



NBL
New Zealand

Round Seven Media Guide

Hawks guard Ethan Rusbatch is Round Six Player of the Week

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2018 Sal's National Basketball League Round Six Review

2018 Sal's NBL Regular Season Standings

Team	P	W	L	H	A	For	Ag	Pts
Mike Pero Nelson Giants	9	7	2	4-1	3-1	868	758	14
Cigna Saints	7	6	1	4-1	2-0	688	638	12
SIT Zerofees Southland Sharks	8	6	2	4-0	2-2	818	709	12
The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	7	5	2	2-2	3-0	657	636	10
Taylor Hawks	9	5	4	2-0	3-4	765	784	10
Augusta Taranaki Mountainairs	8	2	6	1-3	1-3	645	689	4
Go Media Jets	7	1	6	0-3	1-3	602	685	2
2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	9	0	9	0-5	0-4	802	946	0

Results

Thursday, May 31

At Trusts Arena, Auckland

2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers 78 (Marcel Jones 22, Devon Scott 21, Lindsay Tait 15)

Cigna Saints 92 (Shea Ili 21, Jordan Ngatai 18, LJ Peak 17)

Friday, June 1

At Cowles Stadium, Christchurch

The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams 76 (Julian Williams-Washburn 24, Winston Shepard III 18, Maxwell Darling 11)

Taylor Hawks 91 (Ethan Rusbatch 22, Angus Brandt 20, Jarrod Kenny 18)

At ILT Stadium, Invercargill

SIT Zerofees Sharks 92 (Conor Morgan 20, Tom Vodanovich 17, Orlando Coleman 14)

Augusta Mountainairs 71 (Javonte Douglas 27, Dane Brooks 13, Houston O'Riley 12)

Saturday, June 2

At Trafalgar Centre, Nelson

Mike Pero Nelson Giants 101 (Kyle Adnam 23, Damon Heuir 18, Finn Delany 17)

Taylor Hawks 78 (Angus Brandt 20, Ethan Rusbatch 16, Hyrum Harris 14)

Individual Highs

Points 27 Javonte Douglas (Augusta Mountainairs) v SIT Zerofees Sharks

Rebounds 19 Javonte Douglas (Augusta Mountainairs) v SIT Zerofees Sharks

Assists 11 Jarrod Kenny (Taylor Hawks) v Mike Pero Nelson Giants

Steals 4 Four Tied

Blocks 3 Hyrum Harris (Taylor Hawks) v Mike Pero Nelson Giants

Player of the Week (POW)

Round Six: Ethan Rusbach (Taylor Hawks)

Taylor Hawks guard, **Ethan Rusbach**, is player of the week for his performance in the 91-76 win over the **Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams**. Rusbach was impressive in his first game back against his home town producing 22 points which included four three pointers, and also added nine assists. Hawks point guard, **Jarrold Kenny**, also got in on the action with 18 points (4-for-4 3pt), seven assists, six rebounds and three steals.

Unfortunately for the Hawks they could not make it two for two on the road going down to the **Mike Pero Nelson Giants** 101-78. **Finn Delany** tallied 17 points, eight rebounds and four steals, and point guard Kyle Adnam had 23 points and six assists.

The **Cigna Saints** claimed their sixth win of the season with a 92-78 win over the **2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers**. League leading scorer, **Shea Ili**, had 21 points and seven rebounds, and centre, **Majok Majok**, 15 points, nine rebounds and five assists.

Rams forward, **Winston Shepard III**, continued his impressive debut season in the NBL tallying 18 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. Shepard's team mate, **Julian Williams-Washburn**, had 24 points converting on five-for-six three pointers.

Augusta Mountainairs forward, **Javonte Douglas** had the highest Index of Success points in their loss to the Sharks with 27 points and 19 rebounds.

Index of Success Scores

Player	Team	Opposing Team	Score
Javonte Douglas	Augusta Taranaki Mountainairs	SIT Zerofees Southland Sharks	31
Winston Shepard III	The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	Taylor Hawks	30
Ethan Rusbach	Taylor Hawks	The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	27
Finn Delany	Mike Pero Nelson Giants	Taylor Hawks	26
Devon Scott	2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	Cigna Saints	25
Julian Williams-Washburn	The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	Taylor Hawks	24
Jarrold Kenny	Taylor Hawks	The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	23
Kyle Adnam	Mike Pero Nelson Giants	Taylor Hawks	21
Majok Majok	Cigna Saints	2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	21
Shea Ili	Cigna Saints	2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	21

Top 10 Overall Index of Success Leaders

Player	Team	Games	Total	Avg
1 Shea Ili	Cigna Saints	7	234	33.4
2 Winston Shepard III	The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	7	230	32.9
3 Kyle Adnam	Mike Pero Nelson Giants	9	234	26.0
4 Kuran Iverson	Go Media Jets	7	176	25.1
5 Javonte Douglas	Augusta Taranaki Mountainairs	8	197	24.6
6 Finn Delany	Mike Pero Nelson Giants	7	167	23.9
7 Jarrad Weeks	SIT Zerofees Southland Sharks	8	187	23.4
8 Majok Majok	Cigna Saints	7	149	21.3
9 Julian Williams-Washburn	The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	7	148	21.1
10 Lindsay Tait	2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	9	190	21.1

Round Seven Preview

Augusta Mountainairs (2-6) v 2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers (0-9)

When: Thursday, June 7, 7pm (Live Streamed)
Where: TSB Stadium, New Plymouth
Referees: Yalla Edwards, Sam Pan, Sherhon Martin

Notes

Taranaki are currently on a three game losing streak, all of them on the road, but will now return home to host the struggling Rangers who are yet to secure a win. The game will mark the 300th career game for Lindsay Tait, who continues to lead the league in assists at 8.4 per game. The only other current player that has played 300 games or more is Tait's teammate Dillon Boucher who is the all time leader at 419. The Rangers have been short handed of late being without starters, Clay Wilson and Junior Ale, and it remains uncertain when they will return. Taranaki have also had challenges with their roster with import Xavier Smith and Alonzo Burton missing their last game against Southland. Forward, Roger Woods, did return to the line-up after missing the last two games. Javonte Douglas has shouldered the burden all year for the Airt and is coming off a 27 point and 19 rebound performance. Douglas should have a great battle with Marcel Jones who is currently third in the league in scoring at 21.7 points per game. Last season the Rangers won all three meetings between the two teams

The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams (5-2) v Cigna Saints (6-1)

When: Friday, June 8, 7pm (Live Streamed)
Where: Horncastle Arena, Christchurch
Referees: Matt Bathurst, Marty Davison, Sherhon Martin

Notes

The Rams suffered a tough loss at home to the Hawks last week but will now try to end the Saints six game winning streak, playing their first game at Horncastle Arena. This will be the Saints toughest road game yet, having played the previous two against the winless Rangers. This is the first meeting between the two sides since last years semi-final, the Saints winning 94-73. This is a completely new Rams roster from last season, Michael Karena, is the only player remaining that played in the semi. Saints won all four meetings last season, but in the previous two years the Rams won four of six. Saints point guard, Shea Ili, continues to lead the league in scoring at 26.9 points per game and is second in assists at 7.0 per game. Rams forward, Winston Shepard, leads the league in rebounding at 10.9 per game and is fifth in scoring 21.7. An intriguing match up will be between the centres, Majok Majok and Maxwell Darling. Majok is currently third in the league in rebounds at 10.4 per game. Darling is currently second in blocks and has scored double-digit points in all but one of his seven games.

Mike Pero Nelson Giants (7-2) v Go Media Jets (1-6)

When: Friday, June 8, 7pm
Where: Trafagar Centre, Nelson
Referees: Melony Wealleans, Hayden Pipe, Tayla Ammunson

Notes

The top of the table Giants are on a four game winning streak which began when edged the Jets 87-85 in Palmerston. In the last meeting Jets forward, Kuran Iverson, scored 38 points but it was the Giants were able to hold onto the win thanks to the import trio of Kyle Adnam, Damon Heuir and Jerry Evans who combined for 62 points. Last week the Giants saw the return of Mika Vukona, who played limited minutes in his first game back. After a season with the Rangers in 2016 and a rest in 2017, Vukona returns for his 14th season with the Giants where he began his NBL career in 2000. The Tall black forward will be gunning for his second NBL title, the first was with the Giants in 2007. The last time the Jets defeated the Giants was May 13th, 2012, the Jets winning 110-84. Match up of the contest will be between point guards Daishon Knight and Kyle Adnam. Both players are averaging similar numbers, Knight is averaging 22.7 points and 6.9 assists, Adnam 20.0 points and 6.9 assists, the difference between them being that Adam is shooting a better from the field (52.1%) than Knight (36.3%)

Round Seven Preview

SIT Zerofees Sharks (6-2) v Go Media Jets (1-6)

When: Saturday, June 9, 7pm
Where: ILT Stadium, Invercargill
Referees: Sean Cronin, Marty Davison, Sam Pan

Notes

Sharks have been dominant in their four game home stand winning by an average margin of 25.5 points. One of those victories was a 30 point rout of the Jets, who will have the added issue of playing on the second night of a back to back. The Sharks currently league the lead in scoring at 102 points per game and are the best three point shooting team at 42.5%. The Jets shoot a high volume of three-pointers leading the league at 32 attempts per game but unfortunately they are the worst three point shooting team at 28.9%. The Sharks have now won 10 of the last 12 meetings and have only lost to the Jets in Invercargill once, 111-68 back in 2012. In terms of offense, the Jets heavily rely on Kuran Iverson and Daishon Knight who average a combined 46.3 of the Jets 86 points. The Sharks are more evenly spread with a bench that averages nearly forty points per game, to go alongside their import trio of Jarrad Weeks (17.3 ppg), Conor Morgan (16.5 ppg), and Orlando Coleman (16.4). Last week centre, Alex Pledger, suffered an ankle injury in the Taranaki game, only playing five minutes.

Taylor Hawks (5-4) v Cigna Saints (6-1)

When: Sunday, June 10, 3pm (Live Streamed)
Where: Pettigrew Green Arena, Napier
Referees: Dallas Pickering, Gavin Zimmerman, Duran Whiu

Notes

The Hawks have lost three of their last four and will be in must win mode against the Saints who have won both of meetings this season. The one major blow for the Hawks will be the absence of their leading scorer and rebounder Angus Brandt who is with an All Australian NBL team that is touring China. The Hawks are currently unbeaten at home where they will have a more favourable finish to the regular season, playing seven of their last nine games there. The two games between the two teams have been tight, the Saints winning by eight in Round Three and three points in Round Five. Shea Ili is averaging 26.5 points in the two games, and Saints coach, Kevin Braswell, is placing heavy reliance on the point guard playing him on average nearly 36 minutes per game. It is much the same for the Hawks point guard, Jarrod Kenny, who is the teams leader in minutes played per game at 32.1 per game. After scoring a season high 29 points against the Saints in Round Three, American forward Jamie Skeen has been quiet, scoring double-digits once in his last five games, averaging 4.2 points.