




SOUTHERN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TE WHARE WAIWAI O SOUTHERN

FINAL FOUR

NBL Final Four Media Guide

GRAND FINAL

7PM SATURDAY 4 JUNE

SEMI FINALS

FRIDAY 3 JUNE 6PM & 8PM

TICKETS FROM

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PLAYED AT ILT STADIUM SOUTHLAND

Regular Season Review

Standings

Team	P	W	L	Pts
Canterbury Rams	18	13	5	26
Wellington Saints	18	13	5	26
SIT Zerofees Sharks	18	11	7	22
James Blond Supercity Rangers	18	9	9	18
Mike Pero Nelson Giants	18	9	9	18
Augusta Airs	18	8	10	16
Indigo Hawks	18	0	18	0

League Leaders

Points

Eric Devendorf (Rangers)	25.8
Ray Cowells (Giants)	25.7
Marcel Jones (Rams)	23.5

Rebounds

Alex Pledger (Sharks)	11.4
Daniel Miller (Airs)	10.6
Torrey Craig (Saints)	10.0

Individual Highs

Points	40	Dion Prewster (Wellington Saints)
Rebounds	20	Alex Pledger (SIT Zerofees Sharks)
Assists	15	Lindsay Tait (James Blond Supercity Rangers)
Steals	7	McKenzie Moore (Canterbury Rams) & Dillon Boucher (James Blond Supercity Rangers)
Blocks	5	Daniel Miller (Augusta Airs)

Assists

McKenzie Moore (Rams)	8.2
Shea Ili (Saints)	5.6
Lindsay Tait (Rangers)	5.2

Steals

McKenzie Moore (Rams)	3.1
Dillon Boucher (Rangers)	2.1
Marques Whippy (Rams)	2.0

Players of the Week

Round One	Leon Henry (Wellington Saints)
Round Two	Finn Delany (Mike Pero Nelson Giants)
Round Three	Jordair Jett (SIT Zerofees Sharks)
Round Four	Jordair Jett (SIT Zerofees Sharks)
Round Five	McKenzie Moore (Canterbury Rams)
Round Six	Torrey Craig (Wellington Saints) & Terrence Roberts (James Blond Supercity Rangers)
Round Seven	Marcel Jones (Canterbury Rams)
Round Eight	Ray Cowells (Mike Pero Nelson Giants)
Round Nine	Marcel Jones (Canterbury Rams)
Round 10	Nick Kay (SIT Zerofees Sharks)
Round 11	Ben Strong (Mike Pero Nelson Giants)
Round 12	Dion Prewster (Wellington Saints)

Blocks

Daniel Miller (Airs)	1.9
Tai Wesley (Sharks)	1.6
Alex Pledger (Sharks)	1.4

FG % (Min 50 Attempts)

Finn Delany (Giants)	60.2
Daniel Miller (Airs)	59.6
Marques Whippy (Rams)	58.7

3pt % (Min 30 Attempts)

Eric Devendorf (Rangers)	45.5
Dion Prewster (Saints)	44.8
Marcus Alipate (Rams)	42.3

FT % (Min 15 Attempts)

Mitch Norton (Sharks)	94.3
Phill Jones (Giants)	88.9
Ray Cowells (Giants)	87.8

Final Four Preview

Canterbury Rams (13-5) v James Blond Supercity Rangers (9-9)

When	Friday, June 3rd, 6pm
Where	ILT Stadium, Invercargill
Referees	Dallas Pickering, Melony Wealleans, Yalla Edwards

Leaders

	Rams	Rangers
Points	Marcel Jones (23.5)	Eric Devendorf (25.8)
Rebounds	Marcel Jones (9.6)	Terrence Roberts (7.5)
Assists	McKenzie Moore (8.2)	Lindsay Tait (5.2)
Steals	McKenzie Moore (3.4)	Dillon Boucher (2.1)
Blocks	Marcel Jones (1.1)	Terrence Roberts (1.3)

Preview

The Rams return to the playoffs for the first time since re-joining the league in 2014. The last time the franchise made the playoffs was in 2002 where they lost to the Waikato Titans (coached by Jeff Green) 91-81 in the semi-final.

Since returning into the league, the Rams have improved each season, winning the regular season for the first time since 1993. Hopefully this years side can do one better than the 1993 team that lost to the Hutt Valley Lakers (coached by Jeff Green) 68-66 in the Grand Final.

Canterbury have a successful post season history with four titles (1986, 89, 90, 92) and a 60% winning percentage (15-10).

The Rangers return to the semi-finals for the second straight season under Head Coach Jeff Green, who will have another chance to win his fifth NBL title.

This will be the first post season for coach Mark Dickel, who has a 22-14 record since taking over the Rams the season before.

Despite finishing with a 9-9 record, the Rams can ill afford to under estimate a Rangers roster that have combined to win 21 NBL titles featuring proven winners such as Lindsay Tait, Corey Webster, Mika Vukona, Eric Devendorf and Dillon Boucher.

Gareth Dawson is the lone Ram to win a title, but one player who does have playoff experience is McKenzie Moore who took the Giants to the semis last year. This season Moore led the league in assists and steals, and since joining the Rams, they have gone 10-2.

Team Stats

	Rams	Rangers
Points	92.2 (3rd)	95.9 (1st)
Points Allowed	87.3 (4th)	97.5 (6th)
FG%	47.3 (2nd)	46.7 (3rd)
Opp FG%	45.0 (4th)	48.9 (6th)
3pt%	35.2 (4th)	37.7 (1st)
Opp 3pt%	32.4 (2nd)	37.0 (7th)
FT%	64.5 (7th)	69.0 (6th)
Rebounds	38.8 (5th)	36.3 (7th)
Off Rebounds	10.6 (7th)	13.2 (2nd)
Assists	17.1 (2nd)	15.6 (6th)
Steals	9.9 (1st)	9.1 (2nd)
Blocks	2.7 (5th)	3.3 (3rd)
Turnovers	11.9 (1st)	13.6 (2nd)
Forced T/O	16.4 (1st)	16.3 (2nd)

Head to Head

Date	Where	Result
26/3	@Rangers	Rangers, 103-87
23/4	@Rams	Rams, 112-102
26/5	@Rams	Rams, 116-102

Final Four Preview

Wellington Saints (13-5) v SIT Zerofees Sharks (11-7)

When	Friday, June 3rd,
Where	ILT Stadium, Invercargill
Referees	Tim Brown, Sean Cronin, Matt Bathurst

Leaders

	Saints	Sharks
Points	Torrey Craig (21.2)	Mitch Norton (18.4)
Rebounds	Torrey Craig (10.0)	Alex Pledger (11.4)
Assists	Shea Ili (5.7)	Mitch Norton (5.2)
Steals	Leon Henry (1.3)	Nick Kay (1.3)
Blocks	Tai Wesley (1.6)	Alex Pledger (1.4)

Preview

It is going to be a rematch of last year's Grand-Final, but this time it will be the defending champion Sharks hosting the Wellington Saints.

Both teams have combined to win five of the last six titles (Saints 3, Sharks 2), the Sharks winning two of the last three. The only other team to win the title since then was the now defunct Auckland Pirates, who was coached by the Sharks Judd Flavell.

Flavell will go head to head with the Sharks most successful player Kevin Braswell, who after retiring last season has began his new career as a head coach for the eight time champion Saints. Joining Braswell were key Shark players from last season, Tai Wesley and Shea Ili.

The Wellington Saints return to the semi-finals for the ninth straight time which is the longest in NBL history.

Southland have played the Saints twice in the playoffs, both ending in wins which led to championships (2013 & 2015).

In the last couple of seasons the Sharks have had the better of the Saints, winning five of the last seven meetings. Overall the Saints have won 10 compared to the Sharks eight.

Southland have been dominant at home, with a win-loss record of 28-7 since 2013.

Last year's MVP, Torrey Craig, will get a chance to play at full health after playing limited minutes in last years playoffs due to a knee injury. Despite being a guard, Craig finished third in the league in rebounding. The league leader in rebounding is Sharks centre Alex Pledger, who has returned to the league, last playing in 2012, winning a title with the Pirates

Team Stats

	Saints	Sharks
Points	94.0 (2nd)	90.3 (5th)
Points Allowed	81.2 (2nd)	86.3 (3rd)
FG%	48.6 (1st)	45.0 (5th)
Opp FG%	41.9 (2nd)	44.4 (3rd)
3pt%	36.1 (2nd)	32.6 (5th)
Opp 3pt%	33.7 (3rd)	34.5 (4th)
FT%	69.1 (5th)	74.3 (2nd)
Rebounds	44.3 (1st)	41.6 (2nd)
Off Rebounds	13.2 (1st)	12.7 (3rd)
Assists	18.2 (1st)	17.1 (3rd)
Steals	7.6 (3rd)	6.1 (6th)
Blocks	4.6 (1st)	2.9 (4th)
Turnovers	14.1 (4th)	13.6 (2nd)
Forced T/O	13.6 (4th)	12.6 (6th)

Head to Head

Date	Where	Result
31/3	@Sharks	Sharks, 95-87
25/4	@Saints	Saints, 84-72
22/5	@Sharks	Sharks, 78-75