



11 OCTOBER 2009

SCOREBOARD - ROUND 20

MEN

Superleague

Perth Coastal b Balcatta 3-2
25-21, 14-25, 25-27, 25-20, 15-13

Division 1

Balcatta b ECU Chequers 3-1
20-25, 25-16, 26-24, 25-18

Division 2

Balcatta b Rossmoyne 3-1
26-24, 14-25, 25-17, 25-21

Division 3

Balcatta b Southern Cross 3-1
24-26, 25-22, 25-18, 25-21

WOMEN

Superleague

Womens-Superleague
Southern Cross b Balcatta 3-2
22-25, 27-25, 25-16, 11-25, 15-13

Division 1

Balcatta b Perth Coastal 3-1
25-14, 29-27, 24-26, 25-18

Division 2

Southern Cross b Balcatta 3-2
25-17, 20-25, 25-17, 20-25, 15-13

Division 3

Balcatta Red b UWA 3-0
25-20, 25-17, 25-16
Rossmoyne SHS b Balcatta Blue 3-2
25-21, 24-26, 22-25, 25-12, 15-12

Division 4

Sth Cross Penrhos B b Balcatta 3-0
25-19, 25-16, 25-21



Down, but not out - Reigning Superleague premiers Balcatta finished the season in 4th place to advance to the finals with a chance to win three premierships in a row.



Ger set - Division 1 player Tim Wilkins sets the ball for the Cats.



Looking ahead - Balcatta player Lauren Wenman is in top form heading into the finals

Top Cats through to the finals

Despite some mixed results in the final round of the season, the Balcatta Volleyball Club capped off one of its best ever seasons making the finals in every division contested. Our women's and men's SuperLeague teams finished in third and fourth spots respectively on the PVL ladder, and the Cats were minor premiers in the three competitions - women's Division 1 and 3 and men's Division 1. These teams, along with men's Division 1 and women's Division 4 who placed second will play off in the second semi-final and get a double chance. A win will see the Cats advance to the Grand Final and a loss means Balcatta will play the winner of the first semi-final (3rd vs 4th place).

See Superleague reports - Pages 2 & 3

Finals Demolition Derby

Balcatta will meet Balcatta Masters in the first round of the finals in the men's Division 1 competition after beating ECU in four sets on the weekend (20-25, 25-16, 26-24, 25-18). Due to the World Masters Games in Sydney, the second semi-final will be held on Tuesday, 20 October at Rossmoyne Senior High School at 8pm. With both Balcatta teams finishing in third and fourth spots on the PVL ladder, one team will advance to the Preliminary Final next Friday night and the other will drop out of the finals race. Balcatta Masters have two players competing in the Master's Games - Alwyn White and Mauro Vennitti.

Cats secure minor premiership

Balcatta beat Perth Coastal in four sets last weekend to secure the minor premiership (25-14, 29-17, 24-26, 25-18). After jumping out of the blocks in the first set with some smart serving and dominant net play from Nicole Leighton, the Cats went a little flat allowing Coastal back into the game in the second and third sets. The game should have been over in three sets after the Cats reached match point in the third. But the Cats ended up losing it were forced into a fourth set. Lauren Wenman dominated for the Cats in this set making some strong kills to end some of the longer rallies with the team cruising to victory on some great serving runs. The Cats go into the finals favourites with a big first game against arch-rivals UWA after finishing 2-2 with them in the regular season.

FINAL FIXTURES - WEEK 1

Sunday, 18 October

Venue: Loftus Recreation Centre

Division 1 Women (Court 1 - 10.30am) Balcatta vs UWA
SuperLeague Women (Court 1 - 2.00pm) Balcatta vs Perth Coastal
Division 3 Men (Court 2 - 10.30am) Balcatta vs UWA
Division 2 Women (Court 2 - 2.00pm) UWA vs Balcatta
Division 2 Men (Court 3 - 12 noon) Rossmoyne vs Balcatta
Division 3 Women (Court 4 - 10.30am) Bal. Red vs Sth Cross White
Division 4 Women (Court 4 - 10.30am) Sth Cross Penrhos vs Balcatta

Tuesday, 20 October

Venue: ECU, Mt Lawley

Division 1 Men
Balcatta Masters vs Balcatta
Time - 7.30pm

Wednesday, 21 October

Venue: Rossmoyne SHS

SuperLeague Men
Perth Coastal vs Balcatta
Time - 8.00pm



SUPERLEAGUE - WOMEN

Coach: Russell Hampton

Game Results

Southern Cross b Balcatta 3-2
22-25, 27-25, 25-16, 11-25, 15-13



Coastal clash - Balcatta meets Perth Coastal in week one of the PVL finals in the women's Superleague.

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

Next game preview

Opponent - Perth Coastal
Ladder positions - Balcatta 3rd,
Perth Coastal 4th
Cat's game streak - Two wins and a
loss in a row
Last clash against opponent - Balcatta
won in three sets (round 20)

Balcatta go down to the Cross in a thriller

In a similar hard-fought game to the men, Balcatta women's Superleague also narrowly lost on the weekend by two points in a five set game and will also face Perth Coastal in the first week of the finals.

The Cats really took the game up to Southern Cross, who were in second spot on the PVL ladder ahead of the Cats in third and led by two sets to one (22-25, 27-25, 25-16).

But after winning the third set comfortably, the Cross absolutely blitzed the Cats in the fourth set (11-25) to tie the game, and then held on to narrowly win the fifth set 13-15 and the game.

The women's Superleague this year is much more competitive with the top four teams all capable of winning on the day. Balcatta too, under coach Russell Hampton, have again shown considerable improvement in 2009 and have been competitive in all games.

But having finished in third spot, the Cats will need to win every game to make it through to the Grand Final.

This Sunday's game against Perth Coastal could go either way with Balcatta winning three out of five clashes during the year, including their last game in the previous round when the Cats won in straight sets.

Cats coach Russell Hampton said that it was a great game of volleyball and that the Cats were unfortunate not to take the second set. "We dominated play for three and a half sets, but did not take the points," Russell said. "Nonetheless, I was happy with the team's performance.

"This week's final with Perth Coastal is also shaping up to be another thriller. Last year we played them in exactly the same final, and lost a heartbreaker 13-15 in the fifth set despite missing two key players.

"This year we are looking to avenge that loss!"

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 |

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