

Australia (3-1) vs. Japan (2-1) – 04/08/2006



Shae Lilywhite scores for Australia

Australia (3-2) falls to Japan (3-1) by score of 11-6.

Taipei City, Taiwan- In a tough loss to Japan that ended hopes of gold, Shae Lilywhite and Kelly Manzie equally combined for 4 of Australia's 8 hits.. Manzie the left-handed catcher had no opposing Japanese runners try to steal on her.

Shortstop Lilywhite, on a break from her Japanese league duties, put on a clinic of a defense, even diving several times. Her play reminiscent of the six perfect fielding attempts against the Japanese that led Australia to their only world championship in 2002. That game played in Florida at the Women's World Series in the MLB Tampa Bay Devil Ray's stadium.

Starter Rene Straumietis pitched well at times, but not well enough to win, surrendering eight runs. Brooke Maclean held the middle innings to allow the Aussies to creep back to a score 8-6. But the game fell out of reach as Alisa Davidson gave up three more to run the score to 11-6.

Risa pitched for the Japanese, a friend of many Victorian-based players as she toured eastern Melbourne with Keiko Suzuki's Far East Bloomers in March of this year. Her velocity in the World Cup has topped 70 miles per hour.

More information when updated game statistics are posted by the IBaF.

Either Alisa Davidson or Simone Wearne will be selected to start Australia's final game- a chance to be spoiler to Canada's unedited march to the world championship.

Other Notes:

-Kelly Manzie was named game MVP by Australian coaching staff.