



# RAMBLINGS

Game Day Programme – Friday 3 April 2015

## Entertainment

This evening Mai FM will be bringing you the pre-game entertainment, while DJ Rangi brings you the sound and music. We have the new MDS Rams dance team this year, bringing you entertainment all night!! We will also have the Canterbury U15 and U17 boys development teams playing a bit of 3 on 3 at halftime.

## Rams 3 on 3 Holiday Tournament – Play where the Rams Train

This school holidays join the Rams at Action Indoor Sports – Hornby at 81 Buchanans Road for a day of great 3 on 3 games between 10am-4pm for only \$60 total per team (\$20 per player) including Rams dunk exhibitions. Thu 16 April, Under 18 grade and Fri 17 April is for U15 players. Enquiries and team entry details: Call 342 6800 or email [hornby@actionindoorsports.com](mailto:hornby@actionindoorsports.com)

## NBL Action This Weekend

**Wednesday, April 1st** Southland v Manawatu  
**Thursday, April 2nd** Taranaki v Wellington  
**Friday, April 3rd** Waitakare v Nelson  
**Saturday, April 4th** Hawkes Bay v Nelson  
**Monday, April 6th** Canterbury v Wellington

## LATEST BASKETBALL INFORMATION

[rams.org.nz](http://rams.org.nz)  
[nzhoops.co.nz](http://nzhoops.co.nz)  
[youtube.com/canterburybasketball](http://youtube.com/canterburybasketball)  
[basketball.org.nz](http://basketball.org.nz)

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RAMBLINGS was produced by Piet Van Hasselt and Ashley Dickel.



## 2014 RAMS SCHEDULE

Friday April 3	Canterbury v Manawatu	7 pm	Home
Monday April 6	Canterbury v Wellington	3 pm	Away
Friday April 10	Canterbury v Invercargill	7 pm	Home
Saturday April 18	Canterbury v Manawatu	7 pm	Home
Friday April 24	Canterbury v Nelson	7 pm	Away
Saturday April 25	Canterbury v Manawatu	7 pm	Away
Monday April 27	Canterbury v Invercargill	3 pm	Away
Saturday May 2	Canterbury v Waitakere	7 pm	Home
Friday May 8	Canterbury v Wellington	7 pm	Away
Saturday May 9	Canterbury v Invercargill	7 pm	Away
Friday May 15	Canterbury v Hawkes Bay	7 pm	Home
Sunday May 24	Canterbury v Hawkes Bay	2 pm	Home
Sunday May 31	Canterbury v Taranaki	7 pm	Home
Sunday June 7	Canterbury v Waitakere	3 pm	Away
Sunday June 14	Canterbury v Nelson	2:30 pm	Home
Friday June 19	Canterbury v Taranaki	7 pm	Away
Sunday June 21	Canterbury v Hawkes Bay	2 pm	Away
Friday June 26	Canterbury v Wellington	7 pm	Home

## NBL STANDINGS

As at April 3	P	W	L	Pts
IMS Payroll Hawks	0	0	0	0
Wellington Saints	0	0	0	0
Zero Fees Southland Sharks	0	0	0	0
Fico Finance Nelson Giants	0	0	0	0
Breakers Manawatu Jets	0	0	0	0
James Blond Super City Rangers	0	0	0	0
Canterbury Rams	0	0	0	0
Augusta Airs	0	0	0	0

## RE-TOOLED RAMS READY

The Canterbury Rams have re-tooled in the off-season following the signing of former Tall Black Mark Dickel as head coach in a full-time role. Tonight they face their Bartercard NBL 2015 campaign opener, following an extended team build-up, against the Breakers Manawatu Jets, a side that also had a strong finish to last season.

The Rams have acquired former NBA player 6'11 Mickell Gladness, rugged Fijian co-captain Marques Whippy and do-it-all American guard/forward Kyle Coston to produce a strong defensive unit. There is no player in the Bartcard NBL that has put in more effort in the off-season than co-captain Ethan Rusbatch, and he will be keen to show his development under the bright lights. Jeremy Kench is back at the point and last month he and his wife Amelia welcomed daughter Zoey into the world so Jeremy now has two ladies to impress!

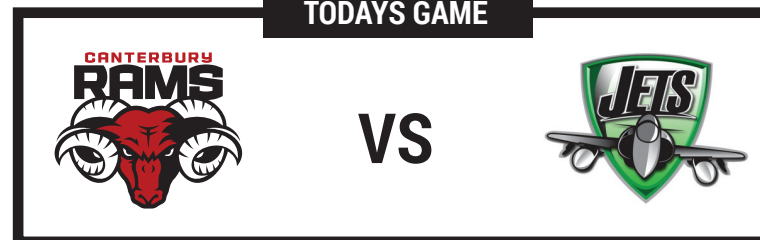
2014 Rookie of the Year Richie Edwards returns to give the team some depth. Canterbury's own Marty Davison has proven he is ready whenever his number is called, helming the Rams to a pair of late 2014 victories in the playmaker spot. Capable guard Tony Tolovae has followed Coach Dickel up from Otago to study in red and black country. NZ U19 and Otago Boys' 2014 secondary schools national championship youngsters Sam Timmins and Joe Cook-Green have also joined Canterbury high schools for Year 13 and give the Rams some more emerging talents. More members of the Rams squad will be detailed in future editions of Ramblings.

Dickel coaches in a similar approach to the way he played so well for the national team, with relentless and intense defensive pressure and Canterbury will try to dictate the action.

A key to the game will be the battle under the boards, with both sides having tall forward line-ups, and Manawatu had a strong offensive boards edge over opponents last year.

Despite losing the Waikato Pistons and Otago Nuggets from the NBL, there will still be 18 regular season games, with some teams playing three times rather than the usual twice. The top four qualify for the sudden death final four weekend.

## TODAYS GAME





## Player Profile: Mickell Gladness



Mickell Gladness was born July 26th, 1986 in Birmingham, Alabama. He is 2.11 m tall and weighs 104 kgs. He played college basketball at Alabama A&M. In 2008 he started his professional career in the Netherlands. From 2011-2012 he played in the NBA for the Miami Heat and the Golden State Warriors, where he started. He has the record for the most blocked shots in a single NCAA game with 16 blocks!! Over the summer he played with the Townsville Crocodiles. Mickell will bring a defensive intensity to the Rams frontcourt, but we are excited about what he can do offensively as well!! Mickell is joined by his lovely wife, Adriana and their 8 month old son Cale.

## HORVATH ANCHORS JETS

The Breakers Manawatu Jets are buoyed by the return of former Duke product and naturalised Centre Nick Horvath to man the middle. Horvath's return last year spurred the Jets to the strongest finish in the competition and they just narrowly missed out on the playoffs. Horvath leads a tall forward line including former Tall Blacks Jeremiah Trueman and Jordan Ngatai. American playmaker Brandon Jenkins is joined by Dion Harris in the backcourt. Brook Ruscoe is recruited the Jets after a stint with Nelson and Derone Raukawa was the MVP of the NZ Under 23 Championships including 44 points in the final vs Canterbury. Manawatu comes into the game after their season opener in Southland on Wednesday night. The Jets can utilise a big line-up with Ngatai in the 3-spot or Coach Darron Larsen can use a smaller quicker unit by bringing in Ruscoe.

## TONIGHT'S REFEREES

Raewyn Willocks  
Matt Bathurst  
Elliot Duncan



#	Name	Height	Position
0	Richie Edwards	202cm	Forward
1	Jeremy Kench	179cm	Guard
2	Quinn Clinton	190cm	Guard
3	James Cawthorn	182cm	Guard
4	Marty Davison	177cm	Guard
5	Taylor Britt	185cm	Guard
6	Jaiden Manera	181cm	Guard
7	Kyle Coston	205cm	Guard
8	Toby Gillooly	193cm	Guard
10	Shou Nisbet	193cm	Guard
11	Joe Cook-Green	178cm	Guard
12	Ethan Rusbatch	197cm	Guard (co-captain)
13	Tony Tolovae	196cm	Guard
22	Richard Rodger	187cm	Guard
23	Barclay Miller	195cm	Forward
30	Jackson Stent	201 cm	Forward
32	Mickell Gladness	211cm	Centre
33	Sam Timmins	208 cm	Centre
44	Marques Whippy	192 cm	Forward (co-captain)

**Head Coach:** Mark Dickel  
**Assistant Coaches:** Caleb Harrison, Piet Van Hasselt  
**Strength & Conditioning:** Grant Robertson, Levi Zell  
**Physio:** Lidia Belles Escrig, Graeme Nuttridge  
**Podiatrist:** Ian Graham



#	Name	Position
4	Bridge Lavey	Guard
5	Dion Harris	Guard
8	Derone Raukawa	Guard
9	Brook Ruscoe	Guard
11	Brandon Jenkins	Guard
15	Zeb Nicklin	Forward
20	Jordan Ngatai	Forward
21	Nick Horvath	Centre
25	Jeremiah Trueman	Forward
33	Sid Adams	Forward

**Head Coach:** Darron Larsen  
**Assistant Coaches:** Miles Pearce, Ryan Dubbeldam  
**Manager:** Terry Bristol

### THE CANTERBURY RAMS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR CORPORATE PARTNERS

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The Rams would also like to thank the many other companies and individuals who have purchased corporate boxes and season tickets. Also thanks to you, our loyal Rams Fans, for your continued support.