

2014 Australian University Games Report

The Australian Uni Games is known as the biggest annual multi-sport event in Australia. The event usually has over 6,000 participants each year and includes 32 different sports, including athletics, martial arts, ball sports, water sports and even ten pin-bowling. This year (2014) the Uni Games were held in Sydney, NSW and perhaps, consequently Sydney University won the whole competition.

The Beach volleyball event was held on Maroubra beach, offering a women's/men's competition and a mixed fours comp. In the women's division, 13 schools competed, with a range of different experiences. Some pairs were highly skilled and experienced while others lacked any volleyball experience at all. Through playing, spectating and refereeing, we found that all the teams were friendly and left their competitive nature on the court. We also found that the top five pairs were all predominantly indoor volleyball players. Monash University took out the gold medals and were exceptional players to watch.

Shanyce and I were in the stronger pool with the 3rd, 2nd and 1st placings being from our pool. It was a rough start for the pair of us coming up against the strongest pairs in the competition, but we improved over the week and became satisfied with our games. We played 8 games over the week, winning 3 games, losing 5 and placing 6th out of 13 universities.

I believe this experience has helped us improve our volleyball game for multiple reasons. Our communication over the week improved dramatically after playing together and constantly being in close radius to each other. We both felt that our coaching and analytical skills also improved due to having no coach and having to identify, discuss and work out our own playing issues between ourselves. I've received positive feedback about my court movements since playing beach volleyball in the competition. Personally, my defensive skills and passing also improved over the week and hopefully for future volleyball games.

I highly recommend playing in Uni Games for anyone university student that is wanting to improve within their chosen sport as it's a great experience all round. More specifically, this event, would truly help any junior volleyball player grow and develop, as a player and a leader.

<http://www.unisport.com.au/AUG/Pages/About.aspx>

Steph Hind

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