MOVING FORWARD
The evolution of the modern-day engine room

JOSH MANSOUR
Fighting his way back into the rep frame

Sione Mata’utia
The Newcastle captain has learned what it means to be a leader the hard way

INSIDE | SCORES, RESULTS AND LADDERS | TEAM LISTS | CHARNZE NICOLL-KLOKSTAD | VALENTINE HOLMES AND JARRYD HAYNE POSTERS
NEWS | REFEREES AND COACHES CLASH | RAIDERS WARING OF WIDDOP | BEST BUYS OF 2017 | TOP EIGHT INFAMOUS INTERVIEWS | TYRELL FUIMAONO
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‘Sauce’ has sights on World Cup football

By MICHAEL BLOK

Josh Mansour may have missed out on State of Origin selection this year due to an ACL injury, but the Penrith winger has eyes on the World Cup at season’s end.

Mansour, who has played five Tests for Australia, missed the opening 12 rounds of this year’s competition after sustaining his injury during the Four Nations – but he hopes a strong finish to the season will see him regain his green and gold jersey.

“I’d love to be playing in the World Cup,” Mansour told Big League.

“Hopefully I get the opportunity to pull on the green and gold in a World Cup – it would be a dream come true.”

However, if Mansour isn’t selected for the Kangaroos, he’ll face them in a Lebanon jersey. The winger played three matches for the Cedars in 2009, including their 86-0 win over Italy in Tripoli.

“Without a doubt I’d play with Lebanon,” he said.

“I have a very proud Lebanese heritage and my family would love to see me pull on the Lebanon jersey. I have a few aunts and uncles who live in Lebanon, so I’m sure it’ll make them very proud.”

Despite his successful return to the NRL this season, the 27-year-old, who played three games for NSW last year, admits it hurt not to be involved in the Origin series.

“It was tough watching the first game,” he said. “Playing State of Origin is the pinnacle of rugby league and I’m going to keep fighting for that spot. The run doesn’t stop for me – I’m going to keep trying hard and playing hard. Hopefully next year I’ll get my opportunity.”

Playing his fifth game since returning from a serious knee injury last weekend, Mansour said he’s still improving and has a long way to go to get back to his best.

“I wouldn’t say I’m back to 100 per cent, but I’m improving. I can’t rush things and think it’s all going to happen. I’m not going to return to the form I was in last year straight away.”

With Panthers captain Matt Moylan shifting from fullback to five-eighth, Mansour has formed a new combination with Dylan Edwards at the back. Mansour said Edwards’ ability to make metres has relieved pressure from his game, as he’s not required to take as many runs to get his side out of trouble.

Only Jason Taumalolo and Will Hopoate average more metres than the young Panthers fullback this season.

“Dylan’s very strong and runs the ball hard,” Mansour said.

“We’re very grateful to have him. He’s a selfless player and he always wants to add whatever he can to the team – that’s the type of bloke you want to play with.”

The Panthers travel to New Zealand this week to face the Warriors, before playing five of their next six matches at home.

“It’s massive to play so many games at home heading into the finals. We’re in a similar situation to where we were last year. We had a big run at the back-end of the season, so hopefully we can duplicate that.”

WHEN it comes down to it, fans are the real most valued players of every club.

I had the thought while sitting on the hill at Belmore Sports Ground in Round 18, watching the reactions of people around me range from pain to ecstasy and cautious optimism to total heartbreak (I think you can guess which ones were wearing Bulldogs jerseys and who was repping Knights gear).

Knights fans in particular have been through so much over the past few seasons. It’s a true testament to their loyalty and love that they keep turning up over and over again.

When you speak to Knights players however, you get a good sense of why fans are sticking around. The players are so young and have gone through so much footy-wise, but they always manage to find a way to get up again. Though there’s obviously plenty still to do at the club, their fighting spirit lives on and I think that extends into the psyches of their supporters as well.

No one has given up and they never will. I hope they have more things to cheer about soon.

SITTING down to discuss the best buys of 2017 with the Big League team, it quickly became apparent the idea that ‘superstar’ signings are the be-all and end-all of recruitment isn’t on the mark.

The players who have made the most impact on their clubs this season have come from nowhere. There’s Paul Vaughan at the Dragons, Nathan Brown at the Eels and Luke Keary at the Roosters, not to mention Josh Addo-Carr at the Storm – and they’re not the only ones. We go in-depth on the picks of the season on pages 22-23.

DON’T forget to pick up our next issue for your poster of the 2017 Origin winners!
Widdop the target for desperate Raiders

By PAMELA WHALEY

ENGLAND team-mate or not, Elliot Whitehead will give Gareth Widdop a frosty welcome to Canberra as the Green Machine line up for a must-win game on Friday.

The Raiders' second-rower has pinpointed Widdop as the man to stop if his team are to kick-start an end of season run to the top eight. While the in-form Englishman is steering the ship, Whitehead said the Raiders pack needs to muscle up against the Dragons' big boys – particularly former team-mate Paul Vaughan, who could be a late inclusion – to keep their finals dream alive.

"The Dragons are playing some really good footy," Whitehead said.

"'Gaz' Widdop has been playing well and guiding the team around. We'll have to do a good job on him. His kicking game has been good this year. As long as we can do a good job on him and slow their forwards down we won't be too far away. It's going to be a big game for our forwards to compete against them. Vaughan has been going really well there this year and hopefully Junior [Paulo] and [Shannon] Boyd can stand up to him and Leeson Ah Mau and Russell Packer as well."

The Raiders are sitting six points out of the top eight after last week's bye and will need to win virtually every game from now until the end of the season to challenge for the finals.

Whitehead said the task can seem impossible if the team looks at the bigger picture, preferring to focus week-to-week.

Close games have been the Raiders' biggest downfall this year, losing six games by six points or less. While Whitehead can't explain the struggle, he knows the team needs to be better or their finals hopes will be over.

"I don't think we've been playing too bad," he said.

"Some games it's been the bounce of the ball and in some games defence has let us down. Hopefully we'll fix it this week and kick on from there. It's a really important game but I believe we've got the confidence to win."

"We've spoken about taking it week by week, seeing how we play, the result we get and where we end up. This week is all about the Dragons, so hopefully we can get the two points and move on."

Coaches warned for referee comments

By PAMELA WHALEY

WARNINGS have been issued to several NRL coaches this season who have walked dangerously close to massive fines when speaking about referees.

Referees came under fire in three separate games last week as top coaches Des Hasler, Craig Bellamy and Trent Barrett each lamented performances, discretion in game stoppages and penalty counts.

While it's unknown if any were warned about their comments, in a statement to Big League a spokesperson said, "As a general rule, players, coaches and officials are not allowed to talk about referees. There has been discretion applied based on some circumstances, however there have been several occasions this season when warnings have been given to coaches. Should a breach be considered serious enough, a coach may be fined."

After the Bulldogs escaped with a two-point win over Newcastle, Hasler described the performance of referees Ben Cummins and Gavin Reynolds as "...the most inconsistent I've ever seen", while Melbourne coach Craig Bellamy called for a black and white rule for injury stoppages.

A spokesperson for the NRL Referees Association said discretion would remain with the referee to prevent stoppages for minor injuries and allow the appropriate level of care to ensure the game is not stopped needlessly.

Referees boss Tony Archer has also reviewed the Panthers v Sea Eagles clash in which Manly were on the wrong end of a 14-4 penalty count and denies the sin bin could have been used to deter further infringements.

"Overall I believe the referees have demonstrated they have the confidence to use the sin bin in appropriate cases. There has been a significant increase in sin bins this season," he said. "I am comfortable with the performance of the referees so far this season."
Roosters boosted by Origin form

By BEN LONERGAN

JARED Waerea-Hargreaves has given the Roosters’ representative period performances a big tick of approval as the club heads into their final bye.

The Roosters have been the third-hardest hit by Origin of the NRL’s 16 clubs. Despite losing four of their biggest stars in skipper Boyd Cordner, Mitchell Pearce, Dylan Napa and Blake Ferguson to Origin duty, the Tri-colours have won four of six matches since the bye period began in Round 12.

Trent Robinson’s side capped off the bye period with a 14-12 win over arch-rivals South Sydney – a side unaffected by Origin.

“It’s been tough, but it’s also been a good challenge,” Waerea-Hargreaves said.

“We’re through it, obviously we have Origin and hopefully our boys perform really well there and come out unscathed. It’s been a hell of a challenge, but that’s what footy is all about. You have some highs and lows. It’s that rollercoaster we always talk about.

“To get a couple of good gutsy wins, first off down in Adelaide and again against the Rabbitohs, shows the true character of the boys here and the depth we have here.”

Waerea-Hargreaves has been immense for the Roosters in the absence of his star team-mates. Since Round 12 the 28-year-old has averaged 150 running metres and 28 tackles per game.

The Kiwi international’s performance against the Rabbitohs in Round 18 was particularly impressive. After playing the first 51 minutes straight, Waerea-Hargreaves returned with 10 minutes remaining to lead the Roosters to victory, finishing with a massive 216 metres and 31 tackles.

“It was a good team performance and I was just out there doing my job. I had to dig deep and try and lead by my actions, but I wasn’t the only one doing that, I think all the boys did,” Waerea-Hargreaves said.

“Individually you look forward to those games, you look forward to these challenges and to get the win it makes it all worthwhile. You prepare all week, try and steel the boys early in the week and to get the icing on the cake was nice.”

The Club Championship will be awarded to the strongest NRL club from the NRL and Holden Cup seasons, with equal points awarded for wins in both competitions.
How have you found the step up to first grade so far?
It’s been good. The intensity and speed of the game is a lot higher than I’m used to, but I feel like I’m adapting.
Hopefully I can get a few more games under my belt to build into next year.

Have any of your Warriors team-mates been particularly helpful in your transition to first grade?
The biggest help has been Manu [Vatuvei]. Even though he’s injured, he was giving me tips during training. The fact that I’m able to fall back on someone like Manu is a big boost, I take a lot out of those talks I have with him.

How have you enjoyed representing the Cook Islands?
It’s a dream come true pulling on that jersey. I used to play for them as a kid, and I cherish getting the chance to represent my country at international level and being able to play for them in front of my family.

We hear you also have Norwegian heritage on your mum’s side?
Yes, that’s where the Klokstad part of my name comes from. That’s my grandfather’s last name, he was Norwegian. I don’t know too much [about that heritage], but going over to Norway is on the cards. It’s a long way away, so finances come into it – but I’d love to go over there with my family.

You’ve been back in Auckland for a while – is there anything you missed while you were in Melbourne?
My family – just being able to see them whenever I want. That’s the biggest thing I missed, and having that support around me is something that I love about being home. But I’ve got brothers in Melbourne and a sister in Brisbane, so now my siblings are what I miss most. Hopefully we’ll all be in one country again soon!

Tell us about your son...
His name’s Rio and he’s six months old, so he’s starting to get into everything. He was sick for a couple of weeks recently, so he’d be up a few times before I’d got up for training. Adjusting to those things has been hard, but you do those things for your kids unconditionally. I just want him to be proud of me when he gets older and to know there’s always going to be bumps in the road, but whatever dream he wants to chase, he can get to wherever he wants to be. But having fun and enjoying what you do is the main thing I want to show him

Has Rio been to many of your games yet?
He’s been to all of my home games so far except against the Dragons in Hamilton, it was a bit late and cold for him. But we try and get him to every game at Mt Smart because I love seeing him afterwards.

And you’ve got an interest in carpentry?
I’m studying a carpentry course through the Warriors, getting the units done on the paperwork side of things. I’ll hopefully get into an apprenticeship at the back-end of this year. I used to help one of the boys on my days off with [Warriors team-mates] James Bell, Jazz Tevaga and Henare Wells, which opened my eyes to the industry a bit more. I enjoyed being out there and getting my hands dirty.

You recently re-signed with the Warriors for another couple of years, is it a relief to have your future sorted?
It was good to get that contract, not just for myself but my family. I really want to stay at the Warriors. I get on well with everyone here, not just the players and coaches but the administration staff and membership team as well. Having my boy here was a big part of that, because I want him to grow up in New Zealand around his family and his cousins and have the same sort of childhood I had.

– As told to Will Evans
Blood, sweat and cheers

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‘Dallas’ spitting chips after ban

One of the great characters and true rogues of a volatile era in rugby league’s history, the late John ‘Dallas’ Donnelly was a beloved figure among fans and the media alike. But after receiving a five-match suspension during 1979, he was in no mood to provide a quote. The burly Wests Magpies forward took out his frustrations on the journalists and TV crews that followed him out of the judiciary hearing, starting his way across the street before turning around and spitting towards a trailing cameraman. The unsavoury footage was aired in subsequent news broadcasts.

Te’o fends off veteran scribe

Rugby league media stalwart Danny Weidler got on the wrong side of Ben Te’o (above) in 2014, and the South Sydney back-rower took a stand during a routine post-training press conference. “Nah, no questions from you,” Te’o responded to Weidler. The stand-off got even more heated after the presser was over: “Surely you know not to come ask me any questions. Don’t ask me anything. When I’m there, don’t ask me nothing,” Te’o said to the Channel Nine reporter.

Hasler’s Harry Potter reference

Master media manipulator Des Hasler came up with a novel way to skirt around the NRL’s 2015 edict prohibiting coaches from publicly talking about referees. After being handed a suspended $10,000 fine for breaking the policy, the eccentric Canterbury coach called the game’s whistle-blowers ‘Voldemort’s’, referring to the villain from the Harry Potter series (aka ‘He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named’), in a cheeky swipe at the league. “When it comes to the ‘Voldemort’s’, I’ll just do what the policy says and move on,” Hasler said to a press gathering that ranged from amused to confused, depending on their knowledge of the bespectacled wizard.

Porter stuns reporter

Clever half Scott Porter was something of a lucky charm for Cronulla during a controversy-ravaged 2009 campaign – the Sharks won four-straight games after he was promoted to first grade, breaking a nine-match losing streak. But Porter’s media decorum wasn’t as polished as his ball-playing, dropping the ‘F-bomb’ twice in a 30-second interview with Fox Sports’ Matt Adamson following a win over the Warriors in his second NRL game before the producers cut their losses and faded him out. Porter went on to play 22 games for the Sharks before taking up bodybuilding.
There’s a first time for everything
Renowned rugby league funny-man Sam Thaiday sparked a moderate uproar in 2016 when he made a curious comparison during an on-field chat with Brad Fittler after Queensland’s 6-4 win over NSW in the Origin series opener.
Asked for his thoughts on the game, Thaiday responded, “It was a bit like losing your virginity. It wasn’t very nice but we got the job done.”
A stunned ‘Freddie’ chuckled, “I’m not sure if I’ve got a second question.” Not everyone saw the humorous side of Thaiday’s dubious simile.

Tigers winning the %$#@& premiership
West Tigers’ surge to take out the 2005 title ranks as arguably the most remarkable premiership triumph of the modern era – if not all time – and the euphoria got the better of several players in the aftermath of the grand final win over the Cowboys.
Matthew Johns interviewed the celebrating Wests Tigers as they went on their victory lap, and try-scoring hero Pat Richards and Anthony Laffranchi let swear words slip before quickly apologising. But a young Chris Heighington (“Yeah mate it’s f***ing awesome, you don’t know how to f***ing ... there’s no words for it, it’s just f***ing unbelievable.”) and veteran Ben Galea (“This is unbelievable, f***ing all the boys have stuck together all year, we won the comp, we’re number one, f***ing ...”) cranked it up a notch, turning the ANZ Stadium air blue in emotion-charged interviews that were the stuff of primetime TV producers’ nightmares.

Many NRL interviews are packed with stock-standard responses and overused soundbites, but sometimes they become instantly memorable for a variety of reasons. By WILL EVANS

Boyd will be Boyd
Years before he became the earnest Broncos captain we see today, Darius Boyd was notoriously one of the prickliest players in the NRL when it came to dealing with the media. The testy relationship came to a head in 2009 when the Dragons put their fullback up after a post-training media session, where Boyd provided a string of short, terse and unquotable responses to the run-of-the-mill line of questioning. The journo gave up after an excruciating 40 seconds, while Boyd’s petulance earned a rebuke from his club. To his credit, Boyd overcame a host of personal problems and now rates among the most accessible and honest senior statesmen in the game.

Toovey demands an investigation
There's coaches blowing up in press conferences, there's Ricky Stuart blowing up in press conferences – and then standing in its own category is Geoff Toovey's sensational outburst after his Manly side's loss to Souths in 2013. Toovey (above) vented about a contentious no-try ruling that went against the Sea Eagles and debated it with the journalists present, before exclaiming: “That’s ridiculous! There’s got to be an investigation into this, someone’s got to be accountable!” Firmly on a roll, the former champion half then sounded off about the penalty count, questioned the standard of the referees and suggested better-quality TVs were required in the video ref’s box. Unsurprisingly, ‘Toovey’ received a $10,000 fine to help cool his jets.

Changed man: Darius Boyd's media presence has come a long way.
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Let’s get this done and move on

THIS week I’ve been thinking about the Rugby League Players Association (RLPA), the angst it’s feeling towards the NRL administration and the ongoing shaping of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Over the past five years or so, the players have taken massive steps towards becoming as united as they’ve ever been. They’re more educated than ever before and ready to fight like we’ve never seen, for the conditions they feel they deserve and for bringing our game into the new age. They want to be shareholders in the game, like in so many other leading sporting associations around the world.

When I became a member some 17 years ago, players were half-in and half-out because they either didn’t think membership was important, or because getting a seat or having a voice at the table wasn’t needed. Maybe they thought no one would listen.

It’s a very different situation today, with 100 per cent of the players on board as members and buying into the RLPA’s vision for the game.

I believe my Newcastle team-mate Tony Butterfield was the turning point, with his passion and the rights he sowed for the future leaders of the RLPA to take it to the next level. We’re seeing that today in the shape of Clint Newton, Ian Prendergast and team. We used to give ‘Butts’ a limit of five to 10 minutes to talk about it when we were out socially with him because he was completely absorbed in it. He knew what the players deserved and what he thought was fair – and it’s a little like that with Clint today.

I could only imagine the hours and meetings that have gone on to try and thrash out a deal for this CBA. The stakes are high – the game is bringing in more money than ever before, the players want a say in growing the game as a partner and to get a fair share of the revenue that they play a major role in generating.

But what does the players’ share cover?

While the majority of the players’ share is spent on salaries, it’s a common misconception that this is the only thing the revenue goes towards. It also covers retirement benefits, representative payments, wellbeing and education programs, insurances to protect players (such as health insurance and career-ending insurance), past-player programs and funding for the association.

All of this requires money and therefore provides further rationale when talking about a ‘share of revenue’. It includes every

player benefit, payment and entitlement – not just salaries.

The other day I was told that not all players have insurance. I would have thought it was a given that clubs pay for it, but that’s not part of the current CBA. One player had it at his previous club, but when he transferred to his new club it wasn’t spoken about and he assumed he was automatically covered. He played, had a season-ending injury, and was left to pay a fortune to cover his medical bills.

Situations like these shouldn’t happen in modern day professional sport and it’s just one of a number of areas that the RLPA is proposing to improve.

When you hear about the players sharing in any additional growth of revenue in the future, it’s important to note it’s unlikely any of that will be spent on salaries. It’s more likely to go to areas that assist with post-football (such as a retirement fund and wellbeing and education programs), or to be spent on addressing welfare issues (such as improved insurance systems, medical assistance for retired players, research initiatives to improve the welfare, health and safety of players).

The players’ share needs to recognise their contribution and the value they provide to the game, while balancing the other areas of the game that need attention to maintain and improve the prosperity of the code we love.

The players want to assist and advance grassroots, not because it’s a revenue opportunity but because they all came through the system and understand the importance. There is a belief within the playing group they can help to shape and implement the NRL’s grassroots program as partners in the game.

Let’s hope for the sake of our game the powers-that-be mend some bridges and work hard for a common ground, because in a time when we have so many things to be grateful for, a lot of the negativity surrounding the future of the game won’t be resolved until the CBA is signed and sealed.
Are the Raiders dead and buried?

It’s not impossible, but if Canberra want to play finals football they’ll need to finish the year as strongly as they ever have.

CANBERRA were a popular pre-season pick to break a 23-year drought and claim their first premiership since 1994. Now, 18 rounds into the 2017 season, the Raiders sit in 11th position on the ladder on 16 points, six outside the top eight.

History tells us you need a minimum of 28 points to make the finals. That figure has been the cut-off point for five of the past six seasons, with 2016 the only exception when the Titans scraped in with 27 points.

That leaves the Raiders needing at least six wins from their final eight matches to be any chance of playing finals football in 2017.

Up until last season this generation of Raiders had been notoriously slow finishers. From 2011 to 2015 Canberra lost at least five of their final eight matches in four of five seasons.

Ricky Stuart’s men didn’t just break that undesirable trend in 2016, they smashed it, winning all of their final 10 matches to storm home and claim second spot on the ladder after 26 rounds.

They’ll need to go on a similar run this season if they are to break another unwanted streak and qualify for the finals for consecutive years for the first time since 2003-04.

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HOT

Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles)
Angus Crichton (Rabbitohs)
Semi Radradra (Eels)
Jake Friend (Roosters)
Nathan Cleary (Panthers)

COLD

Luke Keary (Roosters)
Jacob Saifiti (Knights)
Josh Addo-Carr (Storm)
Michael Jennings (Eels)
Brian Kelly (Sea Eagles)

Lone Scout says: With a clear bye schedule and an attack that will rely heavily on their goal-kicking playmaker as they fight for a finals spot, Penrith’s Nathan Cleary is a great addition for the run home.
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Storming history
A huge congratulations has to go to Melbourne Storm and their loyal fans in the southern state after the club clocked up 20,000 members for the first time in history. The ‘purple army’ has increased by more than 5,000 members this season alone, boosting Storm to fourth from ninth on the NRL membership ladder behind the Broncos, Rabbitohs and Eels. The home ground average of 19,819 is also the highest in the club’s history which is huge in Melbourne’s sports-mad culture. Way to go, Storm!

Women kicking on
The New South Wales Rugby League announced a landmark decision for the women’s game last week. For the first time ever, elite female players will receive professional contracts to line up for NSW against Queensland in the annual Interstate Challenge. The 30 players named in the NSW Women’s Pathways squad will be offered paid contracts, including a match payment for the day and allowance for time in camp. The Interstate Challenge will be played on July 23rd in Wollongong.

A sea of blue
There were crazy scenes at Belmore Sports Ground on the weekend after fans were allowed onto the pitch after the full-time hooter. An emotional Josh Reynolds was mobbed on the completion of his final game at Belmore in the blue and white as supporters gave him a send-off to remember. The game also featured the debut of prop Andy Saunders, who has been plugging away trying to earn an NRL jersey since he first played in the NYC for the Panthers in 2013. Patience pays off!

Wear your colours
The Fight Cancer Foundation has launched Footy Colours Day for 2017, to be held on a day in September. All you have to do is head to the website fightcancer.org.au/footycoloursday, register an event (or donate) and wear your favourite jersey to school or work. Parrs’ Tim Mannah and Bronco Adam Blair are repping the NRL to encourage fundraising, which will go to helping Aussie kids who are diagnosed with cancer.

Unexpected hero
We asked Knights captain Sione Mata’utia who his favourite Knights player was when he was growing up. Naturally, we expected to hear some iconic names along the likes of the Johns brothers, Steve Simpson or even Danny Buderus. But he’s no normal guy, Mata’utia’s favourite player was none other than Samoa rep George Carmont, who played with the Knights from 2004 until the end of 2007. “He was playing first grade for Raymond Terrace and he had the long hair,” Mata’utia recalls. “He got the call up from local footy to play NRL and he killed it. I loved him and I always wanted to play centre/wing just like George Carmont. I thought that’s how it worked as a young kid, if I played first grade for Raymond Terrace I would get picked for the Knights.”

Total knockout
The George Rose Challenge stage of the Knockout Health Challenge came to an end, with teams Healthy, Black and Deadly, Menindee Fatyabs and Redfern Rebels coming out victorious. The Knockout Challenge is run in partnership with the NSWRL and NSW Health to raise awareness on healthy living and weight loss in the Indigenous community.

Ever wonder what your favourite players get

It was slack on Ross Dog at a local holiday clinic.

All smiles with Kezlie Apps and the next generation of Jillaroos.

Matt Ballin seems to be making the most of his retirement.

Cronulla’s Shane Flanagan will reach 100 games as an NRL coach this Saturday night. >> Brisbane second-rower Matt
STUFF YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

I have found in my time following rugby league, the moment you start talking about a team as only a mathematical chance of making the finals, their season is virtually over. Right now, I’m tipping 30 points is going to be required to be sure of making the playoffs this season. If that’s correct, the following equations exist for the bottom eight.

The Knights and the Tigers are already gone. The Bulldogs can only afford one more loss. For the Raiders, Rabbitohs and the Titans it’s seven wins from eight, and the Panthers and Warriors would need to win six of their remaining games.

So where do they draw their inspiration? There were the Broncos of ’99, who went from last after 12 rounds to the finals. The Tigers of ’05 won six of their first 14 and then 12 of their next 14 to become champions (right).

But here are some specific examples of eight rounds to go.

There is the famous tale of South Sydney in 1955, who with eight rounds to play were eighth on the ladder. They won their last eight matches in a row and another three to take the premiership.

The Rabbitohs of 1980 tapped in to that spirit as they sat ninth of 12 with eight rounds to play. After winning six of their first 14 games, they lost only one of their last eight to qualify.

But the grand daddy of them all is Parramatta of 2009. With eight rounds to play, the Eels were 14th. They won five matches all year. With a draw and two byes, their points tally of 15 had them just three points off the bottom.

So where do they draw their inspiration? There were the Broncos of ’99, who went from last after 12 rounds to the finals. The Tigers of ’05 won six of their first 14 and then 12 of their next 14 to become champions (right).

But here are some specific examples of eight rounds to go.

There is the famous tale of South Sydney in 1955, who with eight rounds to play were eighth on the ladder. They won their last eight matches in a row and another three to take the premiership.

The Rabbitohs of 1980 tapped in to that spirit as they sat ninth of 12 with eight rounds to play. After winning six of their first 14 games, they lost only one of their last eight to qualify.

But the grand daddy of them all is Parramatta of 2009. With eight rounds to play, the Eels were 14th. They won five matches all year. With a draw and two byes, their points tally of 15 had them just three points off the bottom.

STUFF YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

ANDREW VOSS

FOX SPORTS

ROUND 19
Jul 14-16
Warriors v Panthers
Fri, 8pm (NZ), Mt Smart
Raiders v Dragons
Fri, 7.50pm, GIO
Knights v Broncos
Sat, 5.30pm, McDonald Jones
Titans v Sharks
Sat, 7.30pm, Cbus Super
Sea Eagles v Wests Tigers
Sun, 2pm, Lottoland
Rabbitohs v Cowboys
Sun, 4pm, Cairns
BYES: Bulldogs, Eels, Roosters, Storm

ROUND 20
Jul 20-23
Broncos v Bulldogs
Thu, 7.50pm, Suncorp
Roosters v Knights
Fri, 6pm, Allianz
Sharks v Rabbitohs
Fri, 7.50pm, Southern Cross Group
Panthers v Titans
Sat, 3pm, Pepper
Raiders v Storm
Sat, 5.30pm, GIO
Cowboys v Warriors
Sat, 7.30pm, 1300SMILES
Dragons v Sea Eagles
Sun, 2pm, WIN
Wests Tigers v Eels
Sun, 4pm, ANZ

ROUND 21
Jul 27-30
Panthers v Bulldogs
Thu, 7.50pm, Pepper
Warriors v Sharks
Fri, 8pm (NZ), Mt Smart
Eels v Broncos
Fri, 7.50pm, ANZ
Knights v Dragons
Sat, 3pm, McDonald Jones
Rabbitohs v Raiders
Sat, 5.30pm, ANZ
Roosters v Cowboys
Sat, 7.30pm, Allianz
Storm v Sea Eagles
Sun, 2pm, AAMI
Titans v Wests Tigers
Sun, 4pm, Cbus Super

ROUND 22
Aug 3-6
Bulldogs v Eels
Thu, 7.50pm, ANZ
Dragons v Rabbitohs
Fri, 6pm, SGK
Cowboys v Storm
Fri, 7.50pm, 1300SMILES
Knights v Titans
Sat, 3pm, McDonald Jones
Titans v Broncos
Sat, 5.30pm, Cbus Super
Sharks v Raiders
Sat, 7.30pm, Southern Cross Group
Sea Eagles v Roosters
Sun, 2pm, Lottoland
Panthers v Wests Tigers
Sun, 4pm, Pepper

Ageless Shark
Luke Kaye will continue the phenomenal form he has shown in the back-end of his career after re-signing with the Sharks for 2018. The second-rower has been a regular first grader since he debuted with the Panthers in 2001 and will bring up his 300th NRL game in Round 20. He will be 35 by the time his next contract ends.

Inching closer
The Maroons and Blues included some new faces in their build-up to Origin III, a good indication they are on the cusp of selection. Queensland welcomed Broncos hooker Andrew McCullough and Titans half Ash Taylor into camp, while the Blues called up Storm second-rower Dale Finucane.

It’s the small things
A beautiful story emerged from the good deed of our 10 Mins With interviewee Charnze Nicoll-Klostad. The young winger saw a disabled boy eyeing off a pair of shoes at the shops and bought them for him out of the blue. “I was so overwhelmed and I ended up bawling my eyes out thanking him,” the boy’s mum told the New Zealand Herald.

up to off the field?
Tom Symonds took a break from the ESL to visit Wimbledon.

Gillett has scored four tries in his past four games against Newcastle. Warriors fullback and captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck has crossed for a try in each of his past five games.
Sione Mata’utia is the youngest captain in the NRL and although it came earlier than expected, the 21-year-old is making the most of an opportunity to live out his childhood dream.

Sione Mata’utia is a product of his environment. His older brothers Peter, Chanel and Pat taught him how to play football – he’s a combination of all three, he reckons. His charitable spirit was inherited from his mum, Matalena, who raised seven kids by the gospel of ‘it’s better to give than receive’. Former Newcastle coach Wayne Bennett said he was on track to becoming a club great when he was just 18.

Shortly afterwards he learned what it was like to play for Australia, the dangers of a rapid rise and the meaning of second year syndrome. Watching Johnathan Thurston give away his headgear showed Mata’utia the impact he could have with a small gesture – so he does the same thing. He wants kids to aspire to play for the Knights one day. He’s still figuring out how to cope with the ups and downs of playing first grade, but that will come with time – of which he has plenty.

“I’ve always wanted to be a one-club man,” the young captain tells Big League.

“I want to bring a premiership here. I want to win one not only for myself but for the town. That would be crazy, to see what the aftermath would be like. I can’t wait to get there and give this town something to celebrate.”

YOUNG LEADER

For so long Mata’utia wanted to follow in the footsteps of home-grown heroes to have skippered the club and he achieved it in Round 8, when then-captain Trent Hodkinson was dropped to reserve grade. With Jamie Buhler also sidelined, coach Nathan Brown looked to his next most-experienced player – a 20-year-old with 52 NRL games under his belt. There was no point in delaying the inevitable, he figured.

“It was going to come his way anyway and in a young squad he was certainly our best candidate in the situation we’re in,” Brown explains. “It’s important that someone who understands the Newcastle people is captain – someone who understands the history of the Knights. It’s important for the people to have someone they relate to. Is he perfect at the minute? No. But will he grow into the role over time? I’m sure he will.”

Leadership is a learning process and Mata’utia is taking the lesson seriously. Making McDonald Jones Stadium a fortress is the goal, for which the Knights have appointed leadership coach Ray McLean. McLean has been a leadership coach for 27 years, acting as a mentor and developing team performance and leadership programs for professional sporting clubs. He’s previously worked with the Australian cricket team, the Sydney Swans and the Sydney Kings in the NBL.

“I’ve been calling him before games to get some tips on how I can lead because my performances on the field haven’t been up to scratch,” Mata’utia says.

“For me to try and lead and talk to other players, I pull back on it a bit because I haven’t been playing as well. It’s affected me.

“The way I was approaching it, I was thinking too much. The reason I’m a leader is because of what I’ve done in the past, so I need to get back to that. I tried to simplify it as much as possible and worry about my own backyard before anyone else’s.

“That’s where I can earn the credibility to say this and that to other players. If I want the team to be better, I have to come
from a team-first approach. In order to do that, I need to do the hard things.”

Although Mata’utia skippered junior teams on his way to the NRL, competing at the highest level as well as demanding the best from team-mates is a difficult balance to strike. Giving the captaincy to such a young player was always going to be a risk, but Brown insists he had no doubts over Mata’utia’s ability.

“We all acknowledge that he’s the long-term captain for the club. It’s a little early, but age has no bearing on leadership. Sione is naturally good at it. He has some key areas that he’ll be able to work on [with McLean], but I’m comfortable that he’ll grow as he matures and with support from guys like Jamie [Buhrer] and Trent [Hodkinson].”

STEPPING UP

Accepting the job was a no-brainer for Mata’utia, who was cleared of a fractured finger earlier this week but is no certainty to play against the Broncos on Saturday. It’s a setback he’ll take in his stride.

“[Taking the captaincy] I wanted to challenge myself to get better as a player and being accountable would be the best opportunity for me to do that,” he says.

“I’m trying to keep myself honest on and off the field. I put a poker face on when [Brown] told me but when I walked outside I was so pumped. I’m so blessed.”

Help from Rory Kostjasyn, Hodkinson and Buhrer, who has co-captained the team with him in the past two games, has helped take the pressure off. It’s one thing to lead a team at a young age, it’s another to do so during such a difficult time. The wins will come, Mata’utia is sure of it, but if he wants to improve the team he needs to improve himself first.

“There’s no better feeling than having the respect of your team-mates. That trust is amazing. The main thing is trying to build a strong culture here in Newcastle. They were such a strong club and teams used to hate coming up here. We want to get that back. We want that ‘Steel City’ reputation back—that we’re a tough team to play.”

Tough team, tough leader. He’s still learning, but Mata’utia is every bit a product of the Newcastle spirit.
WHEN a young Auckland butcher began sponsoring a local rugby league club, he could never have imagined the incredible ride the game would take him on.

"Unbelievable. It’s been a terrific journey and one I’ve absolutely enjoyed,” Sir Peter Leitch, affectionately known to all and sundry as ‘The Mad Butcher’, tells Big League.

Leitch first got involved with Mangere East Hawks in 1971. That grassroots association fostered a deep passion for the game, which has seen him become one of its most recognisable and enthusiastic figures.

“I was talking to a few guys from the club the other day, and I asked them, 'would you ever have thought I’d become the Kiwis manager, ambassador for the Warriors, and the 19th Warrior? They said, 'no way!'”

Leitch counts some of rugby league’s icons among his personal friends. But his enduring humility and loyalty to his working-class roots – along with old-fashioned business savvy – are exemplified by a classic yarn where he pulled one over on an immortal for the benefit of his beloved Hawks.

He talked Wally Lewis into speaking at a small fundraiser “of about 100 people”. When he arrived, more than 1,000 people were there.

Lewis said: “And you can’t afford to pay me after this?”, to which Leitch replied, “that’s how you do business”.

True to form, ‘The King’ and ‘The Mad Butcher’ remain great mates to this day.

Leitch’s relationship with the Kiwis began with the Graham Lowe-coached sides of the 1980s – “they used to ring me up say they needed some meat for the hangi,” he recalls – but it wasn’t long before Leitch had official roles with the nation’s flagship teams.

“The highlight of my career was in 2005 when I was the Kiwis’ manager and we beat Australia 24-0 (in the Tri-Nations final),” he says.

The Warriors’ official ambassador, he was heavily involved as the club made the 2002 and 2011 Grand Finals, taking then-New Zealand Prime Minister John Key to the latter.

“Everyone wanted to interfere and I had to tell them where to go. We sat in the grandstand and had a great time.

“There’s no question [the Warriors have] lifted the profile of rugby league – in those early days, nobody wanted to talk to me because I was ‘that league bloke’.

“I’d go to butchers’ conferences and there would be snide remarks, but now everyone wants a piece of you.”

A tireless worker for grassroots rugby league and a sought-after public speaker, the affable Leitch is equally synonymous with championing countless charitable causes. The institutions and individuals he’s lent his time to over the years would number in the hundreds, if not thousands.

“It’s about making a difference. I don’t like people thinking I’m some big benefactor, but if we all give a little we can make a difference.

“I recently gave someone a signed Warriors jersey and you’d have thought I’d given them a million dollars.”

Leitch is also the patron for ‘League 4 Life’, which is modelled on the Men of League Foundation.

“It was the brainchild of [Warriors CEO] Jim Doyle, and it’s a fantastic concept,” Leitch says.

“We’re very proud to be the charity of the Rugby League World Cup in New Zealand.”

Awarded a QSM in 1991 for community service, and knighted for services to business and philanthropy in 2010, Leitch’s favourite accolade emphasises his unpretentiousness.

“Some years ago [Reader’s Digest] did a survey and I was voted one of the most trusted people in New Zealand – that was pretty cool.”

The Warriors also retired their No.19 jersey in his honour, and the team’s greatest supporter has a message for those who send social media and the airwaves into meltdown after each loss.

“No one died. It’s only a game,” Leitch says.

“I believe that if you wake up in the morning, it’s a beautiful day.”

He admits that the Warriors ending their title drought would be a dream come true – but it’s not the be all and end all.

“Winning the premiership would be a bonus, but I’m not going to cry myself to sleep if we don’t.”

“I enjoy the fellowship. The club is about the people – we’ve got wonderful people in the office, a great CEO in Jim Doyle, and a good bunch of players. It would be a bonus, but it’s not all about winning.”

For now, Leitch’s focus is on the end-of-year World Cup, which New Zealand is co-hosting for the first time. Unsurprisingly, he’s busy spreading the gospel.

“This is massive for rugby league and I hope the sporting people of New Zealand support it. I hope every game is a sell-out. It’s really going to put rugby league on the map.”
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with TK & Slats
Forward remains one of the most important positions on the field, but how has the role evolved and what do they need to thrive in the modern-day NRL? By ANDREW MARMONT

BIG boppers. The bookends. The engine room. It’s fair to say rugby league forwards don’t have most glamorous titles or job descriptions. They do the hard work up front, laying the platform for their side. It’s hard, physical and ugly, but they’re essential to any team’s cause.

Jason Ryles knows how tough a forward’s role is. He played for 14 seasons in the NRL with the St George Illawarra Dragons, Sydney Roosters and Melbourne Storm, and was a key part of the New South Wales and Australia teams of the early 2000s.

He says the role of a forward has always been a simple one.

“The role of the front row forward is to get the team forward and create momentum with play-the-ball speed. That’s the main objective.

“It’s not easy and it’s quite a tough job at times, but it’s rewarding when you can get a little momentum for the team and see what they can do off the back of it.

“Defensively, [the role is] to be as tidy as you can be through the middle of the ruck with the defence, with those smaller guys taking you on through the middle.

“It’s not an overly complicated role but it’s certainly really important for the team.”

SIZE AND SKILL
Ryles now coaches the Storm’s forward group and is in a unique position to comment on how the role has changed. The biggest change is that the big men are a lot more athletic, he says.

“It’s really important they’ve got footwork, not just being big. They’re generally asked to do a lot more with their skill and with the ball.”

Players who play in the front row aren’t just expected to get good go-forward anymore. They also need to have the ability to pass.

“Forwards – and players across the board – are also much bigger overall, Ryles believes.

“When I came into first grade, I was 115 kilos and considered to be one of the bigger ones in the team. Now, we’ve got guys in excess of 120 kilos, and they move just as well as guys at 110 kilos.”

TOP OF THE CLASS
When asked about the NRL’s modern day ‘top of the props’, Ryles nominates a Kiwi, Kangaroo and an English player.

“A lot of them have footwork through the middle of the ruck. You look at Jesse Bromwich – he’s a really good example of that. He can

The NRL’s top five big men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Height (cm)</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>NRL games</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Bromwich</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Melbourne Storm</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Burgess</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>South Sydney Rabbitohs</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Fifita</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Taumalolo</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>North Queensland Sharks</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Woods</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Wests Tigers</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
pass the ball, he’s got great feet at the line and is a big body too – 115 plus kilos – so it’s an awesome sight coming at you for the defensive line. He’s got all those attributes and is very effective.

“Sam Burgess is more your traditional type of forward. He’s got all the skills, he’s also got great feet.

“A guy like [Andrew] Fifita breaks the mould a bit. He plays what he sees. He’s a big body, very skilful and he’s able to punch out big minutes. That’s the way the forwards are going at the moment.”

So where does he see the role of the forward in future? Ryles believes players will continue to bring physicality, but also continue sharpening their footwork and ball-playing abilities.

“Guys playing in the front row can almost do everything. With the footy, they can run and they can step. It’s going to be a lot more common that guys are going to have more footwork, be able to pass the footy and also run hard and over people.

“With the full-time training now and how specific it is, they’re working on their skills every day and they’re only going to improve. The guys coming into all the systems across the competition, they’re going to get exposed to that from a young age.

“It’s part of the evolution of the game, it’s always changing.”

**Five revolutionary big men**

**Arthur Beetson**
- **Height:** 188 cm
- **Weight:** 105 kg
- **First grade games:** 233
- **Career span:** 1964-81

‘Big Artie’ revolutionised prop forward play in the 60s and 70s with his ball-playing skills and footwork. England coach Jim Challinor said of Beetson: “He’s the world’s greatest forward and no matter how you try to counter him he keeps getting the ball away.”

**Steve Roach**
- **Height:** 188 cm
- **Weight:** 107 kg
- **First grade games:** 206
- **Career span:** 1982-92

A fearless prop whose strong carries and fiery temper meant ‘Blocker’ was a regular member of Australia, New South Wales and the Balmain Tigers throughout the 1980’s.

**Paul Harragon**
- **Height:** 193 cm
- **Weight:** 111 kg
- **First grade games:** 169
- **Career span:** 1988-99

‘The Chief’ Harragon had an ability to hit hard in defence and a no-limits approach to carrying the ball. His giant stature made him an intimidating prospect for defenders. A mainstay of Australia and New South Wales during the 1990s.

**Shane Webcke**
- **Height:** 183 cm
- **Weight:** 112 kg
- **First grade games:** 254
- **Career span:** 1995-2006

Mr Reliable for Australia, Queensland and the Broncos, Webcke had an uncomplicated style and his desire to shoulder the go-forward responsibilities made him the leading prop either side of the millennium.

**Petro Civoniceva**
- **Height:** 193 cm
- **Weight:** 116 kg
- **First grade games:** 309
- **Career span:** 1998-2012

The Australian and Fiji international (above) had size but also footwork at the line, making him a consistently good performer throughout the 1990’s, 2000’s and early 2010’s.
Best buy of the season

You may not have given the below players a second thought when they were recruited by your club, but fair to say they have made a lasting impact on 2017. By THE BIG LEAGUE TEAM

Jarrod Wallace, Gold Coast
Wallace moved from the Broncos to the Gold Coast to get a shot at starting prop regularly and the move was beneficial for both him and his new club. He has developed a strong front row combination with Ryan James and put his hand up for Origin selection. As we know, he was rushed into the winning Maroons side for Game Two and earned himself another call-up for Game Three. The 25-year-old still has a whole lot of footy in front of him and the Titans will benefit greatly from his representative experience. He averages almost 150 metres per game at club level and has only made two errors all season.

Stats that matter: 145.5 avg metres, 33.7 avg tackles, 2 errors, 198 hit-ups

Paul Vaughan, St George Illawarra
From playing reserve grade for Canberra to becoming one of the hottest props in the game and a key contributor in the Dragons’ flying start to the season, it’s been a whirlwind 12 months for Vaughan. Unable to secure a regular berth in a hulking Raiders pack, the Country Origin rep was forced to look elsewhere for opportunities and he’s made the most of the one he was afforded by Paul McGregor. Vaughan has been the engine for the Dragons, averaging 140 metres and 30 tackles in 45 minutes per game so far this season and affording captain Gareth Widdop the time to execute the plays that carried the Red V to early success. He’s also scored four tries of his own and broken 32 tackles, earning a contract extension and being mentioned as an Origin bolter. Dragons fans will be hoping he returns from injury better than ever.

Stats that matter: 138.7 avg metres, 6 line-breaks, 29.5 avg tackles, 4 tries
Cameron McInnes, St George Illawarra
Despite a strong showing in red and green last year, the arrival of Robbie Farah at Redfern drove McInnes to look elsewhere. Though his efforts have at times been overshadowed by blockbusting Vaughan, the young rake has made just as much of an impact between Kogarah and Wollongong. While he’s already set up six tries and scored two of his own, McInnes’ defensive resolve in particular has fit in perfectly with Paul McGregor’s gameplan. The 23-year-old is third in the NRL for tackles made with a massive average of 46 per game, but most impressively, he misses an average of 0.9 tackles per game – only half as many as prolific hookers like Cameron Smith, Jake Friend, Nathan Peats or Andrew McCullough. 
\textbf{Stats that matter:} 6 try assists, 5 line-break assists, 50 dummy half runs, 46.3 avg tackles

Luke Keary, Sydney Roosters
Roosters halfback Mitchell Pearce struggled without a regular halves partner once James Maloney left the club, but the arrival of Keary has solved his problems. The Rabbitohs junior started of the season in smashing form, even playing himself into Origin contention, and has steadily played the perfect foil to Pearce during the year. He has amassed a huge 14 try assists and has been holding the fort for the club while Pearce has been in Origin camp. His silky attacking skills, paired with maturity beyond his 25 years, have put the Tri-colours in a great position. 
\textbf{Stats that matter:} 14 try assists, 8 line-breaks, 15 line-break assists

Michael Gordon, Sydney Roosters
Many experts questioned how much Gordon had left to give when the Roosters announced his signature mid-way through last season, but the journeyman fullback has answered his critics in style. The 33-year-old is tied for the competition lead with 134 points and has provided much-needed experience to a Roosters backline that lacked composure last season. Gordon’s most important contribution has arguably been his goal-kicking. The Tri-colours finished second last in goal-kicking percentage in 2016, but have moved up to ninth this season with Gordon converting almost 78 per cent of his opportunities. His sensational form was rewarded with a one-year extension which will almost certainly see him finish his career as a Rooster at the end of next season. The team will definitely miss him as he sits out with a pec injury for the next eight weeks. 
\textbf{Stats that matter:} 122.8 avg metres, 6 tries, 5 line-breaks, 3 try assists

Josh Addo-Carr, Melbourne
Addo-Carr had played just nine NRL games before this season, but after 17 matches with Melbourne the 21-year-old flyer is now considered one of the most lethal finishers in rugby league. The former Wests Tigers speedster was signed by Melbourne as a direct replacement for rugby-bound Marika Koroibete and has been nothing short of sensational. Addo-Carr ranks fourth in the NRL with 13 tries, two behind competition leader Alex Johnston. He and Suliasi Vunivalu have emerged as two of the NRL’s premier wingers in 2017 with the pair combining for a massive 27 tries, the most of any wing duo in the competition. Addo-Carr leads the Storm in run metres [2,335], line-breaks [15] and tackle-breaks [64]. His blinding speed and knack for scoring tries is sure to thrill Storm fans for years to come. 
\textbf{Stats that matter:} 13 tries, 137.4 avg metres, 15 line-breaks
Nathan Brown
Parramatta
Before this season Nathan Brown had started in just 11 first grade games in three years – now he's a regular starter in blue and gold. He even secured the position at lock, relegating co-captain Beau Scott to the bench. In his past three games, he's averaged 216 metres and 25 tackles and his form this season has been crucial to the Eels’ hunt for finals football.
Not only has the Parramatta forward hit career-best form, he’s been able to clean up his reputation under Brad Arthur. He found himself in hot water last year after he appeared to stomp on a rival’s groin, and was charged for a late shot on Mitchell Moses. He was also involved in a massive under-20s brawl at the Tigers, where he had to be held back by his own trainer and team-mates – but that’s all in the past now as he’s developed into one of the best locks in the game.

Stats that matter:
148.1 avg metres, 32.3 avg tackles, 29 offloads, 1 try assist

Brian Kelly, Manly Warringah
The only rookie on this list, Kelly has made a sizeable impression in his first season in the NRL. Poached from the Titans under-20s system, he was thrust straight into the Sea Eagles’ top squad with long-time left centre Steve Matai forced to the sideline due to injury. He responded with four tries in his first four games and has emerged a key cog in the second-ranked Manly attack. As well as scoring, he’s also set up four tries. The 21-year-old has shown incredible endurance in his maiden season by being one of just seven players to play all 16 games for the Sea Eagles in 2017 and was the only rookie called up to represent Country Origin earlier in the year. Matai manned the Manly left centre spot for 12 seasons, now his replacement looks set to claim the spot for the next decade.

Stats that matter: 100.9 avg metres, 7 line-breaks, 4 try assists, 6 tries

Brian Kelly
Nathan Brown

Notable newbies
Curtis Sironen, Manly
Unwanted at the Wests Tigers, Sironen has reinvigorated his career in his first season on the Northern Beaches. The 25-year-old has crossed for five tries and is averaging 25 tackles per game.

Tuimoala Lolohea, Wests Tigers
Brought across as a mid-season signing from the Warriors, Lolohea has added a new dimension to the Wests Tigers attack.

Nene Macdonald, St George Illawarra
Signed by the Dragons for his try-scoring prowess and vertical leap, Macdonald has crossed the stripe five times in his first season with St George Illawarra.

Jamie Buhrer, Newcastle
Injury has cruelled Buhrer’s first season with the Knights, but the former Sea Eagle has looked impressive since returning from a foot fracture in Round 17.

Suaia Matagi, Parramatta
The former Panthers hard-man has played every game for the Eels in 2017 and is averaging just short of 100 running metres and 20 tackles per game.

Korbin Sims, Brisbane
Sims has missed just one game in his first season at the Broncos and quickly become a key cog of Wayne Bennett’s front-row rotation, scoring four tries.

James Tamou, Penrith
The Panther’s high-profile signing has begun to heat up in recent weeks after a slow start at his new club. Tamou has run for at least 100 metres in five of his past seven games.

Kevin Proctor, Gold Coast
The former Melbourne second-rower has had a mixed first season on the Gold Coast thanks to injury and suspension.

Mitchell Moses, Parramatta
Parramatta have won five of seven games since Moses’ arrival. The ex-West Tigers playmaker was instrumental in the Round 18 win over the Storm, with two try assists and a try of his own.

Kieran Foran, Warriors
Foran was forced to wait until Round 5 to make his debut for the Warriors, but has quickly formed a dangerous halves combination with Shaun Johnson. The 26-year-old has six try assists in his past six games.

Akira Uate, Manly
Uate has quickly rediscovered the form that once had him considered as one of the NRL’s premier finishers. The former Knights winger leads the Sea Eagles with 10 tries.

Robbie Farah, South Sydney
After a slow start to his tenure with the Rabbitohs, Farah has been in strong form since winning back the starting hooker role from Damien Cook in Round 10.
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WARRIORS

THE Warriors are fighting for their finals survival, but farewelling club legend Manu Vatuvei will be the overriding theme of their Round 19 encounter with Penrith.

“The team will certainly take an element of [honouring] Manu into Friday’s game,” Warrior assistant coach Stacey Jones told Big League.

“We’ve got a gameplan and process we need to stick to, but in the back of everyone’s head there’s a big laugh we can hear – you hear his laugh before you see him.”

Vatuvei was granted a release to join Salford this week, meaning “The Beast” has played his last game for the Warriors. Injuries and competition for spots have restricted the winger to just 53 minutes in the NRL this season.

“Everyone wishes Manu was playing regularly, but these things happen and everyone understands,” Jones said.

Jones was in the twilight of his NRL career when Vatuvei burst onto the scene in the mid-2000s, and he praised the genial giant’s progression from reserved teenager to leader.

“He was really shy. His father used to bring him to training and sit on on team talks. To get to where he is now is a huge testament to him. He’s taken on a massive leadership role. He means a huge amount to the team, everyone respects him.”

Vatuvei departs with 152 tries in 226 appearances. — WILL EVANS

KNOCKS

VETERAN forward Mickey Paea looks set to return to the UK next season as he comes off-contract with Newcastle. Fielding interest from several Super League clubs, Paea, 31, is likely to have his future sorted in the coming weeks.

“I think once you’re retired you’re a long time retired. I had some good times in the UK, so I’m trying to sort something out,” he said.

“I’ve got to keep the dream alive. The body hasn’t had any major knocks and I still feel like I can contribute. I’m just happy to have that interest. I’ll know more in the next week or so and go from there.”

In the meantime, Paea (right) was thrilled to make his return to the NRL last week and said he wants to play as much first grade as possible. However, he understands the route the club is taking with junior development and will chip in where needed.

“The club is going through a rebuilding phase and there is a lot of young talent who are local kids. The whole forward pack that started [against the Bulldogs] either played under-20s or under-18s with the club, they’re all junior Knights. That’s a positive. This club has always been built on juniors and they’ve always had talented juniors. There’s only one way forward.”

— PAMELA WHALEY

SHARKS

SHANE Flanagan has named all five of his State of Origin stars to back up for Saturday night’s clash with the Gold Coast Titans.

With Melbourne on the bye, the Sharks need to topple the Titans to stay within two points of the ladder-leading Storm.

Flanagan may also receive a reprieve for his hooking crisis, with James Segeyaro (above) named on the bench. Segeyaro hasn’t played since breaking his arm during the match against the Storm in Round 6.

The Sharks are running low on hooking options with rookie Jayden Brailey set for an extended stint on the sidelines with a broken jaw, while Daniel Mortimer and Manaia Cherrington have taken up opportunities with other clubs. — BL

BRONCOS

KORBIN Sims admitted he will have mixed emotions when he runs out to McDonald Jones Stadium on Saturday.

It will be the first time Sims has played at his former home ground since he left the Knights to join Brisbane in January after four seasons in Newcastle.

“It’s going to be a tough game for me. Everyone down there has been kind to me and the club has been great,” Sims (above) said.

“But it’s going to be business as usual and I’ll be going down there to get the job done. “We’re going to have to stay on top of things, we can’t get complacent, we’ve got to be ready for a battle down there.”

— BL
SEA EAGLES

NO team likes to be without their Origin stars during the break, but Manly fans would have been impressed with the efforts of Lloyd Perrett during their Round 18 loss to Penrith.

The young interchange prop hadn’t played more than 37 minutes in a game this year but found himself on the Pepper Stadium turf for 62 minutes, making a season-high 39 tackles.

“It’s a lot more than I usually play,” Perrett (right) said. “Jake Trbojevic was out, he eats up a lot of minutes for the middle and does a lot of work so I think I took some of that workload. It was good for me, every player wants to play big minutes.”

Perrett also praised the influence of coach Trent Barrett on his game since his pre-season move to Brookvale.

“He’s a calming influence and he lets you play your own style. I’ve been under other coaches who are very strict in the way they want you to play and that doesn’t work for me. I thrive under a coach who allows me to just do what I do.”

– DAVID PIEPERS

ROOSTERS

ZANE Tetevano hadn’t played an NRL game in almost three years before Trent Robinson took a leap of faith and thrust the former Knights forward into his side for the Roosters’ Round 2 clash with the Bulldogs.

The 26-year-old (left) has only missed one game in the top grade since and has emerged as a crucial part of Robinson’s front-row combination.

“It’s that old saying with him – it’s not the dog in the fight, it’s the fight in the dog. He’s definitely got some ticker and that’s what I love about him,” Jared Waerea-Hargreaves said of his team-mate.

“You know what you’re going to get, he rips in at 150 per cent. It was great to see him start up front against the Rabbitohs and he did a great job laying the platform.”

Waerea-Hargreaves also praised up-and-coming front-rower Lindsay Collins, who ran for 53 metres in just 14 minutes in Round 18.

“He’s been working hard all year and it was good to see him get some good results. For Lindsay that was his second game and it was a hell of a lot better performance than when he debuted,” Waerea-Hargreaves said.

– BEN LONERGAN

BULLDOGS

HALFBACK Moses Mbye was the hero in a miraculous win at Belmore Sports Ground last week, but he says the two points will mean nothing if the team doesn’t kick on at the back end of the season.

The Bulldogs now sit three wins outside the top eight, and with a bye this weekend, will need all the recovery they can cram in to attack the final seven rounds.

“We’re at the back end of going out of this competition and we knew how important two points was. We did it tough, but we did it,” Mbye (right) said.

“The end of the season is close and the finals are on the horizon so it’s important to get healthy again. We need to hit the ground running because we’re still in the bottom eight.”

The Bulldogs have a chance to sneak into 11th place on if both Canberra and South Sydney lose this weekend, but they’ll be sweating on the result from the Gold Coast v Cronulla clash as well.

– PW

COWBOYS

A WEEK off hasn’t helped new recruit Te Maire Martin with his combinations at North Queensland, but coach Paul Green is confident his young half can grow into the role.

Martin (above) has only played one game for the Cowboys since moving from Penrith and will again line up alongside Michael Morgan against the Rabbitohs.

“We haven’t been able to build on those combinations, but it was a good start from him and that’s a focus for us, to get him used to how we play,” he said.

Green said the team had returned fresh after a good break.

“Everyone has come back freshened up physically and mentally,” he said.

– PW

EELS

NOW locked in a fierce battle to stay inside the top eight, the Eels are hoping to continue their momentum after their bye this week.

Coach Brad Arthur said winning games heading into their final bye was always the plan to put them in a solid position.

“We set a goal to get a couple of wins around the byes to put us in a reasonable position,” he said.

“It was important that we put back-to-back wins together heading into a bye. If you don’t play well heading into a bye it’s a long two weeks.”

– KAMILIA HANNA
FOR Gold Coast Titans forward Morgan Boyle, life north of the border isn’t too chaotic as you might think and a lot closer to home.

“It’s pretty much a big country town up here. It’s not too hectic,” Boyle (left) said. “If you want hectic you can go up to Surfers Paradise.”

Coming from strong rugby league pedigree with father David playing 117 first-grade games for Canberra and his uncle being Raiders great Jason Croker, you’d think a progression to first grade was a given for the Bega native. Surprisingly that wasn’t always the case.

“I loved watching it on the TV at night, but playing under-10s and under-11s I didn’t see a future in it. By the time I played under-18s I thought there might be a chance and I’m here, so it’s been good,” Boyle told Big League.

The 20 year old isn’t on his on the Gold Coast these days. Sister Millie, who made her debut for the Australian Wallaroos at the Women’s Rugby Union World Cup in Ireland recently, has also made the move to the region.

“She moved up here quite recently after securing a scholarship with Bond University. I see her every now and then which is good.”

– LEE REILLY
NATE Myles played his first game in a Melbourne jersey last weekend, but he knows he has to perform to stay in first grade.

Myles (above) said Craig Bellamy hasn’t given his a specific role in the team, but told him to play well.

“He [Bellamy] told me ‘if you don’t pull your finger out, I’ll play you in reserve grade’ – I appreciate his honesty,” Myles said after Melbourne’s loss to Parramatta.

“I had a few things injury-wise I had to look after. I couldn’t get on the field as quick as I wanted to, but got the hit out which was good.”

The Storm are set to be without centre Cheyse Blair for the remainder of the season after he suffered another suspected ankle injury last Saturday. – MB

YOUNG gun Dylan Edwards may have played just seven NRL games this season, but he’s showing his ability to compete at the top level.

The 21-year-old is averaging 189 metres per match and already has 57 tackle-breaks. Edwards (left) said playing alongside captain Matt Moylan is helping his game.

“I have to keep working hard and picking Moylan’s brain and learning tips off him,” he told Big League.

After playing in the Holden Cup for a couple of years, Edwards said playing in the Intrust Super Premiership this season helped prepare his body for first grade.

“I’m stronger than I was last season. I’m used to the physicality of playing against men. I had the chance to play a bit of reserve grade last year. I knew I had to be tougher if I wanted to play first grade – I had to be stronger and fitter.” – MB

Russell Packer believes the bye week has reinvigorated the Dragons for both the run to the finals and their crucial clash against the Raiders on Friday.

St George Illawarra have lost six of their past nine matches after starting the season as one of the NRL’s hottest teams.

“It was good to freshen up, re-focus and re-energise,” Packer (right) said.

“Canberra have a good team and we’ve got to go and play them in the conditions that they’re used to. It’s going to be a big challenge but we’re looking forward to it.”

Packer, who will join the Wests Tigers next season, has assured Dragons fans his focus is helping the club reach the finals in 2017.

“I haven’t thought about next year. Nothing is guaranteed in this industry and if you start looking into the future you forget about the present,” he said. – BL

ACROSS
1. Early Australian rep 1911-20. ___ Farnsworth. (3)
2. Veteran ’80s referee. ___ Stone. (4)
3. Lesley ___ Former Raiders winger. (3)
5. Junior Warriors premiership captain 2014. Sam ___ (6)
6. 1996 and ’99 Coach of the Year. George ___ (7)
7. Starting Manly five-eighth for 1996 Grand Final win. (5)
8. Bradford Bulls coach. (6)
9. Robin Hood’s mate and Tiger. (6,4)
10. Brothers Kevin and Wes. (7)
11. 13 tries in 17 games so far for Storm. (4,4)
12. 2008 Daily M Medal. (6)
13. Battle wound. (4)
14. Knights hooker Danny ___ (4)
15. Staple with old footy cards. (3)
16. Broncos prop Herman ___ (6)
17. Eels prop Daniel ___ (6)
18. Nickname of former Raider and Saints hooker Wayne Collins. (6)
19. Panthers coach ___ Griffin (7)

DOWN
1. Former Manly utility Mauro. (3)
2. Kiwi forward at Eels. Manu ___ (3)
3. Leading contender for promotion to UK Super League. Hull ___ (5,6)
4. Titans back up hooker. Pat ___ (6)
5. Controversy Corner legend. Rex ___ (6)
7. Warriors big man. Albert ___ (4)
9. Greg Florimo nickname. (3)
10. Of six. (3)
11. Immortal Bob. (6)
12. Former Warrior and Panther. (5,4)
13. 15-time Maroon. Ashley ___ (8)
14. Souths coach Michael Maguire. (5)
15. Hoping for expansion. Brisbane ___ (7)
16. 1961-87 Group 10 champions. (6)
17. Blocker. (5)
Hi everyone,

My name is Liam. I’m writing about what an awesome time I had filming for the NRL’s YouTube channel at Rugby League Central.

First, we had an education session on respect. We learnt three respectful ways to greet someone – the ‘3 Hs’: handshake, high-five and hug.

Next, we made healthy breakfasts with fresh fruit and waffles. We had a mini cooking tournament and with the help of ex-NRL star Roy Asotasi our group were judges!

In the afternoon we did arts and crafts, making NRL kicking tees out of leftover soft drink bottles. It’s easy to do – you should try it at home. Then we practised kicking soft rugby league balls off the tees at the goals.

The next day we did some Kick-Back-Chat with the new NRL Ambassadors. Normally the Ambassadors are the ones who ask us the questions, but we surprised them with some questions of our own.

Of course, the best bit was getting outside and kicking the footy around with my new friends.

Be sure to sit down with an adult and watch the first episode of Kick-Back-Chat or the Good Mood Food challenge on the NRL’s YouTube channel: youtube.com/NRL

Like a lot of kids, Siosifa Talakai has been playing footy since he was little – but the reason he got started is a bit different to most. What are your earliest memories of playing footy?

I used to play at church with my cousins. Sunday was a rest day and we used to get in trouble. We didn’t have a football, so we’d get a bottle and fill it with sand from the sandpit, then we’d play and come home with ripped shirts!

So eventually your parents decided you should join a team?

I didn’t tell my parents, it was actually my reverend. I remember him talking to my parents, telling them I might as well use the gift I was blessed with.

So you stopped playing at church?

There were some days we stopped, we were too tired to play. There were other days we got a bit excited, and there were a few more ripped shirts.

How did you go playing club footy?

I sat back and let everyone else do the work – I didn’t know what to do! I was in shock because I wasn’t playing with my cousins this time. My first run, I ran behind my own goal-line. I wasn’t the best.

Did you pick it up quickly?

My coach led me in the right direction. After a few games running to the sidelines, I picked it up.

It hasn’t been long since your first grade debut. What will you remember from that game?

When ‘Madge’ [coach Michael Maguire] first told me, I was shaking. Everyone congratulated me, and I was speechless. The first ones I told were my parents.

They were excited?

For sure! They’ve always been there for me. To see them so happy and excited after the game was the main thing for me.
**Who am I?**

- I made my first grade debut with Cronulla.
- I played my junior football with a rival club.
- In 2016 I made my State of Origin debut for NSW.
- I can play various positions.
- I was named ‘Rookie of the Year’ at the 2015 Dally Ms.
- I won a premiership playing in the centres.

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**SPOT THE BALL**

Does Bulldogs playmaker Josh Reynolds have his eyes on the ball? Which is the right one? Check your answer below.

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BALL 1?
BALL 2?
BALL 3?
BALL 4?
BALL 5?
BALL 6?
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Mr Nice Guy

Standing in the bowels of ANZ Stadium following a South Sydney victory, a joyous Tyrell Fuimaono chats about his first season in the NRL. While the interview is taking place, team-mates, coaches, trainers and fans walk by, patting him on the back to encourage him after another impressive performance.

Even Rabbitohs General Manager Shane Richardson stops to congratulate him, and there’s a long line of kids waiting to get his autograph.

Observing the mood, you can see Fuimaono is one of the most likeable players in the team – even if he’s only played seven NRL games.

“He’s a young kid who’s coming through, he’s got a rough head on him and he goes hard. We love having him in the side,” Rabbitohs winger Alex Johnston says.

Fuimaono says the key to being liked at an NRL club is to be respectful and do the right things on and off the field.

“I try to be as likeable as possible,” Fuimaono tells Big League.

“When I first came to this club, I wanted to train really hard and play the best football possible so people would respect me.”

After being named in last year’s Holden Cup Team of the Year, Fuimaono has had a rapid rise into the NRL this season and he still can’t believe he’s a first grader.

“Sometimes it’s still hard to believe I’m playing first grade,” he says.

“It’s quite unbelievable – it’s a dream come true. Everything I’ve ever worked for in my whole life is finally paying off. It’s all worth it in the end.”

Rubbing shoulders with some of the best players in the game at South Sydney, Fuimaono says that’s the reason he joined the famous club from Parramatta – but he admits he still gets star struck.

“When I first signed with this club, I knew they had elite players like Sam Burgess, John Sutton and Greg Inglis. Having these experienced and knowledgeable players around helps me a lot.”

The 21-year-old says making his debut against Wests Tigers in Round 10 was one of the proudest moments in his life.

“I was pretty nervous before the match. I still get nervous before every game, but I’m trying to make it a normal thing because I want to be here and I want to make myself comfortable. I need to stick to what I know because I don’t want my game to be affected because I’m playing first grade.”

From his seven NRL games, Fuimaono has played four in the second row, two off the interchange bench and one at centre, highlighting his versatility in the team. He doesn’t know what his best position is yet, but that doesn’t bother him because he’s happy to play anywhere.

“I’m not sure where I’ll end up because I don’t mind playing in either position. At the end of the day, I’ll play wherever ‘Madge’ [coach Michael Maguire] wants me to as long as I get the chance to run on the field.”

Since graduating from the Holden Cup with the Eels, the St Marys junior’s life has changed dramatically, both on and off the field.

“Not only has it been a change for my football, but a lifestyle change as well,” he says.

“I’m really enjoying my time here. I’ve made some really good mates here. I’m living near the beaches now too, which is awesome compared to living out west.”

Fuimaono loves everything that comes with being an NRL player and says he doesn’t mind the extra attention, although being well-known hasn’t helped out in every department.

“[Being an NRL player] hasn’t helped with the ladies though – if you can get me a bit of a shout out in your magazine, because I’m looking for a lady,” he laughs.

“I definitely like being an NRL player and having people recognise me – it’s a good feeling. I have a trademark haircut at the moment and I think people recognise me a bit easier. I’m extremely grateful to be a first grade player now, hopefully I’m fortunate enough to get a lot more opportunities. I’m making sure I take them when they come.”

Fuimaono’s life has changed dramatically in the past six months, but the likable larrikin wouldn’t have it any other way.

He may only be seven games into his NRL career, but talented young Rabbitoh Tyrell Fuimaono is already earning a reputation.

By MICHAEL BLOK
Modern rivals

This weekend the Dragons and Raiders will write the next chapter in a rivalry that, while not the biggest, has certainly thrown up some interesting stories. By MICHAEL BLOK

ST GEORGE Illawarra may have won the past four games against Canberra, but Dragons fans won’t forget their side’s decade of misery against the Green Machine. Here are some of the best matches between these two sides.

March 20, 1999
Dragons 16 d. Raiders 14
In just their third match as a joint venture, St George Illawarra claimed their first-ever win as a new club when they came from behind to beat Canberra at Bruce Stadium. Captained by current coach Paul McGregor, the Dragons trailed 10-0 at half-time, but fought back to claim a memorable 16-14 triumph. They went on to win 11 of their next 15 games and reached the grand final at season’s end.

May 12, 2002
Dragons 21 drew with Raiders 21
The Red V had three draws in 2002 – one of them coming against Canberra in Round 9 at WIN Stadium. After scoring a try and booting two goals, fan favourite Mark Riddell was sent off for a late high shot on Raiders five-eighth Mark McLinden. Despite being down a man, the Dragons rallied from 21-8 down at the break to claim a stunning draw. Trailing by a point with seconds reaming, Willie Peters stepped up to level the game.

July 13, 2003
Raiders 19 d. Dragons 18
With Simon Woolford ruled out with injury, hooker Brad Drew, wearing the No.21 jersey, was a late inclusion for the Raiders and became an unlikely hero. Playing away from home and with the scores locked at 18-all, Drew booted a 68th-minute field goal to give his side the lead. The Dragons had several chances late in the match, but the Raiders held on for a thrilling 19-18 win to end a three-game losing streak.

July 8, 2007
Dragons 58 d. Raiders 16
Arguably the most notorious bogey of the NRL era, the Green Machine had St George Illawarra’s number for a decade. A 58-16 thrashing in Wollongong in 2007 was the Dragons’ only success against the Raiders in 17 games between 2002 and 2013. In front of 7,561 fans (the lowest ever between these two sides), five-eighth Rangi Chase bagged a double, while halves partner Jamie Soward recorded 22 points.

July 25, 2011
Raiders 24 d. Dragons 19
It looked like the Dragons were about to break a long-standing hoodoo when Jamie Soward kicked a 79th-minute field goal to break an 18-all deadlock. However with just 40 seconds remaining on the clock, current Dragons Josh Dugan and Josh McCrone combined to give the Raiders an inspiring 24-19 victory. When Dugan crossed, Fox Sports commentator Warren Smith exclaimed: “Do you believe in hoodoos? Do you believe in miracles?”

July 2, 2012
Raiders 22 d. Dragons 18
After pulling off a miracle victory in their previous game, there was a touch of déjà vu in 2012. The Dragons had the lead in the dying minutes, but again a Raiders fullback broke their hearts. This time it was Reece Robinson, who scored his third try of the match to secure the win for the Green Machine. Smith commented on this match as well, yelling, “the hoodoo comes into play once again!”

August 16, 2014
Dragons 34 d. Raiders 16
The Dragons had beaten the Raiders just once in 12 years and were sitting on a nine-game losing streak against their bogey side. The Red V trailed 12-10 at half-time after Josh Papalii and Jordan Rapana bagged four-pointers, but fought back in the second-half. Brett Morris scored a hat-trick and fellow winger Jason Nightingale grabbed a double as the Dragons claimed an 18-point win. The Dragons have now won the four games on the trot against the Raiders.
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Roger Tuivasa-Sheck

The Warriors have had a mixed season in 2017, but captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck has been as reliable as ever each week.

- **2,657 miles**
  Averaging 177 miles each week, Tuivasa-Sheck has run further with the ball in hand than any other Warrior this season and sits fourth overall. A quarter of his miles come after initial contact with defenders.

- **6 tries**
  He has scored a try in each of his past five games and he'll be hoping for more this week against Penrith at Mt Smart.

- **9 line-breaks**
  RTS has made more line-breaks than any team-mate this year with nine. He's also assisted five line-breaks in 2017.

- **69 tackle-breaks**
  Tuivasa-Sheck isn't a player who's easy to tackle. In 15 games this season, he has broken 69 tackles, averaging 4.6 each week.

- **833 kick return metres**
  Charging back as hard and fast as he can, the Warriors fullback loves to get his side on the front foot and sits fourth in the NRL for kick return metres. From 95 runs from the back, he averages nine metres per attempt.

- **5 try assists**
  Not only does he like to cross the line, he's good at assisting his team-mates. He's record five try assists this season – two of them in the past three weeks.
Leadership material

Aside from claiming the Holden Cup premiership in 2016, Porter describes being named Roosters under-20s captain as his proudest career moment to date.

The Te Atatu Roosters junior deputised for regular skippers Grant Garvey and Nat Butcher twice in 2016, but has taken on the role full-time this season.

“It’s a different experience, there’s a lot of pressure. I’m learning different things and trying to lead the boys in a different way.” Porter says.

“I try and lead by more actions than words. I enjoy being a leader. I’d like to think the boys respect and me, which is a good feeling.”

Roosters Holden Cup coach Anthony Barnes had no hesitation naming Porter his captain, saying the young star has all the traits of a leader both on and off the field.

“He’s really got the respect of his players. He’s been in the under-20s for three years so he’s got experience as well,” Barnes says.

“He’s an intelligent kid, so when he speaks it’s calculated, it’s not yelling and screaming. He leads more by his actions.”

“He’s a gentleman as well, a very high-class kid. He’s intelligent, respectful, and a really nice kid. All those attributes come because he comes from a really good family. Those are the people you want to keep around the club.”

Porter will join the Roosters’ NRL squad in 2018 after the club decided to extend his contract for an extra two seasons in 2016.

“I’m looking forward to getting a good pre-season under my belt and a couple of training sessions in pre-season this year, but getting that full-time experience learning off some of the senior boys will be good,” he says.

“I’m glad I’ve got another year here, I love the club. It’s such a family. I’ve been here since I was 16 and I’ve enjoyed everything about it. They’ve done everything for me. I’ve always dreamed of being a one-club person, even when I was back home.”

— BEN LONERGAN

Reuben Porter

Sydney Roosters

Date of Birth: March 26, 1997
Birthplace: Wellington, NZ
Junior Club: Te Atatu Roosters

Position: Second Row
Height: 189cm  Weight: 107kg
Studying: Diploma of Business

REUBEN Porter wants to emulate the career of Boyd Cordner. Despite only turning 20 in March, he’s already on track.

The Roosters earmarked the New Zealand-born rising star as a leader of the future by naming him Holden Cup captain for 2017. Like Cordner, Porter is also a second-rower and a tackle-breaking edge-runner.

Porter received the chance to train alongside his idol in the pre-season and dedicated as much time as possible to absorbing information from the Roosters and NSW skipper.

“I look up to Boyd, he’s one of the best back-rowers in the NRL,” he says.

“I always look at how he plays to see if there are any tips I can get off him. He runs those hard lines, so I try and work on that. His work-rate is unbelievable, he’ll take a run when the boys are tired and that’s something I try to do as well.”

Crossing over

Porter is hoping to be the next in a long line of Kiwis to forge a successful career at the Roosters. He moved to Sydney to take up a full-time contract with the club as a 17-year-old and is now in his third and final season of Holden Cup.

“I was born in Wellington and lived there until I was about 10 and then we moved to Auckland. I lived there until I was 17,” he says.

“Wellington and Auckland are pretty big cities, but it’s still been a hard transition. I’ve got a good family here, living in a house with all the boys who come from overseas. I’ve never really gotten homesick.”

Porter appears destined for a big future in rugby league, but his career could have gone in a different direction. The 20-year-old played rugby union for most of his childhood, only taking up rugby league two years before signing with the Roosters.

“I’ve played footy since I could walk, but I started off playing union until I was 15 or 16, then I moved to league and haven’t looked back.

“In union I was a lock or No.8 and my dad always used to tell me I wouldn’t get the ball enough. I played a couple of games of league and I loved it, getting the ball early and running.”

I love the club. It’s such a family. I’ve been here since I was 16 and I’ve enjoyed everything about it. They’ve done everything for me. I’ve always dreamed of being a one-club person, even when I was back home.”

— BEN LONERGAN
DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 14
VENUE: MT SMART STADIUM
KICK-OFF: 6PM (NZ)
REFEREE: CAVIN REYNOLDS
ASSISTANT REFEREE: ALAN SHORTALL
TOUCH JUDGES: NICK BEASHEL & CHRIS McMILLAN
SENIOR REVIEW OFFICIAL: LUKE PATTEN
REVIEW OFFICIALS: STEVE CHIDDY
FOX LEAGUE: 5.30PM (AEST)
LIVE RADIO: ABC, TRIPLE M

**WARRIORS**

- **PTG PTS**: 1069 (10)
- **P**: 16
- **T**: 8
- **G**: 24
- **80%**
- **9**
- **4**
- **60**
- **22**
- **17**
- **9**
- **3**
- **5**
- **4**

**PANTHERS**

- **PTG PTS**: 910 (10)
- **P**: 16
- **T**: 8
- **G**: 24
- **79%**
- **5**
- **3**
- **55**
- **24**
- **12**
- **9**
- **3**
- **3**

**INTERCHANGE**

- **Sione KATOA**
- **Leilani LATU**
- **Tim BROWNE**
- **Isaah YEO**

**RESERVES**

- **Moses LEOTA**
- **Tyroe MAY**
- **Viliame KIKAU**
- **Sitaekli AKAUOLA**

**HEAD-TO-HEAD**

Played 38, Penrith 21, Warriors 16, drawn 1

**AT MT SMART STADIUM**

Played 17, Warriors 9, Penrith 8

**WINNING FORM 2017**

WARRIORS: WLLWLWLLWLLWWLWB. Streak — 1 loss

PENRITH: LWLWLLWLLWLLWWLWB. Streak — 1 win

**PAST 8 CLASHES**

2017 – PENRITH D. WARRIORS 36-28 at Pepper Stadium
2016 – WARRIORS D. PENRITH 20-16 at Mt Smart Stadium;
PENRITH D. WARRIORS 30-18 at AMI Stadium, Christchurch
2015 – PENRITH D. WARRIORS 24-10 at Pepper Stadium
2014 – PENRITH D. WARRIORS 22-6 at Sportingbet Stadium;
WARRIORS D. PENRITH 30-28 at Mt Smart Stadium
2013 – PENRITH D. WARRIORS 28-26 at Mt Smart Stadium;
PENRITH D. WARRIORS 62-6 at Centraltel Stadium

**BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS**

WARRIORS D. PENRITH 52-8 at Ericsson Stadium, 2001
PENRITH D. WARRIORS 62-6 at Centraltel Stadium, 2013

**NEXT CLASH**

WARRIORS v North Old at 1300SMILES, 7.30pm Saturday July 22
PENRITH: v Gold Coast at Peppar, 3pm Saturday July 22

**CAGUILTY WARD**

WARRIORS: Albert Vete (arm) – Rd 22; Ryan Hoffman (foot) – Rd 23

PENRITH: Peter Wallace (groin) – Rd 20; Dean Whare (jaw) – Rd 22; Sam McKendry (knee), Bryce Cartwright (knee) – indefinite

**COACHES**

- **Stephen Kearney**
- **Anthony Griffin**
High stakes at Mt Smart

Mt Smart Stadium
Friday, 8pm

Form: There have been two different Warriors teams this season—the one that won most of its games at Mt Smart Stadium (six from seven in 2017) and the one that has managed a single victory from nine games on the road. The Panthers have won five of their past seven games, but it took them until last Saturday night to claim their first victory for the season over a top eight opponent.

History: The Panthers have generated an impressive record over the Warriors in recent seasons, winning seven of the past nine encounters, but they’ve managed just three wins from their past nine visits to Mt Smart. The Panthers produced an epic get-out-of-jail performance when these teams met in Round 10, 2017, climbing from a 28-6 half-time deficit to win 36-28.

Danger sign: Penrith will need to be on full alert to combat the attacking skills of Warriors captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, who has crossed for a try in his past five games. The Panthers’ biggest threat could come from the unpredictable Tyrone Peachey.

Best Bet? Both teams are scrambling for a place in the top eight so expect a clash of high intensity. Look to a Warriors/Panthers or Panthers/Warriors outcome in the Half-time/Full-time Double.

Money-spinner: Players to consider for First Tryscorer are Ken Maumalo, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak or Wagi Blake.

WISHFUL WARRIORS…

The last-placed Warriors have had an extra week to prepare for Penrith after their loss to Manly in Round 17. The rested Warriors will be relying on resilient players like centre Dean Kouka-Smith to make an impact. He ran 147 metres in his last game and is a scoring threat.

PANTHERS OVERPOWERED…

The Panthers went down to the Sea Eagles at Pepper Stadium in Round 18. Penrith couldn’t capitalise on their possession and their 54 missed tackles didn’t help. They were forced to play catch-up after Manly scored first. Centre Mose Feilo scored under the sticks and they were in again just before half-time, but still trailed. Stefano Hala at prop had a big game, running 214 metres and making 18 tackles.

– SAM PASFIELD

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*1. Delivery unpacking, installation, connection and removal of appliances must be at a time convenient to both parties, and must be within a 25km radius of the store from which the goods were purchased. Product(s) removed must be of equivalent size and quantity to the product(s) purchased. Installation is standard installation only. Existing plumbing must be in place. Washers and dishwashers are connected to water supply only. Connection to fridges with ice and water is not included. Disconnection of old appliance not included. The franchise and/or its delivery contacts reserve the right to refuse removal if, in their reasonable opinion, the product(s) are soiled, wet and/or pose an OHS risk. Delivery fee applies in the event that the customer misses a set delivery time and product(s) need to be re-delivered. See in store for individual service charges and full details.
## Raider Dragons

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**Interchange**

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**Reserves**

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**Head-to-Head**

- Played 27, Canberra 16, St George Illawarra 10, drawn 1

**At GIO Stadium**

- Played 15, Canberra 11, St George Illawarra 4

**Winning Form 2017**

- Canberra: 1st (20)
- St George Illawarra: 1st (20)

**Past 8 clashes**

- 2018 – St George Illawarra D. Canberra 16-12 at UOW Jubilee Oval
- 2015 – St George Illawarra D. Canberra 32-18 at WIN Stadium; St George Illawarra D. Canberra 22-20 at GIO Stadium
- 2014 – St George Illawarra D. Canberra 34-16 at GIO Stadium
- 2013 – Canberra D. St George Illawarra 22-18 at WIN Stadium; Canberra D. St George Illawarra 30-17 at Canberra Stadium
- 2012 – Canberra D. St George Illawarra 22-18 at Canberra Stadium
- 2011 – Canberra D. St George Illawarra 24-19 at Canberra Stadium

**Biggest Head-to-Head Wins**

- Canberra D. St George Illawarra 30-6 at Canberra Stadium, 2007
- St George Illawarra D. Canberra 44-2 at Kogarah Jubilee Oval, 1999
- St George Illawarra D. Canberra 58-16 at WIN Stadium, 2007

The Dragons have received an additional player exemption due to high State of Origin representation in their squad.

### Match Averages

**Attack**

- Tries: 16
- Points: 92
- Field Goals: 8
- Conceded: 21
- Penalties: 30

**Defence**

- Tries against: 33
- Points against: 177
- Penalties: 18

**Penalties**

- Tries: 16
- Points: 92
- Field Goals: 8
- Conceded: 21
- Penalties: 30

**Field Goals: G Widdop 1**

- Will MATTHEWS

**Field Goals: G Widdop 1**

### Casualty Ward

**Canberra**

- Kato Ottio (hamstring) – Rd 20-21: Dunamis Lui (knee) – season

**St George Illawarra**

- Euan Aitken (hamstring) – Rd 20; Kiti Glynin (shoulder), Drew Hutchison (knee), Siliva Havili (pectoral) – indefinite; Levi Dadd (knee) – season
TALL ORDER… The Raiders face a stern challenge trying to bring down second-placed St George Illawarra in the first time these two teams have met this season. The Green Machine will feel up for the challenge after they took down the Cowboys in Round 17. They had a number of strong performances in that game, including winger Komiti Tuilagi, who totalled 177 metres.

NEEDING TO FIRE… The Dragons’ traditional second-half fightback fell short against the Titans in Round 17 and they’ll be desperate for a win to maintain their top two position. Their interchange players could be the key to winning after Brayden Gallacher came off the bench to run 115 metres and make 28 tackles in their last game.

– SAM PASFIELD
## NRL Knights vs Broncos

### #NRLKnightsBroncos

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**Nathan ROSS** 1 Jordan KAHU 15 5 46*114

**Chanel MATA’UTIA** 2 Jamayne ISAAKO 0 0 0

**Dane GAGAI** 3 James ROBERTS 15 10 0 40

**Peter MATA’UTIA** 4 Tautau MOGA 16 4 0 16

**Brendan ELLIOT** 5 Jonus PEARSON 3 0 0 0

**Brock LAMB** 6 Benji MARSHALL 6 1 0 4

**Trent HODKINSON** 7 Ben HUNT 10 2 0 8

**Daniel SAIFITI** 8 Korbin SIMS 15 4 0 16

**Danny LEVI** 9 Andrew McCULLOUGH 15 2 0 8

**Josh KING** 10 Adam BLAIR (C) 16 0 0 0

**Sione MATA’UTIA (C)** 11 Sam THAIDAY 15 3 0 12

**Lachlan FITZGIBBON** 12 Matt GILLET 15 4 0 16

**Mitch BARNETT** 13 Josh McGUIRE 15 0 0 0

### INTERCHANGE

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**Jamie BUHRER (C)** 14 Alex GLENN 16 2 0 8

**Luke YATES** 15 Tevita PANGAI 10 0 0 0

**Joe WARDLE** 16 Joe OFAHENGUA 8 1 0 4

**Jacob SAIFITI** 17 Kodi NIKORIMA 10 4 0 16

### RESERVES

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**Sam STONE** 18 Salesi FUNAKI 0 0 0 0

**Jacob GAGAN** 19 Jai ARROW 6 0 0 0

**Tyler RANDELL** 20 Jaydn SU’A 2 0 0 0

**Mickey PAAE** 21 Anthony MILFORD 12 4 8*33

**Anthony MILFORD** 22 Marion SEVE 0 0 0 0

*Field Goals: J Kahu 2, A Milford 1

### PENALTIES

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### MATCH AVERAGES

### HEAD-TO-HEAD

### AT McDONALD JONES STADIUM

### WINNING FORM 2017

### PAST 8 CLASHES

### BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS

### NEXT CLASH

### CASELY HWARD

The Broncos have received an ‘additional player exemption’ due to high State of Origin representation in their squad.

The Broncos have received an ‘additional player exemption’ due to high State of Origin representation in their squad.

**Nathan BROWN** 1 Jordan KAHU 15 5 46*114

**Wayne BENNETT** 1 Jordan KAHU 15 5 46*114

**Nathan ROSS** 2 Jamayne ISAAKO 0 0 0

**Chanel MATA’UTIA** 3 James ROBERTS 15 10 0 40

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**Sam STONE** 18 Salesi FUNAKI 0 0 0 0

**Jacob GAGAN** 19 Jai ARROW 6 0 0 0

**Tyler RANDELL** 20 Jaydn SU’A 2 0 0 0

**Mickey PAAE** 21 Anthony MILFORD 12 4 8*33

**Anthony MILFORD** 22 Marion SEVE 0 0 0 0

*Field Goals: J Kahu 2, A Milford 1

## COACHES

Nathan BROWN Wayne BENNETT
Knights struggle to overcome disappointment

McDonald Jones Stadium
Saturday, 5.30pm

**Form:** The Knights were headed for a drought-breaking away victory last Sunday when they led the Bulldogs 18-6 with five minutes to play before things went away. The NRL’s youngest and most inexperienced outfit may take time to recover from such a gut-wrenching defeat. The Broncos’ form has fluctuated during the representative season but they remain well in touch with the top four and will relish the return of their stars this week.

**History:** It’s been virtual one-way traffic for the past 11 games between these clubs. The Broncos have chalked up nine wins to the Knights’ one, while a 2013 clash in Newcastle ended in an 18-all draw. Overall, the Broncos have won 32 of 36 clashes since 1988.

**Danger sign:** With three players involved in Origin III and several others injured, Broncos coach Wayne Bennett will view this game with some trepidation. The Broncos have piled on big scores in recent clashes against the Knights – a situation that could fuel complacency.

**Best Bet?** If the Broncos are switched on and prepared to work for 80 minutes the scoreboard could mount heavily in their favour. Look to a Brisbane win by 13+ points.

**Money-spinner:** Consider Nathan Ross, Taatua Moga or Jordan Kahu for First Tryscorer.

---

**HOLDEN CUP**

**DATE:** SATURDAY, JULY 15
**VENUE:** MCDOUGAL JONES
**KICK-OFF:** 1:15PM
**REFEREE:** DREW OULTRAM
**ASSISTANT REFEREE:** JAKE SUTHERLAND
**TOUCH JUDGES:** MITCHELL STONE & BEN TEAGUE
**FOX:** 1.10PM

**GAME THREE: Newcastle v Brisbane**

**STALEMATE WITH DOGS…** The Knights had a 28-all draw with Canterbury. Newcastle initially struggled to get past the Bulldogs’ forward pack but Sam McIntryre eventually barged through to open the scoring. He was over again minutes later before the Dogs caught up and took the lead, but the Knights managed to salvage a point through Hayden Loughrey.

**BRISBANE ON THE UP…** Having comfortably won their past two games, the Broncos will be charging at the bit to face Newcastle. A test against one of the front-runners will be a good test. Brisbane only conceded two penalties in their last game, but they’ll be relying on players like Herbie Farnworth to benefit from their discipline after he ran 101 metres from dummy half in their last game.

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**STATS**

**HEAD-TO-HEAD LEADERS**

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<td>James Roberts 137</td>
<td>Danny Levi 33</td>
<td>Dane Gagai 6</td>
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**FANTASY POINTS**

- Andrew McCullough 58.9
- Ben Hunt 49.0
- Matt Gillett 48.7
- Jamie Buhrer 48.4
- Josh McGuire 46.7

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SCRUMPENALTIES

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

ATTACK

MATCH AVERAGES

HEAD-TO-HEAD

AT CBUS SUPER STADIUM

WINNING FORM 2017

PAST 8 CLASHES

BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS

NEXT CLASH

CASUALTY WARD

COACHES

The Sharks have received an ‘additional player exemption’ due to high State of Origin representation in their squad.

Field Goals: J Maloney 3, C Townsend 1

#NRLTitansSharks

Jarryd HAYNE 1 Valentine HOLMES 13 3 2 16

Anthony DON 2 Sosaia FEKI 15 10 0 40

Dale COLEY 3 Jack BIRD 14 2 0 8

Konrad HURRELL 4 Ricky LEUTELE 16 6 0 24

William ZILLMAN 5 Gerard BEALE 12 4 0 16

Tyrone ROBERTS 6 James MALONEY 14 4 49*117

Ash TAYLOR 7 Chad TOWNSEND 16 3 2*17

Jarrod WALLACE 8 Andrew FIFITA 14 1 0 4

Nathan PEATS 9 Fa’amanu BROWN 4 0 0 0

Ryan JAMES (C) 10 Matt PRIOR 15 1 0 4

Kevin PROCTOR 11 Luke LEWIS 14 4 0 16

Joe GREENWOOD 12 Wade GRAHAM 14 4 0 16

Max KING 13 Paul GALLEN (C) 16 2 0 8

Pat POLITONI 14 Jayson BUKUYA 14 2 0 8

Morgan BOYLE 15 Chris HEIGHINGTON 15 0 0 0

Agnatius PAASI 16 Sam TAGATAESE 8 0 0 0

Nathaniel PETERU 17 Kurt CAPEWELL 9 2 0 8

Paterika VAIVAI 18 Joseph PAULO 10 0 0 0

John OLIVE 19 James SEGEYARO 3 1 0 4

Karl LAWTON 20 Jesse RAMIEN 0 0 0 0

Leivaha PULU 21 Jeremy LATIMORE 12 0 0 0

Jamal FOGARTY 22 Edrick LEE 5 2 0 8

Billy MAGOULIAS 23 0 0 0 0

The Sharks have received an ‘additional player exemption’ due to high State of Origin representation in their squad.

Field Goals: J Maloney 3, C Townsend 1

Shane FLANAGAN

Neil HENRY

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

PENALTIES

SCRUMS
Sharks’ Origin troops return for finals run

HOLDEN CUP

DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 15
VENUE: CBUS SUPER STADIUM
KICK-OFF: 5.15PM
REFEREE: DAN MUNROE
TOUCH JUDGES: JORDAN MOREL & ISAAC FREEMAN

TITANS V SHARKS

Tyronne ROBERTS-DAVIS 1
William KENNEDY

Jordan BIRCH 2
Sione KATOA

Phillip SAMI 3
Isaac LUMELUME

Daniel BROWNBILL 4
Joshua TUILAGI

Jake SPAREY 5
Johnathan TUFUGA

Ethan ROBERTS (C) 6
Jaeman SALMON

Alexander BRIMSON 7
Kyle FLANAGAN

Moeaki POTUAIA 8
Ryan KING

Corey MANICAROS 9
Blayke BRALEY

Justin FAI 10
Brock ILETT

Rory LILLIS 11
Briton NIKORA

Apiai NOEMA (C) 12
Tony MATAUTIA

Blake LENEHAN 13
Billy MAGOULIAS (C)

14 Zae WALLACE, 15 Luke
MASTROIANNI, 16 Keenan YORSTON
17 Kobe TARARO, 18 Darius FARMER
19 Bustyn HAKARAJA
20 Tre WILLIAMS, 21 Luke POLSON
22 Curtis DANSEY-SMALLER
23 Jack PEACOCK

14 Eddie FAALUA, 15 Zachary
FAULKNER, 16 Johnathan TUFUGA
17 Jackson FERRIS, 18 Lane
FERLING, 19 Besalel AUFAGA-TOOMAGA, 20 Daniel VASQUEZ
21 Luke METCALF, 22 Fine KULA
23 Kalani PEAHAINARI-CHARLIE

John MORRIS

SURVIVED THE SCARE… The Titans shut down the Dragons in Round 17. The home side’s attack was strong in the first 40, but they weren’t consistent in the second half and 11 errors, 21 missed tackles and a 46 per cent completion rate allowed for the Dragons to fight back until Daniel Brownbill crossed, sealing the victory for the Titans. Halfback AJ Brimson finished the night off with a double, one try-assist and five tackle-breaks.

FLYING HIGH… The table toppers enjoyed the week off after beating the Roosters in Round 17. The Sharks piled on points and kept the Roosters scoreless until the dying minutes of the first half. Skipper Billy Magoulias laid the platform for most of the Sharks’ attack, finishing the night off with 216 running metres and 38 tackles.

– KAMILIA HANNA

GAME FOUR: Gold Coast v Cronulla-Sutherland

CBUS Super Stadium Saturday, 7.30pm

Form: The Titans carried strong form into last weekend’s bye with successive victories over Wests Tigers and St George Illawarra that followed a run of four losses. The Sharks remain in the hunt for minor premiership honours but will face strong competition from the Storm and Roosters over the final eight rounds.

History: The Titans claimed the scalps of both last year’s grand finalists in a three-week period earlier in the season. Their 16-12 win over the Sharks at Southern Cross Group Stadium in Round 8 was arguably more impressive than their 38-36 defeat of the Storm on ‘neutral ground’ at Suncorp Stadium. Overall, the Sharks hold an 8-7 lead in head-to-head clashes with the Titans. Best Bet? Look to the Sharks to reverse the Round 8 result, while the Titans will be aiming for two wins in a season over Cronulla for the first time. Stick with a Sharks win by 1-12 points.

Money-spinner: First Trycorer contenders include Anthony Don, Sosaia Feki and Gerard Beale.

HEAD-TO-HEAD LEADERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Metres</th>
<th>Average Tackles</th>
<th>Line-Breaks</th>
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<tr>
<td>Valentine Holmes 180</td>
<td>Nathan Peats 42</td>
<td>Sosaia Feki 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Gallen 177</td>
<td>Jayden Brailey 37</td>
<td>Ricky Liu 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Fifita 153</td>
<td>Ryan James 36</td>
<td>Dale Copley 8</td>
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<td>Konrad Hurrell 149</td>
<td>Jarrod Wallace 34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jarrod Wallace 145</td>
<td>Paul Gallen 31</td>
<td>Wade Graham 8</td>
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FANTASY POINTS

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<tr>
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<td>Ryan James 47.4</td>
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<td>Jarrod Wallace 46.9</td>
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STATS

NFL 2017

Is gambling a problem for you? Call gambling help on 1800 858 858 or visit www.gamblinghelponline.org.au

INFOHUB

PRE-GAME ANALYSIS, BET TRACKER, MARKET FLUCTUATIONS.
DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 16  
VENUE: LOTTONLAND  
KICK-OFF: 2PM  
REFEREE: GERARD SUTTON  
ASSISTANT REFEREE: TIM ROBY  
TOUCH JUDGES: JASON WALSH & KASEY BADGER  
SENIOR REVIEW OFFICIAL: BERNARD SUTTON  
REVIEW OFFICIAL: BEN GALEA  
FOX LEAGUE: 1PM  
LIVE RADIO: ABC, 2GB

P  T  G PTS | #NRLManlyTigers | P  T  G PTS
---|---|---
14 8 0 32 | Tom TRBOJEVIC 1 | James TEDESCO 13 2 0 8
7 2 18 44 | Matthew WRIGHT 2 | David NOFOALUMA 16 5 0 20
16 10 28 96 | Dylan WALKER 3 | Esan MARSTERS 5 2 0 8
16 6 0 24 | Brian KELLY 4 | Moses SULI 16 2 0 8
15 10 0 40 | Akuka UATE 5 | Kevin NAIQAMA 16 6 0 24
16 3 0 12 | Blake GREEN 6 | Tuimoala LOLOHEA° 9 2 15 38
16 2 0° 10 | Daly CHERRY-EVANS (C) 7 | Luke BROOKS 10 2 0° 9
16 3 0 12 | Brenton LAWRENCE 8 | Aaron WOODS (C) 14 0 0 0
16 3 1 14 | Api KOROISAU 9 | Jacob LIDDLE 12 3 0 12
13 1 0 4 | Martin TAUPAU 10 | Ava SEUMANUFAGAI 15 2 0 8
16 1 0 4 | Frank WINTERSTEIN 11 | Chris LAWRENCE 11 1 0 4
2 0 0 0 | Shaun LANE 12 | Suaaso SUE 15 3 0 12
15 4 0 16 | Jake TRBOJEVIC 13 | Elijah TAYLOR 15 4 0 16

INTERCHANGE

2 0 0 0 | Cameron CULLEN 14 | Matt EISENHUTH 3 0 0 0
7 0 0 0 | Lloyd PERRETT 15 | Joel EDWARDS 8 0 0 0
5 0 0 0 | Darcy LUSSICK 16 | Michael CHEE KAM 16 1 0 4
14 0 0 0 | Addin FONUA-BLAKE 17 | Matt McILWRICK 16 2 0 8

RESERVES

1 0 0 0 | Jarrad KENNEDY 18 | Malakai WATENE-ZELEZNIAK* 6 2 0 8
0 0 0 0 | Jonathan WRIGHT 19 | Jack LITTLEJOHN 9 0 0 0
1 0 0 0 | Brad PARKER 20 | Kyle LOVETT 6 0 0 0
8 1 2 8 | Jackson HASTINGS 21 | Alex TWAL 1 0 0 0

*Field Goals: D Cherry-Evans 2  
°Played 4 games for Warriors  
*Played 1 game for Penrith

COACHES

Trent BARRETT  
Ivan CLEARY

SEA EAGLES  
TIGERS

Position (Points)| 4th (24) | 25th (12)
---|---|---
Points For | 368 | 251
Points Against | 293 | 408

ATTACK

Tries | 67 | 41
Completions | 78% | 75%
Tries 0-20m | 32 | 29
Tries 21-50m | 17 | 8
Tries 51-100m | 10 | 3

DEFENCE

Tries | 48 | 74
Tries 0-20m | 29 | 31
Tries 21-50m | 7 | 22
Tries 51-100m | 6 | 10

MATCH AVERAGES

Tries Scored | 4 | 3
Tries Conceded | 3 | 3
Points Scored | 23 | 16
Points Conceded | 18 | 26
Hit Ups/Runs | 165 | 173
Tackles | 293 | 323
Metres Gained | 1566 | 1568
Handling Errors | 3 | 4
Offloads | 11 | 11
Line-breaks | 5 | 3
Gaglucking | 66% | 60%

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played 23, Manly 14, Wests Tigers 9

AT LOTTONLAND

Played 6, Manly 7, Wests Tigers 1

WINNING FORM 2017

WESTS TIGERS: W L W L W L W L W L W L W L W L W L
WIEAGLES: W W W L W W W W W W W W

PAST 5 CLASHES

2016 – WESTS TIGERS D, MANLY 36-22 at Leichhardt Oval
2015 – MANLY D, WESTS TIGERS 30-20 at Brookvale Oval
2014 – MANLY D, WESTS TIGERS 40-8 at Brookvale Oval;
WESTS TIGERS D, MANLY 34-18 at Leichhardt Oval
2013 – MANLY D, WESTS TIGERS 36-18 at Campbelltown Stadium
2012 – MANLY D, WESTS TIGERS 22-18 at Bluetongue Stadium
2011 – WESTS TIGERS D, MANLY 14-12 at Bluetongue Stadium

BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS

MANLY D, WESTS TIGERS 48-18 at ANZ Stadium, 2008;
MANLY D, WESTS TIGERS 40-8 at Brookvale Oval, 2014
WESTS TIGERS D, MANLY 38-12 at Brookvale Oval, 2003

NEXT CLASH

MANLY v St George Illawarra at WIN, 2pm Sunday July 23
WESTS TIGERS v Parramatta at ANZ, 4pm Sunday July 23

CASUALTY WARD

MANLY: Lewis Brown (knee) – Rd 21; Curtis Sironen (pectoral) – Rd 26; Jorge Taufua (knee) – season
WESTS TIGERS: Tim Grant (hamstring) – Rd 20; Josh Aloiai (knee) – indefinite; Jamal Idris (ACL) – season

50 BIG LEAGUE 2017 Round 19
NRL Preview

Sea Eagles continue top four assault

Lottoland Sunday, 2pm

**Form:** The Sea Eagles will be keen to erase the memory of last weekend’s 18-6 loss to the Panthers that ended a five-game winning streak. Manly were forced to contend with a 14-4 penalty deficit and spent much of the contest defending their own line. Wests Tigers broke a record-equalling seven-game losing streak when they accounted for the Knights 33-12 before last week’s bye.

**History:** Manly have won seven of their past 10 games against Wests Tigers and they’ve also strung together a run of seven straight wins against the Tigers at Lottoland. In fact, Wests Tigers have not won at the Brookvale venue since the first encounter between the clubs in 2003. The Tigers won last year’s only clash at Leichhardt Oval.

**Danger sign:** Halfback Daly Cherry-Evans has been at the centre of plenty of State of Origin discussions over the past month and his form for Manly has been superlative. He has been the key figure in the Sea Eagles’ assault to the top four this season and will be the major focus of the Tigers’ defensive plans this week.

**Best Bet?** The Sea Eagles are expected to build on their imposing record over the Tigers at Lottoland and could compile a sizable winning margin.

**Money-spinner:** Players to consider for First Trycorer include Akuila Uate, Dylan Walker and David Nolofoaluma.

---

**GAME FIVE: Manly v Wests Tigers**

**DATE:** Sunday, July 16
**VENUE:** Lottoland
**KICK-OFF:** 11.45AM
**REFEREE:** Wyatt Raymond
**TOUCH JUDGES:** Tian Nickolls & Josh McGowan

**STATS**

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<td>Martin Taupau</td>
<td>Api Koroisau</td>
<td>Akui Uate</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Nolofoaluma</td>
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<td>Elijah Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jorge Taufua</td>
<td>Jacob Liddle</td>
<td>Brian Kelly</td>
<td>Daly Cherry-Evans</td>
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**HEAD-TO-HEAD LEADERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHAUN LANE</th>
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EAGLES SOARING... Manly are just outside the top four after their victory against the Panthers. The Sea Eagles couldn’t have asked for a better start after Jade Andrews crossed early and it was quickly followed by a try by Alfred Smalley. Manly didn’t see the tryline again until the final 10 minutes of the game, when Blake Andrews scored his second try of the night.

LOSING IT LATE... Wests Tigers will have used the week off to improve from their heartbreaking Round 17 loss to the Knights. It was 18-all late in the second half but the Knights’ attack broke the Wests Tigers defensive line to cross twice in seven minutes and steal the result. Winger Liam Pakau finished with one try and five tackle-breaks on his way to 169 metres, while back-rower Royce Tout made 156 metres and 26 tackles. — KAMILIA HANNA
The Cowboys have received an 'additional player exemption' due to high State of Origin representation in their squad.
NRL Preview

Cowboys battle the odds

Barlow Park, Cairns
Sunday, 4pm

Form: Wins have been hard to come by for the Rabbitohs this season and they find themselves in a desperate situation with the finals only nine weeks away. They must win six of their final eight regular season games, but even then a place in the play-offs isn’t guaranteed. The Cowboys continue to shape well despite an injury situation that would have crippled most NRL clubs. They’ve won four of their past five games during the representative period and have continued to find a way to win without Johnathan Thurston and Matt Scott.

History: The Cowboys have won seven of the past eight games between these clubs and they lead the overall head-to-head count by 16 wins to 14. In last year’s clash in Cairns, the Cowboys ‘stole’ home ground advantage from Souths with majority crowd support and turned it into a 20-0 victory.

Danger sign: The duel between world-class lock forwards Sam Burgess and Jason Taumalolo should be compulsory viewing this Sunday afternoon and the outcome could have a major influence over the result. The Cowboys will be at a disadvantage with three players involved in Origin III and other big names sidelined through injury.

Best Bet? Stick with the Cowboys to claim the win but expect a narrow margin.

Money-spinner: Candidates for First Tryscoror include Alex Johnston, Kyle Feldt and Antonio Winterstein.

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<td>Sam Burgess</td>
<td>Alex Johnston</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Burgess</td>
<td>Gavin Cooper</td>
<td>Cody Walker</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalyn Ponga</td>
<td>Scott Bolton</td>
<td>Angus Crichton</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethan Lowe</td>
<td>Ethan Lowe</td>
<td>Kalyn Ponga</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Bolton</td>
<td>Angus Crichton</td>
<td>Ko Hing</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethan Lowe</td>
<td>Ethan Lowe</td>
<td>Kalyn Ponga</td>
<td>52.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
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SHARING THE SPOILS...

The Rabbitohs looked to have their Round 18 game won before two late tries by the Roosters saw them steal a draw. South Sydney’s final try came from Jordan Mailata who gave his team a comfortable lead until the Chooks bounced back. Mawene Hiroti finished with one try and a try assist, while half Dean Hawkins scored a double.

TIME TO BOUNCE BACK...

The Cowboys will be looking to improve following their Round 17 loss to the Raiders. The Cowboys only scored four points in the first half. Coming back from the break the Cowboys had multiple opportunities to score points from the Raiders penalties and errors but were unable to capitalise. Kurt Wiltshire finished with one try, three tackle-breaks and 146 metres.

– KAMILIA HANNA

TALKIN’ SPORT

Hosted by Graeme Hughes and featuring Gavin Robertson, Brett Papworth and Peter Tunks, Talkin’ Sport covers the major rugby league and sport stories every weekday from 3-7pm.

Covering Sydney, NSW and south-east Queensland.
Review: Penrith put competition on notice

BY SAM PASFIELD

The Panthers enjoyed a huge win, putting 54 unanswered points on Blacktown. It didn’t take the home team long to capitalise when Christian Crichton was on the end of a cut-out pass in the first two minutes. The scoring didn’t stop until the 74th minute when Jarome Luai bagged his second thanks to some slick footwork. The victory ensures the Panthers a spot in the top three.

 Wentworthville defeated a struggling Jets outfit to keep themselves in finals contention. Newtown dominated at first, but the Magpies came out firing in the second half when Honeti Tuha ran 96 metres to score.

A barnstorming Newcastle scored a crucial victory over Canterbury. Both teams hammered each other until Thomas Cronan beat the Bulldogs defenders to the ball in the in-goal to grab the first points of the afternoon. North Sydney had a solid upset win over Wyong.

PHOTOS: Nathan Hopkins/NRLPhotos.com (Phillips); Peter Lorimer (Feeney)
**TOWNSVILLE v NTHN PRIDE**

Carlin ANDERSON 1 Kieran GROGAN-HAYES
Ty CARUCCI 2 Shawn BOWEN
Jordan DREW 3 Javid BOWEN
Dave CRAMPTON 4 Bradley STEPHEN
Jonathan REUBEN 5 Marcus JENSEN
Kyle LAYBUT 6 Jordan BIONDI-OOD
Michael PARKER-WALSH 7 Ryan GHETTI (C)
Oshae TUAUSA 22/8 Sheldon POWE-HOBB
Anthony MITCHELL (C) 9 Connor JONES
Sione LOUISI 10 Darryn SCHONIG
Blake LEARY 11 Nathan WALES
Andrew NIEMOELLER 12 Graham CLARK
Jordan KENWORTHY 13 Patrick MAGO
14 Kierran MOSELEY 14 Colin WILKIE, 15 Troy KAPA
15 Francis MOLO 15 Chad FORD
16 Roso BELLA 16 Roso BELLA
17 Temone POWER 18 Gideon GELA-MOSBY
19 Jared ALLEN 20 Jared ALLEN
Kristian WOOLF 23 Ty WILLIAMS

**MACKAY v CQ CAPRAS**

Jack JOASS 1 Tony TUMUSA
Yamba BOWIE 2 Ken TOFLAU
Semisi TYRELL 3 Junior KIRISOMO
Kellen JENNEN 4 Nathan BASSANI
Johnny FALETAGAOA 15 Chanel SEIGAFO
Nicho HYNES 6 Reece BAKER
Cooper BAMBLING 7 Jack MADDEN
Bradan UDELE 8 Jack KAVANAGH
Aaron BOOTH 9 Krys FREEMAN
Nicholas BROWN 10 Oliver PERCY
Andrew DAVEY 11 Phil HILTON
Sateimata SA 12 Guy WILLIAMS (C)
Thomas MURPHY 13 Gavin HISCOX (C)
14 Lona KAFOTI 14 Mapale MOSEAU
15 Bennett LESLIE, 16 Kaniu SAMSON
17 Jonathon FEDOA/TAI-TAI FETUAN
18 Nathan SAUMALL
19 Blake AHERTON 20 Nathan YOUNG, 20 Phil NATI

**REDCLIFFE v WYNNUM MANLY**

Zach STRASSER 1 Daniel OGDEN
Joshua BEEHAG 2 Peter GUBB
Thompson TETE 3 Jeriah GOODRICH
Tom OPACIC 4 Alex BARR
Curtis JOHNSTON 5 Jack GOODSELL
Tyson GAMBLE 6 Paera KEMP
Jack AHEARN 7 William BRIMSON
Tyson CLEAL 15/8 Aaron ROCKLEY
Sheldon PITAMA 9 John TE RIO
Matthew LODGE 10 Noarima PITA
Daniel BRIDGE 11 Salesi FUNAKI
Troy GIESS 12 Max ELLIOTT
Sam ANDERSON (C) 13 Mitch FREI (C)
8 Nick SLYNEY 14 Hayden CROWLEY
16 Nathan WAITS 15 Sheldon LEAFU
17 Tanu MILU 17 Adam TUMWAWE-GERRARD
Adam MOGG 18 Adam BRIDGES

**NTHS DEVILS v STHS LOGAN**

Javarn WHITE 1 David Pritchard
Michael LUCAS 2 Cameron BOOTH
Delouise HOETER 3 Lenny MASEY
Luke POLLOCK 4 Scott DOYLE
Dane CHANG 5 Luke ARCHER
Haydn LIPP 6 Matt MINTO
Gary RICCARDI 7 Sam SCARLETT
Darcy MAROSKE 8 George FAI
Billy BRITTAIN 9 Travis WADDELL
Sione PALAVI 10 Sam LAVE
David FAAMATA 11 Simione FATAFEHI
Matiu LOVE-HENRY 12 Leon RAPANA
Ari KIAIJOSE 13 Joe BOYCE
Jai ARROW 14 Jordan SCOTT
15 Dalton PHILLIPS 15 Phil DENNIS (C)
16 Tama KOOPU 16 AJ TUMWAWE
17 Jarrod DODD 18 Rhys MELVILLE, 18 Brendon GBB
19 Jack ANDERSON 19 Jon BUTCHER

**TEWED HEADS v BURLEIGH**

Phoenix HUNAPO 1 Kurtis ROWE
Brayden McGRADY 2 Jake CARL
James WOOD 3 Sami SAULIUMA
John OLIVE 4 Connor BROADHURST
Peter LEE 5 Troy LED
Lindon McGRADY 6 Dallas WELLS
Michael BURGESS 7 Jamal FOGARTY
Carne DOYLE-MANGA 8 Luke PAGE
Samuel MESSKEL 9 Quinn Lagi
Ben NAKUBUWA 10 Matt WHITE
Lamar MANUEL-LIOEVANE 11 Hayden SCHWASS
Eddy PETTYBOURNE 12/12 Dylan KELLY
Keegan HIRGAPE 13 Sam COSTER
12 Nicholas HARROLD 14 Jai MALCOLM
13 Tristan LUMLEY 15 Christopher LAW
14 John OLIVE 15 Connor BROADHURST
15 John OLIVE 16 Darren GRIFFITHS
16 William JOHNSTONE 17 Lorenzo MA-AFU

**EASTS TIGERS v IPSWICH**

Gerard McCALLUM 1 Wes CONLON
Linc PORT 2 Michael PURCELL
Shane NEUMANN 3 Marion SEVE
Conor CAREY 4 Neman VALJAKA
Jarrod McNALLY 5 Richard PANDIA
Billy WALTERS 6 Chris ASH
Brayden TORPY 7 Daniel PHILLIPS (C)
Robbie ROCHOW 8 Mitch CARPENTER
Tommy BUTTERFIELD 9 Luke CAPELL
Matt ZGRAJEWSKI 10 Nat NEALE
Jake FOSTER (C) 11/22 Jesse ROBERTS
Adam CREAR 12 Seb PANDIA
Jack SVENSDEN 13/22 Tysen LIFOPO
14 Scott TURSI 15 Sam MARTIN
15 Charlie GALD, 16 Mat RMAN
17 Young TOMMAFABI 17 Lachlan ROE
18 James SALTER 18 Huskie TEATU
19 Tahka VILEAL, 20 Luke LAVELLE
20 Luke LAVELLE 21 Josh SEAGUE

**WEEKEND REVIEW**

Falcons leap over Dolphins as Jets stay airborne

*By Sam Pasfield*

IPSwich are still in finals contention after a win over Souths Logan. Michael Purcell got his team home after notching a double. Wynnum Manly had a crucial victory over CQ Capras that keeps them on a climb up the ladder. Salesi Funaki claimed a hat-trick, while team-mates Paora Kemp had a perfect day with the boot, slotting six from six.

Easts Tigers enjoyed a big win over Mackay, with Jarrod McIlroney claiming a penalty goal on the full-time buzzer. Second-placed Sunshine Coast defeated third-placed Redcliffe after Guy Hamilton successfully converted three penalty goals.

**Easts Tigers 24** (G McCullum 2, S Neumann, T Butterfield, L Port, J McNally tries; B Terry 3, B Walters, McNally goals) **D. MACKAY 10** (V Haynes, L Kalido tries, J Jones goal, **Sunshine Coast 24** (A Goshop, S Lewis, J Glam, L Ballinger tries, C Hamilton 6 goals) **D. REDCLIFFE 24** (T Gamble, S Anderson, J Beepah, N Shiny tries; Gamble 4 goals) **NORTHS DEVELS 30** (J Arrow, M Love-Henry, H Hoeter, J Dod goals, H Loopy goals) **D. NORTHERN PRO 14** (S Funaki 3, J Goodrich, B Swan, L Jones tries, S Smith-Roys goal) **WYNNUM MANLY 30** (S Funaki 3, J Goodrich, B Swan, L Jones tries, S Smith-Roys goal) **D. Q CAPRAS 16** (A Toftau, V Harajffy, C Sargado, M Mcilroney tries, T Tumua goal, **IPSwich 30** (M Purcell, 2 L Lofton, C Ash, S Martin tries, W Colton 5 goals) **D. SOUTHS LOGAN 22** (H Ese’ese, T Waddell, 2 Fai, S Scarlett tries, J Isako 3 goals) **PNG 20** (B Paul, A Boas, B Moa, W Boase tries, A Boas 2 goals, **Burleigh 12** (P Fraser, M White tries, J Fogarty 2 goals).
**NSF Women's Premiership**


**Score**

15 Jordan Latham, 14 Christopher Ve'e, 16 Mathew Rickard, 17 Caleb Mitch Stanfield (C)

**Review**

Auburn's upstart Hills District, the Bulls led three tries to two against the better finished by Cabramatta, wishing to win the try. Cabramatta went down to leaders St Marys and with a manaia Rudolphs scoring try.

**Score**

13/19 - 56 Big League 2017 Round 19

**Wentworthville Wests**

Joshua Minchinick 1, Morgan Farrell 1

**Wollongong Sirens**

Danny Barakat 1, Tom Carpenter 1

**Sydney Roosters**

James Gammidge 1, Veiru Mapesone 1

**New Zealand Warriors**

Ethan Tangira 1, Joshua Davis 1

**Canterbury Bulldogs**

Jordan Martin 1, Talai Mapesone 1

**Saint George Illawarra**

Jake Rafferty-Buffield 1, Blake Goodman 1

**Canterbury Bulldogs**

Jared De Luis 1, takeaway 1

Joshua Tanganui 1, Luke Williams 1

**Canterbury Bulldogs**

Taniela Lasalo 1, Temata Rangi 1

**Canterbury Bulldogs**

Blake Cook 1, Kurt Atkinson 1

**Canterbury Bulldogs**

Rhys Armstrong 12/13, Thomas Morrison 1

**Canterbury Bulldogs**

Mitch Stanfield 13/19, Kifli Tia Kifli 1

**Canterbury Bulldogs**

Chris Yates 1, Nathan Waters 1

**NSW Country**

Northern Rivers: Round 13


Points: Ballina 23, Marist Bros 20, Casino 19, Tweed Coast 17, Cudgen 16, Evans Head 14, Murwillumbah 13, Kyogle 8, Mullumbimby 8, Byron Bay 7, Lower Clarence 6.

**Group 2**

Grafton 54 d. Macksville 18, Orara Valley 30 d. Bellingen 26, Coffs Harbour 30 d. Woolgoolga 12, South Grafton 22.

**Groups**

Taree 30 d. Wingham 22, Port City 20 d. Macleay Valley 14, Old Bar 54 d. Forster Tuncurry 16, Port Macquarie 50 d. Wauchope 10.

Points: Port City 53, Macleay Valley 25, Taree 24, Port Macquarie 22, Wingham 21, Old Bar 17, Wauchope 12, Forster Tuncurry 12.

**Group 4**

Collegian Warriors 32 d. Wee Waa 26, Gundagah 50 d. Narrabri 22, North Tamworth 90 d. South West 0.

Points: North Tamworth 18, Gundagah 16, Narrabri 14, 17, Helensburgh 7, Corrimal 7, Berkeley 4.

**Group 7**

Illawarra: Round 10


Points: Collegians 18, Dapto 16, Thirroul 14, Western Suburbs 12, Helensburgh 7, Corrimal 7, Berkeley 4.

**Group 8**


Points: Picton 16, Thirroul 12, City Roos 12, Mittagong 11, The Oaks 10, Camden 9, Narran 5, Oakdale 3.

**Group 9**


Points: Shellharbour Sharks 22, Jammers 20, Gerringong 20, Kiama 20, Warilla Lake South 17, Nowra Bomaderry 14, Port Kembla 13, Albion Park-Oak Flats 10, Milton Ulladulla 8, Stingers 6, Berry Shoaibown 6.

**Group 10**


Points: Blues 26, Roos 22, Yass 17, Tuggeranong 15, West Belconnen 14, Woden Valley 12, Goulburn 12, Gundagah 8, Belconnen Utd 4.
**Brisbane Rugby League:**

**Round 15**

**LOGAN BROTHERS** (E. Cummins, K. Saitaua, L. Maga, D. Sims, L. Panapa, J. Anderson tries; L. Waddup 3 goals)

**D. EASTS TIGERS** (M. Pouliou, L. Eila-Niukore, D. McKenna tries; B. Downey 2 goals)

**VALLEYS** (A. Lancaster, D. Smith, T. Collier, J. Morris 2 goals, P. Karmel 2)

**WYNNUM MANLY** (M. Embsy, S. Ahfaji, A. Clayton, B. Crompton, B. Bowie, M. Buckett tries; Ebsny 4 goals)

**DISPITCH** (B. Mosby, H. Sedger tries; M. Detie 2 goals).


**Brisbane Second Division**

Premier: Brisbane 34. 38, Caloundra 34, West Brisbane 34, Woodford 48 46, Aspley 46. Wynnum Juniors 34, Carina 22, Normanby 24, Logan Brothers 22.


Northside 1: Brothers Juniors 50 22, Murri Taipans 16, West Arana Hills 44 12, Valleys 44 22, Dayboro 22 2, St Josephs 18, Pine Central Holy Spirit 38 12, Pine Rivers 12, Brisbane Natives 20 12, Mitchellton 10.


Northside 2: Banyo 64 14, Bright 61 14, Northside 48 14, Brothers Juniors 48 24, Aspley 48 12, Woodford 47 22, Logan Brothers 40 18, Mitchellton 26 22.


Northside 3: St Josephs 22 14, Mitchellton 18, Valleys 18, Northside 16 14, Exmouth 14, Northside 12 12, Brothers Juniors 10, Aspley 10, Woodford 8 12, Mitchellton 8 8.

Points: Normandy 39, Banyo 38, Northlakes 36, Samford 36, Brothers Juniors 30 18, Aspley 30 22, Bright 30 12, Mitchellton 24 24, Brisbane 22 22, Brisbane 22 22.


Southside 1: Sunshine 10 12, Sunshine 9 12, Sunshine 8 8, Sunshine 7 7, Sunshine 6 6, Sunshine 5 5, Sunshine 4 4, Sunshine 3 3, Sunshine 2 2, Sunshine 1 1.

Points: Sunshine 9, Sunshine 8, Sunshine 7, Sunshine 6, Sunshine 5, Sunshine 4, Sunshine 3, Sunshine 2, Sunshine 1, Sunshine 0.

Golden Point: Sunshine 2.

**OQM TEAM POINTS**

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**OQL OLD COUNTRY**

Fogg Colts Challenge: Round 9

**REDCLIFFE** (B. Partridge T. Fuller, C. Daniels, T. Hope; Partridge 3, B. Barns goals)

**SUNSHINE COAST 20** (B. Forre-Herbert 2, S. Finau, M. Davis tries; B. Cooper, L. Taylor 2 goals, EASTS TIGERS 2)

**ATHLETIC BURLEIGH** (B. Teven 2, M. Newham, A. Piccock, L. Foulis 2, N. Brown 2 goals, NORTH. DEVILS 2)

**AGRICOLUS** (B. Galleigos 2, R. Gimby 2, M. Molo 2 goals; B. Hartwig 2 goals)

**SOUTHS LOGAN** (B. Frith, A. White, T. Raore, E. Tuti, H. Pritchard, D. Hemop, C. Mack tries; Frith 4 goals, D. IPSWICH 4)

**RAINBOWS** (B. Ippu 2, S. Hinds 2 tries; A. Elder 4 goals, WESTERN MUSTANGS 2)

**TWEED HEADS** (T. Williams 3, J. Contani 2, J. Paolino 2, B. Hakaraia, J. Rice tries; B. Gill 3 goals, D. WYNNUM MANLY 2)

**RUNAWAY BAY** (B. Keenan, S. Ballinger, B. Laker, B. Quinn 2, S. Smith 2 goals, BURLEIGH 2)

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**Brisbane Rugby League:**

**Round 15**

**LOGAN BROTHERS** (E. Cummins, K. Saitaua, L. Maga, D. Sims, L. Panapa, J. Anderson tries; L. Waddup 3 goals)

**D. EASTS TIGERS** (M. Pouliou, L. Eila-Niukore, D. McKenna tries; B. Downey 2 goals)

**VALLEYS** (A. Lancaster, D. Smith, T. Collier, J. Morris 2 goals, P. Karmel 2)

**WYNNUM MANLY** (M. Embsy, S. Ahfaji, A. Clayton, B. Crompton, B. Bowie, M. Buckett tries; Ebsny 4 goals)

**DISPITCH** (B. Mosby, H. Sedger tries; M. Detie 2 goals).


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**Gold Coast Tweed:**

Round 11


Points: Burleigh 33, Runaway Bay 27, Tweed Heads 25, Tugun 24, Currimundi 21, Bilambil 19, Southport 16, Ormeau 11.

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**Toowoomba:**

Round 14


Points: Dalby 22, Valleys 22, Pittsworth 18, Highfields 18, Wollies 14, Gatton 14, Souths 12, Warwick 12, Brothers 4, Oakley 2, Goodwindi 2.

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**Brisbane Rugby League:**

**Round 15**

**LOGAN BROTHERS** (E. Cummins, K. Saitaua, L. Maga, D. Sims, L. Panapa, J. Anderson tries; L. Waddup 3 goals)

**D. EASTS TIGERS** (M. Pouliou, L. Eila-Niukore, D. McKenna tries; B. Downey 2 goals)

**VALLEYS** (A. Lancaster, D. Smith, T. Collier, J. Morris 2 goals, P. Karmel 2)

**WYNNUM MANLY** (M. Embsy, S. Ahfaji, A. Clayton, B. Crompton, B. Bowie, M. Buckett tries; Ebsny 4 goals)

**DISPITCH** (B. Mosby, H. Sedger tries; M. Detie 2 goals).


---

**Ipswich:**

Round 15

West End 38 d. Cobras 32, Fassifern 44 d. Brothers 10, Norths 16 drew Swifts 16.

CROWDS
ROOSTERS VS RABBITHS
16,245
PANTHERS VS EAGLES
14,685
STORM VS EELS
13,503
BULLDOGS VS NINES
13,123
TOTAL
57,586
AVERAGE PER GAME
14,392
YEAR TO DATE TOTAL
1,060,018
AVERAGE PER GAME
15,007

CLUB HOME AVERAGES
BRISBANE BRONCOS
32,084
SYDNEY ROOSTERS
18,406
MELBOURNE STORM
10,283
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS
17,732
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS
17,227
CANBERRA RAIDERS
14,846
PARRAMATTA EELS
14,800
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS
14,743
GOLD COAST TITANS
13,226
CROSSLANDS-SUTHERLAND SHARKS
12,711
PENRITH PANTHERS
12,663
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS
12,553
WESTS TIGERS
12,491
WARRIORS
12,336
SYDNEY SOUTH WEST RABBITHS
12,006
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS
10,749
MELBOURNE STORM
10,639
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS
10,629
GOLD COAST TITANS
10,509
CROSSLANDS-SUTHERLAND SHARKS
10,507
GOLD COAST TITANS
10,491
COMPLETION %
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS
89%
NOVA SCOTIA DRAGONS
89%
PARRAMATTA EELS
89%
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS
89%
GOLD COAST TITANS
89%
CROSSLANDS-SUTHERLAND SHARKS
89%
PENRITH PANTHERS
89%
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS
89%
WESTS TIGERS
89%
WARRIORS
89%
SYDNEY SOUTH WEST RABBITHS
89%
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS
89%
MELBOURNE STORM
89%
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS
89%
GOLD COAST TITANS
89%
CROSSLANDS-SUTHERLAND SHARKS
89%
GOLD COAST TITANS
89%
COMPLETED SETS
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS
498
MELBOURNE STORM
497
ROOSTERS v RABBITHS
SYDNEY ROOSTERS 14 (Joseph Manu 19', Aidan Guerra 61' tries, Michael Gordon 3 goals) D. SOUTH
SYDNEY 12 (Robbie Farah 50', Bryson Goodwin 67' tries, Adam Reynolds 2 goals)
Half-time: Sydney Roosters 8-0
Crowd: 16,245
Scorers: Sydney Roosters 9-7
Penalties: Sydney Roosters 8-7
Sin Bin: Nil
Sent Off: Nil
Referee: Ashley Klein
Assistant Referees: Dave Munro
Touch Judges: Nick Beahan, Jason Walsh
Goalkickers: Michael Gordon (Roosters) 3 from 3, Adam Reynolds (Rabbits) 2 from 2
Completion Rates: Sydney Roosters 29/38, South Sydney 29/37
Big 3: 3 Friend, 2 Werras-Hargreaves, 1 Crichton - B L

TOP TRYSCORERS
ALTZ JOHNSTON (RABBITHS)
15
JORDAN RANNA (RAIDERS)
14
SILASI VUNIVALU (STORM)
14
JOSH ADDO-CARR (STORM)
13
AKERA DAVE (EAGLES)
10
CLINT GUTHHERSON (EELS)
10
OZEN MESZ (COWBOYS)
10
DYLAN WALLER (SEA EAGLES)
10
JAMES ROBERTS (BRONCOS)
10
NATHAN ROSS (KNIGHTS)
10
MATT COTIER (RAIDERS)
10
SEAN RABBATTA (EELS)
10
SOSIA FEKI (SHARKS)
10

TOP TACKLERS
JACK FRIARS (ROOSTERS)
750
ANDREW MCGILLIGUCH (BRONCOS)
750
ELIAN TAYLOR (WESTS TIGERS)
670
AIDEN TOLMAN (BULLDOGS)
664
API KOROSA (SEA EAGLES)
572
SIMON MANNSRING (COWBOYS)
572
FELIX KAUFMANN (STORM)
572
MASON LICHNSKI (BULLDOGS)
572
RYAN JAMES (TITAN)
572
KEVAN PINTO (EELS)
564

MOST HIT-UPS/RUNS
PAUL GILLIN (SHARKS)
303
ROGER TUNSA-SHEK (WARRIORS)
285
DAVID NOGALAMA (WESTS TIGERS)
282
AIDEN TOLMAN (BULLDOGS)
277
JASON TAUAMALO (COWBOYS)
264
KEN MUILOMA (SHARKS)
263
AIDEN TOLMAN (BULLDOGS)
257
JORDAN RANNA (RAIDERS)
255
TOM TUR-directed (SEA EAGLES)
253
SAM BURGESS (RAIDERS)
252
MATT O'CONNOR (TITAN)
250

MOST OFFLOADS
MARTIN TALHAU (SEA EAGLES)
53
TIM LAFER (DRAGONS)
45
DAVID NOGALAMA (WESTS TIGERS)
41
ANDREW FIPITA (SHARKS)
34
JACK D'ADRO (TITAN)
31
BRENDAN LEE (BULLDOGS)
30
MICAH TURBLOSTON (DRAGONS)
30
NATHAN BROWN (EELS)
29
PAUL GILLIN (SHARKS)
28
TRENT MERRIN (PANTHERS)
29
### TOP LINE-BREAK ASSISTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daly Cherry Evans (Sea Eagles)</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Keary (Roosters)</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Reynolds (Roosters)</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Cleary (Parramatta)</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad Townsend (Sharks)</td>
<td>167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corey Norman (Eels)</td>
<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitch Moses (Eels)</td>
<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle Flanagan (Dragons)</td>
<td>139</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billy Slater (Tigers)</td>
<td>137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooper Cronk (Storm)</td>
<td>129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latrell Mitchell (Roosters)</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Pearce (Roosters)</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbie Farah (Rabbits)</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### KICKS IN PLAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shaun Johnson (Warriors)</td>
<td>223</td>
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<td>Mitchell Pearce (Roosters)</td>
<td>182</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Reynolds (Roosters)</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Cleary (Parramatta)</td>
<td>170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad Townsend (Sharks)</td>
<td>167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corey Norman (Eels)</td>
<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitch Moses (Eels)</td>
<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle Flanagan (Dragons)</td>
<td>139</td>
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<tr>
<td>Billy Slater (Tigers)</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper Cronk (Storm)</td>
<td>129</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latrell Mitchell (Roosters)</td>
<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitchell Pearce (Roosters)</td>
<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robbie Farah (Rabbits)</td>
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### 40/20 KICKS THIS SEASON

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameron Smith (Storm)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Taylor (Titans)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake Green (Sea Eagles)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corey Norman (Eels)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daly Cherry Evans (Sea Eagles)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Reynolds (Roosters)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Hunt (Briscoes)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brock Lamb (Knights)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameron King (Eels)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooper Cronk (Storm)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dylan Phythian (Knights)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake Friend (Roosters)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Maloney (Warriors)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kieran Foran (Warriors)</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>

### TOP TURNOVER TACKLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angus Crichton (Rabbits)</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daly Cherry Evans (Sea Eagles)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Taylor (Titans)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gavin Cooper (Cowboys)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Naiqama (Wests Tigers)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sutton (Cowboys)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Nofoaluma (Wests Tigers)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dylan Walker (Sea Eagles)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Bird (Knights)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Dugan (Dragons)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Burgess (Rabbits)</td>
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### TOP DUMMY-HALF RUNNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issac Luke (Warriors)</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan Rapana (Rabbits)</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron Smith (Storm)</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rene Fair occult (Dragons)</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny Levi (Knights)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Dugan (Dragons)</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Nofoaluma (Wests Tigers)</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew McCullough (Briscoes)</td>
<td>39</td>
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### MOST INTERCEPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Maloney (Warriors)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Addo-Carr (Cowboys)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Keary (Roosters)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Cotric (Rabbits)</td>
<td>3</td>
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### MOST CHARGE DOWNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moses Mbye (Briscoes)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Hoffman (Warriors)</td>
<td>3</td>
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### MOST TACKLE BREAKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Rapana (Warriors)</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Tedesco (Wests Tigers)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Cotric (Rabbits)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darcy Haley (Knights)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Nofoaluma (Wests Tigers)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angus Crichton (Rabbits)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh Dugan (Dragons)</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joey Leilua (Rabbits)</td>
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### MOST DECAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cavin Cooper (Cowboys)</td>
<td>126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aidan Tolman (Bulldogs)</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trent Merrin (Panthers)</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale Finucane (Storm)</td>
<td>114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan James (Titans)</td>
<td>112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Burgess (Rabbits)</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh McGuire (Broncos)</td>
<td>100</td>
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### MOST SUPPORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chad Townsend (Sharks)</td>
<td>499</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan Cleary (Parramatta)</td>
<td>498</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Keary (Roosters)</td>
<td>487</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daly Cherry Evans (Sea Eagles)</td>
<td>382</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Gordon (Broncos)</td>
<td>346</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh McGuire (Kangaroos)</td>
<td>318</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clint Gutherson (Eels)</td>
<td>280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cody Walker (Bulldogs)</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Addo-Carr (Cowboys)</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Cleary (Parramatta)</td>
<td>257</td>
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</table>

### MOST RECEIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Tackle Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameron Munroe (Dragons)</td>
<td>1,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Knights)</td>
<td>1,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew McCullough (Briscoes)</td>
<td>1,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apisai Koroisau (Sea Eagles)</td>
<td>1,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issac Luke (Warriors)</td>
<td>1,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Arundell (Sharks)</td>
<td>1,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron Smith (Storm)</td>
<td>1,268</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Lichaa (Bulldogs)</td>
<td>1,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny Levi (Knights)</td>
<td>1,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Hodgson (Roosters)</td>
<td>1,221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Panthers v Sea Eagles**

**Pentrich 16** (James Tamou 1, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak 36, Johnathan Thurston 36, Nathan Cleary 36)

**Half-Time:** Penrith 12-4

**Graves:** 1,025

**Penalties:** Penrith 7-2

**Scoring:** Penrith 14-12

**Score:** Penrith 10-3

**Sim:** Penrith 12-3

**Net:** Penrith 12-3

**S Tag:** Penrith 12-3

**Sont:** Penrith 12-3

**Referee:** Henry Perenara

**Assistant Referee:** Chris Joiner

**Touch Judge:** Kasey Badger, Dave Ryan

**Goaltakers:** Nathan Cleary (Panthers) 4-3, Apisai Koroisau (Sea Eagles) 4-3

**Competition Rate:** Penrith 32/33, Manly Warringah 25/33

**Big 3:** 1 Tamou, 2 Cherry-Evans, 1 Merrin-M.B

---

**McCarthy**

**McCarthy**

**Tigrovnik**

**Tigrovnik**

**Blizzard**

**Blizzard**

**Tiger**

**Tiger**

**Eagle**

**Eagle**

**Warrior**

**Warrior**

**Rabbit**

**Rabbit**

**Bulldog**

**Bulldog**

**Shark**

**Shark**

**Cowboy**

**Cowboy**

**Knights**

**Knights**

**Dragons**

**Dragons**

**Storm**

**Storm**

**Titans**

**Titans**

**Eels**

**Eels**

**Warriors**

**Warriors**

**Rabbits**

**Rabbits**

**Brooks**

**Brooks**

**Tonga**

**Tonga**

**Warrington**

**Warrington**

**Briscoes**

**Briscoes**

**Broncos**

**Broncos**

**Knights**

**Knights**

**Leagues**

**Leagues**

**Interchange**

**Interchange**

**Cullen**

**Cullen**

**Perrett**

**Perrett**

**Fornia-Blake**

**Fornia-Blake**

**Parker**

**Parker**

**Total**

**Total**

10 points to reach 5,000 points scored since joining the NRL. >> Wests Tigers have not won at Brookvale since 2003. >> The Sharks have won all seven away games this season.
2ND HALF | STAT ATTACK

MOST PENALTIES
JAMES MALONEY (SHARKS) 25
JARED WAISARA-HARGREAVES (ROOSTERS) 22
MITCH BARRETT (KNIGHTS) 19
JOSH HODGSON (RAIDER) 16
NATHAN BROWN (EELS) 16
RYAN JAMIS (TITANS) 16
SAM RUGGERS (ROOSTERS) 16
NELSON ASOFA-SIDOMONA (STORM) 15
WILL CHAMBERLAIN (STORM) 15
BEAU SCOTTS (EELS) 14
JAIRO WALLACE (TITANS) 14
JOEY LEILUA (RAIDERS) 14
LUKE LIUENS (SHARKS) 14
BLAKE GREEN (SEA EAGLES) 13
DAVID KLEMMER (BULLDOGS) 13

LAST LINE OF DEFENCE TACKLES
BRENDAN ELLETT (KNIGHTS) 5
BRENTON LAWRENCE (SEA EAGLES) 4
ALEX JOHNSTON (RAIDERS) 3
MICHAEL GORDON (ROOSTERS) 3
ROGER TURAGSU-SHEEH (WARRIORS) 3
SULASI VUNIVALU (STORM) 3
TOM TIBURGEV (SEA EAGLES) 3
AARON WOODS (TIGERS) 2
ADAM BLAIR (BRONCOS) 2
ADAM ELLIOTT (BULLDOGS) 2
ANDREW MACGILLIVRAY (BRONCOS) 2
BILLY SLATER (STORM) 2
BLAKE FERGUSON (ROOSTERS) 2
BRENDAN LEWIS (BULLDOGS) 2
BRETT MORRIS (BULLDOGS) 2

MOST TRY ASSISTS
DALLY CHERRY-EVANS (SEA EAGLES) 16
SHAUN JOHNSON (WARRIORS) 15
LUKE KYROS (ROOSTERS) 14
LUKE KELLY (ROOSTERS) 14
ASH TAYLOR (TITANS) 12
GARETH WIDDOP (DRAGONS) 12
MICHAEL MORGAN (ROOSTERS) 12
BILLY SLATER (STORM) 11
MITCHELL PATERSON (ROOSTERS) 10
BRENDAN LEE (BULLDOGS) 9
COOPER CROOK (STORM) 9
JOSH MACRONE (DRAGONS) 9
RIEAN FOGAN (WARRIORS) 9
TOM TIBURGEV (SEA EAGLES) 9
ADAM REYNOLDS (RAIDERS) 9

MOST KICK RECEIPTS
ROGER TURAGSU-SHEEH (WARRIORS) 149
TOM TIBURGEV (SEA EAGLES) 137
MICHAEL GORDON (ROOSTERS) 129
JACK WRIGHT (RAIDERS) 119
ALEX JOHNSTON (RAIDERS) 118
VALENTINE HOLMES (SHARKS) 110
MATT MOYLAN (PANTHERS) 105
JASON NIGHTINGALE (DRAGONS) 101
WILL HOPATE (BULLDOGS) 97
BARNaby BOYD (BRONCOS) 94
JOSH DUGAN (DRAGONS) 93
CODY WALKER (RAIDERS) 93
LACHLAN COOTE (COWBOYS) 90

MOST LINE-BREAKS
JORDAN JAPANA (RAIDERS) 19
TOM ADDO-CARR (STORM) 15
TOM TIBURGEV (SEA EAGLES) 15
CLINT GUTHERTON (EELS) 15
SINAMAIA VUNIVALU (STORM) 13
SUZUKA VUNIVALU (STORM) 13
ALEX JOHNSTON (RAIDERS) 12
SOSAIA FEI (SHARKS) 12
AKILA DATE (SEA EAGLES) 11
CODY WALKER (RAIDERS) 11
DANNY WALKER (SEA EAGLES) 11
LAURENCE MITCHELL (ROOSTERS) 11
RICKY LEUTLE (SHARKS) 11

MOST HANDLING ERRORS
MATT GILLET (BRONCOS) 12
BLAKE AUSTIN (DRAGONS) 11
MATT MOYLAN (PANTHERS) 11
DANIEL TUPUWAU (ROOSTERS) 10
JACK WRIGHT (RAIDERS) 10
JAMES MALONEY (RAIDERS) 9
JOEY LEILUA (RAIDERS) 9
LUKE KEROSI (RAIDERS) 9
TIM LAFAI (DRAGONS) 9

MOST MISSED TACKLES
JAMES MALONEY (SHARKS) 82
MITCH MORGAN (EELS) 79
ASH TAYLOR (TITANS) 78
AFC KONDUAU (SEA EAGLES) 78
JOEY LEILUA (RAIDERS) 77
CHASEY (TITANS) 77
LUKE KEROSI (RAIDERS) 77
DANNY WALKER (SEA EAGLES) 77
ETAN LOMBE (COWBOYS) 77
MATT GILLET (BRONCOS) 77

STORM v EELS
PARRAMATTA 22 (Bevan French 5’, Mitchell Moses 17’, Semi Radradra 22’, Clint Gutherson 70’ tries; Clint Gutherson 3 goals) D. MELBOURNE 6 (Jahrome Hughes 36’ try; Joe Stimson 1 goal)
Half-time: Parramatta 16-6
Crowd: 13,593
Scorers: Parramatta 7-4
Penalties: Melbourne 7-4
Sin Bin: Sulaia Vunivalu (Storm) 11’
Sent Off: NIL
Referees: Gavin Badger
Assistant Referees: Jon Stone
Touch Judges: Jeff Youngs, Chris Treneman
Goal Kicker: Joe Sinnamon (Storm) 1 from 1, Clint Gutherson (Eels) 3 from 4
Completion Rate: Melbourne 30/37, Parramatta 32/36
Big 3: 3 Gutherson; 2 Radradra; 1 Moses – D.P

Harvey Norman TALES OF THE TAPE
Parramatta have won seven of their past nine games against the Warriors. ✰ The Cowboys have won seven of their past eight
## 2ND HALF NRL DRAW

### ROUND 1
- **Mar 2-5**
  - Sharks v Broncos
  - Bulldogs v Storm
  - Rabbitohs v Sea Eagles
  - Dragons v Panthers
  - Cowboys v Raiders
  - Titans v Roosters
  - Wests Tigers v Panthers
  - Sea Eagles v Eels

### ROUND 2
- **Mar 9-12**
  - Roosters v Bulldogs
  - Warriors v Storm
  - Broncos v Cowboys
  - Knights v Titans
  - Sea Eagles v Rabbitohs
  - Sharks v Panthers
  - Wests Tigers v Panthers
  - Eels v Sharks

### ROUND 3
- **Mar 16-19**
  - Storm v Broncos
  - Bulldogs v Warriors
  - Titans v Roosters
  - Knights v Rabbitohs
  - Panthers v Cowboys
  - Cowboys v Sea Eagles
  - Eels v Sharks
  - Sharks v Storm

### ROUND 4
- **Mar 23-26**
  - Rabbitohs v Roosters
  - Panthers v Knights
  - Broncos v Raiders
  - Sea Eagles v Bulldogs
  - Eels v Sharks
  - Titans v Cowboys
  - Wests Tigers v Storm
  - Dragons v Warriors

### ROUND 5
- **Mar 30-Apr 2**
  - Bulldogs v Broncos
  - Roosters v Sea Eagles
  - Cowboys v Rabbitohs
  - Sharks v Knights
  - Raiders v Eels
  - Storm v Panthers
  - Warriors v Tigers
  - Dragons v Storm

### ROUND 6
- **Apr 6-9**
  - Broncos v Roosters
  - Knights v Bulldogs
  - Panthers v Rabbitohs
  - Sea Eagles v Dragons
  - Titans v Raiders
  - Cowboys v Wests Tigers
  - Warriors v Eels
  - Storm v Sharks

### ROUND 7
- **Apr 14-17**
  - Bulldogs v Rabbitohs
  - Knights v Roosters
  - Broncos v Titans
  - Sea Eagles v Storm
  - Raiders v Warriors
  - Dragons v Cowboys
  - Panthers v Sharks
  - Eels v Wests Tigers

### ROUND 8
- **Apr 21-25**
  - Raiders v Sea Eagles
  - Rabbitohs v Broncos
  - Eels v Panthers
  - Cowboys v Titans
  - Sharks v Storm
  - Wests Tigers v Bulldogs
  - Roosters v Dragons
  - Storm v Warriors

### ROUND 9
- **Apr 27-30**
  - Broncos v Panthers
  - Rabbitohs v Sea Eagles
  - Cowboys v Eels
  - Titans v Sharks
  - Eels v Storms
  - Wests Tigers v Titans
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Warriors v Roosters

### ROUND 10
- **May 11-14**
  - Bulldogs v Cowboys
  - Dragons v Sharks
  - Wests Tigers v Rabbitohs
  - Panthers v Warriors
  - Storm v Titans
  - Sea Eagles v Broncos
  - Knights v Raiders
  - Roosters v Eels

### ROUND 11
- **May 18-21**
  - Sharks v Cowboys
  - Warriors v Dragons
  - Broncos v Wests Tigers
  - Sea Eagles v Sharks
  - Eels v Raiders
  - Knights v Panthers
  - Bulldogs v Roosters
  - Rabbitohs v Storm

### ROUND 12
- **May 26-28**
  - Rabbitohs v Eels
  - Warriors v Broncos
  - Sharks v Bulldogs
  - Eels v Roosters
  - BYES: Cowboys, Dragons, Knights, Panthers, Sea Eagles, Storm, Wests Tigers, Titans

### STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME ONE
- **May 31**
  - Old v NSW
  - New South Wales

### STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME TWO
- **Jun 11**
  - NSW v Qld
  - Queensland

### ROUND 13
- **Jun 2-4**
  - Storm v Knights
  - Eels v Warriors
  - Dragons v Wests Tigers
  - Roosters v Broncos
  - Cowboys v Titans
  - Sea Eagles v Raiders
  - Bulldogs v Panthers
  - BYES: Rabbitohs, Sharks

### ROUND 14
- **Jun 8-12**
  - Sharks v Storm
  - Sea Eagles v Knights
  - Broncos v Rabbitohs
  - Titans v Warriors
  - Panthers v Roosters
  - Eels v Cowboys
  - Wests Tigers v Roosters
  - Bulldogs v Dragons

### ROUND 15
- **Jun 16-20**
  - Rabbitohs v Titans
  - Storm v Cowboys
  - Sharks v Wests Tigers
  - Eels v Dragons
  - BYES: Broncos, Bulldogs, Knights, Panthers, Raiders, Roosters, Sea Eagles, Warriors

### STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME TWO
- **Jun 21**
  - NSW v Qld
  - Queensland

### ROUND 16
- **Jun 23-27**
  - Warriors v Bulldogs
  - Wests Tigers v Titans
  - Cowboys v Panthers
  - Raiders v Broncos
  - Roosters v Storm
  - Dragons v Knights
  - Sharks v Sea Eagles
  - BYES: Eels, Rabbitohs

### ROUND 17
- **Jun 29-Jul 2**
  - Eels v Bulldogs
  - Titans v Dragons
  - Broncos v Storm
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Wests Tigers v Sharks
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Wests Tigers v Sharks

### ROUND 18
- **Jul 6-9**
  - Roosters v Wests Tigers
  - Panthers v Sea Eagles
  - Storm v Eels
  - Bulldogs v Storm
  - BYES: Broncos, Cowboys, Dragons, Raiders, Sharks, Wests Tigers, Titans, Warriors

### STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME THREE
- **Jul 12**
  - Old v NSW
  - New South Wales

### ROUND 19
- **Jul 14-16**
  - Warriors v Panthers
  - Storm v Knights
  - Eels v Sharks
  - Titans v Storm
  - Sea Eagles v Wests Tigers
  - Roosters v Bulldogs
  - BYES: Eels, Roosters, Storm

### ROUND 20
- **Jul 20-23**
  - Broncos v Bulldogs
  - Sharks v Storm
  - Roosters v Storm
  - Sharks v Rabbitohs
  - Eels v Sharks
  - Titans v Storm
  - Roosters v Tigers
  - BYES: Bulldogs, Eels, Roosters, Storm

### STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME ONE
- **May 31**
  - Old v NSW
  - New South Wales

### STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME TWO
- **Jun 11**
  - NSW v Qld
  - Queensland

### STATE OF ORIGIN - GAME THREE
- **Jul 12**
  - Old v NSW
  - New South Wales

### ROUND 21
- **Jul 27-30**
  - Panthers v Bulldogs
  - Storm v Sharks
  - Eels v Broncos
  - Knights v Rabbitohs
  - Roosters v Storm
  - Storm v Sea Eagles
  - Wests Tigers v Eels
  - Sun, 2pm, WIN
  - Sun, 4pm, ANZ

### ROUND 22
- **Aug 3-6**
  - Bulldogs v Eels
  - Storm v Sharks
  - Panthers v Eels
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Wests Tigers v Sea Eagles
  - Storm v Sharks
  - Storm v Sea Eagles
  - Wests Tigers v Eels
  - Sun, 2pm, AAMI

### ROUND 23
- **Aug 10-13**
  - Rabbitohs v Bulldogs
  - Eels v Sharks
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Storm v Roosters
  - Panthers v Cowboys
  - Warriors v Tigers
  - Tigers v Sharks
  - Sun, 4pm, MLC

### ROUND 24
- **Aug 17-20**
  - Eels v Titans
  - Roosters v Warriors
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Wests Tigers v Panthers
  - Wests Tigers v Sharks
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Titans v Sharks
  - Sun, 2pm, BDO

### ROUND 25
- **Aug 24-27**
  - Broncos v Eels
  - Roosters v Storm
  - Wests Tigers v Eels
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Wests Tigers v Sharks
  - Roosters v Sharks
  - Wests Tigers v Sharks
  - Sun, 3pm, AAMI

### ROUND 26
- **Aug 31-Sep 3**
  - Cowboys v Broncos
  - Wests Tigers v Roosters
  - Roosters v Storm
  - Wests Tigers v Sea Eagles
  - Storm v Roosters
  - Sharks v Storm
  - Wests Tigers v Eagles
  - Roosters v Storm
  - Sun, 4pm, AAMI

### NRL FINALS SERIES
- **Sep 8-10**
  - Home City Qualifying Finals
  - Semi-Finals
  - Preliminary Finals
  - Grand Final

*Denotes Gold Coast Final*
INTERRUPTIONS OFF ON

NO AD-BREAKS DURING PLAY.

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