

## Triple treat for Werribee women

Werribee Devils are on a roll in the Big V basketball women's division 1.

The Devils took to the road for a third straight win, beating Warrnambool Mermaids 75-63 at the Arc Sports Stadium on Saturday night.

It took a while for Werribee to shake off its stubborn hosts. The Devils edged ahead bit by bit the longer the game wore on before pulling away in the fourth.

Sam Moodie had a double double 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Devils.

Jessica Slade produced 16 points and nine rebounds, while Georgia Tauschke and Jessy Price scored 13 apiece. Import Alyssa Bennett had a stunning game with 16 points, nine rebounds, three assists and six steals.

The Devils have moved up to sixth on the ladder with a 7-6 record ahead of the Queen's Birthday break.

In men's state championship, it was a good



Coach Reece Potter has the Werribee Devils playing some eye-catching basketball in women's division 1. (Mark Wilson)

weekend for the Werribee Devils, but it was oh-so-close to being a great weekend.

The Devils kick-started the weekend with an 86-73 win over Blackburn Vikings at the Knox Basketball Stadium.

Import Konor Kulas left his stamp all over the win with 27 points and 17 rebounds.

Devils captain Paul Elderkin came up big with 19 points, 10 rebounds and six assists, while Bryan Nagy had a double double, 13 points and 12 rebounds.

With the game they expected to win in the bank, the weary Devils came out on Sunday in search of an upset win over ladder leader Ringwood Hawks, but they fell agonisingly short in a 116-112 loss at Eagle Stadium.

It was another Kulas' special for Werribee, with the American scoring 40 points to go with 11 rebounds. Kulas shot 71 per cent from the field and went to the free throw line 19 times for an impressive 89 per cent success rate.

The costly loss leaves the Devils in ninth place with a 5-10 record.

Lance Jenkinson



### IN THE DOGHOUSE

■ The sight of the Western Bulldogs CEO Ameet Bains plunging head first into the podium at the Past Players' luncheon last Saturday was not on the agenda but it certainly got everyone's attention. Thankfully no injuries were incurred, just some slightly dented pride, but nothing else. Ameet gathered his thoughts and told the group of the exciting developments coming for the club at the Whitten Oval in the future. Unfortunately, the on-field performance was not as inspiring, but that's football. The new facilities and changes at the club's home won't be built in a day or a week, and neither will the team. I criticised the football media last week for its vulture mentality, but clubs must also look within and weed out the negative element constantly referred to as 'insiders' in article after article. These people do not deserve to be employed, as their loyalty is clearly up for sale.

■ Barry Round breezed back into town last week and spoke at the Bulldogs function about his life in the sun on the Gold Coast. The 1981 Brownlow medallist has been on the coast for a decade and enjoys a swim and walk every morning. Roundy's era played hard on and off the ground and enjoyed themselves. I would not be surprised if the great man was heard to warble his favourite karaoke tune The Gambler at some stage last weekend. Even at 68, he is still a frustrated pop star. It is fair to say no one does Elton's Little Jeannie like Roundy. Thank Goodness.

■ In local footy, the Hoppers Crossing Warriors are going pretty well despite a crushing injury toll, and after a win over the Wyndhamvale Falcons last week, sit fifth heading into the Queen's Birthday bye weekend. Former players Adam Taylor and Bazza Borlase are organising a big past players and officials reunion on Saturday, June 23, when the club hosts Altona, and there is also a President's Lunch with guest speaker, sports business expert Brian Waldron. Details on the past players via Adam Taylor 0438 188 664 and for the lunch – Shane Buckingham, president@hoppersfootyclub.com.au

■ World Cup fever is sweeping sporting circles and Hoppers Crossing Soccer Club has its own version on Saturday June 16 when it meets Preston Lions at 3pm at the Grange Reserve in Hogans Road. After the game the club is hosting live music and fun as the Socceroos take on France from 8pm.

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.



Werribee Districts midfielder Trent Lee battles it out with Altona's Joel Magnabosco. (Damjan Janevski)

## Big game joy for Tigers

By Lance Jenkinson

And then there was one – Werribee Districts is the last remaining undefeated team in Western Region Football League division 1.

The Tigers go into the Queen's Birthday break a game clear on top of the ladder after spoiling Altona's flawless record with a 49-point win in the top-of-the-table clash at Soldiers Reserve on Saturday.

Ominously, Tigers coach Chris Gilham thinks his side has another gear to move up to, but he was impressed with the performance against Altona.

"Our form leading in wasn't great," he said. "We were getting the wins but we weren't playing our best footy."

"Playing a team like Altona, who were also undefeated, was just the challenge we needed ... the boys were definitely up for it."

Werribee Districts went into half-time with a handy 13-point lead.

The Tigers appeared dangerous in attack from the outset, but they did leave some defensive holes in the first half.

"They got a few goals on the slingshot from the back 50," Gilham said.

"I thought we didn't defend the corridor well on the way out and we weren't set up well structurally behind the ball when we went inside 50."

The second half was even better offensively for Werribee Districts, which piled on 10 goals.

As well, the Tigers were much better organised in defence, restricting Altona to just four goals.

"We continued to score at the same rate, but we were able to dry them up a little bit, so that was pretty pleasing," Gilham said.

Where the game was won was in the midfield battle.

Will Sullivan's competitiveness shone through once again in the ruck as he made life a dream for the Werribee Districts onballers.

Rhyce Prismall, the pick of the Tigers onball brigade, Matt Dean, Mark Pozzuto and Daniel Schibeci got silver service from their big man.

A key to Werribee Districts' undefeated start can be found in its forward line.

The Tigers have built a multi-pronged attack that is hard to match up on.

Five players – Prismall, Trent Lee, Ryan Harrington, Chris Molivas and Cameron Lee – registered three goals apiece against Altona.

"We pride ourselves on the fact we've got many avenues to goal," Gilham said.

"Last year, if Andrew Panayi didn't play for us due to VFL commitments, we couldn't kick a winning score. We had to look at it and decided that we really needed to share the scoring load."

"Our aim was to have seven or eight players around the 20-goal mark."

Meanwhile, Hoppers Crossing had a comfortable 53-point win over Wyndhamvale, but probably missed out on a serious percentage boost because of wayward kicking. The Warriors finished with an unsightly 12.32.

In division 2, Point Cook goes into the break with a 6-1 record after cruising to a 71-point victory over West Footscray.

Manor Lakes was out-classed by ladder leader Yarraville-Seddon to the tune of 53 points.

In division 3, top side Wyndham Suns had to dig deep to stave off a stubborn Glen Orden by 20 points, while Point Cook Centrals pummelled Braybrook by 109 points.



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