



BASKETBALL
NEW ZEALAND



2008 Oreo Under-13 & Under-15 National Championships Rotorua, October 6-10

Game On

Day Four – Thursday, October 9

Y-Tak Looking Good

They are the top remaining seeds and the Waitakere City under-15 girls certainly played like it on Wednesday. With sixth man Reeunne Pinono top-scoring with 19 points, Faustina Maria adding 17 points and Penina Davidson chipping in with 13, Waitakere rolled to a 90-60 win over Nelson in the quarterfinals at the Oreo Under-13 and Under-15 National Championships.

Waitakere fell behind early as Nelson moved out to an 11-point lead at the first intermission.

But it was a different story the rest of the way, Waitakere outscoring their South Island rivals 21-7 in the second quarter to take a three-point halftime lead, then piling on with a 28-6 third period to seal a semifinal berth against North Canterbury.

"They're playing some great basketball," Waitakere coach Greg Davidson said, following the win on Wednesday.

"They gave me a scare last night against a very good Canterbury team. They had a big lead and then fell asleep and let them back in.

"We didn't do the business defensively early today but they really picked it up. They're a pretty motivated and experienced group and they're playing well as a unit. "I was really happy with how they picked up on the things we talked

about last night. Some of the stuff we didn't do last night, especially at the end of the game, we learned from and did today."

Waitakere face another unbeaten team, North Canterbury, in Thursday's semifinals. The Cantabs got 25 points from Alex Svoboda and 22 points from Anita Snowdon as they over-ran Massey 87-56 in the late quarter.

"We're up against a pretty feisty North Canterbury team," Davidson said. "I saw them execute against Harbour last night and they look pretty good."

Waikato and North Harbour also looked impressive in their quarterfinal wins ahead of their semifinal showdown.

Waikato, featuring most of the Hamilton's Fraser High squad that finished sixth at last week's AA Secondary Schools National Championships, rolled to a 58-38 win over Canterbury, getting 22 points from guard Veshae Wilkinson and 19 points from forward Kalani Purcell.

Waikato locked-down on Canterbury in the second half, allowing them only 13 points in the third and fourth quarters as they pulled away.



Waitakere guard Isabella Lawrence offers referee Willie Ohlson free advice



Harbour used strong opening and third quarter performances and 20 points from Brooke Adams to repel previously unbeaten Wellington 68-55, handing the shocked Capital side their first loss all season. Harbour got out to an eight-point lead in the first quarter, with Adams and Deena Franklin combining for 14 points, then absorbed Wellington's second quarter surge, closing within six points at halftime, before stretching out by 14 points with a quarter to run.

"We're fortunate because we have a really good bench," Harbour coach Kevin Renwick said.

"We go down to eight or nine. I coached these girls two years ago and they won the inaugural under-13 national title and last year North Harbour finished 14th at this tournament.

"We'll have to defend really well to beat Waikato, they're such a good team."

The under-13 girls quarterfinals were where the high drama was on day three, with two results on adjacent courts simultaneously decided in the final seconds.

On court seven, North Harbour missed four straight free throws in the final minute but held on for an 81-80 win when Waitakere City missed two free-throws with time already expired and moments later on court six Counties Manukau upset Waikato 68-66 after Waikato had missed several close-range shots and free throw in the last minute.

Waitakere's Keretina Hakaraia went off for 54 points in her team's loss, while Annabelle Jenkins had 27 points for Harbour. Kendall Hawea top-scored for Waikato in a losing effort with 26 points while Breeze Leonard had 17 points for Counties.

The later girls quarters were more clear cut, although Hawke's Bay did their best to throw away a 19-point three-quarter lead. After outscoring Nelson 18-3 in the third, Hawke's Bay scored only six points in the fourth period, holding on 54-47, with Aaliyah Smiler-Ah Kiong leading the way with 15 points.

Canterbury proved too strong for the last remaining hometown hope Rotorua 77-32, with Tessa Boagni top-scoring with 18 points.

Pene Paenga scored 45 of Porirua's 47 points in an under-13s bottom eight quarter but could not prevent them falling 79-47 to neighbours Wellington.

COACHING SAFETY NET

Basketball New Zealand's Coaching Safety Net can be accessed, viewed and trialled on the laptop outside the Trust Forum in the Grand Hall. Emails can also be checked from this computer.



Q&A With . . .

Buffy Soloman

Tournament Director
Rotorua Basketball Association

Guessing Buffy is a nickname, where does that name come from?

It comes from the Patridge Family TV show in the 1970s. Buffy was the youngest girl who always had the two pony tails and that's what my mother always did when we were kids. My Mum gave me that name, I won't tell you what my Dad calls me. Farida is my real name but I only use that for legal documents and applications.

Being Tournament Director can be a stressful job but you're always laid-back and laughing and/or eating, what's up with that?

I just don't let anything get me down because it's not worth it. I always like to have a laugh, otherwise it gets pretty boring here.

What is your other involvement in basketball in Rotorua outside of this tournament?

It's been my life. I played primary, intermediate, secondary school and gave it up five or six years ago until Sue Pene decided to put together a social summer league team last year. My daughter plays in the under-13s and my son went through junior basketball.

Basketball's my life. I love it and it's been in my family since way back.

I always help run the miniball league and because I work at Western Heights High School, also the secondary school league and the winter league aswell.



Harbour On The Radar

Since a first round pool play loss, the North Harbour under-15 boys squad has lived under the radar. And coach Tony Webster would rather keep it that way.

Unfortunately, his team produced an impressive 82-62 quarterfinal win over previously unbeaten Counties Manukau on day three of the Oreo Under-13 and Under-15 National Championships in Rotorua on Wednesday.

With a balanced offence, led by Anamata Haku with 17 points, Harbour hustled their way into Thursday's semifinals, where they will another undefeated team in South Island champions and top seeds Nelson.

"I'd rather we stayed under the radar," said Webster, the Harbour Heat's National Basketball League coach.

"We just wanted to go back to what we do best and that's executing, running our offence and playing aggressive defence."

Harbour, who also got 14 points from Adam Whybro and 10 points from both Aramis Dennan and Matt Lacey, led throughout against an athletic Counties team, who got 34 points from Josh Young. Harbour used their defensive

pressure to spark a 22-14 third quarter to take a 14-point lead that held up through the fourth.

"We got a couple of their guys in foul trouble and we just stepped up. We know about playoffs style. It's do or die now. I think we just wanted it more today."

It has been do or die for Harbour since Monday afternoon, following a surprise two-point loss to fellow under-15 boys semifinalist Hutt Valley, and the team has responded with comfortable wins over Mid Canterbury and Canterbury to reach the quarters.

"You know how kids are, they just forget things. They don't take things as hard as the coach. I was probably the only one that lost any sleep from that game."

Harbour, with the bulk of the squad that Webster guided to the under-13s final last year, will meet Nelson on Thursday night for a place in the final, after Nelson easily accounted for Wellington 80-57 in their quarter.

After a pair of close results in pool play, Nelson

opened up on Wednesday, edging out to an 11-point at halftime and stretching it to 21 points with a quarter to play, with guard Scott Cameron scoring all his 39 points in three quarters before resting on the bench.

"He does it quite a bit, he's 6-foot-2, so a lot of teams find him tough to guard with smaller guards," Nelson coach Tony Shallcrass said.

"We're very unassuming, very low profile. We're not a real hyped up team. Coming this far is a real achievement."

Hutt Valley, the fourth qualifiers from zone three, reached the last four in the country with a 93-73 win over Whangarei, getting 27 points from forward Tyler Tane and 20 points from guard Kurt Robinson.

"It's all gravy now," coach Joe Hemi said. "Honestly I don't know how far we're going to go, we're just riding it."

In the other semifinal, Hutt Valley will meet Waikato, who defeated Massey 89-72, with Kurt Heatherley top-scoring with 26 points and Aaron Keppler adding 24 points.

"It's all gravy now," coach Joe Hemi said. "Honestly I don't know how far we're going to go, we're just riding it."

Brandon Gleaves scored 29 points as Canterbury advanced to the under-13 boys semifinals with a 79-61 win over Hutt Valley. They will face Wellington, who defeated Waitakere City 69-63, with Tarewa Harris scoring 22 points. The other under-13 boys semifinal will feature North Harbour and Waikato Black. Harbour got by Massey 104-84, with Jack Salt going for 28 points and Niko Morales 27, while Waikato Black survived a 42-point effort from Jaylen Gerrand in a 63-59 win over Hibiscus Coast.



Harbour coach Tony Webster had his team floating under the radar - until Wednesday's quarterfinal win over Counties Manukau



Oreo Under-13 & Under-15 National Championships

Day Three Results - Under-15s

BOYS

Quarterfinals

Nelson 80 Wellington 57, Hutt Valley 93 Whangarei 73,
North Harbour 82 Counties Manukau 62, Waikato 89
Massey 77

9th-16th Quarterfinals

Hawke's Bay 92 Mid Canterbury 59, Porirua 77
Canterbury 50, Otago 91 Western BOP 59, Auckland 81
Rotorua 40

GIRLS

Quarterfinals

North Harbour 68 Wellington 55, Waitakere City 90
Nelson 60, Waikato 58 Canterbury 38, North Canterbury
87 Massey 56

9th-16th Quarterfinals

Counties Manukau 68 Western BOP 46, New Plymouth
73 Thames Valley 31, Hutt Valley 72 Rotorua 52,
Southland 45 Hawke's Bay 44

Day Three Results - Under-13s

BOYS

Quarterfinals

Wellington 69 Waitakere City 63, North Harbour 104
Massey 84, Canterbury 79 Hutt Valley 61, Waikato Black
63 Hibiscus Coast 59

9th-16th Quarterfinals

Nelson 57 Counties Manukau 49, Otago 61 Waikato Gold,
43, Hawke's Bay 53 Rotorua 52, New Plymouth 85 North
Canterbury 71

GIRLS

Quarterfinals

Counties Manukau 68 Waikato 66, North Harbour 81
Waitakere City 80, Hawke's Bay 54 Nelson 47, Canterbury
77 Rotorua 32

9th-16th Quarterfinals

Auckland 84 Hibiscus Coast 51, Wellington 79 Porirua 41,
Mid Canterbury 76 Thames Valley 42, North Canterbury 69
Hutt Valley 43

Day Four Schedule – Under-15s

BOYS

Semifinals

Nelson vs North Harbour, 4pm
Hutt Valley vs Waikato, 5.45pm
5th-8th

Wellington vs Counties, 12.30pm
Whangarei vs Massey, 2.15pm
9th-12th

Hawke's Bay vs Otago, 9am
Porirua vs Auckland, 10.45am
13th-16th

Mid Canterbury vs Western BOP, 9am
Canterbury vs Rotorua, 10.45am

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Western BOP vs Rotorua, 9am
Thames Valley vs Hawke's Bay, 10.45am

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