

**BIG V SEASON 2009 WEEKLY REVIEW:
YOUTH LEAGUE WOMEN**

Here's a snapshot of what happened in Youth League Women during finals this week.

QUALIFYING FINAL**Waverley Falcons 62 dft. by Diamond Valley Eagles 68**

The Eagles managed to hold off a spirited Falcons line-up and claim a crucial six-point win in the Qualifying Final.

The encounter was close throughout, with the margin remaining in close reach of both teams during the four quarters.

After a disjointed opening term that saw the Falcons take an early lead, the Eagles showed off their new defensive philosophy in the second to take over the game. The Falcons regrouped after half-time and the Eagles led by just three points at the final change. Then in one of the most entertaining quarters of basketball all season, the Eagles managed to fend off the Falcons and secure a hard-fought win.

The Falcons were all over the rebounds and recorded 76 boards to the Eagles' 48. Amazingly, 43 of the Falcons' rebounds were offensive, thanks largely to Jessie McPherson, who had one of the biggest games in Youth League Women history with 19 points and a landmark 30 rebounds (including an unbelievable 20 offensive). Team-mate McPherson also threw in three assists for good measure.

While the Falcons dominated the boards, they let themselves down from the field, where they finished at 27.8 per cent, including just one three-pointer from 26 attempts. The Eagles fared better from the field, as they shot 25 for 77.

Tara Feben led the Eagles with 15 points, while Kahlia Ashton stepped up for 13. Amy Faulkner and Rebecca Romeo both had 11. For the Falcons, McPherson was helped out by Caitlin Hindle, who scored 15 points of her own.

Game MVP: Jessie McPherson

FIRST ELIMINATION FINAL**Eltham Wildcats 71 dft. Hawthorn Magic 66**

The Wildcats brought the Magic's first Youth League Womens campaign to an end with a tough-five point win.

The Wildcats took the early lead thanks to some tough defensive pressure, which forced the Magic into eight first quarter turnovers.

The Wildcats' offense picked up from there and built a sizeable lead after three quarters.

While the Magic came hard in the fourth — and almost snatched the win after outscoring the Wildcats 26-14 in the final stanza — the Wildcats bravely held on.

Olivia Simmons was the 'go to' player for the Wildcats, as she shot seven for 12 from the field for 18 points. Team-mate Carly Simons worked hard for a 13-point, 12-rebound double-double, while Rachel McKeown also had 13 points.

Charlotte Ross-Harris put forward one of her best performances of the year to lead the Magic with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Game MVP: Charlotte Ross-Harris

SECOND ELIMINATION FINAL**Melbourne Tigers 73 dft. Whittlesea Pacers 58**

The Melbourne Tigers have advanced to the preliminary finals on the back of a strong 15-point win over the Pacers.

A powerful first quarter at the offensive end set the tone for the Tigers, who have effectively ended the Pacers' campaign.

The Tigers shot the ball better all night, and despite giving up an advantage on the rebounds, they made up for it with 10 less turnovers than the Pacers, who had 11 turnovers in the first quarter alone.

On a big night for Isabella Brancasitano, she stepped up with one of her best efforts as she torched the Pacers for 29 points, shooting 12 for 22 from the field. Jessica Williamson added support with a season-high 13 points, while Linda Rizkallah had 11.

Hana Yammouni led the Pacers with 15, while Kylie Rofe and Sally Braybon added 11 each to cap off impressive individual seasons.

Game MVP: Isabella Brancasitano

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