

16th March, 2010

ROB BEVERIDGE'S WILDCATS TAKE OUT NBL TITLE OVER GALLANT WOLLONGONG HAWKS

Basketball NSW would like to congratulate the Rob Beveridge coached Perth Wildcats, who on Friday night defeated the Gordie McLeod coached Wollongong Hawks in the deciding Game Three of the National Basketball League Grand Final at Challenge Stadium in Perth, 96-72, to win the championship series 2-1.



Left: Coach Rob Beveridge and his Perth Wildcats team celebrate winning the NBL Championship Series 2-1

Right: What a tussle....despite going down 96-72, the Wollongong Hawks battled hard all night

Our commiserations go out to Gordie McLeod and the Wollongong Hawks club, who possess an impressive six former NSW juniors on their roster, including Daniel Jackson and Zac Delany (Illawarra), Larry Davidson (Gosford City), and Luke Martin (City of Sydney).

Gordie McLeod, a former NSW and Australian representative basketballer in his own right, moved in to coaching after his playing career ended and has a plethora of coaching and playing achievements for his state and country, including:

- Current Head Coach of NBL Club the Wollongong Hawks
- Former West Sydney Razorbacks Head Coach
- Former NSW State Junior Representative (player)
- Former Illawarra Hawks player

- Former Boomers Olympian Representative (player and coach)
- Former Australian Institute of Sport Head Coach
- Former Boomers Assistant Head Coach
- Former Australian Under 19's and Under 23's Head Coach
- Former National Director of Coaching for Basketball New Zealand
- Former Championship Coach in the New Zealand National Basketball League with Wellington
- The Gordie McLeod Shield (NSW City Metro v NSW Country) named after him

Perth became the first team in NBL history ever to win five titles, having also previously won in 1990, 1991, 1995 and 2000. For Wollongong, it was the second time they have finished as runners-up.

Perth has, this season, been led by Rob Beveridge, and also possesses NSW juniors in their squad, including Damian Martin (Gloucester) and Drew Williamson (Hornsby).

Beveridge has an amazing resume, including a number of coaching positions held in NSW, which includes:

- Current Head Coach of 2009/2010 Minor Premiers of the NBL, the Perth Wildcats
- Current Head Coach of the World Select Team (for the last five years)
- Former NSW Under 20 Men's Head Coach (won 2 successive National Championships)
- Former Hills ABA Head Coach
- Former West Sydney Razorbacks Head Coach
- Former Sydney Spirit Head Coach
- Former North's ABA Head Coach
- Former NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) Head Coach
- Former Under 19's Australian Emus Head Coach
- Former Assistant Coach of the Boomers
- Former Basketball Australia Male Coach of the Year (twice)

Kevin Lisch had a game-high 29 points for the 'Cats to clinch the Larry Sengstock Medal as the Grand Final Most Valuable Player. Ex Gloucester junior Damian Martin added 17 for Perth and Stephen Weigh 13.

Glen Saville led Wollongong with 13 while Cameron Tragardh and Rhys Martin both scored 12.

Perth won Game One 75-64 at Challenge Stadium in Perth last Friday night before a sell-out crowd of 4,497.

Wollongong bounced back to score a 75-63 win in Game Two before a capacity crowd of 5,786 at WIN Entertainment Centre in Wollongong and force a third game decider.

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