

Devils import injects scoring power

New import Konor Kulas has made a huge impression on debut for the Werribee Devils in a 109-101 victory in the Big V basketball men's state championship season opener at Eagle Stadium on Sunday.

Kulas, a 201 centimetre forward, scored 33 points to go with 13 rebounds, immediately endearing himself to the Devils' faithful.

Kulas, an American who has played professionally in Germany, went to the free throw line 19 times for 16 makes.

While Kulas was the standout, it was an even Devils performance with plenty of contributions.

Deng Chan had a major presence with 15 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and two steals in just 21 minutes. Bryan Nagy, with 17 points, five rebounds and three steals, and Dominic Bruno, with 11 points and three assists, each hit three three-pointers.



Blake Allison gets the offence humming for the Werribee Devils. (Sean Rogasch/Werribee BA)

Tyrone Remy had a solid all-round game with 10 points, five rebounds and four assists.

Trailing by two at half-time, Werribee put the foot on the accelerator with a 28 to 20 third period, which was the catalyst to its victory.

Werribee will hit the road on Saturday night

to face the Ringwood Hawks in its last game before the Easter break.

In women's division 1, Werribee Devils took out a low scoring game 49-33 over Warrandyte Venom at the Warrandyte Sports Complex.

Despite shooting just 25 per cent for the game, the Devils found a way to win on the back of a stellar performance from Sam Moodie, with 13 points, 18 rebounds and three assists.

New import Alyssa Bennett found the going tough, hitting just two-from-13 from the field for six points and 10 rebounds.

Georgia Tauschke was important for the Devils off the bench with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Werribee is back on the road in round two, where it will travel to play the Camberwell Dragons on Sunday.

Lance Jenkinson



IN THE DOGHOUSE

■ The two founding clubs of the old FDFL competition, Parkside and Braybrook, are both admired and loathed for their success and survival. Both have experienced the highs and lows of football and in recent years have almost disappeared. Braybrook heads into the 2018 season with a new enthusiastic coach in Jason Hamilton and a bit of the old Brooker swagger back at Pennell Reserve. The club is hosting a "Braybrook - I Lived There" reunion on Saturday, April 7 from noon when the seniors will play St Kilda City in a practice match. There will be drinks, food and top class entertainment with Fabulous Phil Golotta belting out classics from 5pm. For more details contact Brian Leiper brian.leiper@bigpond.com

■ The Albion Football Club made the news last week for all the wrong reasons. Social media was awash with news of a racial scandal at the club involving a top official. I don't want to get into the intricacies of this incident, but just an observation in general about racist behaviour: surely everyone now gets it that it is totally 100 per cent not acceptable in any form. The slightest tinge of it will be the demise of clubs in a very short space of time. Albion has other issues which are clouding its future as a club without this. There are some incredible people who have put their life into the club over the years and they, along with the current coaches, players and volunteers, deserve the chance to be part of the 2018 season and beyond.

■ The Western Bulldogs could add yet another trophy to the cabinet this weekend when the AFL women's team plays in its first ever grand final. What an amazing effort by senior coach Paul Groves and his charges after a few nail biting results during the competition, none better than the two-point win over Melbourne to secure the grand final berth. The girls head to Ikon Park Carlton this Saturday at 1.05pm for the chance to create history. After a drought it is raining cups at Whitten Oval, with the women's cup set to join the AFL and VFL cups by Saturday night. Good luck to all when they take on the Brisbane Lions Saturday.

■ The following day the AFL season gets under way for Bulldogs fans in Canberra, when the Dogs take on the GWS Giants. Footy always throws up a few surprises. Let's hope the red, white and blue are part of it this year.

Kevin Hillier

Any news, let me know on email kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au. Follow me on Twitter @KevinHillier, plus check out the Howdy Partners Media website as well.

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Cats in an upbeat mood

By Lance Jenkinson

Hoppers Crossing has achieved too much this season to let its CV Women's Community Cricket north-west one-day grand final loss to Craigieburn dampen the mood.

The Cats suffered a major letdown in the season decider, losing by eight wickets in a one-sided affair at DS Aitken Reserve on Sunday.

More was expected from the Cats after they ousted previously undefeated minor premier Geelong in a semi-final and also took home the Twenty20 title earlier in the season.

It was not to be the Cats' day, with Craigieburn dominating in all facets.

But Hoppers Crossing captain Brianna Herman and her teammates were still ebullient in the aftermath.

"We've gone from last season, winning only about five games, to winning a T20 final and knocking off the undefeated team," she said.

"I think everyone is in pretty good spirits knowing that whatever happened today, we've still achieved that. It's easily a 10-out-of-10 season for us."

Hoppers Crossing laid a strong platform with the bat through Kayla Koropecykj and Shannon Wilde.

Koropecykj top-scored with 22 off 73 balls and Wilde helped take the shine off the ball with eight from 45.

From a strong position of 1-47, the Cats lost their final nine wickets for 13 to be all out for 60 in 33.2 overs.

"The top order did really well," Herman said. "When the first couple of batters dropped, the rest of them dropped."

Hoppers Crossing did not wave the white flag. The Cats' bowlers made Craigieburn work for its runs, but it was never going to end favourably with such a small total to defend.

Craigieburn reached the target two down in the 27th over.

Herman was pleased with the fight shown by her bowlers in a tough situation.

"Everything was kept at the body, on their toes and making it hard for them to play," she said.

Herman is enthusiastic about Hoppers Crossing's future and has urged the players to stick together and grow.

"If they all keep playing together, all they're going to do is improve," she said.

"There's going to be a high chance that we're up there every season in the coming years."

Herman is hopeful that Hoppers Crossing will get to welcome back last year's captain, Ashleigh Mills.

Mills sat out this season after having a baby.

She was superb for the Cats last season, with 324 runs at 36 to go with seven wickets.



Taylah Steadman was damaging with the ball for Hoppers Crossing this season, finishing with 17 wickets at an average of eight. (Shawn Smits)