



**NBL**  
New Zealand

# 2017 National Basketball League Media Guide (Round Seven)

Leon Henry is Round Six Player of the Week  
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# 2017 National Basketball League Recap

## 2017 NBL Regular Season Standings

Team	P	W	L	H	A	For	Ag	Pts
Wellington Saints	10	10	0	6-0	4-0	1031	860	20
SIT Zero Fees Southland Sharks	8	5	3	3-1	2-2	732	658	10
Canterbury Rams	10	5	5	2-2	3-3	959	940	10
James Blond Supercity Rangers	7	4	3	3-0	1-3	589	628	8
Taranaki Mountainairs	8	3	5	1-3	2-2	619	636	6
Mike Pero Nelson Giants	10	2	8	0-3	2-5	796	944	4
Taylor Hawks	7	1	6	1-5	0-1	594	654	2

## Results

### Round Six

#### Monday, April 17

*At TSB Bank Arena, Wellington*

**Wellington Saints 102 (Leon Henry 34, Shea Ili 22, Tai Wesley 18)**

Canterbury Rams 79 (Marcel Jones 27, Jeremy Kendle 18)

#### Friday, April 21

*At TSB Bank Arena, Wellington*

**Wellington Saints 103 (Shea Ili 19, Josh Duinker 18, BJ Anthony 16)**

James Blond Supercity Rangers 67 (Mitch McCarron 25, Earnest Ross Jr 18)

*At Cowles Stadium, Christchurch*

Canterbury Rams 82 (Marcel Jones 25, Jeremy Kendle 19, Ethan Rusbatch 16)

**Mike Pero Nelson Giants 92 (Dion Prewster 30, Kyle Adnam 22, Finn Delany 16)**

*At ILT Stadium, Invercargill*

**SIT Zero fees Sharks 95 (Alex Pledger 21, Nick Kay 15, Luke Aston 15)**

Mike Pero Nelson Giants 83 (Finn Delany 14, Morgan Grim 14, Kyle Adnam 14)

### Round Seven

*At Pettigrew Green Arena, Taradale*

Taylor Hawks 89 (Joshua Fox 21, Amir Williams 15, Jarrod Kenny 14)

**Canterbury Rams 106 (Marcel Jones 41, Jeremy Kendle 27, Ethan Rusbatch 20)**

*At TSB Bank Arena, Wellington*

**Wellington Saints 110 (Shea Ili 27, Josh Duinker 17, Jordan Ngatai 16)**

Mike Pero Nelson Giants 84 (Finn Delany 30, Kyle Adnam 25)

## Round Six Individual Highs

<b>Points</b>	34	Leon Henry (Wellington Saints) v Canterbury Rams
<b>Rebounds</b>	15	Marcel Jones (Canterbury Rams) v Mike Pero Nelson Giants
<b>Assists</b>	15	Shea Ili (Wellington Saints) v Canterbury Rams
<b>Steals</b>	5	Dillon Boucher (James Blond Supercity Rangers) v Wellington Saints
<b>Blocks</b>	3	Benny Anthony Jr (Wellington Saints) & Alex Pledger (SIT Zero fees Sharks)

## Player of the Week (POW)

### Round Six: Leon Henry (Wellington Saints)

**Wellington Saints** small forward **Leon Henry** earns player of the week after scoring a season high 34 points in the 102-79 win over the **Canterbury Rams**. Henry shot 10-14 three-pointers, grabbed 11 rebounds and is shooting 50% from three for the season.

Saints forward **Tai Wesley** (18 points, 11 rebounds, seven assists), and point guard **Shea Ili** (22 points, 15 assists) also helped maintained the Saints current unbeaten record.

Wellington defeated the **James Blond Supercity Rangers** 103-67, thanks to the efforts of forwards **Josh Duinker** and **Benny Anthony Jr.** Duinker had 18 points and eight rebounds, and Anthony tallied 16 points and eight rebounds.

**Dion Prewster** registered 30 points and eight rebounds for the **Mike Pero Nelson Giants** who secured their second win of the season, defeating the Rams 92-82.

**Alex Pledger** tallied 21 points, six rebounds and three blocks for the **SIT Zerofees Sharks** who defeated the Giants 95-83. Southland are now 5-3 for the season which puts them in second place.

It was a tough Round Six for the Rams who dropped two games, but forward **Marcel Jones** continued his dominant season with 26 points and 15 rebounds against the Giants and 27 points against the Saints. Jones is now leading the league in scoring (26.1 ppg), and is second in rebounds (10.2 rpg).

Other notable performances in Round Six were from Rangers guard **Mitch McCarron** (25 points versus Saints), and Rams shooting guard **Ethan Rusbatch** (16 points and 12 rebounds against the Giants)

## Index of Success Scores

Player	Team	Opposing Team	Score
1 Leon Henry	Wellington Saints	Canterbury Rams	41
2 Dion Prewster	Mike Pero Nelson Giants	Canterbury Rams	37
3 Tai Wesley	Wellington Saints	Canterbury Rams	33
4 Shea Ili	Wellington Saints	Canterbury Rams	30
4 Alex Pledger	SIT Zero Fees Southland Sharks	Mike Pero Nelson Giants	30
4 <i>Mitchell McCarron</i>	<i>James Blond Supercity Rangers</i>	<i>Wellington Saints</i>	30
7 <i>Marcel Jones</i>	<i>Canterbury Rams</i>	<i>Mike Pero Nelson Giants</i>	26
7 <i>Ethan Rusbatch</i>	<i>Canterbury Rams</i>	<i>Mike Pero Nelson Giants</i>	26
7 Benny Anthony Jr	Wellington Saints	James Blond Supercity Rangers	26
10 <i>Marcel Jones</i>	<i>Canterbury Rams</i>	<i>Wellington Saints</i>	24
10 Josh Duinker	Wellington Saints	James Blond Supercity Rangers	24

*Italics denote the player was on a losing team*

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# Round Seven Preview

## **James Blond Supercity Rangers (4-3) v Taylor Hawks (1-6) (Live Stream via NZ Herald)**

**When:** Friday, April 28, 7pm  
**Where:** ASB Stadium, Te Awamutu  
**Referees:** Melony Wealleans, Ryan Jones, Sam Pan

### **Notes**

After playing six straight games at home the Hawks are on the road against the Rangers at Te Awamutu. This is the first meeting between the two teams, the Rangers winning five of the last six previous games played between them. In the three of the four last games this season, the Hawks have allowed over 100 points scored against them, the other game they held Nelson to 63 points for their only win. Rangers are coming off their worst offensive showing of the season (67 points), but were without point guard Lindsay Tait who is averaging 17.2 points and 5.5 assists. Tait should return in the line up and will match up against Jarrod Kenny who is currently second in the league in assists (8.0). After averaging 19.2 points in his first five games, Hawks guard Everard Bartlett has struggled in his last two, shooting 4/19 from three and 5/24 from the field, averaging 9.5 points. Bartlett will go against Mitch McCarron who is averaging 23.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 5.0 assists.

## **SIT Zerofees Sharks (5-3) v Taranaki Mountainairs (3-5)**

**When:** Friday, April 28, 7pm  
**Where:** ILT Stadium, Invercargill  
**Referees:** Yalla Edwards, Matt Bathurst, Eliot Duncan

### **Notes**

The Sharks are 3-1 at home this year and will play the Airs who have lost four straight. Taranaki did defeat the Sharks 64-61 in the first meeting of the season. The last time Taranaki has won in Invercargill was April 17, 2012, final score 91-77. The Sharks have won eight of the last ten games between the two. Taranaki have sorely missed their second import, Daniel Gomis, who has been out for their last three games. Gomis is the only true centre on the roster and was leading the league in rebounds (10.6). Without Gomis, the Airs will have a size issue against Alex Pledger who is third in the league in rebounds (9.5). Match up of the game will be between small forwards Tylor Ongwae and Reuben Te Rangi, both players lead their respective teams in scoring. Te Rangi was offensively quiet in his last game, scoring a season low nine points, but he is one of the better defenders in the competition and will try to contain Ongwae who scored 22 against the Sharks which included 3/3 from three.

## **Mike Pero Nelson Giants (2-8) v Taranaki Mountainairs (3-5)**

**When:** Saturday, April 29, 7pm  
**Where:** At Trafalgar Centre, Nelson  
**Referees:** Sean Cronin, Gavin Zimmerman, Jacob Cromb

### **Notes**

The Giants return home after playing their last five on the road. Nelson are a much improved squad since the last game against the Airs who defeated them 93-76 at Trafalgar back in the opening round. Tylor Ongwae scored 28 in the win, but had a good battle with Finn Delany who scored 26. Delany is coming off a season high 30 points against the Saints, which included 4/6 from three which is a promising sign as he has shot 9/42 (21%) in his previous games. Both teams will be desperate for a win if they have any hope of challenging for a playoff spot, Taranaki probably more so as they have the longest active streak of not making the playoffs (15 seasons). Nelson will want to avoid missing out on the playoffs in consecutive seasons which they have not done since 1989. Point guard Kyle Adnam is starting to increase his scoring output, averaging nearly 22 points in his last four games. Nelson are 2-1 when he scores 20 or more points, and 0-4 if he scores under 20. Both teams are the only two that average under 80 points per game (Nelson 79.6, Airs 77.4).