



# THE STANCE



No. 2, July 2016

## NEWS FROM BASKETBALL NEW ZEALAND

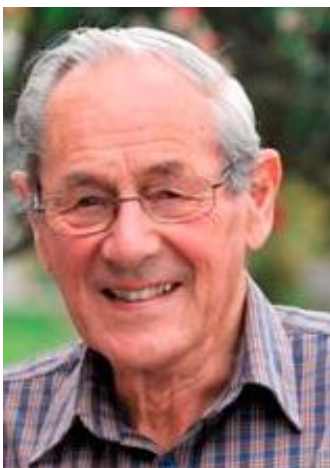
On the evening of 20 May excellence and outstanding achievements in New Zealand basketball were recognised at the Basketball New Zealand Awards ceremony, held in Wellington.

BBNZ's Chief Executive, Iain Potter, said the awards recognise some of the dedicated individuals throughout the country who embody the true spirit of basketball. "Basketball in New Zealand is continuing to see strong growth, and that is partly due to the likes of those who support and love the game. Our Annual awards recognise the achievements of people within the basketball community, and individuals who help make our game better, stronger and so enjoyable to be a part of." This was also the first year that BBNZ established the Basketball New Zealand Hall of Fame, which Potter says was long overdue and is why there were 14 people included in this inaugural year. "We are building the awards each year and felt it was important to establish the Hall of Fame to recognise the history and prestige of our sport. If you look at the inductees, and read about their achievements and dedication, there's an impressive group there. In part, this is to recognise them, but also to invest New Zealand's basketball history and to tell that story for years to come

And with that we, at Basketball Otago, wish to acknowledge and congratulate the following people who were among the honoured recipients at the Awards evening –

### Ian Goodwin Services to Officiating Award – RAE GARLAND

Rae Garland hails from the Otago Basketball Association where she was recently made a life member for her tireless contribution to basketball in Otago. Mrs Garland coordinates referees for all club and school basketball, as well as for Basketball New Zealand affiliated tournaments held in Dunedin. Along with her husband, she officiates over 100 matches every season and assists in coordinating rules sessions from senior level through to a grassroots education programme called Kiwi-Hoops. For more than 25 years Rae has crewed the local scores bench and continues to manage it for major fixtures.



### Hall of Fame Inductee (Contributor\*) – DAVID ROUT

David Rout was President of the New Zealand Basketball Federation from 1986 to 1990. He served on the Federation for 15 years. Along with Cedric Cudby, he was responsible for introducing miniball into New Zealand, which continues to be loved by young Kiwis today. He was heavily involved in coaching in Lower Hutt, Mid Canterbury and Otago, particularly at the secondary school and junior levels. David is a life member of Basketball New Zealand and Basketball Otago. He is a past recipient of the Sir Lance Cross Award and received a Member of Honour of FIBA Oceania for his outstanding services in the FIBA Oceania Zone.

\* Hall of Fame inductees were recognised for their distinguished contribution to the sport, with inductees in four categories: Coach, Player, Technical Official and Contributor.

Editor: The press release appears in its entirety on the BBNZ website.

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Basketball New Zealand announced the formation of two New Zealand Select teams, with the aim of developing a wider pool of elite New Zealand players that will back up the Tall Blacks and Tall Ferns. This development strategy came with the announcement that the New Zealand Select Women's team, coached by Jody Cameron, would debut with a two-test series against China B in Auckland on 4 & 6 June. Ocean Gold Rush's Janet Main and Soraya Umanga-Jensen were selected into the NZS team.

With the Select team only assembling in Auckland 24 hours before the first fixture it was understandable that they lacked cohesiveness at times. Despite that the team played with a lot of spirit trailing by just 9 points early in the final period before eventually losing to China B 62-91 (36-39 ½ time).

Competing against a fully professional Chinese national team (albeit a B team) that had been together for three months the New Zealand women were up against it in their second game, going down 51-84 (26-62 ½ time).

*Editor: This report was taken from various accounts on the BBNZ website.*

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### **MESSAGE FROM NATALIE VISGER, Development Officer**

The past couple of months have been busy for Development at Basketball Otago. Here are some things I've been up to and want to share:

We had two Coaching Youth Basketball coaching clinics in April and June. Gary Smyth, Gavin Briggs, Brent Matehaere and I presented these to various people within Otago. Thank you to those coaches for volunteering their time to develop our local coaches! We will likely host one or two more before the school year is over.

I have made stops at Dunedin North Intermediate, Fairfield Primary, Columba College, Tahuna Intermediate, and Brockville Primary schools. I have more lined up and plan on hitting as many schools as possible before the end of the year.

We have had a presence at every "Have a Go Day", "Sports Days", and "Sport Expos" with a special thanks to Zoe and Brittany Richards, and Amy Sai Waqawai for helping with those.

Otago will be well represented at BBNZ National tournaments in July with our u19 men, under 17 boys and girls, and under 15 boys and girls set to travel to their respective locations. Next month our under 23 women will compete in Tauranga, and both NBC men's and women's teams will compete in Porirua in November.

Term 2 introduced a new development pathway for kids aged 9-12. Miners Basketball ran for nine sessions on Wednesdays and had 20 kids. The popular camp will run again next term with the booking of an additional court. Thank you to Mitchell Purvis for volunteering his time and assisting me with those players.

Diggers had eight kids who regularly attended, and they got lots of attention with help from Nathan Hannah, Sam Adler and his brothers, James and Tim.

I have started giving Diggers' and Miners' players a term evaluation to help them with their skills and pathway through basketball. So far they have received positive reviews from parents.

Morning Academy in the winter is dark and cold, but we have had a strong core of 12-15 players since the first week of the term. Most of those kids are u15 players and they are super keen. The addition of the extra court has made for more quality time at a hoop for each player. My focus has continued to be on shooting and ball-handling. These players are putting extra time in whilst the majority of their peers are still dreaming away . . . I am proud of the dedicated Academy basketballers! Many thanks to Danny Hill for his diligence in letting us in, and setting up the courts for us.

Thanks to Steven-from-Dunedin for taking roll-call at Miners and Diggers!

Our second Holiday Camps are running in the first week of the July school holidays. The afternoon Academy Camp for ages 13-17 has doubled enrolment. The morning Diggers Camp for year 2-8 kids has gone from 60 participants in April to 80 in July. We had to cap it at 80 because of court space and have a waiting list of 15 kids!

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These camps wouldn't be successful without the help of our many volunteers, most of who play for Otago rep. squads.

One of my big goals for Terms 3 and 4 involves filming more skill workouts and creating a BBO Development YouTube page where kids and adults can go to find drills for themselves and for their teams.

**Please Save the Date of THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER at 7-8.30pm for our Representative Prizegiving!**

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## **COACHES' CORNER**

from Gavin Briggs –

As part of my role with the New Zealand Junior Tall Blacks (u19 men) I recently had the opportunity to attend the Basketball Without Borders Asia camp in Melbourne from 23-26 June. The camp is the NBA and FIBA global development programme that brought together the top 45 17 year olds from throughout Asia. It was held at the Dandenong Stadium in Dandenong which had 14 courts (in four arenas) and two beach volleyball courts. Six athletes who are part of the JTB's programme attended from New Zealand, with 16 countries represented including Lebanon, Jordan, Iran, China, Japan, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Australia, Singapore, South Korea, and Malaysia.

Over the four days the athletes got to train and play scrimmage games under the guidance of NBA coaches: Zach Guthrie – Utah Jazz, Jay Larranaga – Boston Celtics, Jerry Stackhouse – Toronto Raptors, and players: Khris Middleton – Milwaukee Bucks, Dante Exum – Utah Jazz, Joe Ingles – Utah Jazz. Also present were players and coaches from two ANBL teams, the Sydney Kings and Melbourne United. Two greats of the game, David Robinson and Bruce Bowen (both won NBA championships) helped with sessions and development.



On the final day an All Star game was played that brought together the top 20 athletes from the camp. All six of the Kiwi boys made the teams to play.

It was great seeing international basketball being played and the effort and intensity these athletes trained and played with. There was a 7ft 1 kid from India, 7ft kids from China and Australia, with some 6ft 11 kids thrown in the mix – and these guys are only 17! The youngest boy there was 14 from Japan, who was 6ft 4 and made the All Star game – he could play! I learnt a lot, and got a great appreciation of what skill development our players need to have to play and compete on the international stage.

I also got the opportunity to sit down and speak with coaches from throughout Asia – the Iran National u18 coach, the Chinese National u18 coach, and the Japanese National u18 coach. These guys are all paid professionals, and when I told them my role was voluntary they couldn't believe it. I was given an opportunity to coach one of the international teams during a scrimmage session which was interesting given a number of players didn't understand or speak English and you had to have an interpreter to assist. Not sure exactly what they said to me or about me!

Just watching and listening to NBA coaches and players you got to learn so much about the game and how they coach. They were very focused on fundamentals and execution in all the drills they performed. Hopefully some of our representative athletes will get the opportunity to attend this camp in the future.

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For the Junior Tall Blacks we have to select 12 players from a number of camps which lead onto the World Qualifiers in December in Fiji. There we play all the Pacific Island countries, and it will probably come down to the single game between New Zealand and Australia for the one spot to attend the World Cup event.

Practice with intensity, work on fundamentals and hopefully we'll see many more Otago representative players being selected for the NZ National age group teams.



*Editor: Thanks to Coach Gavin Briggs for his report.*

#### **from Brent Matehaere –**

2016 is a busy year on the calendar for the Junior Tall Ferns (JTF's). As Head Coach of the JTF's I have been working with my assistants Trent Adam (Taranaki) and Bronwen Davidson (Harbour) since April last year, identifying players from around the country and the globe. We are currently monitoring athletes based in Australia and the United States. It is our goal to have the best possible players in place to take on the Australians on December 10 in Suva, Fiji.

This year the JTF's have already played in the first and third WBC tournaments and have played nine games in China. In China we played 3 other teams; the first the China u18 team who were preparing for the World Championships where they are currently playing off for bronze; a USA all-star team made up of recent college graduates (22-23) from mostly the WCC; and the Polish national U23 side. The games were played in three host cities and each began with a banquet and finished with a closing ceremony. The players and coaches got to know each other well, and spent most meal times chatting about different coaching philosophies and how their talent ID and development work.

In China, the athletes are selected on potential talent at around the age of 12 and the live at the national training facility in Beijing. They train three times a day/six days a week, with two weeks off a year to go home to their families. They are generally with the national organisation until they reach the age of 24. They are able to earn money in the professional leagues in China where some international female players are paid in excess of US\$1million per season. Education and graduating is not a priority of China Basketball. Winning is!

In Poland, athletes who demonstrate potential and commitment all head to the same high school where Rafael (coach of the Polish team) is the head coach there. They train twice daily with him and attend classes during the day. They also head back to their clubs to play in their teams during Euro League. Michaela Cocks played in the Polish Women's League for two years.

In the US, the pathway is well-documented with players from this country heading in that direction also – high school, then college and then out into the many and varied professional leagues around the world. Players are actually able to earn more money in Europe than they are able to in the WNBA.

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Results-wise with the JTF's we had one win by 18 over Poland in our second game. What the players learned in that time was amazing, and having travelled there twice beforehand and been dealt some significant losses, on this tour there was not a single blow-out and in many games we were within striking distance.

Tall Ferns. Wow – what an honour and a privilege to be selected as Assistant Coach for the Selection Camp and Tour of China. I was involved in two international victories over the Czech Republic and Montenegro. Standing alongside the team with the national anthem playing in full internationals was a dream come true.

On the training court and off the court my responsibilities were not exciting but really rewarding as a coach. I was responsible for recording, coding training and games, and providing feedback to the head coach, Kennedy Kereama. I also had to deliver film sessions and work with players and groups of players to improve performance. I had the chance to reconnect with former players of mine, and in the squad of 14 I had coached half of them as juniors in the national teams. Working with the best players New Zealand has is a pleasure. They continue to thirst for improvement and are always seeking input. As they say "You never stop trying to get better!"

Touring with teams is hard work and it was not uncommon to only have 4-6 hours' sleep a night, but there are down times and the groups that I have travelled with have always had kindred spirits interested in exploring the places that we visit. I must say the final host city of Xilinhot, Inner Mongolia really left its mark. The weather was extreme, hot and then cold but the people were really warm and friendly. Most cities have communal parks where in the evenings the locals head for some line dancing, but this place was amazing! About 5-600 people were in the square dancing at the same place and all seemed to know what to do. We joined in! You're truly being the slowest to catch on but enjoying the experience, and lead to lots of laughs and smiles from within our group and from the locals.

Finally, what lies ahead for the JTF's is a huge challenge and one that we are willing to take on to the best of our ability. The Emerging JTF's (u17's) were right with the Australians until the 4th quarter. That team is playing for the Gold having just beaten the USA.

New Zealand enters the Asia qualification series along with Australia and this will give the age group teams a real taste of international tournament play at a very high level.

Players – keep seeking advice, continually working on your game.

Coaches – happy to chat and talk coaching philosophy any time!

*Editor: Thanks to Coach Brent Matehaere for his report.*



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## **JUNIOR TALL FERNS TRIP TO CHINA**



### **Report by Nicole Ruske**

At the start of April I was lucky enough to be selected in the New Zealand Junior Tall Ferns team that went to China. After months of preparation we took off on a two-week trip to China. We spent our time in three cities in the province of Guangdong. We played in the Four Continents Women's International Basketball Tournament against a women's USA Select (aged 25/26 years), the u23 Poland National team and the u17 National China team. These teams were all high calibre, internationally-ranked teams. We performed better than expected, keeping all of our opposition to within 20 points, and although we only won one of our nine games, the competition and calibre of play was fantastic. We were able to improve our team and individual games, as well as experience the Chinese culture. During our tournaments our team became a huge attraction of the town. There were posters all over the cities, and we had our own escorts to and from games. We played in sell-out stadiums with crowds of 2000-3000 people. I loved every minute of my time in China; it was truly an experience of a lifetime.

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## **AGE-GROUP REPRESENTATIVE NEWS**

Our u15, u17, and u19 teams head away to their respective national tournaments these school holidays.

u17 13-16 July North Harbour

u15 20-23 July Wellington

u19 20-23 July Nelson

To players, coaches, managers, support staff, and parents we wish you all the best, and enjoy the experience!

u17 girls –

Erin Dailey, Becky Paterson, Olivia O'Neill, Macee Cuthbertson, Phoebe Aburn, Meg Ballantyne, Ashlee Middleton, Kate Turnbull, Kendra Robinson, Libby van Harselaar, Megan Borst

Coach: Max Jablonski Assistant Coach: Bronwyn Kjestrup Manager: Keri Ballantyne

u17 boys –

Ben Reeves, D'Angelo Wade, George Bright, Harley Ruru, Josh Stoddard, Liam Ayson, Nathan Hanna, Scott Kitto, Taiaroa Porima-Flavell, Max Gomez, Chanse Peita, Alex Byars

Coach: Gavin Briggs Manager: Karla Sellwood-Ruru

u15 girls –

Zantac Herbert, Dana Ballantyne, Oceana Campbell, Olivia Gain, Emily Kerr-Bell, Hannah Matahaere, Kyra McEntyre, Dre Whaanga, Piata Rapata-Hanning, Talei Palesio, Annabelle Ring, Anita Samasoni

Coach: Natalie Visger Assistant Coach: Jason Ring Manager: Mereana Rapata-Hanning

u15 boys –

Angus Cameron, Angus Faulks, Benji Freeman, Jack Muir, Dallas Hartmann, William Edwards, Michael Ruske, Max Walker, Shaquille Berwick, Dominic Morrison, Mac Stoddard

Coach: Dean Ruske Assistant Coach: Kyle Cameron Manager: Tracey Hartmann

u19 men –

Alex Gonzales, AJ Hope, Sean Duff, Levi Cockroft, Hunter Kindley, Matt Brien, Olly McCombie, Hendrix Denham, Josh Aitcheson, Aaron Roydhouse, Harry Thorp, Callum O'Connell

Coach: Greg Brockbank Managers: Liane Topham-Kindley and Glenda Kaan

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The following reports cover pre-season, qualifying and invitational tournaments held in April, May and June.

### **U17 Boys update**

The Dunedin qualifying tournament in mid-May provided excitement with our A and B teams battling it out for a spot in the semi-finals. It was only in the dying seconds of the game that Liam Ayson from the A team shot the winning 3 pointer. A good lesson to us all not to be too complacent, and well done boys – it's looking good for next year with great talent coming through. Both Southland A and Otago A qualified for Nationals in the end.

The U17 Boys didn't attend the Queen's Birthday tournament in Christchurch as our pool consisted of only Canterbury A & B, and the trip became cost prohibitive. Hopefully there is more opportunity next year to use this as a development camp with a wider pool of players.

In late May Gavin named a squad of 12 with 3 non-travelling reserves (Mitchell Hughan, Te Ngaru Wehi and Min Kang) to attend Nationals in North Harbour from 13-16<sup>th</sup> July. The boys have been training hard under the fantastic guidance of Gavin Briggs with help from Natalie, Bart and Jordan – thanks team!!! Our boys are very lucky to have you all!!!

We also wish to thank our sponsors Crest Clean and Aspire 2 with our team tournament uniforms – our boys are going to look great.

Expectations and goals for Nationals – direct quote from Gavin – “That we finish or win the final by 9!!!”



BBO u17 Metro A for Dunedin Qualifying



BBO u17 Metro B for Dunedin Qualifying

*Editor: Thanks to Karla Sellwood-Ruru, manager.*

### **Under 15 Boys A**

The Southland/Otago Regional (Qualifying) Tournament in Dunedin (28/29 May) was a successful outing for the team. We played against a very strong North Otago side, and got off to a good start, maintaining a 10-15 point margin for most of the game. Final score: 70-55. Central Otago allowed us to give our entire team a good run with shared court time. Final score: 86-25.

The crucial game was against a tall and athletic Southland team. The boys did well, leading 58-52 at the third quarter but Southland kept on attacking and eroding our lead with Southland leading by 1 with 2 minutes to go. In the last minutes we found our defensive poise and reclaimed the lead and grabbed the victory 83-76. This meant the team qualified top in our region.

The final was played against North Otago for seedings at the national tournament. This game was a dominant display of defensive pressure with the Otago team leaping out to a lead and then extending it to comprehensively beat North Otago 80-42.

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Queen’s Birthday Invitational Tournament – 4-6 June –

One week later the team travelled to Christchurch for an invitational tournament. This was a building opportunity for the team with the introduction of Mac Stoddart, a 193cm tall player from Southland, who joined our team and will play for us at Nationals. Our first game was against North Otago – a good struggle with Otago winning 77-68. That was as good as we got. From here on we found out just how much this team must improve and how difficult it will be at nationals. We played Canterbury A and Canterbury B, and despite losing both of these games, we arranged to play Canterbury A again for the final game. Unfortunately, we were again outclassed. These three games were an excellent learning experience.

The boys are an excellent group and work really well together. They incorporated Mac into the team without question. Mac is attending two trainings every fortnight, and the team is to have a day trip to Gore for training and team-bonding exercise. Tournament seeding for Nationals is 5th. We have an excellent opportunity to do well at Nationals.



*Editor: Thanks to Coach Dean Ruske for his report.*

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### Under 15 Boys C

I had the pleasure of coaching this team at the Regional Qualifying tournament in Dunedin. This was a valuable tournament for these players, and it was great to see them so competitive in their section. Their first encounter was against Southland B. We stayed with Southland for most of the game, but eventually lost 38-46. The players did well to keep this team to 46 points as they were significantly taller than our team. Josh Hou had a great offensive game, with a number of impressive drives to the hoop.

Our second game was against Eastern Southland, who our Bs had beaten earlier in

the day by 10 points. Again the boys played well defensively and were able to convert more points than in the Southland game, gaining their first win of the tournament 58-49. We lost our way defensively in our third game against the Otago B team. We allowed the Bs to score too freely at times, and had difficulty stopping their fast break. We got a number of opportunities to score at the offensive end of the court, but the boys had one of those games where shots just didn't seem to find their target as easily as they had in earlier games. We lost to the Bs by 62-34. Our 4th and final game of the tournament was a re-match against Eastern Southland. The boys played really well in this game at both ends of the court, and were rewarded with a tournament high score of 68 points – keeping Eastern Southland to 58. The Cs finished 7th out of 8 teams. The players all improved throughout this tournament, and it was especially pleasing to see them play good team defence – especially help-side D.

Well done to all of the players – your hard work at trainings and your continued improvement throughout the tournament were a credit to how well you listened and executed.

Coach: Angela Ruske      Manager: Debs Whitty

Players: Josh Hou, Bradley Ruddenklau, Seth Allan, Harry Coggan, Mason Calvert, Joel Bolten, Sam Donnelly, Jacob Whitty, Aiden Nichol, Ethan McKinlay, J'dah Carlson, Peter Sewell.



*Editor: Thanks to Coach Angela Ruske for this report.*

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## Under 15 Girls A

### Qualifier Tournament –

We played 3 games over the weekend, as North Otago defaulted our last game of the tournament.

The team went 3-0 and let their full court defence dictate their offence with steals and rebounds turning into shots for us on the other end. These games were a team effort and it was nice to be able to get all players out onto the court in preparation for Nationals. In our first game we played our Otago B side at 8am. Our pressure bothered the girls. We were in control the whole game, however the Bs played a much more competitive second half. The second game on Saturday was against Central Otago who we dominated and won 63-29. We had very good second and third quarters, and again our full court pressure and work on the boards were too much for the Central squad. Sunday's lone game was against Southland. There is a bit of a rivalry there and I felt that going into the game, as a lot of the players knew each other. We really put a thumping on them and won 79-12, with all girls again seeing action on the court and contributing. We solidified a place at Nationals with the wins and the girls were fizzing after the weekend.



Under 15 A & B girls

### Queen's Birthday Invitational, Christchurch –

The coaching and managing staff was excited to travel to Canterbury for some very competitive games. We had 11 out of the 12 National Team Squad in uniform and playing: Dana Ballantyne, Oceana Campbell, Olivia Gain, Zante Herbert, Emily Kerr-Bell, Hannah Matehaere, Kyra McEntyre, Piata Rapata-Hanning, Annabelle Ring, Anita Samasoni, and Dre Whaanga. The Canterbury area teams and Nelson would give us some close tests before heading to Wellington and the girls needed to be challenged. We played Tasman in our first game and won 71-30. Tasman stuck with us for the first 12 minutes (17-10) and then we exploded offensively in the second quarter. Our full court pressure helped create turnovers that led to layups for us; and we were aggressive on offence and did a nice job battling for offensive rebounds that led to points. The half time score was 43-14. Almost all players scored and we were led by Hannah with 19, Kyra with 12, and Oceana with 8 points. Annabelle and Anita cleaned up the glass for us!

Our second game we faced Mid-South Canterbury who were our toughest opponents of the season up to that point. Neither team played great defence and the score was tied at the half at 20 each. The second quarter was

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much of the same and we took a 31-29 lead into half time. After a few adjustments defensively and emphasising getting the ball inside the keyhole we pushed the lead to 8 points. We added two more points by the end of the game and won 61-51. This game was important for the players to learn what needed to be worked on as a team. Learning to handle ball pressure and the importance of boxing-out and taking care of the ball were made very clear. Anita had an excellent game with 24 points, followed by Hannah with 12, Kyra with 10, and Annabelle with 8. This was a nice lead in a game to the toughest team of the tournament in Canterbury.

On the second day our first game against Canterbury was a back and forth contest in the first half. We trailed by 1 point after the first and then turnovers and missed box-outs for us led to a 25-29 half time deficit. Canterbury played a solid man-to-man full court press that rattled our guards some. They also trapped the corners under our basket which bothered us and created offence for them. They had a few players who could hit shots outside the keyhole and we hadn't seen that in previous games. They also rebounded very well offensively and doubled our defensive rebounders and we had a difficult time getting into offensive transition. We didn't quite have enough energy to climb back into the game, and at the end of the third we trailed by 9. We outscored them in the final quarter (16-11) and ended up losing 58-63. Six or seven players played a lot of minutes and it was a gutsy effort that just fell short. Kyra had 17, Hannah 16, Annabelle 14 and Anita 12.

Our last game was again against Canterbury only a few hours later and our fatigue showed. We rotated lots of players in and everyone got a chance to go up against the consistent defensive pressure from Canterbury and their size underneath. We lost 39-68. It was a very successful tournament because it showed us what we do well and what we need to focus on going in to Nationals. The team has been prepping ever since and will gain Talei Pelasio after sitting out these two tournaments due to an injury.

The team's goals for Nationals are to leave everything out on the court and set the bar high for next year's Otago Under 15 girls' team.

Many thanks to team manager Mereana Rapata-Hanning, assistant coach Jason Ring, and parents for supporting the team.



Under 15A girls in Christchurch at Queen's Birthday Weekend Invitational

*Editor: Thanks to Coach Natalie Visger for her report.*

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## FROM THE EDITOR

I am continuing to sell basketball boots and apparel, as a fundraiser for our representative teams.

\$600 has been donated to our u23 and NBC women's teams this month. All donations of boots (in any condition) and apparel are gratefully received. Please contact me (Rochelle Wilson) at [rocken@paradise.net.nz](mailto:rocken@paradise.net.nz)

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