

## Stead stands up for Australia as indoor world series trophy comes home

SAM Stead produced a player of the match performance to help return the Under-18 Junior World Series indoor cricket title to Australian soil last weekend.

The Genesis College Year 11 student saw his side over the line, with he and teammate Hamish Chapman scoring a massive 39 runs in the final skin to beat South Africa 135-116.

The pair held on after tak-

ing the lead just two overs in, including nine runs while "seeing off" South Africa's strike bowler.

"Our first three pairs went out and hit 96 ... which meant me and my mate Hamish had to close it out," he said.

Stead, who scored 23 runs and took a wicket, said he was surprised to be highlighted for his part in a strong team performance.

"It was great. It was a very good competition, very close," he said.

The 16-year-old said the team expected to see New Zealand in the final, despite going down to South Africa twice in the pool games.

"(South Africa) beat us in the first round and the third round, but we just took (the final) as another game really and bowled to our areas and batted with intent and did

what we could do. I just wanted to do my stuff right.

"Everyone does their part."

Five of his teammates were selected in the All-Star team.

The Albany Creek teen said he was looking forward to having a break from cricket to give the body a rest and focus on his senior studies with an eye to further study in physiotherapy.



Sam Stead plays a stroke.

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