

2008 AA Secondary Schools National Championships
Palmerston North, September 29-October 4

Game On

Day Two – Tuesday, September 30

The Difference A Month Makes

Wellington College only just made the field but made all the noise on Monday in Palmerston North. The zone premierships were only four short weeks back but Wellington College proved those were a long long time ago as they opened the AA Secondary Schools National Championships – presented by Furnware – with two straight wins, to end the opening day as surprise co-leaders in pool D.

After finishing fifth at the zone three premiership in early September, earning them the 21st seed in Palmy this week, Wellington provided the first upset of the tournament with a wire-to-wire 91-65 rout of fourth seeds and hometown hopes Palmerston North Boys High.

But the Capital boys were not done there.

Facing a letdown in their afternoon game, trailing Mt Albert Grammar by 13 points at three-quarter time, Wellington scored 23 straight points and eventually pulled away with an 11-point win to be among 10 unbeaten boys and eight unbeaten girls teams.

Junior Tall Black Hemi Pairama-Lewington scored a day one-high 34 points as Wellington completed the impressive comeback thanks largely to an aggressive zone press defence that forced MAGS into multiple turnovers and rushed shots. MAGS were held scoreless for more than five minutes as Wellington reeled off 23 straight points, including two big threes from Pairama-Lewington, to go from 70-58 down to 81-70 up in the space of five minutes. Wellington, who led for most of the first half before a MAGS rally saw them down at halftime, won the fourth quarter 28-5. Nick Davis scored a game-high 22 points and Pairama-Lewington 19 points as Wellington shot Palmerston North off the floor in the first game.



Wellington College players celebrate their 2-0 start on Monday.

“We’d done a lot of homework on Palmerston North,” Wellington College coach Mila Poutoa said.

“We’ve played them a couple of times this year. We lost the first time and won by six points in the second round. Today we just wanted to play a good team game and wanted to pressure them because they probably haven’t seen that level of competition.

“We wanted to use the fast game and it seemed to work.”

Poutoa said the wins would give his squad self-belief that had been lacking for a large part of the season.

"We've worked really hard, we've really gone back to basics. We've gone back to gelling as a team and working as a team and trying to get the players playing as a team and not individuals. We were bitching at each other at regionals but we've tried to teach them about the team being number one. "I've told them we have 12 egos but at nationals we need just one ego."

Number one seeds St Patrick's College of Wellington went through pool A unbeaten, with two easy wins over Onehunga High and Tauranga Boys College, with Junior Tall Black Brook Ruscoe scoring 30 and 22 points respectively. Hamilton's Fraser High and Dilworth join St Pat's at 2-0 in pool A, while second seeds Otago Boys High, Nelson College and St John's College in pool B, Westlake Boys High and St Andrew's College in pool C and Church College in pool D also went through day one at Arena Manawatu unbeaten.

As impressive as Church College's boys team were, the school's defending champion girls squad owned day one. Putting together back-to-back 58 and 69-point wins over Wainuiomata High and St Kentigern College, with Stacey Hettig top-scoring with 24 points in game one and Austin Rarere dropping 30 points in their afternoon clash, Church raced to the top of pool A, joined by fellow unbeaten Rangiora High.

Second-seeded Rangitoto College, led by Kate Alemann, Milika Nathan and Mikayla Blair, had comfortable wins over hometown wildcard Freyberg High and Hamilton Girls High on their way to the top of pool B, joined by Christchurch Girls High and Auckland Girls Grammar.

Third seeds Waimea College and Hamilton's Fraser High powered to two straight wins on Monday in pool C, while Massey High remained the only unbeaten in pool D after fourth seeds New Plymouth Girls High were upset by Mana College first-up.

The second day of pool play is business time for schools with quarterfinal aspirations, with many of the unbeaten teams facing each other on day two.

Early crucial boys match-ups include Nelson College against St John's College in pool B and Hamilton's Fraser High and Dilworth School in pool A.



Q&A with . . .

Willie Bryant

Tournament Director
Palmerston North Basketball Association

Did you realise what you were getting into when you took control of the 2008 AA Secondary Schools National Championships?

After doing the Under-16 nationals a couple of years ago I figured it would be about the same. This is more teams here and so we need more volunteers, it's a bit more because it's 24 teams each, so it puts a stress on scorebench people, clocks, courts and everything.

When your not organising the second largest basketball tournament in New Zealand this year, what's your other involvement in basketball?

I work full-time for the Palmerston North Basketball Association, my title is Leagues Manager. So I organise and run all our leagues from Year Two up until adults. We have about 200 teams and I do all the draws and results that go up on the website through FIBA Organiser. And on top of that I train our local refs and coach the Palmerston North premier girls A team.

You were involved in a major accident two weeks ago, how is the body and how is the your recovery coming along?

It's going slow. A lady went through a red light, luckily I was driving a Mercedes – well, was – and lucky I ran into a BMW. It felt like I was doing cartwheels in the car. I probably haven't recovered yet. They say it takes 6-8 weeks to fully recover.

Tell us something about yourself that people probably wouldn't know about you?

I have psoriasis. It's a thing where your skin grows too quick. In New Zealand, there's about 12 people that have it and I'm one of them, I'm about number six. I take Thiogunine, also for my arthritis, and that allows me to live.

Happy Birthday . . .

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

Unbeaten Nelson College guard Jimmy Walker-Tahana celebrates his 18th birthday and winless Onehunga High's Lamont Saina turns 17 today. Happy Born Day!



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DAY ONE RESULTS - Monday, September 29

Boys

Pool A

St Patrick's College 89 Onehunga High 52, Hamilton's Fraser High 74 Tauranga Boys College 30, Dilworth School 65 Waimea College 59, St Patrick's College 97 Tauranga Boys College 31, Hamilton's Fraser High 83 Waimea College 44, Dilworth School 75 Onehunga High 72

Pool B

Otago Boys High 77 Hamilton Boys High 55, St Johns College 88 Kelston Boys High 76, Nelson College 66 Middleton Grange School 52, Otago Boys High 83 Middleton Grange 39, Nelson College 79 Kelston Boys High 67, St John's College 77 Hamilton Boys High 72

Pool C

Westlake Boys High 74 Mana College 44, St Andrew's College 84 Rotorua Boys High 56, New Plymouth Boys High 56 Shirley Boys High 51, Westlake Boys High 72 Rotorua Boys High 51, St Andrew's College 83 Shirley Boys High 46, Mana College 80 New Plymouth Boys High 65

Pool D

Rangitoto College 109 Francis Douglas Memorial College 44, Church College 74 Mt Albert Grammar 54, Wellington College 91 Palmerston North Boys High 65, Palmerston North Boys High 81 Francis Douglas Memorial College 66, Church College 70 Rangitoto College 56, Wellington College 86 Mt Albert Grammar 75

Girls

Pool A

Church College 111 Wainuiomata High 53, St Kentigern College 52 Marian College 36, Rangiora High 89 Tauranga Girls College 47, Church College 110 St Kentigern College 41, Tauranga Girls High 75 Marian College 53, Rangiora High 81 Wainuiomata High 49

Pool B

Auckland Girls Grammar 85 Wellington East Girls College 71, Christchurch Girls High 67 Hamilton Girls High 51, Rangitoto College 85 Freyberg High 19, Rangitoto College 71 Hamilton Girls High 38, Christchurch Girls High 68 Wellington East Girls College 60, Auckland Girls Grammar 65 Freyberg High 46

Pool C

Hamilton's Fraser High 72 Sacred Heart Girls (New Plymouth) 67, Waimea College 73 Napier Girls High 33, Avondale College 67 Cambridge High 58, Waimea College 73 Sacred Heart Girls (New Plymouth) 63, Napier Girls High 71 Avondale College 58, Hamilton's Fraser High 95 Cambridge High 75

Pool D

Mana College 80 New Plymouth Girls High 71, Massey High 76 Hutt Valley High 55, Cashmere High 55 Rangi Ruru Girls School 41, Massey High 91 Mana College 59, New Plymouth Girls College 61 Cashmere High 40, Rangi Ruru Girls School 61 Hutt Valley High 53

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DAY ONE STANDINGS

BOYS

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Pts</i>
<i>Pool A</i>				
St Patrick's	2	2	0	4
Fraser High	2	2	0	4
Dilworth	2	2	0	4
Onehunga	2	0	2	2
Waimea	2	0	2	2
Tauranga BC	2	0	2	2

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Pts</i>
<i>Pool B</i>				
Otago Boys High	2	2	0	4
Nelson College	2	2	0	4
St John's College	2	2	0	4
Kelston Boys	2	0	2	2
Middleton Grange	2	0	2	2
Hamilton Boys	2	0	2	2

<i>Pool C</i>				
Westlake Boys	2	2	0	4
St Andrew's	2	2	0	4
New Plymouth	2	1	1	3
Mana College	2	1	1	3
Shirley Boys	2	0	2	2
Rotorua Boys	2	0	2	2

<i>Pool D</i>				
Church College	2	2	0	4
Wellington College	2	2	0	4
Rangitoto College	2	1	1	3
Palmerston North	2	1	1	3
Mt Albert Grammar	2	0	2	2
Francis Douglas	2	0	2	2

GIRLS

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Pts</i>
<i>Pool A</i>				
Church College	2	2	0	4
Rangiora High	2	2	0	4
Tauranga Girls	2	1	1	3
St Kentigern	2	1	1	3
Marian College	2	0	2	2
Wainuiomata	2	0	2	2

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Pts</i>
<i>Pool B</i>				
Rangitoto College	2	2	0	4
AGGS	2	2	0	4
Christchurch Girls	2	2	0	4
Wellington East	2	0	2	2
Hamilton Girls	2	0	2	2
Freyberg High	2	0	2	2

<i>Pool C</i>				
Waimea College	2	2	0	4
Fraser High	2	2	0	4
Avondale College	2	1	1	3
Napier Girls High	2	1	1	3
Sacred Heart(NP)	2	0	2	2
Cambridge High	2	0	2	2

<i>Pool D</i>				
Massey High	2	2	0	4
New Plymouth Girls	2	1	1	3
Rangi Ruru Girls	2	1	1	3
Cashmere High	2	1	1	3
Mana College	2	1	1	3
Hutt Valley High	2	0	2	2