

21st August 2006

WARATAH ABL FINALS

MENS GRAND FINAL

SUTHERLAND SHARKS 128 *def* PARRAMATTA WILDCATS 77

In a game everyone was waiting for, both teams set a blistering pace early, running the floor exceptionally fast. BJ Carter and Cameron Tovey for the Sharks had solid starts, while the Wildcats' Julian Khazzouh dominated at both ends. Parramatta by 4, 23 – 19 at the first break.

The second started as the first finished, at an incredible pace. But then the Sharks hit an offensive streak, they just couldn't miss. Carter deadly from outside, 3 threes and Tovey grabbing 10 points for quarter. Sharks' Robert McKinlay, John Sheehy, Rhett Nacson and Blake Henricks all helped accumulate their incredible total for the quarter. The Wildcats were outscored 43 – 13 in the quarter to be looking at a deficit of 26 going into the long break. Sharks 62 – 36.

It was obvious that Coach Wardle couldn't find a magic solution to his team's offensive woes; the various combinations just didn't click. They couldn't register a point until just on halfway through the third quarter, whilst at the other end BJ Carter continued to light up the scoreboard with 13 points for the quarter (9 threes for the game so far), ably assisted by Cameron Tovey with 11(30 points for the game so far). The Sharks had an amazing 49 point lead going into the 4th quarter. Sharks 96 – 47.

With the game all but over, both sides loosened up defensively and traded baskets. The final margin was 51, the Sharks accumulating 128 points to the Wildcats' 77 in a display of skill and accuracy. A great team effort with Coach Phil Vannan obviously very impressed with his team's display.



MVP and Defensive Player of the Final
– Cameron TOVEY – Sutherland
Sharks. Photo Courtesy of Marion
McNeill - www.photoexcellence.com.au

WOMENS GRAND FINAL

BANKSTOWN BRUINS 70 *def* SYDNEY COMETS 49

Bankstown started off just as they did in the semis, restricting Sydney ability to score through their constant pressure. Sydney hung tough however and settled, Bankstown 16, Sydney 11 at the first break.

The Bruins suffered a major blow halfway through the second quarter when guard Adrienne Gilbert suffered a game ending leg injury. The Bruins remained focussed however and some late outside bombs saw them take a 33 – 23 lead at the long break.

Bankstown obliterated anyone's thoughts that the Comets could get back into the game. The Bruins' Sarah Hatley (11 points) had a big quarter with support from Briana Hennessy and Wendy Strong with 6 and 5 points respectively. The Bruins took a virtually unassailable lead of 26 into the final quarter. Bruins 60 to 34.

The game opened up in the last as the result was inevitable. Both teams eased off on the defensive end as both teams traded baskets. Bruins worthy Women's Champions in 2006.

BASKETBALL NSW MEDIA RELEASE

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