

**PASC Golf Sydney Eagles and Sydney Amigos Captured 2010 NASA Int'l
Basketball Title in Perth, WA
By Manny Castillo, OAM**

The Philippine – Australian Sports and Culture (PASC), Inc. Sydney delegation achieved its “mission impossible” in basketball and golf during the 34th National Aust-Fil Int'l Sports Goodwill Games held in Perth, Western Australia during the Easter break.

In basketball, the crippled 8-member basketball team, PASC Sydney Amigos who freshly arrived from a series of exhibition matches in the Philippines last Christmas and New Year holiday achieved remarkable result by winning the grand finals.

The 4-teams pool preliminary, team Sydney had a record of two wins and one loss. Sydney defeated confident laden Team Adelaide of FASA - SA, 78 – 36 headed by Ramon Cruz, NASA SA, Director and Mandurah Country, WA, 64 – 36 but lost to high flyers Team Singapore Distellers 65 – 71.

Other bracket of the same preliminary, depending champion PPASC Perth lead with 3 wins and 0 loss with the result of the bracketed teams as follow, Melbourne, 2 – 1, Darwin 1 – 2 (managed by Ms. Elvie Tolentino, NASA NT, Director) and Albany Country, WA, 0 – 3.

While in the semi – finals cross over, Team Sydney edged out Team Melbourne coached by veteran Sammy Riego, NASA Victoria, Director in a close contested match, 53 – 50 for a place in the final.

In the other semi-final match, favorite Team Perth lost to Singapore in a convincing result. The strong local home followers did not gave much encouragement to the local boys to retain its shining glory.

Third placer was Perth and Melbourne came fourth.

Down to only seven players because of injury, Sydney Amigos displayed remarkable determination beating the Pinoy global crusader Team Singapore 70 – 53 in the final.

The members of the Sydney champion team were Vergel Alcantara (Captain), John Mantua, James Mantua, Ata Ayuk, Egange Ayuk, Daryl Pepito, Jovette Paule and Jiyfhe Yusores (Coach). Most Valuable Player was awarded to Daryl Pepito.

Past impressive Philippine Guardian community hospitality hosting in Adelaide, South Australia in 2009, Perth has defeated Sydney Amigos in the grand finals. Third was Team Singapore.

The successful global crusade of Team Singapore Distellers headed by Macky Macaamba and Noel Maleriado started in Sydney 2008, where they came fourth. Other teams they tagged along were teams in Tennis and Ten-pin Bowling.

Prior to Adelaide, Sydney Amigos won the title back to back in Gold Coast 2007 and in Sydney 2008.

In golf meanwhile which was played at the world famous Vines Resort & Country Club home of the Australia's Johnnie Walker Classic held annually in Perth, six members of Team PASC Golf Sydney Eagles retained the national crown after grounding Team Perth and Melbourne. Members of the Team were: Danny Martinez (Captain), Jojo de los Reyes, Carlos Perez, Patrick Valenzuela, Tony Vivero and Manny Castillo.

The single crown was won by Jojo de los Reyes and second was Boy Sanding of Melbourne, third was Richard Cotter of Perth. Longest drive and nearest to the pin was won by Sydney Danny Martinez. Vince Garcia of Perth Team won the best gross.

Missing in action was team Adelaide with single handicapper Louie de Guia from North Adelaide Golf Club.

The perpetual trophies donated by the past Philippines DENR Secretary and Mayor, City of Manila, Hon. Lito Atienza went back to Sydney Amigos and PASC Golf Sydney Eagles. Historically Team Sydney dominated the National Title in 34 years meetings which started in Canberra, ACT in 1976.

Other sports organized by this year host Perth Pinoy – Aus Sports Club Inc. at the newly built Loftus Recreation Centre at Leederville, Perth were badminton (men /Ladies) and Volleyball (Men / Ladies / Mixed).

Acknowledgement goes to the hard working organizers and Directors of PPASC Inc., Perth who contributed to the overall success of the International event particularly to Peter Boone (State Pres.), Marino Salinas, NASA V.P., Dee Boone, Ofilia Leadbeater, Soneth Wrightson, Abdul Tawasil and Nestor Jongco (Golf).

Future hosts of the National Australian – Filipinos Sports Association Int'l (NASA Int'l) are Melbourne in 2011, Singapore in 2012 and Darwin in 2013. The annual event is open to other Australian States, its Territories and Global Filipinos in other countries of residences.

More teams are invited to participate in Melbourne including UAAP Philippines champion Ateneo University where one of the executive was invited as guest to open the tournament in Perth.

Other teams who indicated to participate are Brunei, PNG, NZ and ME. More community leisure sports will be included in the annual sports travel to Melbourne which include the continuance of Badminton, Tennis and Ten-pin Bowling. The holding of exhibition sports in Basketball 18 Yrs. & under and Masters 45 Yrs & over.