

Open News - Taranaki Open Fours

Sunday, February 3, 2019

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Stampa and de Jongh impress ahead of final

Fours is often referred to as a team game. And that adage rang true when the finalists were found in the 67th edition of the Taranaki women's Open fours at Paritutu yesterday.

But, as had been seen at the closing stages of the men's event last week, the impact a dominant skip can have on a match can be far-reaching.

Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) and Karen de Jongh, a member of the Hillcrest club but skipping a composite Waikato side this week, both produced some mighty bowls to ensure their teams had a more comfortable path into today's final.

Stampa's side defeated West End's Jan Johnson 30-17 in the semifinals, while de Jongh's team advanced 27-17 over Paritutu's Heather Johns.

Stampa and her side of Ella Smailes, Irene Waller and Pauline Kennedy held a handy 21-15 lead after 17 of the 25 ends in the semi. However, on the next end, after Johnson had played a good shot, West End held three. Stampa, with her last bowl, trailed the jack for three. Johnson, in a valiant attempt, sat on one of the counters, but fell out. It left Hawera Park with three; had the bowl fallen in, Johnson would have had the shot.

On the next end, when down on the change-over, Stampa drew two immaculate shots on to the jack.

And suddenly the score had become 26-15. The rest became somewhat academic, which was a disappointment given what Johnson and her side of Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin and Jackie Moeahu had brought to the tournament.

Early exchanges in the semi had been even, but Stampa's side took a four and a six on the two ends before afternoon tea, blowing the score out to 18-6.

But Johnson's side came back out and scored a four and a two. They remained in contention until Stampa's superb deliveries.

De Jongh's side of Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent and Debbie White had some anxious moments late in the game against Johns.

But de Jongh also produced a couple of dazzling shots. On one end, she was five down but drew the shot. Then after that, with the margin just four shots with four ends remaining, de Jongh produced a toucher, which converted a one shot negative into a three shot positive again.

It gave the Waikato side the nudge it needed, making the score 24-17. The team continued that on, winning the next two ends to book their place in the final.

The other key difference between the two sides occurred on just the fourth end. After Paritutu had opened the better, leading 4-0, de Jongh's side raised a drawn seven. White attempted to measure in the eighth, but the final count was seven.

De Jongh's side also had a purple patch from end seven, taking five heads in a row to move from 7-all to 17-7 in front.

Johns' side of Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn and Debbie Smith rallied after that. Twice they got to within four, but de Jongh was to deny the Paritutu side with two quality shots.



Karen de Jongh delivers while Heather Johns waits.

• **Quarterfinals on page two.**

Johnson causes the upset in the quarterfinals

Three relatively one-sided games and one upset summarised the quarterfinals yesterday morning.

Jan Johnson and her West End team were the causes of the upset, defeating Omarunui's Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness, Alison Rennie and Robyn Wallace 26-20. Wallace's side had

given indications throughout the week that they were a genuine title chance.

But in a game that was highlighted with a number of closely-packed heads, Johnson produced a some superb shots to ensure victory. Her side

had started the best, leading 11-6 after 10 ends.

However, Wallace's side clawed back into the game. And aided by a four and a three on ends 15 and 16, they took the lead 16-13. Two ends later, John-



Jan Johnson in action in the semifinals with Kristin Stampa.

Open fours post section results

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

Quarterfinals: Ella Smailes, Irene Waller, Pauline Kennedy, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 28 Puna Paretoa, Caroline Dubois, Barbara Seddon, Denise Samuel (Glenfield) 11, Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin, Jackie Moeahu, Jan Johnson (West End) 26 Jan Henderson, Louise Fitness, Alison Rennie, Robyn Wallace (Oamrunui) 20, Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent, Debbie White, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest) 29 Denise Clarke, Christine Kendrick, Marlene Hayes, Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 7, Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn, Debbie Smith, Heather Johns (Paritutu) 30 Val Langton, Joy Collins, Eileen Rothwell, Pauline Davy

son took back a four of her own. Just one point separated the teams as they headed for the final five ends. And it was Johnson who rose to the occasion, securing a three that set the trend for the remainder of the game.

Stampa led throughout her 28-11 win over Glenfield's Puna Paretoa, Caroline Dubois, Barbara Seddon and Denise Samuel. From 8-0, Stampa moved to 14-5. A four on the next end gave some hope to Samuel, but it was not to be. Stampa advanced to 19-9, then 23-10, with Samuel unable to secure any counts.

Johns was emphatic as her side trounced the Opunake team of Val Langton, Joy Collins, Eileen Rothwell and Pauline Davy 30-7. While 25 end games are well-known for changing partway through, the contest was nearly all over after nine ends, Johns in front 19-3.

De Jongh ended the fairytale run of the composite side of Denise Clarke, Christine Kendrick, Marlene Hayes and Liz Johnstone (Waitara) 29-7. The team was put together the week before the event to prevent a bye.

While Johnstone started the match with a three, the Waikato side completely dominated the scoring after that. They led 18-4 after 12 ends. Four ends later it was 24-5, with the white flag being shown after just 19 heads.

(Opunake) 7.

Semifinals: Ella Smailes, Irene Waller, Pauline Kennedy, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) 30 Jill Dyett, Colleen Martin, Jackie Moeahu, Jan Johnson (West End) 17, Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent, Debbie White, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest) 27 Carolyn Harris, Sandra Zittersteijn, Debbie Smith, Heather Johns (Paritutu) 17.

Draw for final this morning at Paritutu commencing at 9am:

Ella Smailes, Irene Waller, Pauline Kennedy, Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) v Carol Cox, Sue Broadbent, Debbie White, Karen de Jongh (Hillcrest).