

BIG V SEASON 2009 WEEKLY PREVIEW: YOUTH LEAGUE MEN - DIVISION ONE

Here is a head-to-head preview of the Youth League Men Division One games in round *Week 1 of the finals*.

Melbourne Tigers V Waverley Falcons

Oakleigh Recreation Centre, Saturday, 8 August, 7:50pm

Coming off a huge win last week against leagueleaders Diamond Valley, the Tigers have secured a home Grand Final – that's assuming they get there. And it's a very big assumption.

Waverley Falcons are the genuine dark-horse – not only have they picked up big wins all season, they accounted for the Tigers in the last round of the season, and that was after beating the Broncos by two the night before.

The efforts of Jordan Vandenberg all year cannot be questioned, and much will be riding on his contributions; the same goes for Sean Stewart and Matt Dettman.

Melbourne have been getting it done through the hands of Daniel Fisher, Andrew Morris and Jp Wilkinson. They got the job done last week; can they repeat.

Diamond Valley Eagles V Eltham Wildcats

Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre, Saturday, 8

August, 6:00pm

Diamond Valley have been the league-leaders all year but that means nothing this week if they can't get over the line against the Wildcats, who have lost only one game from their last 12 match-ups.

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The Eagles fell to the Tigers last week by 15 and survive thanks to their regular season work . Was that the wake-up call they need?

It would need to be as Eltham have been in startling form – making up for their final round loss to Hume City by returning the favour to the Broncos last week. They have beaten the Eagles only once out of their three clashes, but it was the most recent match-up – in Round 11.

For Eltham, Bryar, Malvaso and Piper have been consistently impressive this season – when they fire, the Wildcats get wins. And with Ashworth adding another offensive spark, it's easy to see why the Eagles will need to be in good form.

Lachy Magee, Sam Reynolds, Chris Arkell and Steve Viterbo are four very good reasons why the Eagles finished minor premiers – but that means little without the banner at the end. And they have a big hill to climb this week before a Grand Final series.

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