



GAME 1 – Keilor vs. Werribee @ Eagle Stadium

It's the Final Series that basketball purists love – the best of the best; 1 v 2 across the season. The build up. The sense of occasion.

The Devils have had a pretty good return in their Home games to date, with an 8-3 record. Ironically, the Thunder have a mirroring Away record.

The game started well enough for the home side, opening up an early 11-4 lead. But, it was clear that Soleimani and Symons had their radar dialled in and they led the Thunder comeback twice in the opening term and managed to squeeze out a modest 5 point quarter time lead.

Nothing prepared the home crowd for the second term. An early 7-0 run by the visitors got the lead out to double digits and the combinations on court designed to stop – or at least stem the flow of - the Soleimani and Symons show just didn't seem to be gelling for the Devils.

The jump shots kept falling for Keilor, and all of a sudden at the half time break, the visitors had collected a 25-8 quarter and with it a 22 point lead and had given the home side plenty to think about in the dugout.

Try as they might to resist the momentum, Keilor picked up where they left off in the third term and the Devils seemingly had no answers. The Thunder could seemingly do no wrong on the scoresheet opening up an all but unassailable 40 point advantage midway through the third.

The collective foot was taken off the pedal in the last by the visitors, but by then the damage was well and truly done.

In this game, Symons had a double (28p/10rb and 3 assists) and in blistering form along with an equally impressive effort from Soleimani (28p at 71% FG and 5 steals). For the Devils, Alush and Remy were unusually quite, but still managed 13 and 14 points. Alush was one board off a double.

The Thunder unleashed its bench, scoring double their opposition (36-19) and points from turnovers another telling stat (46-20).

It certainly was an uncharacteristic scoreline for the Devils and a collective and strategic re-think will be needed for the Devils to regroup and try and keep the series alive by doing what no other team has this season, defeating Keilor at the Thunderdome. A very tough assignment. At the same time, Keilor won't be expecting the same kind of result next week either.

GRAND FINAL GAME 1 RESULT

Werribee 66 def by **Keilor 113**



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