



October 10-18 2009

RECORD: Played 14 Won 11 Lost 3

Saturday 10th October, 3am, the first lot of the Krushers are getting picked up via shuttle bus heading for the airport, with our flight leaving 6am.

Arrive in Sydney to a well crowded airport of international athletes from around the globe, the airport is buzzing, we meet Issac Rei (J. Rei's dad) for the first time, he will be our bus driver for the next 10 days, and just as well, we had no idea where anything was.

Sunday 11th, Game Day 1 and we allow ourselves 40min to get to ball park, even with someone who knows the Sydney area, we take just over an hour to get to Kelso Park, hence we are the last team to arrive, 8.40am game starts 9am, we all put our gear down, run to the furthest part of the diamond, all have a pit stop, do stretches, talk about game ahead, team is announced, we run to dugout for ½ dozen throws and play ball. Team Canada must have been laughing their tits off seeing us arrive like that and now ready to play ball, I must admit this game would become what I thought one of the best ball games The Krushers have ever played, Krushers win 6-1.

Then off to 2nd game with the team fizzing, we play a team from Victoria, The Animals, good batters but pitching left a lot to be desired, we all t-off and lead 3nil, then game goes downhill from there, one of those games where nothing is really happening and then find out all of a sudden you are chasing runs, Krushers lose 7-4.

The tournament hits a snag with the 2 only entrants in the Premier division playing with us in Competative B Section, this causes a few issues as they were only going to have a round robin and only top 4 qualify, this would include these 2 teams PK Pride(Queensland) and Bruins (Brisbane), in the end the organising committee can see where everyone is coming from and allows them to play, but once the round robin is over they will go off and play for Gold & Silver in Premier Division A Section, while the next best 4 will contest our section. The Krushers play both sides, with our first game vs Bruins a close lose 5-4, a game that could've gone either way but with a couple of errors from us being the difference between a win & a loss.

The PK Pride game was a different affair where all teams were basically not going out hard against these guys as they were a cut above everyone else and will go thru the tournament unbeaten even though they did have a draw to you guessed it The Animals 4-4

Our game was a pretty mediocre affair where we pitched Dean Anglem, an import from Brisbane, ex Southlander, and he did a good job for a while, but once they got on top of Dean that was basically the game over, Krushers lose 12-2

Actually the game before PK will turn out to be the talk of the tournament, as we play Rolyview Fastpitch from Canada, our 2nd taste of Canada vs NZ and its everything you expect, a lot of feeling going into game and you know this is going to be something special.

Well you wont be dissappointed, there first 2 batters hit and are on 1 & 2 before the player on 2nd and calls time, not only for the DR, but to protest our pitcher Greg Newton wearing steel cleats, (which is a sore point the whole tournament, with a lot of teams), Greg changes cleats and continues, they hit and for some reason the DR comes home and instead of just crossing home plate and going to dugout down 3rd baseline, continues and jumps and hangs onto our dugout cage, which sends all our bats, helmets & gear flying, this is it, game on.

We end the innings and Rolyview is up 2nil, the boys are batting, and now by day 5 all The Krushers are hitting.

It's our turn to put pressure on and when Gene Robinson (our pick-up from Wellington) gets to 1st, he steals to 2nd, an overthrow so Gene is off to 3rd (now this is where the good stuff begins), Gene slides into 3rd taking out the 3rd baseman, the ball is loose again so Gene sets off for home, but not before the 3rd baseman has made a play/grab at him, the base umpire has picked this up and signals accordingly, but play is still running, Gene is running home, instead of sliding Gene is like a human missile as the catcher is sitting on home plate with no ball coming in, while all this is happening, the by this stage ANGRY 3rd baseman is also running home, but after Gino, a collision at home plate, the 3rd baseman getting close, only to be stopped in his tracks by Steve Paul, as he was in the batters box, by this stage BOTH dugouts have cleared out and everyone is on homeplate, the whole ballpark comes to a standstill to see what is happening, a lot of jostling around and finger pointing, end result Gino gets thrown out of the game and the base umpire who had signalled the foul at 3rd goes back on what she has seen and denies everything, all this just adds more fuel to the burning bellies of The Krushers and we go onto win 6-2

This will turn out to be the point which has made an already team unity become even more tighter and see progress further

Last day of round robin games and The Krushers beat Melbourne Warriors 6-5 & Sydney Giants 14-1, this puts us as top qualifier and gives the boys 2 lives heading into the finals. Saturday morning 9am at Blacktown, home of NSW Softball, and where the softball was played at the 2000 Olympics, we play our friends from Rolyview Fastpitch, we came to play & clean them up 11nil, that had no answer to Gregs pitching and our batting, a call we herd from there dugout as we were warming up was

DON'T GET THESE GUYS ANGRY, we had them beat already as they were thinking more about this than the game.

We come back at 5pm to see Rolyview vs Team Canada to see who will play The Krushers in the grand final, we were hoping that it would be Team Canada as not only they are a great bunch of fellas, playing Rolyview again would just be demoralising for them as they knew they had nothing to offer against us.

The boys are up the very top of the grandstand at Blacktown ballpark having a few drinks & the 2nd of our hangi meals for the week prepared by Issac's bro's, you can imagine, a whole heap of moaris drinking, eating hangi and rooting for Team Canada, that just doesn't make sense.

Team Canada does us proud and win 8nil, the boys at this stage are getting rowdy and are applauding Team Canada all the while challenging them, the ground announcer starts getting in on the act and revs both teams up for the grand final, great stuff, we love this shit

Sunday 18th Oct 9am Grand Final Day Blacktown Ballpark

We aim to be on the road by 8am, but as always room 2 (Triathlon Room) are always late, we leave about 8.10am, the bus is quiet but you can feel what everyone is thinking, all week we have been getting to games 30mins before game time, sing songs on way there and back, stretch for 15mins, throw balls for 5-10mins, then into game,

SO WHY CHANGE A WINNING FORMULA

The bus is nearing the ground and we have been just humming, singing quietly down the bus before Coach Dave Pouaka puts on the team song by Sonia Dada

" LOVER, you don't treat me no good no more"

We are in full voice and great timing, as we pull into the carpark we are just finishing song,
WE ARE GOOD TO GO

The first of the mind games begins, all week we have batted first, regardless if we won the toss, we believe in attacking from the outset, we lose the toss first and Team Canada want to bat.

Greg "Spock" Newton is pitching and Team Canada goes thru 5 batters before side away, The Kushers time at bat is first 2 batters out at 1, Gene hits up the middle, as before we know he is going to steal, he leaves early, umpire doesn't call it, just as well because Steve Paul has just put that pitch over the centrefield fence, Krushers lead 2nil.

Team Canada score no runs at there next turn at bat, we come back into bat and "Boggy" Mike McDowell puts one over to deep left field with runner on, Krushers lead 4nil.

Team Canada have a sniff of a run with there man advance from 1 to 2 and Brian O'Neill batting, this guy is about 6ft8" and swings his tits off, feeling is if he puts it out that would give Team Canada a chance, Spock strikes him out, a big "K"

The boys are batting and Coach Pouaka puts himself into run as we have used our DR, we have loaded bases 1 down when Pierre de Lautour drives one threw the middle, scores 1 run to make it 5nil, still loaded bags 1 down, our Canadian import Darren Campbell who we got from the draft was to turn out to be a very good ball player, throw, outfield, catcher, ask Steve hitter, hits up the middle as well scores 1, but the runner at 2 is going home to win the game, the throw is off, and yes Coach Pouaka is the winning run, (the TAB was paying 1000-1 for Dave to score winning run in grand final), the boys empty the dugout for the 2nd time this week, but for all the good reasons this time, we are all celebrating on home plate.

As earlier I pointed out that The Krushers played there best game ever, well this game here, the 2nd of the 2 against Team Canada will go down as The Krushers best ever game.

We have a great spectator audience and the team acknowledges them, there are cheers all around the ground.

We have a lot of team photos with ourselves and Team Canada and there is a lot of banter between teams and players.

Our final play on the diamond is a HAKA to our spectators and Team Canada, this goes down a treat and well received by our new Canadian friends.

The only bad thing about having a 9am final, is that you are on the piss by 11am, and you couldn't hold the team back as we piled it down along with the Canadians and now people & teams coming up to us to swap any Krusher gear they could get there hands on.

This was a fantastic end to what you can only describe as a magical ride of SOFTBALL and everything along the way.

In what started 2 years ago talking about it, until 1 year to go boys, with fundraising, talking to sponsors, pre-season training, tournament and xtra games this all contributed to our goal of winning GOLD.

This is time to thank the people who have helped The Krushers achieve this:

Graham & Faye at The Avonhead Tavern,
Sheldon Bell at Scottswood Trust,
Alan & Nicky at The Tui Fitz Arms
Kerry Wood at Mainland Foundation,
Rod Oliver at LWR Teamwear,
Simon Hay at LWR,
Tony Jordon at 3 Dudes Screenprinting
Ken Sommers at Sirius Sports
Damian & Maxine at Stadia Sports,
Issac Rei

“ always a hit “