#

**Result:**

**Mexico 8**

**def**

**Australia 5**

Round 2 - Game 8



# Australian Baseball Team

# International Competition

Game Summary

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date: | 6 August 2016 |  Tournament: | Under 15 World Cup |
| Venue: | Nambu Stadium, Iwaki, Japan | **AUSTRALIA**  | **vs. MEXICO** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Inn / Team** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **R** | **H** | **E** |
| **V** | Australia | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  | 5 | 10 | 1 |
| **H** | Mexico | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |  |  |  | 8 | 13 | 4 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bat** | Australia | **Pos** | **At Plate** | **Hits** | **RBIs** | **Walks / HPB** | **Sacs** | **Stolen****Bases** | **Runs****Scored** |
| **1** | B. Fierenzi | SS | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **2** | B. Cavill | 3B / P | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **3** | C. Shepherd | RF | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **4** | L. Evans | 1B | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **5** | M. Martin | LF | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **6** | C. Burke | C | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **7** | B. TownsendT. McKeeD. CrokerD. Walsh | PPP3B | 0311 | 0300 | 0100 | 0001 | 0000 | 0000 | 0100 |
| **8** | L. McCallum | CF | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **9** | D. Bannon | 2B | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

**Pitchers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Australia**  | **Innings Pitched** | **Ks** | **Hits** | **Walks / HPB** | **Runs** | **Earned Runs** |
| B. Townsend | 0.67 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| T. McKee | 4.33 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| D. Croker | 1.00 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| B. Cavill | 2.00 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Groundhog day weather wise here in Iwaki with another sweaty 30 degree day. We batted first and failed to score. Townsend started for us and their leadoff hit a triple from the first pitch of the game. Another base hit, an error and two walks saw a total of three runs cross the plate. McKee came on to replace Townsend with the bases loaded and got the next out to limit any further damage.

We hit back with a run of our own when Evans singled and was scored on a McKee hit. Two hit by pitch balls loaded the bases with two out but unfortunately Fierenzi’s sharp line drive went straight at their centre fielder. Mexico got that run back after two base hits and so it was 4 - 1 their way after two.

We got one of those back when Shepherd and Evans singled, and Martin’s fielder’s choice scored Shepherd to make it 4 - 2.

Then in the 4th McKee singled and McCallum followed with a magnificent twelve pitch at bat (including eight fouls) to draw a walk. Bannon bunted home McKee and the Mexican pitcher threw the ball away on the play allowing our runners to go through to second and third. Cavill then singled to right field to score both McCallum and Bannon and put us in front 5 - 4. But with three hits, they responded with a run of their own and at the end of four innings, the game was locked up at 5 - 5.

Burke doubled down the right field line and McKee singled, his third hit of the game, and we had runners on second and third with one out, but we failed to bring them in. Mexico failed to score also and it was still a five all ball game.

McKee was replaced by Croker for the start of the 6th. He’d thrown a great game giving up just the two runs in 4.33 innings, as well as going three for three with the bat. After getting the first two outs, the Mexicans put together three consecutive hits to score two runs and retake the lead at 7 - 5.

Cavill came on to start the 7th but a base hit, walk and a pass ball scored a run. McCallum took a wonderful diving catch going backwards to finish the innings and saved more runs from coming in.

Bannon led off the 8th with a hit but a great Mexican double play shut down the threat. In the 9th we loaded the bases when Shepherd singled, Evans got on through an error and Walsh was hit by a pitched ball. But we got picked off for the final out of the game and Mexico had run out winners 8 - 5.

Again we hadn’t made the most of our scoring opportunities whereas, once again, our opposition did. We’d also run ourselves out of a few innings with some poor base running.

But this has been a great learning experience for our kids. We showed in a couple of games that we can match it with anyone in the world. Cuba beat us 4 - 3 in a very tight game and they’re playing off for the gold medal tomorrow against Japan (both teams who were in our group by the way). But we have lacked consistency in our efforts and in tournament baseball at this level you simply can’t do this to have any chance of success. Our boys now realise how much they have to improve to match it with the world’s best, and that is exactly the challenge the coaching staff have set them.