

BIG V SEASON 2009 WEEKLY PREVIEW: YOUTH LEAGUE WOMEN

Here is a head-to-head preview of the Youth League Women games in finals this week.

PRELIMINARY FINAL ONE

Diamond Valley Eagles V Melbourne Tigers

*Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness, Saturday 8 August,
6:00pm*

Arguably the two most dangerous offensive line ups in the league face off in this preliminary final. The Eagles come into the contest having won their past eight, including a tough win over minor premiers Waverley last week. The Tigers' recent form has not been as impressive; however they were comfortable winners in their elimination final over the Pacers last week.

These teams met not long ago in round 15, and it was the Eagles who scored a resounding 26 point away win. The Tigers have proved that they are capable of matching it with the high-octane Eagles, however going down in their high scoring encounter in round six by just one point.

The Eagles worked very hard last week against the Falcons to restrict them to a season low shooting percentage, however they let themselves down with their effort on the defensive glass, giving up too many offensive rebounds, including 20 to the Falcons' Jessie McPherson. They will need to be stronger on the glass in this one.

The Eagles have been consistently led by high scoring trio Amy Faulkner, Rebecca Romeo and Tara Feben. They also boast some quality support players including Kellie Page and Kahlia Ashton. They have amazing depth on their roster and the Tigers may have trouble keeping up with the Eagles' intensity.

Isabella Brancatisano was superb in the Tigers' win last weekend, and with Golden Hands winner Tanja Stevanovic teaming up with her, the Tigers have a very talented back court. The inside presence of Linda Rizkallah and Tarryn MacPherson will also be vital for the Tigers.

PRELIMINARY FINAL 2

Waverley Falcons V Eltham Wildcats

Waverley Basketball Centre, Sunday 9 August, 2:00pm

The Falcons will hope to bounce back from last week's tough loss to the Eagles and score a win against a Wildcats side who have given them some tough games this season. While the Falcons trademark tough defence was there last week, holding the Eagles to below 70, their shooting touch was not. If they can lift their percentage from the field and from beyond the arc, this becomes a much tougher assignment for the Wildcats.

After entering the playoffs on the back of some inconsistent form, the Wildcats had a tough time putting away the Magic, who pushed the game to the final minute. With recently crowned league-leading scorer and rebounder Carly Simons controlling the paint, and Olivia Simmons and Rachel McKeown putting pressure on opposition guards, the Wildcats present a tough challenge for the Falcons in this one.

These teams have met twice this season, both times the Falcons grabbed the win, however both games were close and fiercely contested. The Falcons will look to Jessie McPherson to lead the way, after her unbelievable 19 point, 30 rebound effort last week. Sharpshooters Caitlin Hindle and Claire Landby will look to get it done from the perimeter, while Talei Dioth will no doubt attack the glass with aggression.

The Falcons' depth will be the main obstacle for the Wildcats, and if they hope to cause an upset here it will take a special effort from a number of their players. The Falcons should go in favourites for what seems destined to be a very physical, hard fought game.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

Davin Sgarretta | Media Manager

Direct +61 9927 6608 | **Mobile** 0400 856 343

Email media@bigv.com.au

www.bigv.com

1300 889 881

info@bigv.com.au