



NBL Playoff Race (Round 14)



Waikato Pistons

Record: 12-4

Remaining Games: Southland (Home)
Wellington (Home)

Outlook: Pistons will be disappointed that they lost both games in Round 13, but can still win regular season if they win the remainder of their games which are at home. Their last game which is against the Saints will be very important when it comes to who will earn a top two spot. Pistons have the tiebreaker over the Nelson Giants so if both teams finish with 14 wins then Pistons go ahead.



Fico Finance Nelson Giants

Record: 11-4

Remaining Games: Manawatu (Home)
Harbour (Home)
Southland (Home)

Outlook: Giants win against the Pistons puts them in the front seat of a home semi final. With remaining games at home they should win rest of their games. They can ill afford to lose a game if Saints keep winning, because if Pistons beat Southland then the Giants could get pushed out of the top two.



Exodus Saints

Record: 11-4

Remaining Games: Otago (Home)
Manawatu (Home)
Waikato (Away)

Outlook: Big wins in Round 13, allow the Saints to have a shot at the regular season title and a home semi final. They should win remainder of their home games, but the game on the road against the Waikato Pistons will ultimately decide whether they will finish in the top two. If the Pistons and Saints finish with the same record then the Saints will need to lose by less than 19 to have the tie breaker over them. Giants have tiebreaker over the Saints.



Harbour Heat

Record: 9-6

Remaining Games: Christchurch (Home)
Nelson (Away)
Taranaki (Home)

Outlook: Heat play two of their three remaining games at home. A very long shot for a home semi final, needing Saints and Giants to lose the rest of their games. Will finish below the Saints and Pistons if they end up with same record. If they can win rest of games and finish with same record over Giants and Hawks then will go ahead of them which could give them a home quarter final. The game in Nelson could prove the difference in hosting a home quarter. Potentially could be out of top six if they lose rest of their games



0800 Easy LPG Bay Hawks

Record: 9-6

Remaining Games: Taranaki (Home)
Otago (Away)
Manawatu (Home)

Outlook: Hawks have the easiest schedule remaining so should finish with 13 wins. Will want the Pistons and Giants to keep losing if they wish to have a spot in the top two. Hawks have the tiebreak advantage over the Pistons, Saints and Giants which may prove pivotal if they finish with equal records. But if the top three teams have a better record and the Heat finish with the same record as the Hawks then they could potentially miss out on a home quarter final.



Zero Fees Southland Sharks

Record: 7-7

Remaining Games: Waikato (Away)
Taranaki (Away)
Nelson (Away)
Manawatu (Away)

Outlook: Sharks had a crucial win over the Heat last week, but are on the road for the rest of the regular season. If they win more game then they eliminate the Christchurch Cougars from a playoff spot if the Cougars lose one more game. Season may come down to the June 13th game in New Plymouth against Taranaki. If Sharks beat Taranaki then they will most likely seal the sixth position.



Taranaki MountainAirs

Record: 6-8

Remaining Games: Manawatu (Away)
Bay Hawks (Away)
Southland (Home)
Harbour (Away)

Outlook: Airs beat Manawatu last week which keeps them in the running for making the playoffs. But they will need to beat the Jets away next Monday to put them in a better position. Airs have tiebreaker over the Cougars, but if Cougars win both their games then the Airs will need to win three games which will be difficult with three of their last four games on the road. Airs will host the Sharks, but will need to beat them because they only have a head to head advantage of one point. Only one game behind the Sharks who play their last four games on road.



Christchurch Cougars

Record: 7-9

Remaining Games: Harbour (Away)
Otago (Home)

Outlook: The equation is simple for the Cougars and that is win their remaining two games. Harbour in North Shore will be extremely difficult, but if they win then will have the tiebreaker over them. Cougars need to finish with a better record than the Airs and Sharks otherwise they are eliminated. Cougars best friend is Manawatu who can be spoilers for both the Airs and the Sharks.



McDonalds Manawatu Jets

Record: 1-11

Remaining Games: Otago (Home)
Nelson (Away)
Taranaki (Home)
Wellington (Away)
Hawks (Away)
Southland (Home)

Outlook: Jets were eliminated after losing against the Airs. Could finish with same record as the Cougars but they will finish below them because Cougars beat them twice. Can be a spoiler if they beat the Airs and Sharks. Jets could also change where the top teams are placed.



OceanaGold Nuggets

Record: 0-14

Remaining Games: Manawatu (away)
Wellington (Away)
Christchurch (Away)
Bay Hawks (Home)

Outlook: Already eliminated from playoffs but could be a spoiler to the Cougars and effect playoff seedings. Will want to get at least one win and not join the 1998 Northland Suns and 2009 Taranaki Dynamos to go through an entire season winless.