

# Powerchair Football

The first ever APO Cup (Asia Pacific Oceania Zone) in Powerchair Football was held at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre between the 23rd and 26th January. The Australian Poweroos Green and Gold sides took on Team Japan and Team Nippon over the 4 days, with Team Japan becoming the inaugural winners, defeating the Australian Green side 2-1 after extra time in the final.

Powerchair football is a 4-a-side sport for users of motorised wheelchairs. Athletes have plastic, rubber or metal guards attached to their wheelchairs which are used to knock about an oversized soccer ball. Chairs are speed limited to 10 km/h and are speed tested prior to each game to ensure that no chairs are going too quickly.

For many of the Poweroos, this was their first taste of international competition. However, with 8 Poweroos having competed in the November 2011 World Cup in Paris, there was a mix of youth and experience.

Green won their opening match 1-0 against Team Nippon, earned a respectable 2-1 loss against Team Japan and won 1-0 against Gold. Gold were less lucky, being defeated 3-0 by Team

Japan and drawing 0-0 against Team Nippon before losing to their counterparts. Gold found their form the next day with a 2-1 win against Green and a 2-0 win against Team Nippon. After losing to Gold, Green had a fantastic 1-1 draw against Team Japan. With both Australian teams on 7 competition points after 5 matches, each side had one more match to gain their place in the final. Green side found themselves 2-0 down against Team Nippon before roaring back to earn a 2-2 draw, while Gold found themselves up 1-0 to Team Japan but had to settle for a 1-1 draw against the undefeated Japanese. Green side would sneak into the final against Team Japan on goal difference. In what was an epic match, the Japanese and Australian Green sides fought to a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation time. Team Japan found their winning goal at the end of the first half of extra time, breaking the Australians' hearts. Overall it was a fantastic tournament. The next APO Cup will be in Japan in 2014.

The Western Sydney Powerchair Football competition begins again in April. For more details, please contact Matt Cross on 0409 839 788 or [mcross6@bigpond.com](mailto:mcross6@bigpond.com).



The two Australian Teams at the recent Asia Pacifica Oceania Cup. Kyle Scolari, Andy Waite, James Kim, Alex Scollard, Andrew Kim, Luke David, Kristie McCarthy, Dimitri Liolio - Davis, Josh Merkas, Jacob Cross, Tristram Peters, Peter Dalrymple, Ben Keyte and Chris Suffield. At the rear, Coaches Rob Newland and Luke Robinson with games Ambassador Rale Rasic.

## National Electric Wheelchair Sports Tues 9th – Sat 13th April, 2013

The National Electric Wheelchair Sports for 2013 will be held from the 9th to 13th April at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation, Narrabeen. The New South Wales Colts take on the rest of Australia in the three sports of Soccer (played with a Balloon), Rugby League and Hockey. The Colts are looking to win their 5th straight Rugby League crown and would greatly appreciate any support.

The Opening Ceremony will be held at 10.00am on Tuesday 9th, followed by the Round Robin games of Soccer. Wednesday is Hockey, Thursday is Rugby League,

Friday is a rest day and Saturday 13th April is Finals Day.

This year's team includes James Kim, Andrew Kim, Chris Suffield (Captain), Alex Scollard, Dean Crane and Jordan Crane. The team is coached by Peter Dalrymple.

For anyone looking to try-out for the 2014 side, please contact Peter Dalrymple on 0438 224 644 or email [peter\\_dalrymple@hotmail.com](mailto:peter_dalrymple@hotmail.com)

**Peter Dalrymple**  
National Electric Wheelchair Sports