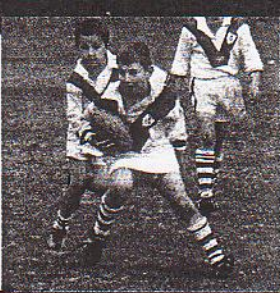


# Sport

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## Junior league players do well



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# Hawks fly high in win

MARTIN WALKER

Wollongong Hawks found the missing link in their playing roster on Wednesday night when they played Korean team Hyundai Mobis Automans at Moss Vale Basketball Stadium.

The Hawks beat the Koreans 115-94 in front of a vocal Highlands, with the biggest feature of the match the impressive debut of new Hawks import John Mueller.

The six foot ten inch centre exerted his presence in the paint and shot sweetly from the outside, picking up 26 points in his first game on Australian soil.

Wollongong Hawks coach Brendan Joyce was impressed with the performance of Mueller and he believes the big man will become an important man in the Hawks' rotation.

"It's really pleasing because you don't know what you get until you actually play a game (with him), he scored inside and out and played some pretty good defence in the post, so it was really positive for us," Joyce said.

"He brings a different look to the table. Axel Dench is more of a perimeter big man and we needed somebody who could play close to the basket and he showed that he could do that."

Dench started the match on Wednesday but didn't last long after feeling a pinch in his knee, but Joyce is confident the big man will be right for the this weekend's trial match with the Kings, as will regular starters Darnell Mee and Glenn Saville, who both missed Wednesday's match.

Besides Dench all of the Hawks' roster

got on the scoreboard with guard Matt Campbell picking up 23 points, including five three-pointers.

Young forward John Philip collected 17 points before his head was spilt open after a nasty fall, while Ben Knight contributed 16 points.

The Hawks were never really in danger of losing Wednesday's game, shooting out to a ten point lead early and at the end of the first quarter they led by 31-18.

At the main break the lead had stretched out to 21 before the visitors came back in the third quarter and at the final change were eight points down, 83-75, after Gi Won Woo drilled a long range three point bomb right on the buzzer.

But in the final quarter, Wollongong stepped up in intensity, especially in defence, to seal the match, a fact that pleased Joyce.

"It was a pretty solid performance and what was good was they really tested us late in the game," he said.

At three quarter time they got back within eight and I thought we lost our composure late in the third quarter.

"But we came out and played some really good defence and at one period we got 11 stops in a row and that just really separated us from them late in the game."

Mobis Automans' American imports played strongly and were the side's main weapons in defence, with Reggie Bassett top scoring with 37 points, while Gi Won shot five three-pointers for 21 points.

Mobis Automans coach Hee-ann Choi said the match was good for the teams as it gave the players a chance to get used to playing with its two new imports.



PEP TALK: Wollongong Hawks coach Brendan Joyce lays down the law to his team at three-quarter time of the trial game against Korean team Mobis Automans at Moss Vale on Wednesday night.