

Wales crisis talks produce big win

Story and photos by Peter Law

AFTER five losses Wales called a crisis meeting late Wednesday night in an attempt to turn around their disappointing form and avert any danger of being demoted in the divisional play-off against Korea.

The initiative worked as the Welshmen finally displayed some pride in a 19-10 thumping of Korea yesterday.

Korea opened the scoring in a fascinating first quarter, but this sparked Wales into action as they piled on six unanswered goals.

The Welsh attackers took advantage of the rain-soaked astro turf surface by firing

long range bounce-shots at the helpless Korean goalie, Edward Young-sul Chung.

As the match threatened to turn into a one-sided contest, Korean coach John Haus called a time-out to settle his players and reinforce the importance of controlling possession in the tough conditions.

The pep-talk worked, as Korea pegged back the deficit to be within two goals of Wales midway through the second quarter.

But the Koreans soon returned to their bad habits, giving away costly penalties and unforced turnovers.

Welsh attacker Gavin Chamberlain capitalised on the mistakes to score two quick goals, giving his side a 10-5 lead at the break.

The Welsh continued the onslaught in the second half with two goals in two minutes.

The contest was all but over when Craig Caputo whipped a spectacular shot round the back of his head past three Korean defenders to give Wales an unattainable eight goal lead.

Korea displayed great team spirit in the last quarter as they dominated possession for the entire term but failed to make a significant impression on the scoreboard. Sung-uk Hwang was Korea's best, finishing with three goals and one assist.

John Haus said Korea still had a lot of work to do to compete with the experienced lacrosse playing nations but indicated Korea would be a force to be reckoned with at the next World Championship.

Wales finished with an amazing 12 individual goal scorers in great team performance.

Welsh coach Ray Nash said he hoped the victory would turn around his team's fortunes.

"We were in a position to lose today and finish twelfth, but the win means we can move up the table to ninth, which is the best that Wales has ever achieved," he said.



Welsh goalie John Hudson deflects a Korean attack past net.



The Korean attack was no match for the Welsh defence yesterday, going down 19-10.

Italian stallions extend winning run

By Braden Quartermaine and Vanessa Frzop

LACROSSE is relatively unknown in Italy, but players from all over the world with Italian backgrounds have come together to compete here in the International Open Tournament during the week.

Forming the team through e-mail, the players met for the first time last Friday and spent the night getting to know each other and talking tactics.

Italy United captain-coach Robert Corna, from Rome, is the side's only Italian resident. Americans and Australians of Italian descent make up most of the team, with one player from Argentina.

Yesterday United took on the Australian Under 19 side in a game which was neck-

and-neck until the end, with Italy United's Francesco Castello scoring the late winner in his side's 6-5 victory.

Tempers flared in the last quarter as a dispute erupted between players, coaches and officials over the legality of an United time-out call.

The tight defences of both sides left little room for goal manoeuvring and at the main break the Australian under-19's led 4-3.

Near the end of the game with both sides seemingly going nowhere, and with the coaches sensing this, both teams used the last of their time-outs to regroup and discuss player substitutions.

United's unbeaten record was kept in tact

when Castello scored with three minutes on the clock.

Captain-coach Corna is the driving force behind Italian Lacrosse and dreams of starting a competition there. He is promoting indoor five-a-side games on small courts as a way of increasing interest in lacrosse among Italians.

Corna said more players from Italy wanted to make the trip but flight costs were a major barrier.

"It broke my heart that they couldn't come but we're here anyway," he said.

Although United is not an official national team, their participation is an important step towards promoting lacrosse in Italy.



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