

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Thursday, January 31, 2019

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Six teams sleep easy in Open fours

It is a sure bet that six teams enjoyed a much more relaxing sleep last evening after securing the necessary four wins to qualify in the Taranaki women's Open fours in New Plymouth yesterday.

The six teams to take the direct route to Friday's post section rounds are Omarunui's Robyn Wallace, Tower's Patty Symes, Glenfield's Denise Samuel, Hillcrest's Karen de Jongh and two Papakura sides headed by Gayle Melrose and Karen Forrest.

Section one: Wallace, playing with Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness and Alison Rennie, defeated Te Awamutu's Judy Cato 23-12 yesterday morning at West End before beating Pauline Davy (Opunake) 23-15 in the afternoon.

That was the first defeat inflicted on Davy's side for the week and after 12 of the 25 ends, and the score at 11-10 to Wallace, the match was wide-open.

But Wallace took seven of the next eight ends to take an eight point lead as the teams entered the home straight.

Davy had posted a solid 28-19 win over Paritutu's Margie Davis in the morning. But Davis came good in the afternoon, beating two-winner Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga) 26-18 to also finish in the handy position of three wins.

West End's Jan Johnson and Paritutu's Heather Johns are also on the same count. Johnson upset Johns in the morning, 32-21, before both sides won in the afternoon. Johnson beat Gay Baxter (Bulls) 28-13, while a six on the 21st end enabled Johns to break free from two-winner Ellie Goble (Lepperton) to win 29-20.

Section two: Symes and Samuel have continued on this week the way they performed last year — as dominant forces.

Symes, who is skipping Frances Parkes, Hazel Schwartzfeger and Maureen Tamou,

notched up victories at Paritutu over Pam Burgess (Wanganui), 25-21, and Gloria Shaw (Paritutu), 24-15. The loss was the second of the tournament so far for Burgess, but the side from the river city kept its hopes alive in the afternoon, defeating Prue Wright (Paritutu) 22-16. However, it was Shaw's third loss of the week.

Samuel's team this week comprises Puna Paretoa, Caroline Dubois and Barbara Seddon. Aside from the first round match on Tuesday against Titahi Bay's Linda Conley, Samuel's side has matched mercifully. Yesterday morning they beat Val Fleming (New Plymouth) 27-10 and accounted for Trish Howard (West end) 29-17. Conley has put in an excellent account since the opening loss and sits in a strong position of three wins.

Fitzroy's Rhonda Adams has two wins and meets two sides in the same position today.

Section three: de Jongh and Melrose, arguably the two most well-known skips in the Open from the national scene, continued to sound loud warning signs on day two. Both of their sides won twice and cemented their places in Friday's post section.

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Titahi Bay's Linda Conley found ways to cool down and impressed with two wins on day two.

• **From page one**

De Jongh's team of Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent and Dominion singles titleholder Debbie White squashed West End's Denise Cottam 42-13 in the morning and while it wasn't as easy in the afternoon, the Waikato side still got home comfortably 25-16 over two-winner Sue Edwards (New Plymouth) at Vogeltown.

Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia and Margaret Davies have been setting it up for Melrose on the opening two days. Yesterday the side accounted for Robyn Klenner (Vogeltown) 32-15 but received a bit of a fright from Cottam before winning 28-23.

Wendy Moratti's Lepperton side, after a loss to de Jongh on Monday, added two further victories yesterday to sit on three wins.

However, a tough day still awaits Moratti's side today — they meet Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) and Melrose. Andrews also has three wins, as does Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy).

Who has won how many after day two?

Standings after the second day's play:

Section 1: four wins, Robyn Wallace (Omarunui); **three wins**, Margie Davis (Paritutu), Jan Johnson (West End), Heather Johns (Paritutu), Pauline Davy (Opunake); **two wins**, Marilyn Constantine (Tauranga), Liz Johnstone (Waitara), Val McEldowney (New Plymouth), Sharon Siegruhn (Pukekohe), Ellie Goble (Lepperton).

Section 2: fours wins, Patty Symes (Tower), Denise Samuel (Glenfield); **three wins**, Linda Conley (Titahi Bay); **two wins**, Ngaire Cowen (Palmerston North), Trish Howard (West End), Pam Burgess (Wanganui), Val Fleming (New Plymouth), Rhonda Adams (Fitzroy).

Section 3: four wins, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest), Gayle Melrose (Papakura); **three wins**, Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy), Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), Wendy Moratti (Lepperton); **two wins**, Cindy Nicoll (Inglewood), Sue Edwards (New Plymouth), Jean Sheary (Matua).

Section 4: four wins, Karen Forrest (Papakura); **three wins**, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Janice Ropitini (West End), Carol Pearce (Lepperton); **two wins**, Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), Valda Rowan (Paritutu).

Both were beaten yesterday morning— Andrews 28-25 by Edwards and Hewson 25-23 by Moratti.

Section four: Forrest's team of Miriam Pedley, Nancy Wilson and Jan Jones won the clash of the only unbeaten teams in the afternoon at New Plymouth 26-18 over Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park).

Forrest had beaten Heather Thomas (New Plymouth) 28-12 in the morning while Stampa was too consistent for Valda Rowan (Paritutu) recording a 32-14 victory.

West End's Janice Ropitini and Lepperton's Carol Pearce also sit one win short of qualifying, after they met in the morning round.

Pearce took out that match 27-18 and then eliminated Mary Solomon (Tauranga). Ropitini scored a vital 25-23 win over Mary Bettelheim (Ohope), a result that left the Bay of Plenty side needing to win both of its games today to qualify.

Match of the morning — Andrews v Moratti

Two teams with three wins each square off this morning at Paritutu, with the victor of the match guaranteeing themselves a place in tomorrow's post section rounds.

Cathy Andrews (Paritutu), aside from a loss yesterday morning, and Wendy Moratti (Lepperton), aside from a loss on Tuesday afternoon, have both sailed their teams along satisfactorily.

Andrews has a more experienced and successful side on paper with Kileigh Barber, Marlene Barrowman and Barbara Batley, all past Taranaki centre titleholders.

Moratti's side includes Tina Quilter, Linda Clark — both relative newcomers but enthusiastic learners — and Gaelene Riddle.

Moratti faces a tough afternoon game should the morning match go against her team, having drawn four-winner Gayle Melrose (Papakura).

Andrews has an easier task on paper, meeting Judy Gernhoefer (Te Puke), whose Bay of Plenty side is now out of contention.

