

NWBU Junior Roster 2010 – Grand Finals – Sunday August 29 – By Jonathan Bourke

NWBU junior grand finals were contested on Sunday in Devonport. Four of the eight clubs were represented, with Devonport, Ulverstone and Somerset all taking out two victories each. Perhaps the best performance and creating an upset in the process were the Devonport under 16 girls who played Burnie. Burnie were undefeated all year and were favourites heading into the decider having beaten Devonport in the semi two weeks earlier. Burnie started slightly stronger and had narrow leads at quarter and half times but Devonport came out in the third quarter and upped the defensive pressure whilst also putting some scores on the board at the offensive end. Burnie tried to fight back but the damage was done and the Devonport girls held on to win by six points. Devonport also took out the under 16 boys, also against Burnie. These two sides have been fierce rivals all season with close results going both ways throughout the year. Burnie had the week off after a one point victory in the semi but a determined Devonport managed to fight all the way to the final siren and pull off a three point victory in the game that counts. Isaac Plant scored 21 points for the Burnie boys. Both under 18 games were played out between Devonport and Ulverstone with Ulverstone getting wins in both the boys and girls. The Ulverstone girls have had a fantastic season not losing all year and also claiming the state title but Devonport had hit their straps at the right time of the year and were able to push Ulverstone all the way eventually going down by 12 points. Hannah Gale had 22 points for the victors and along with her fellow senior players who missed out on making the senior grand final this is just reward for a very successful season. Ulverstones under 18 boys also turned the tables on Devonport. Devonport had a good win two weeks earlier in the semi against Ulverstone and were full of confidence going into the grand final. However the week off proved no benefit to Devonport and Ulverstone came away with a satisfying 12 point victory in a very defensive minded game. Somerset gained both their victories with both teams they had represented, their under 14 boys and girls. The under 14 boys team had not lost all year, also state champions and were probably the closest to a certainty of all six games. They proved no one wrong getting a comfortable win over Ulverstone who have come from the middle of the pack mid year to a grand final appearance. The Somerset boys have just had that little bit more polish all year and were deserved winners. Kyle Clark scored 21 points for the victors. Somerset girls took out the under 14 girls title in a very close match in what has been a fierce, close rivalry all year. Both teams had their chances and when Devonport hit the lead late in the game it looked to be going their way. Somerset bounced back and were able to take control in the final minutes and held on to record a three point win. Congratulations and thanks to all players and officials for a great year. For full report and information visit www.nwbu.com.au.

Results

U18 Boys;

Ulverstone 49 d Devonport 37. Best – Ulv: Team Effort Dev: L.Williams, Z.Sheehan, M.Brazendale

U18 Girls;

Ulverstone 65 d Devonport 53. Best - Ulv: Team Effort Dev: A.Baldock, B.Anderson, J.Russell

U14 Boys;

Somerset 52 d Ulverstone 35. Best – Som: G.Dennison, B.Blizzard, K.Clark Ulv: Team Effort

U14 Girls;

Somerset 44 d Devonport 41. Best – Som: M.Neasey, S.Phillips, S.Freeman Dev: C.Davies, G.Buchwald, T.Bourke

U16 Boys;

Devonport 58 d Burnie 55. Best – Dev: M.Zerna, C.Brown, R.Cook Bur: I.Plant, M.Salter, J.Wells

U16 Girls;

Devonport d Burnie. Best – Dev: C.O'Neill, E.Smith, N.Charlesworth Bur: Team Effort