



2010 Bartercard

NBL

Round 15 (June 10-13)

Christchurch Cougars v OceanaGold Nuggets
Exodus Saints v McDonalds Manawatu Jets
0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks v Taranaki Mountain Airs
Fico Finance Nelson Giants v Harbour Heat
Waikato Pistons v Zerofees Southland Sharks
OceanaGold Nuggets v 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks
Taranaki Mountain Airs v Zerofees Southland Sharks

(Photo By Dean Pemberton)

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STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	Win %	GB	Pts
x-Exodus Saints	16	12	4	75.0	0	24
x-Waikato Pistons	16	12	4	75.0	0	24
x-Fico Finance Nelson Giants	16	11	5	68.8	1	22
0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks	15	9	6	60.0	2.5	18
Harbour Heat	16	9	7	56.3	3	18
Christchurch Cougars	17	8	9	47.1	4.5	16
ZeroFees Southland Sharks	14	7	7	50.0	4	14
Taranaki Mountainairs	15	6	9	40.0	5.5	12
e-McDonalds Manawatu Jets	15	4	11	26.7	7.5	8
e-OceanaGold Nuggets	16	0	16	0.0	12	0

Win % - Win Percentage, GB – Games Back

&- clinched regular season

z- home semifinal

y- home quarterfinal

x- clinched playoff berth

e- eliminated

LAST WEEK

Bartercard NBL - Round 14

Thursday, June 3

North Shore Events Centre, North Shore

Harbour Heat 76 (Rick Rickert 18, Corey Webster 16, Kavossy Franklin 11)

Christchurch Cougars 87 (Paora Winitana 16, Trent Wurtz 16, Tim Beherendorff 12, Jeremy Kench 10)

At Arena Manawatu, Palmerston North

McDonalds Manawatu Jets 99 (Richard Jeter 25, Chris Reay 17, Calum MacLeod 12)

OceanaGold Nuggets 70 (Tyler Amaya 24, Sam To'omata 16, John Barber 12)

Friday, June 4

At TSB Arena, Wellington

Exodus Saints 103 (Erron Maxey 19, Lindsay Tait 7, Leon Henry 15)

OceanaGold Nuggets 99 (Tyler Amaya 38, Sam To'omata 20, John Barber 19)

Saturday, June 5

At Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

Fico Finance Nelson Giants 102 (Darryl Hudson 23, Calum MacLeod 23, Matt Te Huna 17)

McDonalds Manawatu Jets 103 (Mike Fitchett 21, Mika Vukona 20, Tony Rampton 16)

Monday, June 7

At Arena Manawatu, Palmerston North

McDonalds Manawatu Jets 102 (Darryl Hudson 33, Chris Reay 18, Matt Te Huna 16)

Taranaki Mountain Airs 96 (Jack Leasure 36, Aaron Bailey-Nowell 30, Jeremiah Trueman 13)

NBL Trivia of the Week

How many players playing in the 2010 NBL have won Rookie of the Year. (Note: Has to have played a game this season)

(Answer at the end of Media Guide)

THIS WEEK

2010 NBL Round 15

Thursday, June 10



Christchurch Cougars (8-9) v OceanaGold Nuggets (0-16), 7pm

At Cowles Stadium, Christchurch

Referees – Raewyn Willocks, Gavin Zimmerman, Raelene Forde

Head to Head Wins*: Cougars 1 Nuggets 0

Last Meeting: Cougars 104-71 (Round Two: 14/03/2010)

Projected Starting Five

	Cougars	Nuggets
Point Guard	Jeremy Kench	Sam To'omata
Shooting Guard	Paora Winitana	Riki Buckrell
Small Forward	Mark Morrison	Tyler Amaya
Power Forward	Trent Wurtz	John Barber
Center	Tim Behrendorff	Tyler Amaya

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Cougars	Nuggets
Paora Winitana (19.5)	Tyler Amaya (22.3)
Jeremy Kench (15.6)	John Barber (14.3)
Tim Behrendorff (15.6)	Sam To'omata (11.5)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Cougars	Nuggets
Rebounds	Tim Behrendorff (6.5)	John Barber (7.1)
Assists	Jeremy Kench (4.4)	Tyler Amaya (3.6)
Steals	Jeremy Kench (2.2)	John Barber (1.5)
Blocks	Tim Behrendorff (1.0)	John Barber (0.8)

Notes

Christchurch Cougars have been on a tear of late winning five of their last six games in a last ditch effort for a top six spot. Now they can finish the season with an even winning percentage when they play their final regular season game at home against the winless OceanaGold Nuggets. Cougars welcomed back Paora Winitana who missed six games through an ankle injury. Winitana came off the bench for the Cougars top scoring with 16 points in the 87-76 road win over the Harbour Heat. The two teams met back in Round One when the Cougars thrashed the Nuggets in Dunedin 104-71, Winitana top scoring with 26. For the Nuggets Round 15 is the end of the line for them, playing against the Hawks on Saturday which could also mean they join the 1998 Northland Suns and the 2009 Taranaki Dynamos who are the only teams in the NBL History to go through a whole season without a win. Nuggets have a current losing streak of 25 games, but in their last loss they proved that even the top teams can struggle if they take them lightly. Nuggets have been averaging just above 70 points a game this season, but in the close loss to the Saints they scored a season high 99 points on the road. With nothing to lose the Nuggets can be a spoiler to the Cougars which will damage their chances of a playoff spot greatly. Cougars will want to lock down Tyler Amaya who averaged 31 points in his last two games.

Friday, June 11

Exodus Saints (12-4) v McDonalds Manawatu Jets (4-11), 7pm

At Te Rauparaha Arena, Porirua

Referees – Andy Thackray, Yalla Edwards, Kieran Udy

Head to Head Wins*: Saints 6 Jets 1

Last Meeting: Saints 115-81 (Round One: 06/03/2010)

Projected Starting Five

	Saints	Jets
Point Guard	Lindsay Tait	Darryl Hudson
Shooting Guard	Troy McLean	Logan Funnell
Small Forward	Leon Henry	Kaine Hokianga
Power Forward	Casey Frank	Matt Te Huna
Center	Nick Horvath	Chris Reay

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Saints	Jets
Eric Devendorf (25.6)	Darryl Hudson (22.3)
Lindsay Tait (16.5)	Richard Jeter (18.7)
Erron Maxey (13.5)	Chris Reay (11.5)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Saints	Jets
Rebounds	Casey Frank (8.0)	Chris Reay (6.9)
Assists	Lindsay Tait (7.5)	Darryl Hudson (3.3)
Steals	Eric Devendorf (2.2)	Matt Te Huna (2.3)
Blocks	Nick Horvath (0.9)	Two Tied (0.5)

Notes

Two teams with the longest winning streaks in the league will go head to head for the first time since the opening round. Exodus Saints and McDonalds Manawatu Jets have won three in a row and are much different teams from the first time they met. For starters Darryl Hudson began the season with the Saints where he averaged twenty points in seven games before being released for Eric Devendorf. Hudson will be looking to prove that the Saints made a mistake as he plays his former team for the first time. In the win against the Airs, Hudson had 33 points and made 13/14 from the charity stripe. Jets will be feeling pretty confident against the Saints having beaten the Giants at the Trafalgar Centre which is arguably the hardest place in the country to get a road win. Expect the game to be a score fest, Saints averaging over 95 points and the Jets scoring over a hundred points four times this season. Eric Devendorf will still unlikely play against the Jets, but his replacement Marcel Jones will be very familiar with the Jets having played with them in 2009 averaging 27 points per game. Jets coach Ryan Weisenberg will be pleased with the production he is getting from his bench who lead the league in bench scoring at 24 points a game. Weisenberg will also be happy with the recent play of former Saint Calum MacLeod who scored 23 in the win against the Giants and backed it up with 16 against the Airs. MacLeod will go head to head with Nick Horvath who was plagued with foul trouble in the Nuggets win fouling out in 13 minutes for two points. Horvath had a season high 29 points against the Jets in the opening round, but has struggled to get decent ball shooting only seven field goals in the last two games.

0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks (9-6) Taranaki Mountain Airs (6-9), 7pm

At Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale

Referees – Tim Brown, Wayne Start, Shane Nikora

Head to Head Wins*: Hawks 6 Airs 2

Last Meeting: Hawks 99-76 (Round Ten: 09/05/2010)

Projected Starting Five

	Hawks	Airs
Point Guard	Josh Pace	Tyrone Davey
Shooting Guard	Everard Bartlett	Jack Leasure
Small Forward	Chris Daniel	Jeremiah Trueman
Power Forward	Dave Langrell	Aaron Bailey-Nowell
Center	Jon Rogers	Demarshay Johnson

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Hawks	Airs
Josh Pace (20.9)	Jack Leasure (22.7)
Jon Rogers (14.7)	Aaron Bailey-Nowell (14.4)
Everard Bartlett (13.7)	Demarshay Johnson (14.4)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Hawks	Airs
Rebounds	Jon Rogers (7.2)	Aaron Bailey-Nowell (8.2)
Assists	Josh Pace (4.4)	Tyrone Davey (3.1)
Steals	Everard Bartlett (1.6)	Jack Leasure (2.1)
Blocks	Jon Rogers (2.5)	Demarshay Johnson (0.9)

Notes

Bay Hawks can clinch a playoff spot with a win this weekend. For the Airs it is a different situation needing to win the remainder of their games to have a shot at a top six spot. Hawks had a week off after winning five of their last seven games. With three games left the Hawks can host a quarterfinal if they win the remainder of their games. If results go their way they also have a shot at a top two spot, but they would need the Giants and the Saints to lose the rest of their games. Airs confidence will be low after their loss against the Jets and will have an uphill battle with road games against the Hawks and the Harbour Heat. Airs suffered their biggest home loss this season by the hands of the Hawks who won 99-76. Josh Pace scored 25 in that game and has scored thirty or more in two of his last three games. Hawks did a fantastic job defensively on the Airs leading scorer Jack Leasure, who was held to nine points shooting 4/20 from the field. Leasure was outstanding against the Jets scoring a season high 36, but will have an array of guards that will mark him such as Pace, Everard Bartlett, Paul Henare, Jarrod Kenny and Nat Connell who all share the guards minutes. If Airs have a chance they will need to shoot better beyond the arc where they shot 2/21 in the game against the Hawks.

Fico Finance Nelson Giants (11-5) v Harbour Heat (9-7), 7pm

At Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

Referees – Melony Wealleans, Gavin Zimmerman, James Champion

Head to Head: Giants 2 Heat 4

Last Meeting: Heat 73-59 (Round Five: 01/04/2010)

Projected Starting Five

	Giants	Heat
Point Guard	Mike Fitchett	Corey Webster
Shooting Guard	Phill Jones	Kavossy Franklin
Small Forward	Mika Vukona	Dillon Boucher
Power Forward	Michael Harrison	Beny Anthony
Center	Tony Rampton	Rick Rickert

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Giants	Heat
Phill Jones (19.9)	Corey Webster (23.1)
Michael Harrison (14.1)	Rick Rickert (17.6)
Mika Vukona (12.8)	Kavossy Franklin (16.3)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Giants	Jets
Rebounds	Mika Vukona (10.0)	Rick Rickert & Dillon Boucher (9.0)
Assists	Phill Jones (4.3)	Dillon Boucher (5.2)
Steals	Phil Jones (1.8)	Corey Webster (2.9)
Blocks	Michael Harrison (1.7)	Rick Rickert (1.1)

Notes

After a shock home loss in overtime against the Jets, the Fico Finance Giants will hopefully get back in contention for a home semi when they host the struggling Harbour Heat. It hasn't been a fun time for the Heat who have lost seven of their last nine and dropped three straight at home. But this was the same team that began the season 7-0 so it would be very dangerous to count them out. The Heat did win their first matchup against the Giants back in Round Five edging them out 83-79. Beny Anthony who was again restricted to limited minutes against the Cougars last week top scored in the game against the Giants with 16. But since then the Heat have yet to beat a side in the top six and will desperately need a win to solidify a playoff spot. Giants gave up 103 points in the loss to the Jets and can ill afford to give up that many against a Heat team who is 4-0 this year when they score over 100 points. In the loss against the Cougars the Heat were without their leader in assists and rebounds Dillon Boucher who will be needed down in the Trafalgar Centre where in the last two years the Giants have a 13-4 record. The Heat did beat Harbour in Nelson last year 76-75, Corey Webster top scored with 19. Mika Vukona has played very well this season, currently second in the league in rebounds at 10 a game. Vukona got his sixth double double of the year with 20 points and 12 rebounds against the Jets.

Saturday, June 12

**Waikato Pistons (12-4) v Zerofees Southland Sharks (7-7),
4pm**

At Hamilton Boys High School, Hamilton

Referees – Dallas Pickering, Jamie Hickey, Kelly McLeod

Head to Head Wins*: Pistons 1 Sharks 0

Last Meeting: Pistons 97-72 (Round 11: 14/05/2010)

Projected Starting Five

	Pistons	Sharks
Point Guard	Rashad Tucker	Luke Martin
Shooting Guard	Hayden Allen	Mike Helms
Small Forward	Thomas Abercrombie	Rene Rougeau
Power Forward	Tony Ronaldson	Gareth Dawson
Center	Alex Pledger	Martin Iti

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Pistons	Sharks
Thomas Abercrombie (20.9)	Mike Helms (21.2)
Hayden Allen (15.2)	Rene Rougeau (16.4)
Tony Ronaldson (13.2)	Arthur Trousdell (12.8)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Pistons	Sharks
Rebounds	Alex Pledger (12.4)	Rene Rougeau (7.6)
Assists	Rashad Tucker (3.3)	Luke Martin (4.3)
Steals	Thomas Abercrombie (1.7)	Rene Rougeau (3.9)
Blocks	Alex Pledger (2.1)	Rene Rougeau (1.2)

Notes

Waikato Pistons look to get rid of their three game losing streak when they play the Southland Sharks who will be playing their four remaining games on the road. Sharks need two wins at least to make the playoffs in their inaugural season. This game will be their toughest against a Pistons side that will be just as hungry for a win to keep their hopes alive of winning the regular season. The two teams met in Round 11 down in Invercargill and it was all Pistons who won the second half 45-25 for a comfortable 25 point win. Thomas Abercrombie was outstanding in that game with 19, but the Pistons did have point guard Carl Krauser who had his best game in a Pistons uniform with 17. Rashad Tucker who has now replaced Krauser has yet to find his feet with the Pistons averaging seven points and four turnovers a game. Tucker has proved to be a dangerous player in the ANBL and could prove a matchup problem on the much smaller Sharks guards. Sharks relied heavily on point guard Luke Martin who had a season high 22 against the Pistons. Imports Mike Helms and Rene Rougeau will have to play better offensively, shooting a combined 9/30 in the Pistons loss. Helms did come off a season high 30 in their last win against the Heat. Pistons are the only team in the league to be unbeaten at home this year and are currently 16-1 in the last two seasons at home. Sharks have been pretty good on the road with a winning record of 3-2.

OceanaGold Nuggets (0-16) v 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks (9-6), 7pm

At Edgar Centre, Dunedin

Referees – Hayden Pipe, Bevan Maslin, Matt Bathurst

Head to Head Wins*: Nuggets 0 Hawks 5

Last Meeting: Hawks 102-67 (Round 13: 28/05/2010)

Projected Starting Five

	Hawks	Nuggets
Point Guard	Josh Pace	Sam To'omata
Shooting Guard	Everard Bartlett	Riki Buckrell
Small Forward	Chris Daniel	Tyler Amaya
Power Forward	Dave Langrell	John Barber
Center	Jon Rogers	Tyler Amaya

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Hawks	Nuggets
Josh Pace (20.9)	Tyler Amaya (22.3)
Jon Rogers (14.7)	John Barber (14.3)
Everard Bartlett (13.7)	Sam To'omata (11.5)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Hawks	Nuggets
Rebounds	Jon Rogers (7.2)	John Barber (7.1)
Assists	Josh Pace (4.4)	Tyler Amaya (3.6)
Steals	Everard Bartlett (1.6)	John Barber (1.5)
Blocks	Jon Rogers (2.5)	John Barber (0.8)

Notes

The Nuggets play their final game of the season at home and they would like to finish the season on a high note when they play the 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks who come off a game at home the previous night. Since joining the league the Nuggets worst record in a season is 2-16 which was their record in 2008 and 2007. Hawks has not lost to the Nuggets since 2003 and since 1995 leads the head to head 21-8. Import Tyler Amaya has impressed this season and is coming off a season high 38 points which will be needed if the Nuggets have a shot. Nuggets captain Sam To'omata has also played well of late scoring over double figures in his last seven games. Hawks have crept up to fourth place and could well creep further if they keep winning and the top sides drop more games. Hawks do have a tie break advantage over the Pistons, Giants and Saints, so would like to finish with the same record or better if they want to make the top two. In the last three wins the offense of the Hawks has been rolling averaging over 100 points, including their 102-67 win over the Nuggets in Round 13. Josh Pace was very close to a triple double with 10 points, 8 rebounds and 8 assists. Jon Rogers had 26 and 12 rebounds in that same game.

Sunday, June 13

Taranaki Mountain Airs (6-9) v Zerofees Southland Sharks (7-7), 5.30pm

At TSB Stadium, New Plymouth

Referees – Gavin Whiu, Miguel Gallardo, Kieran Udy

Head to Head Wins*: Airs 1 Sharks 0

Last Meeting: Airs 82-81 (Round 5: 01/04/2010)

Projected Starting Five

	Airs	Sharks
Point Guard	Tyrone Davey	Luke Martin
Shooting Guard	Jack Leasure	Mike Helms
Small Forward	Jeremiah Trueman	Rene Rougeau
Power Forward	Aaron Bailey-Nowell	Gareth Dawson
Center	Demarshay Johnson	Martin Iti

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Airs	Sharks
Jack Leasure (22.7)	Mike Helms (21.2)
Aaron Bailey-Nowell (14.4)	Rene Rougeau (16.4)
Demarshay Johnson (14.4)	Arthur Trousdell (12.8)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Airs	Sharks
Rebounds	Aaron Bailey-Nowell (8.2)	Rene Rougeau (7.6)
Assists	Tyrone Davey (3.1)	Luke Martin (4.3)
Steals	Jack Leasure (2.1)	Rene Rougeau (3.9)
Blocks	Demarshay Johnson (0.9)	Rene Rougeau (1.2)

Notes

Seasons will be on the line when the Southland Sharks travel to New Plymouth to play the Taranaki Mountain Airs, who may still be in the hunt for a top six spot depending how the results go. If Cougars lose to the Nuggets or the Airs beat the Hawks then the Airs will still have a chance to make the playoffs, but a loss to the Sharks will be the end of the line. The two teams met back in Round Five and a late put back by Martin Iti was called off because of an offensive foul giving the Airs an unlikely 82-81 victory. Sharks have made some additions since then with Mike Helms and Arthur Trousdell who are first and third in scoring for their team. Jack Leasure had 30 in that win while Iti had a season high 20 which is the only time he has scored over double figures this year.

Trousdell will have fond memories in New Plymouth when he scored a season high 33 also grabbing 12 rebounds in the last time he played against Taranaki in 2009.

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

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Round 14

Lindsay Tait (Exodus Saints)

24 points (9/16 FG, 5/6 FT), 16 assists, 3 steals in the 103-99 win over the OceanaGold Nuggets

Lindsay Tait earns his second consecutive player of the week with his double double in the win over the Nuggets and has also broken the Saint franchise record (since 2000) 16 assists which lasted only one week when he got 15 against the Pistons.

Tait has nearly 100 assists leading the league at 7.5 which could be the first time he has won the assists award in his career. If the Saints had lost against the Nuggets then the player of the week would have gone to import Tyler Amaya who had 38 points, 6 assists and 6 rebounds.

A former team mate of Tait's Darryl Hudson was also unlucky to not win the honors for his games in the McDonalds Manawatu Jets three wins. Hudson was superb in the overtime victory against the Giants 23 points and 6 rebounds. The Detroit native backed it up with 33 points and 7 rebounds in the 102-96 win over the Airs.

Airs Jack Leasure had a strong game with a season high 36 points, while his team mate Aaron Bailey Nowell had his best statistical game of the year collecting 30 points and 14 rebounds in the loss.

Giants Mika Vukona had his sixth double double of the year with 20 points and 12 rebounds against the Jets.

Thomas Abercrombie is still top of the overall rankings, followed by Eric Devendorf and then Rene Rougeau who will be playing against Abercrombie in the coming Round.

PLAYER POWER RANKINGS

1. **Thomas Abercrombie (Waikato Pistons)**
2. **Eric Devendorf (Exodus Saints)**
3. **Rene Rougeau (Zerofees Southland Sharks)**
4. **Lindsay Tait (Exodus Saints)**
5. **Darryl Hudson (McDonalds Manawatu Jets)**
6. **Alex Pledger (Waikato Pistons)**
7. **Mika Vukona (Fico Finance Nelson Giants)**
8. **Josh Pace (0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks)**
9. **Mike Helms (Zerofees Southland Sharks)**
10. **Jeremy Kench (Christchurch Cougars)**

The Next 10 . . .

Corey Webster (Heat), Tyler Amaya (Nuggets), Rick Rickert (Heat), Phill Jones (Giants), Dillon Boucher (Heat), , Jack Leasure (Airs), Aaron Bailey-Nowell (Airs), Jon Rogers (Hawks), Michael Harrison (Giants), Tim Behrendorff (Cougars),

Visit www.basketball.org.nz for Top-50 Player Power Rankings
Check out www.tab.co.nz for the latest odds

Note: *Denotes Team Records since 2000

STAT LEADERS

Points (Min 100 points)

Eric Devendorf (Pistons)	25.6
Corey Webster (Heat)	23.1
Darryl Hudson (Jets)	22.9

Rebounds (Min 50 Reb)

Alex Pledger (Pistons)	12.4
Mika Vukona (Giants)	10.0
Two Tied	9.0

Assists

Lindsay Tait (Saints)	7.5
Dillon Boucher (Heat)	5.2
Two Tied	4.4

Steals

Rene Rougeau (Sharks)	3.8
Corey Webster (Heat)	2.9
Mike Helms (Sharks)	2.7

Blocks

Jon Rogers (Hawks)	2.5
Alex Pledger (Pistons)	2.1
Thomas Abercrombie (Pistons)	1.9

FG % (Min 30 Attempts)

Jeremiah Trueman (Airs)	58.7
Casey Frank (Saints)	58.6
Nick Horvath (Saints)	57.3

3pt % (Min 20 Attempts)

Eric Devendorf (Saints)	59.6
Trent Wurtz (Cougars)	50.8
Dave Langrell (Hawks)	48.8

FT % (Min 20 Attempts)

Phill Jones (Giants)	86.4
Troy McLean (Saints)	86.3
Mike Fitchett (Giants)	86.3

NBL Trivia of the Week

How many players playing in the 2010 NBL have won Rookie of the Year. (Note: Has to have played a game this season)

Answer: Eight

- **Paora Winitana 1996 (North Harbour)**
- **Tony Rampton 1999 (Taranaki)**
- **Arthur Trousdell 2000 (Canterbury)**
- **Miles Pearce 2002 (Manawatu)**
- **Luke Martin 2004 (Manawatu)**
- **Jarrold Kenny 2005 (North Harbour)**
- **Tyrone Davey 2008 (Auckland)**
- **Thomas Abercrombie 2009 (Waikato)**

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