

2008 BBNZ U21 National Championships  
Tauranga, May 6-9

# Game On

Day Four – Saturday, May 9

## *Timeout Saves Porirua*

For an excruciating period at the end of their semifinal on Friday night, it appeared Porirua's men's championship defence was over.

They had just seen Waitakere City/Otago's Hayden Miller sink an apparent game-winning falling runner as regulation time expired in their 77-74 overtime win at the BBNZ U21 National Championships in Tauranga.

But then came the lifeline.

Before that play started with 2.4 seconds remaining and scores tied at 69-69, Porirua coach Deslea Wrathall signaled timeout to the scorebench.

With referees unable to be notified before the play began, Miller made the basket and Waitakere City/Otago players ran on the court, celebrating a momentous upset. After consulting the scorebench, referees awarded Porirua the timeout and put the 2.4 seconds back on the clock.

Waitakere City/Otago were unable to repeat the game-winning shot second time around as Porirua took over in the extra period to set up a re-match with West Auckland in Saturday's men's final.

"I knew I had the timeout in with the bench before they lined up," Wrathall said after the controversial end, with her at the centre. "I was confident they would get it right and the refs did make that call."

Waitakere City/Otago were not so convinced, protesting the result, which was denied.

Junior Tall Blacks guard Brook Ruscoe took Porirua on his back, scoring a tournament-high 37 points to keep their quest for back-to-back titles alive. His national team-mate Matt Aird assisted late as Porirua rallied to get the game to overtime, scoring 14 points, while Jordan Mills had 17 points despite sitting for extended periods with foul trouble.



*A timeout by coach Deslea Wrathall saved Porirua on Friday night*



Forward Duane Bailey led Waitakere City/Otago with 18 points, while Patrich Bolstad posted 15 points and Luke Aston, who had eight points in the final two minutes of regulation, finished with 12 points.

"I thought we played some really good D in that overtime period," Wrathall said. "We shut them out and made them take some tough shots. It's good to win these tough ones. It shows that our guys are tough. We were down and we gused it out."

West Auckland were the first side to advance to the semifinals on day three at the Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre.

Behind 22 points from point guard Houston O'Riley, West Auckland withstood a second half fight-back from Harbour 59-51 to book a place in the men's final. West Auckland were clinical in their execution at both ends of the floor in the first half, hitting from distance and clamping down on Harbour defensively as they built a 31-17 lead by halftime.

Harbour coach James Ballinger asked his side to get within at least seven points at the end of the third period, to have any chance in the fourth.

And Harbour delivered.

With a defensive surge that kept West Auckland to 11 points in the third quarter, Harbour pulled within five points with a period to play.

Harbour, who got a team-high 15 points from Junior Tall Blacks centre Rob Loe, were able to get as close as two points early in the fourth but back-to-back triples saw West Auckland extend the gap back to nine with six minutes remaining.

Not going away, Harbour closed within two again at 53-51 with three minutes to play before O'Riley and Paaka Hakaraia, who finished with 14 points, were able to make baskets on weaving drives into the lane to ice the win.

Porirua and West Auckland, who met in pool A play on Thursday morning, with Porirua winning 68-66, in the men's final at 4pm.

In another notable performance, Junior Tall Black Riki Buckrell scored 39 points as Hutt Valley beat the Emerging JTBs to play Palmerston North for fifth.

### WOMEN'S FINAL

Harbour

vs

Porirua

2.15pm

### MEN'S FINAL

Porirua

vs

West Auckland

4pm

### Emerging Tall Blacks Trials

Emerging Tall Blacks (U21) coach Jeff Green will hold national team trials at the conclusion of the BBNZ U21 National Championships at the Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre.

There will be two trial sessions – 7.30-9.30pm on Saturday night following the tournament awards presentations and from 8-10.30am on Sunday morning.

The trials are open to any athletes under 21 as at December 31, 2008, and must be available for the FIBA Oceania Tournament in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, from June 20-28.

The cost to trial is \$5 and athletes must wear either a black or white t-shirt or singlet.



### ***P-Town Gets Two Chances***

Porirua will have two chances to win national titles on Saturday at the BBNZ U21 National Championships in Tauranga.

After their male counterparts had won their semifinal in controversial fashion two hours earlier, the Porirua women took the less dramatic route in their convincing 68-55 semifinal win over Counties Manukau.

Getting 16 points from Donna Fermanis and 15 points from Rhandelle Tuala-Fata, Porirua put the game beyond doubt in the third quarter, moving out to a 19-point lead.

Despite scoring only eight points in the final period, Porirua were never in danger in the fourth, cruising into the women's final where they will meet unbeaten Harbour, who needed overtime to outlast the Emerging Junior Tall Ferns 76-74 in the other semifinal.

In a tight first half, Counties Manukau led after the opening frame but began to succumb to Porirua's frenetic pressure in the second.

"It was after that loss against Waitakere City yesterday, the girls did some soul-searching and started to pick up the intensity in their games," Porirua coach Reece Tuala-Fata said.

"It started with the game last night against Palmerston North, then continued in our win over the Emerging Juniors and now this game."

Porirua qualified top from a three-way tie for first in pool B after a 68-54 win over the Emerging JTFs, which cost Waitakere City/New Plymouth a place in the semifinals after the count-back.

Ginia Muave scored 18 points for Counties Manukau, who needed a win over Hutt Valley in their final pool game earlier on Friday to reach the final four, and Larissa Marino-Anderson finished with 13 points.

In their semifinal, Harbour should have locked away their semifinal in regulation. But given a second chance in overtime, they succeeded.

After a powerful 17-7 second quarter, Harbour were in control of the game until the latter minutes of the third as the Emerging JTFs uncorked a 14-4 run to get within four points.

The margin held until the last minute of regulation as Harbour missed several chances to secure the win before a Georgia Agnew triple sent the game into overtime. Harbour eventually put the game away at the free-throw line but still had to survive a scramble for the ball under their own hoop off a missed free-throw as the overtime ran out.

Kate Lacey scored a game-high 17 points for Harbour, while Mieke Elkington, who hit a crucial three-pointer in overtime, finished with 15 points.

Moengaroa Subritzky had 13 points for the Emerging JTFs, who lost twice on day three after going 4-0 on Wednesday and Thursday. Kalani Purcell added 12 points and Aleesha Coulter 11. Porirua and Harbour meet in the women's final at 2.15pm.



*Porirua coach Reece Tuala-Fata instructs his team*



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## BBNZ U21 National Championships Day Three Results

### MEN

*Pool A:* **Porirua 76** (Matt Aird 14) **Hutt Valley 53** (Riki Buckrell 16); **Palmerston North 75** (Ryan Twist 16) **Counties Manukau 67** (Paul Organ 22)

*Pool B:* **Harbour 69** (Lydon Aoake 30) **Waitakere City/Otago 68** (Hayden Miller 17); **Emerging JTBs 75** (Kirk Rangiawha 20) **Canterbury 65** (Mike Kinley 17)

#### *Playoffs*

*Semifinals:* **West Auckland 59** (Houston O'Riley 22, Paaka Hakaraia 14) **Harbour 51** (Rob Loe 15, Zac Fitzgerald 12); **Porirua 77** (Brook Ruscoe 37, Jordan Mills 17, Matt Aird 14) **Waitakere City/Otago 74** (Duane Bailey 18, Patrich Bolstad 15, Luke Aston 12, Tom Rowe 11) OT

*5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:* **Hutt Valley 95** (Riki Buckrell 39) **Emerging JTBs 73** (Magnus Holding 12); **Palmerston North 81** (Kere Harnett 17) **Canterbury 53** (Mike Kinley 18)

### WOMEN

*Pool A:* **Counties Manukau 62** (Jordan Hunter 17) **Hutt Valley 51** (Jasmine Davis 11); **Harbour 99** (Mikayla Blair 24) **Western BOP 53** (Rose-Ana Kingi 20)

*Pool B:* **Waitakere City/New Plymouth 81** (Zoe Kensington 14) **Otago 73** (Janet Main 19); **Waikato 73** (Naomi Hiakita 25) **Palmerston North 54** (Freya Newton 15); **Porirua 68** (Molly McCallum 16) **Emerging JTFs 54** (Kalani Purcell 17)

#### *Playoffs*

*Semifinals:* **Harbour 76** (Kate Lacey 17, Mieke Elkington 15) **Emerging JTFs 74** (Moengaroa Subritzky 13, Kalani Purcell 12, Aleesha Coulter 11) OT; **Porirua 68** (Donna Fermanis 16, Rhandelle Tuala-Fata 15) **Counties Manukau 55** (Ginia Muave 18, Larissa Marino-Anderson 13)

*5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:* **Hutt Valley 60** (Jasmine Davis 20) **Waikato 53** (Kauai Bourne 16); **Waitakere City/New Plymouth 93** (Stevee-Rose Theyers 20) **Western BOP 45** (Rose-Ana Kingi 18)

*9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>:* **Otago 58** (Emma Symon 10) **Rotorua 43** (Vanessa Bates 18)

## BBNZ U21 National Championships Day Four Schedule

### MEN

9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>: Counties vs Western BOP, 9am

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: Canterbury vs Emerging Junior Tall Blacks, 10.45am

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: Palmerston North vs Hutt Valley, 10.45am

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: Waitakere City/Otago vs Harbour 12.30pm

Final: Porirua vs West Auckland, 4pm

### WOMEN

9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>: Rotorua vs Palmerston North, 9am; Palmerston North vs Otago, 12.30pm

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: Waikato vs Western BOP, 9am

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: Hutt Valley vs Waitakere City/New Plymouth, 10.45am

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: Emerging Junior Tall Ferns vs Counties Manukau, 12.30pm

Final: Harbour vs Porirua, 2.15pm

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