



18 MAY 2009

SCOREBOARD - ROUND 3

MEN

Superleague (Team 1)

Coach: John Ricciardi
Balcatta d UWA 3-0
25-21, 25-21, 25-9

Division 1 (Team 13)

Coach: Steve Petsos
Balcatta d ECU Chequers 3-2

Masters (Team 17)

Coach: Marty Bertuleit
Balcatta d UWA 3-0
25-22, 23-25, 25-23, 29-27

Division 2 (Team 22)

Coach: Romano Fracassini
Balcatta d Perth Coastal 3-0

Division 3 (Team 32)

Coach: Brendon Buckley
Balcatta d ECU 3-0
25-12, 25-10, 25-16

WOMEN

Superleague (Team 104)

Coach: Russell Hampton
Balcatta d Perth Coastal 3-2
23-25, 25-19, 26-24, 20-25, 16-14
Balcatta lost UWA 0-3
22-25, 15-25, 21-25

Division 1 (Team 111)

Coach: Aaron Leung
Balcatta d UWA 3-2
18-25, 25-18, 25-17, 21-25, 17-15

Division 2 (Team 122)

Coach: Mel Johnson
Balcatta lost Perth Coastal 2-3
30-28, 18-25, 21-25, 25-13, 12-15

Division 3 - Blue (Team 132)

Coach: Layne van Smaalen
Balcatta d Southern Cross White 3-2
14-25, 21-25, 25-22, 25-21, 15-12

Division 3 - Red (Team 133)

Coach: Mitchell Collins
Balcatta d Rossmoyne 3-0

Division 4 (Team 141)

Coach: John Sewell
Balcatta d ECU Chequers 3-1



On the board - Balcatta Superleague played a double-header last Sunday, beating Coastal in five sets



Under pressure - Balcatta beat UWA on Sunday to win three games in a row and maintain its unbeaten run in 2009.



Double block - [L-R] Rohan Clinch and Brendan Chapman against ECU.



Tall timber - Corbin Butson blocking.

Balcatta Superleague teams chalk up first wins for 2009

Round 3 was the Cat's most successful for the season so far - with Balcatta winning 10 out of 12 games played. Balcatta broke through to chalk up its first wins for the season in both the men's and women's divisions against UWA and Perth Coastal, respectively. The Cats remain undefeated in the women's Division 1 and men's Division 2 and 3 competitions. Balcatta Masters won its first game in the men's Division 1 competition over UWA, as did Layne van Smaalen's women's Division 3 team who came back from two sets down to beat Southern Cross White in a thrilling five setter.

[See Superleague Reports - Pages 2 to 4](#)

Cats roar to the top

Balcatta won the top-of-the-table clash against UWA in the women's Division 1 competition to move into outright first place on the PVL ladder and maintain its unbeaten run in 2009 (18-25, 25-18, 25-17, 21-25, 17-15). With Brooke Beasley playing her first game in Division 1 and Michelle Lewis out sick, the Cats were unsettled early. After losing the first set, the Cats bounced back to win the next two and looked in control of the game. But a line-up change in the fourth allowed UWA to tie the game - the Cats eventually storming home to win a thrilling fifth set after recovering from match point. Coach Aaron Leung said that Nicole Leighton again dominated the net with strong blocking as well as serving some great runs. "But the entire team played well," he said.

Balcatta beats ECU in five sets

Balcatta beat ECU Chequers in a thrilling five-set game on Sunday in the men's Division 1 competition. Cats coach Steve Petsos praised his boys and leadership shown by Sean Supierz and Brendan Chapman who helped get the Cats over the line. "Tim Wilkins again personified the Cats spirit getting through the middle and then setting when in backcourt," Steve said. Tristan Jones, who was ill, still set well, mixing it up to leave the Chequers blockers dazed and confused. Young Chris Prior, who came off the bench in the fifth set, made an immediate impact - hitting some decisive winners during the set.

Young Cats remain undefeated

Balcatta comfortably beat ECU Chequers in straight sets in the men's Division 3 competition to remain undefeated in 2009 (25-12, 25-10, 25-16). Outside hitter Kop Butsabatheng was in sensational form at the net and around the court. Elliot Hill set consistently well, before having a hit in the last set. Corbin Butson, who played his first game for the season, blocked well and made it difficult for ECU to attack.



SUPERLEAGUE - MEN

Game Results

Superleague

Coach: John Ricciardi

Balcatta d UWA 3-0

25-21, 25-21, 25-9



Cop this - Cats captain Paul Prindiville penetrates the UWA defence last weekend.

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 - ECU

Cat's game streak - 2 losses and 1 win

Last clash against opponent - Balcatta defeated ECU in their last clash in 2008.

Cats bounce back to get season back on track

Reigning Superleague Premiers Balcatta bounced back from two shock losses to win its first game for the season against University of WA last weekend. The Cats were too strong and convincingly beat UWA in straight sets.

Heading into the game UWA were at full strength and the Cats were without James Clinch (shoulder injury), Pete Baber (work commitments) and Jason Fox.

From the start of the game the Cats looked determined to win after two consecutive defeats and a stirring pep talk before the game from captain Paul Prindiville. After going point for point early, the Cats started to get on top with good passing, setting and strong spikes.

Aaron Borszky and Cameron Dall were spiking well from the middle and the Prindiville Brothers, Paul and Michael, were unstoppable. Setter Callum Bradburn was setting everywhere making it hard for the opposition to block and the Cats won the set 25-21.

In the second set Balcatta lead early, but the young UWA team mounted a spirited attack with the set again going point for point until the Cats made a seven point break. Towards the end of the set UWA managed to reduce the gap, but Balcatta closed the set 25-21.

Leading by example, Paul Prindiville helped get the Cats off to a good start in the third set. With Callum Bradburn serving the hungry spikers with precise sets, UWA did not have any chances to stop the Balcatta attacks. Balcatta completely dominated this set to win it 25-9, and the game - their first of the season.

Cats coach John Ricciardi said that he was pleased by the good win.

"I did not have to do much as the boys did it all by themselves today - guided by Captain Prindi," John said.

"I think our season is back on track now. Cameron Dall is progressing well in every game, and the team is starting to play more consistently. It was nice to see a smile on the players' faces after their first win of the season.

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	SX	Uni	ECU																
Res.	L	L	W																	
Score	1-3	0-3	3-0																	
Pos.	-	-	-																	

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SUPERLEAGUE - WOMEN

Game Results

Superleague (Team 104)

Balcatta lost UWA 0-3

22-25, 15-25, 21-25



Big block - Claire Dragicevic battled hard for the Cats up against UWA.

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 due to the second round of the AVL series in Adelaide.

University downs Cats in straight sets

Despite a brave effort, Balcatta went down to UWA - last years minor Superleague premiers - in straight sets in Round 2.

Heading into the game the Cats welcomed back Kim Ellwood from injury, but were missing Tenille Ryan, Tracey Hasselerharm and new recruit Ella Pragt.

In the first set Balcatta got off to a solid start with Elise Chapman on fire - starting with two aces, followed by Jenette Brown and Claire Dragicevic chipping in with an ace each. A Mel Johnson kill gave the Cats a 7-2 lead. A hat-trick of aces again to Elise Chapman took the Cats to 15-9 before UWA hit their straps piling on successive points to reach 20-all. A late quick kill to Claire Dragicevic gave the Cats a glimmer of hope, but UWA eventually overran the Cats and won the set 21-25.

The Cats again started quickly in the second set with usual Division 1 player Lauren Wenman hitting a winner and Mel Johnson sending the ball into the floor with a tool giving the Cats a 10-7 lead. UWA put on a four-point run before it was halted by a Jenette Brown kill to tie the game at 12-all. But the Cats passed poorly and UWA capitalised taking to take the set 15-25.

In the third set a change in the Cats line-up with Janelle Robert replacing Lauren Wenman paid immediate dividends. Struggling to block the giant UWA attack, Janelle won the first two points for the Cats on block. When Claire Dragicevic went on a serving spree with nine serves in a row, the Cats had a seven point lead at 10-3. The Cats then blocked very well with Janelle Robert killing another three balls and Mel Johnson one. Kim Ellwood extended the Cats lead to four points at 14-10 with an ace, but UWA slowly worked their way into the match. At 20-18 up the Cats got nervous and lost confidence as UWA power served them to 20-24 and into the lead before they took the set 21-25, and the game.

Cats coach Russell Hampton said that the good starts in each game was a positive. "This is usually not our forte," Russell said. "But we lacked the continual intensity required to beat a team like UWA. Our passing dropped off towards the end of each set and this is where UWA capitalised."

"Mel Johnson was our standout in this game - sharing the setting duties with Elise Chapman.

And a special mention to Janelle Robert for her cameo role in the third set which netted her five kill blocks!"



2009 PVL PREMIERSHIP TABLE

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

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

* Positions (TBA)

BLUE SHORTS

Sundowner at Carnegies

Get ready to party!

The Balcatta Volleyball Club is hosting a Sundowner at Carnegies Bar in Perth on Saturday, 6 June 2009.

Tickets are only \$5 and can be purchased at the door. In line with the club's healthy In line with the club's health policy, members are required to drink responsibly.

This function is therefore only open to those over 18 years of age.

The next club function to be run in coming months is for all ages, so if you're interested, stay tuned for more details.



Party boys - Layne van Smaalen, Tristan Jones, and former Cat Paul Blackford.



On the catwalk - Coach John Ricciardi wearing last year's tracksuit.

New Balcatta Club tracksuits unveiled

Look professional and support the Balcatta Volleyball Club at the same time!

The club's new tracksuits will be unveiled next week at training.

The jackets will be red with the club logo on the front and "Cats Volleyball" on the back, and the pants navy blue.

The top and pants cost \$65 and \$40, respectively and can be purchased separately.

If you can't make training and would like to place and order, then please tell your coach.

Samples will be available for viewing and to try on.

Bucks is back

Balcatta coach and player Brendon Buckley returned home from his overseas honeymoon last weekend in time for Round 3 fixtures. Thanks to Aaron Leung who coached the Division 3 men's team while Brendan was away. Aaron made sure the team were organised to start the season and the boys responded well winning all three games played so far in 2009.



Brendon Buckley

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Photo's by Marty Bertuleit