

Basketball boom sees Blue Stars fly to the top in thrilling Walgett final

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SHADES OF HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS



Basketball, once deemed merely “a game for girls” by our more rugged types, is the newest ball game at which the boys of Walgett excell.

“You beaut!”, “Come on there!”, “Wow, what a goal!”. These were some of the remarks recently overheard during the finals of the Walgett Basketball Club’s first competition.

The two finalists, the Blue Stars and the Big Julies, gave to the public of Walgett a display of basketball that is still being spoken of. Both teams were made up of aboriginal and white young men from the Walgett district—another positive case of assimilation and recognition.

The final resulted in a win for the Blue Stars who defeated the Big Julies by a narrow margin—34 points to 27.

Ken Simpson and Phillip Hall of the Blue Stars were outstanding in attack as well as in the shooting for goals. Many a long shot was attempted by these two young men and was usually successful. J. Gudgeon and J. Madden were also extremely sound in every phase of their play. Bob Beale was superb in defence stopping

The Blue Stars—Standing (from left): Ken Simpson, Jim Madden, Jim Gudgeon; (front) Doug Peters, Bob Beale, Phillip Hall



The Flashes—(Standing from left): Eddie Morgan, Geoff Thorne, Fred Walford; (front) Vincent Hall, Richard Simpson

many a shot for goal with Doug Peters being everywhere at the right time.

For the Big Julies, Oscar Beale was a pleasure to watch. Lawrence Crawford played his usual unruffled and steady game with the remainder of the team playing great defensive as well as attacking basketball.

Superb Game Played by the Walgett Flashes

One team deserving a special mention in the Walgett Basketball Club’s first competition is the Flashes. This team consisted of Geoff Thorne, Eddie Morgan, Fred Walford, Vincent Hall and Richard Simpson—all school boys.

These young lads entered the men’s competition and played against men’s teams throughout the duration of the competition. They were rewarded for their hard efforts and consistent training by being one of the four teams to contest the semi-finals.

Richard Simpson, Geoff Thorne (captain) and Eddie Morgan were the teams outstanding goal throwers while Fred Walford and Vincent Hall were very good in their court play.

All the lads are under 15 years of age and are to be congratulated on their fine effort.