



In the first round of finals the Mermaids and the Panthers got to put their feet up and enjoy the perks of finishing top 2, it's quite a thing to see our two newest teams to Big V standing the tallest come finals time. It very well could be these 2 teams who end up battling it out come grand finals.

In our first Elimination Final for Division Two Women 2017 Melbourne Uni (4<sup>th</sup>) took on Coburg (5<sup>th</sup>) this game was always set to be a ripper, after both teams getting a win during the season it could have gone either way. We could go through this game with a fine-tooth comb, but what it will show is that both teams are so well matched that it would come down to missed free throws. Melbourne Uni came out firing in the first half and they would have been feeling the confidence as they went into half time up by 8pts. Coburg put the pressure on in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and then took charge and stole the win from under their noses with a 25-14 final quarter. Both teams have standout players who get it done week in and week out and this game was no different. Melanie Fidler did what she could for her Black Angels with a nice 22 points and 10 rebounds but it was Deslyn Applewhaite from the Giants who stood out the most in this game with 23 points 15 rebounds 3 assists and 5 steals.

Game 1 we see the underdogs get up in the first upset of the finals series.

This game was always going to be a hard one for Blackburn who finished 6<sup>th</sup> on the ladder as they took on a tough Mornington side who finished comfortably 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Breakers have had a great second half of the season winning 4 straight leading into finals, one of those wins included beating the number 1 side Warrnambool. Blackburn stayed strong throughout the first half and kept up with the Breakers, with only a 4point difference going into the long break. The Vikings were a little slow to get going in the third only managing 4 points for the quarter, but lucky for them Mornington had a slow quarter as well with only 9 points. Mornington got themselves together in the 4<sup>th</sup> and took control and ran away with it, they were even able to keep Blackburn to only 2 points to finish their season. The Vikings didn't manage to get any of their players in double digits but that doesn't mean they didn't play well Andrea Belmonte was a beast on the boards and finished her season with 4 points 11 rebounds and 3 assists, Samantha Zennaro also went out on a high with 9 points 2 rebounds. Blackburn can now go back regroup and come back twice as strong next year and maybe take out the 2018 title. P-Mack is at it again! Patrice McKenzie played all 40 minutes of their winning match, what can't this girl do? With another stellar performance she starts her finals run with 19 points, 14 rebounds 4 steals 1 assist.

What a great first round of finals, next week the big guns get rolled out as the newbies find out what Big V finals are all about!

### ELIMINATION FINAL RESULTS

Coburg defeated **Melbourne Uni** (66-62)

**Mornington** defeated Blackburn (49-29)



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