

## Bottom three seek redemption in playoffs

By **ALAN APTE**

Papatoetoe Rangers, Mellons Bay and Aztec Premiers will be attempting to avoid the wooden spoon when Super 12 netball tournament holds its playoffs at the Auckland Netball Centre in Glenn Innes on May 1.

The players have the Easter long weekend off to recharge and refocus after a disappointing series for all three teams.

Papatoetoe's 45-38 win over Aztec in round two is the only

victory recorded by a Counties Manukau team.

Aztec and Mellons Bay haven't had a win yet could still end up ahead of Papatoetoe after the playoffs.

The draw has Aztec playing Shore Rovers and Papatoetoe playing Mellons Bay.

The winner of these matches will play for ninth and 10th, the losers for 11th and 12th.

All three teams lost their final round games last Friday.

Papatoetoe were beaten 56-42

by Auckland champions Mt Albert Grammar School, Mellons Bay lost 58-35 to North champions Commodores and Aztec were crushed 62-33 in Hamilton by Verdettes, the Wai-kato No 2 seeds.

And in another disappointing result, the young Counties Manukau side lost their final three matches of the Lois Muir Challenge over the weekend.

They were beat 51-30 by Southland, 77-18 by Canterbury and 51-37 by Cook Strait.