



6 SEPTEMBER 2009

SCOREBOARD - ROUND 15

MEN

Superleague

Balcatta b Perth Coastal 3-2
18-25, 21-25, 29-27, 25-22, 15-13

Division 1

Rossmoyne b Balcatta 3-1
25-20, 25-22, 19-25, 25-21

Balcatta Masters b UWA 3-0
25-20, 25-22, 25-23

Division 2

Rossmoyne b Balcatta 3-1
22-25, 25-21, 25-20, 25-19

Division 3

Balcatta b Southern Cross 3-2
26-24, 25-18, 22-25, 23-25, 15-12

WOMEN

Superleague

Balcatta b UWA 3-0
25-13, 25-16, 25-19

Division 1

Balcatta b Perth Coastal 3-2
25-23, 21-25, 25-9, 15-25, 15-10

Division 2

UWA b Balcatta 3-0
25-19, 26-24, 25-17

Division 3

Sth Cross White b Balcatta Blue 3-2
19-25, 25-19, 27-25, 23-25, 18-16
Balcatta Red b Sth Cross White 3-1
23-25, 25-18, 25-16, 25-18
Balcatta Blue - Bye

Division 4

Balcatta Blue b Rossmoyne 3-0
25-12, 25-7, 25-23



Flying high - Cats Div. 3 player Kop Butsathatheng spikes the ball against Southern Cross, while Allister Ngim and Elliott Hill get ready for a block.



Celebrating Cats - Balcatta Master's finals hopes are again alive after beating UWA in straight sets last weekend.



Looking ahead - Balcatta Division 2 player Sarah Cole Bowen gets in position to dig the ball.

Balcatta Superleague back on top

Balcatta recorded seven wins in Round 15, including impressive victories in both the men's and women's Superleague competitions. The Cats caused an upset straight sets victory over the top UWA side in the women's Superleague, with the men winning a hard-fought five-set game over Perth Coastal fighting back after losing the first two sets. Wins to Balcatta in the men's Division 3 and women's Division 1 and 3 competitions sees these teams retain top spot on the PVL ladder. As well, our Division 4 girls blitzed Rossmoyne in straight sets (25-12, 25-7, 25-23). Coach John Sewell's girls are now well clear in second spot and poised to knock Southern Cross Penros A off top spot before the finals being in October.

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Masters keep finals hopes alive

Balcatta Masters beat UWA in straight sets last Sunday in the men's Division 1 competition (25-20, 25-22, 25-23). After a promising start to the 2009 PVL season, the Cats had lost the last three games in a row and desperately needed the win to keep their finals hopes alive. Cats playing coach Marty Bertueit said that the clash between the number four and five teams on the PVL ladder meant that it was a 'must win' game for Balcatta. "As UWA was only one game behind us, we had to win or they would move into equal fourth spot with the Cats," Marty Said. But as Balcatta won the clash, the Cats now have a handy two game break heading towards the finals.

Cats on track for finals action

Balcatta is on track to have teams in the finals in almost every division. After 15 rounds, Balcatta is only outside of the top four in the women's Division 2 competition. Coach Mel Johnson's girls, however, are in fifth spot, only one game behind Perth Coastal. In recent weeks they have continued to improve and last weekend they put up a brave fight against the number 1 UWA side. Although the Cats lost in straight sets, each set was hard fought and scores were tight (25-19, 26-24, 25-17). If Balcatta can get a few wins leading up to the finals, they too are still a chance to make the finals.



SUPERLEAGUE - MEN

Game Results

Balcatta b Perth Coastal 3-2
18-25, 21-25, 29-27, 25-22, 15-13



Back on deck - Cats Superleague player James Clinch is back from injury and has helped boost Balcatta.

Cat tales

Cats Coach - John Ricciardi
Cats Captain - Paul Prindiville
PVL position in 2008 - 1
Current PVL position - 4
Premierships - 5 (1996-97, '99, 2007-08)

This week's game preview

Opponent - Rossmoyne
Ladder positions - Rossmoyne - 1st, Balcatta (4th)
Cat's game streak - 3 wins in a row
Last clash against opponent - Balcatta lost in four sets (Round 11).

Cats get ready to pounce on top 3 sides

With a near full strength side, Balcatta's recent solid form continued on the weekend with the Cats beating Perth Coastal in a hard-fought five set game. It was the Cats third win in a row and they are just starting to improve and challenge the top three sides - Rossmoyne, Southern Cross and Coastal.

The Cats went into the first set with the intention to stop Perth Coastal's deadly attacks, and for a period of time they succeeded. Good blocking and spiking from Josh Court and Paul Prindiville made sure the two teams were even on the score board early. But in the middle of the set the Cats lost their inspiration enabling Coastal to open up a very handy lead. The Balcatta players found it very hard to bridge the gap and lost the set 18-25.

It was a different story in the second set when the Cats jumped Coastal from the start with some good combinations and defensive work from Jayson Fox and James Clinch, who were on top early. But suddenly, Coastal started to attack well and took the lead. The Cats found them hard to stop and the lead changed several times, but Coastal eventually started pulling away. Good spikes from captain Paul Prindiville and Aaron Borszky made sure that Coastal did not get too big a lead. Late in the set the Cats got within two points, but they ended up losing it 21-25.

Two sets down the Cats needed a spark to get back into the game. And they got this when middle-hitter Andrew Clinch was substituted on in the third set. Instantly the set started going the Cat's way. All the Balcatta players lifted and the Cats defence started to work much better and the passing became more precise, giving the setter more options. With good sets, Josh Court, James Clinch, Andrew Clinch, Aaron Borszky and Paul Prindiville were all passing the Coastal blocks. Coastal, however, mounted a spirited attack and the game saw many long rallies with very good combinations. The set became a marathon and finally the Cats managed to get a two-point lead and win it 29-27.

The Cats continued their good form in the fourth set. Andrew Clinch and Josh Court were stopping many attacks and libero Jayson Fox was working hard picking up many Coastal attacks, while Paul Prindiville and Aaron Borszky made sure all the spikes were hitting the floor. The Cats won the set 25-22 to tie the game at two sets all.

Both teams went into the fifth and final set with the will to win and went head-to-head throughout. Balcatta led by two points at the change of ends (8-6) and continued to work hard maintaining that small lead throughout the set. Perth Coastal got within one point at 13-12, but after big blocks to Andrew Clinch and Pete Baber, the Cats regained control and won the set 15-13, and the game.

Cats coach John Ricciardi said that it was great win with the Cats having to dig very deep after being two sets down.

"In the fourth set, to make the block stronger Pete Baber was substituted for Callum Bradburn and the result was an instant success," John said.

"Well done boys and thanks for the extra Father's Day present."

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	PC	Ross	SX	Uni	ECU	PC	Ross	SX	Uni	ECU	PC	Ross				
Res.	L	L	W	W	L	L	W	W	W	L	L	L	W	W	W					
Score	1-3	0-3	3-0	3-0	0-3	1-3	3-0	3-0	3-0	0-3	1-3	1-3	3-1	3-0	3-2					
Pos.	-	-	-	=3	=4	=4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4					



SUPERLEAGUE - WOMEN

Coach: Russell Hampton

Game Results

Balcatta b UWA 3-0
25-13, 25-16, 25-19



Hands up - Clare Dragicevic gets ready to block UWA last Sunday.

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

This week's game preview

Opponent - ECU

Ladder positions - Balcatta =2,
ECU - 5th

Cat's game streak - Loss, win, loss, win
Last clash against opponent - Balcatta
won in straight sets (round 13)

Cats equal second after blitzing league leaders

Balcatta caused an upset victory last weekend in the women's Superleague beating top side University of WA in straight sets to move into equal second spot on the PVL ladder alongside Southern Cross.

The Cats started the match on a high with two blocks, even though they failed to win the first points. Balcatta player Elise Chapman was on fire early from the outside with two massive spike kills. And after Kim Ellwood joined in the parade with two quicks, the Cats were up by three points at 6-3. After Jenny Day blocked a UWA spike then killed her own spike, the Cats were up by five points (10-5). Mel Johnson and Claire Dragicevic later joined in with a spike kill and kill block, respectively as the Cats opened up a commanding 10-point lead at 17-7. The Cats' passing was excellent and UWA were shell-shocked by their quick attacks. Dragicevic iced the cake for the Cats with a block, A quick and B quick kills to finish the set 25-13.

UWA fought back in the second set and opened up a three-point lead at 2-5. But after Johnson rattled off six serves in a row, the Cats were in front by that same amount at 9-6. Ellwood and Tenille Ryan then combined for a kill and block when Ella Pragt was substituted for Jenny Day. UWA targeted Pragt with their serves, but she was up to the challenge and made two perfect passes in a row. Setter Tenille Ryan then dumped the second ball into open court and the Cats were again sky-high in confidence while up by five points at 15-10, as Dragicevic pounded a quick ball hard into the attack line. The Cats' defence was electrifying with players diving and sliding to get to the ball and still delivering quality passes to the setter. Chapman and Ellwood capitalised on the excellent setting and after Johnson and Ellwood roofed the UWA spike, the Cats were up by seven points at 21-14. The Cats went on to comfortably win the set after a kill by Chapman brought up set point and she served out the game with an ace at 25-16.

Fired up by a ribbing from their coach during the break, UWA responded and attacked the ball hard at the start of the third set. Scores were level at five-all. But kills to Chapman and Pragt saw the Cats take a two-point lead. The third set was a tight one and again the scores were tied at 10-all. Ryan with a block and Tracey Hasselerharm with a B quick won points for the Cats, but again UWA tied the set at 14-all. The next point was a super rally with the ball going over the net at least eight times. Both teams were scrambling and diving and eventually Johnson popped up a tip that was set outside for Chapman to put her trademark power spike behind and the Cats won the point. That point seemed to break the spirit of the UWA players, as the Cats reeled off four serves in a row from Ryan. After a big block from Ellwood, the Cats were up by five points at 23-17 then took out the set 25-19, and the game.

Cats coach Russell Hampton said that the Cats won the game with spectacular offensive work.

"But the real workhorse in this game was our serve receive and block/defensive set up," Russell said.

"We could run any spike we wanted on almost every pass, either defensive up or serve receive which made blocking us tough.

"UWA just couldn't get the kills they needed against us and we were relentless in all aspects of the game."

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	Uni	Bye	PC	Bye	ECU	Uni	PC	SX	ECU	PC	Uni	ECU	PC	Uni	ECU				
Result	L	L		W		W	L	W	W	W	L	L	W	L	W					
Score	0-3	0-3		3-2		3-0	1-3	3-1	3-2	3-0	1-3	2-3	3-0	0-3	3-0					
Posit.	-	-		-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	=2					



2009 PVL PREMIERSHIP TABLE

Team	G	W	L	D	F	B	Position*
MEN Superleague	15	8	7				4
Division 1	15	8	3		2	2	3
Masters (Div. 1)	15	6	7			2	4
Division 2	15	11	3		2		3
Division 3	15	13	1			1	1
WOMEN Superleague	17	7	7			3	3
Division 1	15	12	3				1
Division 2	15	4	9			2	6
Division 3 (Blue)	15	5	7			3	5
Division 3 (Red)	15	10	2			3	1
Division 4	15	10	3			2	2

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

Positions (As at Round 15)

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Photo's by Marty Bertuleit