



Finals: 28th Feb, Hutt Valley

Finals Time

NSL - February 2009

Men

Auckland 39ers player-coach Donny Hale is hoping his side's laidback approach pays off tomorrow with a third National Softball League title at Fraser Park.

"We don't tend to train together during the week because of our club commitments, we just get together on the Saturday," Hale said. "Everyone knows what is expected of them. The players have been together for a while now."

The Auckland 39ers qualified top of the league winning eight of their 10 games. The two losses were to Harbour and Wellington in the opening weekend of the NSL. "I am happy with how we have gone," Hale said.

"Everyone has played well. The team has plenty of experience with some young players also performing well and they have brought something to the squad both on and off the diamond."

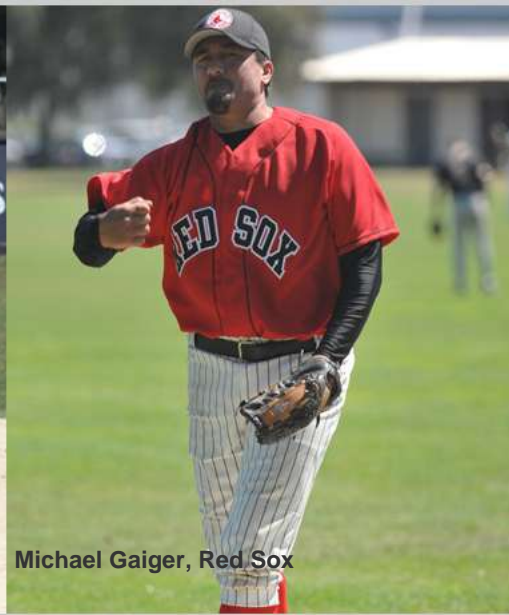
Among the key players for Auckland on Saturday will be Heinie Shannon, who has impressed on both the pitching mound and also with the bat. Shannon is currently the league's top pitcher and is also among in the top 10 batters.

Their opponents in the final will be the winner of the game between Wellington and Canterbury. Honours between the two sides during the round robin competition have been shared, the Canterbury Red Sox won the first game 4-2 in North Shore City last month and then two weeks later the Wellington Lancers beat their hosts 3-0 in Christchurch.

Photos courtesy of Graham Latta



Heinie Shannon, 39er's



Michael Gaiger, Red Sox



Karl Gollan, Lancers

Men - Batting

Player	Team	G	PA	AB	H	RBI	BA
Gareth Cook	CB	10	34	28	13	14	0.464
Haizley Martin	SP	9	23	20	8	6	0.400
Brad Rona	NH	7	22	15	6	2	0.400
Jason Gerbes	NH	10	29	23	9	6	0.391
Michael Cameron	AK	10	23	23	8	2	0.348
Casey Eden	SP	10	26	26	8	2	0.346
Johnny Stratford	WN	10	24	24	9	6	0.333
Wayne Lauulu	WN	10	30	30	8	1	0.333
Tyrone Bartorillo	CB	9	21	21	10	6	0.333
Scott Cartwright	SP	10	28	28	7	9	0.321

Men - Pitching

Player	Team	G	BF	IP	ER	H	ERA
Heinie Shannon	AK	7	142	37.1	9	22	1.69
Nathan Taikato	CB	7	116	28	7	21	1.75
Karl Gollan	WN	8	146	37.1	11	29	2.06
Regan Manley	HV	8	185	41	15	46	2.56
Marty Grant	SP	9	154	35	13	37	2.60
Thomas Enoka	NH	9	168	36	19	33	3.69

Stats issued by: Ronnie Gurney