BASKETBALL NSW

PRESS RELEASE

1st June 2006

by Noel Rowsell

WILDCATS v COMETS PREVIEW

The Sydney Comets and Parramatta Wildcats meet this Saturday night in a game many are predicting could be a preview of the 2006 WABL grand final.

The Comets are the four-time reigning premiers in the WABL and appear to have lost little (if any) this year, despite their many roster changes and the new coach, cruising along undefeated at the top of the competition ladder.

The Wildcats had been sharing that lofty perch with the Comets but fell from grace last weekend when they lost by 15 points to the Illawarra Hawks. That defeat has now cast some doubt over the Wildcats title aspirations and this weekend's result will go a long way to determining whether Parramatta are contenders or mere pretenders for the champions' crown.

There is no doubting the Wildcats firepower, with three players in the 'Top Ten Point-scorers' list (Anto Lalic, Julian Khazzouh and Terrance Rone), while the Comets are represented by David Barlow. The Wildcats also appear to have an edge in 'Total Rebounds', with Khazzouh and Lalic again paced by the ever-present Barlow. Brad Sheridan makes an appearance for the Comets in the 'Steals' Top Ten, while Jay Pottenger leads the way in 'Assists'. The Wildcats are outnumbered in Blocked Shots, following the loss of Goran Veg, with Khazzouh leading the category while Sheridan and Mike Cooper represent the Comets in the Top Ten. The statistics are, however, at the end of the day merely records and cannot accurately predict the outcome of this game.

The reality is far more stark, with the Comets the tried-and-tested performers over the past four years while the Wildcats have been among the many also-rans during that reign of power.

The Wildcats had an opportunity to emphatically state their case against the Hawks but suffered from perhaps too many stars on the night, with the ball often starting during a transition movement with one player and ending up still with the same player at the end of the offensive movement.

There are many culprits in the Wildcats line-up and a simple teamwork factor (or lack of it) may well be their Achilles heel. Head coach Murray Wardle undoubtedly knows how good his team can be but the potential can only be realised if his star-studded line-up begin to play for each other. Wardle was brutally honest this week when quizzed about the upcoming game, stating

molten For the real game
Horizons Sporting Events
Enjoy Coca-Cola
COAST 2 COAST
QUEST

"They'll (Comets) have to be favourites". "We were terrible last week - we're suffering without Goran (Veg) - he has just been awesome for us and people don't realise how much he contributes every game".

Comets head coach David Reimer has already shown a keen interest in the Wildcats, visiting the Auburn Basketball Centre last Saturday night for the Wildcats versus Seahawks game and video-taping the action. Reimer was excited when quizzed about this weekends battle "Should be a great contest as both teams get up and down the court. A game that fans will find entertaining and will enjoy. Hopefully all of the Parramatta fans will get out there". "Parramatta's size on the court could be a problem, as we don't have anyone of that height to match them. So we will have to do our best to combat that. They love to get up the court and push the ball, so we will have to be ready for that also." "Hopefully David Barlow can lead the Comets to a win against Parramatta in both offense and defense. But saying that the Wildcats will be tough, they are at home and they are coming off a loss, so they will be hungry and everyone wants to knock off the Comets".

The Comets and Wildcats also match up in the women's game at 4pm, with the high-flying Comets firm favourites to win. Saturday 3rd June, 2006 Auburn Basketball Centre, Wyatt Park, Church Street, Lidcombe - Parramatta Wildcats versus Sydney Comets. Women @ 4pm, men @ 6pm.

BASKETBALL NSW PRESS RELEASE
Contact Person;
Michael Edwards
Marketing & Communications Manager
Basketball New South Wales
Email: michael_edwards@nswbasketball.net.au
Postal: PO Box 198, Sydney Markets, NSW 2129
Contact Details:
Ph: (02) 9746 2969 Fax: (02) 9746 1457