



Ladies keen to back it up

More wins the aim for Warriors

By **SCOTT ANDERSON**

WANGARATTA'S Lady Warriors hit the court for their second match of the Country Basketball League season tomorrow night, and if last week's opener is anything to go by, expect a polished performance from the local girls.

The Lady Warriors take on Maryborough Blazers, and while the opposition is an unknown quantity, Wangaratta fans learnt a lot about the home side during last Saturday's 93-point thumping of Deniliquin.

Centre Larissa Laverty was an unstoppable force in offence, simply ploughing through the inappropriately named Giants defenders.

Laverty was also superb at the other end of the court, blocking up the paint and refusing to allow the Deniliquin girls a clear run at the basket.

Coach Jason Bannerman was thrilled with her efforts.

"We always focus on our big girls," Bannerman said.

"(Laverty) is an angry woman, what can I say?"

"She was just too strong for them under the basket and had a great game."

Young forward Olivia Lindsay was one of the surprise packets in the line up, dominating at both ends of the court.

Her quick hands saw her snare a number of intercepts from the Giants' in-bound passes, and she also showed some muscle in the key, pulling down rebounds at will.

Then there was the shooting – Lindsay made a couple of highlight reel shots while under immense pressure that drew smiles from her coach.

"Olivia showed me a lot more than I was expecting – I was very impressed with her," Bannerman said.

"She pulled a few shots out of her shorts, so we'll have to see if she can keep doing that.

"She's definitely one to watch."

Teenage co-captains Paige Zamperoni and Alana Sutton also slot into the category of players to watch.

Zamperoni's defence was outstanding, and her poise with the

ball in hand was one of the keys to Wangaratta amassing such a high score – she constantly found unguarded teammates for easy baskets.

Sutton brought the qualities that have made her a top line netballer onto the basketball court – in particular her ability to read the play and be one step ahead of her opponents.

Sutton was also an offensive weapon in the third term when Wangaratta went on a 40-0 run, scoring 12 points herself.

"Paige and Alana are our captains, and I think those two really showed us their leadership qualities," Bannerman said.

"Brodie (Clarke) is the point guard, so she's the leader out on the court, but it's good to take that pressure off her and allow those two to steer the ship as well."

The Lady Warriors take on Maryborough from 6pm tomorrow at the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre.





LEADERSHIP: Young co-captain Alana Sutton started the new CBL season with a strong match against Deniliquin. PHOTOS: Marc Bongers