

GAME TIME.



NBL
New Zealand



FINAL FOUR

**TSB BANK ARENA
WELLINGTON**

SEMI FINALS
SATURDAY 4TH AUGUST
Tip off 5pm AND 7pm

GRAND FINAL
SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST
Tip off 5pm



Wither Hills
HARBOROUGH NEW ZEALAND

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Regular Season Review

Standings

Team	P	W	L	Pts
Cigna Saints	18	15	3	30
Mike Pero Nelson Giants	18	14	4	28
SIT Zerofees Southland Sharks	18	13	5	26
Taylor Hawks	18	12	6	24
The Wheeler Motor Canterbury Rams	18	8	10	16
2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers	18	4	14	8
Augusta Taranaki Mountainairs	18	3	15	6
Go Media Jets	18	3	15	6

Individual Highs

Points	47	Daishon Knight (Go Media Jets)
Rebounds	21	Kuran Iverson (Go Media Jets)
Assists	17	Lindsay Tait (2 Cheap Cars Supercity Rangers)
Steals	8	Alonzo Burton (Augusta Mountainairs)
Blocks	5	Devon Scott (Rangers) & Xavier Smith (Airs)

Players of the Week

Round One	Javonte Douglas (Augusta Mountainairs)
Round Two	Kyle Adnam (Mike Pero Nelson Giants)
Round Three	Kuran Iverson (Go Media Jets)
Round Four	Winston Shepard III (The Wheeler Motor Rams)
Round Five	Shea Ili (Cigna Saints)
Round Six	Ethan Rusbatch (Taylor Hawks)
Round Seven	Shea Ili (Cigna Saints)
Round Eight	Julian Williams-Washburn (Rams)
Round Nine	Lindsay Tait (2 Cheap Supercity Rangers)
Round 10	Finn Delany (Mike Pero Nelson Giants)
Round 11	Daishon Knight (Go Media Jets)
Round 12	Orlando Coleman (SIT Zerofees Sharks)
Round 13	Dominique Kelman-Poto (2 Cheap Supercity Rangers)

League Leaders

Points

Daishon Knight (Jets)	28.9
Marcel Jones (Rangers)	23.8
Kuran Iverson (Jets)	23.3

Rebounds

Kuran Iverson (Jets)	11.1
Javonte Douglas (Airs)	10.8
Majok Majok (Saints)	10.6

Assists

Lindsay Tait (Rangers)	7.6
Winston Shepard III (Rams)	7.5
Shea Ili (Saints)	6.1

Steals

Winston Shepard III (Rams)	2.3
Xavier Thames (Rams)	2.3
Jarrad Weeks (Sharks)	2.1

Blocks

Xavier Smith (Airs)	1.7
Maxwell Darling (Rams)	1.3
Three Tied	0.9

FG % (Min 50 Attempts)

Dominique Kelman-Poto (Rangers)	60.0
Finn Delany (Mike Pero Nelson Giants)	58.5
Majok Majok (Saints)	57.1

3pt % (Min 30 Attempts)

Everard Bartlett (Hawks)	46.0
Tohi Smith-Milner (Giants)	46.0
Jarrad Weeks (Sharks)	44.8

FT % (Min 15 Attempts)

Kyle Adnam (Giants)	91.5
Shea Ili (Saints)	88.0
Finn Delany (Giants)	87.7

Final Four Preview

Cigna Saints (15-3) v Taylor Hawks (12-6)

When	Saturday, 4th August, 5pm
Where	TSB Bank Arena, Wellington
Referees	Dallas Pickering, Ryan Jones, Yalla Edwards

Leaders

	Saints	Hawks
Points	Shea Ili (22.2)	Angus Brandt (15.2)
Rebounds	Majok Majok (10.6)	Angus Brandt (8.6)
Assists	Shea Ili (6.1)	Jarrod Kenny (5.7)
Steals	Shea Ili (1.7)	Jarrod Kenny (1.2)
Blocks	Majok Majok (0.8)	Jamie Skeen (0.5)

Preview

The two time defending champion Wellington Saints created history by being the first NBL team to go through the whole season unbeaten. But they face a Taylor Hawks side with tons of experience with the likes of Jarrod Kenny and Everard Bartlett who have played a combined 433 NBL games which included the last time the Hawks made the playoffs which was 2014 when they lost to the Saints in the Grand final

The Hawks have come a long way from only two seasons ago when they finished with a franchise worse 0-18. This off season they made all the right moves signing experienced NBL players Dion Prewster and Ethan Rusbatch who are notable three point shooters and have playoff experience, Prewster in particular was a member of three Saints teams that have won the title.

Most notably the Hawks recruited former long time Saints assistant, Zico Coronel, to become the Head Coach. Coronel won four titles in his tenure with the franchise which included two under Kevin Braswell.

Braswell has etched himself as arguably the best coach in Saints franchise history winning two titles with a record of 50 wins and only eight losses at a winning percentage of 86.2%.

This will arguably be the toughest playoffs yet for Braswell whose side is quite different from last years unbeaten squad with no Corey Webster and Tai Wesley. They have been replaced with former Georgetown Hoya, LJ Peak and Brisbane Bullet guard Shaun Bruce.

Tall Blacks point guard, Shea Ili, has certainly carried the load averaging 22.2 points and 6.1 assists per game. Last year's finals MVP should have a tough battle against Tall Black team mate Jarrod Kenny.

Both teams have recruited Australian centres, the Hawks signing current Australian Boomer, Angus Brandt, who leads the team in points at 15.2 points and 8.6 rebounds. The Saints centre is Majok Majok who is third in the league in rebounds at 10.6 a game.

Saints do have returning players Leon Henry and Jordan Ngatai from last years title winning team. Henry has won five NBL titles, four with the Saints.

Playoff History

	Saints	Hawks
Titles	10	1
Playoff Appearance	29th	16th
Playoff Record	31-22	16-19

Team Stats

	Saints	Hawks
Points	94.2 (3rd)	88.9 (6th)
Points Allowed	85.6 (2nd)	83.0 (1st)
FG%	48.3 (2nd)	47.6 (4th)
Opp FG%	45.9 (4th)	43.2 (1st)
3pt%	45.9 (4th)	36.3 (2nd)
Opp 3pt%	32.9 (5th)	32.0 (2nd)
FT%	78.1 (1st)	71.7 (6th)
Rebounds	41.8 (4th)	42.3 (3rd)
Off Rebounds	11.8 (8th)	12.8 (3rd)
Assists	17.3 (5th)	16.1 (7th)
Steals	7.1 (4th)	4.8 (8th)
Blocks	2.3 (5th)	1.9 (8th)
Turnovers	10.6 (1st)	12.9 (5th)
Forced T/O	12.2 (6th)	10.0 (8th)

Head to Head

Date	Where	Result
11/5	@Saints	Saints 93-85
27/5	@Saints	Saints, 80-77
10/6	@Hawks	Saints, 86-76

Final Four Preview

Mike Pero Nelson Giants (14-4) v SIT Zerofees Sharks (13-5)

When	Saturday, 4th August, 7pm
Where	TSB Bank Arena, Wellington
Referees	Melony Wealleans, Marty Davison, Gavin Zimmerman

Leaders

	Giants	Sharks
Points	Finn Delany (19.4)	Orlando Coleman (17.8)
Rebounds	Finn Delany (7.9)	Orlando Coleman (9.7)
Assists	Kyle Adnam (5.8)	Jarrad Weeks (5.8)
Steals	Kyle Adnam (2.1)	Jarrad Weeks (2.1)
Blocks	Tohi Smith-Milner (0.6)	Alex Pledger (0.9)

Preview

The Giants return to the playoffs for the first time since 2015, and finished the regular season with a winning percentage of 72.2% which is the best for the franchise since 1998 when they went 19-1, eventually winning the title.

Nelson has recruited former Cairns Taipans assistant coach, Jamie Pearlman, who has helped turnaround a club that finished with their second worst finish in franchise history last season with a 4-12 record.

Giants retained Australian point guard, Kyle Adam from last season and he is averaging 19.4 points per game. Adnam has teamed up with fellow Australian, Damon Heuir, in the backcourt and he has been impressive in his first NBL season averaging 19.2 points per game.

Arguably Nelson's biggest recruit in the off season is Tall Black veteran Mika Vukona who has returned to his home franchise where he began his career in 2000. Vukona has won multiple titles in the Australian NBL and will be looking to win his second NBL title with the Giants, winning one in 2007.

The Southland Sharks franchise started only in 2010 and have quickly been one of the most dominant teams in the NBL with two titles and three grand final appearances during that span.

This is the third season under coach Judd Flavell who has improved each season taking the side to the semi-finals in 2016 and then the final in 2017. The Sharks have had success in Wellington, winning the title in 2015. Personally, Flavell has also had success, leading the Auckland Pirates to the title in Wellington back in 2012.

The Sharks have retained most of their NZ core from last season with Reuben Te Rangi, Alex Pledger, Luke Aston, Derone Raukawa and James Hunter returning.

It is a new import core of Australian Jarrad Weeks, Canadian Conor Morgan, and American Orlando Coleman. All three are the top scorers for the Sharks.

Point guard, Weeks, has averaged 17.1 points per game and is third in the league in steals (2.1) and fourth in assists (5.8).

Coleman has been one of the best forwards in the competition averaging 17.8 points and 9.7 rebounds. Coleman will face Tall Black forward Finn Delany who has had a great season averaging 19.4 points and 7.9 rebounds.

Playoff History

	Giants	Sharks
Titles	3	2
Playoff Appearance	23rd	8th
Playoff Record	24-23	4-5

Team Stats

	Giants	Sharks
Points	95.1 (2nd)	101.4 (1st)
Points Allowed	85.7 (3rd)	90.7 (4th)
FG%	47.4 (5th)	48.9 (1st)
Opp FG%	45.4 (3rd)	44.8 (2nd)
3pt%	36.2 (3rd)	36.6 (1st)
Opp 3pt%	30.9 (1st)	32.2 (3rd)
FT%	77.9 (2nd)	75.0 (4th)
Rebounds	42.5 (2nd)	45.8 (1st)
Off Rebounds	15.4 (1st)	15.0 (2nd)
Assists	18.9 (3rd)	19.5 (2nd)
Steals	7.5 (3rd)	6.0 (7th)
Blocks	2.0 (7th)	2.7 (3rd)
Turnovers	13.6 (7th)	11.8 (3rd)
Forced T/O	13.5 (2nd)	12.6 (3rd)

Head to Head

Date	Where	Result
5/5	@Giants	Giants 103-100
6/7	@Giants	Sharks 103-95
29/7	@Sharks	Giants 103-87