

Anna Wainwright National Competition Report

This year saw the Tassie U'18 Women's team bring home a silver medal, which hasn't happened in women's hockey for many years.

Our lead up was different to previous years, with the change of coach's right before the team was announced. I didn't know what to expect with new coach Larry Mills compared to the previous year with Ilene Carr.

We went into the championship knowing we would finish in the top four but was hoping to finish 1st or 2nd.

The first day of competition saw us play South Australia. This was one of the weaker sides so we wanted to start off well and come away with the points. The end result saw us winning 3-0.

Day 2 we played NSW. They won the competition last year but we knew that they were beatable with having heaps of their key players out due to AHL commitments. After a slow start and NSW getting two early goals on the board, we kept on fighting and were able to bring the score back to 2-1, but the final result ended up with NSW winning 4-1.

Day 3 played ACT and won 2-1.

Day 4 Rest Day.

Day 5 played Northern Territory. This was a weaker team in the competition and we came away with a 7-1 win.

Day 6 we played Western Australia. They were undefeated so far in the tournament. We knew this was going to be a tough game. At half time we were down 1-0. We came out hard in the last half and recorded a 3-1 win.

Day 7 Rest Day

Day 8 we played Victoria. We knew this was going to be a very fiery game because of surprising them with water bombs the day before. It was a very physical game. The end result was a 1-1 draw.

Day 9 we played Queensland. We knew we were playing this team in the classification final so we wanted to play our best. QLD got two quick goals on the board, but we weren't able to fight back and lost 3-2.

Day 10 Rest Day.

Day 11 we played QLD again. We knew they were a very beatable team and we were very focused on winning and playing NSW in the Grand Final.

The game was very even with the half time score being 0-0. QLD got the first goal with ten minutes to go but we quickly replied. With two minutes to go we converted a short corner and were able to score. With one minute left we held QLD off and had a major celebration once the siren went.

The final day of competition saw us playing off for 1st or 2nd position. We knew this was going to be our toughest game of the competition. First half saw us with the majority of the play but we never made the most of our opportunities. Half time score was 0-0. Second half we were still the more dominate team, but NSW got one short and converted off it with ten minutes to go. We had a short corner after the siren but we couldn't put it away.

This years Nationals will be one I will never forget. The feeling I received when that final siren went and knowing I would be playing in a National Final is indescribable and I will never forget it.

In the tournament I started off as a striker but was put out of my comfort zone and played a defender for the rest of the tournament. I made some very good friends and it was a very enjoyable experience and I learnt so much from it.

1st .NSW
2nd .TAS

3rd .QLD
4th .ACT

5th .WA
6th .VIC

7th .SA
8th .NT

