



NBL
New Zealand

Round Four Media Guide

Go Media Jets Kuran Iverson is Round Three player of the week

www.photosport.co.nz

2018 Sal's National Basketball League Round Three Review

2018 Sal's NBL Regular Season Standings

Team	P	W	L	H	A	For	Ag	Pts
Taylor Hawks	5	4	1	2-0	2-1	445	423	8
Mike Pero Nelson Giants	4	3	1	2-0	1-1	398	347	6
SIT Zerofees Southland Sharks	5	3	2	1-0	2-2	514	477	6
Cigna Saints	3	2	1	1-1	1-0	309	289	4
The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	3	2	1	1-1	1-0	299	300	4
Augusta Taranaki Mountainairs	4	1	3	0-3	1-0	369	356	2
Go Media Jets	4	1	3	0-2	1-1	346	414	2
2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	4	0	4	0-2	0-2	375	449	0

Results

Thursday, May 10

At ILT Stadium, Invercargill

SIT Zerofees Sharks 109 (Jarrad Weeks 18, Luke Aston 16, James Hunter 15)

Go Media Jets 79 (Kuran Iverson 28, Daishon Knight 22, Theo Johnson 11)

Friday, May 11

At TSB Stadium, New Plymouth

Augusta Mountainairs 90 (Javonte Douglas 20, Roger Woods 17, Houston O'Riley 13)

Mike Pero Nelson Giants 93 (Tohi Smith-Milner 27, Kyle Adnam 20, Damon Heuir 18)

At TSB Bank Arena, Wellington

Cigna Saints 93 (Shea ili 26, LJ Peak 21, Shaun Bruce 18)

Taylor Hawks 85 (Jamie Skeen 29, Jarrod Kenny 17, Angus Brandt 16)

Saturday, May 12

At Trusts Arena, Auckland

2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers 121 (Clay Wilson 48, Lindsay Tait 20, Devon Scott 19)

Go Media Jets 124 (Daishon Knight 37, Kuran Iverson 36, Haize Walker 13)

At Pettigrew Green Arena, Napier

Taylor Hawks 89 (Dion Prewster 22, Ethan Rusbatch 20, Jarrod Kenny 11)

Mike Pero Nelson Giants 85 (Damon Heuir 27, Kyle Adnam 18, Jerry Evans Jr 14)

Sunday, May 13

At TSB Stadium, New Plymouth

Augusta Airs 97 (Roger Woods 30, Javonte Douglas 20, Xavier Smith 14, Richard Rodger 14)

The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams 104 (Xavier Thames 25, Winston Shepard III 23, Tony Tolovae 23)

Individual Highs

Points	43	Clay Wilson (2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers) v Go Media Jets
Rebounds	15	Winston Sheppard III (The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams) v Augusta Airs
Assists	17	Lindsay Tait (2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers) v Go Media Jets
Steals	7	Kuran Iverson (Go Media Jets) v 2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers
Blocks	3	Kuran Iverson (Go Media Jets) & Xavier Smith (Augusta Mountainairs)

Player of the Week (POW)

Round Three: Kuran Iverson (Go Media Jets)

Kuran Iverson is Round Three player of the week after guiding the **Go Media Jets** to their first win of the season. The 6'9" versatile forward tallied 36 points, nine rebounds and 10 assists in the 124-121 win over the Rangers. Jets point guard, **Daishon Knight**, continued his scoring form with 37 points as well as adding nine assists.

2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers guards **Clay Wilson** and **Lindsay Tait** notched up impressive stat lines in the loss, Wilson scor a season high 43 points which included 10 made three-pointers, and Tait had 20 points and 17 assists.

The **Mike Pero Nelson Giants** went 1-1 on the road last weekend despite being short handed without key forward **Finn Delany**. **Kyle Adnam** backed up his player of the week effort in Round Two with 20 points and 10 assists in the win over Taranaki, and 18 points and eight rebounds in the loss versus the Hawks. Giants forward, **Tohi Smith-Milner**, scored a personal best 27 points in the Taranaki game.

The **Motor Wheeler Rams** were led by forward, **Winston Sheppard III**, in their overtime win over the Rams. Sheppard has a stat line of 23 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists. Shepard's team mate, **Xavier Thames**, added 25 points and five steals.

Cigna Saints point guard, **Shea Ili**, produced 26 points and eight assists to give the defending champions their second win of the season and give the Hawks their first loss. Ili is currently leading the league in scoring at 28.7 per game.

Taylor Hawks forward, **Jamie Skeen**, scored a personal best 29 against the Saints which included four from eight three pointers.

Index of Success Scores

Player	Team	Opposing Team	Score
1 Kuran Iverson	Go Media Jets	2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	57
2 Daishon Knight	Go Media Jets	2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	45
3 Clayton Wilson	2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	Go Media Jets	38
4 Lindsay Tait	2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	Go Media Jets	37
4 Kyle Adnam	Mike Pero Nelson Giants	Augusta Taranaki Mountainairs	37
6 Jamie Skeen	Taylor Hawks	Cigna Saints	35
7 Winston Shepard III	The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	Augusta Taranaki Mountainairs	34
8 Shea Ili	Cigna Saints	Taylor Hawks	32
9 Roger Woods	Augusta Taranaki Mountainairs	The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	30
10 Kyle Adnam	Mike Pero Nelson Giants	Taylor Hawks	28
10 Tohi Smith-Milner	Mike Pero Nelson Giants	Augusta Taranaki Mountainairs	28

Round Four Preview

Augusta Mountainairs (1-3) v Go Media Jets (1-3)

When: Thursday, May 17, 7pm
Where: TSB Stadium, New Plymouth
Referees: Dallas Pickering, Hayden Pipe, Tayla Ammunson

Notes

Taranaki will try to avoid a fourth straight loss at home when they host the Jets. Taranaki defeated the Jets 95-69 in the opening round. Taranaki have lost each of their three games by four points or under, including an overtime loss to the Rams last week. The Airs were without their starting point guard Houston O'Riley in the loss and then his back court partner Alonzo Burton got injured in the first half. After struggling offensively in their first three games, the Jets scored a season high 124 points thanks to a combined 73 points from their imports Kuran Iverson and Daishon Knight. Iverson will go head to head with forward, Javonte Douglas, who in the last meeting had 28 points and 20 rebounds. Iverson was held to eight points on 2/12 shooting. Taranaki's win over the Jets ended their six game losing streak against them. Last week both teams got valuable production from their rookie back up point guards, Richard Rodger (Airs), and Haize Walker (Jets). Rodger had 14 points and seven assists against the Rams, and Haize Walker had 16 points, including five points down the stretch against the Rangers.

Cigna Saints (2-1) v 2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers (0-4)

When: Friday, May 18, 7pm
Where: TSB Bank Arena, Wellington
Referees: Matt Bathurst, Marty Davison, Sam Pan

Notes

The Saints are on a two game winning streak which included a 108-91 win over the Rangers in Round Two. The Rangers have struggled defensively in their four game losing streak, allowing a league worst 112 points per game. They will need to improve defensively against a Saints side that leads the league at 103 per game. In the last meeting the Saints were able to hold the Rangers leading scorer, Clay Wilson, to 10 points and 4/9 shooting. But Wilson is coming off a 43 point game which included 10 three pointers, and will be looking to continue that rich vein of form when he plays on the traditionally shooter friendly rims at TSB Bank Arena. Former Saint, Lindsay Tait, could potentially be playing at TSB Bank Arena for the last time. Tait won three titles with the Saints (2010, 2011, 2014), all finals were played at TSB Bank Arena. Tait is currently leading the league in assists at 9.5 per game, 1.2 more per game than his opposition point guard and former team mate, Shea Ili. Ili is currently leading the league in scoring at 28.7 per game. Wellington have won the last nine meetings between the two teams, the last time the Rangers won was May 18, 2015, the Rangers winning 126-118 in Porirua. The Rangers introduced former Kiwi MVP, Marcel Jones, who had 21 points and 13 rebounds.

Mike Pero Nelson Giants (3-1) v The Wheeler Motor Rams (2-1)

When: Saturday, May 19, 7pm
Where: Trafalgar Centre, Nelson
Referees: Melony Wealleans, Marty Davison, Duran Whiu

Notes

The Giants return home after going 1-1 on the road last week. Nelson were missing forward Finn Delany last week, and before his injury he was averaging 20 points and eight rebounds. The Rams have won four of the last six meetings between the two teams. It will be a battle of the point guards Kyle Adnam and Xavier Thames. Adnam is currently averaging 18.5 points and 7.8 assists while Thames is averaging 22.7 points and five assists. Both players are doing much of their scoring from inside the three point line, so far both have combined to shoot only 7/36 from three. Each team features a player in the top five in scoring, Rams forward, Winston Sheppard, is second at 25.3 and Damon Heuir is fifth at 23.5. Rams 17 year old centre, Maxwell Darling, is currently leading the league in block shots at 1.7 per game.

Round Four Preview

SIT Zerofees Sharks (3-2) v Taylor Hawks (4-1)

When: Saturday, May 19, 7pm
Where: ILT Stadium, Invercargill
Referees: Ryan Jones, Sean Cronin, Hayden Pipe

Notes

The Sharks will be playing their next six games at home where they have won eight in a row, last losing on March 24th. Last season the Hawks were close in the last meeting at ILT Stadium, losing 89-86. Point guard Jarrod Kenny scored a game high 25 points in the loss. The two teams met in the opening round, the Hawks winning 92-84. Dion Prewster scored 23 in the win and is currently leading his team in scoring at 17.6 per game. Prewster's opponent Reuben Te Rangi was held to five points on 2/13 shooting. Te Rangi has been relatively quiet offensively this season, currently seventh in the team in scoring at 8.2 points per game, down on his 14.8 point per game last season. The Sharks will hopefully have back their second leading scorer, Orlando Coleman, who missed the win against the Jets. The Hawks have a tough stretch, playing three more games on the road.

2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers (0-4) v The Wheeler Motor Rams (2-1)

When: Sunday, May 20, 3pm
Where: Trusts Arena, Auckland
Referees: Dallas Pickering, Yalla Edwards, Tayla Ammunson

Notes

The Rangers have a day break before they play the Rams who they lost to in the opening round in Christchurch, 100-95. So far this season they have been unable to hold teams under 100 points. Former Ram, Marcel Jones, will face his former team for the first time. Jones won forward of the year and Kiwi MVP for the Rams in the 2016 season, leading them to the regular season title, averaging 23.5 points. Jones will face Winston Shepard III who nearly tallied a triple-double against the Rangers with 27 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists. The Rangers held a 10 point lead over the Rams, but the home side finished strong with a 33-22 fourth quarter. Both teams allow over 100 points per game, and allow opposition teams to shoot over 40% from three. The point guard match up between Lindsay Tait and Xavier Thames was relatively even in the first meeting, Tait had 19 points and nine assists, while Thames had 21 points. Tait is currently averaging a career best 9.5 assists per game, this is the highest since to the 2015 season when he averaged 8.9 per game.

Go Media Jets (1-3) v Mike Pero Nelson Giants (3-1)

When: Sunday, May 20, 7pm
Where: Ballroom Arena, Manawatu
Referees: Ryan Jones, Gavin Zimmerman, Sam Pan

Notes

After three straight games on the road, the Jets return home to host the Giants who have been dominant over the Jets, since 2012 they have won seven of the last eight meetings. The Giants will need to contain the Jets leading scorers, Kuran Iverson and Daishon Knight who score a combined 53.5% of their total points. Nelson are more evenly spread offensively with all starters at least averaging 12 or more points per game. Match up of the contest will be the battle of point guards Kyle Adnam and Daishon Knight, both players more inclined to drive to the hoop as opposed to shooting the outside jump shot. Knight has struggled from three point range, shooting 4/26 (15.4%), and Adnam has shot only 2/9 (22%). Nelson captain, Sam Dempster, is currently third in the league in rebounds at nine per game.