

AUSTRALIA:

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Croatians are the favorites

VECERNJI LIST –

Australian National Team, together with the officials from the Beli Manastir handball club, was welcomed by the city vice-mayor Vladimir Kedmenec yesterday. During the informal meeting, there were talks about the upcoming World Championships and the Australian goals during the tournament. "After Croatia, we will be supporting you", stated Kedmenec, wishing them a lot of success. Australian player Mladen Turanjanin, originally from Sarajevo, now playing for Melbourne, said that in Australia handball is an amateur sport so the expectations are not very high. "We have a very young team because we are experiencing the change of generations. In the first phase, we will try and get better and give our best. Hopefully the Osijek crowd will reward our fighting spirit, and their support would mean a lot to us" Mladen said adding that the Croatians are the favorites to win and wishing Balic a quick recovery. He also mentioned France and said that he sees those two teams in the final. Australians are more than impressed with the hospitality during their stay in Beli Manastir, and as a memory of their visit, they received promotional material from the Touristic Association of Baranja and Beli Manastir as well as a small bottle of "rakija".

Translation by Ognjen Latinovic