Australia's 1991 double sculling representative. Adair Ferguson from the AIS, former world lightweight sculling Champion, was unlucky to miss out on the finals but has not rowed to her ability this season. Gillian's double sculling partner Jenny Luff, from AIS Canberra, easily won the second semi final from Liz Gray (QAS) and Kate Dearden (Commercial Club of Qld).

The only school races that weren't posponed today were the single sculls which were raced before the rowing was called off at 10.30am due to excessive cross winds which made the course unrowable for almost 6 hours of the day. The race was the school boys single scull and Sinclair Taylor of Scotts College (NSW) was clearly the fastest sculler in his heat, and Fleur McIntire (Underdale HS, SA) was the fastest school girl single sculler.

After a long hot windy wait, the lightweight senior A single scullers were allowed to re-race their event after wind conditions obviously disadvantaged rowers in the outside lanes. This race resumed at 4.12 in the afternoon, nearly six hours after it was scheduled.

The regatta resumed at the time of 4:12 pm with the rerun of the lightweight womens single scull. The two semi finals were won by Sandra Harvey of Glenorchy & Karen Hagberg of Corio Bay, both of these competitors rowed in similar times and are likely to fight out the final. The weather was a strong cross tail wind that did not seem to favour one side too much over the other.

The mens lightweight single scull looks like being an exciting race between the 3 members of Australia's world champion lightweight quad scull and Sam Golding of the Barwon rowing club in the final. Gary Lynagh, Bruce Hick & Simon Burgess from the quad came 1st, 2nd & 3rd in their semi final of the single to advance to the final on Saturday. In the other semi final Sam Golding won in the fastest time and this could be Sam's chance to win the lightweight single championship for the first time ever.

THE MOST BORING CREW AWARD - This is awarded to the awesome foursome who won their semi of the coxed four from the No. 1 AIS crew and UQBC.

The second semi final was won by the NSW Kings Cup crew with their fours coming 1st & 2nd. The major upset today was the forced withdrawal of Sam Patten who has a nagging rib injury and with his withdrawal it looks like Victoria's chances in the King's Cup may have diminished and NSW looks like a strong chance in this event.

QUIZ OF THE DAY - Who was the Melbourne University Mens heavyweight single sculler that said to his coach before his semi final that " I will have to withdraw as I have a headache" 1st prize is his spot in the final.



