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Counties need to be at best

By ALAN APTED

Counties Manukau expect Waikato will be at their ruthless best for their national netball championship match at Strathallan College in Karaka on Sunday.

The visitors still harbour hopes of winning promotion to division one and know that a second loss will kill off those chances.

Waikato travel to Karaka on the back of a crushing 63-36 win over Tasman, a team Counties Manukau could beat by only 12 goals.

The scores reflect the magnitude of the task facing coach Winnie Hauraki and her Counties Manukau team. "This is going to be our toughest pool to date," she says.

"Waikato are determined to get back into first division and will not want to lose another match.

"We're definitely the underdogs. We must

focus on the little victories. We must reduce our turnovers, be accurate with our passing and do everything we can to get the ball to our shooters."

Hauraki says the shooting percentages of Dannielle Steffany and Caitlin Riedstra were great against North at the North Harbour Netball Centre last Sunday.

But she says they need more ball if they are to match their opponents.

Counties Manukau were beaten 56-41 by North. It was a result that didn't really reflect Counties Manukau's contribution.

North only got away in the final quarter and there'd been little between the sides up until then.

But Hauraki says North shifted into overdrive in the final quarter and her girls could only just keep up.

Sunday's match starts at 11.30am.