



STANDINGS

Team	Р	W	L	Win %	GB	Pts
Waikato Pistons	4	4	0	100.0	0	8
Harbour Heat	4	4	0	100.0	0	8
Fico Finance Nelson Giants	4	3	1	75.0	1	6
Wellington Saints	5	3	2	60.0	1.5	6
0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks	4	2	2	50.0	2	4
Taranaki Mountainairs	4	2	2	50.0	2	4
Zerofees Southland Sharks	5	2	3	40.0	2.5	4
Christchurch Cougars	6	2	4	33.3	3	4
McDonalds Manawatu Jets	3	0	3	0.0	3.5	0
Oceanagold Otago Nuggets	5	0	5	0.0	4.5	0

Win % - Win Percentage, GB - Games Back

LAST WEEK

Bartercard NBL - Round Four

Exodus Saints 114 (Darryl Hudson 22, Lindsay Tait 20, Erron Maxey 20) **Zerofees Southland Sharks 70** (Mike Rose 23, Rene Rougeau 14)

Harbour Heat 105 (Corey Webster 28, Rick Rickert 21, Kavossy Franklin 15, Beny Anthony 14) **McDonalds Manawatu Jets 73** (Richard Jeter 30, Kaine Hokianga 16)

Zerofees Southland Sharks 79 (Mike Rose 20, Rene Rougeau 19, Luke Martin 15) **Christchurch Cougars 75** (Mark Morrison 24, Tim Behrendorff 15, Paora Winitana 14)

Waikato Pistons 97 (Eric Devendorf 29, Thomas Abercrombie 23, Hayden Allen 15) OceanaGold Nuggets 64 (Antoine Tisby 25, Tyler Amaya 21)

Taranaki Mountain Airs 95 (Jack Leasure 27, Demarshay Johnson 17, Jeremiah Trueman 15) **OceanaGold Nuggets 82** (Tyler Amaya 23, Sam To'omata 17, Antoine Tisby 14)

THIS WEEK

2010 NBL Round Five

Thursday, April 1

0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks (2-2) v Exodus Saints (3-2), 7pm

At Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale Referees – Dallas Pickering, Shane Nikora, Wayne Start

Head to Head*: Hawks 3 Saints 4

Last Meeting: 2009 Quarterfinal Saints 80-75

Projected Starting Fives

	Hawks	Saints
Point Guard	Nat Connell	Lindsay Tait
Shooting Guard	Everard Bartlett	Darryl Hudson
Small Forward	Chris Daniel	Troy McLean
Power Forward	Dave Langrell	Leon Henry
Center	Jamil Terrell	Nick Horvath

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Hawks	Saints
Nat Connell (15.8)	Darryl Hudson (22.0)
Everard Bartlett (15.3)	Erron Maxey (16.0)
Ben Hill (14.8)	Nick Horvath (15.2)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Hawks	Saints
Rebounds	Jamil Terrell (9.5)	Nick Horvath (8.8)
Assists	Nat Connell (4.0)	Darryl Hudson & Casey Frank (3.2)
Steals	Everard Bartlett & Nat Connell (2.3)	Darryl Hudson (2.0)
Blocks	Jamil Terrell (2.0)	Nick Horvath (1.0)

Notes

The Bay Hawks and Saints have had a fierce rivalry in the last three seasons against each other, Hawks winning three and Saints winning four games. Saints clean swept the Hawks last season defeating them three times, including the quarterfinal. But the Hawks have been very strong at home against the Saints winning four of the last five games played. Hawks played their first game at home in Round Three, but dropped it to the Southland Sharks which was their first ever win. The Sharks then went on to play the Saints losing by 44. There is the possibility that the Hawks might have their marquee signing, former MVP Josh Pace who will be coming from the ABA in USA. Pace would really bolster the Hawks back court that is still without Paul Henare (Knee) and Jarrod Kenny (Back). Both teams have players off the bench that could change the outcome of the game Ben Hill for the Hawks, Erron Maxey and Casey Frank for the Saints. Hawks lead the league in bench scoring at nearly 26 per game, while the Saints are second in the league in scoring at 99 per game.



Thursday, April 1

Harbour Heat (4-0) v Fico Finance Nelson Giants (3-1), 7pm

At North Shore Events Centre, North Shore Referees – Gavin Whiu, Miguel Gallardo, Cherryl Crabbe

Head to Head*: Heat 5 Giants 2

Last Meeting: Heat 76-75 (12th June 2009)

Projected Starting Five

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

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Heat	Giants
Corey Webster (26.0)	Phil Jones (25.3)
Rick Rickert (21.3)	Michael Harrison (19.5)
Kavossy Franklin (19.0)	Josh Bloxham (11.3)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Heat	Giants
Rebounds	Rick Rickert (13.3)	Michael Harrison (7.3)
Assists	Dillon Boucher (7.3)	Phil Jones & Michael Fitchett (3.3)
Steals	Corey Webster (6.3)	Michael Harrison (2.5)
Blocks	Rick Rickert (1.0)	Michael Harrison (1.5)

Notes

Harbour Heat will host their fifth consecutive home game when they play the Fico Finance Nelson Giants at the North Shore Events Centre. Arguably the game of the round the Heat look to win their fifth game in a row, but this will be one of their biggest tests yet against a Giants team that has won three in a row since their opening round loss to the Waikato Pistons. Heat leads the league in scoring at 104 point per game whereas the Giants are in the middle averaging 85 points. Last season Phil Jones averaged just under 24 points against the Heat, while his match up Corey Webster averaged 27 a game. Big man for the Giants Tony Rampton had 18 rebounds in their last game. It might not be repeated going up against the likes of Rick Rickert currently second in the league in rebounding at 13.3 a game and Dillon Boucher who is third at 11.3. Former Heat player Mika Vukona where he played in the 2008 season is back playing at the Giants averaging 10.5 points and 6.5 rebounds in two games. Giants are second to bottom in bench scoring only averaging 11.3 points which has not helped with the injury of one main scorers off the bench Darryl Jones (Knee).

Christchurch Cougars (2-4) v McDonalds Manawatu Jets (0-3), 7pm

At Cowles Stadium, Christchurch

Referees - Melony Wealleans, Raewyn Willocks, Cherryl Forde

Head to Head (Wins): Cougars 2 Jets 0 Last Meeting: Cougars 84-58 (30th May 2009)

Projected Starting Fives

	Cougars	Jets
Point Guard	Jeremy Kench	Paul Bristol
Shooting Guard	Paora Winitana	Kaine Hokianga
Small Forward	Mark Morrison	Richard Jeter
Power Forward	Trent Wurtz	Chris Reay
Center	Tim Behrendorff	Calum MacLeod

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Cougars	Jets
Paora Winitana (19.5)	Richard Jeter (23.3)
Tim Behrendorff (15.0)	Kaine Hokianga (12.3)
Jeremy Kench (12.3)	Matt Te Huna (9.0)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Cougars	Jets
Rebounds	Tim Behrendorff (7.0)	Paul Bristol (4.0)
Assists	Jeremy Kench (4.8)	Matt Te Huna (3.3)
Steals	Trent Wurtz (2.2)	Mat Te Huna (3.3)
Blocks	Trent Wurtz & Jeremy Kench (0.5)	Adrian Torrie (0.7)

Notes

Cougars are in a rut losing three on the trot, but will hopefully turn it around when they host the struggling Manawatu Jets who have also lost three in a row. Cougars really need to get better offensively shooting a very poor 39.4% this season, Jets not doing much better at 40.2%. Both teams are currently averaging less than 80 points (Nuggets being the only other team to average under 80). New signing for the Jets Chris Reay will hopefully start bringing more rebounding to the Jets whose leading rebounder this year is their smallest player Paul Bristol at four a game. Cougars captain Paora Winitana is the Cougars leading scorer this year, but in the last three games he has shot only 35% from the field and 2 from 11 beyond the arc. After a very strong start to the season point guard Jeremy Kench has also struggled in the last two games averaging 2.5 points at 16% from the field. Canterbury local Mark Morrison was the one bright spot in the loss against the Sharks scoring a season high 24 points. Morrison will go up against the physically imposing Richard Jeter who started at power forward against the Heat. Jeter has the potential to light it up having 30+ in two of the three games he has played this season.

Zerofees Southland Sharks (2-3) v Taranaki Mountain Airs (2-2), 7pm

At Southland Stadium, Invercargill Referees – Gavin Zimmerman, Hayden Pipe, Bevan Maslin

Projected Starting Fives

	Sharks	Airs
Point Guard	Luke Martin	Tyrone Davey
Shooting Guard	Mike Rose	Jack Leasure
Small Forward	Rene Rougeau	Alex Wastney
Power Forward	James Paringatai	Aaron Bailey-Nowell
Center	Martin Iti	Demarshay Johnson

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Sharks	Airs	
Mike Rose (22.4)	Jack Leasure (25.3)	
Rene Rougeau (15.2)	Demarshay Johnson (17.3)	
Luke Martin (12.3)	Jeremiah Trueman (12.5)	

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Sharks	Airs
Rebounds	Mike Rose (7.0)	Demarshay Johnson (8.8)
Assists	Luke Martin (4.7)	Tyrone Davey (4.0)
Steals	Rene Rougeau (3.6)	Tyrone Davey & Jack Leasure (1.8)
Blocks	Rene Rougeau (2.2)	Jeremiah Trueman (1.0)

Notes

The Airs look to extend their winning streak to three, but it will not be easy playing against the Southland Sharks who have upset the Bay Hawks and Christchurch Cougars on the road. This will be the Sharks second home game of the year after being on the road for their last four games. Coach Richard Dickel will be relieved to have got a win on last week's road trip after opening the trip with an eye opening 44 point defeat from the Saints. Dickel really could use the assistance of his brother Mark Dickel which would make the competition very interesting. Match up of the game will be between the shooting guards Jack Leasure and Mike Rose. Leasure has been in top form in the two wins averaging over 28 points. Rose is the Sharks leading scorer at 22 a game. Strong performer for the Airs last year was James Paringatai who had his best season last year averaging 13.3 points and 6 rebounds. Now Paringatai is playing for the Sharks which will be his fourth different team in six seasons.

Saturday, April 3

OceanaGold Nuggets (0-5) v Taranaki Mountain Airs (2-2), 7pm

At Timaru

Referees - Melony Wealleans, Raelene Forde, Matt Bathurst

Head to Head: Nuggets 0 Airs 5

Last Meeting: Airs 95-82 (27th March 2010)

Projected Starting Fives

	Nuggets	Airs
Point Guard	Sam To'omata	Tyrone Davey
Shooting Guard	Riki Buckrell	Jack Leasure
Small Forward	Matt Trueman	Alex Wastney
Power Forward	Tyler Amaya	Aaron Bailey-Nowell
Center	Antoine Tisby	Demarshay Johnson

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Nuggets	Airs
Antoine Tisby (23.6)	Jack Leasure (25.3)
Tyler Amaya (21.6)	Demarshay Johnson (17.3)
Sam To'omata (6.6)	Jeremiah Trueman (12.5)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Nuggets	Airs
Rebounds	Antoine Tisby (9.8)	Demarshay Johnson (8.8)
Assists	Tyler Amaya (4.4)	Tyrone Davey (4.0)
Steals	Antoine Tisby (1.6)	Tyrone Davey & Jack Leasure (1.8)
Blocks	Antoine Tisby (0.8)	Jeremiah Trueman (1.0)

Notes

If there was an opportunity for the Nuggets to get a victory it would be now when they play the Taranaki Mountain Airs who will be coming off a game against the Southland Sharks. The two teams met last week, Airs winning 95-82. Airs have had recent dominance over the Nuggets winning the last nine meetings. The last time Nuggets beat the Airs was back in 2004 season. After being down 12 after the first quarter Nuggets fought hard against the Airs tying the score at the end of the third, but on the second game of a back to back the Nuggets ran out of legs and could not manage a come from behind victory. Nuggets finally got decent production from players other than Antoine Tisby and Tyler Amaya with Sam To'omata Matt Gillan and Riki Buckrell all scoring in double figures in the loss. Tisby and Amaya are still the only player on the Nuggets roster to average over double figures, which is a reason why they are the lowest scoring team in the league at 71 points a game. Airs could really make a push to their chances of making the top if they come back home with two wins.

Zerofees Southland Sharks (2-3) v Christchurch Cougars (2-4), 7pm

At Southland Stadium, Invercargill

Referees - Gavin Zimmerman, Hayden Pipe, Bevan Maslin

Head to Head: Sharks 1 Cougars 0

Last Meeting: Sharks 79-75 (26th March 2010

Projected Starting Fives

	Sharks	Cougars
Point Guard	Luke Martin	Jeremy Kench
Shooting Guard	Mike Rose	Paora Winitana
Small Forward	Rene Rougeau	Mark Morrison
Power Forward	James Paringatai	Trent Wurtz
Center	Martin Iti	Tim Behrendorff

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Sharks	Cougars
Mike Rose (22.4)	Paora Winitana (19.5)
Rene Rougeau (15.2)	Tim Behrendorff (15.0)
Luke Martin (12.3)	Jeremy Kench (12.3)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Sharks	Cougars
Rebounds	Martin Iti (7.3)	Tim Behrendorff (7.0)
Assists	Luke Martin (4.7)	Jeremy Kench (4.8)
Steals	Rene Rougeau (3.6)	Trent Wurtz (2.2)
Blocks	Rene Rougeau (2.2)	Trent Wurtz & Jeremy Kench (0.5)

Notes

Cougars will want revenge after being upset at home by the Sharks 79-75 last week. Both teams would have already played a game on Thursday and both are near the bottom in points scored per game which could present a low scoring affair. Cougars Tim Behrendorff plays his second game this year after scoring 15 in the loss against the Sharks. Behrendorff had his best season in the NBL last year averaging over 18 points which led to his selection in the All Star Five. Luke Martin was a team mate of Behrendorff's in this year's Australian NBL with the Wollongong Hawks. Martin was instrumental in the comeback against the Cougars scoring seven of his fifteen points in the final period.

Sunday, April 4

Waikato Pistons (4-0) v 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks (2-2), 3pm

At Rotorua

Referees - Gavin Whiu, Jamie Hickey, Kelly McLeod

Head to Head: Pistons 4 Hawks 2

Last Meeting: 77-73 Pistons (16th May 2009)

Projected Starting Fives

	Pistons	Hawks
Point Guard	Eric Devendorf	Nat Connell
Shooting Guard	Hayden Allen	Everard Bartlett
Small Forward	Thomas Abercrombie	Josh Pace
Power Forward	Tony Ronaldson	Chris Daniel
Center	Alex Pledger	Jamil Terrell

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Pistons	Hawks
Eric Devendorf (31.0)	Nat Connell (15.8)
Thomas Abercrombie (21.3)	Everard Bartlett (15.3)
Tony Ronaldson (12.8)	Ben Hill (14.8)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Pistons	Hawks
Rebounds	Alex Pledger (15.8)	Jamil Terrell (9.5)
Assists	Eric Devendorf (5.3)	Nat Connell (4.0)
Steals	Eric Devendorf (2.8)	Everard Bartlett & Nat Connell (2.3)
Blocks	Thomas Abercrombie (2.3)	Jamil Terrell (2.0)

Notes

It has all been smooth sailing for two times defending champion Waikato Pistons team winning their first four games at home by an average margin of 25 points. On Sunday they will have their fifth game in a row at home, but they will play a one off home game in Rotorua. Apart from the Giants in the opening round the Hawks will be the best team the Pistons have faced this season and they will have to do it without veterans Mike Homik and Puke Lendon (Broken hand). If the Hawks can come away with two wins this round then they will be extremely confident in making a run for the championship, especially being without Jarrod Kenny and Paul Henare. Hawks should have Josh Pace in the line up so expect this game to be very competitive. Pistons Alex Pledger has been a monster on the boards of late leading the league in rebounds at 15.8 per game. Pledger will go up against the 2009 rebounding champ Jamil Terrell who fifth in the league at over nine a game. After one season away from the league Nat Connell has been a valuable addition to the Hawks roster leading the team in scoring at (15.8), assists (4.0) and steals (2.3). Connell won a championship with the Pistons in 2001 averaging 13 points a game in the regular season. Pistons have won their last four meeting against the Hawks.

Note: Head to Head = Wins (07,08,09 Seasons)
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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Round Four Eric Devendorf (Waikato Pistons)

29 points (12/14 FG 86%, 2/3 3pt, 3/3 FT), 7 Assists, 3 steals in the 97-64 win over the OceanaGold Nuggets

Pistons star import Eric Devendorf has earned his second player of the week from the win against the OceanaGold Nuggets. Devendorf won the honor in the opening round with 49 points against the Fico Finance Giants.

In the 29 point performance against the Nuggets Devendorf shot an incredible 86% from the field also adding seven assists to his tally. Devendorf continues to lead the league in scoring at 31 per game and is second in field goal percentage (69%), 3pt FG (71%) and assists (5.3).

Harbour Heat guard Corey Webster again had another strong performance in Round Four with 28 points and 6 steals. Webster is currently third in the overall rankings behind his team mate Rick Rickert who is second. Rickert had another double double of 21 points and 10 rebounds.

Another kiwi guard that played well last week was 2008 rookie of the year Tyrone Davey who had his best game in a Mountain Airs uniform tallying 14 points, 8 assists, 5 rebounds and 3 steals in the Airs 95-82 win over the Nuggets. Davey's team mate Jack Leasure enters into the top ten overall rankings scoring 27 in the same game.

Saints welcomed back Lindsay Tait who made an instant impact for his team scoring 20 points and 8 assists in the 44 point romp over the Zerofees Southland Sharks. In that same game 6th man of the year in the Australian League Erron Maxey had his best game in a Saints uniform with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

PLAYER POWER RANKINGS

- 1. Eric Devendorf (Waikato Pistons)
- 2. Rick Rickert (Harbour Heat)
- 3. Corey Webster (Harbour Heat)
- 4. Thomas Abercrombie (Waikato Pistons)
- 5. Michael Harrison (Fico Finance Giants)
- 6. Dillon Boucher (Harbour Heat)
- 7. Rene Rougeau (Zerofees Southland Sharks)
- 8. Alex Pledger (Waikato Pistons)
- 9. Jack Leasure (Taranaki Mountain Airs)
- 10. Phil Jones (Fico Finance Giants)

The Next 10 . . .

Antoine Tisby (Nuggets), Mike Rose (Sharks), Demarshay Johnson (Airs), Everard Bartlett (Hawks), Nat Connell (Hawks), Jeremy Kench (Cougars), Tylor Amaya (Nuggets), Jamil Terrell (Hawks), Lindsay Tait (Saints), Darryl Hudson (Saints)

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** Eric Devendorf (Pistons) 31.0 Corev Webster (Heat) 26.0 Two Tied 25.3 Rebounds Alex Pledger (Pistons) 15.8 Rick Rickert (Heat) 13.3 Antoine Tisby (Nuggets) 11.3 **Assists** Dillon Boucher (Heat) 7.3 Eric Devendorf (Pistons) 5.3 Jeremy Kench (Cougars) 4.8 Steals Corey Webster (Heat) 6.3 Rene Rougeau (Sharks) 4.7 Luke Martin (Sharks) 4.0 **Blocks** Thomas Abercrombie(Pistons) 2.3 Rene Rougeau (Sharks) 2.2 Two Tied 2.0 FG % (Min 5 Attempts) Dillon Boucher (Heat) 0.08 Eric Devendorf (Pistons) 68.6 Rick Rickert (Heat) 67.9 3pt % (Min 5 Attempts) David Langrell (Hawks) 85.7 Eric Devendorf (Pistons) 70.5 Kavossy Franklin (Heat) 66.6 FT % (Min 5 Attempts) Luke Martin (Sharks) 100 Trent Wurtz (Cougars) 100 Callum MacLeod (Jets) 100