



NBL Playoff Race (Round 15)



Waikato Pistons

Record: 12-4

Remaining Games: Southland (Home)
Wellington (Home)

Outlook: Pistons will be disappointed that they lost both games in Round 13, but can still win regular season if they win the remainder of their games which are at home. Their last game which is against the Saints will be very important when it comes to who will earn a top two spot. Pistons have the tiebreaker over the Nelson Giants so if both teams finish with 14 wins then Pistons go ahead. Giants loss to the Jets helps the cause.



Fico Finance Nelson Giants

Record: 11-5

Remaining Games: Harbour (Home)
Southland (Home)

Outlook: The loss to the Jets, has now put pressure on the Giants to win remainder of games if they wish to host a home semi final. If they wish to win regular season Saints need to lose to Manawatu and Pistons need to lose both games. Giants cannot finish with the same record as the Hawks and the Heat, otherwise they could lose out in a home quarterfinal



Exodus Saints

Record: 12-4

Remaining Games: Manawatu (Home)
Waikato (Away)

Outlook: Simple equation is to win rest of games and finish top. But if they drop both games then they could finish fourth if they have the same record as the Hawks and Giants. One win will put the Saints at worst 3rd. But if Giants win rest of their games it will come down to the Pistons game on who makes the top two



Harbour Heat

Record: 9-7

Remaining Games: Nelson (Away)
Taranaki (Home)

Outlook: One more win and the Heat clinch a spot in the six. But lose both and then face the possibility of not making the playoffs, if the Sharks finish with a better record and the Cougars win against the Nuggets. Can still host a home quarter, but will need the Hawks to drop a game or Nelson to lose remaining games.



0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks

Record: 9-6

Remaining Games: Taranaki (Home)
Otago (Away)
Manawatu (Home)

Outlook: Hawks have the easiest schedule remaining so should finish with 12 wins. Hawks have the tiebreak advantage over the Pistons, Saints and Giants which may prove pivotal if they finish with equal records. But if the top three teams have a better record and the Heat finish with the same record as the Hawks then they could potentially miss out on a home quarter final.



Zerofees Southland Sharks

Record: 7-7

Remaining Games: Waikato (Away)
Taranaki (Away)
Nelson (Away)
Manawatu (Away)

Outlook: On the road for the rest of the regular season which will be tough. The Airs loss to the Jets puts less pressure on the Sharks, needing two more wins to clinch a playoff spot. If Sharks win all remaining games then they put themselves in with an opportunity to host a home quarter final. It is a long shot with them needing the Giants to lose rest of games, Heat to lose to Airs and then they have to beat the Giants by more than two.



Taranaki Mountain Airs

Record: 6-9

Remaining Games: Bay Hawks (Away)
Southland (Home)
Harbour (Away)

Outlook: The Airs loss to the Jets last week has put a severe hit on their playoff chances, most probably needing to win remainder of games. If Cougars lose against the Nuggets then they could sneak in with eight wins, but will need to beat the Southland Sharks and hope they finish with eight wins as well. If they win the rest of games and Sharks lose at least two then the Airs will make the playoffs. If they finish with same record as the Heat and beat them by more than nine then they have the tiebreak advantage.



Christchurch Cougars

Record: 8-9

Remaining Games: Otago (Home)

Outlook: Huge win against the Heat has put the Cougars in a very good position for a top six. But they can not afford to lose against the Nuggets, otherwise the Sharks will only need to win one game, or the Airs two to effectively knock them out. They only have tiebreak advantage over the Heat so cannot afford to finish with the same record as the Airs and Sharks.



McDonalds Manawatu Jets

Record: 4-11

Remaining Games: Wellington (Away)
Hawks (Away)
Southland (Home)

Outlook: Jets has won three in a row and even though they are eliminated from the playoff they could play spoilers to the Sharks if they beat them. If they beat the Saints and Hawks then they could ruin their chances of a home semi final or even a home quarter.



OceanaGold Nuggets

Record: 0-16

Remaining Games: Christchurch (Away)
Bay Hawks (Home)

Outlook: Already eliminated from playoffs but could be a spoiler to the Cougars and effect playoff seedings. Will want to get at least one win and not join the 1998 Northland Suns and 2009 Taranaki Dynamos to go through an entire season winless.