



### Waverley (3<sup>rd</sup>) vs. Knox (2<sup>nd</sup>)

#### Meetings this season

R1: Knox defeated Waverley 75-73

R6: Knox defeated Waverley 67-66

#### From the coaches

##### Elias Palioyiannis (Waverley)

*“Very proud of the way my guys competed on the weekend and how they found a way to win. Knox are very well coached by Dmac and will give us a completely different challenge this weekend. Hare, Kaba and Thoseby are a handful and they are an excellent defensive group. No doubt we will need to be at our very best to have a chance of pinching game one on Sunday.”*

##### Darryl McDonald (Knox)

*“The Raiders are happy to be back in the finals this season after our early exit last season. We are up against a very good, well coached Waverley team. If our in-season games tell you anything, it will be a hard-fought battle as both games came down to last second shots. We’ll look to be as prepared as we can for a tough match-up.”*

#### Overview

This clash sees Knox kick off their post-season campaign against a Waverley side fresh off a thrilling win over talented McKinnon last weekend. Both matchups during the regular season went the way of the Raiders (albeit by a combined three point), but those were both played within the first six weeks of the season and will mean precious little come Sunday. The Falcons will fancy their chances of an upset win and will certainly be fired up with the underdog mentality, but slowing down a Raiders offense that has hit triple figures on plenty of occasions in 2017 will be a tough ask. The Falcons need to win game one at home to be a chance in the series, but whether they can find enough in the tank to do so remains to be seen.

#### Prediction

Knox by 1

### Eltham (4<sup>th</sup>) vs. Ringwood (1<sup>st</sup>)

#### Meetings this season

R3: Ringwood defeated Eltham 101-94

R12: Eltham defeated Ringwood 97-90

#### From the coaches

##### Trevor Lee (Eltham)

*Not available at time of publish.*

##### Ken Harrington (Ringwood)

*“Regardless of the result last week, we knew that we would be facing a very good team. Eltham are a team capable of scoring big numbers and they have great depth with 12 guys that are all capable of playing well. The top four teams this year have all been basically on the same win/loss record so these two teams are evenly matched. Both teams have plenty of experience and this will be a battle that will be great viewing.”*

#### Overview

This matchup promises to be a beauty, with both teams enjoying a win in the two-game season series – both by seven points and both on their respective home floors. The Wildcats simply have to win game one if they are any chance of advancing to the big dance, and after a tough win over a very good Casey side last week they come in with form behind them. The Hawks enjoyed the weekend off after finishing atop the table after round 18, and they will no doubt be fresh and ready to go themselves. This one will go down to the wire, with the home side looking to cause an upset to take a 1-0 series lead.

#### Prediction

Eltham by 1



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