

BIG V BASKETBALL

Giants celebrate Division 2 glory

COBURG COMES FROM BEHIND TO WIN GRAND FINAL SERIES DECIDER

Chris Cavanagh

CAPTAIN Belinda Campbell had tonsillitis and two other players were battling the flu.

But nothing was going to stop Coburg from claiming a straight-sets grand final win in the Big V Division 2 women's competition last weekend.

In somewhat of an ugly and low-scoring game, the Giants came from behind to down Cranbourne 40-35 at Cranbourne Basketball Stadium last Saturday night and take home the flag.

Led by Campbell, who had spent most of the week sick in bed, Coburg recovered from a 12-point deficit in the third quarter to get over the line.

"The girls really dug deep," coach Carl Mascetti said.



The premiership-winning Coburg Division 2 women's side.

"It was just an amazing feeling.

"Because we're a small club, it's hard to get sponsors and people to support us. But now we've got that pennant to hang on the wall, maybe we can get a little bit extra interest from the local community."

Last weekend's win followed a 74-65 win at Coburg the previous

weekend in the best-of-three grand final series. In that game, the Giants had shot at 43 per cent from the field.

"To win the game with only 40 points, it was a struggle," Mascetti said of the deciding match.

"Even when we were 12 points down, I thought we were playing well but we just weren't

hitting our shots.

"I thought if we just hit a couple of shots we would be right back into it, and that's how it turned out."

From the 12-point deficit, Coburg clawed its way back to be just two points down at the final change before shooting 16 points to nine in the final quarter.

MVP for the grand final series was 19-year-old Stephanie Belbasis, who had seven points and seven rebounds in game two, while Nicole Greene (seven points, 10 rebounds) and Stacey Procak (seven points, nine rebounds) were among the other better players last weekend.

Coburg will move up to the Big V Division 1 women's competition next year.

AUSTRALIAN NETBALL LEAGUE

Fellows says Vics can turn it around

WHILE her team hasn't started with the fury she would like, Victoria's Australian Netball League coach, Cathy Fellows, is confident about turning things around.

Sixth on the ladder before the weekend's Round 5 matches, the Fury

had two wins and three losses from its opening five games.

"We want to make sure we win every game and put ourselves back in a position to play finals," Fellows said.

The Victorians were to play Canberra and Queensland Fusion at the weekend.

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JUNIOR FOOTBALL GRAND FINAL

Dragons fire to flag

Chris Cavanagh

IN just its third season, and playing in its first grand final, Brunswick Junior Football Club has tasted premiership glory.

The under-12 Black Dragons were breathing fire as they recorded an 83-0 whitewash of Bundoora at Binnak Park.

Several of the Yarra Junior Football League club's inaugural players from its under-10 side in 2010 were members of the winning team, and the club hopes it is a sign of things to come.

"We formed the club back in 2010 because of an initiative of North Old Boys St Patrick's College, the amateur club," coach Trevor Ludeman said.

"We only had one side in under-10s, and we've essentially taken that side through to



Some of the Brunswick Junior Football Club under-12s celebrate the club's first ever premiership last weekend.

under-12s this year. They've done very well and developed very well as footballers.

"They were a good side, Bundoora, but we just played

exceptionally well on the day."

Three-time Dragons best-and-fairest Daniel Mott, playing across half-back and through the middle, won the best-on-

ground medal, which was voted on by the umpires.

Francis Evans kicked four goals for Brunswick, while Daniel Pisano slotted three.

ATHLETICS - CROSS COUNTRY

13-year-old distance champion already eyeing an Olympic medal

Chris Cavanagh

AMELIA Mazza-Downie is in no doubt about her aspirations.

At just 13, the Coburg Harrier is determined to one day win Olympic gold.

Last weekend she took on Australia's best and beat them, winning the under-14 girls' title at the Australian Cross Country Championships in Adelaide.

On a muddy course at

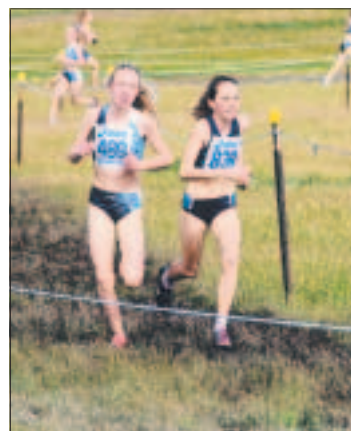
Oakbank, Mazza-Downie was first across the line in the 3km event in 11mins 32secs. "Every foot was just sinking in centimetres of mud," she said.

Mazza-Downie got off to a strong start before breaking away in the second half of the race to win by 12secs.

"It (the plan) was to try and tire everyone out during the race so that there wasn't any big finishes on the way home so I

couldn't get overtaken," she said. "So I went out hard and stayed in the lead the whole way."

Mazza-Downie joined four other Harriers at the championships, with Leigh Roux placing fifth in the under-16 girls, Luke Mathews 14th in the under-18 boys' race, Stella Radford 25th in the under-18 girls and Kayne Davies 25th in the under-14 boys.



Amelia Mazza-Downie (right) competes at Oakbank last week.

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