

The newly formed Corowa/Rutherglen division one women's team will use their game against SS&A Magpies to assess their chances of making the finals after their confidence boosting win last week against Falcons. SS&A who were narrowly beaten 2-3 by last year's premiers Wodonga have recruited the talented Kate Johnson. SS&A coach Jason Pontt is still feeling his way with Johnson but is certain it won't take her long to fit in "I just need to get comfortable with her abilities so I can put Kate into the right position to get the balance right. She will be a handy asset alongside the Knight sisters, Maddie and Sarah. I watched Rutherglen last round and was impressed by their team play as they moved the ball around well and they talking really well. We're missing Linda Snell but Susie Phillips and Shelby Thorneycroft are back and will give us a lot of grunt up front". Pontt also coaches his club's men's team and is quietly confident that his charges will account for Wodonga in their match "we had a pleasing win last week against Norths but will lose four players from that side but on a positive note Jarrod Shepherd is making a return and while he will not be match fit he will prove a handful". Wodonga coach Dennis Martin has a young team and will be using the game to fine tune his lineup "we are in a rebuilding phase after last year and have half a team of under 16s so our goal will be to limit SS&A to three goals for the match. I was very proud of the way the new players kept battling on despite being outgunned. Magpies have speed, strength and experience which will make it a tough ask but I am confident that we can make them earn their win".

In other games Falcons men will be too organized for NASC and Rutherglen will have the edge over Norths. Beechworth women will win their first game at the expense of Falcons and Norths and Wodonga are evenly matched so a draw is likely

The draw for this Sunday:

Men

NASC v Falcons 9.30am at the Ray White Hockey Centre Wodonga
SS&A v Wodonga 3.30pm at the Albury Hockey Centre
Rutherglen v Norths 5.00pm at the Ray White Hockey Centre Wodonga

Women

Beechworth v Falcons 9.30am at the Albury Hockey Centre
SS&A v Rutherglen/Corowa 11.00am at the Ray White Hockey Centre Wodonga
Norths v Wodonga 2.00pm at the Ray White Hockey Centre Wodonga