



KEILOR vs. WERRIBEE – Game 2

The equation for the Devils was simple – win and keep the series alive, lose and the Thunder would be YL1M.

After an unusually high margin defeat the previous week, you knew a different Devils side would front up for this one, hungrier than ever.

Despite the first quarter efforts of the Devils, Keilor held a four point advantage. The Devils changed things up in the second and on the back of a 27-20 score line went into the main break with a three point advantage.

The third quarter saw both teams provide the high scoring tempo we know from them return and a 30-28 term from the Thunder made for a super exciting last term, with the Devils clinging to their season by a single point lead turning for home.

Both teams were desperate in the last. Keilor held a one point lead with 3:26 on the clock, then a successive layups from Harberger gave the visitors a 3 point lead back. The last two and half minutes was pure pressure cooker stuff! Both teams feeling the nerves until Camp made a layup with 43 seconds left to get the Thunder within one. Seconds later a foul to the Thunder sent Remy to the line. He iced both and Keilor took possession. A steal by Alush drew a foul which saw the Devils with the ball and a two point lead with 10 seconds to go. A layup from Alush confirmed the result and the series stayed alive for the Devils to fight another day. An amazing turnaround from the Devils, and great timing to deny the Thunder an undefeated run for the season at home. It would difficult to know if both teams after such an intense battle would be spent in Game 3.

Some great performances from both sides and BJ Symons led the way for the Thunder (29p at 80% from the field) with Shaw (16p), Soleimani (15p) and Camp (10p) in support. Alush had another great game to lead the Werribee scoresheet (22p, 5 steals & 5 assists) with help from Tang (19p), Hargerger and Remy (11p).

KEILOR vs. WERRIBEE - Decider

Another big crowd was in attendance at the Thunderdome. As we'd hoped, the series reached a deciding game. Who would be holding the championship flag to unfurl in 2018?

The game again started with energetic scoring and the Devils took a two point lead. In almost a mirror image of game 2, the side behind went on a run and turned a two point deficit into a five point lead at the half courtesy of a 22-15 quarter.

Starting the third term with a 42-37 lead, the Thunder got out to a seven point advantage early before a mini-run of back to back layups got the visitors back within 3. Keilor steadied and while the opened up six of seven point lead for the middle of the quarter, an outside jumper from Tang got Werribee back to 3 in arrears and with some charity stripe shooting got the visitors back to within a single bucket with less than two minutes to go, just to keep the home fans on edge. But, successive turnovers and bonus free throws allowed the Thunder to etch out an eight point lead going into the last quarter of the season.

A layup for the Devils as the first score of the quarter got them within six, then an open outside look from Duca sunk and all of a sudden the lead was inching towards double figures, before a layup from Symons saw the lead extend to a game high eleven points. The Devils kept plugging away but ultimately an eight point deficit was too much to reel in, but despite that, the final term again saw positive scoring as both sides scored 25.

And so, with a 84-76 score line in Game 3, the **KEILOR THUNDER WIN THE YL1M 2017 CHAMPIONSHIP**. For the Thunder, Soleimani led scoring (24p) as Symons (20p/11rb) and Shaw (12p/11rb) recording doubles.. For the Devils Hutton topped the Sheet (21p) as Alush(17p/11rb) and Daley (13p/11rb) finished with doubles.

Both teams saw the top of the ladder during the year, and for the Devils to send it to three is a very impressive effort. Ultimately the series went the distance which is what all,hops fans hope for. Congratulations to both teams on reaching the Big Dance series and thanks to Darren Hindle and Brooklyn Carey and Steve and the team at the BigV for their support of the column during the year.

WEEK 2 GRAND FINAL RESULTS

Keilor defeated by Werribee (92-88)

Keilor defeated Werribee (84-76)



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