

STANDINGS

Team	Р	W	L	Win %	GB	Pts
ecogise Nelson Giants	10	8	2	80.0	0	16
Century City Saints	9	7	2	77.8	0.5	14
Waikato Pistons	7	6	1	85.7	1.5	12
Bartercard Christchurch Cougars	9	6	3	66.7	1.5	12
Easy LPG Bay Hawks	8	4	4	50.0	3	8
Appliance Shed Harbour Heat	8	4	4	50.0	3	8
Youthtown Auckland Stars	8	2	6	25.0	5	4
McDonalds Manawatu Jets	10	2	8	20.0	6	4
Devon Dynamos Taranaki	9	0	9	0.0	7.5	0



Win % - Win Percentage, GB - Games Back

LAST WEEK

2009 NBL - Round Eight

Century City Saints 104 (Arthur Trousdell 33, Mike Efevberha 23, Troy McLean 15)

Devon Dynamos Taranaki 78 (Phillip Gilbert 22, Eric Vierneisel 21, James Paringatai 15)

Waikato Pistons 85 (Adam Ballinger 20, Justin Bailey 20, Thomas Abercrombie 19) Youthtown Auckland Stars 68 (Blagoj Janev 22, Dillon Boucher 11, Hayden Allen 10)

McDonalds Manawatu Jets 107 (Marcel Jones 38, Aidan Daly 26, Jamil Terrell 22) 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks 93 (Chris Daniel 25, John Thomas 21, Chuck Bailey 12)

ecogise Nelson Giants 80 (Phil Jones 32, Tony Rampton 16, Jarryd Loyd 14)

Bartercard Christchurch Cougars 69 (Gerard Bowden 17, Trenton Wurtz 12, Paul Henare 12)

THIS WEEK

2009 NBL Round Nine

Thursday, May 7

Century City Saints (7-2) v Devon Dynamos Taranaki (0-9)

At TSB Bank Arena, Wellington

Leading Scorers: Saints: Mike Efevberha (31.3 ppg) Dynamos: Eric Vierneisel (23.4 ppg)

Head to Head: Saints 3 Dynamos 2

Referees - Alan Godden, Yalla Edwards, Donna Brown

Friday, May 8

Youthtown Auckland Stars (2-6) v Bartercard Christchurch Cougars (6-3)

At ASB Stadium, 7.30pm

Leading Scorers: Stars: Hayden Allen (22 ppg), Cougars: Paora Winitana (22 ppg)

Referees - Dallas Pickering, Tim Brown, Grant Flanagan

0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks (4-4) v Waikato Pistons (6-1)

At Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale

Leading Scorers: Hawks: John Thomas 18.9 (ppg), Pistons: Adam Ballinger (20.9)

Head to Head: Hawks 2 Pistons 2

Referees - Andy Thackray, Shane Nikora, Wayne Start

ecogise Nelson Giants (8-2) v Devon Dynamos Taranaki (0-9)

At Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

Leading Scorers: Giants: Phil Jones (24 ppg) Dynamos: Eric Vierneisel (23.4 ppg)

Head to Head: Giants 4 Dynamos 1

Referees - Gavin Whiu, James Campion, Scott Harris

Saturday, May 9

Appliance Shed Harbour Heat (4-4) v Bartercard Christchurch Cougars (6-3)

At North Shore Event Centre, North Shore

Leading Scorers: Heat: Corey Webster (30.9 ppg) Cougars: Paora Winitana (21 ppg)

Last Meeting: Cougars 91 Heat 86 (Round Five) Referees – Tim Brown, Kieran Udy, Bo Wills-Choat

Sunday, May 10

McDonalds Manawatu Jets (2-8) v Waikato Pistons (6-1)

At Arena Manawatu, Palmerston North

Last Meeting: Pistons 92 Jets 83 (Round Three)

Head to Head: Pistons 5 Jets 0

Referees - Melony Wealleans, Sean Cronin, Donna Brown

Note: Head to Head* = (07,08,09 Seasons)

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Round Eight
Marcel Jones (McDonalds Manawatu Jets)

38 Points, 11 Rebounds, 2 Blocks in a 107-93 win over the 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks.

Jets import Marcel Jones was unstoppable in arguably the upset of the season as the Jets took down the Hawks last Friday.

Jones has been one of the best players this season, currently ranked third in the league in scoring (27.6 ppg) and is fourth in rebounding (10.5 rpg).

Another notable performance in Round Eight was Jones's new teammate Jamil Terrell who has made an instant impact since joining the Jets. Terrell had 22 points (8/10 FG, 6/6 FT) and 10 rebounds in the same game.

ecogise Nelson Giants Phil Jones continued his form scoring 32 points and grabbing 5 steals in a 80-69 win over the Bartercard Christchurch Cougars Jones scored 15 in the final period to give the Giants win number eight of the season, also keeping them at the top of the table.

PLAYER POWER RANKINGS

- 1. Mike Efevberha (Century City Wellington Saints)
- 2. Aaron Bailey-Nowell (Devon Dynamos Taranaki)
- 3. Marcel Jones (McDonalds Manawatu Jets)
- 4. Corey Webster*(Appliance Shed Harbour Heat)
- 5. Jamil Terrell (McDonalds Manawatu Jets)
- Dillon Boucher* (Youthtown Auckland Stars)
- 7. Justin Bailey (Waikato Pistons)
- 8. Mychal Green (Appliance Shed Harbour Heat)
- 9. Blagoj Janev (Youthtown Auckland Stars)
- 10. Tim Behrendorff (Christchurch Cougars)

The Next 10 . . .

Casey Frank* (Stars), Paora Winitana* (Cougars), Adam Ballinger* (Pistons),

Phil Jones* (Giants), Jarryd Loyd (Giants), Tony Rampton* (Giants), Eric Vierneisel (Dynamos), Damon Thornton (Saints), Arthur Trousdell* (Saints), Paul Henare* (Cougars)

Visit www.basketball.org.nz for Top-50 Player Power Rankings

STAT LEADERS Points Mike Efevberha (Saints) 31.3 30.9 Corey Webster (Heat) Marcel Jones (Jets) 27.6 Rebounds Jamil Terrell (Jets) 12.0 Dillon Boucher (Stars) 11.8 Aaron Bailey-Nowell 10.8 **Assists** Paul Henare (Cougars) 6.7 Jarryd Loyd 6.1 Luke Martin (Saints) 5.8 Steals Justin Bailey (Pistons) 3.4 Mychal Green (Heat) 2.9 Dillon Boucher (Saints) 2.5 **Blocks** Thomas Abercrombie (Pistons) 1.6 Tim Behrendorff (Cougars) 1.6 Damon Thornton (Saints) 1.6 FG % (Min 5 FGA/PG) Tim Behrendorff (Cougars) 65.3 Aaron Bailey-Nowell (Dynamos) 64.0 Arthur Trousdell (Saints) 58.0 3pt % (Min 3 3PA/PG) Phil Jones (Giants) 55.4 Luke Martin (Saints) 54.8 Mychal Green (Heat) 52.7 FT % (Min 3 FTA/PG) Justin Bailey (Pistons) 88.8 Mike Efevberha (Saints) 88.4 Phil Jones (Giants) 87.8

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NZCT NBL Preview: Round Nine

NZCT National Basketball League Round Nine commences on Thursday when the Devon Dynamos Taranaki travel to Wellington to play the Century City Saints. The Dynamos are still yet to post a win and this weekend will not be any easier for them playing the Saints then the top placed ecogise Nelson Giants on Friday. Hopefully the Dynamos will have Aaron Bailey-Nowell returning back in the line up. Nowell was outstanding before suffering an arm injury back in Round Five averaging 19.4 points and 10.8 rebounds per game. The Saints and Dynamos played against each other last Wednesday, Saints easily winning 104-78. Saints forward Arthur Trousdell scored a career high 33 points in the victory, so the Dynamos will desperately need Bailey-Nowell to match up against him.

The Giants have been on a role of late winning four in a row and will be looking to add another when they host the Dynamos at Trafalgar Centre on Friday night. In last weeks game the Giants were given a little fright from the Bartercard Christchurch Cougars in the 3rd quarter, Cougars winning the quarter 26-7 to give them a five point lead heading into the final period. But Phil Jones scored 15 points in the final period securing an 80-69 victory. Jones will match up against Dynamos import Eric Vierneisel who currently leading his team in scoring averaging 23.4 points per game. In their last meeting the Dynamos gave the Giants a scare in New Plymouth taking them to overtime just losing 97-95.

Arguably the game of the round will be when the 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks play the Waikato Pistons at Pettigrew Green Arena on Friday. The Hawks have lost two in a row which included a shock 107-93 loss to the McDonalds Manawatu Jets last Friday. The Hawks may have the presence of newly acquired Ben Hill who played against his former team the Pistons in a Jets uniform earlier in the season. Hill should give more scoring off the Hawks bench where they currently lead the league in bench scoring averaging 22 points a game. The same can't be said of the Pistons who score nearly 8 points less off the bench averaging 13.6 points per contest. Hopefully that will improve with the likes Pero Cameron and newly acquired 7 foot tall Alex Pledger.

The Pistons will have a days rest before they travel down to Palmerston North where they will play the McDonalds Manawatu Jets who will be looking to pull another upset. Offence has not been a problem for the Jets where they are currently third in the league in scoring (89 points per game), but it is how much they let their opponents score (97 points per game). The match up of the round will be between recently crowned player of the week Marcel Jones and Pistons rookie high flyer Thomas Abercrombie. Jones is averaging a double/double of 27.6 points and 10.5 rebounds, while Abercrombie leads the league in blocks at 1.6 per game and 9th in rebounding (7.9 rpg).

After winning six in a row the Bartercard Christchurch Cougars have struggled of late losing two in a row. They will look to get the double up in Auckland when they play the Youthtown Auckland Stars on Friday and then the Appliance Shed Harbour Heat on Saturday. Cougars missed the offence of Paora Winitana last round against the Giants only managing to score 69 points in the loss. The Stars have had the same problem in their last two games where they have averaged a measly 62.5 points and are currently last in the league in scoring (80.5 ppg).

The Appliance Shed Harbour Heat will also be desperate for win when they host the Cougars at the Furnace on Saturday. After a hot start the Heat have cooled off losing three in a row and will be looking forward of the return of Kiwi B J Anthony who will be returning from a successful stint in Germany. The Cougars will need to contain the highest scoring back court duo of the league Corey Webster and Mychal Green who combine to average over 50 points a contest.