

2010 Bartercard

NBL

Semi Finals Media Guide

Friday, June 25



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STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	Win %	GB	Pts
&-Exodus Saints	18	14	4	77.8	0	28
z-Waikato Pistons	18	13	5	72.2	1	26
y-Fico Finance Nelson Giants	18	12	6	66.7	2	24
y-Harbour Heat	18	11	7	61.1	3	22
x-0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks	18	11	7	61.1	3	22
x-Zerofees Southland Sharks	18	9	9	50.0	5	18
e-Christchurch Cougars	18	9	9	50.0	5	18
e-Taranaki Mountainairs	18	6	12	33.3	8	12
e-McDonalds Manawatu Jets	18	5	13	27.8	9	10
e-OceanaGold Nuggets	18	0	18	0.0	14	0

Win % - Win Percentage, GB – Games Back

&- clinched regular season

z- home semifinal

y- home quarterfinal

x- clinched playoff berth

e- eliminated

THIS WEEK

Bartercard NBL – Quarter Finals

Tuesday, June 22

Quarter Final One

At Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

Fico Finance Nelson Giants 82 (Michael Harrison 23, Phill Jones 20, Mika Vukona 17)

Zerofees Southland Sharks 67 (Mike Helms 19, Luke Martin 18, Rene Rougeau 16)

Wednesday, June 23

Quarter Final Two

At North Shore Events Centre, North Shore

Harbour Heat 77 (Rick Rickert 30, Beny Anthony 17, Reece Cassidy 12)

0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks 82 (Josh Pace 28, Three Tied 9)

2010 NBL Semi Finals

Friday, June 25

Waikato Pistons (13-5) v Fico Finance Nelson Giants (13-6), 7.30pm

At Hamilton Boys High School, Hamilton
 Head to Head Wins (Since 1995): Pistons 14 Giants 23
 Head to Head (Playoffs): Pistons 3 Giants 3
 Playoff Appearances: Pistons 17 Giants 40
 Referees – Tim Brown, Melony Wealleans, Hayden Pipe

Rosters

No.	Waikato Pistons	Games Played
4	Tony Ronaldson	16
6	Ray Cameron	84
8	Roble Ali	4
9	Hayden Allen	204
10	Thomas Abercrombie	37
11	Alex Pledger	26
12	Rashad Tucker	5
13	John Auld	4
14	Dennis Tawhiti	3
25	Gerard Bowden	53
33	Puke Lendon	201
40	Mike Homik	160

No.	Nelson Giants	Games Played
7	Darryl Jones	100
8	Nico Ritschny	16
10	Samuel Dempster	13
11	Bronson Beri	41
12	Tony Rampton	105
13	Phill Jones	300
14	Mika Vukona	173
15	Mike Fitchett	194
20	Steve Bill	48
21	Josh Bloxham	44
31	Ben Wright	52
55	Michael Harrison*	38

Projected Starting Fives

	Pistons	Giants
Point Guard	Rashad Tucker	Mike Fitchett
Shooting Guard	Hayden Allen	Phill Jones
Small Forward	Thomas Abercrombie	Mika Vukona
Power Forward	Tony Ronaldson	Michael Harrison
Center	Alex Pledger	Tony Rampton

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Pistons	Giants
Thomas Abercrombie (20.7) (10 th)	Phill Jones (20.8) (9 th)
Hayden Allen (15.3)	Michael Harrison (14.5)
Tony Ronaldson (13.6)	Mika Vukona (13.0)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Pistons	Giants
Rebounds	Alex Pledger (12.6) (1 st)	Mika Vukona (9.9) (3 rd)
Assists	Thomas Abercrombie (2.0)	Phill Jones (4.1) (5 th)
Steals	Thomas Abercrombie (1.6)	Mika Vukona (1.8) (10 th)
Blocks	Thomas Abercrombie (2.0)	Michael Harrison (1.9) (4 th)

Team Stats (Per game) & (NBL Rank)

	Pistons	Giants
Scoring	87.6 (4 th)	81.8 (=6 th)
Rebounds	45.7 (1 st)	40.7 (7 th)
Assists	14.8 (2 nd)	14.1 (5 th)
FG%	46.1 (4 th)	43.7 (7 th)
FT%	70.8 (6 th)	71.0 (5 th)
3pt%	35.8 (4 th)	39.3 (1 st)

2010 Head to Head

Round One

At Te Awamutu Events Centre

Waikato Pistons 92 (Eric Devendorf 49, Alex Pledger 11 Gerard Bowden 10)

Fico Finance Nelson Giants 73 (Michael Harrison 24, Phil Jones 17, Tony Rampton 13)

Round 13

At Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

Fico Finance Nelson Giants 76 (Mika Vukona 21, Phill Jones 15, Darryl Jones 15)

Waikato Pistons 71 (Thomas Abercrombie 24, Hayden Allen 20, Alex Pledger 11)

Preview

In the last decade the Waikato Pistons and Nelson Giants have built up a strong rivalry in the playoffs playing each other six times since 2000, both winning three a piece. Pistons clean swept the Giants in last year's finals en route to championship number four. One of the key members from that Pistons side was Mike Fitchett who played one season for them before returning home to Nelson where he has an opportunity to make his third finals in four seasons. The two team's first meeting in a playoff game was back in 2000 when the Giants beat the Pistons in the semi final 105-100. Phill Jones and Tony Rampton were the only two current players to play in that game top scoring for their side with 25 and 24 respectively. In 2002 the Pistons would seek revenge on the Giants beating them in the Grand Finals 85-83 in Nelson thanks to two made free throws from Dillon Boucher. Phill Jones had a game high 31 points but missed a tough game winning three. Pistons Hayden Allen who is averaging 15.3 points this season was the only member left from the Pistons side while Mika Vukona and Jones were in that Giants team. Giants would defeat the Pistons 77-65 in the 2005 semi final, Vukona had 15 points and 16 rebounds. In 2007 the Giants would pull off one of their biggest wins when Fitchett scored 34 points in the 109-103 win, which led to the Giants third championship. Now in 2010 both teams each won their home games, but in Round One the Pistons did win thanks to 49 points from Eric Devendorf who was released from them mid season. Since then the Pistons have had injury problems with their points guards Carl Krauser who was released and now Rashad Tucker who suffered a hit in their last game. Tucker played one of his best games in a Pistons uniforms with 10 points and nine rebounds against the Giants in Round 13. The big guard should play as well as league leading rebounder Alex Pledger who also missed the Pistons last game. 2009 forward of the year Thomas Abercrombie leads his team in points, steals, assists and blocks. Giants Mika Vukona who is a team mate of Abercrombie's in the Tall Blacks will look to shut down the second year small forward. Vukona came out firing in the first half against Southland Sharks scoring 13 points for a comfortable quarter final win. However Friday's semi against the Pistons will be a totally different kettle of fish with the likes of experienced winner Tony Ronaldson who has had vast experience in the Australian League playoff winning championships in 1992 and 1996.

Exodus (14-4) v 0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks(12-7) , 7.30pm

At TSB Bank Arena

Head to Head Wins (Since 1995): Saints 19 Hawks 15

Playoff Appearances: Saints 36 Hawks 28

Referees – Dallas Pickering, Andy Thackray, Raewyn Willocks

Rosters

No.	Exodus Saints	Games Played
4	Lindsay Tait	162
6	Erron Maxey	17
7	Damien Ekenasio	129
9	George Le'afa	201
10	Leon Henry	70
15	Ross Taurima	11
23	Eric Devendorf	13
31	Randall Bishop	24
43	Casey Frank	164
44	Nick Horvath	60
55	Troy McLean	239

No.	Bay Hawks	Games Played
4	Jarrold Kenny	110
5	Everard Bartlett	88
6	Miles Pearce	149
9	Josh Pace	52
11	Nat Connell	148
12	Chris Daniel	114
13	Haylan Tahau	7
14	Ben Hill	178
30	Jon Rogers	9
32	Paul Henare	241
42	Warrick Siddall	25
44	Dave Langrell	200

Projected Starting Fives

	Saints	Hawks
Point Guard	Lindsay Tait	Josh Pace
Shooting Guard	Eric Devendorf	Everard Bartlett
Small Forward	Leon Henry	Chris Daniel
Power Forward	Casey Frank	Dave Langrell
Center	Nick Horvath	Jon Rogers

Leading Scorers (Points per game)

Saints	Hawks
Eric Devendorf (25.6)	Josh Pace (19.8)
Lindsay Tait (16.6)	Everard Bartlett (14.1)
Erron Maxey (13.8)	Jon Rogers (13.4)

Team Leaders in Other Categories (Per game)

	Saints	Hawks
Rebounds	Casey Frank (7.8)	Jon Rogers (6.6)
Assists	Lindsay Tait (7.8)	Josh Pace (3.9) (7 th)
Steals	Eric Devendorf (2.2)	Everard Bartlett (1.7)
Blocks	Nick Horvath (0.8)	Jon Rogers (2.2) (1 st)

Team Stats (Per game) & (NBL Rank)

	Saints	Hawks
Scoring	94.5 (1 st)	88.8 (3 rd)
Rebounds	40.8 (5 th)	42.2 (3 rd)
Assists	18.3 (1 st)	14.3 (3 rd)
FG%	49.1 (1 st)	47.6 (3 rd)
FT%	73.9 (2 nd)	66.8 (9 th)
3pt%	37.5 (3 rd)	38.9 (2 nd)

2010 Head to Head

Round Five

At Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale

0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks 92 (George Golden 17, Everard Bartlett 14, Chris Daniel 13)
Exodus Saints 72 (Erron Maxey 23, Darryl Hudson 14, Lindsay Tait 12)

Round 11

At TSB Bank Arena, Wellington

Exodus Saints 103 (Eric Devendorf 36, Casey Frank 18, Lindsay Tait 18)
0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks 91 (Josh Pace 30, Everard Bartlett 16, Ben Hill 13)

Preview

0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks travel from the North Shore where they won a tight 82-77 quarter final over the Harbour Heat to play their semi final against the Exodus Saints. The two teams met in last year's quarter finals, Saints edging out the Hawks in a tight 80-75 win. Leon Henry came off the bench for the Saints to score 15 in the win. Henry's opposition for the game Chris Daniel also had a strong game in the quarterfinal with 14 points. Hawks arguably has one of the deepest rosters in the league and it showed last night with Coach Shawn Dennis playing 10 of his players with nine of them getting at least 15 minutes. That should help the Hawks in particular with the amount of guards that can be used on the league's highest back scoring of Eric Devendorf and Lindsay Tait who combine to average 42 points a game. It will be interesting to see what kind of shape Devendorf will be in having missed the Saints last five games though an ankle injury. Both teams have finished the season in good form with Saints winning five in a row while the Hawks seven of their last nine. The last time the two teams met was back in Round 11 when the Saints won 103-91, but it was only the first quarter that let the Hawks down losing it 27-11. In the last three quarters the Hawks outscored the Saints 80-74, Josh Pace scoring 17 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter. The matchup between former Syracuse University players Pace and Devendorf will be an epic. Pace is a proven winner having won an NCAA National Championship with Syracuse and the 2007 NBL Title for the Nelson Giants. The 2007 Most Valuable Player continued this on Wednesday when he scored 28 in the quarter final win. Devendorf the league leading scorer has also been a winner in his collegiate career and has continued this winning in the National League where he has amassed an 11-2 win/loss record. Another battle in the guards will be between arguably two of the best point guards in the league this decade, Saints Lindsay Tait and Hawks Paul Henare. Tait has won his first ever assist title this season at over seven a game, while Henare is a five time assist champ winning it last season with an average of 6.5. The last time Hawks have beat the Saints at home was in 2007.

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