



Australian Baseball Team International Competition Game Summary

Super Round - Game 1

USA 2

def.

Aust. 1

Date: 5 September 2019

Tournament: Under 18 World Cup

Venue: Gijang Hyundai Dream Ball Park
Busan, Korea

AUSTRALIA vs. USA

	Inn / Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
V	Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	7	0
H	USA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

Bat	Australia	Pos	At Plate	Hits	RBI's	Walks / HPB	Sacs	Stolen Bases	Runs Scored
1	T. Bazzana	2B	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	J. Rae	LF	4	2	0	2	0	0	1
3	C. Burke	DH	4	1	1	0	0	0	0
4	C. Myles	RF	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	S. Maguire	CF	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
6	B. Armstrong	SS	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
7	L. MacDonald	1B	4	0	0	1	0	0	0
8	J. Burns	C	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
9	J. Stevens	3B	4	1	0	0	1	0	0

Pitchers

Australia	Innings Pitched	Ks	Hits	Walks	HPB	Runs	Earned Runs
L. McCallum	6	2	6	1	0	1	1
B. Cavill	2	2	1	0	2	1	1

And so begins the Super Round where we play the three teams who qualified from the other group. So over the next three days we play USA, Chinese Taipei and Japan big challenges lie ahead but at the pointy end of the competition, you would expect nothing different.

It was good to see the sun out today probably been four days since we've seen it. 29 degrees at game time but VERY humid.

In the top of the 1st, Rae tripled with one out to continue his great run with the bat and we had the first opportunity to score but we couldn't bring him in. Starting for us today was Liam McCallum, in his first pitching appearance of the competition. He had a three up three down 1st inning which included a successful pickoff attempt at first base.

We hit a couple of very well hit long balls in the 2nd but they were run down by the USA outfielders, and McCallum shut them out again.

Burns led off the 3rd with a single up the middle and was bunted through to second by Stevens. Rae was hit by a pitched ball and we had runners on first and second with two out. Burke then

hit a screaming line drive but unfortunately it was straight at their centre fielder. USA threatened after they hit a triple but a great defensive play from MacDonald at first base got us out of the inning.

So the game was still locked up at 0 - 0 going into the 4th in which neither team scored. In the top of the 5th, Stevens singled and we hit two very hard balls on which their centre fielder made two excellent catches. Their lead off singled and then a pass ball saw him on second with none out but McCallum fought back hard to keep them out again.

Rae singled (yet again) in the 6th and was on second base with two out. Maguire then a hit a very sharp ball up the middle but the pitcher made a great reflex play to get the out. We just couldn't seem to be able to find any gaps. Their lead off hitter walked in the 6th and was on third base with two out when they singled to score him. Their next batter hit a deep ball over centre field but a great relay play from Maguire to Armstrong to Burns got the runner from first at the plate. So at the end of six innings it was a 1 - 0 score line in their favour.

We didn't score in the 7th and Cavill came on to replace McCallum on the mound. He'd thrown a superb six innings, giving up just the one run against one of the strongest batting lineups in the world. Cavill was on song from the get go, retiring three straight hitters including two strike outs.

With two out and none on in the top of the 8th, Rae was hit by a pitched ball to give us a runner on first. Their pitcher had reached his maximum allowable amount of pitches and so was replaced by a new pitcher. With his first pitch, Burke smashed one deep over centre field. It looked like it may have hit the top of the fence, and then batter's eye behind the fence and come back into play, which would've been a home run. But the video review ruled that it had hit the padding on top of the fence and bounced back into play. There was a matter of inches in it. It will be interesting to watch a replay ourselves. Still, Rae had scored on the play and the scores were back to being locked up at 1 - 1.

In the top of the 9th, Maguire singled to lead off. Armstrong's bunt popped up tantalisingly in the air but fell between a charging pitcher, catcher and first base, so we had runners on first and second with none out. MacDonald then put down a bunt towards third but their pitcher made a great bare hand play to get the force out at third. Two fly balls followed and so we didn't score.

We unfortunately hit the first two batters in the bottom of the 9th, and then they put down a perfect bunt for a base hit to load the bases with none out. With our infield playing in, their next hitter squeezed a ground ball through a gap and the winning run came home and we'd lost the game 2 - 1.

Unbelievably, this was our fifth one run game in the six games we've played so far. USA have won the past four world championships at this level and we matched it with them the whole way. Even though the stats showed they out hit us eight to seven, I think it's fair to say we hit the ball harder than them throughout the game, but we just couldn't find the gaps.

It was a tough loss in an extremely high quality game, but it showed yet again that we can match it with anyone in the world. The competition, even though it only has three days to go, is very evenly balanced and there are way too many permutations and combinations of things that could still happen, to even hazard a guess of how it's all going to turn out. We've just got to now refocus on our next game which is against Chinese Taipei tomorrow at midday.