



NBL
New Zealand



2017 National Basketball League Media Guide (Round Three)

Canterbury Rams point guard Jeremy Kendle is Round Two Player of the Week
(www.Photosport.nz)



2017 National Basketball League

Round Two Review

2017 NBL Regular Season Standings

| Team | P | W | L | H | A | For | Ag | Pts |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Wellington Saints | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1-0 | 2-0 | 289 | 255 | 6 |
| James Blond Supercity Rangers | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 199 | 188 | 4 |
| Canterbury Rams | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0-1 | 2-1 | 405 | 375 | 4 |
| Taranaki Mountainairs | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0-1 | 2-0 | 250 | 236 | 4 |
| SIT Zero Fees Southland Sharks | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1-1 | 0-0 | 182 | 146 | 2 |
| Taylor Hawks | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0-1 | 0-2 | 246 | 282 | 0 |
| Mike Pero Nelson Giants | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0-2 | 0-1 | 214 | 303 | 0 |

Results

Thursday, March 23

At Cowles Stadium, Christchurch

Canterbury Rams 85 (Marcus Alipate 19, Ethan Rusbatch 16, Marcel Jones 16)

Wellington Saints 94 (Corey Webster 25, Tai Wesley 23, Josh Duinker 17)

Friday, March 24

At ILT Stadium, Invercargill

SIT Zero fees Sharks 86 (Reuben Te Rangi 27, Mitch Norton 16, Nick Kay 16)

Wellington Saints 88 (Corey Webster 22, Leon Henry 21, Tai Wesley 18)

At TSB Stadium, New Plymouth

Taranaki Mountainairs 81 (Tylor Ongwae 20, Alonzo Burton 19, Aaron Bailey-Nowell 10)

James Blond Supercity Rangers 85 (Mitch McCarron 23, Nnanna Egwu 19, Lindsay Tait 19)

Saturday, March 25

At Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

Mike Pero Nelson Giants 80 (Finn Delany 15, Curtis Washington 15, Dion Prewster 13)

Canterbury Rams 114 (Marcel Jones 25, Jeremy Kendle 23, Marcus Alipate 15)

Sunday, March 26

At Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale

Taylor Hawks 75 (Everard Bartlett 21, Greg Fiorentinos 12, Darryl Jones 10, Joshua Fox 10)

Taranaki Mountainairs 76 (Tylor Ongwae 21, Alonzo Burton 13, Daniel Gomis 13)

Individual Highs

| | | |
|-----------------|----|--|
| Points | 27 | Reuben Te Rangi (SIT Zero fees Sharks) v Wellington Saints |
| Rebounds | 14 | Tai Wesley (Wellington Saints) v Canterbury Rams |
| Assists | 9 | Shea Ili (Wellington Saints) & Jeremy Kendle (Canterbury Rams) |
| Steals | 3 | Eight Tied |
| Blocks | 3 | Tai Wesley (Wellington Saints) v SIT Zero fees Sharks |

Player of the Week (POW)

Round Two: Jeremy Kendle (Canterbury Rams)

Canterbury Rams point guard **Jeremy Kendle** is Round Two player of the week after tallying 24 points (10/15 FG, 4/7 3pt), nine assists, five rebounds and two steals in the 114-80 win over the **Mike Pero Nelson Giants**. Kendle currently leads the league in scoring (26.0 ppg) and is fourth in assists (5.5 apg).

Marcel Jones backed up his player of the week performance from last week with 25 points and 11 rebounds against the Giants.

The **Wellington Saints** collected two wins on the road thanks to the play of forward **Tai Wesley** and guard **Corey Webster**. Wesley had 23 points and 14 rebounds against the Rams and 18 points, seven rebounds, three steals and three blocks against the Sharks. Webster had 25 points and eight assists in the Rams game and 22 points and six assists versus the Sharks. Forward, **Leon Henry** made a breakaway dunk to secure the two point win over the Sharks and also added 21 points and eight rebounds.

Reuben Te Rangi scored a round high 27 for the **SIT Zero fees Sharks** in the loss and in the first two games of the season is averaging 22 points, shooting 58% from the field.

The **James Blond Supercity Rangers** have started the season 2-0 after winning on the road to the **Taranaki Mountainairs**. Australian, **Mitchell McCarron** continued his impressive start to the season 23 points and nine rebounds. McCarron's team mate **Nnanna Ekwu** chipped in with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Taranaki bounced back from their loss to the Rangers with a 76-75 road win over the **Taylor Hawks**. **Daniel Gomis** grabbed 13 rebounds in the win and currently leads the league averaging nearly 14 in his first three games

POW Scores

| Player | | Team | Opposing Team | Score |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Jeremy Kendle | Canterbury Rams | Mike Pero Nelson Giants | 33 |
| 2 | Mitchell McCarron | James Blond Supercity Rangers | Taranaki Mountainairs | 32 |
| 2 | Tai Wesley | Wellington Saints | SIT Zero Fees Southland Sharks | 32 |
| 4 | Corey Webster | Wellington Saints | Canterbury Rams | 31 |
| 5 | Tai Wesley | Wellington Saints | Canterbury Rams | 29 |
| 6 | Marcel Jones | Canterbury Rams | Mike Pero Nelson Giants | 28 |
| 7 | <i>Reuben Te Rangi</i> | <i>SIT Zero Fees Southland Sharks</i> | <i>Wellington Saints</i> | 27 |
| 8 | Daniel Gomis | Taranaki Mountainairs | Taylor Hawks | 24 |
| 8 | <i>Daniel Gomis</i> | <i>Taranaki Mountainairs</i> | <i>James Blond Supercity Rangers</i> | 24 |
| 10 | Leon Henry | Wellington Saints | SIT Zero Fees Southland Sharks | 23 |
| 10 | Corey Webster | Wellington Saints | SIT Zero Fees Southland Sharks | 23 |

Italics denote the player was on a losing team

[Click here for more on League Leaders](#)

Round Three Preview

Mike Pero Nelson Giants (0-3) v SIT Zerofees Sharks (1-1) (Live Stream via NZ Herald)

When: Thursday, March 30, 7pm
Where: Trafalgar Centre, Christchurch
Referees: Yalla Edwards, Hayden Pipe, Sam Pan

Notes

The Giants will try avoid a fourth straight loss and third at home when they host the Sharks who play their first road game of the year. It will be a tough ask for the Giants after they lost to the Sharks by 38 points in the opening round and have lost 8 of the last 12 meetings. Defense is a key concern for the Giants, allowing a league high 101 points. The Sharks will hopefully have centre Alex Pledger after had to stand down for one game due to a head injury in training. Match up of the game will be between small forwards Reuben Te Rangi and Finn Delany, both players lead their respective teams in scoring. The Giants also released import point guard Joseph Slocum in favour of Australian and Melbourne United point guard Kyle Adnam.

Taranaki Mountainairs (2-1) v SIT Zerofees Sharks (1-1)

When: Friday, March 31, 7pm
Where: TSB Stadium, New Plymouth
Referees: Melony Wealleans, Ryan Jones, Rhys Hamilton

Notes

Taranaki will have an opportunity to take advantage of a Sharks team who will be playing the second game of a back to back road double-header. Taranaki have lost seven of their last ten at home, while the Sharks went 5-4 on the road last season. Taranaki did defeat the Sharks 88-85 at home in the last meeting and current point guard Houston O'Riley scored 25. O'Riley had a good battle with Sharks point guard Mitch Newton who a career best 26. Expect a battle on the boards especially with the current leading rebounder Daniel Gomis against last seasons league leader Alex Pledger. Gomis is also leading the league in blocks (1.7). Southland have dominated the meetings since 2013 winning eight of the last nine.

Canterbury Rams (2-2) v James Blond Supercity Rangers (2-0) (Live Stream via NZ Herald)

When: Friday, March 31, 7pm
Where: Cowles Stadium, Christchurch
Referees: Sean Cronin, Matt Bathurst, Gavin Zimmerman

Notes

Canterbury Rams will face the Rangers for the second time this season after losing 114-107 in the opening round. Canterbury lost the first three quarters, but nearly took the game away from the Rangers when they scored 37 points in the final quarter. Jeremy Kendle scored a season high 39 points in the loss while his opposition Lindsay Tait had 29. Kendle currently leads the league in scoring at 26 points per game and is closely followed by Rangers guard Mitch McCarron who is at 25.5 per game. Expect another high scoring game between the two, the Rams leading the league at 101 points per game while the Rangers are second at 99.5. Both teams account for four of the top five scorers in the league. The Rangers defeated the Rams seven of the last nine games played between the two.

Round Three Preview

Taylor Hawks (0-3) v Wellington Saints (3-0)

When: Saturday, April 1, 7pm
Where: Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale
Referees: Dallas Pickering, Marty Davison, Jacob Cromb

Notes

The Taylor Hawks will try end their 23 game losing streak, but it will be no easy task when they host the Wellington Saints who have opened the season with three wins and have won their last five. After dropping the first meeting to the Saints by 23, the Hawks have improved since, losing to Rams in overtime and then the Airs by a single point. Jarrod Kenny made his first appearance for the Hawks this season and will have a good match up against fellow Tall Black Shea Ili, both players are strong on the defensive end. The contest will feature another Tall Black match up between shooting guards Everard Bartlett and Corey Webster. Bartlett is leading the Hawks in scoring at 21 point per game and Corey is averaging 25.3 with the Saints.

James Blond Supercity Rangers (2-0) v Taranaki Mountainairs (2-1) **(Live Stream NZ Herald & Live Broadcast on Maori T.V)**

When: Sunday, April 2, 3pm
Where: Trusts Arena, Waitakere
Referees: Dallas Pickering, Ryan Jones, Hayden Pipe

Notes

The Rangers and Airs face each other for the second time in a little over a week and the Airs will have one day rest advantage compared to the Rangers who travel from Christchurch. Rangers were able to win in New Plymouth 85-81 and if they win again then will have the crucial tiebreak advantage which could be crucial to securing a playoff spot. In the last meeting the Rangers outrebounded the Airs 43-34, Nnanna Ekwu and Dillon Boucher had 10, and Mitch McCarron added nine. The Rangers were also able to slow down key players Houston O'Riley and Tylor Ongwae who shot a combined 10/30 FG. Taranaki have won both road games this season and seven of their last 11.

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