

come at a better time.

Papatoetoe's second team in role.

NEWS REPORT BY RANGEL

Advantage up for grabs as old rivals meet

By ALAN APTED

The two best teams in the Counties Manukau regional netball league – Papatoetoe Rangers 1 and Aztec Premiers 1 – meet in the final round of the competition at the Otago Recreation Centre in Otago on Friday night.

It's a match made in netball heaven and a dress rehearsal for the league's grand final at Strathallan College on August 28.

At stake is a psychological advantage for the final. Neither has one at the moment because the only meeting between the pair this season ended in a 38-all draw.

Aztec manager Briar Martindale says while the result will not have any bearing on the championship both teams will want to win this one.

"This is a dress rehearsal for the final so the team that wins this one will feel it has momentum going into the final.

SCORES AND DRAWS

<p>Results: Division 1: Papatoetoe Rangers 1 45 H & W United 40, Papatoetoe Rangers 2 56 Timbertown Shelly Park 53, Aztec 1 39 Mellons Bay 32. Division 2: Manurewa Rugby 51 Pumaz 1 44, Bombay 57 Aztec 2 37, Pumaz 2 bt Tuakau (default) Standings: Division 1: Aztec Premiers 16,</p>	<p>Papatoetoe Rangers 16, Mellons Bay 8, Timbertown Shelly Park 5, Papatoetoe Rangers 5, H&W United 0. Division 2: Bombay 16, Manurewa Rugby 12, Pumaz 1 8, Tuakau 8, Pumaz 2 0, Aztec Premiers 2 0. Draw: Manurewa Netball Centre – Mellons Bay 1 v Timbertown</p>	<p>Shelly Park (D1) 6.30pm, Pumaz 1 v Tuakau (D2) 8pm at the Manurewa Netball Centre. Otago Recreation Centre – Papatoetoe Rangers 1 v Aztec Premiers 1 (D1) 6.30pm, Bombay v Manurewa Rugby (D2) 8pm. Rosehill College – H&W United v Papatoetoe Rangers 2 (D1) 6.30pm, Aztec Premiers 2 v Pumaz 2 (D2) 8pm.</p>
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"We never underestimate Papatoetoe. They are great rivals of ours and are a very skilful team," she says.

"Their strength is in the strategies. They have a very experienced coach in Adrienne Morrin who was recently appointed the assistant coach of the New Zealand under-21s.

"She is vastly more experienced than our own coach Winne Hauraki."

Senior Aztec players Ashley Timoko, Italia Tipelu, Marcia Bennett and Ruth Hei Hei hold the keys to success, Martindale says.

Morrin is just as expectant. "This is an opportunity for us to get a good look at them," Morrin says.

"It's a chance to see where they are at compared to when we last played them."

She says the team that wins

has the right to feel relatively confident heading into the final.

Papatoetoe are the defending champions.

The match starts at 6.30pm. It will be the curtain raiser to the division two showdown between Bombay and Manurewa Rugby. Bombay lead the division with 12 points.

Manurewa Rugby are second with eight.

The match starts at 8pm.