



3 MAY 2009

SCOREBOARD - ROUND 1

MEN

Superleague (Team 1)

Coach: John Ricciardi
Balcatta lost Rossmoyne 1-3
20-25, 21-25, 25-19, 29-31

Division 1 (Team 13)

Coach: Steve Petsos
Balcatta d Balcatta Masters 3-1
25-18, 19-25, 25-19, 25-19

Masters (Team 17)

Coach: Marty Bertuleit
Balcatta lost Balcatta Div.1 1-3
18-25, 25-19, 19-25, 19-25

Division 2 (Team 22)

Coach: TBA
Balcatta d UWA 3-2
22-25, 22-25, 25-19, 25-19, 15-13

Division 3 (Team 32)

Coach: Brendon Buckley
Balcatta d UWA 3-1
25-17, 25-23, 19-25, 25-11

WOMEN

Superleague (Team 104)

Coach: Russell Hampton
Balcatta lost Southern Cross 0-3
16-25, 13-25, 17-25

Division 1 (Team 111)

Coach: Aaron Leung
Balcatta d Rossmoyne 3-0
25-17, 25-21, 25-16

Division 2 (Team 122)

Coach: Mel Johnson
Balcatta lost UWA 2-3
25-19, 25-27, 21-25, 25-17, 12-15

Division 3 - Blue (Team 132)

Coach: Layne van Smaalen
Balcatta lost UWA 0-3

Division 3 - Red (Team 133)

Coach: Mitchell Collins
Balcatta d Sth Cross Green 3-1

Division 4 (Team 141)

Coach: John Sewell
Balcatta d Rossmoyne 3-1
25-17, 22-25, 25-15, 25-22



Cat attack - [L-R] Brendan Chapman & Sean Supierz in action



Demolition Derby - [L-R] Darren Dempster and Tim Wilkins were in the winning Balcatta Div 1 side.



Serving it up - Setter Mel Davey helped lead Balcatta to victory in the Cats Div 1 opening game.



Thumbs up - Balcatta player Jason "Doggie" Sewell was all smiles after his team's thrilling win.

Cats kick off season in fine style

The Balcatta Volleyball Club got off to a great start in the new PVL volleyball season winning six games in the opening round. The Cats, however, suffered a shock loss in the premier Superleague with Rossmoyne beating the reigning Premiers Balcatta in a hard-fought four-set game and marathon final set (31-29). In the women's Superleague game, the Cats were competitive against reigning premiers Southern Cross, but lost in straight sets. Overall, the signs were good for the club and 2009 looks set to be another successful year.

[See Superleague Reports - Pages 2 & 3](#)

Young guns break Derby hoodoo

Balcatta drew first blood against the Balcatta Masters in the men's Division 1 competition Derby on Sunday, winning in four sets (25-18, 19-25, 25-19, 25-19). Winning coach Steve Petsos said it was nice to chalk up a win against their "hoodoo" team. "It was a great team effort with all players contributing well," he said. "Left outside hitter Luke McTaggart was in great form, along with Brendan Chapman, Will Hoops and Sean Supierz. But the stand-out player on the day was Tim Wilkins who set for the whole game and was a middle hitter when on the front line." Masters coach Marty Bertuleit said that despite his teams first round loss, they played well, but too many errors cost them dearly.

Girls rise to coaches' challenge

After playing many five-set game in 2008, Cats coach Aaron Leung has challenged his Division 1 girls to win their games in three sets this year. His players responded immediately and convincingly won their first game of the season in straight sets up against a young Rossmoyne side. "Mel Davey provided excellent leadership and support," Aaron said. "With usual setters Emma Dudman and Ali Mees unable to set in the opening game, Mel stepped into a 5-1 setting role. With Katja Horley and Michelle Lewis making a welcome return and new recruit Julie Chapman also boosting the team, Balcatta looks set for a good season." After losing the 2008 Grand Final, the Cats will be looking to go one step higher this year and win the premiership.

Balcatta boys win epic battle

Balcatta came from two sets down to beat University of WA in a thrilling five-set game on Sunday in the men's Division 2 competition. After narrowly losing the first two sets (22-25), the Cats dug deep and rallied to win the third and fourth sets (25-19) to tie the game. In the final set, the Cats were down 11-13 and managed to find some aggression and pass well to take the final set 15-13, and the game. It was a great way for the boys to start the season, particularly as the Cats only had six players for the entire game.



SUPERLEAGUE - MEN

Game Results

Superleague

Coach: John Ricciardi

Balcatta lost Rossmoyne 1-3

20-25, 21-25, 25-19, 29-31



Talking tactics - Cats Captain Paul Prindiville and coach John Ricciardi discuss ways to get back into the game against Rossmoyne.

Cat tales

Cats Coach - John Ricciardi

Cats Captain - Paul Prindiville

PVL position in 2008 - 1

Premierships - 5 (1996-97, '99, 2007-08)

This week's game preview

Opponent - Southern Cross

Cat's game streak - 1 loss

Last clash against opponent - Balcatta defeated Southern Cross in last year's Grand Final.

Rossmoyne upset Cats in opening round

Reigning premiers Balcatta had to work hard up against Rossmoyne in the opening game of the men's Superleague competition for 2009 and ended up losing the game in a marathon four sets.

Heading into the game the Cats had to change their usual line up due to injuries to Josh Court and James Clinch (shoulder), but Coach John Ricciardi was still confident of a first up win.

When the game started both teams were locked head-to-head and the Cats were confronted with very good attacks by Rossmoyne. But through good defensive skills, the Cats were able to produce winning counter attacks until they faded towards the end of the set. Rossmoyne then, with a combination of good spikes and blocks, opened up a three-point break and won 25-20.

In the second set, the Balcatta players were keen to bounce back. But Rossmoyne would not give in and skillfully tackled the many attacks made by the Cats. Michael Prindiville was penetrating the Rossmoyne blocks and winning valuable points with support from brother Paul and Aaron Borszky. Setter Callum Bradburn was also doing his best to give to the spikers winning sets, but again the Cats lost concentration for a period of time towards the end of the set and Rossmoyne drew away to win it 25-21.

Finally in the third set, the Cats were able to bounce back. From the start of this set they blitzed Rossmoyne with a barrage of attacks from the Prindiville brothers and through the middle by Aaron Borszky and Cameron Dall. The Cats also lifted in defense through new recruit Pete Baber, who played as libero. This set belonged to the Cats who won it comfortably 25-19.

It looked like the Cats were back in the game and would take it to five sets. But Rossmoyne dug deep and refused to give in. The game went point-for-point throughout until Rossmoyne opened up a three-point lead. But this was only momentarily as the Cats drew even again at 24-all. From here on the game again went point-for-point until the Cats gave Rossmoyne the chance to close the set and win the marathon set 31-29, and the game.

"It was a disappointing start to the season," coach John Ricciardi said. "We did not play at our full potential for the first two sets and Rossmoyne took advantage of that. "The absence of two players was not an excuse as we dominated the third and fourth sets, but at critical points made a few errors. Our two new recruits Cameron Dall and Pete Baber performed very well and we should have a strong team again in 2009."

Superleague Men - Season at a Glance

Rnd.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Opp.	Ros																			
Res.	L																			
Score	1-3																			
Pos.	-																			

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SUPERLEAGUE - WOMEN

Game Results

Coach: Russell Hampton
 Balcatta lost Southern Cross 0-3
 16-25, 13-25, 17-25



Dig it - Lauren Wenman from Div. 1 filled in for the Cat's opening Superleague game.

Cat tales

Cats Coach - Russell Hampton
 Cats Captain - Jenny Day
 PVL position in 2008 - 4
 Premierships - 3 (1996, 1997, 1998)

This week's game preview

All Superleague women have a bye this weekend.

Brave Cats lose to reigning premiers

Balcatta put up a brave fight up against reigning premiers Southern Cross in the opening women's Superleague game of the season, but were no match - losing in straight sets.

Heading into the game both clubs were missing key players, but the Cats were without Captain Jenny Day who is sidelined with a knee injury.

After a tight start in the opening set with scores tied at 4-all, SX then opened up a four-point point break with some good serving. The Cats fought back into the set trailing 12-14 at the halfway point before SX piled on multiple points in a few rotations to close out the set 16-25.

In the second set SX jumped the gun and led early at 3-1 before Lauren Wenman, Jenette Brown (nee Fetisow) and Elise Chapman all chipped in with kills to get the Cats within striking distance at 7-10. Unfortunately, from here on, SX again put points on when serving, eventually beating Balcatta 13-25.

Desperate to keep the game alive, the Cats started the third set strongly leading 3-2 before a spate of passing errors enabled SX to open up a handy lead at 4-9. It took until the third set for the Cats to register their first kill block through Janelle Robert who hit a purple patch winning three points in four serves with a block and two kills. But the damage had been done with SX up 11-20. The Cats, however, were able to add some respectability to the score with late points to finish 17-25.

Coach Russell Hampton said that with key players missing, Balcatta ran two part time setters in Mel Johnson and Elise Chapman. "Both girls set admirably," Russell said. "But what really lost us the game was our inconsistent form and SX making very few errors."

Russell said that Elise was the standout Balcatta player in the opening round.

"Also, a special mention must go to Janelle Robert for her great form late in the third set," he said.

Superleague Women - Season at a Glance

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Opp.	SX																			
Result	L																			
Score	0-3																			
Posit.	-																			

2009 PVL PREMIERSHIP TABLE

Team	G	W	L	D	F	B	Position*
MEN Superleague	1		1				
Division 1	1	1					
Masters (Div. 1)	1		1				
Division 2	1	1					
Division 3	1	1					
WOMEN Superleague	1		1				
Division 1	1	1					
Division 2	1		1				
Division 3 (Blue)	1		1				
Division 3 (Red)	1	1					
Division 4	1	1					

LEGEND
 G - Games played
 W - Wins
 L - Losses
 D - Draws
 F - Forfeits
 B - Byes
 TBC - To be confirmed

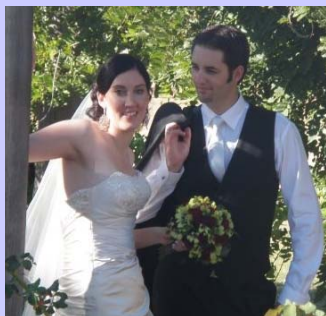
* Positions (TBA)



BLUE SHORTS

New recruits

Two new recruits have boosted the Balcatta women's divisions in 2009. Julie Chapman (Elise's sister) will play Division 1 and Tracey Hasselerham Superleague, having played for Rossmoyne last year. Likewise, in the men's competition, Cameron Dall and Pete Baber will boost the Balcatta Superleague team - the reigning PVL premiers.



Claire and Bernie Dragecevic



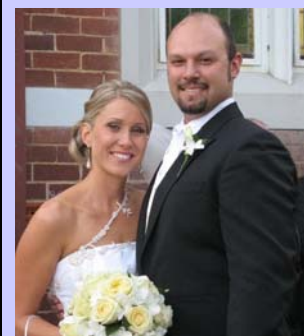
Kate and Brendan Buckley

Setters set to return this weekend

Balcatta division 1 players Emma Dudman and Ali Mees are expected to return back to their setting roles this weekend. Ali has a torn extensor tendon in her finger, so only played backcourt in the opening round, while Emma (a doctor) was unavailable due to work commitments.

Cats tie the knot during off season

Five current and former Balcatta players decided to get hitched over the off season. Women's Superleague player Jenette Brown (nee Fetisow) married former Cat Anthony in April, her team mate Claire Dragecevic (nee Merenda) married her beau Bernie in March, and division 1 players Kate (nee Shearer) and Brendan Buckley also recently tied the knot. Brendan and Kate are currently overseas in the USA on their honeymoon and Brendan will return to the club in a few weeks to resume playing and will also coach the men's Division 3 team this season.



Jenette and Anthony Brown



Jenny Day

Sad Day

Balcatta women's Superleague player Jenny Day is sidelined at the moment. The Cats captain is recovering from a knee reconstruction after tearing a ligament in her knee last October while playing for Australia in Vietnam. But the good news is that her rehabilitation is on track and she should be back playing for the Cats in about eight weeks.

President returns from Europe

Balcatta President Louisa Kinnear was a noticeable absentee at the first round of the new PVL season last Sunday. Louisa, who works for the Water Corporation, was in Europe with other young professionals from around Australia, visiting examples of innovative water sensitive urban design projects in the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and London. She flew back to Perth this week and should be back on the sidelines this weekend cheering on the Balcatta teams.

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Photo's by courtesy - Marty Bertuleit