

Aztecs v Mellons Bay crucial

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 in last year's league, will feel that they have an edge for having finished 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 Shelley 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 Hau-raki was happy with her team's consistency against an inexperienced opponent and she was also impressed with the high work rate and versatility of both Ashleigh Timoko and Marcia Bennett in particular.

Mellons Bay had a much closer run against newcomers Bombay before emerging 57-42 winners.

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

They won 60-35.

The quarter time scores were 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 Taukaku 46-46 in a thriller at Otara.

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 Premier 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 Shelley Park v H&W United (D1) 6.30pm, Pumaz 2 v Pumaz 1 (D2) 8.30pm.

Otara Recreation Centre: Aztec Premier 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.