



2010 Bartercard

NBL

Round 9 (April 29-May 1)

Exodus Saints v Harbour Heat

Christchurch Cougars v Harbour Heat

Fico Finance Nelson Giants v 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks

Waikato Pistons v McDonalds Manawatu Jets

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STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	Win %	GB	Pts
Harbour Heat	9	8	1	88.9	0	16
Waikato Pistons	8	7	1	87.5	0.5	14
Fico Finance Nelson Giants	8	6	2	75.0	1.5	12
Exodus Saints	8	5	3	62.5	2.5	10
0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks	9	5	4	55.6	3	10
Zerofees Southland Sharks	10	5	5	50.0	3.5	10
Taranaki Mountainairs	8	4	4	50.0	3.5	8
Christchurch Cougars	12	4	8	33.3	5.5	8
McDonalds Manawatu Jets	7	0	7	0.0	7	0
OceanaGold Otago Nuggets	9	0	9	0.0	8	0

Win % - Win Percentage, GB – Games Back

LAST WEEK

Bartercard NBL - Round Eight

Thursday, April 22

At Hamilton Boys High School, Hamilton

Waikato Pistons 95 (Thomas Abercrombie 23, Tony Ronaldson 22, Hayden Allen 20)

Harbour Heat 67 (Corey Webster 25, Kavossy Franklin 14, Beny Anthony 12)

Friday, April 23

At Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale

0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks 76 (Josh Pace 21, Nat Connell 11, Chris Daniel 11)

Christchurch Cougars 72 (Trent Wurtz 17, Jeremy Kench 16, Tim Behrendorff 12)

Saturday, April 24

At Arena Manawatu, Palmerston North

McDonalds Manawatu Jets 101 (Darryl Hudson 34, Chris Reay 19, Richard Jeter 17)

Christchurch Cougars 106 (Mark Morrison 26, Jeremy Kench 22, Trent Wurtz 19), OT

At TSB Stadium, New Plymouth

Taranaki Mountain Airs 83 (Jack Leasure 28, Aaron Bailey Nowell 17, Demarshay Johnson 12)

Harbour Heat 92 (Rick Rickert 20, Corey Webster 20, Reece Cassidy 14, Kavossy Franklin 14)

At Southland Stadium, Invercargill

Zerofees Southland Sharks 80 (Mike Helms 24, Rene Rougeau 19)

OceanaGold Nuggets 63 (Tyler Amaya 24)

NBL Trivia of the Week

Name the NBL player who has won the most scoring titles and how many has he won?

(Answer at the end of Media Guide)



THIS WEEK

2010 NBL Round Nine

Thursday, April 29

Exodus Saints (5-3) v Harbour Heat (8-1), 7pm

At TSB Bank Arena, Wellington

Referees – Andy Thackray, Yalla Edwards, Sean Cronin

Head to Head*: Saints 4 Harbour 3

Last Meeting: Heat 115-95 (Round Two: 19/03/2010)

Projected Starting Five

	Saints	Heat
Point Guard	Lindsay Tait	Kavossy Franklin
Shooting Guard	Eric Devendorf	Corey Webster
Small Forward	Troy McLean	Dillon Boucher
Power Forward	Leon Henry	Beny Anthony
Center	Nick Horvath	Rick Rickert

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Saints	Heat
Eric Devendorf (25.1)	Corey Webster (24.8)
Erron Maxey (17.0)	Kavossy Franklin (17.4)
Lindsay Tait (16.0)	Rick Rickert (17.4)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Saints	Heat
Rebounds	Erron Maxey (7.6)	Dillon Boucher (10.4)
Assists	Lindsay Tait (4.4)	Dillon Boucher (5.6)
Steals	Lindsay Tait (2.6)	Corey Webster (3.7)
Blocks	Nick Horvath (0.9)	Rick Rickert (1.1)

Notes

Harbour Heat play their fifth consecutive game on the road and look to sweep the regular season series against a Saints side that has yet to beat a team that is ahead of them in the standings. The first time the teams met the Heat came firing shooting 56.6 from the field scoring 115 points, winning by twenty. Both teams did not have their full squad with Dillon Boucher for the Heat and Lindsay Tait for the Saints. The league's highest scoring back court of Corey Webster and Kavossy Franklin has not matched up against the Saints backcourt of Lindsay Tait and league leading scorer Eric Devendorf who proved quite a duo in their first game together scoring a combined 45 points. Expect the game to be a high scoring affair, Heat first at 97 points per game and Saints second at 95. Saints will need to contain big man Rick Rickert who earned his first player of the week against them with 22 points and 22 rebounds. If Saints want to have any chance of earning a home semi final then this would be a must win. Heat hold a head to head advantage of plus twenty over the Saints which also could have consequences on final standings.

Friday, April 30

Christchurch Cougars (4-8) v Harbour Heat (8-1), 7pm

At Cowles Stadium, Christchurch

Referees – Gavin Zimmerman, Hayden Pipe, Raelene Forde

Head to Head*: Cougars 3 Heat 0

Last Meeting: 2009 Quarterfinal Cougars 106-98 (OT)

Projected Starting Fives

	Cougars	Heat
Point Guard	Jeremy Kench	Kavossy Franklin
Shooting Guard	Paora Winitana	Corey Webster
Small Forward	Mark Morrison	Dillon Boucher
Power Forward	Trent Wurtz	Beny Anthony
Center	Tim Behrendorff	Rick Rickert

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Cougars	Heat
Paora Winitana (19.9)	Corey Webster (25.4)
Tim Behrendorff (16.0)	Kavossy Franklin (18.5)
Jeremy Kench (14.1)	Rick Rickert (18.1)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Cougars	Heat
Rebounds	Trent Wurtz (6.7)	Rick Rickert (11.1)
Assists	Jeremy Kench (4.7)	Dillon Boucher (5.7)
Steals	Jeremy Kench (2.4)	Corey Webster (4.1)
Blocks	Tim Behrendorff (1.0)	Rick Rickert (1.0)

Notes

Harbour have to travel from Wellington to play Christchurch Cougars which will be a grudge match of sorts from last season when the Cougars eliminated the Heat in the quarterfinals last year in overtime 106-98. In that game Paora Winitana was tremendous scoring 38 points making all 18 of his free throw attempts. His team mate Tim Behrendorff also had a monster game with 20 points and 15 rebounds. The Heat is a totally new outfit with only three players remaining from last year's team Corey Webster, Beny Anthony and Darryl Cartwright. The Cougars franchise has never lost to Heat winning all three games played against each other last year, but in all the wins the most the Cougars have won by is eight which was that overtime game. Offence has been a struggle this season for the Cougars currently second to last in team scoring at 79.8 points. But in their last game they scored a season high 106 points in the overtime win against the Jets. Mark Morrison scored 26 in the win and is averaging nearly 19 points in the last two games. Two players who will be vying for a spot in the Tall Blacks for this year's World Champs will go head to head are Cougars Jeremy Kench and Heat's Corey Webster, both playing well of late. Kench has put together some all round games this season, including the 22 points and 7 assist against the Jets. Webster is second in the league in scoring (24.8) and leads the league in steals (3.7).

Saturday, May 1

Fico Finance Nelson Giants (6-2) v 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks (5-4), 7pm

At Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

Referees – Melony Wealleans, Brendan Hodgson, James Campion

Head to Head*: Giants 7 Hawks 2

Last Meeting: Hawks 78-67 (9th April 2009)

Projected Starting Fives

	Giants	Hawks
Point Guard	Mike Fitchett	Josh Pace
Shooting Guard	Phill Jones	Everard Bartlett
Small Forward	Mika Vukona	Chris Daniel
Power Forward	Michael Harrison	Dave Langrell
Center	Tony Rampton	Ben Hill

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Giants	Hawks
Phill Jones (20.0)	Josh Pace (19.7)
Micheal Harrison (16.9)	Everard Bartlett (14.6)
Mika Vukona (13.0)	Chris Daniel (12.6)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Giants	Hawks
Rebounds	Mika Vukona (8.2)	Dave Langrell (5.6)
Assists	Phill Jones (4.1)	Josh Pace (4.3)
Steals	Phill Jones (2.1)	Everard Bartlett (2.0)
Blocks	Michael Harrison (1.9)	Chris Daniel (0.6)

Notes

After a week off the Nelson Giants look to move closer to the top two when they host the Bay Hawks. This is the first time the Hawks Josh Pace will play against his former side who he won a championship with in 2007 also picking up the Most Valuable Player award. Pace has fit in nicely with the Hawks averaging nearly twenty points to go with his four assists. Hawks this week dumped their other import Jamil Terrell who was also a team mate with Pace in the 2007 championship with the Giants. Terrell was leading his team in rebounds and blocks, but Coach Shawn Dennis feels they need more offensive firepower which Terrell wasn't producing only averaging 10 points per game. It is not certain who the Hawks have brought in to fill the spot, but rumors are that it might be a team mate of Pace's at the ABA team he just won a championship with before heading to New Zealand. Giants meanwhile have won three straight all against the South Island teams which puts them currently in third place. Hawks will arguably be their toughest game since their last loss against Harbour, but history has favored the Giants winning seven of the last nine games against the Hawks. A part of the Giants success has been their ability to get to the free throw line averaging a league high 18.5 points per game.

Waikato Pistons (7-1) v McDonalds Manawatu Jets (0-7), 7.30pm

At Hamilton Boys High School, Hamilton

Referees – Tim Brown, Jamie Hickey, Kelly McLeod

Head to Head: Pistons 7 Jets 0

Last Meeting: Pistons 95-73 (Round Six 2010)

Projected Starting Fives

	Pistons	Jets
Point Guard	Carl Krauser	Darryl Hudson
Shooting Guard	Hayden Allen	Matt Te Huna
Small Forward	Thomas Abercrombie	Richard Jeter
Power Forward	Tony Ronaldson	Chris Reay
Center	Alex Pledger	Calum MacLeod

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Pistons	Jets
Thomas Abercrombie (18.3)	Darryl Hudson (24.4)
Hayden Allen (15.5)	Richard Jeter (22.4)
Tony Ronaldson (14.0)	Matt Te Huna (10.1)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Pistons	Jets
Rebounds	Alex Pledger (13.6)	Richard Jeter (5.4)
Assists	Thomas Abercrombie (2.8)	Darryl Hudson (2.7)
Steals	Thomas Abercrombie (1.9)	Matt Te Huna (2.9)
Blocks	Alex Pledger (2.3)	Two Tied (0.4)

Notes

The Manawatu Jets look to avoid their eighth straight loss, but it won't be easy against the second placed Waikato Pistons who are still unbeaten at home and are on a high after beating the previously unbeaten Harbour Heat. Jets have improved drastically since the start of the season when they were losing ball games by thirty plus. With their last two games going past regular time, the Jets need to find ways to close out games which was what cost them against the Cougars where they were up 17 points with 4 minutes remaining only to succumb to a five point loss in overtime. Pistons have had superior dominance over the Jets beating them the last seven times since 2007. That included the 22 point win over the Jets in Round Six, in which Hayden Allen had 25 and Alex Pledger scored 22. Richard Jeter had 25 in that game, but will have more help this time around with fellow import Darryl Hudson who has been sensational in his first two games with the Jets averaging 39 points. Hudson has proved a handful for defenders going to the line on average 16 times a game since joining the Jets, so Allen and new import Carl Krauser will have to be cautious not to get in early foul trouble. Krauser statistically was quiet in his first game, but that did not matter as the Pistons thrashed the Heat by 28 points.

Note: Head to Head = Wins (07, 08, 09 Seasons)

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Round Seven

Thomas Abercrombie

23 Points (8/16 FG, 2/4 3pt, 2/2 FT), 11 rebounds 7 assists, 3 steals in the 95-67 win over the Harbour Heat.

2009 forward of the year Thomas Abercrombie has won his second player of the week in 2010 winning the honors back in Round Two.

What makes this POW special was the fact Abercrombie got it against the previously unbeaten Harbour Heat who were beating teams on average by nearly 15 points. Abercrombie was very close to getting a triple double which has yet to be done this season.

Abercrombie's team mate Alex Pledger had a very strong game matching up against his former team mate at the Breakers Rick Rickert with 11 points, 17 rebounds and 5 blocks. Pledger now leads the league in rebounding (13.6) and blocks (2.3).

Sharks Rene Rougeau had another strong performance in the win against the OceanaGold Nuggets with 19 points, 11 rebounds and 4 steals.

Import for the Cougars Trent Wurtz has seemed to have recovered from a ongoing hamstring injury averaging over 18 points and 9 rebounds on the two game road trip last weekend, which included their over time win against the Manawatu Jets.

In that same game Jeremy Kench had a stat line of 22 points, 4 rebounds, 7 assists and 3 steals.

PLAYER POWER RANKINGS

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

The Next 10 . . .

Michael Harrison (Giants), Jeremy Kench (Cougars), Darryl Hudson (Jets), Mika Vukona (Giants), Josh Pace (Hawks), Lindsay Tait (Saints), Tyler Amaya (Nuggets), Tim Behrendorff (Cougars), Erron Maxey (Saints), Richard Jeter (Jets)

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)	25.1
Corey Webster (Heat)	24.8
Darryl Hudson (Jets)	24.4

Rebounds

Alex Pledger (Pistons)	13.6
Dillon Boucher (Heat)	10.4
Rick Rickert (Heat)	10.1

Assists

Dillon Boucher (Heat)	5.6
Luke Martin (Sharks)	5.0
Jeremy Kench (Cougars)	4.7

Steals

Corey Webster (Heat)	3.7
Rene Rougeau (Sharks)	3.3
Matt Te Huna (Jets)	2.8

Blocks

Alex Pledger (Pistons)	2.3
Thomas Abercrombie (Pistons)	2.1
Michael Harrison (Giants)	1.9

FG % (Min 30 Attempts)

Dillon Boucher (Heat)	63.1
Casey Frank (Saints)	62.7
Michael Harrison (Giants)	58.3

3pt % (Min 15 Attempts)

Dave Langrell (Hawks)	59.2
Eric Devendorf (Saints)	58.6
Nat Connell (Hawks)	50.0

FT % (Min 10 Attempts)

Troy McLean (Saints)	90.9
Daniel Munday (Sharks)	90.0
Havden Allen (Pistons)	89.6

NBL Trivia of the Week

Name the two franchises currently playing in the 2010 season to have over 300 wins in their tenure?

Answer: Ronnie Joyner, Five times (1985, 86, 87, 91, 98)

Ronnie Joyner is the highest ever scorer in the National Basketball League with 8,616 points. Joyner won his first scoring title in 1985 averaging a ridiculous 52.6 points per game for Ponsonby. Thirteen years later he won his final scoring title for the Northland Suns in 1998 averaging 31.1 points a game. In his career Joyner averaged a touch over 30 points a game.

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