

MY NAME

## Deadly Sport *Kyah kicks back*, Kyah simon page 15

SPORT

# Kyah kicks back

AS THE SOCCEROOS HEADED TO SOUTH AFRICA LAST MONTH FOR THEIR WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN, 19-YEAR-OLD KYAH SIMON WAS HELPING THE MATILDAS BRING HOME AUSTRALIA'S FIRST EVER MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TITLE.



**T**here's no doubt, pressure brings out the best in certain types of sportspeople. When the call came for Indigenous soccer star Kyah Simon to step up and take the Matildas' fifth and final penalty against Korea DPR – the one to decide the match

and the AFC Women's Asian Cup – she didn't hesitate to raise her hand.

Kyah, our leading Indigenous womens footballer, made her national team debut with the Under 20s in 2008 and plays for Sydney FC in the W-League.

Despite losing to host-nation China in the final group match, the Matildas beat the odds to progress to the final where they faced Korea DPR for the Cup early last month.

The match was played in torrential rain, turning the pitch into a quagmire, and as it headed into extra time then penalties, Kyah found herself in a position a player either dreams about or dreads: taking a crucial penalty with not just a game, but an international championship on the line.

"I was standing up there and we were all freezing. Our legs were shaking and our boots were heavier than usual from all the rain. I had to act as confident as I could and not show any doubt in myself or my ability," says Kyah, remembering the moments before she calmly slotted the ball into the back of net, clinching Australian soccer's first ever Asian Cup win.

"As soon as I saw the ball hit the back of the net, such a great feeling of happiness and relief came over me and nothing else crossed my mind other than to just run and do a big belly slide in the mud!"

Kyah was quickly mobbed by her team-mates, who celebrated Australia's historic win. For Kyah, it was the latest in a series of crucial goals she has scored for the team in the last two years. In 2008, she scored an injury-time goal to claim an historic victory over Brazil, and in March her winning goal in an international friendly against Korea DPR broke the Matildas' five-game losing streak.

"It was such a gutsy effort from everyone and it really showed on the field. The girls didn't stop running for the whole 120 minutes, and to step up to that penalty spot, after such an effort, with your legs feeling as heavy

as anything ... I'm so glad we were rewarded for all the hard work that we've put in."

Kyah's penalty goal ensured the Matildas returned home with the nation's first ever international soccer title and also granted them instant qualification for the Women's World Cup, which kicks off in June 2011.

Before then, the national team will compete at the Peace Cup, then there's the new W-League season, which is just around the corner, so Kyah will have little time to relax.

At just 19 years of age, Kyah is among the W-League's leading scorers and certainly has plenty to look forward to right now.

"I think it's great to be so young and have all these opportunities. I feel privileged to be achieving all these goals and to have the opportunity to play for the Matildas," she says.

"I definitely want to cement a spot in the World Cup squad and hopefully be able to give something positive to the team, and if I can perform well this season in the W-League, it will help me stay in form leading up to the World Cup."

At the 2007 World Cup, the Matildas progressed all the way to the quarter finals where they were narrowly beaten by Brazil 3-2, but after the dramatic Asian Cup victory, Kyah says confidence in the group is soaring.

"I think the talent and ability is there and we've proven that we can beat some of the best teams in the world – to take that confidence into the World Cup and hopefully come away with the results is all that's on our minds."



**DEADLY  
SPORT**



There's no doubt, pressure brings out the best in certain types of sportspeople. When the call came for Indigenous soccer star Kyah Simon to step up and take the Matildas' fifth and final penalty against Korea DPR – the one to decide the match and the AFC Women's Asian Cup – she didn't hesitate to raise her hand.

Kyah, our leading Indigenous womens footballer, made her national team debut with the Under 20s in 2008 and plays for Sydney FC in the W-League.

Despite losing to host-nation China in the final group match, the Matildas beat the odds to progress to the final where they faced Korea DPR for the Cup early last month.

## ACTIVITY 1: UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read *Kyah kicks back* - Kyah Simon on page 15  
Shade one bubble.

1. Kyah Simon made her national team debut in

- 1987.
- 2008.
- 1945.
- 2010.

2. Who was the host nation for the AFC Women's Asian Cup?

- Korea
- Sydney
- China

3. The match was played in **torrential** rain, turning the pitch into a quagmire.

- the rain was very heavy
- the rain was wet
- the rain was on and off



4. At just 19 years of age, Kyah is among the W-League's leading scorers and certainly has plenty to look forward to right now. List some of her opportunities.

.....

.....

## ACTIVITY 2: LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS - SPELLING

The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined.  
Write the correct spelling for each underlined word in the box.

1. Before then, the national team will compeate at the Peace Cup.

2. "I feel privileged to be achieving all these goals and to have the oportunnity to play for the Matildas,"

3. Kyah, our leading Indigenous womens footbaler, made her national team debut

Read the text below.

Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.

Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

Kyah was quickly mobbed by her team-mates, who selebrated Australia's historic win.

At the 2007 World Cup, the Matildas progressed all the way to the qarter finals

Kyah is among the W-League's leading scores and certainly has plenty to look forward to.



## ACTIVITY 3: LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

Which of the following correctly completes the sentence?

**Shade one bubble.**

1. Kyah found herself in a position a player \_\_\_\_\_ dreams about or dreads:.

- over
- either
- each
- many

2. Kyah's goal ensured the Matildas returned home with the \_\_\_\_\_ first ever international soccer title.

- nations
- nation's
- nations"

3. At the 2007 World Cup, the Matildas \_\_\_\_\_ all the way to the quarter finals

- progressing
- progress
- progressed

4. Which sentence uses speech marks correctly?

- "I was standing up there and we were all freezing!" Kyah said.
- I was standing up there and we were all freezing! "Kyah said."
- "I was standing up there and we were all freezing! Kyah said."

5. There's no doubt, pressure brings out the best in certain types of sportspeople.

In this sentence, the word **pressure** is used as

- a noun.
- an adjective.
- a simile.
- an adverb.

6. Which group of words can all be conjunctions (words that join parts of a sentence)?

- his, hers, its, theirs
- after, before, while, then
- plays, speaks, drinks, eats
- may, must, should, might



## Deadly Sport *Kyah kicks back*, *Kyah simon* page 15

There's no doubt, pressure brings out the best in certain types of sportspeople. When the call came for Indigenous soccer star Kyah Simon to step up and take the Matildas' fifth and final penalty against Korea DPR – the one to decide the match and the AFC Women's Asian Cup – she didn't hesitate to raise her hand.

Kyah, our leading Indigenous womens footballer, made her national team debut with the Under 20s in 2008 and plays for Sydney FC in the W-League.

Despite losing to host-nation China in the final group match, the Matildas beat the odds to progress to the final where they faced Korea DPR for the Cup early last month.

### ACTIVITY 1: UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read *Kyah kicks back* - Kyah Simon on page 15  
Shade one bubble.

1. Kyah Simon made her national team debut in

- 1987.
- 2008.
- 1945.
- 2010.

2. Who was the host nation for the AFC Women's Asian Cup?

- Korea
- Sydney
- China

3. The match was played in **torrential** rain, turning the pitch into a quagmire.

- the rain was very heavy
- the rain was wet
- the rain was on and off



## ACTIVITY 4: WRITING AN EXPOSITION

An Exposition is a type of ARGUMENT that states one point of view about an issue. Expositions are structured like this:

Thesis	Statement of the writer's point of view.
Arguments	Supporting arguments and examples.
Restatement	Restating the original Thesis.

### **The Matildas should be able to beat the best teams in the world.**

Write an EXPOSITION to argue your case. Think about the reasons that the Matildas are successful and what they are doing to ensure their success.

Remember to:

- ★ plan your Exposition before you start
- ★ choose your arguments carefully
- ★ give reasons for your arguments
- ★ give examples to support your arguments
- ★ write in sentences
- ★ pay attention to your spelling, punctuation and paragraphs
- ★ check and edit your writing.