



A busy R9 starts at Keysborough where the Cougars take on a very handy Warrandyte team. The Venom should have beaten Blackburn last week and will be smarting from the loss. In such a tight competition, the visitors can't afford to drop this game and will need the likes of Andy Clough pouring in more points. Meanwhile the Cougars will be hoping to be back to full strength, otherwise this will be another tough night for them. Blackburn heads to Shepparton to face a Gators team up and about after a resounding win over Geelong last week. The home team knows this will be a tough contest, especially if the Vikings bring their band of young guns, though there are a few injury concerns hovering over a few players as well. Justin Patton will need to deliver another big game for the Gators to win, they'll start underdogs, but an upset isn't totally out of the question. Sunbury and Western Port should put on a good game - both are just about out of the finals equation, but a win here might just spark some renewed vigour. We've seen both teams show patches of good form this season, but inconsistency across four quarters has plagued them. Look for Sunbury to start strong, but if the Steelers can get their strong defence going then this one will go down to the wire. Melton hosts Warrnambool, the visitors back on the winner's list and set to start very warm favourites here. Ivan Harris has had a consistent season for the Thoroughbreds in what has been a tough stretch, but they'll need a few stepping up if they hope to match Xavier Blount and the Seahawks. It's hard to see Melton winning this, but at the same time the visitors will want to make sure they don't take the Thoroughbreds too lightly. Desperate times call for desperate measures, so expect the home team to throw everything at the visitors. Four games on Sunday starting with Sunbury backing up with a trip to Melbourne Uni where the Black Angels, masterfully led by Liam Norton, will be keen to grab another win and stay right in contention for a playoffs berth this season. There's a lot to like about the Black Angels, they continue to give a very competitive and honest effort each week - expect another win here for Norton and Co. Keillor heads to Geelong, the Supercats no doubt smarting after last week's outing at Shepparton. Anything less than 100% here by the home team will see them come up short, they are up against one of the best teams this season. Keilor hasn't put a foot wrong, they are well balanced and play a quick and entertaining brand of hoops. Chuck Long was great last week and that form should continue here for another Thunder win. Chelsea snuck home last week and now faces a big challenge against Bulleen, the Boomers themselves a little inconsistent right now, but also in possession of stud player, Damon Bozeman. A quality match up here with Bozeman and Standerfer going against each other - the end result may well come down to either who plays better, or perhaps which others can step up and help out their leading guns? Good game on the cards and a really important one for both outfits in a very tight competition. The weekend closes with Latrobe City heading to Melbourne to face Blackburn, the latter back home from a trip to Shepparton the previous night. Last week at home the Vikings were incredibly lucky to topple Warrandyte and no doubt they will have taken plenty away from that performance. It's a big weekend for the Vikings, if they can get past Shepparton away and Latrobe City back at home they will be very well placed for another title tilt. The Energy need to get a big scalp as they are starting to drift. Most teams have worked out that most if not everything goes through McWhorter and Jackson, both of who continue to deliver big numbers, but the cupboard is often bare after that. If another player or two can step up and score some points for the Energy they will soon start reeling off some wins - that's their big challenge from here. As for Blackburn, well it's going to take a very good team to beat them. Enough said.

Keysborough vs Warrandyte	Sat 7pm	Rowville Secondary College
Shepparton vs Blackburn	Sat 7:30pm	Shepparton Sports Stadium
Sunbury vs Western Port	Sat 8pm	Boardman Stadium
Melton vs Warrnambool	Sat 8pm	Melton Indoor Recreation Centre
Melbourne Uni vs Sunbury	Sun 1pm	Melbourne Uni Sports Centre
Geelong vs Keilor	Sun 2pm	The Geelong Arena
Bulleen vs Chelsea	Sun 3pm	East Doncaster Secondary College
Blackburn vs Latrobe City	Sun 3pm	Knox Basketball Stadium



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