



21 & 23 AUGUST 2009

## SCOREBOARD

### - ROUNDS 12 & 13

#### Friday, 21 August 2009

##### Men

##### Superleague

Southern Cross b Balcatta 3-1

22-25, 25-23, 25-22, 26-24

##### Division 1

Sth Cross Masters b Bal. Masters 3-1

14-25, 25-13, 25-22, 30-28

Balcatta b ECU Chequers 3-1

24-26, 25-23, 25-22, 25-21

##### Division 2

Balcatta b UWAVC 3-1

23-25, 25-21, 25-17, 25-16

##### Division 3

Balcatta b Rossmoyne Black 3-0

25-18, 26-24, 25-11

##### Women

##### Superleague

Perth Coastal b Balcatta 3-1

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

##### Division 1

Balcatta b ECU Chequers 3-0

25-14, 26-24, 25-16

##### Division 3

Sth Cross Green b Bal. Red 3-2

25-15, 18-25, 25-12, 19-25, 15-10

##### Division 4

Balcatta Blue b Southern Cross 3-0

25-17, 25-21, 25-16

#### Sunday, 23 August 2009

##### Men

##### Superleague

Balcatta b UWAVC 3-1

25-10, 26-28, 25-19, 25-22

##### Division 1

Rossmoyne b Bal. Masters 3-0

25-22, 25-11, 25-23

Balcatta b Sth Cross Masters 3-0

25-22, 26-24, 25-22

##### Division 2

Balcatta b Perth Coastal 3-1

25-22, 24-26, 25-18, 25-19

Southern Cross b Balcatta 3-2

25-21, 25-19, 23-25, 14-25, 15-13

##### Division 3

Balcatta b ECU Chequers 3-2

25-20, 22-25, 25-15, 27-29, 15-7

##### Women

##### Division 1

UWAVC b Balcatta 3-0

25-14, 25-19, 25-14

##### Division 2

Southern Cross b Balcatta 3-1

20-25, 25-17, 25-16, 25-23

##### Division 3

Balcatta Red b Rossmoyne SHS 3-1

25-14, 18-25, 25-23, 25-14

##### Division 4

Sth Cross Penrhos B b Bal. Blue 3-1

24-26, 25-19, 25-21, 27-25



*Breaking through - Cats Superleague captain Paul Prindiville penetrates the Southern Cross defence last Sunday.*



*Brave Cat - Cats captain Ali Mees returned to the court last Sunday after injuring her back in the second set.*



*Double block - Cats captain Elliott Hill and Shaan Francke combine to block the ball against ECU Chequers.*



*Big stretch - Balcatta Division 2 player Jo Falconer dives for the ball against Southern Cross on Sunday.*

## Cats set for finals action

As we move towards the end of the season, the Cats are in good shape and should make the finals in most divisions. Balcatta's two Superleague teams are in the top 4, the Cats are on top in the women's Division 1, 3 and men's Division 3 competitions, with the men in third spot in Division 1 and 2. The only division uncertain to make the finals at this stage is the Division 2 women. But they are still able to if they can continue their improving form and secure a few wins late in the season.

*See Superleague Reports - Pages 2 - 5*

## Balcatta girls lose top-of-table clash

Balcatta remains on top of the ladder in the women's Division 1 competition, despite losing to UWA in straight sets last Sunday in the top-of-the-table clash (25-14, 25-19, 25-18). The Cats had a bad day with setter Ali Mees injuring her back during the second set while diving for a ball. After an injury timeout and some attention from first aid staff, the Cat's captain made it back on court. But coach Aaron Leung said that Ali's heroic effort was not enough to drag the lacklustre team back into the game. Sitting on top of the PVL ladder with ten wins after the Cat's loss, UWA is now only one game behind Balcatta in second spot.

## Flat Cats pushed by bottom side

Balcatta had to work hard to beat bottom-side ECU Chequers in five sets on the weekend (25-20, 22-25, 25-15, 27-29, 15-7). ECU was short on players and was boosted by the inclusion of two players from higher grades. Having only lost one game in 2009, the Cats were flat and after a slow start in the first set, gradually got on top. The Cats started better in the second set and after leading early got confused with their rotations and blew the set. After winning the third set the Cats were on top in the fourth and were serving for the game, but ended up losing it in a marathon 27-29. Determined to win the Cats won the first seven points and comfortably won the final set 15-7 and the game.

## Improving Cats lose in four sets

Balcatta fought hard last Sunday against Southern Cross in the women's Division 2 competition, but unfortunately lost in four sets (20-25, 25-17, 25-16, 25-23). Cats' coach Mel Johnson said her team played well against Southern Cross who is in third place on the PVL ladder ahead of Balcatta in sixth. "The girls are playing really well at the moment, but just can't seem to get a win," Mel said. "Jo Falconer passed really well and Erin Germani once again dominated at the net with some great blocks." With finals approaching, the Cats are still with a chance of making the play-offs if they can win a few of the remaining games.



## SUPERLEAGUE - MEN

### Game Results

21 August

Southern Cross b Balcatta 3-1  
22-25, 25-23, 25-22, 26-24

23 August

Balcatta b UWAVC 3-1  
25-10, 26-28, 25-19, 25-22



*Splitting the middle - Cats Superleague middle-hitter Aaron Borszeky spikes the ball through the Southern Cross defence, while libero Chris Prior looks on last Sunday.*

### 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 - ECU Chequers  
Current PVL position - Cats 4<sup>th</sup>, ECU Chequers in 6<sup>th</sup>

Cat's game streak - 3 losses and a win  
Last clash against opponent - Balcatta won in straight sets in rounds 4 and 9.

## Cats hope for winning run leading to the finals

Balcatta Superleague lost to equal top side Southern Cross on Friday and beat UWA on Sunday in the weekend double-header with both games played over four sets.

After an interrupted season, the reigning premiers have had a disappointing year. But the Cats, who are now in fourth spot on the PVL ladder, look set for finals action. And with three key players returning, the Cats are hoping to play to their full potential and be a competitive force in the finals.

Balcatta players Josh Court and Jason Fox returned to the team for last Sunday's clash with UWA and James Clinch is set to return next week after recovering from a serious shoulder injury.

Boosted by the return of these players and a keen to make amends for Friday night's loss to Southern Cross, the Cats absolutely blitzed UWA in the first set, winning the set 25-10. Cats' captain Paul Prindiville and Josh Court were spiking well and UWA had no answer to the Cats attack. Balcatta's defensive game was also strong with the Cats blocking the UWA spikes and making strong points with powerful combinations from all over the court.

But in the second set, things changed dramatically with UWA becoming more competitive. This set went point for point with UWA breaking through the Cats defence. Following some good combinations from Paul Prindiville and Josh Court the Cats opened up a small lead and looked like holding on to win the set. But UWA managed to close the gap and took the set to 24 all, eventually winning it 26-28.

In the third set the Balcatta players went for revenge. Aaron Borszeky and Luke Mc Taggart were making good points, while Paul Prindiville continued his good from the outside and was passing the UWA blocks with his powerful spikes. Josh Court and Cameron Dall also chimed in winning some valuable points with the Cats comfortably winning the set 25-19.

The Cats were now in control and continued their form into the fourth set. Balcatta led early and UWA gave it their all to reduce the lead. With the Cats losing momentum and concentration towards the end of the set, UWA gave themselves a real chance to win the set, but the Cats clung on and won the set by three points (25-22) to win the game.

Coach John Ricciardi said that it was nice to have Josh Court and Jason Fox back in the team and he was looking forward to also getting James Clinch back soon.

"Finally, we will be more competitive and hopefully get back on the winning track," John said.

"Today we played very well in defence and attack. Pete Baber had to take Callum Bradburnes' spot as setter and he did a very good job setting and calling combos. It was a good win and I'm looking forward for the next game against ECU where we will be almost at full strength."

## 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						
Res.	L	L	W	W	L	L	W	W	W	L	L	L	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							
Pos.	-	-	-	=3	=4	=4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4							



## SUPERLEAGUE - WOMEN

Coach: Russell Hampton

### Game Results

Perth Coastal b Balcatta 3-1  
25-22,25-23,22-25,25-22



*Finger-tipper -Cats Superleague player Mel Johnson reaches over the net for the ball 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 - Southern Cross  
Current PVL position - Cats 2<sup>nd</sup>, Southern Cross 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Cat's game streak - 2 wins in a row and a loss  
Last clash against opponent - Balcatta won in four sets (round 9)

## Depleted Cats lose important game

Balcatta lost to Perth Coastal last Friday night in four sets, missing an opportunity to secure second spot on the PVL ladder.

The Cats were favourites to beat Coastal, who are in fourth spot. But the Cats side was depleted with captain Jenny Day and Ella Pragt out through injury and Jenette Brown away on holidays. AVL player Mel Johnson played but was suffering an illness.

The start of the first set was even and the game was tied at 5-all after Elise Chapman recorded two aces and a kill. Kim Ellwood then chimed in with a block and Tracey Hasselerharm with a spike from the right side, but Coastal responded and lead by two points at 8-10. Consecutive kills to Mel Johnson kept the Cats in touch and then when she was on serve the Cats won four points in a row to open up a three-point break at 14-11. The Cats maintained this break and extended their lead to four points at 20-16 following Chapman's winning back-court lob. But after four kills in a row, Coastal tied the game at 20-all, then went on to win the set 22-25.

The second set was also a tight affair with scores level at 8-all after Claire Dragicevic registered her first block, Chapman spiked with power from the outside and Ellwood blocked a winner. Consecutive quick kills to Dragicevic and a monster block to Hasselerharm kept the score ticking over for the Cats and gain scores were tied - at 17-all. The teams were evenly matched, but Coastal got a run of points to lead by three at 18-21. The Cats fought back and tied the game at 22-all. But an error to the Cats brought up set point for Coastal and then they converted to take the set 23-25.

Coastal jumped the Cats early in the third set to lead it 0-4. But after Mel Johnson served a run, helped by kills to Chapman and Dragicevic, the Cats tied the game at 8-all. Coastal crept ahead to lead 10-13 when three aces in a row to Hasselerharm tied the game. Coastal, with a run of five points in a row and some good defence and serving looked like serving out the game. But Dragicevic saved the day with six serves in a row to tie the game at 20-all. The cats then jumped out to 23-20 lead and finished the set on an Ellwood quick at 25-22.

The fourth set also started evenly and the game was tied at 8-all on the back of spikes to Hasselerharm, Chapman and Ellwood. The cats serve receive was again playing havoc and giving Coastal easy points. At 15-all and 18-all the game was tied. The Cats served tough, but a couple of errors kept Coastal in the game at 22-20. Coastal drew even at 22 all, then pulled away to win the set 22-25 and take the match.

Cats coach Russell Hampton said that the Cat's passing was erratic, which made it difficult to run our plays and Coastal seemed to really turn up the heat when they hit 20 points in each set. "We were at 20 first in three sets and failed to convert which was disappointing," Russell said.

"But full credit to Coastal as they played the best game I have seen them play this year."

## 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	SX					
Result	L	L		W		W	L	W	W	W	L	L	W	L						
Score	0-3	0-3		3-2		3-0	1-3	3-1	3-2	3-0	1-3	2-3	3-0	1-3						
Posit.	-	-		-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2						



## 2009 PVL PREMIERSHIP TABLE

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

*YOUR SERVE enquiries and story contributions - John Steyntjes (Ph. 041 388 7388) Photo's by Marty Bertuleit*