

Aztecs v Mellons Bay a crucial match

By **ALAN APTED**

The clash between unbeaten Aztec Premiers 1 and Mellons Bay 1 at the Otara Recreation Centre is the feature match of the Counties Manukau regional netball league on Friday night.

It's a match both teams see as crucial to taking a psychological advantage into the August playoffs.

Former champions Aztec, who finished third behind Mellons Bay and Papatoetoe Rangers last year, will feel they have an edge after finishing higher than their two rivals in the recent Super 12 netball tournament.

Mellons Bay will argue the difference was marginal and will be out to stake their claim

as the second best team in the province.

Aztec destroyed Timbertown Shelly Park 72-43 at the Otara Recreation Centre.

The quarter time scores were 14-9, 34-22, 51-34 and 72-43.

Aztec coach Winnie Hauraki was happy with her team's consistency against an inexperienced opponent and impressed with the high work rate and versatility of Ashleigh Timoko and Marcia Bennett.

Mellons Bay had a much closer run against newcomers Bombay, winning 57-42.

Defending premiers Papatoetoe Rangers dished out a hiding to H&W United at the Manurewa Netball Centre.

They won 60-35. The quarter time scores were

► RESULTS

Division 1: Aztec 1 72 TT Shelly Park 43, Papatoetoe Rangers 1 60 H & W United 35, Mellons Bay 1 57 Bombay 42. **Division 2:** Pumaz 2 46 Tuakau 45, Papatoetoe Rangers 2 61 Aztec 2 39, Manurewa Rugby 45 Pumaz 1 31.

Standings: Division 1: Aztec Premiers 1 8, Papatoetoe Rangers 8, Mellons Bay 8, H&W United 1, Shelly Park 0, Bombay 0.

Division two: Manurewa Rugby 8, Papatoetoe Rangers 8, Pumaz 2 4, Pumaz 1 1, Tuakau 1.

Draw: Netball Manurewa: Timbertown Shelly Park v H&W United (D1) 6.30pm, Pumaz 2 v Pumaz 1 (D2) 8.30pm. **Otara**

Recreation Centre: Aztec Premiers 1 v Mellons Bay 1 (D1) 6.30pm, Aztec Premiers 2 v Manurewa Rugby 2 (D2) 8.30pm.

Rosehill College: Bombay v Papatoetoe Rangers 1 (D1) 6.30pm, Tuakau v Papatoetoe Rangers 2 (D2) 8.30pm.

17-6, 27-16, 40-27 and 60-35.

Unbeaten Manurewa Rugby and Papatoetoe Rangers 2 lead division two after comfortable victories over Pumaz 1 and

Aztec 2 last Friday. Manurewa won 45-31 and Rangers 61-39. And in the other division two game Pumaz 2 beat Tuakau 46-45 in a thriller at Otara.

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