Softball, desert-style

By ALP WILSON

ROUND one of the softball competition involving remote north-west NT Aboriginal communities Docker River, Imanta, Yulara, Imanta and Finke at Yulara Resort (Uluṟu) was a great success. Docker River made a flying start, beating Yulara 4-0 in the first game.

Brenda Whisky Henry was a standout for Yulara and Regina Watson was best for Docker. Both these girls pitched.

In the second match, Docker River defeated Multijulu 15-4. Julie Brumby starred with the bat, getting two hits and three runs batted in (RBI)!

Sally Yipari scored a home run over right field and also earned her two RBIs. Regina Watson did the job again with the ball, striking out fourteen batters.

In game three, Yulara beat Imanta 8-2. Brenda Whisky Henry starred on the mound and on the plate.

Imanta beat Docker River 6-3 in the next match.

Imanta, helped by Lulu Lucky with a RBI of four, powered home over the top of Docker River.

With two on base, two out and behind by one run, Lulu smashed a home run to hand Imanta a convincing win.

In game five, Yulara defeated Multijulu 17-2.

Brenda Whisky Henry did the job again with the bat, achieving three strikeouts in the first and only innings for Multijulu.

Imanta beat Multijulu 4-0 in game six and Joceyln Young was ruthless with the ball, holding Multijulu to no runs at the end of the two innings.

Lucker after round one: Docker River 10 points (18 aggregate), Yulara, 16 (17), Imanta 10 (4), Multijulu 1 (33), Finke 0 (0).

Docker spokesperson Rayleen Kunoth said the women were also trained in umpiring and coaching.

The next round is to be held at Imanta on May 2-4.

* RBI: Runs that come across the home plate because of something another batter did.

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Softball hits the red soil

By ALP WILSON

IMANTA led the table from Docker River, Yulara and Finke in round two of the Northern Territory Softball competition, which was played in the red soil of the desert.

It was held at Imanta AFL oval from May 2-4 and attracted a large crowd of locals and visitors from remote Indigenous communities.

The strong Imanta combination started off well, defeating Docker 8-6 in game one.

Melissa George, Tanya Burton and Lulu Lucky each scored two runs for Imanta. Lulu also earned two RBIs (runs batted in).

Rayleen Kunoth scored two runs for Docker.

Next up Yulara Stars rolled Docker River 10-4 after three innings. Finke rolled Imanta 11-4 in game three with Schellie Hanney and Marnayn Doolan scoring two runs for the winners and Doolan one RBI.

In game four Imanta beat Yulara 4-2, with Brenda Whisky Hanney scoring one run and one RBI for the victor.

Maram RMway also starred with two RBIs for Imanta.

Improving as the games went on, Docker River hit top form in game five with a 14-4 demolition of Finke.

The Docker River batsmen hammered Finke's pitching as seven hitters had a field day, combining for 14 hits, 10 RBIs and 13 runs scored.

In game six Finke beat Yulara 9-4.

Overall points after round two are: Imanta 20 (21), Docker River 18 (19), Yulara 16 (24) and Finke 10 (13).

Overall individual statistics leaders:

Quality at bat: Christine Bennett 9 (Docker), Brenda Whisky Hanney 8 (Imanta), Michelle Rees 7 (Docker).

Runs Batted In (RBI): Sally Yipari 8 (Docker), Brenda Whisky Hanney 6 (Imanta), Christine Bennett 6 (Docker), Lulu Lucky 3 (Imanta), Tonya Burton 2 (Yulara).

Strike Outs: Brenda Whisky Hanney 8 (Yulara), Regina Watson 6 (Docker), Christine Bennett 6 (Docker), Rayleen Kunoth (Docker), 6 Brandy Coombes (Finke).

First Pitch Strikeouts: 7 Rodger 16 (Imanta), Brenda Whisky Hanney 69.1% (Yulara), Regina Watson 60.9% (Docker).

Docker River players show off their new uniform.

Bottom: (left) The Finke team with supporters and (right) Imanta plays Docker River on the red dirt of the Imanta AFL oval in the Northern Territory.

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The Voice of Indigenous Australia.