

Captains of Basketball Report

Cranbrook

Heading into the second last game of the season the boys from the Waverley 1st's and 2nd's were nothing but excited. For the Year 12's it would be their last ever game against rival school Cranbrook. The Waverley 2nd's were forced to fight hard the entire game coming against a very strong Cranbrook press. Thankfully the team learnt to break the press which resulted in Keilan Grace displaying his offensive talent and scoring 32 points. Despite the effort of the 2nd's, Cranbrook left the court with a victory of 55-52.

In the 1st's game Waverley came out strong on the offensive and defensive side of the court getting steals and fast break buckets. The 1st V were able to keep up their intensity throughout the entire game and in the end win 103-79. Ryan abbot had a great game compiling 29 points, 18 rebounds, 6 assists and 7 blocks.

Trinity

The 2nd V were looking to cap off their best season record wise for a long time when facing up against strugglers Trinity in the final matches for the Year 12 boys in the team. Fortunately, the boys were able to start off the day right for the senior teams getting a well-deserved victory.

The final game for their time at Waverley for Year 12's Angelo Di Bartolo, Ash Backlund, Dion Hatzandreou, Kyle Goulding, Stephen Morrissey, Heath Lawther and Tom Deakin-Bell, would see a much anticipated match up for outright 2nd place in the CAS against an improved Trinity outfit. Coming off 3 wins, Trinity were playing with a lot of momentum but a 38-5 run from the end of the 1st quarter right up until half time opened the game up enormously for the Waves. From here, they were able to claim victory thanks to an amazing alley-oop from Kyle Goulding to Ryan Abbott all but sealing the victory for the 1st's.

Angelo Di Bartolo & Dion Hatzandreou
(Co-Captains of Basketball)

Convenor's Report

Waverley 2nd V went down 50-53 in an exciting Friday night matchup against the undefeated Cranbrook 2nd V. Waverley quickly found themselves on the back foot early in the first half, unable to handle Cranbrook's full court pressure. The visitors were able to build a substantial early lead which left Waverley fighting from behind for the rest of the night. Despite Waverley's early offensive struggles, they were able to stay in the game on the back of a huge first half from Keilan Grace who had 17 points of his side's 21 first half points. Cranbrook started off the second half the same way they did the first, but Waverley were able to finally slow them down with some big defensive plays from Nick Bosnar and Ben Walton. As Waverley began to click offensively, some huge plays from Tom McMahon and a pair of big shots from Josh Gleeson saw Waverley draw even heading into the final minutes. Waverley had three consecutive possessions in the last 20 seconds but were unable to draw even as Cranbrook, to their credit, were able to hold on and in doing so, secure the 2019 CAS 2nd V Premiership.

After three lackluster weeks, the 1st V lifted their game significantly against Cranbrook. Waverley led all the way to post a 103-78 win in front of a sizeable and vocal crowd. Dion Hatzandreou, Angelo Di Bartolo, Ash Backlund, Kyle Goulding and Ryan Abbott were outstanding on the night. The win moved Waverley to 4 wins for the season.

In other games, Waverley was very competitive against Cranbrook with the following teams winning: 7th V (35-23), 10E (40-17), 10F (50-23), 10G (19-5), 10H (38-18), 9A (45-32), 9B (39-36), 9C (31-

29), 9D (40-20), 9E (37-18), 9F (24-16), 8B (34-31), 8E (34-27), 8F (25-22), 7A, (42-37), 7C (36-26), 7D (43-15), 7G (21-8) and 7H (22-0).

Waverley 2nd V closed out the 2019 CAS Basketball season with a dominant (score) victory over Trinity Grammar School. Both sides traded baskets early on as each side looked to establish control of the game. It was Waverley who broke out early and ultimately never looked back. Keilan Grace and Ben Walton helped Waverley gain the edge with their pick and roll offense that proved to be unstoppable. Waverley entered the halftime break with a minor advantage however as the second half went on, Waverley's team defence, led by Joey Lyons and anchored by Nick Bosnar, stifled the visitors making it extremely difficult for them to get a good look at the basket. While Tom McMahon and Ryan Jones were dominant on the glass, it was the hot shooting from Josh Gleeson, Darcy Mullins and Adam Femia that saw Waverley ultimately run away with the game. It was a fitting farewell performance for the Year 12's who help lead Waverley 2nd V to clinch third place, their equal best finish in a decade.

Buoyed by their victory against Cranbrook, the 1st V were feeling confident of defeating Trinity for a second time this season. The first quarter ended 20-all, however it was the second quarter where Waverley outplayed Trinity in most facets of the game to lead 48-25 at the break. The third and fourth quarters were more even affairs, however Waverley had done enough early on to see them over the line 81-62 and post their fifth win of the season. Dion Hatzandreou, Angelo Di Bartolo, Kyle Goulding and Ryan Abbott played great games. The win was Waverley's fifth of the season and saw the 1st V finish second in the CAS. Aside from Knox, the competition between the other CAS schools was very even and to finish second was a monumental achievement and our best placing for the past 10 seasons. Congratulations to Knox Grammar who were too strong and went undefeated to take out the Rev Fr A V Smith Shield.

In other games, the following teams were victorious: 3rd V (59-44), 10B (24-21), 10C (39-33), 10E (45-26), 10F (33-27), 10G (20-19), 9G (28-20), 9H (18-16), 8A (48-44), 8C (22-14), 8E (30-27), 7B (32-27), 7C (32-27) and 7D (46-28).

Thank you to all our departing Year 12 players, especially those in 1st's and 2nd's: Ash Backlund, Nicholas Bosnar, Tom Deakin-Bell, Angelo Di Bartolo, Adam Femia, Samuel Frazer, Joshua Gleeson, Kyle Goulding, Dion Hatzandreou, Stevie Morrissey, Darcy Mullins, Ryan Jones, Heath Lawther and Joey Lyons.

In the recent CAS representative trials, several 1st's players made the squads. Congratulations to Ryan Abbott, who was picked for CAS 1st's and Ash Backlund Kyle Goulding and Dion Hatzandreou who all made the CAS 2nd's. Christian Diaz was selected as a reserve for the 2nd's. CAS has scheduled games against ISA (19 March at Cranbrook), AICES (21 March at Central Coast Adventist School) and GPS (27 March at Kings) in the coming week.

Congratulations again to Ryan Abbott for being selected to represent NSW in the U18 Metro squad.

On Saturday 16th of March, the Basketball Presentation Night was held and was another great success with approximately 200 guests in attendance. A huge thank you to our Supporters Club and 1st's and 2nd's parents, especially Mrs Sophia Hatzandreou, Jo Morrissey and Nicole and Stephen Abbott for all their work this season with the BBQ, after-functions and Presentation Night. Without the efforts of our dedicated parents, basketball would not enjoy the success it does, nor the excellent community spirit and goodwill that has been generated. A special thank you must go to outgoing club president Mrs Hatzandreou, whose leadership and approach has been instrumental in creating a strong, caring supporters group.

A full list of award winners will be published in the next edition of Nurrunga.

Enjoy a well-earned break!

Waverley Basketball uses Team App to publish information such as scores, news, fixtures, team lists and announcements. Download the app and search for 'Waverley College Basketball' to receive notifications and updates.