

Move indoors good for netball league

By ALAN APTED

Papatoetoe Rangers, Mellons Bay and Aztec 1 are the three top seeds for the Counties Manukau Regional Netball League starting on Friday night.

Rangers begin the defence of their title against Timbertown Shelley Park at Rosehill College in Papakura while Mellons Bay face H&W United at the Otaru Recreation Centre and Aztec take on newcomers Bombay at the Manurewa Netball Centre.

Bombay is the only new team in the six-team premier league. They were the best of the 18 teams in a qualifying series at Bruce Pulman Park last weekend.

They succeed Pumaz 1 who have been relegated to division two.

Netball Counties Manukau business manager Nicole Terrill expects this year's league to be the most competitive.

"The qualifying series was awesome with 18 teams vying for just nine positions," she says.

"The competition was fierce and we're ex-

pecting this year's league to be the most closely contested."

Moving indoors will add to the popularity of the league, Terrill says.

Rangers, Mellons Bay and Aztec 1 are favourites because of the exposure their players have had in the Super12 and Lois Muir Challenge, she says.

Meanwhile, division two teams still have a chance to move up. The division two leaders after the opening round robin

will play a promotion-relegation match against the bottom division 1

Friday's draw

Netball Manurewa:	Rangers 2 v Pumaz 1
Aztec 1 v Bombay (D1)	(D2) 8pm.
6.30pm; Tuakau v	Rosehill College:
Aztec 2 (D2) 8pm.	Papatoetoe Rangers 1
Otaru Recreation	v Timbertown Shelley
Centre: Mellons Bay v	Park (D1) 6.30pm;
H&W United (D1)	Manurewa Rugby v
6.30pm; Papatoetoe	Pumaz 2 (D2) 8pm.

team. The winner qualifies for the championship round.

Division 1 teams are: Papatoetoe Rangers, Mellons Bay, Aztec 1, Timbertown Shelley

Park, Bombay and H&W United.

Division 2 teams are: Tuakau, Manurewa Rugby, Papatoetoe Rangers 2, Pumaz 2, Pumaz 1 and Aztec 2.