



Eltham (3-1) welcomes Waverley (3-1) to open the round. Despite their identical records, the Wildcats will start warm favourites and look to be on their way towards a deep finals run in 2017. In contrast, the Falcons look a shadow of their former selves but have managed to chalk up early wins and set up their season nicely, and a big upset in Eltham on Saturday night would really set them up nicely after a quarter of the season.

McKinnon (3-2) have found their touch and will take plenty of confidence into their clash with Hume City (2-2). The Broncos have looked solid without being spectacular so far in 2017, while the Cougars started slowly before two wins in round four – including a massive upset of Ringwood – has propelled them right back into the top four and the championship conversation. If the talent at the Cougars has indeed figured out how to play with each other, it could spell danger for the rest of the league.

Corio Bay (0-4) will be hunting a maiden win when they face Werribee (3-1). The Devils have been superb so far this season while the Stingrays have become a rabble, capped off by Jason Reardon wanting out before the East break. Things look bleak for the Corio Bay franchise right now but there is never a better tonic, no matter the situation, than a win at home in front of their fans, which makes this somewhat of a danger game for the Devils.

Knox (4-1) and Ringwood (4-1) will battle it out for top spot on the ladder, with both sides dropping their first game in round four. The Hawks loom as title favourites again while the Raiders are one of the sides leading the chasing pack, which makes for a clash that has 'game of the round' written all over it. Playing at home will aid the Raiders cause, but beating the Hawks is never easy regardless of venue, and especially after dropping a game of their own.

Whittlesea (1-3) hosts Casey (3-2) as the Cavs will look to improve on their brilliant start to life in SCM. Last year's D1M runners up have looked right at home in the top flight to the point where they need to be considered as finals contenders, and will start favourites to get their fourth win at Whittlesea. The Pacers have struggled so far in 2017 and were blown away by Eltham last-start in a sign of perhaps where they may be at for this season.

Waverley will back up against Diamond Valley (1-5) on Sunday, with the Eagles needing a win to give them a boost after a run of close losses. RaAnthony Sanders has provided plenty of scoring power for the lowly Eagles since round one but the results have remained the same, and a trip to Waverley, albeit to face a Falcons side who is not as dominant as season's past, is going to be tough to navigate.

Hawthorn (0-4) could be in for a long night against Eltham, with the Magic still winless but coming up against one of the premier sides in the entire league right now. Ben Waldren will relish the opportunity to tackle his former side and could go big against a Hawthorn side that will struggle for wins this season.

Werribee and Knox will close out the weekend in an intriguing clash between two sides playing good basketball and challenging for a top four spot right now. Both sides are coming off a Saturday game but at home the Devs will fancy their chances of pulling out a massive win and entrenching themselves in the top four.

Eltham vs. Waverley	Saturday 8pm	Eltham High School
McKinnon vs. Hume City	Saturday 8pm	GESAC
Corio Bay vs. Werribee	Saturday 8pm	Geelong Basketball Netball Centre
Knox vs. Ringwood	Saturday 8pm	State Basketball Centre
Whittlesea vs. Casey	Saturday 8.30pm	Mill Park Basketball Stadium
Waverley vs. Diamond Valley	Sunday 2.30pm	Waverley Basketball Centre
Hawthorn vs. Eltham	Sunday 3pm	Boroondara Sports Complex
Werribee vs. Knox	Sunday 3pm	Eagle Stadium



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