

2014 Australian University Games Report

The Australian university games was an amazing experience for me. I have not played much beach volleyball and so I thought that this would be a great time to give it a go.

Australian university games is one of the largest multi-sports events in Australia. It has at least 32 sports involved and more than 6000 participants take part.

The training involved was hard and long in the lead up to uni games. We spent up to 3 hours alone on the beach. We really only began training about a month or so before we left.

The competition at uni games was a mixed bag. There were some very strong teams that were tough to play and then there were some teams that this was their first time being on the beach.

Steph and I started off with the stronger pool in being the first 3 teams we played first round, all ended up in the medal matches. That was okay though because I think the things we learned in those matches, helped us further on in the week.

I think that as a team, Steph and I learned to work with each other much better and read our opposition during the game. I also think that on this trip I learned better about how much communication and teamwork is important on the court and off the court for coaching.

Overall Steph and I finished in 6th out of 13 universities, and we were already happy that we had made it into the top 8, so that was an added bonus. I learnt just how hard it is to run and jump on sand. This will improve my movement on the indoor court because the indoor court is much easier to move on. I also learned that you really have to think about where you are going to place the volleyball as well. Beach volleyball is a game of logic. I hope these new skills I learned over there will transfer to the indoor court as well.

For future, I think this would be a great opportunity for students who have gone through schools cup and gone away for competitions, if they wanted to find a replacement for the schools cup that runs through high school and college, the university games is a great replacement if moving onto uni studies.

I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a new experience or just for some good competition and fun. I would like to thank volleyball Tasmania for the donation that allowed us to go on this amazing trip, it was worthwhile and we are glad that we got the experience of a lifetime.

Shanyce kitson

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