



GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE

Welcome to the third edition of the Full Court Press

The end of the season is almost upon us with finals just over a week away. We look forward to being courtside on the 20th September as championships are won and bragging rights are put on the line!

A lot has happened since our last Full Court Press with the U15, U17, U19 and U23 representative programmes now all complete. These will be profiled in the Rep Basketball section but congratulations to Sarah Waldron and the U19 Girls who walked away with the National Title in Nelson. A massive achievement which was reflected in the inclusion of Mary Golding, Tessa Boagni and Laken Wairau in the Tournament Team. Congratulations also to Tessa Boagni who was named MVP of the tournament – in her last outing in a Canterbury singlet before taking up her scholarship in the US.

A huge congratulations also to New Zealand Home Loans Canterbury Wildcats players Hayley Gray and Shea Crotty – 2014 Tall Ferns triaists. Following the Tall Ferns trials – held here in Christchurch – Shea was then named as a Tall Fern for their tour of China. Congratulations Shea on your selection in the Tall Ferns and your debut for New Zealand.

Congratulations also to the New Zealand Home Loans Wildcats who finished 6th in the 2014 WBC. While not the placing they were looking for, this team has shown improvement and dedication over the last 2 seasons and keep getting better and better. Congratulations to coach Phil Burns for receiving the “Services to Women’s Basketball” award at the annual dinner. Thanks also to Suzanne Gray and Helen Hamblin for their management of this team in 2014.

Our U13 programme is now in full swing – the last of the 2014 representative programmes to finish. After a successful JIT in Timaru at the end of August teams have been named to attend the Nationals and Mainland tournaments. Congratulations to all of you involved in this programme – more on this in the Rep Basketball section below.

There are a couple of “new” faces in the office since our last FCP. Welcome to Carol Bathurst our Referee Manager and Chad Blair our new Competitions Administrator.

Finally, thank you to all of those people who continue to donate their time and energy to support the sport of basketball. Whether you are a coach, manager, administrator, referee, taxi driver, floor controller, sideline supporter or anyone else who gives freely of your time – thank you. Sport would not survive without you.

Megan



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In This Issue

Pg 1. GM's Update

Pg 2. Club Basketball Update

Pg 4. 2014 Rep Programme

Pg 5. Junior Basketball Update

Pg 6. Lincoln University Scholarships

Pg 7. Partner Corner – New Zealand Home Loans

Pg 7. Volunteers

Supporters

new zealand HOME LOANS



CLUB BASKETBALL UPDATE

Club basketball has hit the pointy end with finals weekend approaching. Several semis were very tight which should lead to a fantastic finals day on Saturday. Finals day will begin again with the All-stars finals which is the culmination of five weeks of competition for our youngest club members. The introduction of the Selwyn raiders and the North Canterbury Tar heels has lifted these grades to six teams. As we look through the grades there are some tantalising match ups. The format has had to allow for several "jack of all trades" who are involved in multiple finals either as a coach or a player.

When we look at the day we will start at 8:30am

8:30am Court One Yr 7-8 Boys All-star League Final

Yr7-8 Boys Final featuring Pioneer and Nth Canterbury. NC finished the round robin in first place but the game between the two in week 4 of the competition was very tight NC winning 32 – 30 so this one could go either way.

8:30 Court Two Yr 7-8 Girls All-star League Final NC vs Gators

On court Two the Girls yr 7-8 final will see the unbeaten Gators take on North Canterbury who lost to Gators in week one 35 – 21.

9:30am Court One Yr 5-6 Girls All-star League Final Gators vs Bishopdale Y

The Yr 5-6 Girls final will be contested between Gators and Bishopdale Y. Gators won the round robin battle 37 – 36 so again this one will be close on finals day.

9:30am Court Two Yr 5-6 Boys All-star League Final NC vs Bishopdale Y

Next up the third Nth Canterbury team in finals will play Bishopdale in the boys yr 5-6 final. These two had to battle to get here with a possible five way tie for first but eventually made it on points to play what is effectively an overtime game having drawn in the round robin. Doesn't get much tighter than that.

10:45 Court One U17 Boys Final Papanui High vs STAC

St Andrews and Papanui High school will contest the final. STAC lead the way all year and easily accounted for Rangiora in the semi while Papanui, CH Boys High and Cashmere have fought for the other spot. Papanui beat CH Boys High in OT to make it through to the finals and the game between these two in the regular season went STACs way 76 – 62

10:45 Court Two U15 Girls Final Gators vs Checkers

With only four teams in this new grade the finalists have met many times throughout the season. Gators are unbeaten to date while Checkers have had to fight off Pioneer, and Rangi Ruru to get to the final. Can Checkers prevent Gators from the unbeaten season??

12:30pm Court One U20 Women's Final UC vs Burnside High

University of Canterbury have a strong hold on this grade with multiple rep players in their team but Burnside are an up and coming force. UC won the Championship RR game 76 – 46 and also the round one game 70 – 49. Burnside have some deadly shooters though so if they get hot they could cause an upset.

12:30pm Court Two U15 Boys Final**Cashmere vs Shirley Spartans**

The two top teams are in the final and both have the players to get the job done. Cashmere have some of the Rep stars in Thomas Russ-Hofmans and Jake Beavan while Shirley have Isaiah Morris and Joel Jeffrey. The teams met in round 1 and Cashmere won 73 – 68. They played again in the championship round with an almost identical score Cashmere winning 73 – 67. It would only take a small shift in form for the result to go the other way.

2:15pm Court One U20 Mens Final**Burnside High Vs CBHS Black**

Burnside have set the benchmark in U20 play this year despite losing key players during the season. They are unbeaten so could score the perfect season if they can overcome Christchurch Boys High Black. They met back in round 3 as were in the same pool. Burnside won a close game 64 – 61. Burnside again prevailed in the top six round robin this time 72 – 58. Will it be the same on finals day?

2:15pm Court Two Women's Division One**Royals vs Minties**

The defending champs Royals will face Minties in the Division One Final. With only 5 teams in the grade they have met several times throughout the season with Royals winning in round 2 (50 – 41) again in round 7 (53 – 49) and in round 12 (55 – 32). Minties can get hot though won't go down without a fight.

4:00pm Court One U23 Men's Final**Lincoln Bulls vs Pioneer Pacers**

The Lincoln Bulls have been tough all year and are another of the unbeaten sides going into the finals. Many of the Pioneer players have also had great seasons so the chance to redeem themselves is there for the taking. Lincoln won in round 3 (82 – 68). Lincoln had to weather the storm against Gators to get through to the final while Pioneer came back to beat Atami. Could go either way.

4:00pm Court Two Men's Division One Final**Pioneer Placemakers vs Philipinas Askals**

Placemakers are familiar with the finals having chanced clubs to Pioneer but kept the ball rolling while the Phiipinas Askals are a breath of fresh air to the league. The two played in round 5 with Pioneer Placemakers winning 92 - 85 and again in the top 8 pool B game with the Askals winning 88 – 87. In the playoff Pioneer knocked out defending champs Wolverines while the Askals beat Atami. Toss a coin here as it looks like a great game.

5:45pm Court One Women's Premier Final**UniversityCanterbury vs Lincoln University**

This one is somewhat academic, with our two Universities battling for the title. Lincoln U have been the front runner this year and will have Tall Fern Shea Crotty back while Canterbury Uni have battled all year to get to the final. There are Wildcats everywhere in these two teams and in the Patron Trophy Lincoln beat UC 72 – 64. In the Championship round again LU won 63 – 57 but UC have a tradition of winning this grade and the fire power to do it if they play well.

7:30pm Court One Men's Premier Final**Atami vs Checkers**

These two have played in several finals over the past few years. Atami, are last years' champs having beaten UC in the final while Checkers beat Atami in 2012. Both are stacked with NBL level talent and both can win on the day. Atami have been a bit shaky this year, on their previous campaigns, but pulled it together last week to knock out the unbeaten Pioneer side. Checkers can beat anyone and with Nat Connell and Ethan Rusbatch in fine form they will believe they can take back the title. Nate Hyde, the Howell boys and Ash Rees might want another trophy for the already cluttered pool room though. Expect a physical but exciting game.

2014 REP PROGRAMME



The Rep programme is in its final stages for the season with U13 teams preparing to go to Nationals in October and five mainland level teams going to the Mainland Tournament in Blenheim 17 – 19 October. We sent 80 players to the JIT in Timaru suggesting we have a bright future with age group basketball as they come through.

U19 Girls National Champions – Congratulations to Sarah Waldron and her U19 girls team who won the U19 National Championship in Nelson back in July. Tessa Boagni, Laken Wairau and Tessa Morrison made the tournament team with Tessa Boagni announced and MVP. Other teams to do well were the U23 men's Metro and Country teams finishing 2nd and 3rd. Dave Langrell's Metro team had a close loss in the final while the Fraser Costley coached Country team, that contained 9 Canterbury players, played well through out to grab 3rd place. Tournament teamers were Ethan Rusbatch, and Chris Duthie while Jozef Knottenbelt and Sam Smith made it for Country. Pina Lissaman's U23 women finished 5th having lost star player Shea Crotty to the Tall Ferns just before the tournament.

The U17 Boys coached by Kevin Greenfield finished 4th losing out to champs Auck/Counties Manakau in the semis, Jack Ansell made the tournament team. The girls coached by Sussan Graham were 7th with two of the top girls, Sapphire Wairau and Ezra McGoldrick away at the Australian State Champs.

In the U15 Boys Glenn Lang's team lost the semi to the eventual champs Palmerston Nth in overtime and ended up 4th. Isaiah Morris was selected to the tournament team while Tony Irvine's U15girls finished 11th having been in a very tough pool alongside the champions Auckland /Counties Manakau.

Once the U13s go we will also have sent an additional 13 teams to Mainland events giving us around 210 representative players for the season. A huge thank you to all the coaches, managers and supporters for their work with these players.

We also thank Caleb Harrison for his work with our players in the RTP programme and also for mentoring our coaches and Piet Van Hasselt for his massive number of hours doing video analysis for our teams both at tournament and at home.

JUNIOR BASKETBALL – ALL STARS

The All-stars league has been operating for the past five weeks with six teams in each grade. This is the first taste of club basketball for these young players of the future. It is also a great introduction to club refereeing and many thanks must go to Carol Bathurst and her crew of young referees for the fantastic job they are doing. Thank you also to the many coaches who are putting in the time with these players and the junior club administrators who make it all work. This year we expanded the league to include the Selwyn (Raiders) and the North Canterbury (TarHeels). The goal is to attach these six junior club to our "Tier One" clubs to have teams in club grades from yr 5 through to Premiers.



Term 3 Hoops have been successful again and we look forward to seeing our Hoopsters back in action in Term 4! For more information about our Hoops programme contact our Community Coach James Lissaman on james@canterburybasketball.co.nz

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS - 2015

Applications are now open for the 2015 Lincoln University Scholarship intake. If you would like information on the scholarships, what is involved and how to apply, contact CBA Community Coach James Lissaman on james@canterburybasketball.co.nz or visit the Lincoln University website <http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/Studying-at-Lincoln/Scholarships-and-prizes/Sports-scholarships/>

PARTNER CORNER



New Zealand Home Loans is very proud to support not only the Canterbury Wildcats, but also Canterbury Basketball as an organisation, through an ongoing commitment for the next 3+ years.

The Canterbury Wildcats display all of the key attributes and characteristics that we, not only as a company, but as a community, wish to encourage.

Our pride in the way that the Wildcats continue to conduct themselves both on and off the court adds considerable weight to the rationale behind our choice to support their funding and we wish them nothing but the best for the season as it unfolds and would encourage the Canterbury public and all association members to do the same.

The response from staff, members and players of CBA to our sponsorship has been fantastic over the first 2 months of our partnership and being able to offer free advice and support to members and their friends and families on an ongoing basis has been seen as a real positive to those who are wanting help in achieving more.

Movement in interest rates coupled with tighter lending criteria for new and existing home owners over the past few months, has caused anxiety for some and by sitting with people one on one and discussing their situation in depth we have been able to relieve the majority of the worry and stress that families are increasingly funding themselves under by putting together a comprehensive plan to manage this.

We have also begun making contact with all of the local clubs associated with Canterbury Basketball and are offering a free 20 minute presentation/seminar to show you what we are about and how we can help and support everyday families.

If you wish to make your own enquiries about our services, then please feel free to contact either myself directly on jonathan.keast@nzhomeloans.co.nz or via our interactive website at www.nzhl.co.nz/canterburybasketball

So if we haven't already, we look forward to making contact with, and meeting you all, and helping make, not only Canterbury Basketball a more financial organisation, but also its members.

VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in volunteering a couple of hours of your time to support the Association's programmes, we would love to hear from you. We are always grateful for an extra set of hands to assist with floor controlling, referee mentoring, scorebench or anything else you can think of. Please contact Megan Harlick on ceo@canterburybasketball.co.nz