

**A team of eight riders from Australia just competed in the International Water Ski Federation World Championships held in Doha Qatar.**

**The achievement of the Australian team to collectively win the international event and be crowned the IWSF World Wakeboard Team Champions is remarkable and is a true representation of the ability of wakeboarders and water-skiers in this country.**

The eight riders were selected from the members of Wakeboard Australia and effectively dominated the other 22 nations at the event. The Team Champions Crown is awarded to the country with the best overall point score calculated from the best six results from the team, and the Australians did exceptionally well:

- Travis Osborne from VIC won Gold in Masters - 100 points
- Mitchell Langfield from QLD won Gold in Under 19 (Jnr Men) - 100 points
- Caitlin Blauuw from NSW won Gold in Under 19 (Jnr Girls) - 100 points
- Harley Clifford from NSW won Gold in Under 14 Boys - 100 points
- Dean Smith from NSW won Silver in Open Men's - 80 points
- Mitchell Askew from QLD won Silver in Under 14 Boys - 80 points
- Jarrod Askew from QLD came 6th in under 19 (Jnr Men) - 35 points
- Jade Casey from NSW (retired injured) in 9th place - 20 points

**The following is a diary of the event from an Australian point of view**

### **Day 1&2 at the IWSF Worlds in Qatar.**

Dean Smith, the Wakeboard Australian Team Captain led his Australian Team by example in the 2007 World Championships at Doha Qatar and true to form won his heat and went through to the semi finals.

Dean had been there to supervise his team-mates and help them to do their best in the beautiful waters at the Qatar Diplomatic Club tournament site.

Jade Casey was the first Aussie to compete and was riding well stomping her first four tricks but on the landing of her Tantrum she unfortunately broke her ankle. Special thanks go out to the safety crew who took special care of Jade and got her to hospital for repairs.

This was the only bummer on the first day as the rest of the Aussie team responded to Jade's misfortune by stepping it up with all of them qualifying for the next round as follows:

- Mitch Askew 2nd in heat
- Harley Clifford 1st in heat
- Mitch Langfield 1st in heat
- Jarrod Askew 2nd in heat
- Caitlin Blauuw 2nd in heat
- Travis Osborne 1st in heat
- Dean Smith 1st in heat
- Daniel Watkins 2nd in heat

The feeling and spirit in the Aussie camp was great with all team members hanging out together and having a great time - taking sort of turns digging Jade about her plaster and crutches.

Tomorrow the event enters the semi final stage and the Aussies will be doing their best again on this very elaborate world stage.

### **Day 3 at the IWSF Worlds in Qatar.**

Today the U14 Boys from Australia went to work on the water at the beautiful Doha Site with Harley Clifford and Mitch Askew standing up their runs to go straight through to the finals. In the Jnr men's division Mitch Langfield and Jarrod Askew continued the Aussie dominance of these 2007 World Titles by winning their respective 1/4 finals and in doing so gaining two well earned spots in the Jnr Men's Semi's on Day 4.

Not to be outdone by the Groms Travis Osborne rode super strong in the Masters Semi Finals and is also through to the Finals.

Next the Aussies brought out their big guns in Dean Smith and Daniel Watkins. Both guys had made it through the Heats and were now looking for a birth in the semi finals. Dean rode solid and went straight through but Daniel had an unfortunate moment with a "Pete" which shook him up and he just missed going through.

The green and gold Aussie colours were standing out in the crowd and all the talk was about the Aussie Team from "Down Under" being the team to catch at the 2007 World Titles.

Back at the Marriot Motel pool Captain Deano and DW Daniel Watkins were keeping team spirits high with lots of jokes and Monty Python double takes, and we even had a look a like Manuel (Mahnwell) from the John Cleese Faulty towers series keeping us hydrated by bringing us constant refreshments at 50 dirkas a glass.

### **Day 4 is the big one and all the Aussie are still in hunt for World Titles**

The day begins very early with the Team Manager knocking on doors to make sure that the riders don't miss the 6:30am bus to the event site.

The first Aussies to ride are Jarrod Askew and Mitch Langfield and both stick the "P-ss" out of their runs in the Jnr Men's Semi.

Jarrod rides an awesome pass and gets massive cheers from the now pro-Aussie crowd.

Mitch Langfield also goes to work on the Master Craft X2 wake and stomps his run as only he can. Both guys confirm their places and are through to the Final to be held later in the day.

Next up was the Open Men Semi and Dean was in the hardest heat.

Dean went massive on his first trick and was looking good but came unstuck on his 2nd trick. When he fell again it seemed his World Title campaign was done. Phillip Soven basically handed Dean a life when he was "scratched" by the judges for not being ready to ride when it was his turn. Dean was not happy with Phillip's DQ but "Sh-t happens" and we all get dealt some strange cards sometimes.

The first Aussies to ride in a 2007 world final were Harley Clifford and Mitch Askew. We all know of Harley's incredible skills and he did not disappoint the crowd when he pulled out a fantastic ride to claim the title of World U14 boys champion. Mitch Askew

also did very well and pulled out the ride of his life to claim 2nd place and a silver medal.

The next Aussies to ride for a gold medal were Mitch Langfield and Jarrod Askew in the Jnr Men's final. Jarrod had been riding out of his skin at these worlds and it did seem he was a certain podium contender - but as we all know wakeboarding can throw up some odd situations at times and Jarrod had to settle for 6th place (not bad though to be 6th in the world).

Mitch Langfield had been the favourite in this division for some time and he reinforced that claim when he won the final in style to become the 2007 IWSF Jnr Men World Champion.

Not to be out done by the boys our girls were looking for some glory for the female members of the Aussie Team. Remember earlier in the Aussie World Title Challenge we lost Jade Casey to a broken ankle and Caitlin Blauuw was left to hold up the girls end of the equation.

Caitlin went out with a focussed mind and stomped home to take out the final and the Jnr Women's World Title. The win was well received her Aussie team-mates and was also very popular with the crowd.

The Aussies were on fire with three gold and one silver in the bag and the accolades were flowing thick and fast - but we were not yet finished with our love of gold and soon it was the Masters turn to try to stop Australia from claiming the overall team trophy.

Travis Osborn is not called Ossie for nothing and he had his mind set on taking home the Masters World Champion Title and no one was going to be strong enough to stop him.

To the loud chant from the crowd of Aussie Aussie Aussie Oy Oy Oy he gave the salute and pulled out two fantastic stand up passes that would give him his dream of world title and he was soon crowned as the IWSF World Master's Champion.

Living the dream of a pro wakeboarder is something really special and Dean Smith is currently doing all that and more - but Dean also loves country Australia and was ready and pumped to give his all in the open men's final.

He pulled out a wicked first trick that had the judges so enthralled he won the silver medal and finished the job of Australian Team Captain in style - and in doing so sealed the win for Australia in the overall team trophy.

**The Australian Wakeboard Team had smashed all the other countries at the event and the Team Gold Medal and the big IWSF World Team Cup was on its way down under to Australia.**

Report made by Bryan Casey  
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