

Devils break drought with solid victory

Werribee Devils are back on the winners' list after snapping a five-game losing streak in the Big V basketball women's division 1.

The Devils rough trot came to an end with a runaway 92-65 victory over Geelong Supercats at Eagle Stadium on Sunday.

Holding a slender eight-point lead at three-quarter time, the Devils ran riot with a 32-13 run in the fourth quarter to secure an important win.

Georgia Tauschke had a monumental game for Werribee. Tauschke finished with 22 points, 10 rebounds and six steals, proving her worth on both ends of the court.

Her long range shooting was a weapon too, hitting six-from-eight from beyond the three-point arc. Alyssa Bennett had a solid outing. The import finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Jessy Price was outstanding off the bench,



Jessy Price had a major impact off the bench for Werribee Devils. (Shawn Smits)

finishing with 18 points and seven assists.

Others Devils to impress were Sam Moodie and Jessica Slade, who had 12 points apiece.

Werribee (2-5) is hoping this win can spark a run on the positive side of the equation.

The Devils will look to keep the ball rolling on

a double header weekend when they lock horns with Hawthorn Magic (2-5) on Saturday night at Eagle Stadium and Whittlesea Pacers (6-1) at Mill Park Basketball Stadium on Sunday.

In the men's state championship, Werribee Devils lost their fourth straight game, going down 103-93 to McKinnon Cougars at Eagle Stadium on Sunday. The deficit increased for the Devils at the end of every period, but they fought it out to at least win the last quarter.

Skipper Paul Elderkin top-scored for Werribee with 20 points to go with five rebounds and four assists. Konor Kulas was damaging with 18 points and 12 rebounds, while Bryan Nagy added 18 with five steals.

Werribee (2-6) will face newly promoted Keilor Thunder (2-5) in a clash of two-win sides at Keilor Basketball Stadium on Sunday.

Lance Jenkinson



IN THE DOGHOUSE

■ It has taken 50 years, but finally Mexico Olympic silver medallist Peter Norman has received the recognition he deserves. Sadly, it is 12 years after his passing, but for his family, a lasting legacy of Peter's part in a defining moment in sports history. Last weekend, he was posthumously awarded the Order of Merit by the Australian Olympic Committee, the highest award possible for an Olympic athlete. His 200-metre silver time in Mexico stands some 50 years later as an Australian record. The race is remembered, though, for the social and political significance of the men who were with Peter on the podium, Americans Tommie Smith (gold) and John Carlos (bronze), and their raising of gloved fists to signify "Black Power", a silent protest that made headlines around the world. Peter was a familiar face around the sports traps in the west before his passing in 2006. It is pleasing to see a champion has been honoured.

■ The Western Bulldogs No.7 jumper is being worn with distinction in 2018 by Lachlan Hunter, son of former player Mark. The jumper has had a very prestigious history, with previous owners including Roger Duffy, Alby Morrison, Harry Hickey and, in the modern era, Doug Hawkins and Scott West. In the mid-'70s, Ray Huppatz wore the famous number for 66 games. Last Friday night, in the past players and officials room at Etihad, Ray recalled the good old days under coach Bob Rose and the club's finals appearance in 1974. According to Ray, Bob sent the boys away on a bonding trip before the elimination final against Collingwood. The game was a disaster, with the Pies convincing winners by 69 points. Maybe a weekend away playing golf, fishing and drinking heavily is not the perfect preparation for a final. Those were the days.

■ It's early days in the local footy, but it is surprising to see last year's grand finalists Sunshine and Deer Park in the bottom half of the division 1 ladder with one win each. Flags are not won in April, so anyone reading anything into the slow starts is kidding themselves. Parkside is finding life up a division a bit more solid than it found last year. Point Cook has made a sensational start to its life in the WRFL, unbeaten so far in division 2. Well done to Ian Denny and everyone at the club.

Kevin Hillier

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Truganina striker Andullahi Salad jumps for joy after scoring the equalising goal. (Damjan Janevski)

Hornets create a buzz

By Lance Jenkinson

Truganina is aiming to complete a Geelong trifecta when it travels to play Bell Park in the Football Federation Victoria men's state league 4 west at the Bell Park Sports Club on Saturday.

The Hornets have already ventured down the Princes highway twice this season for thumping wins over Golden Plains and Surf Coast – both games in which they scored five goals – and now it has Bell Park in its sights.

It will be a much tougher assignment for the Hornets against a Bell Park team that is heavily tipped to challenge for promotion this season.

"We've done it to the other Geelong teams and they're the third one on the list," Hornets coach Sergio Lunedei said.

"They're one of the teams that are up there, one of the teams predicted to win the league, but we've got the quality to go there and win the game.

"We'll play our style, our philosophy of football and see what happens."

Truganina has enjoyed a hot start to the

season. Its blistering FFA Cup form has carried into the league season, where it sits on top on goal difference over Western Eagles.

The Hornets dropped points for the first time in a 1-1 draw with Altona North at Arndell Park Reserve on Saturday evening.

Still, it was valuable point, considering the quality of the opposition and the fact they had to play most of the second half with 10 men after captain Federico Rossini was given a red card.

Truganina trailed by a goal after 15 minutes.

Tony Saric found a way through the Hornets usually water tight defence, one that has only conceded three goals in five games, to give Altona North the lead.

Truganina restored parity about 10 minutes later through Abdullahi Salad.

Salad showed his class, getting in behind the Altona North defence and coolly slotting the ball into the back of the net.

Rossini had a golden opportunity to give Truganina the lead before he was sent off, but missed what Lunedei described as "a sitter".