

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

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Wallace takes game with her final bowl

Experienced Omarunui skip Robyn Wallace delivered the telling shot on the final end of her round two game to ensure her side survived in post section of the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday.

Wallace and her side of Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness and Alison Rennie held a five-shot advantage over Gayle Melrose's Papakura quartet as they entered the 25th and final end of the last 16 clash.

After Melrose had killed the first attempt, excellent bowls from Papakura's front three of Les Eagleton, Cheryl Hunia and Margaret Davies left the side holding four shots on the skip change-over. Wallace missed with her first bowl and Melrose drew shot number five, effectively tying up the game.

Both skips, with a bowl to play, faced equal pressure. Wallace was the first to play. Making sure she reached the head, she got a touch off the fourth shot and sat neatly between the two closest bowls to take shot. Melrose, the 2012 Dominion fours winner, was unable to alter the head, swinging underneath the head to leave the Hawke's Bay side victorious 27-21.

After eight of the 25 ends, it appeared that the game would result in a Melrose victory, with her side racing out to a 14-6 lead, which included a seven on end seven.

But the consistency of the Wallace side drew them back into the match, bringing them to within one shot after 19 ends. On the following head, Wallace's side took a six which ultimately proved the difference.

This morning, Wallace's side will meet West End stalwart, Jan Johnson.

Johnson and her team of Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin — who, like Johnson, and Johnson's husband, Graham, are Life Members of the famous club — and Jackie Moeahu.

Johnson scored a surprisingly easy 27-11 win yesterday afternoon over the highly decorated Paritutu player, Cathy Andrews. After 17 ends, the game was all but over, with Johnson, who has won the singles and triples already this season at her club, ahead 24-7.

In the other afternoon games, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) continued the trend from the previous day, beating Janice Ropitini (West End) 27-12, while Denise Samuel (Glenfield) edged out Karen Forrest (Papakura) 21-19.

Having beaten Ropitini in the sixth round of section play the previous day, Stampa held a physiological edge. It showed on the first four ends, with Stampa, aided by a seven on the second end, opening up a 15-0 advantage. By the 13th end, Stampa was still in complete control, leading 21-8.

Samuel and Forrest had a real hum-dinger of a clash. After Samuel had led 7-6 after seven ends, Forrest took the lead 12-7 two ends later.

By the 16th end that had become 17-12 and it took Samuel until the 21st end to level the scores. Starting the penultimate end, the scores remained even, but Samuel took singles on the last two heads to win.

In the two round one matches in the morning, for sides unlucky to miss the bye, both Forrest and Samuel were comfortable winners.

Samuel posted counts of seven, on the sixth end, and eight, the 15th head, on her way to beating Fitzroy's Nellie Hewson 36-15.

Hewson, after the seven, managed to make a game of it, levelling at 14-all after 13 ends. However, the next four heads all went the way of Samuel, including the eight, and within the short space, the game had gone from being tense to one-sided, the score blowing out to 28-14.

Forrest accounted for Ann Duggan (New Plymouth) 30-14. Forrest led 7-0 after three and the margin was rarely challenged. A few ends later it was 14-7, then 22-11. A three on the 17th end gave Duggan some hope, but the remainder of the scoring was done by Papakura.

Four round two matches were also completed in the morning.

A four end scoring spree from head nine ensured Karen de Jongh's Hillcrest team posted an easy 30-11 win over Linda Conley (Titahi Bay).

Conley trailed just 7-6, after eight ends, but four ends later de Jongh had taken complete control at 20-6.

De Jongh will meet Waitara's Liz Johnstone in this morning's quarterfinals, after Johnstone's composite side of Denise Clarke, Christine Kendrick and Marlene Hayes edged out Paritutu's Margie Davis 25-22 in a tense encounter.

In the first half of the game, Johnstone took a six, but the very next end Davis claimed a five to level the scores at 12-all. After 22 ends, the scores were locked again at 21-all. Johnstone took a brace, Davis replied with a single, but Johnstone sealed the match with a further two on the last end.

Open fours post section results

Results of post section play in the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday:

Round 1: Denise Samuel (Glenfield) 36 Nellie Hewson (Fitzroy) 15, Karen Forrest (Papakura) 30 Ann Duggan (New Plymouth) 14. **Round 2:** Samuel 21 Forrest 19, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 27 Janice Ropitini (West End) 12, Jan Johnson (West End) 27 Cathy Andrews (Paritutu) 11, Robyn Wallace (Oamarunui) 27 Gayle Melrose (Papakura) 21, Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 25 Margie Davis (Paritutu) 22, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest) 30 Linda Conley (Titahi Bay) 11, Pauline Davy (Opunake) 21 Patty Symes (Tower) 20, Heather Johns (Paritutu) 25 Carol Pearce (Lepperton) 20.

The remaining two quarterfinal berths were secured by Pauline Davy (Opunake) and Heather Johns (Paritutu).

Davy and her side of Val Langton, Joy Collins and Eileen Rothwell held a number of handy leads over Patty Symes (Tower) — 11-5, after 10 ends, 17-11 after 16, and 21-14, after 22. But Symes, the most devoted women's servant of the sport in this province in this generation, claimed a two and a three to reduce the margin to just two shots with one end remaining.

On the last end on the skip change-over, Symes held three. She drew a fourth, before Davy, running at the head, hit a bowl onto the jack, reducing the count to one. Symes calmly drew back a second shot, but Davy, equal to the occasion, ran off the second shot to leave Opunake the victors 21-20.

This morning they will meet the Johns' side of Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn and Debbie Smith.

The Johns-skipped team had to work hard to dispel Lepperton's Carol Pearce 25-20 in the morning.

The teams had been locked at 16-all after 18 ends. But Johns then took a two, a four and a single. Pearce reduced the deficit to three shots playing the last end, but Johns claimed a two to win.

Quarterfinal draw — four big games await

Quarterfinal draw this morning at Paritutu: Puna Paretoa, Caroline Dubois, Barbara Seddon, Denise Samuel (Glenfield) v Ella Smailes, Irene Waller, Pauline Kennedy, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park), Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin, Jackie Moeahu, Jan Johnson (West End) v Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness, Alison Rennie, Robyn Wallace (Oamarunui), Denise Clarke, Christine Kendrick, Marlene Hayes, Liz Johnstone (Waitara) v Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent, Debbie White, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest), Val Langton, Joy Collins, Eileen Rothwell, Pauline Davy (Opunake) v Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn, Debbie Smith, Heather Johns (Paritutu).