

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

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Visitors dominate quarterfinal berths

A number of powerful visiting teams gave Taranaki sides a difficult time as the first two rounds of post section reduced the Taranaki women's Open fours tournament to eight sides in hot conditions at Paritutu yesterday.

Illustrating the domination of the visitors is the fact that six of the quarterfinalists are from outside Taranaki. Patty Symes (Tower) and Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) are the exceptions. Symes will play Karen Forrest (Papakura) this morning, with Nichol squaring off against Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North).

The top half of the draw, comprised entirely of visitors, is of Rolls Royce quality. Bev Corbett (Hinuera) meets Denise Samuel (Glenfield), while an all Bay of Plenty clash features Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) and Margaret Reed (Tauranga South).

There were plenty of stories to emerge from yesterday's play.

In the opening round clashes, at the top of the chart, Reen Stratford (Aramoho) beat Heather Johns (Paritutu) 26-17 while Corbett defeated Denise Taylor (Wanganui) 26-22. Stratford was completely dominant at the commencement of the Johns game, scooting away to a 20-0 lead after eight ends. While Johns brought it back to 20-9 after 13 ends, finding anything more than a single after that for Paritutu was exceedingly difficult.

Corbett led throughout her clash with Taylor. And further assisted by a mid-game five, three and single in succession, had the Hinuera side in control at 19-7. After 20 ends that had become 23-11 and while Taylor rallied, picking up two fours, the five-shot last end differential was too large.

Samuel beat Mary Bettleheim (Ohope) 26-17 and Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) ended the hopes of Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) 26-24 in the other round one games. Samuel, after leading 15-5, saw Bettleheim claw it back to 16-13 before the North Harbour team pulled

away again. Stampa collected three fours along the way to establishing a 25-15 lead with four ends remaining against Bird. But a six on the next end changed the dynamics of the match, although Stampa was able to hang on.

In the two last 16 games played in the morning, Cowen and Nichol came through. Cowen's side was too steady for Rhonda Adams' Fitzroy side, winning 28-24. From leading 16-14, Cowen put together four successive ends to move ahead 25-14. Adams continued to fight, closing to just three behind playing the last end, but it was the Manawatu gold star holder who got across the line.

Nichol held off Margaret Oates (Browns Bay) 27-22, despite a couple of nervous moments. Nichol appeared cruising when leading 19-6, but four ends later it was just 19-14. The Inglewood side moved away again, to 26-14 but a single, a six and another single reduced the deficit to just four shots playing the last.

There were two major reversals in the afternoon, with both Corbett and Reed coming from behind to win.

Corbett trailed Stratford 14-4 through six ends, but three ends later, had hit the lead 15-14. It was then Stratford's turn to take over, leading 23-18 after 14. However, Hinuera controlled the scoring after that, with Aramoho managing only two singles, leaving the Waikato side the victors 32-25.

Reed was in all sorts of bother against Bev Robinson (Opunake), falling 22-5 behind after 14 ends. However, a single, two successive fives and a three, had the margin down to three points. Opunake consolidated a little, extending the lead to six points with five ends remaining. But, with the mat well up the green, Reed's team claimed 14 points over the next four ends to win 33-25.

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Samuel skipped an inexperienced side into the last eight after ending the hopes of Stampa 25-9. Samuel's side has highly promising youngster Paris Baker, a third year player leading, Caroline Dubois, who has played for 18 months at No 2, and Barbara Seddon, who is just out of juniors at third. Samuel and Stampa were locked at 6-all after 10 ends. But three successive braces gave Samuel the edge, which her side extended further to 18-7.

Green ended the hopes of a third title for Shona Chambers (Browns Bay) in winning 25-15. The two sides were 7-all after six ends before Green put on the afterburners, progressing to 21-10 in front after 16.

Forrest, pictured right, was involved in the closest game of the day, edging out Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 23-22. Forrest had looked good, leading 16-7 after 13 ends, but the tena-

cious Waitara side squared the match at 17-17 all after 18. Suddenly, it was game on. But Papakura held their nerve, until the last end, into which they took a three-point lead.

When Forrest played her last bowl she was three down. She reduced it to two and Johnstone was too heavy to adjust the count.

Symes ran away with her match against Martie Sisson (Ohope), winning 32-13, having earlier led 19-5.



Open fours post section results

Results from post section yesterday:

Round 1: Reen Stratford (Aramoho) 26 Heather Johns (Paritutu) 17, Bev Corbett (Hinuera) 26 Denise Taylor (Wanganui) 22, Denise Samuel (Glenfield) 26 Mary Bettelheim (Ohope) 17, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 26 Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) 24.

Round 2: Corbett 32 Stratford 25, Samuel 25 Stampa 9, Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) 25 Shona Chambers (Browns Bay) 15, Margaret Reed (Tauranga South) 33 Bev Robinson (Opunake) 25, Karen Forrest (Papakura) 23 Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 22, Patty Symes (Tower) 32 Martie Sisson (Ohope) 13, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) 28 Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy) 24, Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) 27 Margaret Oates (Browns Bay) 22.

Quarterfinal draw for today at Paritutu:

Bev Corbett (Hinuera) v Denise Samuel (Glenfield), Wendy Green (Ngongotaha) v Margaret Reed (Tauranga South), Karen Forrest (Papakura) v Patty Symes (Tower), Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North) v Cindy Nichol (Inglewood).

Drop a six and lose? Wrong!

There are not many teams that would not accept a count of six shots on one end. Taking it a step further, dropping that many shots on one end can often mean curtains — but not necessarily so in the Taranaki women's open fours where the 25 end duration of matches often means more twists and turns than Mt Messenger. And so it proved yesterday. There were four teams that picked up six shots on an end — no sevens or eights were posted — but remarkably all four lost their games.

In the morning, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) and Cindy Nichol (Inglewood) both dropped sixes late in their victories over Fay Bird (Central Cambridge) and Margaret Oates (Browns Bay) after holding good leads. In the afternoon, counts of six gave both Reen Stratford (Aramoho) and Bev Robinson (Opunake) big early advantages. However, Bev Corbett (Hinuera), against Stratford, and Margaret Reed (Tauranga South), against Robinson, were both able to dominate the closing stages of their matches. That enabled both teams to overcome the deficits and live to fight another day.

Now, who wants to drop a six today?