

Rangers up for premier spot

Papatoetoe Rangers 2 have won a crack at playing among the premiers in the championship round of the Counties Manukau regional netball league starting Friday week.

Their 55-38 win over previously unbeaten Manurewa Rugby at the Manurewa Netball Centre last Friday puts them in charge of division two. And the prize is a July 11 promotion/relegation match against bottom premiers side Bombay.

The young Rangers side still have to face Pumaz 2 in their final round match at Otara Recreation Centre on Friday, but last-placed Pumaz aren't expected to cause a boil-over.

Rangers dominated Manurewa Rugby from the opening quarter. They stretched a 13-9 first quarter lead to 31-20 at halftime and were up 43-29 by the three quarter mark.

Coach Vicki Morgan says her team had a hesitant start. Only the defensive efforts of goal-keep Chanelle Campbell, 16, with four timely intercepts helped build momentum.

Centre Nicole Jensen, 16, and back-up goalkeep Helena Tuliakino were also impressive.

"I'm extremely pleased with the entire squad

who are improving each week," Morgan says.

In division one action, the long-awaited clash between unbeaten Papatoetoe Rangers 1 and Aztec Premiers 1 ended in a thrilling 38-all draw at Rosehill College on Monday. Tuakau beat Manurewa Rugby 60-57 in the division two curtain-raiser.

Rangers 1 went into their match against Aztec on the back of a 52-37 win over third-ranked Mellons Bay in Otara last Friday.

For their part, Aztec blitzed H&W United 66-43 at Rosehill College last Friday. A run of 18 points in the second quarter and 16 in the fourth showed their dominance.

Shelly Park consigned premier newcomers Bombay to the promotion/relegation playoff with a 51-45 win at Manurewa Netball Centre.

In division two, Aztec 2 beat Pumaz 2 52-43 at Rosehill College and Tuakau beat Pumaz 1 59-52 in Otara.

■ Friday's draw – Otara Recreation Centre:
Papatoetoe Rangers v Pumaz 2 (D2) 6.30pm,
H&W United v Bombay (D1) 8pm. Rosehill College:
Pumaz 1 v Aztec 2 (D2) 6.30pm, Mellons Bays v Shelly Park (D1) 8pm.