

## **TAKAPUNA**

**Coach:** Paul Feeney, Clayton Moors

**Captain:** Clayton Moors

**Squad:** Heath Wallace, Cameron Thomas, Adrian Donald, Hamish Mckie, Clayton moors, Aaron Humphries, Matt Lord, Akuila Mata, Jared McVicar, Daniel Kane, Blair Urlich, Jason George, Rodney Voulaire, Charlie Beetham, Jeremy Etherifge, Ngapaku Ngapaku, Sean Ross, Andrew Chueng-Fook, Joe Faalogo, Jerome Smith, Ben Ashley, Richard Marks, Dan Robinson, Darren Robson

### **Flashback “99”**

What more needs to be said. Takapuna topped the regular season with just one loss in 15 rounds, going on to trounce Silverdale 41-16 in the final for title number 6.

### **“99” Stats**

Won 14, Lost 1, 61 Championship points. Scored 59 tries for the season. Dan Robinson and Glenn Davis bagging 10 each for the comp. First five Ngapaku Ngapaku (152 championship points) ranked second in the points scoring stakes.

### **Prospects 2000**

Takapuna entered as hard and fast favourites despite a number of players having headed overseas. In fact at last count Takapuna could field an overseas XV with the number that have jetted off over the past three seasons. From last season Glen Osborne (France), Glenn Davis (France) and Billy Fulton (Canterbury) while Mark Camburn, Mark Roberts, Gavin Roberts, Matt Duff and Les Bone are still overseas but expected back at some stage.

Despite the exodus, coach Paul Feeney has brought together another strong Takapuna unit. He has picked up two key players in Helensville and Harbour B Reps Joe Faalago and Darren Robson. Robson will replace Davis at fullback while Faalago can fit in almost anywhere in the backline but looks likely to start at centre on Saturday.

The sizzling backline is completed with the arrival of Manawatu NPC Rep halfback Charlie Beetham who who replaces Fulton. He will team up with scoring points machine Ngapaki Ngapaku.

Blair Urlich returns in the loose while Rodney Voulaire and Dan Robinson would have benefitted from their association with the Auckland Blues Colts.

Other recruits include North Shore reserve hooker-prop Adrian Donald, Massey back Andrew Cheung-Fook, flanker Jason George – brother of Gavin and Darren while hooker Cameron Thomas returns after a stint in Otahuhu.

Feeney who coached the side to title numbers two and three in 1995 and 1996 returns to his old club after three seasons as a North Harbour A and B rep coach. He will be assisted by lock Clayton Moors who also captains.

1<sup>st</sup> Round Opponent: Marist (away)

## **NORTH SHORE**

Coaches: Chris Tankard, Paul Vegar

Captain: Phil Weedon

**Squad:** Paul Vegar, James Hinchco, Chris Reid, Phil Weedon, Luke Hanvey, Matt Hindle, Jason Te Huia, Whetu Toloa, Dusty Miller, Soli Burgess, Toby Sellars, Justin Poihipi, Richard Thompson, Wayne Ashford, Aisea Vuetibau, Ryan Clayton, Brett Sweeney, Anthony Tahana, Jono Lynch, Leighton Northman, Mia Smith, Luke Doddrell.

### **Flashback “99”**

Another season of so close yet so far for North Shore. Made it through to the playoffs but couldn't make it three finals in a row against Takapuna after they lost to Silverdale in a dramatic sudden death semi-final.

### **“99” Stats**

Won 11, Lost 4, 47 Championship points. Rima Wakura 5 tries, 170 points (Competition's top points scorer for the second year running).

### **Prospects 2000**

A lot of new faces grace Chris Tankard's North Shore squad and he will be hoping his hot firm on the golf course – he recently shot a personal best, 78 at Waitemata recently – can rub off on his new recruits.

Tankard has lost superbout Rima Wakarua to Italy while Prop John Buchanan is now in Japan. Halfback Ben Meyer will also be sorely missed after moving to Auckland.

Four under-21 players have been named in the forward pack with a further two in the backs while No.8 Whetu Toloa joins the squad, a former French clubmate of Frano Botica.

Shore seem a little short on talent and the experience of Prop Paul Vegar, who notched up 200 senior games last season and new captain Phil Weedon will be paramount. Playoffs chance.

1<sup>st</sup> Round Opponent: Kumeu (Away)

## **MARIST**

**Coach:** Russell Maloney

**Coach:** John Beckett

Squad: tony Coughlan, Brendan Lyons, Kelly Hapi, Joe Ward, Jeremy Coleman, Andrew Jackson, Aaron Rameka, Nigel Alexander, Andrew Casey, Emerson Irvine, Brett Rusk, John Beckett, Mike Lunjevich, Aidan Vince, Malcolm Allen, Randell Walker, Scott Adams, Jamie Bagill, Scott Wilson, Michael Palmer, Andrew Tehoori, Damian Thornton.

Flashback "99"

Pressed hard for the top 4 all season before finishing fifth, a much improved performance after slumping to finish 10<sup>th</sup> in 1998. Started well, dropped a few too many games midseason before rallying late.

### **"99" Stats**

Fifth. Won 8, Drew 1, Lost 6, 40 Championship points. Fletcher Prendergast 59 points

Prospects 2000

A lot of people are talking up Marist's chances in 2000 after an impressive "99" season. As usual, coach Russell Maloney is having none of that. He is more concerned on building on last season's effort.

The front row has been bolstered with loosehead prop, Tony Coughlan available after he missed out on a Super 12 contract. He will team up with victorious Under 19 captain and hooker Joe Ward who is one of a number of players on loan to the Harbour Union from Otago.

The main newcomer is former Auckland NPC reserve fullback/first five Aidan Vince who will be a member of the Harbour NPC squad. The major loss is that of Manu Samoa lock Lio Falaniko who is now in Japan. Play Takapuna on Saturday in what should be the match of round one.

**1<sup>st</sup> Round Opponent:** Takapuna (at Home)

## **NORTHCOTE**

**Coach:** Phil Heath, Richard Kapa

**Captain:** TBC

Squad: Daniel Moore, Faalinga Penimina, Mike Huriwai, Junior Akurangi, Ray Maddox, Darren Robertson, Karl Te Nana, Frankie Mucunabitu, Sione Tuamoheloa, Victor Tepania, Grant Russell, Tunis Harrison, Graham Smith, Greg Haylow, Jason Hutton, Mark Sandal, Sione Finefeuiaki, Scott Wolfe, Tom Stronach, Mauri Tovia, Peni Taufua, Stan Coker, John Cocker, Reece Siri, Paulo Lakiaia, Shane Dance, Aaron McKain, Alex Solomon, Paul Barnard, Anton Haagh, Tank Hina.

### **Flashback “99”**

Average season despite promising much after a strong start.

### **“99” Stats**

Won 7, Drew 1, Lost 7. 31 Championship points. Tyrone Taiapa 5 tries, 77 points.

### **Prospects 2000**

Investing in the future is the theme for Northcote this season, with a number of young players brought in to hopefully mould into a championship winning side three to five years down the track. Thirteen new faces will grace the run-on squad for Saturday’s first round encounter with Massey.

Coach Phil Heath who teams up with successful reserves coach of last season, Richard Kapa, has lost a number of key players including the entire loose forward trio, Robbie Ford has headed to Wellington while Mark Brown (Scotland) and John Campbell (Ireland) have joined the stampede to play overseas. Prop Api Talamaivao and Tim Heath have both retired while North Harbour Colts halfback Chris Smith could be out for the season with a knee injury.

Into the Club come a number of teenage players, the most exciting prospect being St Pauls College flanker Mauri Tovia who is in New Zealand on a scholarship from Western Samoa. Fellow looser Tom Stronach has moved north from Canterbury but together with Reece Siri and Ray Maddox will be absent for the opening round as they are part of the New Zealand Police team playing in a 10’s tournament which is a curtain raiser to the Jong Kong 7’s.

Thames Valley NPC hooker Aaron McKain joins the Club, fullback Daniel Moore comes highly recommended from the Waikato Under 19’s while the Cocker twins, Stand and John will play their first year of Senior football.

Northcote may struggle in the backs but have a solid forward pack. Midtable finish.

**1<sup>st</sup> Round Opponent:** Massey (at Home)

## **MASSEY**

**Coach:** Bill Haronga

**Captain:** Malua Tipi

Squad: Liam Keatley, Tanielu Fuga, Sean Grey, Gareth Hodson, Richard Mawu'a, Rob Fa'amoe, Paul McGrath, Malua Tipi, Chris White, Jason Mathews, Selwyn Pryor, Aaron Tuafale, Josh Fa'afua, Cassino Doyle, Sam Hala, Matt Ounter, Karl Bennett, Rhys Hogg, Joel Ariu.

### **Flashback "99"**

Started well but a raft of injuries saw the westies slump to finish a disappointing ninth, one point behind East Coast Bays.

### **"99" Stats**

Ninth. Won 5, Drew 1, Lost 9. 23 Championship Points. Cameron Hogg and Ray Masila 4 tries each. Stu Hollier 78 points.

### **Prospects 2000:**

Don't expect anything flashy from Massey this Winter says coach Bill Haronga who will field a vastly changed line-up. The backline sees six new faces including three outside recruits. Among them is winger Sam Hala a former Wellington 7's and Tonga rugby league nines rep.

For the first part of the season Massey miss North Harbour NPC lock Jeff Fahrensohn who is in France while Manu Samoa Reps Malua Tipi, who will captain Massey, and hooker Tanielu Fuga will be absent for a period with International duties at the Pacific Rim Championship. Haronga is also without prop Ben Allen who is still five weeks away.

Haronga has however, been impressed with the attitude and focus of the squad and has been happy with the few pre-season trots they have had. Midtable prospects but write them off at your own peril.

1<sup>st</sup> Round Opponent: Northcote (Away)

## **MAHURANGI**

**Coach:** Bernie Kose

**Captain:** Daniel Olliff

**Squad:** Kevin Murphy, Lyle Robertson, David Morrison, Kyle Brown, Craig Innes, Brett Innes, Scott Innes, Howard Cooper, Murray Kidd, Daniel Boon, Daniel Olliff, Nick Huggett, Grant Pallister, John Farmer, Turlogh O'Brien, Jason Quin, Haden Kose, Fine Makasini, Daniel Berger, Mike Paddison.

### **Flashback "99"**

Wooden-spooners dropping three places from the 98 season. Again struggled with player depth. Did upset a few fancied teams including Northcote.

### **"99" Stats**

Eleventh. Won 3, Drew 1, Lost qq. 16 Championship Points. Steve Jack 4 tries, Howard Cooper 55 points.

### **Prospects 2000:**

Most of the "99" squad returns with the main losses coming up front with captain Steve Jack, the Club's top try scorer last season and front rower Koen McGee now in the UK.

Returning coach Bernie Kose has recruited Te Kawhata lock Gary Pallister, Auckland based Fine Makasini and Nick Huggett from England. The side will again struggle with player depth and although not a contender for playoffs, will trouble a number of sides at home.

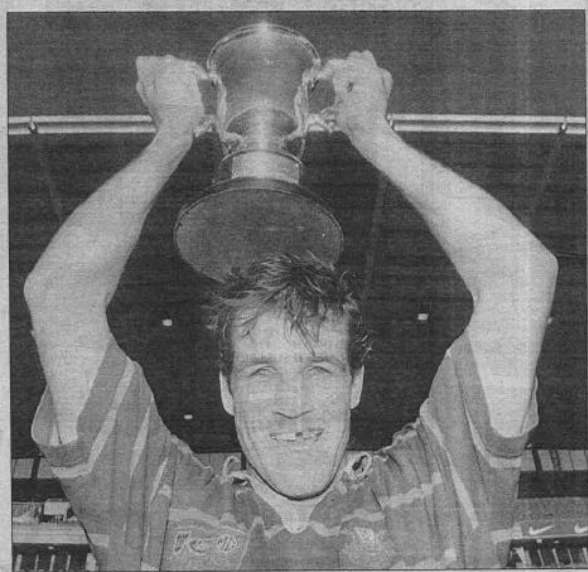
**1<sup>st</sup> Round Opponent:** Glenfield (at Home)

### **THE NORTH SHORE TIMES ADVERTISER PLAY OFF PICKS FOR 2000:**

Takapuna  
East Coast Bays,  
Marist  
Silverdale/North Shore

### **ACTUAL WINNERS IN 2000:**

Takapuna 25  
Glenfield 13



**OUT OF REACH:** Will Takapuna, led by captain Clayton Moors, prove too strong again in 2000 and claim yet another premier banner?