



28 JUNE & 29 JULY 2009

SCOREBOARD - ROUNDS 7 & 8

MEN - 19 July 2009

Superleague
Balcatta b UWAVC 3-0
25-17, 25-20, 25-9

Division 1
Balcatta b Balcatta Masters 3-1
25-23, 22-25, 25-22, 25-23

Division 2
Balcatta b Perth Coastal 3-0
25-20, 25-21, 25-12

Division 3
Balcatta b ECU Chequers 3-0
25-18, 25-20, 26-24

MEN - 28 June 2009

Superleague
Balcatta b Southern Cross 3-0
25-22, 25-22, 25-23

Division 1
Balcatta Masters b ECU Cheq. 3-2
25-11, 22-25, 21-25, 25-22, 15-9

Division 2
Balcatta b UWAVC 3-1
28-26, 18-25, 25-18, 25-23

Division 3
Balcatta b Rossmoyne Black 3-0
25-20, 25-12, 27-25



On the ball - Balcatta Div 1 players Tim Wilkins and Brendan Buckley in last weekend's Derby.



Talking tactics - Cats coach Russell Hampton briefs Superleague players Kim Ellwood and Jenette Brown in between sets against ECU Chequers.



Setting the standard - Cats captain Ali Mees served well against UWA.



Dig it - Balcatta Division 3 player Matt Hawkins in the Cats straight sets win over ECU last weekend.

Cat's almost purr-fect round

The Balcatta Volleyball Club recorded its best result for the season last weekend winning games in all divisions except one. The Cats won both premier Superleague games - the men beating UWA and the women ECU Chequers. The Division 1 men's Derby was a hard-fought game with coach Steve Petsos boys beating Marty Bertuleit's Masters in a thrilling four set game (25-23, 22-25, 25-22, 25-23). Heading towards the half-way mark of the season, Balcatta is in good shape and bound for finals action in all divisions.

[See Superleague Reports - Pages 2 - 5](#)

Top Balcatta women on a roll

Balcatta beat ECU Chequers in straight sets on Sunday in the women's Superleague competition, winning their third game in a row. The Cats have continued to improve and gain in confidence since former Club President Russell Hampton began coaching the club's top women's side. After finishing in the finals last year for the first time in many years, the Cats are now in third position and within reach of top spot. The Cats have now won five out of ten games played in 2009, losing only one game in the last six weeks to the undefeated UWA side.

Balcatta bounces back

Balcatta bounced back from a shock loss last round against ECU Chequers to beat the number two UWA team to move into outright top spot in the women's Division 1 competition. The Cats got off to a flyer last weekend with captain Ali Mees serving tough from the first point and Brooke Beasley taking up the charge serving eleven balls in a row to help the team to a strong first set win. After dropping the second set, the Cats put in a strong team performance to recover and convincingly take the third. The fourth set was a tight affair with Balcatta holding their nerve to win the set 26-24 and the game. Cats coach Aaron Leung said his team was almost back to full strength. "I was happy to see the girls motivated and play as a team, which is important as we push towards finals," he said.

Cats on top of the PVL

After eight rounds in the 2009 PVL season, Balcatta is in top spot in four divisions, in second spot in two, and third spot in one division. The Cats are on top in the women's Division 1, 3 and men's Division 2 and 3 competitions, remaining undefeated in the latter three. Last weekend, both of these Balcatta teams won in straight sets. Romano Fracassini's Div 2 boys beat Perth Coastal (25-20, 25-21, 25-12) to register their seventh win in a row, while Brendan Buckley's Div 3 boys beat ECU Chequers (25-18, 25-20, 26-24) to win their sixth game, having one bye for the season. Balcatta women's Superleague is currently in third place, but could go higher after the PVL tables are updated.



2009 PVL PREMIERSHIP TABLE

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

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

Positions (As at Round 7)

SUPERLEAGUE - WOMEN

Coach: Russell Hampton

Game Results

Round 8 (28 June)

Balcatta b Perth Coastal 3-1
 25-23, 17-25, 25-11, 25-18

Round 9 (28 June)

Balcatta b Southern Cross 3-2
 17-25, 25-21, 22-25, 25-12, 15-12

Round 10 (19 July)

Balcatta b ECU Chequers 3-0
 25-16, 25-14, 25-15



Top performer - Jenette Brown was the Cat's best player against Perth Coastal.

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

Opponent - Perth Coastal
 Cat's game streak - 2 wins in a row and a loss
 Last clash against opponent - Balcatta won in four sets (round 8)

Cats claw Coastal in women's Superleague

Balcatta was too strong for Perth Coastal in Round 8 of the PVL season on 28 June, beating them in four sets to win their third game for the season.

Coastal won the opening point of the game, but after Balcatta player Ella Pragt blocked to win the next point, the Cats won the next nine points in a row on Pragt's serve. This run included two blocks each to Tracey Hasselerharm and Melissa Johnson to take the score to 10-1. Unfortunately the Cats then took their feet off the accelerator and Coastal tied the game up at 14-all. Consecutive quick kills to Hasselerharm gave the Cats a two-point buffer at 19-17, but Coastal drew level at 19-all and from here on the set went point-for-point right through to 23-all. A Coastal error brought up set point for the Cats and Hasselerharm ended the set 25-23 with another kill block.

In the second set, Pragt won the opening point for the Cats with a spike kill from the left side, but Coastal took control and led by four points at 2-6. After Tenille Ryan won a point with a solo stuff block and Kim Ellwood had a run of three serves, including an ace, the Cats tied the set at 11-all. Again coastal drew clear and the Cats let this set slip with little fight 17-25.

In the third set Pragt came off with a sore knee enabling Jenny Day to make her long awaited return after eight-months in rehabilitation following a knee reconstruction. The Cats were fired up and after a kill by Jenette Brown, an ace by Hasselerharm, two kills by Ellwood and a winning block by Ryan, the Cats were up by six points at 9-3. With Day getting in the act with two kills in a row, the Cats were on top at 20-9, dominating the set to win it convincingly 25-11.

The Cats maintained their form into the start of the fourth, but Coastal fought back to tie the game at 8-all, then again at 12-all before they took the lead by two points at 13-15. With Day on serve and firing off some rippers, the Cats won ten points in a row to set up an unassailable lead at 23-15. Fittingly, Brown closed the set, and game, out with a kill at 25-18.

Cats coach Russel Hampton said that Coastal was able to match it with the Cats for the first half of the game, but the Cats eventually shone through.

"We were too consistent for Coastal and our defence and blocking was the key to our success," Russell said. "Jenette Brown played the best game I have seen her ever play and deservedly picked up three votes for it. Ellwood and Johnson were also standouts in a team that played some good volleyball."



Match winner - Clare Dragicevic was in top form for the Cats against ECU last weekend.

Balcatta beats ECU to make it three wins in a row

After a slow start in Round 10 last Sunday against ECU Chequers, Balcatta fought back from a seven-point deficit to win the women's Superleague clash in straight sets.

ECU caught the Cats napping early and won the first seven points in the opening set with some aggressive short and deep serves. But from here on, it was all the Cats and they tied the set at 12-all on the back of kills to Claire Dragicevic and Mel Johnson and stuff blocks to Dragicevic, Kim Ellwood, Tenille Ryan and Jenny Day. The cats then ran away with the set 25-16, outscoring ECU 25 to 9 after the first rotation.

The Cats started much better in the second set leading 10-2 early with three kills to Johnson. Elise Chapman chimed in with a pair of points and the Cats finished the set strongly with blocks to Ellwood, Hasselerharm and Ryan - winning it convincingly 25-14.

Like in the first set, ECU jumped the gun in the third set and led by four points at 0-4. But after kills to Jenette Brown (two in a row) and Hasselerharm, the Cats tied the game at 9-all. Late in the set, Ellwood scored two consecutive points with kills and fittingly Dragicevic, after a magnificent game, finished it off with a quick kill at 25-15.

Cats coach Russell Hampton said that the Balcatta players were too big, too strong, and too consistent for ECU! "Claire Dragicevic has become a very important piece in the Cats line-up and she led the way today with half a dozen blocks and a similar amount of kills," Russell said. "Tenille Ryan set very well today with excellent set selection and Mel Johnson seemed to enjoy the two-week break and she was back to her old best!"

BLUE SHORTS

Brand new Day

Balcatta women's Superleague captain and National player Jenny Day made a welcome return to the court in round 8 against Perth Coastal.

Jenny was sidelined for eight months following a knee reconstruction late last year.

With Tracey Hasselerharm making her debut for Balcatta last weekend, the Cats are getting stronger each week and look set for an exciting future in the women's division.



Captain courageous - Jenny Day made a successful return to volleyball in Round 8 against Perth Coastal after recovering from a serious knee injury.



Whistleblower - Balcatta Volleyball Club member Brendan Buckley refereed at the recent National Junior Championships.

National recognition

Balcatta Volleyball Club member Brendan Buckley recently received "AA accreditation" as a referee following his excellent form at the National Junior Volleyball Championships.

Brendan refereed the under 21 men's gold medal match at the championships in Queensland and did an outstanding job.

"Bucks", as he is known to his club mates, is a dedicated club member.

On top of his refereeing commitments, Bucks plays Division 1 for the Cats and coaches the men's Division 3 team, which is currently undefeated.

Congratulations Bucks and to our club players who represented WA at the championships.

New recruit

Congratulations to Balcatta club members Louisa Kinnear and Chris Roach on the birth of their baby boy Theodore.

The club's latest and youngest recruit was born on 4 June 2009, two week's ahead of schedule.

Louisa is our club president and will continue on in that role during the season, while Chris is a member of the Balcatta Div.1 Masters team.

"Theodore has long legs, so we think he has the potential to be a good middle hitter!" Louisa said.



Beautiful baby boy - Theodore Roach