



2009 FURNWARE NZ "AA" SECONDARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Arena Manawatu, Palmerston North, September 28-October 3

Game On

Day Two - Tuesday, September 29

Fast Track

New Plymouth GHS captain Zoe Kensington always dreamt of being a Tall Fern ... but never dreamt it would happen so soon.

"It's been a pretty good year," she reflects. "But it has been kind of a big shock, really." Kensington (18), one of the promising guards in national age group basketball for several years, began 2009 aiming to consolidate her place on the domestic scene.

"I was probably just hoping to work on the individual weaknesses in my own game and make them better.

"As captain, I also wanted to help my school do well at the nationals."

She got her team off to a safe enough start at the Furnware NZ "AA" Secondary School Championships with an 82-38 win over Cambridge High School, highlighted by team-mate Bella McCallum's 35 points.

Kensington was part of a Junior Tall Fern team that won the Main Event tournament in Las Vegas last year and many of that team hooked up again

for the Emerging Tall Ferns at the FIBA Oceania Tournament in the Northern Marianas in June, finishing runners up to Australia. But that was just a taste of things to come ... When new Tall Ferns coach Shawn Dennis began to take stock of who might be available for the FIBA Oceania Championships, he found just four survivors from last year's Beijing Olympics. Suddenly, there was a chance for international rookies to stake a claim ... and Kensington was one to put her hand up.

"This has definitely been a goal of mine, ever since I was a little kid," she says. "It was a big step up from age groups, where you have to pay for everything.



Tall Fern Zoe Kensington v Australia (FIBA)

Continued ...



From P 1 ..

"Our camp in Napier was awesome and Shawn made it really exciting for us." Kensington chuckles as she remembers the moment she began to feel at home in the national squad.

"We actually felt like superstars and, for the first time, people wanted my autograph.

"At one point, we had to fill out some travel forms and I accidentally added my playing number to the end of my signature ... I'd gotten so used to putting it on my autograph."

With starting point guard Angela Marino unavailable and Olympic backup Noni Wharemate retired, the Ferns faced a stern challenge just to get the ball up court against the world champion Australian Opals. Veteran shooter Kate McMeeken-Ruscoie shouldered most of the ball-carrying duties, but everyone pitched in and Kensington, in a baptism of fire, probably did as well as any.

"At that level, you've got to be a bit more aware of what's going on around you. You can get away with things at secondary school level, but that level, every second counts.

"You can't fall asleep at all."

Back in a familiar environment, Kensington faces a different challenge as role model for others now hoping to follow in her footsteps.

"There is a bit of pressure," she admits.

"For the Tall Ferns, my role wasn't to be a big scorer, but now I have to be that for my school team."

New Plymouth GHS lost to eventual champions Church College in last year's semis and hopes are high for 2009.

But Church piled 100 points on late entries Rotorua GHS yesterday, then dispatched Rangi Ruru GS 82-30. Other girls' teams to open with two wins were Waimea College, Northcote College, Sacred Heart College and Fraser HS.

In the boys' draw, titleholders St Patrick's College beat Palmerston North BHS 79-64, while Church, Rangitoto

College, Westlake BHS, Hastings BHS, Tauranga Boys' College, Fraser and Mana College also went two-for-two.

**NZ "A" Secondary Schools
Championships
North Shore Events Centre**

Monday, September 28

Boys

Paeroa College 82 Buller HS 81
Dunstan HS 65 Taumarunui College 51
Rotorua Lakes HS 70 Tolaga Bay Area
School 48
Nga Taiatea Wharekura 55 Stratford HS 37
Pinehurst School 51 Buller 89
Nga Taiatea 72 Taumarunui 70
Dunstan 74 Stratford 71
Rotorua Lakes 99 Pinehurst 37
Paeroa 95 Tolaga Bay 61

Girls

Wairoa College 102 Mairehau HS 21
Rotorua Lakes 58 Paeroa 34
Buller 54 Te Aroha College 53
Rotorua Lakes 88 Mairehau 14
Church 60 Paeroa 45
Te Aroha 61 Wairoa 51

Tuesday, September 29

Boys

8.30am - Tolaga Bay v Pinehurst
10.15am - Nga Taiatea v Dunstan, Rotorua
Lakes v Buller
Noon - Pinehurst v Paeroa
2.30pm - Taumarunui v Stratford
4.15pm - Rotorua Lakes v Paeroa, Buller v
Tolaga Bay

Girls

8.30am - Church v Mairehau, Buller v
Wairoa
10.15am - Rotorua Lakes v Te Aroha
2.30pm - Buller v Rotorua Lakes, Mairehau
v Paeroa
4.15pm - Church v Te Aroha



YESTERDAY ...

2009 Furnware NZ "AA" Secondary School Championships

Arena Manawatu, Palmerston North

Monday, September 28

Boys

Pool A

Hamilton 82 (R Neho 28) New Plymouth 69
St Patrick's 79 (V Groom 21) Palmerston
North 64

Onehunga 68 New Plymouth 67

Nelson 75 Hamilton 47

Standings: HBHS 3; NC, NPBHS, OC &
SPC 2; PNBHS 1

Pool B

Church 76 (J Whippy 27) Otago 47
(E Carruthers 20)

Rangitoto 91 (S King 21) Middleton

Grange 53 (I Solofuti 37)

Nayland 70 (A Dempster 21) Waimea 53

Church 74 (Jared Whippy 26) Nayland 53

Rangitoto 85 (Isaac Fotu 20) Otago 61
(Ethan Carruthers 38)

Middleton Grange 71 (Inga Solofuti 30)

Waimea 69 (Tom Ingham 29)

Standings: CCNZ & RC 4; MG & NC 3;
OBHS & WC 2

Pool C

Tauranga 80 (A Dunstan 32) Massey 40

Fraser 82 St John's 54

Mana 61 Cambridge 45

Fraser 92 Massey 54

Mana 97 (I Torea 22) St John's 78
(J Tait 23)

Tauranga 86 (Adam Dunstan 29)

Cambridge 37

Standings: TBC, MC & FHS 4; MHS,
CHS & SJC 2

Pool D

Westlake 77 (R Loe 23) Mt Albert 65

Wellington 91 (T Sopoaga 22) Cashmere

90 (E Noble 39) OT

Hastings 80 (C Smiler 24) Kelston 68

(K Davey 23)

Westlake 90 (Shaquille Hohepa Wilson

22) Kelston 51

Cashmere 81 Mt Albert 65

Hastings 77 Wellington 71

Standings: WBHS & HBHS 4; CHS &
WC 3; MAGS & KBHS 2

Girls

Pool A

Church 100 Rotorua 29

Northcote 66 Hauraki Plains 56

Sacred Heart 61 Rangitoto 48

Church 82 Rangitoto 30

Sacred Heart 76 (P Blanks 23) Hauraki

Plains 62 (K O'Hallahan 29)

Northcote 81 Rotorua 73

Standings: CC, SHC & NC 4; RRGs,
RGHS & HPC 2

Pool B

Mt Albert 93 (A Kelman-Poto 26) Kristin 42

Rangiora 93 (G Hazeldine 20) Mana 58

(H Harris 23)

Napier 74 Christchurch 55

Standings: MAGS, RC & NGHS 2; MC,
KS & CGHS 1

Pool C

New Plymouth 82 (B McCallum 35)

Cambridge 38 (A Palmer 20)

Hutt Valley 65 Marlborough 50

(S van Velthooven 20)

Waikato Dio 59 Nelson 57 OT

Standings: HVHS NPGHS & WD 2; MC,
CHS & NCG 1

Pool D

Waimea 51 (J Vucinic 26) Auckland 48

Manurewa 58 Freyberg 39

Fraser 62 (B Ross-Waitai 20) Rangitoto 59

Waimea 73 (J Vucinic 33) Manurewa 64

(P Lolesi & C Davis 20)

Rangitoto 65 Auckland 48

Fraser HS 80 Freyberg HS 49

Standings:
FHS & WC 4; RC & MHS 3; FHS & AGGS 2



TODAY ...

2009 Furnware NZ "AA" Secondary School Championships Arena Manawatu, Palmerston North

Tuesday, September 29

Boys

9am

Westlake BHS v Wellington College (D),
Arena 3/C1

Cashmere HS v Hastings BHS (D), Arena
3/C2

Kelston BHS v Mt Albert Grammar (D),
Ballroom 1

Nayland College v Otago BHS (D), B&M
4

Rangitoto College v Waimea College (B),
B&M 5

Church College v Middleton Grange (B),
B&M 6

10.45am

New Plymouth BHS v Palmerston North
BHS (A), Arena 3/C1

Nelson College v Onehunga HS (A),
Arena 3/C2

St Patricks College v Hamilton BHS (A),
Ballroom 1

12.30pm

Tauranga Boys College v St Johns
College (C), Arena 3/C1

Fraser HS v Mana College (C), Arena
3/C2

Cambridge HS v Massey HS (C),
Ballroom 1

2.15pm

Westlake v Hastings (D), Arena 3/C1

Cashmere v Kelston (D), Arena 3/C2

Wellington v Mt Albert (D), Ballroom 1

Rangitoto v Nayland (B), B&M 4

Middleton Grange v Otago (B), B&M 5

Church v Waimea (B), B&M 6

4pm

St Patrick's v Onehunga (A), Arena 3/C1

New Plymouth v Nelson (A), Arena 3/C2

Hamilton v Palmerston North (A),
Ballroom 1

Girls

9am

Mt Albert Grammar v Napier GHS (B),
Ballroom 2

Christchurch GHS v Mana College (B),
Ballroom 3

10.45am

Waimea College v Fraser HS (D),
Ballroom 2

Rangiora HS v Kristin School (B),
Ballroom 3

Hutt Valley HS v Nelson College (C),
B&M 4

Waikato Dio v Cambridge HS (C), B&M 5
New Plymouth GHS v Marlborough
College (C), B&M 6

12.30pm

Northcote College v Sacred Heart
College (A),

Ballroom 2

Rangi Ruru v Rotorua GHS (A), Ballroom
3

Rangitoto College v Freyberg HS (D),
B&M 4

Manurewa HS v Auckland GGS (D), B&M
5

Church College v Hauraki Plains College
(A), B&M 6

2.15pm

Mt Albert v Mana (A), Ballroom 2

4pm

Napier v Kristin (B), Ballroom 2

Rangiora v Christchurch (B), Ballroom 3

Marlborough v Cambridge (C), B&M 4

Waikato Dio v Hutt Valley (C), B&M 5

New Plymouth v Nelson (C), B&M 6