



4 OCTOBER 2009

SCOREBOARD - ROUND 19

MEN

Superleague

Balcatta b ECU Chequers 3-0
25-18, 25-19, 28-26

Division 1

Balcatta Masters b Southern Cross
Masters 3-0

25-16, 25-14, 25-20

Balcatta Masters b Balcatta 3-1

25-10, 23-25, 25-22, 25-23

Division 2

Balcatta b ECU Chequers 3-1

25-14, 25-19, 22-25, 25-20

Division 3

Balcatta b Rossmoyne Masters 3-2

19-25, 22-25, 25-19, 25-21, 15-13

WOMEN

Superleague

Balcatta b Perth Coastal 3-0

25-18, 25-16, 25-21

Division 1

Balcatta b Southern Cross 3-1

25-19, 26-24, 25-27, 25-8

Division 2

Bye

Division 3

Sth Cross Green b Bal. Blue 3-0

29-27, 25-14, 25-17

Balcatta Red b Rossmoyne SHS 3-0

27-25, 25-21, 25-15

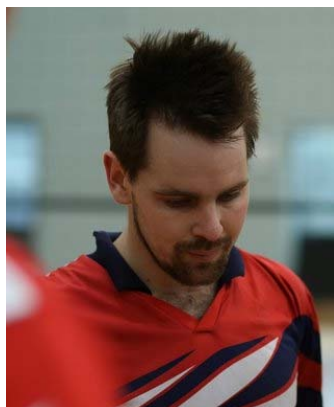
Division 4

Balcatta Blue b Southern Cross 3-1

25-16, 23-25, 25-19, 25-16



Back from injury - James Clinch digs the ball against ECU, making a strong comeback after a serious shoulder injury.



Demolition Derby - Cats Division 1 player Brendan Buckley after their loss to Balcatta Masters.



Getting set - Miranda Day receives the ball from setter Ali Mees

Cats purring before the finals

The Balcatta Volleyball Club recorded its best result of the season last weekend winning games in all divisions. The Cats won nine out of ten games played and with one round remaining, look set to make the finals in every grade. Balcatta is on top of the PVL ladder in the women's Division 1 and 3, men's Division 3 competitions. And the Cats are in third and fourth spot in the men's and women's Superleague, respectively. In recent weeks our Division 2 girls have also crept into the top four and a win this week should see them also secure a finals berth.

See Superleague reports - Pages 2 & 3

Masters roar after Derby win

Balcatta Masters beat Southern Cross Masters and Balcatta in the Division 1 competition last weekend to guarantee a finals berth. The Cats comfortably beat Southern Cross Masters on Friday night in straight sets (25-16, 25-14, 25-20) - the game brought forward from October 11 as both teams will have players away at the World Masters Games in Sydney. Then on Sunday, Balcatta Masters won the final Derby of the season in four sets (25-10, 23-25, 25-22, 25-23), having lost the previous two. After the weekend, Balcatta Masters are now in third place on the ladder above Balcatta in fourth. Balcatta is equal with UWA and needs to beat ECU Chequers, who are in sixth spot, this Sunday to make the finals. A win will ensure a Derby in the first week of the finals.

Top Cats pushed early by the Cross

Balcatta beat Southern Cross last weekend in four sets in the women's Division 1 competition and is a game clear in top spot on the ladder with one round remaining (25-19, 26-24, 25-27, 25-8). Up against the Cross, who were in fifth spot, the Cats should have won easily. But the Cats narrowly missed out on closing the game in straight sets and were challenged until the Cats got on top in the fourth set, smashing the Cross by 17 points. Cats coach Aaron Leung said that Julie Chapman continued her great run of form serving ten points in a row in the fourth set. "This week we welcome back Brooke Beasley and Michelle Lewis from holidays for the last game of the season," Aaron said. "And we say goodbye to Miranda Day who is off on an overseas holiday."



SUPERLEAGUE - WOMEN

Coach: Russell Hampton

Game Results

Balcatta b Perth Coastal 3-0
25-18,25-16,25-21



Talking tactics - Cats coach Russell Hampton briefs his team in between sets

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

Next game preview

Opponent - Southern Cross
Ladder positions - Balcatta 3rd,
Southern Cross 2nd
Cat's game streak - Two losses and two
wins in a row
Last clash against opponent - Balcatta
lost in three sets (round 17)

Balcatta beats Coastal to secure third spot

Balcatta beat Perth Coastal in straight sets last Sunday in the women's Superleague to secure third spot on the PVL ladder and a finals berth. It's the second year in a row now that the vast improving Cats have made the finals, this year finishing one spot higher and being more competitive against the top sides.

The Cats were favourites heading into the game against Perth Coastal, having won the last two clashes. But this time the Cats were without two AVL players - Captain Jenny Day and Mel Johnson, who was away.

Ella Pragt got the Cats off to a good start in the first set with four points on serve to give Balcatta a three-point lead (4-1). The Cats maintained a comfortable lead throughout and after Claire Dragicevic quick smashed a B ball into the open court and Kim Ellwood and Ella Pragt kill blocked the ball, the Cats were up by seven points at 16-9. The cats were playing exceptional volleyball, passing well and rallying with good work-rates and towards the end of the set Elise Chapman hit form with a pair of kills from position two - straight through the Coastal block - and Claire Dragicevic won three points in a row on the net with a block, an overpass kill and quick attack. Up 21-16, Ella Pragt won three points in a row to finish the set off for the Cats with two spikes and a well placed tip, the Cats winning by seven points (25-18).

Coastal opened up a three point lead in the second set (2-5) with some excellent serving. But the Cats drew level at 6-all after a purple patch with some great defensive chases and ups. Jenette Brown killed a spike from position four and Kim Ellwood nailed a back-row ball with the Cats leading by two points at 10-8. And after Claire Dragicevic served an ace and Elise Chapman blasted another winner, the Cats extended their lead to four points at 13-9. Tenille Ryan then scored with a sneaky second ball dump and Elise Chapman blasted another kill which started a run of five points in a row - with the Cats leading by eight points at 21-13. Tenille Ryan was in the thick of the action having a great time as she lost sight of the ball, then impersonated a ballerina by performing a 360 spin into a back-row spike to win an amazing point. Jenette Brown then finished off the set with another kill to win the set for the Cats (25-16).

The Cats made a cracking start in the third set with Claire Dragicevic making three stuff blocks in a row to give the Cats a three point lead at 7-4. After Ryan made another well-placed tip and Ellwood served an ace, the Cats were in control at 11-7. The Cats maintain this four-point buffer through to 17-13 playing a very consistent brand of volleyball. Elise Chapman then showed how it's done in both defence and offense with a marvellous dive and up, then getting the same ball back to smash it away for a massive point. Kim Ellwood finished off the set with a block - the cats winning it 25-22 and the game.

Cats coach Russell Hampton said he was worried about the game as Coastal beat the Cats in the last two clashes and Balcatta had two key players out.

"But in the end, I had nothing to worry about with the Cats playing really good volleyball - the most active volleyball I have ever seen them play," Russell said. "It was consistent, strong and above all, we worked hard in defence and everybody contributed."

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