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# Frustrating end to enthralling match

Counties Manukau Netball team travelled over the bridge for a tough encounter against North on Sunday in Division Two of the 2011 Lion Foundation Netball Championships.

Winning the toss gave Counties the first centre pass, the new attacking line up needing time to settle in and North took advantage and Counties had to chase to catch up.

Exceptional composure by young goal attack Caitlin Riedstra and goal shoot Dannielle Steffany had them both scoring 100 per cent when the ball was given to them. No changes were made by either coach as the players re-took the court for the second quarter.

Counties Manukau started strongly, scoring five goals to North's one when North called injury stemming the momentum.

However Megan Adler had found her distance perfectly this quarter but Italia Tipelu

struggled to find hers.

Adler gathered in five intercepts and two rebounds.

Riedstra had another perfect quarter sinking eight from eight and Steffany five from seven.

Ruth Hei Hei was under pressure in the mid-court with four handling errors but overall it was a strong quarter which Counties dominated. The half-time score had the teams separated by only one goal at 24-25.

It was goal for goal in the third quarter with Counties managing to put their nose in front by a goal toward the end of the quarter.

The teams went into the final 15 minutes a goal apart at 38-39.

North stepped up their team defence forcing Counties into handling errors. It was a frustrating end to a strong close game and the 56-41 scoreline didn't reflect the close tussle the game had been in the first 45 minutes.

- Wendy Bremner

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