

18 July 2012

I have recently returned from my trip to Melbourne Victoria where I was playing in the Australian Volleyball State Champs and a test series against the Under 18 Mens Australia Team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your sponsorship.

This sponsorship gave me the opportunity to proudly represent my country and acquire my first test caps. Few people are able to say they have played a sport for their country and now I can say that I have. This achievement is amazing and I feel proud to be a kiwi.

Being able to focus on the volleyball with my full attention was a great change to constantly thinking about if I can afford the trip or not. I was mentally focused well before the trip even to Auckland and our flight to Australia and my attitude encouraged the other players.

My trip consisted of 9 games in the State Champs and 3 games in the test series against Australia. In the State Champs we played six games and won five, we also beat the team that won it. But due to three states not allowing us to play in any finals or go for any medal, we had to be content to finish in the top 5. In the games we played against the Australian team we lost all of them as they were the under eighteen team. Our team was under seventeen and they were the under seventeen team from last year so they had a whole extra year of experience. We fought hard and didn't fold easily taking them to 25-20 in most sets. Although we lost we did compete against them by making them have to work for the win. I am happy to say that the under seventeen girls did win and have brought home the trophy.

This experience has been amazing. The friendships and memories I will take from these last two weeks will be with me for life. I now have a solid goal for next year and hopefully working towards being selected again to represent my country.

Once again thank you for giving me this opportunity and for your support.

Jackson Ellis



2012 AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1st - 7th JULY, VICTORIA



NZ U17 Men

Back Row: Josh Ovsenek (Head Coach), Jack Boyle, Shane Witehira, Morgan Willis, Jack Salt, Nate Moore, Amohia Busby, Rebecca Malthus (Assistant Coach)

Front Row: Harry Fergusson, Kane Turketo, Saumani Malama, Liam Whareaitu, Matthew Barnett, Jackson Ellis

Absent: Fatu Lafaele

