





### WELCOME





### DEAN ANGLIN - NBL1 GENERAL MANAGER

What a season it has been for the Mitsubishi Motors NBL1, as we have seen 1500+ games across every state and territory of Australia, Regular Season Competitions coming down to the very last game and unbelievable Grand Finals everywhere. Now we bid farewell to the 2024 campaign with the Mitsubishi Motors NBL1 National Finals on the Sunshine Coast.

I would like to thank our five conferences, the players, coaches, referees, technical officials, admin staff and volunteers of NBL1 North, East, South, West, and Central for another great season of fierce competition; the 74 clubs, 145 teams across Australia continue to deliver the NBL1 like never before for their local communities.

Thank you to the Sunshine Coast Council for their support of the NBL1 Finals, we look forward to delivering an unforgettable weekend for the community. Thank you to our wonderful NBL1 partners, with special mention of Mitsubishi Motors, our naming rights partner without their support, we would not be able to deliver NBL1 to the level we do, taking the game into more households than ever before.

It's fair to say that we've had our most successful season yet, with unprecedented growth across the board, record numbers across our social platforms, record attendance in stadiums and a enormous Conference Grand Finals Series that saw 18,000+ people witness 12 amazing Grand Finals, including 6500 at RAC Arena to witness the NBL1 West spectacular.

A jam-packed weekend awaits, with 12 of the best teams in the country going head-to-head to claim the ultimate title. We welcome back last year's men's and women's reigning champions, the Knox Raiders and Bendigo Braves, and we look forward to watching on from the sidelines to see if these teams can run it back, or be dethroned by one of this year's Conference Champions chasing the title of National Champions.



### **MAYOR ROSANNA NATOLI - SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL**

Welcome to our Sunshine Coast for the National Basketball League 1 (NBL1) Finals.

This event is being held at two of our most popular sports venues, the Caloundra Indoor Stadium and UniSC Arena.

Basketball is one of this region's fastest growing sports, and we expect this trend to continue, with a new indoor sports centre planned for the Sunshine Coast at Kawana. The new centre is proposed to host basketball events at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games.

We are thrilled to welcome the 12 teams who have come from all over Australia to compete in the NBL1 Finals.

While you're here, I encourage you to take in some of the Sunshine Coast's natural wonders – from our hinterland and magnificent mountains to our pristine beaches. Have some fun at our local attractions and make use of our world-class training facilities ... the opportunities are endless and our community welcomes you.

Best of luck to you all. May your time here be filled with memorable moments both on, and off, the court.



### LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS SEASON?

#### GO WHALE WATCHING

Score a front row seat and watch our Humpbacks dance and frolic at sea whilst they migrate north. The crew at Sunreef Mooloolaba will get you up close and personal with these gentle giants. Sunshine Coast Afloat also offer incredible whale watching experiences that will provide 'pinch me' moments aplenty.

#### HOP ABOARD THE PRAWN STAR

The Wharf Mooloolaba has long been hailed as an unmissable foodie destination and one of its latest additions proves exactly why. Enter Prawn Star, a cheekily named converted fishing trawler moored permanently at the Wharf allowing you to dine on deck and dig into local seafood like a platter of world famous Mooloolaba prawns, crab and fresh oysters—an absolute seafood lover's paradise.

#### HIKE THE GLASS HOUSE MOUNTAINS

Feel connected to country in the Glass House Mountains, a formation of 11 ancient volcanic peaks that formed more than 25 million years ago, with a hike around the base of Mount Tibrogargen or climb to the summit of Mount Ngungun.

#### GO ON A CRAFT BEER TOUR

The Sunshine Coast has well and truly earned its title as Australia's Craft Beer Capital - with a slew of award-winning breweries dotted along the coastline and hinterland. Head to a taproom, order a tasting paddle and settle in for a cosy afternoon, slinging tasty meals (think: Mooloolaba prawns, towering burgers and pizzas), plus live music. Sip your way around the region by following the craft beer trail, or book yourself a spot on one of the awesome tours.



### FIND YOUR SUNSHINE MOMENT WITH THESE AWESOME ACTIVITIES ON THE SUNSHINE COAST.

#### KAYAK THE EVERGLADES

Can you hear that sound? More than 40 per cent of Australia's bird species can be found living around the pristine waters of the Noosa Everglades – one of only two everglades systems found on earth – and one of the best ways to explore is a kayak with Kanu Kapers.

#### LEARN TO SURF

Surf's up year-round on the Sunshine Coast from the glassy waves of Noosa - a World Surf Reserve - to Australia's longest wave at Double Island Point. You'll be frothing to hit the waves, and a lesson with Coolum Surf School will have you hanging 10 in no time.

#### DINE IN QUEENSLAND'S SUNSHINE PANTRY

Enjoy paddock-to-plate dining at 114-yearold Mapleton Pub perched on top of the Blackall Range, or sip on a fruity gin inspired by our iconic Big Pineapple. There's an abundance of ways to taste our organic, seasonal produce.

#### GET YOUR ADRENALINE PUMPING

There's something special about spotting dolphins in the wild, and with Noosa Ocean Rider, you'll be at one with the creatures of the big blue on their Dolphin Safari or Whale Watching Tour.

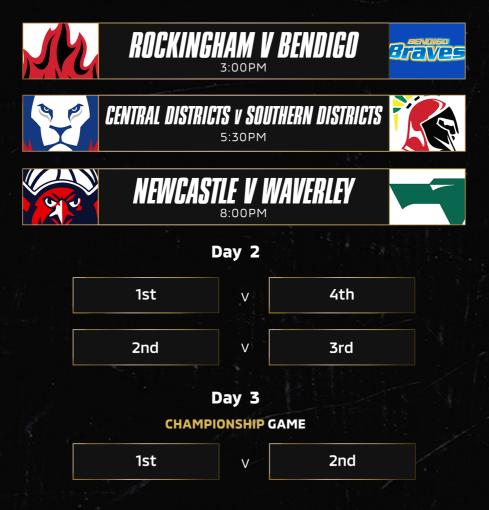


To find out more

### NATIONAL FINALS FIXTURE

Day 1

WOMENS: FRI 16 AUGUST, UNISC ARENA





Day 1

#### MENS: FRI 16 AUGUST, CALOUNDRA INDOOR STADIUM



## **NBL1 NATIONAL FINALS EXPLAINER**

The Mitsubishi Motors NBL1 National Finals is a celebration of state-level basketball, hosting each conference's champion to display the best basketball the winter season has to offer in Australia.

The defending champions, the women's Bendigo Braves and men's Knox Raiders, will return to defend their title against this season's winners and battle it out for the national championship.

All 12 teams will go head-to-head on Friday based on the newly implemented National Ranking system, based on a formula that combines regular season win percentage and the conference weighting – which determines the "strength" of a conference based on the number of WNBL/NBL and import players.

The three winners and the next highest-ranked team will qualify for Saturday's Semi Finals, which will then decide the last two remaining teams to compete on Sunday in the Championship Games.





#### **Knox Raiders**

After a historic run in 2023 with only seven players to take the National Title, the Knox Raiders are back to defend their spot with more firepower.

The Raiders had an up-and-down regular season, finishing with a 13-9 record and falling short in the Elimination Finals by seven points to the Dandenong Rangers.

During the finals, Knox Raiders head coach Matt Nunn said that his Raiders' new play style will fit the tournament better than last season's championship team. Prioritising scoring and athleticism, will overall provide the perfect wildcard contender for the National Finals.

Led by Championship Game MVP KJ Feagin, his second season in the NBL1 showed his growth as a leader and facilitator in a more dynamic offence.

#### **Bendigo Braves**

Heading into the 2024 season on the ultimate high with an undefeated 28-0 streak, conference title, and a national championship – the Bendigo Braves were destined for further greatness.

However, the team struggled with player availability all season, featuring only five games with their full team. This resulted in their streak ending at 33 games in May and finishing ninth on the NBL1 South ladder.

Despite the disappointing regular season, head coach Mark Alabakov will have tricks up his sleeve, with the unique advantage of having a rested group, the ability to scout the country, and have his star players return.

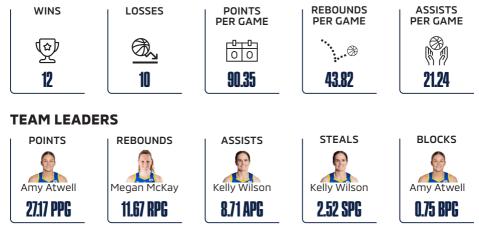
Featuring Bendigo legend, Kelly Wilson, and the returning Megan McKay alongside their tremendous core group - no one will be sleeping on the Braves in this tournament.





















## **MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**



JOSH PASCOE CEO, Basketball Queensland



The 2024 Mitsubishi Motors NBL1 North season has showcased some of the highest level of competition in our leagues 38-year history. Across the Men's and Women's competitions, we had 38 contracted professionals from either NBL or WNBL competitions, not to mention the plethora of former professionals featured in team lists including Australian Boomer, William Magnay for the Gold Coast Rollers.

The Rockhampton Cyclones and Mackay Meteors will be representing the North conference on the national stage with starstudded line-ups on both rosters.

Our league's talent, diversity, and community support continue to grow across Queensland, and we look forward to hosting the NBL1 National Championships in our home state on the Sunshine Coast in 2024.

### NORTH TEAMS WRAP UP





In the club's second National Finals appearance, the Southern Districts Spartans will show their "Dark Side" as an advantage.

The nickname for their fans, the Spartans are the geographically closest club to the Sunshine Coast – so expect to see the "Dark Side Family" drive up the coast to visit their club in action one more time this season.

Making the 2022 National Finals in the 'Wildcard' position, the Spartans have a similar opportunity this year. They were selected by Basketball Queensland as the representatives of the NBL1 North, after the championship-winning Rockhampton Cyclones withdrew from the tournament with player availability issues.

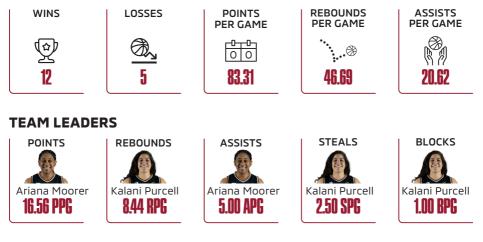
In a close loss during the Quarter Finals to the North Gold Coast Seahawks, the Spartans will have redemption on the agenda with their second chance coming up this weekend. This season the Mackay Meteors became the first club in history to have won two titles within the NBL1 era. They claimed their first championship in 2021, led by Jerron Jamerson as the Finals MVP. Now in 2024, Jamerson had Isaac White and Mackay junior, Todd Blanchfield to help lead their second push.

Finishing first on the ladder with a 15-3 record, they automatically qualified for the Semi Finals, where they were tested by the Southern District Spartans, 100-90. Advancing to the Grand Final, they took care of business against the MVP and Defensive Player of the Year, Sam McDaniel in a 2-0 sweep over the Brisbane Capitals to claim their spot in history and the National Finals.





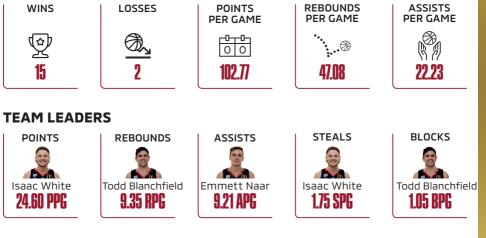














## **MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**



### MARIA NORDSTROM CEO, Basketball NSW



BASKETBALL NSW

As we reflect on the 2024 NBL1 East season, we celebrate a year filled with exceptional basketball, community engagement, and remarkable achievements across both the Men's and Women's divisions.

This season saw an impressive 320 regular season games, showcasing the depth of talent and competition within our league. We extend our congratulations to the Canberra Gunners and the Albury Wodonga Bandits Women for securing the minor premierships at the end of the regular season, a testament to their consistency and hard work.

The Grand Finals, held on August 10th at the Penrith Valley Regional Sports Stadium, were a true highlight of the year. The Women's Grand Final featured an intense battle between the Sutherland Sharks and the Newcastle Falcons, while the Men's Grand Final saw the Maitland Mustangs face off against the Canberra Gunners. Both games were highly contested and provided a thrilling spectacle for all in attendance. We are proud to crown the Newcastle Falcons as the Women's Champions and the Maitland Mustangs as the Men's Champions.

This year, we were particularly proud to introduce our first Pre-Season Blitz, a weekend of exhilarating basketball that set the stage for the season ahead.

NBL1 East continued its commitment to supporting National Themed Rounds, including Anzac Day, First Nations, and Heritage Round. These events not only honored important aspects of our community and history but also garnered widespread support from all our teams, further uniting us in celebration and remembrance.

Our Grand Finals were met with near-capacity crowds, reflecting the growing support and enthusiasm for NBL1 East.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the future of NBL1 East and the continued growth of basketball in our region. We thank all the players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and fans who made the 2024 season a success. Your passion and dedication are the driving force behind our league's success.

Here's to another fantastic year of basketball, and we look forward to what the future holds for NBL1 East.

### EAST TEAMS WRAP UP





In what seemed like destiny, the Maitland Mustangs finally claimed their title.

In 2022, the Mustangs made it all the way to the inaugural NBL1 East Grand Final – where they lost to Canberra 80-83. The following season, they overcame the Gunners in the Semi Final, before succumbing to the Sutherland Sharks in the 2023 Grand Final in another three-point loss.

Ensuring they didn't repeat the past, now back-to-back MVP William Cranston-Lown recruited his former college teammate Christian Little – and the rest is history.

In a dominant 86-67 win in this season's Grand Final over Canberra, the Mustangs have exercised their demons and will walk into the National Finals as confident contenders. While not many would have picked the Newcastle Falcons to win, after their finals run, it will be hard to underestimate this squad.

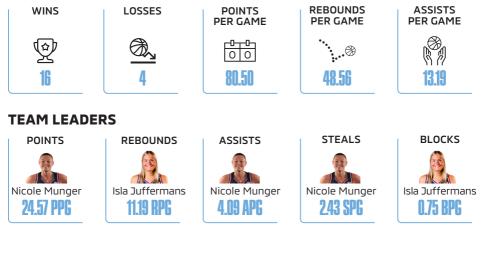
Featuring the now back-to-back MVP Nicole Munger, the 6'4" Opal in the making Isla Juffermans, and a collection of rising stars, this squad features the talent diversity to take on the best teams around the country.

The Falcons started their post-season with a statement, defeating the then-undefeated 20-0 Albury Wodonga Bandits in a dominant showing from Munger. In the Preliminary Finals, they dominated Manly Warringah and went on to win a jaw-clenching 85-78 Grand Final finish over Sutherland.



















### **MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**



NICK HONEY CEO, Basketball Victoria



On behalf of Basketball Victoria, I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which these finals are held and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here this weekend.

Congratulations to all participating teams, technical officials and fans for getting to the NBL1 National Finals and for your efforts throughout the year, making 2024 another successful season. We wish the two Victorian teams who won their recent NBL1 South Championship Games; the Waverley Falcons and Eltham Wildcats, and the two defending NBL1 National Champions; the Bendigo Braves Women and Knox Raiders Men the best of luck to bring home back-to-back championships.

A special thanks to the players, coaches, support staff, technical officials; including the referees, scoretable and statisticians, gameday staff and volunteers right across the NBL1 South conference. Without your support and dedication, our competition couldn't be what it is. I'd also like to personally thank Basketball Victoria's NBL1 South League Manager – Alison Cody for your commitment to the league's continued growth and success.

The passion and support for our NBL1 South clubs keeps growing year on year with another sold out Grand Final last weekend and a new regular game attendance record of 244,288 people in 2024, up by a very positive 5.1% on the 2023 season.

Finally, congratulations to all involved in NBL1 across the nation. The tireless effort is garnering the recognition the league deserves and improving the awareness of the sport we all love year on year.

### SOUTH TEAMS WRAP UP





The Falcons bring the WNBL Champion pairing of Bec Cole and 2024 NBL1 South Grand Final MVP Carley Ernst to the court. Looking to continue their recent stunning form, this seasoned duo will steer their team with support from McKenzie Forbes, adding extra scoring power at an average of 15 PPG.

Led by 400-plus NBL1/Big V games Head Coach, Elias Palioyiannis of the Falcons. With some outright superstars, what can often be forgotten is the depth of the Falcons with long time champions of Victorian basketball including Todhunter, Reilly and Mokrzycki all having been successful players in the Big V and NBL1 competitions and in Amelia Todhunter's case – the WNBL.

The 2024 NBL1 South Championship win was the first significant title for a women's team at Waverley, but they're well positioned to go further in 2024 and achieve their first NBL1 National Championship! The Wildcats feature a literal 'walking highlight reel' in import Josh Sykes (11.96 PPG, 6.43 RPG). His athletic ability has led to dunks and blocks that have terrorised opponents for the last 5 years. Look for him to feature in the highlight reels from this weekend's NBL1 National Finals.

Sam Short is the steadying hand of the Eltham lineup. He is also their creative leader with 4.20 APG, whilst the captain Sam Whelan will be making an impact from the perimeter shooting at 35% 3FG%.

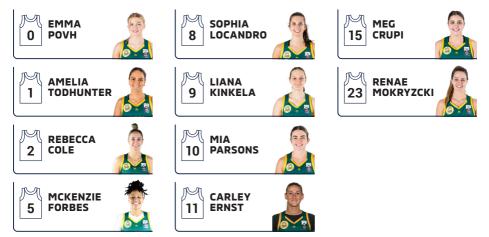
The 2024 NBL1 South Championship was Eltham's first major title in men's competition. They'll be looking to take their first men's national title this weekend!











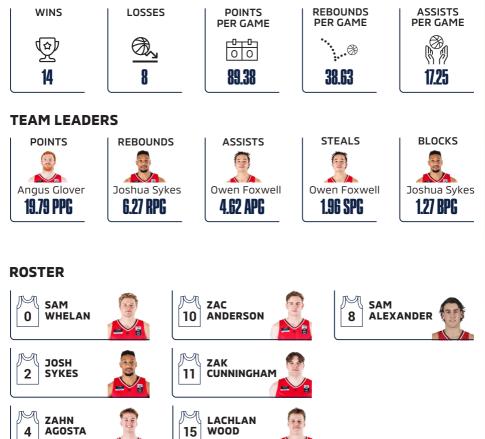




SAM

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OVIE

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### MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



### NATHAN CAVE CEO, Basketball WA



The 2024 Mitsubishi NBL1 West Season showcased our 14 teams and arguably delivered the best season in league history. This season marked our first-ever media day launch for each team, with WA leading the way in crowd attendance and Kayo views – a testament to the dedication of every club and the League in promoting the sport.

The competition was fiercely contested, with battles across both the men's and women's ladders. Throughout the season, we witnessed incredible highlights, with each round reaffirming WA as a premier destination for top basketball talent in the country. Leading the ladder at the end of the season were the Geraldton Buccaneers (men's) and Rockingham Flames (women's). The Grand Finals transitioned to RAC Arena, setting the stage for an epic showdown between the women's teams Rockingham Flames and Cockburn Cougars, and the men's teams Willetton Tigers and Mandurah Magic.

In the women's Grand Final, a stunning 19-0 run in the closing stages saw the Rockingham Flames overturn a three-point deficit to defeat the Cockburn Cougars 97-81, clinching the NBL1 West championship. On the men's side, it was one of the most remarkable championship triumphs in history, with the Coach-MVP partnership of Mark Utley and Joel Murray bringing Mandurah its first NBL1 West title in a heart-stopping game.

The Grand Finals at RAC Arena set a new benchmark, with WA achieving the largest crowd size for a men's and women's game in NBL1 Australia history. This remarkable turnout is a testament to the incredible support we have in WA.

The NBL1 West and Basketball WA would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our clubs, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators, participants, stakeholders, and sponsors for making this season exceptional. On behalf of Basketball WA, I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the Basketball WA team, especially Adam Bowler, Brighton Pass, Lauren Breen, and Courtney Beavis, for your outstanding work throughout the season.

Wishing all teams the best of luck across the NBL1 National Championships.

### WEST TEAMS WRAP UP



Going 13-0 to start the season, it seemed destined the Rockingham Flames would hoist the championship trophy in August.

Hosted at RAC Arena, the Flames took down the defending champions in a stunning display of talent. With two-time NBL1 West MVP and now Finals MVP Alex Sharp, Robbi Ryan and Jessica Jakens' 23 points off the bench, Rockingham became champions.

From top to bottom, the Flames may have the most talented team in the country. Outside of the three WNBL talents in Sharp, Ryan and Nes'aya Parker-Williams, Emma Gandini was named to the NBL1 West Second Team and was voted the Defensive Player of the Year. New recruit this season, Georgia Pineau stepped up in multiple players' absences with injuries throughout the season.

While their team's determination was tested in a very close overtime win in the Preliminary Finals, the Flames will no doubt be a top contender to make the Championship Game on Sunday. While a championship is special to every club, this particular title means so much more to the Mandurah Magic.

With a 2-20 record in 2023, the men's program was at an all-time low. But one man was able to turn that all around.

After a year-long recovery from a hand injury and in his first overseas contract, Joel Murray entered a team with no expectations and finished the season as the country's leading scorer, taking the team from last into the Finals race, being named the NBL1 West MVP and leading his team to the championship – resulting in him winning the Finals MVP.

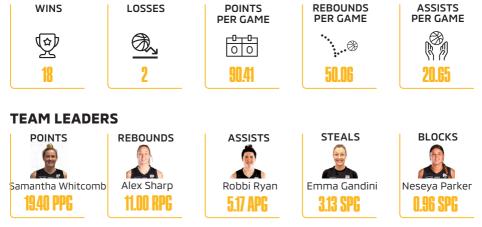
With over 35 years of experience in the NBL1 West (formerly SBL), head coach Mark Utley's service to the state was rewarded.

In hindsight, the club's first choice of an import player becoming unavailable was the best thing that ever happened.

















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### **MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**



TIM BRENTON CEO, Basketball SA



On behalf of Basketball South Australia, thank you for another successful NBL1 Central season. South Australian basketball clubs have a long and proud history, and our 10 clubs delivered the highest standards of basketball once again.

Without the tireless efforts of our Presidents, Volunteers and Club Officials, none of this is possible so thank you.

Thank you to all the Players, Coaches & Team Managers for setting new standards in sportsmanship and high-quality basketball.

Thank you to our Referees, Referee Coaches, Games Commissioners, Technical Officials and Statisticians who raised the bar in 2024.

NBL Central continues to innovate and improve our accessibility to our fans, and we thank all the commentators, camera operators and the NBL1 Production crew.

At Basketball South Australia, we perform countless hours of work to deliver NBL1 Central. Led by our Operations Manager, Tom Mitchell, and his team, NBL1 Central continues to innovate through social media, content, game management, photography and videography.

On behalf of Basketball SA, we look forward to all NBL1 National Finals and we wish all team participating the best of luck, in particular the mighty South Australian teams.

In closing, thank you to all the fans of South Australian basketball, you are the best in the country, and we hope you the best sport in the world.

### CENTRAL TEAMS WRAP UP



Losing in the 2023 NBL1 Central Grand Final, the Eagles reloaded and conquered.

With a star trio of import All-Star Five member Greg Mays, South Australian basketball royalty in Daniel Johnson, and veteran guard Adam Doyle, Forestville was one of the most consistent threats for the title all season.

The finals run saw them defeat the Sturt Sabres in the Qualifying Final and Preliminary Final, while losing to Alex Starling's South Adelaide Panthers in the Semi Finals, then bouncing back in a 92-90 win in the Grand Final.

With endless NBL experience, a strong core of local talent and a jaw-dropping import leading the way, the Eagles will most certainly be a challenger for Sunday's Championship Game.



From the wooden spoon to championships, it was a fairytale season for the Central Districts Lions, and they'll now look to continue their run up North this weekend.

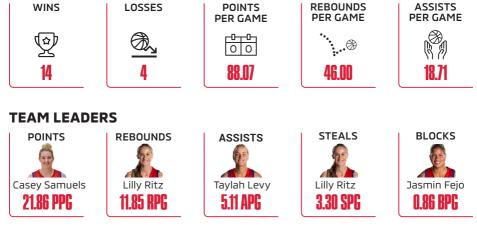
Head coach Joe Noone rebuilt the entire roster, bringing back only six players from 2023 and recruiting Jasmin Fejo, now Halls Medallist Casey Samuels, and Taylah Levy.

Winning the club's first title in history, the Lions faithful and the group are riding an unbelievable high heading into this weekend – so be on the lookout to see if the Lions can be the first team in Central history to claim the National Title.





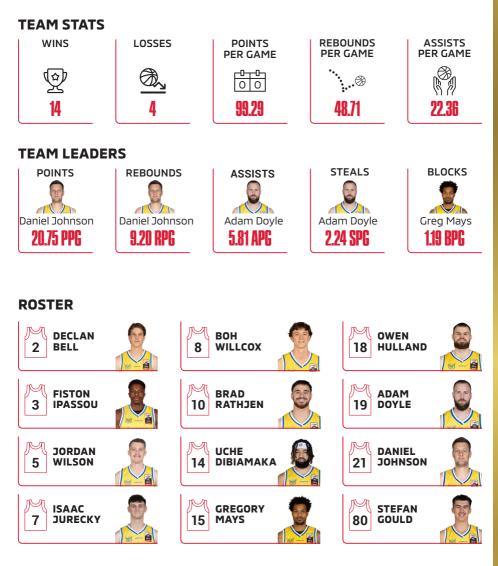












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#### PLAY ADVENTUROUS

## SCORE A \$1,000 MASTERCARD®

\*Offer available to NBL and NBL1 club members who purchase any new Mitsubishi vehicle. Visit https:// www.mitsubishi-motors.com.au/forms/nbl-member-program/terms-and-conditions for more information.







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