



# PREMIER LEAGUE Hang TIME

BASKETBALL SA PREMIER LEAGUE • 2017 GRAND FINAL



**RECOVERITE**  
ice compressionware



**ALLSTAR**  
PHOTOS

# PREMIER LEAGUE *Hang* TIME



## Follow every dunk



[premierleaguesa.com.au](http://premierleaguesa.com.au)



[@basketballpremierleague](https://www.facebook.com/basketballpremierleague)



[@BasketballSA\\_](https://twitter.com/BasketballSA)

## #LEAGUEOFOUROWN

# THE FINALS THE BIG ONE

**Saturday 19 August**  
**Titanium Security Arena**

**Women's Grand Final**  
**North Adelaide Rockets**  
**VS Southern Tigers**

Tip-off: 6.15PM

**Men's Grand Final**  
**Southern Tigers VS**  
**West Adelaide Bearcats**

Tip-off: 8.15PM

PREMIER LEAGUE  
**Hang**  
**TIME**

**EDITOR**

David Penrose

**WRITERS**

Benito Carbone

David Penrose

**DESIGN**

David Penrose

**PHOTOS**

AllStar Photos



Welcome to the 2017 #LeagueOfOurOwn Premier League Grand Final!

Congratulations to North Adelaide Rockets, Southern Tigers and West Adelaide Bearcats in what has been a successful season and finals campaign. We wish you all the best of luck, and look forward to, what is sure to be, two sensational Grand Final matches.

The 2017 season saw the introduction of the two import rule, which in turn lifted the showmanship and quality of the competition. This led to one of our closest seasons to date with only six points separating the top five teams in both the men's and women's competition. The 2017 season also saw the introduction of the Women's Round, which saw Basketball SA link with a fantastic charity in the Zahra Foundation. Not only were we able to celebrate the strong women in our sport, but we were also able to support strong women in our community and contribute towards the fight against domestic violence. We were also proud to trial live streaming this season, via our Premier League – Basketball SA Facebook page, which saw us have a reach of over 30,000. With our social media presence slowly growing, if you're not following us on either Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, get onto it now to keep up to date with all things Basketball in SA, but also have the chance to get involved in some amazing campaigns with some amazing prizes on offer!

A special mention to our Grand Final Day sponsors, Recoverite.

A special thank you to you all for supporting the Premier League, not just today, but throughout the season. We look forward to seeing you all next year and we hope you enjoy the show today!

# PREVIEW **WOMEN'S GRAND FINAL**

## **ROCKETS BACK ON THE BIG STAGE ONCE MORE**

**F**or some Premier League clubs reaching the grand final would require some sort of divine intervention.

But for North Adelaide it is just another day on the job.

This weekend's grand final will mark the fifth time in six seasons the Rockets' women have featured in the biggest day on the Premier League calendar.

But despite opportunity, North has not tasted as much success as it would like.

The Rockets have just the 2014 championship to show for their effort, with their three other attempts ending in defeat to Norwood.

In that sense it might have been a blessing that the Southern Tigers

scraped past North's kryptonite in last week's unforgettable Preliminary Final.

North coach Brenton Johnston – who took over at the helm in 2015 – knows the decider is a chance to prove the doubters wrong.

"It'll mean so much for the girls to win it," Johnston said.

"They know how hard it is to get there, they know how hard it is to win them.

"People had written us off to even make finals.

"The girls had to really dig deep and go 'no, we can get this done'."

The off-season was not kind to the Rockets, with two of their stars departing Hillcrest.

Shannon McKay jetted off to

Norwood and Sarah Elsworth made the switch to Sturt, leaving many to believe the Rockets were a non-factor entering the season.

Fast-forward six months and North enter the Grand Final as favourites, having defeated the Tigers away from home just a fortnight ago.

Southern, however, are the minor premiers and will be fired up from an emotionally-charged victory over Norwood last weekend.

"Southern's transition game is awesome, that's why they finished top in the minor rounds," Johnston said.

"We do not want to go into a shootout with them."

The vocal North Adelaide coach was also wary of the fact Titanium Security Arena will be full of black and gold on Saturday night.

"Because Southern's men have also done a great job and made the final, Southern will have a great support base, so we'll have to nullify them," he said.

"We will have great support, (but) you would think they will have (more fans).

"We'll have to keep them quiet."

Irrespective of external factors, the Rockets have quality in their bigs, strong passers, smart scorers and a wealth of experience.

"At the end of the day, it's unfinished business we need to get for the club, for the girls and for everyone else," Johnston said.



**JO HILL'S EXPERIENCE WILL BE A KEY FOR NORTH ADELAIDE**

BY **BENITO CARBONE**

 [@\\_BenitoCarbone](https://twitter.com/_BenitoCarbone)

# NORTH ADELAIDE V SOUTHERN TIGERS

## TIGERS ATTEMPTING TO END TITLE DROUGHT

**H**ere at Basketball SA we hope no Southern Tigers fans made plans this Saturday Night, because they are absolutely in for a treat.

Both Southern's men's and women's sides will suit up at Titanium Security Arena, with the women looking to complete a remarkable return from the depths of South Australian basketball and end a 21-year premiership drought.

The Tigers spent the best part of two decades in the wilderness, before a complete overhaul slowly set the club back on a course to success.

In 2016, Southern's women fell one step from the final, coming up short against West Adelaide.

But this season has seen Tracy York and her charges make the step up, and the 2017 women's Premier League title is just four quarters away.

"We've got the team to the end game," York said.

"When I first came to (Southern) three years ago, they were not in a good position.

"It was a very big rebuild of culture and personnel, so it's really good to be rewarded and get (to the final), but we've got to finish the job off.

"This is our sixth final in 12 months ... I've told the girls there are no excuses."

Standing in their way is a North Adelaide side in its fifth grand final in six years.

The Rockets toppled the minor



MOLLIE MCKENDRICK SCORED 34 PTS IN SOUTHERN'S PRELIMINARY FINAL WIN

premiers a fortnight ago on the back of a trademark Jo Hill performance.

"They play tough and have a lot of experience," York said.

"They have a really good team game.

"There were a lot of areas in that game we felt needed huge improvement, so we've focused on those and made it a point that we're holding each other accountable to."

York hinted Hill might receive some extra attention this time.

"She brings that level of experience and athleticism," she said.

"Whether she's scoring or not she's affecting the game, so we have to watch her."

While North rested up last weekend, Southern played out one of the great matches in Premier League history, defeating Norwood in a double-overtime heart-stopper.

Mollie McKendrick and Alex Green were incredible on the night, but what perhaps stood out most was how the entire team stuck together fearlessly with their season on the line.

"I felt like we kept our poise and made some plays," York said.

"We have to use that, move forward and roll with the punches.

"It's far from over."

BY BENITO CARBONE

@BenitoCarbone

## ROAD TO GF ROCKETS

1	WOODVILLE	L	67-68
2	NORWOOD	W	73-51
3	STURT	W	60-50
4	EASTERN	W	83-50
5	CENTRALS	W	103-57
6	FORESTVILLE	W	68-61
7	SOUTH	W	73-45
8	SOUTHERN	L	56-67
9	WEST	W	74-48
10	WOODVILLE	W	99-84
11	NORWOOD	L	66-80
12	STURT	W	59-58
13	EASTERN	L	73-79
14	CENTRALS	W	71-41
15	FORESTVILLE	W	75-72
16	SOUTH	W	85-67
17	SOUTHERN	L	59-72
18	WEST	L	61-67
QF	EASTERN	W	76-67
SF	SOUTHERN	W	67-61

## TIGERS

1	STURT	L	59-61
2	SOUTH	W	96-35
3	CENTRALS	W	114-36
4	WOODVILLE	W	83-67
5	WEST	W	82-81
6	NORWOOD	W	74-72
7	FORESTVILLE	W	78-76
8	NORTH	W	67-56
9	EASTERN	L	73-81
10	STURT	L	58-73
11	SOUTH	W	105-32
12	CENTRALS	W	116-48
13	WOODVILLE	W	89-47
14	WEST	W	69-59
15	NORWOOD	W	94-62
16	FORESTVILLE	W	90-61
17	NORTH	W	72-59
18	EASTERN	W	89-68
SF	NORTH	L	61-67
PF	NORWOOD	W	105-103

# PREVIEW WOMEN'S GF TEAM LISTS

## NORTH ADELAIDE ROCKETS

WOMEN

COACH BRENTON JOHNSTON

#	PLAYER	POS	AGE	HT	G	PPG	RPG	APG
4	Norrisha VICTRUM	G	23	163	19	10.1	6.4	4.2
5	Opal MADER	F/C	19	179	20	13.7	4.3	2.2
7	Jo HILL	F/C	44	182	18	14.6	8.3	4.2
8	Abigayle MADER	G/F	18	176	20	1.2	0.7	0.4
9	Tayla CORRIGAN	F/C	24	191	20	13.2	6.3	0.8
10	Tia BAILS	G	17	165	13	0.4	0.2	0.1
11	Kirsty WILLIAMS	G/F	27	175	19	5.7	5.1	1.7
12	Sophie BYRNE	G	24	174	20	5.6	1.4	1.1
14	Courtney HANSEN	G/F	20	177	17	6.2	3.0	0.4
15	Lauren THORNETT	G	25	167	15	3.6	4.5	3.3
20	Taylor GOGGINS	F/C	23	183	20	0.9	2.6	0.4
22	Ana BOTEI	G/F	20	175	13	0.0	0.0	0.2

## SOUTHERN TIGERS

WOMEN

COACH TRACY YORK

#	PLAYER	POS	AGE	HT	G	PPG	RPG	APG
00	Alexandra GREEN	G	25	175	20	14.1	4.9	4.4
3	Hannah FISHER	F	26	174	20	2.5	1.0	0.4
4	Jess FROST	G	31	170	17	4.7	3.2	0.8
7	Denelle FAWCETT	G	22	174	15	7.2	3.3	1.1
8	Bianca THACKER	G	19		10	4.0	4.6	1.8
9	Jemma THACKER				14	6.5	5.0	1.0
11	Brittany WINTER	F	25	176	17	1.4	1.0	0.2
12	Raynisha WASHINGTON	C	25	176	19	10.0	5.2	1.1
14	Tara DODMAN	F	29	185	20	8.9	5.4	1.6
21	Mollie MCKENDRICK	F/C	24	180	20	16.3	7.3	3.4
24	Demi SKINNER	G/F	20	186	19	10.3	3.2	2.0
40	Teresa KINROSS	F	29	180	20	4.0	2.9	0.6

# PREVIEW MEN'S GF TEAM LISTS

## SOUTHERN TIGERS

MEN

COACH DEAN NYBERG

#	PLAYER	POS	AGE	HT	G	PPG	RPG	APG
3	Anthony DRMIC	G/F	25	196	19	25.5	9.1	3.6
5	Hamish STAUDE	G	26	183	12	4.3	3.0	6.4
6	Timothy SMYTH	G/F	26	190	19	1.0	1.7	1.0
8	Harrison MILLS				15	1.8	1.4	0.2
9	Matthew WILLIAMS	C	27	195	13	1.0	1.4	0.4
10	Luke SCHENSCHER	C	34	216	12	8.7	6.0	1.3
11	Bradley FICKEN	G	20	189	13	5.6	3.4	2.7
15	Michael NWELUE	F	23	196	20	17.4	12.3	3.1
22	Robert LINTON	G	27	193	20	13.2	3.5	2.3
23	Jordan DODMAN	F/C	29	203	18	9.7	5.0	1.2
30	Andrew BARTON	G/F	22	195	18	3.8	0.4	0.5
32	Reece TURNER	G	26	182	11	0.8	0.6	1.0

## WEST ADELAIDE BEARCATS

MEN

COACH COREY MACLEAN

#	PLAYER	POS	AGE	HT	G	PPG	RPG	APG
2	Dee OLDHAM	G	23	192	21	26.2	8.1	3.2
3	Tom KUBANK	F	21	199	14	7.4	3.3	1.5
4	Patrick THOMAS	G	22	190	14	12.4	7.2	5.9
6	Lucas VALK	G	21	181	21	1.6	0.6	1.0
8	Lachlan HAUFÉ	G/F	18	189	20	2.6	1.3	0.7
9	Paul RANKIN	F	33	192	20	1.3	1.1	0.2
11	Tristan BRAITHWAITE	G	31	183	19	10.8	0.7	1.3
14	Blake TRUSLOVE	C	38	204	21	6.8	7.1	1.1
20	Todd WINTER	G/F	21	194	18	1.1	0.3	0.2
21	Harold RIDGEWAY	F/C	25	203	21	13.3	7.8	0.5
30	Jordan WEST	C	23	203	15	13.0	5.7	1.5
31	Anthony SPADAVECCHIA	G	30	181	17	1.7	1.4	3.3

## ROAD TO GF TIGERS

1	STURT	L	64-84
2	SOUTH	W	96-76
3	CENTRALS	W	114-87
4	WOODVILLE	W	100-81
5	WEST	W	95-82
6	NORWOOD	W	92-85
7	FORESTVILLE	L	81-86
8	NORTH	L	101-107
9	EASTERN	W	100-68
10	STURT	L	75-76
11	SOUTH	W	98-81
12	CENTRALS	W	101-71
13	WOODVILLE	L	81-90
14	WEST	W	90-84
15	NORWOOD	W	90-64
16	FORESTVILLE	W	112-84
17	NORTH	W	101-85
18	EASTERN	W	99-60
QF	NORWOOD	W	81-76
SF	NORTH	W	78-66

## BEARCATS

1	EASTERN	W	85-73
2	WOODVILLE	L	75-87
3	NORWOOD	L	88-95
4	STURT	W	86-83
5	SOUTHERN	L	82-95
6	SOUTH	W	97-85
7	CENTRALS	L	84-91
8	FORESTVILLE	W	95-91
9	NORTH	W	105-99
10	EASTERN	W	86-64
11	WOODVILLE	W	82-62
12	NORWOOD	L	76-79
13	STURT	W	84-62
14	SOUTHERN	L	84-90
15	SOUTH	W	97-68
16	CENTRALS	W	88-75
17	FORESTVILLE	W	92-85
18	NORTH	L	73-92
EF	STURT	W	77-68
SF	NORWOOD	W	95-79
PF	NORTH	W	93-85

## PREVIEW **MEN'S GRAND FINAL**

# **SOUTHERN'S SIGHTS ON BACK-TO-BACK TITLES**

**I**t has been business as usual for the Southern Tigers ahead of a second-straight trip to the men's Premier League grand final.

The Tigers have taken a similar approach to any other game as they prepare to take on West Adelaide in their bid for back-to-back crowns.

Coach Dean Nyberg said preparation was going well.

"It's been very similar to last year," Nyberg said.

"We flirted with the idea of playing a game on Saturday to keep routine but decided against it.

"We trained a little harder last Thursday to make up for it and apart from that it's pretty similar to a normal week.

"For most of the guys it's business as usual ... this is where we hoped to be all year."

Nyberg said the experience of last season's grand final win over Sturt was huge for Southern.

"Last year it was very new to us and we hadn't experienced it before, but this year our expectation was to be here so it's business as usual," he said.

The Tigers booked their grand final spot – and last weekend off – with a semi-final win over minor premiers North Adelaide.

Nyberg was pleased with the performance at Hillcrest.

"I was really happy with both of our finals games and being able to pull out close ones in the clutch,

"It's been encouraging for us to be able to close games out.



**SOUTHERN'S ANTHONY DRMIC AVERAGED 32.5 PPG AGAINST WEST ADELAIDE THIS SEASON**

"Hopefully that puts us in good stead because you don't really expect a blowout on grand final day."

Southern took both regular season encounters against the Bearcats, including the most recent match-up by six points at Port Adelaide.

"They're well coached, they're deep, they know who they are and they're not a lot of bells and whistles they just get down and play," Nyberg said.

"We're probably the deepest two teams in the league and that's shone through in finals.

"A lot of them have been here before and they won't get spooked by the bright lights, they'll be ready to play."

Nyberg said his team could

not underestimate the red-hot Bearcats.

"They've had a confidence build-up," he said.

"There was a deadlock after round 13 with a bunch of teams 8-5 and since that time Westies and us have probably been the form teams.

"They would have a lot of confidence after three tough finals wins, every game for them has been a grand final for the past three weeks."

Nyberg expected All-Star Five selection Anthony Drmic to have a big impact in the grand final.

BY **DAVID PENROSE**  
🐦 @David\_Penrose

## SOUTHERN TIGERS V WEST ADELAIDE

# WEST'S ROLLERCOASTER RIDE NOT FINISHED YET

**W**est Adelaide enters the men's Premier League grand final with a simple equation – one more.

The Bearcats have navigated their way through three sudden-death finals – including two on the road – to have a shot at ending a 21-year men's premiership drought.

After only securing its playoff spot in the penultimate round, West has taken down Sturt, Norwood and minor premiers North Adelaide to have a chance at ultimate glory against the Southern Tigers.

Coach Corey Maclean says his side is battle-hardened after surviving three elimination games and recovering from a nine-point deficit early in the final period against the Rockets.

"We did what we've done for six or seven weeks where we got ourselves in holes and dug ourselves out of them," Maclean said.

"It was really pleasing to do that in a preliminary final.

"It's a credit to the guys how mentally strong we've been.

"We had that one blip against North in round 18 but apart from that we've toughed a lot of games out."

West has not won a premiership since edging then Noarlunga City Tigers by a point in 1996.

Maclean admits it is hard not to notice the recent lack of success for the Port Adelaide based club, but says his focus is on the future rather than the past.

"It's hard no to know about it because every time you walk into Port Adelaide there is the big banners hanging over the stadium," he said.

"It's hard to ignore but the message we're giving is it's not a burden and we're a very different group."

Saturday marks the Bearcats' fifth trip to the big dance since their thrilling win over the Tigers, with several current players having been part of failed bids in the past decade.

"We've had some really good leadership over the past month and it hasn't been focused on the past but on what to expect," Maclean said.

"We're looking at it as an opportunity.

"We're just been focused on the next thing in front of us for a fairly long time.

"Now we've got 40 minutes of good team basketball in front of us."

Maclean said several of West's younger players had experience on big stages, including league MVP Dee Oldham playing in NCAA tournaments.

Oldham was a crucial factor in the Bearcats' preliminary final win against North.

He scored 25 points and knocked down 40 when West faced the Tigers earlier in the season.



DEE OLDHAM HAD 25 PTS FOR WEST IN THE PRELIMINARY FINAL

BY DAVID PENROSE  
@David\_Penrose

SOUTH ADELAIDE'S EIAN DAVIS TOOK HOME  
THE 2017 WOOLLACOTT MEDAL



## RECAP HALLS WOOLLACOTT AWARDS

# DAVIS AND WILSON TAKE OUT TOP AWARDS

**T**he fantastic achievements of players, coaches and officials during the 2017 Premier League season were celebrated last Sunday at the annual Halls Woollacott Awards.

### Key award winners:

Halls Medallist: Alex Wilson (Eastern Mavericks)  
Woollacott Medallist: Eian Davis (South Adelaide)

Merv Harris Medal: Sarah Elsworthy (Sturt Sabres)  
Frank Angove Medal: Jacob Rigoni (Sturt Sabres)

Women's MVP: Alex Wilson (Eastern Mavericks)  
Men's MVP: Darrius Oldham (West Adelaide Bearcats)

Women's Coach of the Year: Nathan Jones (Eastern Mavericks)

Men's Coach of the Year: Paul Rigoni (Sturt Sabres)

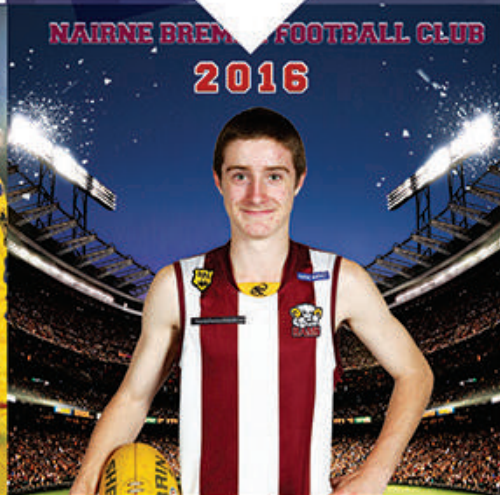
Phil Yuill Referee Award (Women's): Adam Gillings

Phil Yuill Referee Award (Men's): Nathan Durant

Women's Best Defensive Player: Jessica Good (Norwood Flames)

Men's Best Defensive Player: (Alex Starling (North Adelaide)

Full a full recap of the awards and link to photos by AllStar Photos visit [premierleaguesa.com.au](http://premierleaguesa.com.au)



## HIGH QUALITY PHOTOS FOR YOUR ATHLETE AND TEAM

ATHLETE BRANDING • TEAM • CLUB • EVENTS • PORTRAITS • FUNDRAISING

ALLSTAR PHOTOS the leader in all your sports photography needs in South Australia.  
Let us help you with your branding, team and player photographs and club fundraising



info@allstarphotos.com.au



0413 080 946



@allstarphotos\_au



/AllStarPhotosAu



www.allstarphotos.com.au

