

Australia (2-0) vs. USA (0-1) – 01/08/2006



Kelly Manzie prepares to receive an Alisa Ruggiero pitch that DH Jane Uh soon pops to centerfield

USA (1-1) defeats Australia (2-1) by a score of 7-2.

Taipei City, Taiwan- The next morning Australia bounces straight back into action; opening the ballpark the next morning after they closed it the night before. Flat and ineffective on offence and in the pitching department, the Australian team struggled to a 7-2 defeat against Team USA.

Kelly Manzie bailed the Australians out of a fractured first inning on defense. With two outs Laura Brenneman put the USA up 1-0 as she scored on a hard-luck error on a shot to third by USA leftfielder Tamara Holmes. That left the bases loaded and Australian catcher Manzie received a 3-1 fat fastball that batter Donna Mills watched for strike two down the pipe. Manzie quick-loaded and fired to first base to pick off centerfielder Kim Vossard for the third out. (Manzie noted in her interview that she didn't want to let the count run to 3-2, two out and be stuck throwing Mills another fat fastball with the runners in motion.)

The United States later scored twice in the second and once in the third.

Shae Lilywhite scored one of Australia's two runs in the top of the top of the third. Amy McCann doubled with two outs to drive Lilywhite from first base.

In the top of the 4th inning, Australian right fielder Brook MacClean later tripled and scored on a wild pitch to Manzie. This pulled Australia within 4-2. In the bottom of the 4th with two out, Manzie ended the threat by throwing out 2004 World Cup MVP and speedster 2B Laura Brenneman.

But in the bottom of the 5th, Australia came undone on Donna Mill's two-out triple, driving in two runs against Ruggiero. Davidson came on to surrender the third run of the inning, seventh overall which put the game out of reach. (Run charged to Ruggiero.)

The USA's Jennifer Hunter was the winning pitcher. She gave up two runs, both earned, as well as two hits, four walks, six strikeouts, with one wild pitch out of 107 total pitches in a seven-inning complete game effort.

Other Notes:

-After Manzie stole Mills bases loaded at-bat with a pick-off to end the first, Donna had a single and a triple to drive in three of the USA's four total RBI's.

-Pitchers Alisa Ruggiero (4.2 IP) and Davidson (1.1 IP) each hit two batters. Ruggiero also walked four and Davidson one. Ruggiero gave ups all seven runs officially. At the expense of Jade Hough's fielding percentage, only four of "Tambers" runs were earned.

-Hard-luck Australian third-sacker Jade Hough was given errors on two diving plays by extremist scorers

-200 fans woke up in time to watch the 10:00am game