

From Doug Laing, media officer, Shearing Sports New Zealand
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PGG Wrightson Wool National

Winton shearer Troy Pyper won't be taking the foot off the pedal despite taking an early near-certain finals-placing lead in the PGG Wrightson Wool National Shearing Circuit after the second round in Waimate today.

His 20 points from the compulsory finewool opening round in Alexandra last week and today's long strongwool round at the 50th Waimate Spring Shears making him already all-but assures he will make the 12-man cut for New Zealand's premier all-wools competition finals showdown at the Golden Shears on March 3.

But, knowing it's the miles that count in possibly New Zealand's toughest shearing competition, the 33-year-old Pyper, pictured in today's round, still plans to compete in the remaining qualifying rounds, at the Canterbury Show's New Zealand Corriedale Championships on November 17, on lambs in Marton on February 3 and on second-shear sheep at the Pahiatua Shears on February 25.

"It is an experience thing," he said after the Waimate heats, from which series points are taken. "No matter how many years you've been shearing, you still can't just walk in and think you're going to take it away."

By the time of the North Island rounds in the New Year, he expects to be working in Hawke's Bay, adding even more to the skills he'll need if he's to pick-off the title, after being runner-up to four-times winner Tony Coster in 2016 but missing a place in the final last year.

Having spent several years in Australia before returning home to make the Golden Shears Open final for the first time in 2015, Pyper's experience of the finewooled merinos west of the Tasman has stood him in good stead, particularly in opening the season by taking maximum series points in Alexandra last week (October 7).



