



Ringwood kicked off State Championship Men's 2017 season with a bang, nearly hitting the ton as they saw off Werribee 98-83. A telling 24-11 second term blew the game wide open and put the Devils on the back foot as Jacob Gibson (27pts 6stl) and Shaun Clarke (25pts 5reb) proved too much for the visitors to handle. Jeremy Smith (28pts 15reb 6ast) was superb for the Devs but lacked help, with only Frederick Hunter (16pts) joining him in double digits.

A huge 32-14 second term helped Casey start life in the top flight with a big road win at Corio Bay, with the Cavs getting home 94-78. The D1M champs looked right at home in SCM, with new additions Charles Polk (20pts 11reb) and star man Brent Hobba (20pts 6reb) leading their side to victory. The Stingrays had five players in double digits but it wasn't enough, with Jason Reardon (18pts 14reb 4ast) the high-point man in defeat.

Eltham started their season in style, thumping a hapless Diamond Valley 94-52. The Wildcats were ruthless, with a 32-15 second quarter and 24-8 final term leaving the Eagles with no answer. Chris Cameron (17pts 8reb) and Ben Waldren (15pts 9reb 5ast) led six players in double figures, while Simon Grant (9pts 14reb 7ast) neared a triple-double in the rout. Matt Reynolds was the only Eagle to reach double digits, finishing with 16 as his side was completely outplayed by their rivals.

Title contenders McKinnon kicked off their campaign as most expected, thumping Whittlesea 98-61. The stacked Cougars started strongly and never looked back, building a 29-14 lead in the first ten minutes and finishing with a 51-27 second half. Dillon Stith (26pts 7reb) led the scoring while Ivan Platenik (18pts 14reb) was his usual consistent self. Jonathon Maybank (20pts 5reb) was the highlight for the Pacers in what was otherwise a tough night at the office.

Knox and Waverley squared off on Sunday and, as expected, it went all the way down to the wire, with the Raiders prevailing by two points on the road, 75-73. Both sides have taken on a new-look in 2017 but that didn't make much difference on the scoreboard as the Raiders held on in the final minute to score a first-up W. Adam Thoseby (23pts) led the visitors while Chris Kaba added 22 points, 14 boards and 4 assists in a brilliant performance. Brad Kelleher (18pts 5reb) led the Falcons as they came up agonizingly short of a home victory.

Hume City held off Hawthorn 87-82 to close out the weekend. The Broncos have recruited well and will be tough in 2017, with Lee Jeka (25pts 5reb 6ast) and Mike Rose (24pts 10reb 4ast) both making their presence felt already. Josh Morrison (17pts 5reb) was the leading scorer for the Magic, who gave up a 24-9 quarter-time lead in the loss.

## ROUND 1 RESULTS

**Ringwood** defeated Werribee (98-83)  
**Eltham** defeated Diamond Valley (94-52)  
 Knox defeated **Waverley** (75-73)

Casey defeated **Corio Bay** (94-78)  
 McKinnon defeated **Whittlesea** (98-61)  
**Hume City** defeated Hawthorn (87-82)



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