

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

28th June 2017

Newsletter #176



**Congratulations Team
New Zealand!**



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Good People Who Go Out of Their Way to Give

By David Kemeys

Former Sunday Star-Times Editor, Former Editor-in-Chief Suburban Newspapers, Long Suffering Warriors Fan



NOW I am never slow to put the boot in, but on the other hand, praise where it is due.

Quite apart from the fact we played bloody well to see off the Doggies, I want to talk about my life fund-raising for Kidz First Children's Hospital at Middlemore.

A number of organisations help us out, and one of those is the Vodafone Warriors.

Last week a team of players were at Kidz First, armed with a pretty magnificent cake in the shape of our playing jersey, to see the children.

It is all part of the big effort the club makes to support our Jammies in June initiative, when we collect PJs that are distributed to little ones throughout our area, and of course in Kidz First itself.

If you think a few Warriors probably does not make a difference to the kids, I can tell you that it does.

Of all those that help us out and come visiting, the Warriors seem to really connect with the kids, who just love having them about.

One of those on visiting duty was James Gavet, and let's face it, he is a bit of a hard man on the field. But in that children's playroom at the hospital he was a big softie and the kids loved him.

Often visitors sit with the kids and have their palms painted, so that they can make a palm print for the Superstar wall, and until James came along, Russell Packer's mitt was the biggest on display.

No more. Mr Gavet reigns as the biggest palm in the land.

Also along were Jazz Tevaga, new boy Manaia Cherrington, Blake Ayshford and under 20s hooker Keanu Laumatia-Paki, who I have to say was a splendid young man and a credit to the club.

Normally Petrece Keesha would bring the boys along, but she was in Australia on business and Georgia Hale – no mean league player herself – attended in her place, and seemed to be having a good time along the way.

Then of course on Friday night I was invited to the ground as a representative of Kidz First to shake the buckets and encourage those in the corporate lounge to support a raffle to raise funds.

It takes us a long, long time to raise \$3500 but that's what we did, so thank you to all who shoved a penny in the bucket or bought a raffle.

In a bizarre twist of fate, pretty much the only place you are safe is in the Mad Butcher Club, because I do not like to mix my professional life with your leisure time- a piece of reasoning Peter tells me is stupid, since he gave me a bit of a telling off, because he would have loved to have helped out himself.

But he does so much for charity I like to give him a free pass once a year.

I also want to include coach Stephen Kearney. He would not know me from a bar of soap but I happened to be at the club on Thursday afternoon in reception buying tickets, as he was heading out, presumably to go home.

Did he walk straight past? Did he bollocks.

He stopped and engaged me in conversation, chatted happily about having a good feeling going into the Doggies, told me the criticism was all part of the job and not something he was letting get to him, and thanked me for being there to buy tickets, telling me the players appreciated the support of all fans.

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I have to admit, I was beyond impressed, that our coach would take the time he did to engage with a total stranger.

And one bloke I did meet in the corporate lounge, and who will be known to many of you, was Gordy Gibbons, who in Pete's words would qualify as a good bastard.

Now I have known Gordy for a good number of years but he made it pretty clear he expected me post the Doggies result to have something good to say about the boys.

So this for you Gordy, and you Petrece, and Georgia....

Friday night was brilliant fun, an excellent result, and it's a pleasure to work with you.

Which Brings Me To The Doggies

Gordy might well have given me the hard word to be nice, but wouldn't you be after that showing.

We have watched some mush this year, though seldom at Mt Smart to be fair, but Friday night was a really good game of league and the result was the icing on the cake.

Ken Maumalo might as well get the Pledge out and polish the mantelpiece because if that beauty is not Try of the Year I will go he.

I have been going to Mt Smart for more than 20 years and I can't remember seeing a solo-effort try better than the big fellah's.

Of course the downside of Friday's game was the injury to Issac Luke, but even then, Nathan Roache, who had really only been a bit player until Friday, stepped up and had a fabulous game in his place.

Warriors coach Stephen Kearney is hoping Luke will not be out too long. Let's be honest, Luke has not been without his share of detractors, but his form in recent weeks has been good, and his presence will be missed.

I am no medical expert, but that shoulder injury did not look too good, so I am in Kearney's camp hoping we see Luke again soon.

"He's pulled up well and he has some pretty good movement," Kearney said.

And as I said, Roache was really good, in fact he

proved quite a handful for the Dogs, on the way to our 21-14 win, which, incidentally, made it only the second time this season we have gone back to back.

Better than that though, that is now three out of our last four, and has us up to 16 points, and only just out of the eight.

Foran Misses Out

No surprise that Kieran Foran being ruled out of the Doggies clash went down like a bowl of cold sick. The usual numbskulls were all over radio claiming it was a giant conspiracy because he was never going to turn out against the side he is heading to next year.

Bollocks.

The man was just nursing an injury. Deal with it.

It's understandable but where I get peeved with it, is when it crosses into direct commentary that men like our boss Jim Doyle, or coach Kearney, are complicit in lying about it, and are somehow knee-deep in the conspiracy.

Were these people not watching a fortnight ago when Foran was carried off against the Titans?

We all hoped the bye a week later might give him time to recover, and he was originally named, Kearney giving him all the time possible to come right.

But after training on Thursday Foran dropped out of the 23 - as did Manu Vatuvei by the way - when the mandatory cut to 21 has to happen ahead of game day.

He should be right for Manly in Perth.

Stand Up And Take A bow

Shaun Johnson, the most bagged man in league, did a great job taking control of the game without Foran, and after losing Luke.

His much derided kicking game looked on song, and I thought he played really well, as evidenced by the field goal to take us out beyond the six point converted try margin.

My new friend James Gavet was superb off the bench, getting more than 40 minutes, and running for more than 100 metres.

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Ayshford had one of his best games in our colours, and Simon Mannering, as always, was immense, with 60 tackles and 155 metres.

Ryan Hoffman was also a stand-out, so much so that I am not going to call him Josh Hoffman this time, as I did last week.

Can We Keep It Up?

Last week I wrote that a win against the Dogs was critical because I did not expect us to win against Manly. There seems to be something about those Sea Eagles we struggle with, and combine that with the horror trip that is going all the way to Perth.

The way we played on Friday has given me more confidence certainly, but it is still going to be a huge ask.

Our annual Origin revival has hit, now we have to keep it up.

It's not like we have not seen it before – crap start, revival, too much to do, fall short.

We look agonisingly close to doing the same thing again this year, and it is going to get harder.

Super Simon Mannering summed it up. "We've just got to string consistent performances together."

The Eagles, despite my predictions they might struggle, are well inside the eight, and we are also none from eight in the hellhole that is Perth.

But two more points would be very handy heading into our second bye a week later.

Without Foran and Solomone Kata, and with Luke forced off, we held our nerve.

Johnson did nothing flashy, or stupid either, and he controlled the game well, and our forwards continued their gradual improvement, so all is not lost.

Hookers Eye Luke's Spot

We might officially be sweating on Issac Luke for Perth but it is hard to imagine he will make that trip.

At least we have options.

Nathaniel Roache, as I said, thrived with the extra time he got. Mannering is a big supporter. "He's got a lot of ability and he could definitely do 80 minutes. He's a confident kid and when he gets a chance to run he backs himself."

And anyone recall Jazz Tevaga? He was good when he was given the opportunity, but fell down the pecking order this year. His form in the InTrust Premiership has been solid and he would not let us down.

Then there is newbie Manaia Cherrington, in from the Sharks looking to prove he has what it takes.

When he moved to Cronulla from the Tigers it looked as if his career would take off, after all, he had already earned a Kiwis call-up.

But Sharks coach Shane Flanagan clearly did not rate him. "Flanno didn't really like the way I played. I definitely learnt a lot, but now I'm ready to go here."

Good Riddance Jackson

One of the best parts of Friday's Doggies win was watching Josh Jackson make the long march to the tunnel right on half-time, sin-binned for a deliberate foul and losing the play the ball.

Quite right too, and congratulations ref, too few have the courage to do it, and is something we see too often.

Even Bulldogs coach Des Hasler did not rail against the decision.

"We had to start the second half and complete our sets, but we came up with back-to-back errors."

Watching some sides, it is as if they have licence to do as they please in the play the ball – yes I am taking about you Melbourne, but you are not the only ones.

We ended up scoring eight points while Jackson was off the field, which ultimately proved to be crucial.

If only a few more refs would do the right thing.

Nines A Goner?

The Downer NRL Auckland Nines could go next year as event promoters Duco and the NRL try to figure out how to fit it in.

There has already been talk of a move away from Auckland, with crowds declining, and the Sydney Morning Herald reported at the weekend it probably would not go ahead at all because of concerns about the load on players, particularly those who compete in the World Cup from October 27 to December 2.

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The All Stars game has already gone, so if the Nines goes, there will only be trials and the World Club Series no one gives a toss about.

Duco has a contract with the NRL and the Auckland Council until next year, but has confirmed an assessment on a 2018 tournament is under way due to the challenges with the World Cup”.

SKD Gets Behaviour Bond

Quick to criticise former Roosters star Shaun Kenny-Dowall, it's only fair we recognise he was not convicted of possessing cocaine when he appeared in court last week.

He said he had made a “monumental mistake” by accepting a small amount of the drug at a nightclub, pleaded guilty to possessing 0.29 grams.

His lawyer said SKD underwent testing soon after he was caught, and it showed he did not take the drug.

The judge noted SKD had lost his contract with the Roosters, as well as his NRL registration. “The collateral damage is huge.”

He said he considered Kenny-Dowall's early guilty plea, and the fact it was his first offence when discharging him, and placing him on a year-long good behaviour bond.

Who Will Get The No 6 Jersey?

Apparently we still considering going to the market for a replacement for Kieran Foran.

Te Maire Martin was supposed to be that man, but we all know what happened there.

In the meantime Ata Hingano is like a sponge, soaking up everything he can from Foran.

He has a three-year extension and wants to cement himself alongside Shaun Johnson, after turning down the Melbourne Storm.

“I want to be a frontline half. I'm not looking at continuing in that development stage. As much as I'm learning off Shaun and Kieran, the best way to showcase that is to play first grade.”

Foran is sharing his football knowledge. “He's a great kid, so I'm going to spend as much time as I can with him around footy and just try and speed up his development.”

Sort Out Your Diary

The final part of the season has been confirmed and we have two Friday 8pm games, Penrith (July 14) and Cronulla (July 28). Not that big a fan of Friday night footy actually, but only because Auckland is a nightmare to get around on Friday night.

Canberra (August 13) and Manly (August 27) are both Sunday at 4pm, with those four games making up our last regular season home matches.

We head to North Queensland (July 22), Newcastle (August 5), and South Sydney (August 18) before our last game against the Tigers at Leichardt (September 3).

Of course, ever the optimist, I expect we will be playing finals footy, with week one from September 8-10, the semis from Sept 15-15, the preliminary finals from Sept 22-13 and the grand final on October 1.

Good luck to the All Blacks playing their second test against the British and Irish Lions this Saturday.



THERE'S
17 WEEKS
TO GO!

Get your tickets now!

www.rlwc2017.com



Young hooker replaces injured Luke

by Richard Becht

VODAFONE WARRIORS young gun Nathaniel Roache has been named to start at hooker for Saturday night's clash against the Manly Sea Eagles in Perth.

With regular No 9 Issac Luke ruled out after suffering a shoulder injury during last Friday's win over the Bulldogs, Roache has been promoted from the bench.

He is one of two changes Vodafone Warriors coach Stephen Kearney has made to his starting line up ahead of what looms as the longest road trip in the NRL.

After missing his side's round 16 win over the Bulldogs, Vodafone Warriors playmaker Kieran Foran has also been named to return in the halves.

"It's obviously disappointing that Issac is unavailable for this game but Nate did a great job when he came on against the Bulldogs and this is a real opportunity for him," Kearney said.

"While we were happy to get the win over the Bulldogs last week, there is still plenty of room for improvement.

"The Sea Eagles have been playing good footy and we are really looking forward to the challenge.

"We know there are a lot of Kiwis in Perth so we are hoping to have plenty of support at nib Stadium this weekend."

On the back of an impressive performance at stand-off against the Bulldogs, Ata Hingano has been named on an extended bench along with Bunty Afoa, Albert Vete, James Gavet, Manu Vatuvei, Ligi Sao, Isaiah Papalii and Mason Lino.

Solomone Kata remains unavailable for selection after being given bereavement leave last week to fly home to Tonga following the sudden death of his

older brother.

Prop Sam Lisone will also miss Saturday's clash due to a pressing family engagement.

This will be the sixth straight year the Vodafone Warriors have made the trek to Western Australia.

Last year, the Vodafone Warriors and Manly played out an epic contest in atrocious weather at nib Stadium, the Sea Eagles winning 15-14 through a Daly Cherry-Evans golden point field goal. This year, they fly into Perth on Thursday afternoon and will mix and mingle with local fans at a footy clinic alongside the Sea Eagles at nib Stadium on Friday at 1:30pm (WA time) before the two sides square off a day later at the same venue.

VODAFONE WARRIORS v MANLY SEA EAGLES

nib Stadium, Perth

7.30pm (NZT), Saturday, July 1

VODAFONE WARRIORS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (c) | 16 Albert Vete |
| 2 Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad | 17 James Gavet |
| 3 Blake Ayshford | 18 Manu Vatuvei |
| 4 David Fusitu'a | 20 Ligi Sao |
| 5 Ken Maumalo | 21 Isaiah Papalii |
| 6 Kieran Foran | 22 Mason Lino |
| 7 Shaun Johnson | |
| 8 Jacob Lillyman | |
| 9 Nathaniel Roache | |
| 10 Ben Matulino | |
| 11 Bodene Thompson | |
| 12 Ryan Hoffman | |
| 13 Simon Mannering | |
| Interchange: | |
| 14 Mafoa'aeata Hingano | |
| 15 Bunty Afoa | |



In the Stacey Jones Lounge



Albert Vete and Shaun Johnson speak to the lounge about the game.



Barry Ross interviews Kurt, Lindsay and Olsen.



Brendan Popplewell presents Richard Matson with the TAB ticket of First try scorer Bodene Thompson.



Dexter speaks with Albert Vete.



Elisa Myllyaiho from Finland meets Sir Peter.



Eric Carson ex Kiwi, Auckland and Wellington Rep (middle) Bevin Scott on the right at the luncheon on Friday.



Jerry Mapp, over to watch the Lions tour, talks to the Butcher.



Jimmy James, a yeoman warder at the Tower of London is in NZ following the Lions around.



Kellie Mills dressed in her onesie receives presents from the Butcher.



Tom Conroy ex Kiwi picks a prize from the donation table.



Neil Saxton wins a signed Nines jersey and explains how the Warriors won the game.



In the Stacey Jones Lounge



Olsen Filipaina talks to lounge members.



Steve Weastell from Christchurch with Don Graham.



The Pommie Bastards Adam, Peter, Neil and Steve sing God Save the Queen.



Kurt Sorensen, Lyndsay Proctor, Olsen Filipaina three legends from the Auckland 1977 grand slam team that beat Australia, Great Britain and France within 21 days in 1977.



It was an honor to have Rugby League royalty in the lounge on Friday night. Kevin Sinfield MBE has played 521 games for the Leeds Rhinos, 27 games for England and played 17 games for Great Britain as well as a few games for Lancashire. All before he went to rugby and played a few games for your Yorkshire Carnegie. Now working in Rugby League in UK where he is a real legend.

Check out the interview I did with Kevin on my facebook page...
<https://www.facebook.com/sirpeterleitch/videos/1317305204990334/>



It was a pleasure to have to former Vodafone and Kiwis in the lounge on Friday night. First Brent Webb who played 103 Games for the Vodafone Warriors, 159 games for the Leeds Rhinos, 10 games for the Catalan dragons and 17 games for the Kiwis. As well as Vinny Anderson who played 55 games for the Warriors, 42 games for St Helens, 88 games for Warrington Wolves and 37 games for the Salford Red Devils. Vinny is still playing in France for Carcassonne and at this stage has played 38 games for them. He was back in New Zealand for a few days to see his brother Louis who is playing for the Catalan dragons

Jersey and Ticket Winners

- Kurt Seymour - Queensland - Signed Vodafone Warriors Jersey
- Jack Standtall - Marton - Signed Vodafone Warriors Jersey
- Dean Tucker - Signed Vodafone Warriors Jersey
- Windeler Family - Napier - Double Pass to Warriors Home game Lounge Admission
- Don Whyte - Double Pass to Warriors Home game Lounge Admission
- Peter Clifford - Auckland - Double Pass to Warriors Home game Lounge Admission





By John Coffey QSM

Author of ten rugby league books, Christchurch Press sports writer (44 years), NZ correspondent for Rugby League Week (Australia) and Open Rugby (England)

Bring Back Benji

Benji Marshall, Vodafone Warriors v Brisbane Broncos.
Photo www.photosport.nz

NEW ZEALAND'S World Cup halfback stocks were looking pretty depleted last weekend. Shaun Johnson was just about the last man standing with Kieran Foran again sidelined through injury, Te Maire Martin in limbo while relocating from Penrith's reserve grade team to the North Queensland Cowboys and Kodi Nikorima being replaced 32 minutes into Brisbane's match against the Raiders at Canberra. But there was one other. And he was not just standing but also unveiling some of that old soft shoe shuffle which still has his exasperated opponents clutching and cursing at thin air while wondering where he has gone. Benji Marshall is back!

Sure, Marshall no longer sidesteps in mid-air and his pace has been somewhat diminished by his 32 years and 260 NRL games, though the latter is an incredible number considering the many injuries which threatened to cripple his career before it had properly started. Not to mention his flirtation with rugby union when John Kirwan saw him as the saviour of the Auckland Blues. Yes, he is back. Don't take my word for it. Wily Broncos coach Wayne Bennett currently ranks Marshall ahead of both Nikorima and Ben Hunt, even if the latter is rated as worthy of a \$6 million, five-year contract by St George Illawarra from next season.

Bennett dropped Hunt to the Queensland Cup when he was not satisfied with his form after returning from a hamstring problem, then benched him behind Nikorima and Marshall for the tough road trip to Canberra. While Hunt looked on, Marshall gave what is now commonly known as a master class. His reverse pass presented Corey Oates with the first Brisbane try and his short delivery to Alex Glenn opened the gap for the second try. There was also a great midfield break, a retrieved chip kick, a bewildering spiral punt, and solid defence. We knew something was up when he caught Canberra's kick off and passed 20-metres across field.

But you don't beat the Raiders without a struggle and Bennett sent Hunt, humbled in his number 17 jersey, on to replace Nikorima, who had seemingly done little wrong while living in Marshall's shadow. Early in the second half Marshall slickly gave Hunt the room to send Matt Gillett over for Brisbane's third try and into a lead that was eventually turned into a 30-20 victory. Hunt responded outstandingly well, especially kicking to the in-goal. Noticeably, Marshall led the chase and made the tackles to force two drop-outs. In an age of robots, Benji still has a mind of his own. Bennett is seldom wrong in his judging of men and footy players.

Marshall exploded upon the sporting scene as a teenager, born in Tauranga but rugby league educated at Keebra Park High School on the Gold Coast. As long as NRL Grand Finals are held there will be replays of him setting up the Pat Richards try to kick Wests Tigers clear of the Cowboys in the 2005 decider. Only extreme courage and determination got him through those terrible shoulder injuries which would have persuaded many to try a less stressful sport, like croquet. But time after time he gritted his teeth, did the rehab and came back to entertain us like few have ever done before. Thousands of kids played Benji-ball in their back yards.

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For New Zealand Marshall played 27 Tests between 2005 and 2012, including 19 as captain. He shared in the World Cup triumph of 2008, and he was captain when the Kiwis again beat the Kangaroos in the 2010 Four Nations final at Brisbane. In early 2013 then coach Stephen Kearney relieved Marshall of the captaincy and appointed Simon Mannering in his stead for the Anzac Test. Marshall did not play because of an injury and had signed for the Auckland Blues before the 2013 World Cup. It seemed he had gone forever, not just from the Kiwis but from rugby league. Lo and behold, magical Marshall reappeared before that season was over.

The jury is still out on Marshall's two and a half seasons at St George Illawarra. He seemed to be weaving across field more than ever, to little effect, and the Dragons' attack was poor. But I seem to remember Marshall placing highly in the Dally M awards in one of those years so it could not have all been bad. Yet when the Dragons made a brilliant start this season some commentators caustically attributed it to Marshall having moved on. But he and crafty old Wayne were biding their time in Brisbane. A minor injury delayed his Broncos debut, but when Hunt and then Anthony Milford went down Marshall was there to pick up the pieces.

That role is the one Marshall could fill at the World Cup. I don't know what, if anything, happened between Kearney and Marshall nor do I care. There is a World Cup to be won and Marshall has not retired from international football. Johnson and Foran are the logical starting halves, and Nikorima can cover hooker. Let us never again see Tohu Harris in a number six jersey. If current Kiwis coach David Kidwell needs to consult anyone then World Cup captain Adam Blair is perfectly placed to report on his Broncos club-mate. Us mere mortals who look on could not have been more impressed with his hot form in chilly Canberra.

Whitehead Update - John Coffey

"Rugby League Bill" Whitehead has relocated from Burwood Hospital to the Elmswood Rest Home in Christchurch. He is in the hospital section of the complex, with its entrance at 41 Colwyn Street, off Aorangi Road. The near-new rest home is very comfortable and visitors are welcome at any time. Bill was in good spirits late last week and looking forward to Friday night's NRL match between the Warriors and Bulldogs. Unlike the two hospitals where he spent time after his stroke, there is Sky Sport at Elmswood. More good news: Bill's daughter, Lisa, found his long-lost QSM medal in a drawer when clearing out his house.

2017 NRL Draw Rounds 17 - 26

17 Sat July 1 at 3.30pm v Sea Eagles at nib Stadium in Perth

18 July 6-9 - Bye

19 Fri July 14 at 8.00pm v Penrith at Mount Smart Stadium in Auckland

20 Sat July 22 at 7.30pm v Cowboys at 1300SMILES Stadium in Townsville

21 Fri July 28 at 8.00pm v Sharks at Mount Smart Stadium in Auckland

22 Sat August 5 at 3.00pm v Knights at McDonald Jones Stadium in Newcastle

23 Sun August 13 at 4.00pm v Raiders at Mount Smart Stadium in Auckland

24 Fri August 18 at 6.00pm v Rabbitohs at ANZ Stadium in Sydney

25 Sun August 27 at 4.00pm v Sea Eagles at Mount Smart Stadium in Auckland

26 Sun Sep 3 at 6.30pm v Wests Tigers at Leichhardt Oval in Sydney



FINALS

1 September 8-10

Qualifying Semi Finals 3 September 22-23

Preliminary Finals

2 September 15-16

Semi Finals

4 October 1

Grand Final

Is It Warren-Ball Or Wigan-Ball?

By John Coffey QSM

Author of ten rugby league books, Christchurch Press sports writer (44 years), NZ correspondent for Rugby League Week (Australia) and Open Rugby (England)



IT'S THE New Zealand Rugby Union's fault I don't watch their Test matches. They schedule them at the same time as NRL premiership games. The rugger buggers (as former All Black Grahame Thorne delighted in calling his mates) had their chance to kick off in the afternoon, which might have added me to their TV ratings. Instead, I watched the teams coached by Ricky Stuart and Wayne Bennett rather than those with Steve Hansen and Warren Gatland at the helm. But such has been the blanket news media coverage of the English, Welsh and Irish Lions that it is impossible to escape the curious word Warren-ball attached to the tourists.

I gather the scribes and commentators are referring to the style of footy imposed on the Lions by head coach Gatland, a Welsh-based New Zealander. Presumably, Warren-ball is meant to be derogatory, an indictment that the tourists have adopted boring, spoiling tactics and scored few tries. But they also conceded even fewer tries leading up to the first Test, and none at all to the Crusaders in the kickfest at Christchurch's former Rugby League Park. Then I read a story by an ex-pat Brit that the Lions were using a "rush defence" devised by Andy Farrell, one of an army of assistant coaches to Gatland. No mention where Farrell came from, though.

Actually, Farrell is currently sitting alongside Gatland in the seat formerly warmed by Shaun Edwards at the Wasps club and with Wales. Bingo. Farrell and, even more so, Edwards are legends of the renowned Wigan Rugby League Club in Lancashire. They proudly wore the cherry and white hoops of Wigan when it dominated Championship and Challenge Cup competitions for more than two decades. Edwards made 466 appearances for the club from 1983 to 1997 and Farrell chalked up 370 games from 1991 to 2005. During that time Wigan smothered the best efforts of their rivals, including some Australian clubs, to dethrone them.

A little research discloses that Edwards was Gatland's defence and backs coach at Wasps from 2001 until Gatland returned to New Zealand in 2005. Edwards then took over as head coach and inspired Wasps to more titles. In other words, Wasps never won without Edwards, but they did keep winning after Gatland had taken up a contract with Waikato. When Gatland was appointed head coach of Wales the first person he rang was Edwards, who turned down a counter offer to coach the England second XV. Former England player Matt Dawson said it was "a crime" England had lost Edwards and described him as "the best coach in the world."

The Welsh conceded just two tries during Edwards' first Six Nations series and in 2013-14 they went more than 400 minutes without conceding a try. Edwards was Rugby International Coach of the Year in 2008 and has won 13 major trophies. He has been offered the Great Britain rugby league job but his former partner and son live in the south and he wants to be close to them. He is gone but not forgotten. In 2015 Edwards was inducted into the Rugby League Hall of Fame. His 37 winner's medals for Wigan include eight Championships and nine Challenge Cups and he earned more than 40 caps for Great Britain and England.

While Edwards was a gritty little stand-off half, Farrell was a 108kg, 1.93m backrow forward who, like Edwards, has been awarded an OBE for his services to sport. Farrell still has close ties at Wigan, which his brother-in-law Sean O'Loughlin still captains. Son Owen is a Lions five-eighth and an even better goal kicker than his old man, which makes him a natural rugby union match winner. Farrell played 45 Tests for Great Britain and England and captained the 1996 Lions who were beaten in all three Tests in this country by Frank Endacott's Kiwis. He can look back on six Championships and four Challenge Cup winner's medals with Wigan.

Unlike Edwards, who only played rugby union at school, Farrell switched codes while still playing. After joining Saracens, he was fast-tracked into the England team. From memory, they tried to transform him from a league forward into a union midfield back (as with Sonny Bill Williams, Sam Burgess and Ben Te'o) but without much success. In 2009 Farrell became assistant coach of Saracens and by 2011 was England's defence coach. Gatland grabbed him for the 2013 Lions tour of Australia. When Eddie Jones sacked the old England coaching crew Farrell was snapped up by Ireland, in time for their first-ever win over the All Blacks.

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Weekend In Auckland

By Barry Ross



IT MIGHT not have been the Weekend at Bernie's but our Weekend at Peter's provided just as much fun and excitement. My two sons, Nathan and David and I, arrived in Auckland around 4.45pm last Friday and after passing through immigration and customs, we reached Mt. Smart around 5.45pm. Here we were met by Sir Peter and the resplendent Senior Sergeant Dexter Traill and whisked to the Mad Butcher's lounge. What a night and what impressive wins by the Warriors in both games. I met many lovely people during the night and was amazed at the mixture of personalities. Tony Feasey was one of the first people I met and he discussed with me his important work with the Police Dog Squad. It is obvious that Tony genuinely cares for his dogs and he is also a knowledgeable and keen Warriors fan. Detective Senior Sergeant John Sowter was another interesting person with whom I spoke during the night. At halftime of the first grade game, I ran into Lorraine McKee from Christchurch. She introduced me to her husband Dave and they proudly told me how they come up from Christchurch for all the Warriors home games.

“ We really enjoy the night at the Butchers lounge and have many friends here, “ Lorraine emphasised. “ Everyone is always friendly, while Sir Peter and his helpers add a great deal to the night. “

A major part of the night in the lounge for me was the chance to catch up with Kurt Sorensen. I became close friends with Kurt (27 Tests for New Zealand) and his brother Dane (18 Tests) when they played with Cronulla and the Roosters in the 1970s and 1980s. Kurt was devastating in his seven season of Sydney football and he was there for the reunion of the great 1977 Auckland team, where he was joined by many other players from that side including Lydmsay Proctor (13 Tests) and Olsen Filipaina (29 Tests). The efforts of this 1977 Auckland team were amazing. On 1 June they defeated Australia 19-15, on 14 June Great Britain fell 14-10 and then on 21 June, they beat France 17-0. It was a tremendous gesture by Sir Peter and the others concerned to remember the achievements of these players from 40 years ago. All three matches were played under lights at Carlaw Park. Another superb attraction in the lounge was when Shaun Johnson and Albert Vete came over to be interviewed just a few minutes after the tough game they had just played. They wanted to pay their respects to the lounge guests and this was a big effort by the two stars.

We arrived at Peter's home at 10.45pm where his personable and loyal wife, Janice, had a sumptuous supper waiting for us. After a much needed sleep in, we left after lunch for the Prince's Wharf where 10 laughed our way through a two hour plus lunch. One of Sir Peter's guests was Bulldogs captain, James Graham, who remained in Auckland for an extra day to meet up with Sir Peter and later attend the All Blacks-Lions Test. My sons and I also attended this Test, as did Sir Peter and the game and the atmosphere will stay in our memories for many years. It was pleasing to see former Rugby League stars, Sonny Bill Williams and Ben Te'o directly opposed to each other as second fives. Moses MacKay did a great job in singing the New Zealand National anthem, while the passion and pride of the locals for their country was evident in the way they joined in the singing of “ God Defend New Zealand. “

We had another leisurely morning on Sunday before we took an afternoon flight back to our Sydney homes. The three of us greatly appreciated the efforts of Sir Peter and his wife Janice in making our stay so memorable. There were many others who also went out of their way to make us feel welcome. While he is not the world's worst karaoke singer, Senior Sergeant Dexter Traill certainly made the grand final in this event. He is a man who always shows complete control of his alcohol consumption and while we three Australians enjoyed a drink or two during our visit, Dashing Dexter was always in the background like a Guardian Angel to ensure our well being.

If you have not had the pleasure of a night in the Mad Butchers Lounge at a Warriors home game, I recommend you add this to your Bucket List. You won't regret it.

Manly's Run Home

By Barry Ross



MANLY ARE good things to win a top four position this season. After their strong 35-18 win over Cronulla at Shark Park on Sunday, they moved into fourth place on the ladder, toppling the Sharks back to fifth position. The Sea Eagles always had this game under control and they finished with six tries to Cronulla's three. To be fair, the Sharks had five of their players backing up from the tough State of Origin loss four days before, while Manly had just one man involved in the loss to Queensland. The five Cronulla players were Valentine Holmes, Jack Bird, James Maloney, Andrew Fifita and Wade Graham, while Jake Trbojevic was the only Manly man to feature in the second Origin clash.

In their final 10 games, the Sea Eagles play eight teams below them on the ladder with only two games against teams in better positions. They meet the first placed Melbourne Storm in Melbourne on Sunday 30 July and are at home at Lottoland the following Sunday against the second placed Roosters. Two of their last 10 matches are with the bottom of the ladder Wests Tigers, while another is against the predictable Bulldogs, who currently sit in 13th position.

Following their grinding 21-14 win over the Bulldogs at Mt. Smart on Fridaynight, the Warriors moved up to 10th place and are just one win away from a top eight position. They meet Manly at Perth this Saturday and if they can defend as well as they did against the Bulldogs on Friday night, they could put a stop to the Sea Eagles unbeaten run since 13 May when they went down 24-14 to the Broncos in Brisbane. The Warriors play Manly again at Mt. Smart on Sunday 27 August.

In the final 10 rounds, the Warriors have a bye on the weekend after this week's game in Perth. They play four of their nine remaining matches at home and five away, while five of these opponents are above them on the ladder and four below. Mr. Consistency, Simon Mannering, played another masterful 80 minutes against the Bulldogs on Friday, making 155 running metres plus 60 tackles. In his 13 games so far this season, he has run for 1,594 metres in his 187 bursts at an average of 8.5 metres each run, while he has also made 558 tackles at a match average of 43. Just as important is his low error total of just 4 in the 13 games, which means he makes one mistake every three and a bit games. Stats like these are lottery wins for coaches. Simon would fit into any team in World Rugby League and has been an unsung hero for the Warriors since he played the first of his 271 top grade games as an 18 year old against the Broncos at Ericsson Stadium on 26 June 2005. He now has 57 first grade tries on his CV plus 41 Tests for New Zealand, six Test tries, a World Cup win and Four Nations titles.

I was elated to see Jason Nightingale pass the 100 first grade tries mark on Sunday at Kogarah Oval. The 30 year old St. George/Illawarra winger collected three tries in the Dragons 32-28 come from behind win over the Newcastle Knights. He now has nine tries this season and these have come from three hat tricks. The first was at ANZ Stadium on 2 April in the 28-6 victory over the Wests Tigers, while the second was at Wollongong when the Dragons went down 34-22 to the Melbourne Storm. Born in Sydney to New Zealand parents, Jason is of Maori descent, specifically the Waikato Tainui Iwi. As a small boy he lived in Waikato where he played Rugby Union before moving back to Sydney and joining the Renown United Junior Rugby League club in the St. George area. Australian Test stars Reg Gasnier (39 Tests), Mark Gasnier (15 Tests), Billy Smith (26 Tests) and John Greaves (12 Tests) are also Renown juniors. Jason has played 31 Tests for New Zealand and has 17 Test tries. He has played 236 First grade matches and now has 101 tries. He scored a try in his first grade debut which was a 28-16 win over Penrith at Kogarah Oval on 4 May 2007. A member of New Zealand's winning World Cup winning squad in November 2008, Jason won an NRL Premiership at ANZ Stadium on 3 October 2010, when he scored two tries for St. George/Illawarra in their 32-8 Grand Final win over the Roosters. He also played in the St./George/Illawarra World Club Championship winning team which defeated Wigan 21-15 at Wigan on 27 February 2011. Jason also played with the NRL All Stars in their 36-28 win over the Indigenous side at the Gold Coast on 4 February 2012.

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The young Warriors played entertaining football in their 36-6 win over the Bulldogs. Hard Running 18 year old centre, Melino Fineanganofa collected two of the Warriors seven tries and he now has five tries for the season. His overall stats this year are impressive and in his 13 games he has run for 1,534 metres at an average of about 12 forward metres each time he runs, while he has 157 tackles to his credit at an average of 12 each match. He has also made 71 tackle busts and seven line breaks.

At Lamport Stadium in Toronto Canada, last Saturday, the Toronto Wolfpack continued their unbeaten season with a 56-12 victory over the Hunslet RLFC before a home crowd of 6,042. They lead the English Tier three competition and play the York City Knights in Toronto this Saturday 1 July.

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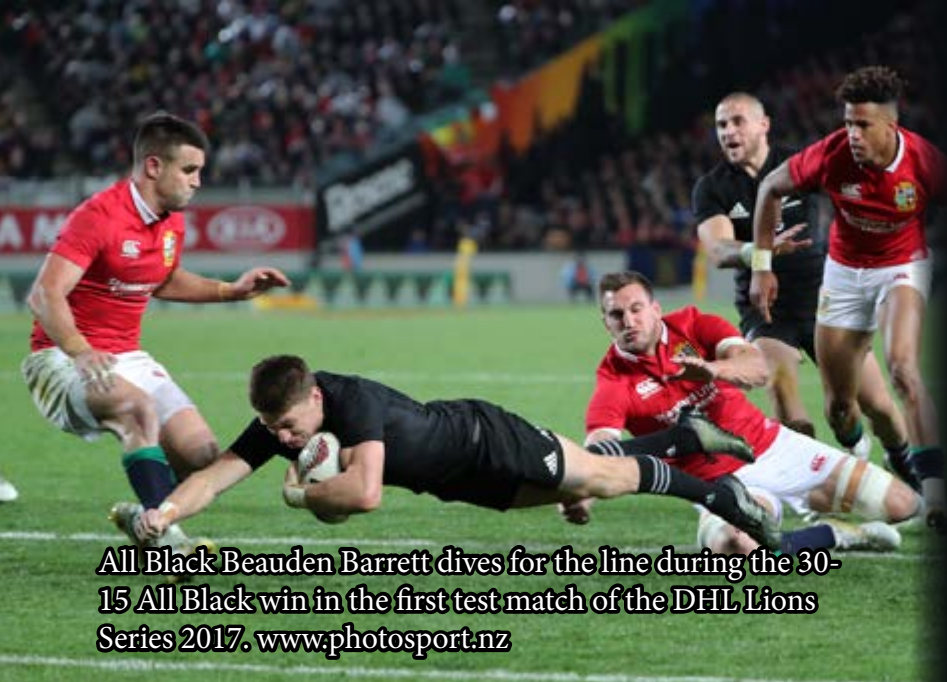


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By Miles Davis



All Black Beauden Barrett dives for the line during the 30-15 All Black win in the first test match of the DHL Lions Series 2017. www.photosport.nz

Lions First Test

DESPITE A slow start to the tour and some negative reaction from the media, the Lions turned up on Saturday night and played their part in a magnificent test match. The atmosphere at Eden Park was electric and both sets of players seemed to react to it.

I think the visitors surprised many with their expansive approach to the game and tried to stretch the All Blacks defence as well as combat them up front. Unfortunately for them they were up against a side that are No. 1 in the world for a reason. The All Blacks play the game at a tempo that is unmatched and the skill-set of their players across the whole squad is arguably the finest of any side in history. Beauden Barrett's ridiculous one-handed pick up at full speed when his side was under pressure, Codie Taylor's catch from his bootlaces to score the opening try (since when are hookers able to perform such acrobatics?) were just a couple of examples of many. It was almost as if the AB's had super glue on their hands.

The Lions can take some comfort from keeping the home side honest and also for scoring a truly memorable try but the reality is they have a hill to climb if they are to get a result in Wellington and send the series into a decider.

There are a few changes that Warren Gatland may make to improve his side's chances but it is hard to confidently predict them. He may decide that the athleticism and form of Maro Itoje is enough to include him at the expense of veteran Alun Wyn Jones. Dan Cole may get a call up for the front row and Sam Warburton might get a chance on the side of the scrum. One other possible change might be to bring Irishman Robbie Henshaw into the midfield and save Ben Te'o as an impact player off the bench.

Whatever changes are made the Lions will have to finish off their chances and hope that the All Blacks are mere mortals if they are to even the series.

I am sure there will be belief within the camp that they can improve enough to get a crucial victory but history dictates that the home side will eventually prevail. 1 series victory in 11 previous attempts is a pretty damning statistic but history is always ready to be written.

As an overstaying Pom I of course want the Lions to keep the series alive and will approach the game with my usual delusional optimism. What I can be sure of is that the red-shirted fans that have travelled here in their thousands will dominate the Caketin and no matter the result will form relationships with All Black fans that will last a lifetime. That is the magic of a British and Irish Lions tour to New Zealand.

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James Leuluai in action.



By Miles Davis

James Leuluai

A'AU JAMES Leuluai first came to rugby league prominence at the Mt Wellington club in Auckland. An elusive runner at centre with a lethal step it was not long before his talents saw him make the Kiwis and drew interest from professional clubs overseas.

In 1981 he signed for Hull FC, joining fellow Kiwis Dane O'Hara and Gary Kemble. The trio were an instant hit with the fans and propelled Hull to a golden period of success. In 1982 Leuluai was part of the Hull side that won the John Player Trophy (formerly the League Cup) with a 12-4 win over city rivals Hull Kingston Rovers.

The same season Hull made the Challenge Cup Final but Leuluai was an unused sub as Hull came back from the death to secure a 14-14 draw with Widnes in front of over 92,000. The replay at Elland Road, Leeds saw Leuluai make the starting line-up and he became part of club history as Hull won 18-9, bringing the famous trophy back to the club for the first time since 1914 and only the 2nd time in their history.

1983 was another huge year for Hull and Leuluai. They made another Challenge Cup final where they were hot favourites against unfashionable Featherstone Rovers. Although Leuluai did his bit by scoring a try, a superhuman effort from the underdogs saw them win 14-12 and he had to settle for a runners-up medal. He did taste victory however in the Championship as Hull finished top of the league table, 4 points clear of Hull KR.

Hull made many more finals and won several other trophies in that golden spell, including the Yorkshire Cup. They were also back at Wembley in 1985 for their 3rd Challenge Cup final in 4 years where they faced Wigan (skipped by Kiwi Graeme West) in front of a record crowd of 99,801. In one of the greatest finals ever seen, Leuluai scored 2 tries as Hull fought back from 28-12 down to just fall short at 28-24. His second try showcased his ability to find the gap and leave the defence in his wake (see below).

After 184 games and 85 tries he left Hull for Leigh where he played a handful of games before returning to Hull for a further 3 games. He then signed for Wakefield Trinity where he played 51 games scoring 12 tries. In 2015 he was inducted into Hull's Hall of Fame and is still renowned as one of the club's finest centres.

He also donned the Kiwi jersey 29 times in internationals scoring 14 tries.

After finishing his playing career in Wellington (including a first win over Auckland in 75 years) he turned his hand to coaching. He coached the Junior Kiwis in 2002 and was assistant to Daniel Anderson with the Kiwis 2003-2005. In 2007 he put his name forward for the top job but was beaten to it by former Hull teammate Gary Kemble. Kemble took his old mate on as his assistant.

Continued on next page...

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Yet another one of New Zealand's great league exports, those who were lucky enough to see him play will never forget his side-step and elusive running style. I can still see him nipping in under the posts to score in the Kiwi's 24-22 win over Great Britain in 1985. His son Thomas has continued the family tradition and I am sure there is more to follow as future generations of Leuluai grace the rugby league fields of the world.

Classic Leuluai try vs Castleford, Challenge Cup Semi-final 1983

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_gf_IXtSyU

Leuluai does it again Challenge Cup Final 1985

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyQh_1rh7k0

Challenge Cup Final 1985, Hull v Wigan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2b3IbRS1io&t=15s>

Vodafone Warriors 2017 Members Council

THE 2017 Council consists of Vodafone Warriors members from not only Auckland, but also around New Zealand and Australia. These people are ambassadors for our tribe and provide a link between members and the club to improve the experience of members and make our membership programme the best it can be. Registrations to be part of the Council opened in late January, with the 21 successful applicants selected and notified in February.

Home-based Council members help in a variety of ways, especially as game day volunteers at our fixtures at Mount Smart Stadium. Away-based Council members assist with our away games and members' events in their area. The Council is a huge asset to the Memberships Team and provide valuable feedback and insights on what it means to be a Vodafone Warriors member. If you have any queries on game day, keep an eye out for their friendly faces and be sure to say hello.

2017 MEMBER COUNCIL



Unicorns Coach Gets His Wish

By Shane Hurdell
Hawkes Bay Today Sports Reporter



FEARS NEW Hawke's Bay Unicorns rugby league team coach Aki Renata will only be allowed to field players from one club during this season's Mid Central inter-provincial competition have been alleviated.

When Omaha Huia club stalwart Renata, 53, was appointed last month he said his biggest concern was the fact he could only play players from the Bridge Pa club as it was the only Bay club which competed in the Coast to Coast club competition which finished last month. However Rugby League Hawke's Bay secretary Mike Tamati confirmed this week Renata will have the majority of players who he wanted available for selection.

"We had a mini tournament which involved players from, other clubs and this allowed us to meet the eligibility criteria rule with those players. Jacko [Taranaki coach Alan Jackson] had to do the same in Taranaki too," Tamati said.

The Unicorns will open their campaign with a 2pm home game against Wellington at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings on Saturday, July 15. Their remaining fixtures are against Manawatu at Fitzherbert Park in Palmerston North on August 20 and Taranaki in Hawera on September 3.

Renata is expected to announce his reduced training squad within the next fortnight.

While Hawke's Bay league fans have to wait another three weeks before their next live fix on home turf they have been keeping busy by supporting the country's No 1 ranked secondary schools rugby team which recorded their 12th consecutive win for the season with a 70-0 drubbing of Gisborne Boys' High School in Hastings on Saturday.

Although the ground conditions were atrocious the hosts ran in 12 tries and had skill levels which most of their Super 8 opponents would be proud to display on a fine sunny day. The fact Hastings started the game with six regular first stringers on the subs bench added to the feat's significance.

The Mark Ozich-coached HBHS team has scored 680 points in 12 outings this season while conceding 50.

Another big crowd is expected in Hastings on Saturday when HBHS host Rotorua Boys' High School in a fourth round Super 8 fixture. Just as dominant as the HBHS team this season is defending champions Napier Old Boys Marist in Hawke's Bay's premier club rugby competition.

The Green Machine, as the team is known, thrashed the only other previously unbeaten team Napier Technical 59-7 in a fifth round clash last weekend. This was achieved without eight regular first stringers and was the team's 28th consecutive victory since a round six Nash Cup loss last year.

All three Ioane brothers, Migao, Sami and Johnny, again started for NOBM. This trio has turned out for a variety of Hawke's Bay league teams during RLHB's spring competitions over the years.

Last weekend's other feature sporting attraction in the Bay saw Wairarapa pip Napier City Rovers 5-4 in a thrilling round three Chatham Cup match which required extra time. Add in the televised sporting commitments like the Warriors much-needed win against the Bulldogs on Friday night, the America's Cup yachting races and the All Blacks victory against the Lions and it's easy to gauge the reasons for the fatigue factor as most Hawke's Bay sports fans set off for work on Monday morning.

GRANTED: Hawke's Bay coach Aki Renata will be able to play players from more than one club in the Mid Central inter-provincial competition.



It Was a Dogfight...

By John Holloway



THE MIGHTY Warriors got down and dirty and kept the Bulldogs on a tight leash. What a gritty display by our boys...Hingano stepping into the big foran boots and apart from a couple of tricky passes did the business very adequately. I am confident this young man can grow nicely into the fulltime job over the next couple of seasons. He showed defensive grit plus has the flair and timing to become a star. Shauns kicking game largely on song, Mannering everywhere as usual, Thompson more prominent, Roger TVS leading by example. To top it off the somewhat hesitant at times Tall Timber Maumolo discovered his mojo with his best ever long range scoring effort. While he has been a prominent metre eater and got safer under the high pill I have been sceptical of his hunger and desire to smash defenders and get across the tryline, he put that to bed on Friday nite and if he can retain that confidence he will certainly become a crowd favourite let alone a great weapon for our guys. I noted Vatuvei sitting beside the reserves on the sub bench was on his feet celebrating that try as well which was a nice sidelight considering his position is threatened by the new mini beast. At the bell we had the Belmore Bashers by 21/14 and the opening salvo of a pretty good sporting weekend for the Kiwi Fan....some might say the NZ Warriors are pretty small change in comparison to the great All Blacks and the Yachting nirvana that is Americas cup but you know whatwe love it all but the Warriors for all the ups and downs is where a true kiwi league lives. Kiakaha.

ManSea Eagles looming for us in Perth and the way they dumped the Premier Sharks 35/18 was very ominous...in a supposedly rebuilding year Barretts bullies have moved quietly into the top 4 on the back of an uncompromising forward pack, the brilliant Trbojevics, strong direction from deadly DCE, ice cool Blake Green and finishing power from Walker and born again Uate. A well balanced package that caught the Shire-boys well and truly on the hop. The Titans v Tigers was always a looking 50/50 but with no teddy Tedesco to open the door the Westies came second 14/26 to the more committed Queensland Coasters. Loloheah trying hard but at this point he is not parting the sea like Moses. Without JT you expect the Cowboy crew to struggle and they did but they did it well enough to defuse the favoured Panthers 14/12 with a last ditch high flying Feldt try from the heavens to even up at 12 each. The sideline conversion by an unruffled Ethan Lowe was as good as any by the injury sidelined old master. The Mountain Men had looked home for all money but slipped into the abyss at the bell. Keep an eye on the Penrith second rower kiwi boy Harawira- Naera, has size runs good lines and has that magic ingredient mongrel, their other very good kiwi prospect with the similar assassin like attributes Fisher-Harris is injured at this point. Kidwell take note. The Broncos got back to business with typical baennett style efficiency to dump the downhill raiders 30/20 with the old maori magician marshall turning back the clock. The roosters/Storm game was as tight and tense as expected and was only decided by a terrific Mitch Pearce droppie from distance at the buzzer. Previous week Storm Hero Croft again prominent but unfortunate to provide the clanger this week that gave the Bondi boys a late opportunity that proved conclusive. The Home side The Red V was swamped early by an energetic and opportunistic Steel-town crew but clawed back from a big deficit 6/28 to win going away 32/28 in a thriller. Another late heart-break downer for Newcastle coach Nate Brown and the team and the fans.. This week its another huge lineup of blockbuster encounters

Keep up with Sir Peter Leitch! Click the icons to follow him on:



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Rugby League Northland Premiership Round 11 Review

By Ben Francis



The Takahiwai Warriors have suffered their first loss of the Rugby League Northland Premiership.

The Warriors lost 26-24 to the Otangarei Knights in a tight, physical battle.

The Knights scored the opening try of the game, but two first half tries by Kyle Hool put the hosts 18-8 at the break.

But errors crept in to the Warriors game, which allows the Knights to get back into the match.

Hool scored his third try midway through the second which put the Warriors up 24-20, but the Knights stood tall and winger Bryce Pauahi scored the try which sealed the match for the visitors.

In other results, the Hikurangi Stags overcame the Northern Wairoa Bulls 38-26.

Five first half tries, including a hattrick to Stags centre Waipu Stone put his side up 26-4 at the break.

The Stags scored the first try of the second half to lead 30-4. But that sparked a fightback by the Bulls who scored 22 unanswered points to trail by four points late in the match. s

But it was too little, too late for the Bulls as Kaylib Heke scored his second of the match to secure the win for the Stags.

Moerewa Tigers had a huge win, slaughtering the Hora Hora Broncos 92-0.

Both the Warriors and Knights are at the top of the table, with 20 completion points, but the Warriors still sit in first due to the points differential. The Tigers are two points back in third, while the Stags are fourth on 13 points.

The Panthers are four points back fifth while the the Bulls and Broncos have four points each in sixth and seventh.

Round 12 action will see the Hora Hora Broncos face the Hikurangi Stags, the Moerewa Tigers tackle the Takahiwai Warriors and the Portland Panthers host the Northern Wairoa Bulls.

The Otangarei Knights have the bye.



The weekend was too much for my Mate Dexter he crashed on my sofa on Friday night but it was a big day topped off with a Vodafone Warriors win.



Was nice to have our Sydney correspondent Barry Ross staying with me over the weekend. He even had a police escort to the Rugby..

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TAKE YOUR Rugby league CLUB TO THE WORLD CUP... AND WIN

*By Daniel Fraser
New Zealand Media & PR
Manager RLWC 2017*

PUT YOUR Rugby League club in contention to win cash prizes by buying tickets for the Rugby League World Cup (RLWC2017) through an exclusive promotion for New Zealand clubs.

There a variety of prizes on offer for clubs who participate in this promotion, with a \$1500 cash grant going to the New Zealand club that purchases the most tickets (minimum 50).

While all clubs that purchase at least 50 tickets will go into a second-chance draw for an additional \$1500 cash grant.

A Category C family pass for a RLWC2017 pool match in New Zealand will also be awarded to clubs for every 50 tickets that they buy through this promotion.

In each of the New Zealand stadiums, Category C bays are being reserved specifically for the Rugby League community, with tickets available from as little as \$10 for kids, \$20 for adults and \$45 for a family of four.

The promotion closes on August 15. For more information and terms and conditions, please see the poster or [click here](#).

The draw for the final six rounds of the nrl is confirmed so make sure you come and say hi at warriors games at Mt Smart

The schedule for the last six weeks of the NRL season is out and the Warriors have a Friday night match and two Sunday games at Mt Smart.

The Warriors take on the reigning premiers Cronulla Sharks on Friday July 28, two weeks later they face the Canberra Raiders on Sunday August 13 before the Warriors' final home game of the regular season against the Manly Sea Eagles on Sunday August 27.

We'll also be at the game against the Penrith Panthers on Friday July 14 so make sure you come along for photos and as always, there are prizes for kids who have a crack at the passing competition.



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NZRL National Premiership Returns for 2017

By Brooke Hurdell
NZRL Digital Content Producer

HAMILTON AND Christchurch will get the first taste of the 2017 National Premiership when round one kicks off on September 17.

This year's schedule has the Canterbury Bulls facing the 2016 runners up, Counties Manukau Stingrays in a home game at Christchurch's AMI Stadium, followed by the defending champions Akarana Falcons, taking on Waikato at Hamilton's FMG Stadium.

After winning promotion from the championship division when the new competition format started last year, Waikato will compete against the Akarana Falcons, Counties Manukau Stingrays and Canterbury Bulls in the top grade.

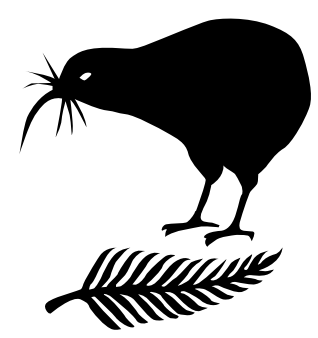
All premiership games this season will be televised live on SKY, including the October 7 Grand Final at Mt Smart Stadium. This will feature the Championship winners v fourth-placed premiership side in a promotion/relegation match followed by the Premiership Final.

This year's national competition format will see the top four teams (Akarana, Counties, Canterbury and Waikato) contest the premiership title, with Auckland represented by its two NZRL zones, while winners from four qualifying pools will compete for the NZRL National Championship.

Full draws for the 2016 NZRL premiership and championship are:

Draw		Home	Away	Time	Location
Round 1	Sun 17 Sept	Waikato	vs Akarana	4.00pm	FMG Stadium
	Sun 17 Sept	Canterbury	vs Counties	2.00pm	AMI
Round 2	Sun 24 Sept	Counties	vs Akarana	4.00pm	Mt Smart
	Sun 24 Sept	Waikato	vs Canterbury	2.00pm	FMG Stadium
Round 3	Sat 30 Sept	Counties	vs Waikato	3.00pm	Trust Stadium
	Sat 30 Sept	Akarana	vs Canterbury	1.15pm	Trust Stadium
Grand Final	Sat 7 Oct	4th Placed team	vs Nat C'ship Winner	5.30pm	Mt Smart
3 games	P/R Game	1st in Premiership	vs 2nd in Premiership	7.30pm	Mt Smart

2017 National Championship Draw – Teams, Venue & Days TBC					
Round	Home		Away	Venue	Kick off
Round 1	Sat, 16 Sept	Central Winner	vs Northern Winner	TBC	
	Sat, 16 Sept	Southland	vs Bye	TBC	
Round 2	Sat, 23 Sept	Southland	vs Central Winner	TBC	
	Sat, 23 Sept	Northern Winner	vs Bye	TBC	
Round 3	Sat, 30 Sept	Northern Winner	vs Southland	TBC	
	Sat, 30 Sept	Central Winner	vs Bye	TBC	



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE™

He Tauaa Reign Supreme – 5 Years in a Row!

By Dave Loudon - Southern Rugby League - Invercargill

THE SOUTHLAND District Rugby League held the grand final of their club competition last Saturday (24th June) .The two clubs in the final being He Tauaa RLC and Lonestar Cowboys RLC. He Tauaa having won the final for the previous 4 years.

It always promised to be an exciting clash – indeed it was , played in perfect conditions at the Sandy point grounds. Both teams were laced with representative players that have benefited from the experience of playing for the Southland Rams last season.

Cowboys opened the ledger with a try five minutes in to the game . From there on it was a relatively even game . The half time whistle saw He Tauaa in the lead with 18 points and Cowboys sitting on 12 points . Cowboys had a rapid succession of tries in the second half , but He Tauaa showed their worth and kept up the try scoring to finish the game with a handy lead . At the final whistle the scoreboard read : He Tauaa 43 and Cowboys 34 .

It was a good upfront battle in the He Tauaa forwards, they just had to battle hard amongst themselves, it was just who could get on top of the other so, their forwards played awesome all game . Cowboys played well and knew they were in for a good close game and they will build on this experience for next season.

Try Scorers : He Tauaa : Lucas Pikia and Sam Taukiri each ran in two tries and the following players gaining a try each ; Javaan Faamoe – Ioane , Jayleel Faamoe – Ioane , Shaun Tamariki – Todd and Rocky Pettigrew . Jayleel Famoe – Ioane kicked 5 conversions and one field goal successfully.

Cowboys : Afi Peteru ran in two tries and the following players gaining a try each Korey Pennicott , Houston Te Tai , Josh Gough and Tane Puki . Daniel Low kicked 5 conversions successfully .

He Tauaa are now looking forward to playing Kia Toa Tigers (The winners of the Otago club competition grand final) in an Otago - Southland game. This game is being played at Sandy Point , Invercargill on Saturday July 15th . (Time to be decided) .



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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 17 ISSUE...

NRL, HOLDEN CUP, INTRUST SUPER PREMIERSHIP, INTRUST SUPER CUP AND RON MASSEY CUP TEAM LISTS, PREVIEWS AND STATS + SCORES AND RESULTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY!

INSIDE

- Warriors captain **Roger Tuivasa-Sheck** reveals he is using leadership techniques he learned at the Roosters to try and get his team into a winning frame of mind. "He's blown me away by the way he's developed," says former Warriors captain **Simon Mannering**. "He's miles ahead of where I was in that sense."
- Gold Coast half **Ash Taylor** is has the attitude of someone much older than his 22 years and his coach **Neil Henry** says that is what is going to lead him into a long and fruitful career. "He's got a level head and his work ethic towards his kicking and parts of his game is pretty good. He acknowledges it's a work in progress and he's a realist, but he's a competitor."
- Manly have quietly snuck into the top four with the help of halfback **Daly Cherry-Evans** and his halves partner **Blake Green** says it's time for Queensland selectors to give him another shot. "I don't think his performances indicated he can't handle that arena. He's been outstanding for us this year. I think it's time they gave him another chance."
- Rabbitohs winger **Alex Johnston** says he was well aware he won't be first-choice fullback before re-signing with the club for three years, but is happy to bide his time on the wing.

PLUS... The **Top 8 club spending sprees** and **The Analyst** figures out which key period of the game leads to most of the Knights' losses.



ROUND 17

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Leading the Warriors is one of the NRL's most challenging positions, but their young captain is doing everything he can to set an example.

By **MICHAEL BURGESS**

FROM fullback to field marshal – that's the surprising evolution of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck in 2017.

Already one of the most talented players in the NRL, Tuivasa-Sheck could go to another level as Warriors skipper. It hasn't all been plain sailing, but the way he has handled the challenge, and thrived, is remarkable.

Leading the Warriors is one of the toughest jobs in rugby league, with the Auckland club's frustrating history, creaky culture and huge expectation. That combination proved enough to

Taking C

eventually break Simon Mannering, one of the most mentally resilient players in the sport. The responsibility also took the spark out of Ryan Hoffman's performances last year, despite the veteran's vast experience with the Melbourne Storm, NSW and the Kangaroos.

That's why Stephen Kearney's decision to go with Tuivasa-Sheck as his first Warriors captain seemed so out of left field; he wasn't on anyone's shortlist.

It was a considerable risk. Would Kearney cook the golden goose? Fullback captains are rare in the modern era, and Tuivasa-Sheck already had plenty on his plate. He was a marquee player, coming back from a major knee reconstruction – and he was only 23.

To put that in perspective, Anthony Minichiello was 33 when he became skipper at the Roosters. Darren Lockyer was 27 at the Broncos, and Cameron Smith (24) and Johnathan Thurston (24) were both older when they got the top role at their clubs. They were all also at franchises with solid foundations, surrounded by proven talent.

Tuivasa-Sheck didn't have that luxury – it was sink or swim.

"It was a big challenge, but I had to embrace it," he says.

"I got a lot of support, though sometimes you wonder what you are going to do next.

PHOTOS: Hamman Peters/Getty Images (Right); Simon Watts/NRL Photos.com (Left)

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Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

I started off trying to introduce a few things that I thought might work, but there were times where everyone was a little blank-faced.”

Reality hit home for Tuivasa-Sheck during a pre-season conversation with a fan.

“He asked me ‘how’s your team? You need to get them going’ and I thought, ‘Yeah, flip, I have to lead these guys now.’ It felt crazy.”

It wasn’t easy — especially as the Kieran Foran saga dominated the headlines — but the new skipper stayed focused. That was epitomised in Round 1, when the Warriors were desperate for their first season-opening win this decade. They were facing a shock defeat against the Knights, before Tuivasa-Sheck’s stunning 60-metre kick return swung the momentum and led to Ryan Hoffman’s winning try.

It was a fine start, but the season has been far from straightforward since. Concussion ruled him out of the next two rounds and he endured what he described as “the worst half of football” in his career last month, as Penrith rallied from nowhere at Pepper Stadium.

Rather than falter, it’s made Tuivasa-Sheck more determined. Remember the amazing double tackle, metres from the line against

mates. He’s also pushed personal improvement, based on the template he learned at Bondi.

“I’m trying to spark more conversations about goals and targets and what we want to do,” he says.

“That is what I want to encourage, not just turning up. Players like Anthony [Minichiello] and Jared [Waerea-Hargreaves] were really outspoken and helped drive the performance [at the Roosters]. That’s what I want to introduce here.”

“Guys like Solomone [Kata], ‘Fus’ [David Fusitu’a] and Ken

harge

the Roosters, and the team-high 208 running metres in the win over Brisbane? There was the stunning try versus the Eels in Round 13, and another key play on the Gold Coast, as Tuivasa-Sheck evaded three defenders in a 35-metre burst to score and break the Titans’ resistance. Each act serves as a testament to the remarkable ability of ‘RTS’.

“The guy is amazing,” says former Roosters and Sharks No.1 Richie Barnett, who also captained the Kiwis from fullback.

“As well as your own game, you have to be thinking ‘what am I going to say to get this team up? How am I going to say it?’ They’re the thought processes that you have and he is only young and still learning.”

Tuivasa-Sheck is quiet, but seems a natural leader. He inspires the young Polynesians around him, but also has the respect of the senior professionals at Mt Smart.

“He’s been wonderful,” said Kearney. “I don’t need to talk about the way he prepares but he’s also connected with everyone. That’s what I knew he would bring. When the game is on the line, he wants the ball in his hands.”

Tuivasa-Sheck is also driving new standards at the Warriors. He’s always been a highly motivated achiever – it’s how he broke into a Roosters’ team full of hard heads as a kid from South Auckland with limited experience. He’s introduced more players meetings — without the coaches — trying to elicit better communication from his team-

[Maumalo] are all freak athletes, but for them to go to that next level we need to get more out of them, through communication, targets and goals. It was something I was taught at the Roosters; if you want to achieve something there’s no other way than asking for it or learning about it.”

It’s heady stuff for the NRL’s youngest captain, but Tuivasa-Sheck has always been a little ahead of his time. He won a premiership in his second NRL season and then switched to fullback, where he re-defined what was possible in the No.1 jersey.

It’s been harder to scale those heights in Auckland, with a different team dynamic and last year’s horrific injury, but few would bet against him eventually making it, and becoming one of the most influential leaders in Warriors history.

“He’s blown me away by the way he’s developed,” admits Mannering.

“He was already a leader in this group but the way he’s taken to the captaincy role... he’s miles ahead of where I was in that sense – and he’s probably been our best player this year too.”



Round 17 **BIG LEAGUE 2017** 17

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine



V

DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 1
VENUE: NIB STADIUM
KICK-OFF: 3.30PM (WA)
REFEREE: GAVIN BADGER
ASSISTANT REFEREE: TIM ROBY
TOUCH JUDGES: RUSSELL TURNER & ADAM REID
SENIOR REVIEW OFFICIAL: LUKE PATTEN
REVIEW OFFICIAL: STEVE CHIDDY
FOX LEAGUE: 5.30PM (AEST)
LIVE RADIO: 2GB, ABC

				#NRLManlyWarriors									
P	T	G	PTS		P	T	G	PTS		P	T	G	PTS
12	5	0	20	Tom TRBOJEVIC	1	Roger TUIVASA-SHECK (C)	14	5	0	20			
5	2	15	38	Matthew WRIGHT	2	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	5	4	0	16			
14	8	28	88	Dylan WALKER	3	Blake AYSHFORD	12	4	0	16			
14	5	0	20	Brian KELLY	4	David FUSITU'A	15	8	0	32			
13	9	0	36	Akuila UATE	5	Ken MAUMALO	14	6	0	24			
14	3	0	12	Blake GREEN	6	Kieran FORAN	10	2	0	8			
14	2	0*	10	Daly CHERRY-EVANS (C)	7	Shaun JOHNSON	15	4	39*	95			
14	3	0	12	Brenton LAWRENCE	8	Jacob LILLYMAN	14	0	0	0			
14	3	1	14	Api KOROISAU	9	Nathaniel ROACHE	6	0	0	0			
11	1	0	4	Martin TAUPAU	10	Ben MATULINO	8	1	0	4			
14	1	0	4	Frank WINTERSTEIN	11	Bodene THOMPSON	15	3	0	12			
14	0	0	0	Lewis BROWN	12	Ryan HOFFMAN	15	6	1	26			
14	4	0	16	Jake TRBOJEVIC	13	Simon MANNERING	13	2	0	8			

INTERCHANGE

1	0	0	0	Cameron CULLEN	14	Mafoa'aeta HINGANO	5	1	0	4
5	0	0	0	Lloyd PERRETT	15	Bunty AFOA	8	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	Darcy LUSSICK	16	Albert VETE	7	0	0	0
12	0	0	0	Addin FONUA-BLAKE	17	James GAVET	11	2	0	8

RESERVES

1	0	0	0	Jarrad KENNEDY	18	Manu VATUVEI	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	Jonathan WRIGHT	19/20	Ligi SAO	7	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	Brad PARKER	20/21	Isaiah PAPALI'I	1	0	0	0
8	1	2	8	Jackson HASTINGS	21/22	Mason LINO	0	0	0	0

*Field Goals: D Cherry-Evans 2

*Field Goals: S Johnson 1

COACHES

Trent BARRETT

Stephen KEARNEY

PENALTIES				SCRUMS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	13	14	15	16

PENALTIES				SCRUMS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	13	14	15	16

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	SEA EAGLES	WARRIORS
Position (Points)	4th (22)	10th (16)
Points For	334	295
Points Against	255	317

ATTACK		
Tries	60	51
Completions	78%	79%
Tries 0-20m	29	31
Tries 21-50m	15	9
Tries 51-100m	8	3

DEFENCE		
Tries	42	55
Tries 0-20m	24	20
Tries 21-50m	7	16
Tries 51-100m	5	7

MATCH AVERAGES		
Tries Scored	4	3
Tries Conceded	3	4
Points Scored	24	20
Points Conceded	18	21
Hit Ups/Runs	165	176
Tackles	289	317
Metres Gained	1559	1577
Handling Errors	3	4
Offloads	11	7
Line-breaks	5	4
Goalkicking	69%	79%

HEAD-TO-HEAD
 Played 29, Manly 21, Warriors 8

AT NIB STADIUM, PERTH
 Played 1, Manly 1, Warriors 0

WINNING FORM 2017
MANLY: LLWWLWLLWLBWBWBW Streak – 4 wins
WARRIORS: WLLLWLLWLLWLBWBW Streak – 2 wins

PAST 8 CLASHES
2016 – MANLY D. WARRIORS 15-14 at nib Stadium, Perth;
MANLY D. WARRIORS 34-18 at Mt Smart Stadium
2015 – MANLY D. WARRIORS 32-12 at Mt Smart Stadium
2014 – MANLY D. WARRIORS 22-12 at Mt Smart Stadium
2013 – MANLY D. WARRIORS 27-12 at Bluetongue Stadium;
WARRIORS D. MANLY 18-16 at Mt Smart Stadium
2012 – MANLY D. WARRIORS 24-22 at Patersons Stadium, Perth;
MANLY D. WARRIORS 26-20 at Eden Park

BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS
MANLY D. WARRIORS 52-6 at Brookvale Oval, 2008
AUCKLAND D. MANLY 36-10 at Brookvale Oval, 1999

NEXT CLASH
MANLY: v Penrith at Pepper, 5.30pm Saturday July 8
WARRIORS: BYE

CASUALTY WARD
MANLY: Curtis Sironen (pectoral) – Rd 26; Jorge Taufua (knee) – season
WARRIORS: Issac Luke (shoulder) – indefinite

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

NRL Preview

by DAVID MIDDLETON
@Middleton_David

Sea Eagles continue bid for top four

nib Stadium, Perth
Saturday 3.30pm

Form: The Sea Eagles produced one of their most comprehensive performances of the season when they downed the Sharks 35-18 last Sunday. Their fourth-straight win pitched them into the top four for the first time since 2014. The Warriors made it three wins from four games when they downed the Bulldogs 21-14 and continued their annual mid-season migration up the ladder. They now sit two points adrift of the eight.

History: The Sea Eagles have long been a bogey team for the Warriors, who have managed a paltry four wins in these contests since 2004. The Warriors have won only one of the past 12 clashes and they've gone down in both games against Manly in Perth, one at today's venue, the other at Paterson's Stadium.

Danger sign: The lengthy westward journey has proven a killer for the Warriors ever since they took on the old Western Reds in 1995. In eight games in Perth, the Warriors have lost every time. They went agonisingly close last year but were denied in golden point by a Daly Cherry-Evans field goal.

Best Bet? Look for the Sea Eagles to continue their surge and add to the Warriors' tale of woe in the west. Consider a Manly victory by 13+ points.

Money-spinner: Contenders for First Tryscorer include Dylan Walker, Akuila Uate and Tom Trbojevic.



KEN MAUMALO

11
tackle-breaks in Round 16



HOLDEN CUP

DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 1 VENUE: LOTTOLAND KICK-OFF: 1PM
REFEREE: TIM HANNON
TOUCH JUDGES: CLAYTON WILLS & TIAN NICHOLLS

SEA EAGLES V WARRIORS

Luke POLSELLI	1	Lee TURNER
Jade ANDERSON	2	Israel OGDEN
Brad PARKER	3	Melino FINEANGANOFU
Blake ANDREWS	4	Dean KOUKA-SMITH
Alfred SMALLEY	5	Gibson POPOALII
Tom WRIGHT	6	Kane TELEA
Cade CUST	7	Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA
Jaiden TARRANT	8	Kenese KENESE (C)
Manase FAINU	9	Eiden ACKLAND
Taniela PASEKA	10	Taylher PAORA
Billy BAINBRIDGE	11	Tyler SLADE
Josh MARTIN	12	Preston RIKI
Jesse MARTIN (C)	13	Chris SIO (C)
14 Haumole OLAKAU'ATU 15 Elia FAATUI, 16 Zaan WEATHERALL, 17 John TUIVAITI 18 Bilal MAARBANI, 19 Eddie IEREMIA, 21 Kurtis PREECE 22 Kane McQUIGGIN 23 Michael FENN		14 Jerome MAMEA, 15 Kelepi LUI 16 Soane HUFANGA 17 Sheldon ROGERS 18 Lewis SIO, 20 Keanu DAWSON 21 Troy PULUPAKI, 22 Mark GRAHAM, 23 Edward MULITALO-VAVEAU, 24 Nathan NEWTON
Wayne LAMBKIN		Grant POCKLINGTON

DISCIPLINE NEEDS WORK... The Sea Eagles came close to a win in the second half against the Sharks, but it wasn't enough. Coming back from the break, hooker Manase Fainu was Manly's only try scorer, crossing three times in the final 40. Discipline was the Sea Eagles' biggest flaw, with a whopping 71 missed tackles.

FINDING THEIR RHYTHM... After an 11-game losing streak at the start of the season, the Warriors are finding their groove, beating the Bulldogs 36-6 at home. Centre Melino Fineanganofu was dominant in the first half, scoring a double in 10 minutes. His team followed in defence, keeping the Dogs scoreless. Gibson Popoalii was unstoppable on the left wing, running 251 metres, breaking 10 tackles and scoring a try. **- KAMILIA HANNA**

HEAD-TO-HEAD LEADERS

AVERAGE METRES	AVERAGE TACKLES	LINE-BREAKS
Tom Trbojevic 182	Simon Mannering 43	Tom Trbojevic 12
Martin Taupau 181	Api Koroisau 37	Akuila Uate 11
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 175	Jake Trbojevic 36	Dylan Walker 9
Jorge Taufua 163	Bodene Thompson 33	Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 9
Ken Maumalo 161	Issac Luke 30	David Fusitu'a 7

STATS

FANTASY POINTS
Simon Mannering 57.2
Shaun Johnson 56.9
Martin Taupau 56.5
Jake Trbojevic 54.9
Daly Cherry-Evans 45.1

PHOTO: Anthony Au-Yeung/Getty Images

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine



Dexter in his Warriors hat and Barry on the far right with his sons.



Had a great night at the rugby test with this group of good people. Thanks to Peter Thompson.



Magnificent 77 celebrate 40 years

By Talei Anderson

AFTER 40 years since their 'remarkable grand slam,' Auckland's 1977 representative team reunited last weekend – many for the first time since those days – in a three-day celebration to remember their supreme victories.

Squaring off against the international sides, the provincial team made headlines for their magnificent and historic performance in taking down Australia 19-15 on June 1, Great Britain 14-10 on June 14 and France 17-0 on June 21 all in the space of three weeks. Their success was all more special tailing the Kiwis' botched results against the visiting teams in their World Championship matches just days prior.

Last Friday, the team and their partners met at the New Zealand Rugby League Museum before heading up the road for the Vodafone Warriors' clash against the Bulldogs.

Hugs were shared, tears were shed and laughs were heard as memories and emotions flooded back on their arrival.

Auckland Rugby League board member Gordon Gibbons officially welcomed the star-studded side along with chairman Cameron McGregor and QSM Sir Peter Leitch – a good friend to them all.

Vodafone Warriors media manager Richard Becht also reflected on his days as a sports journalist where he watched the 1977 grand slam from the precarious vantage point of the press box atop Carlaw Park's Railway Stand.

It was a busy night for the team as they gathered in the Members' Clubrooms taking selfies and signing vintage cards with much-loved fans.

Several players made appearances in the lounges around the grounds before walking out onto the field alongside the Vodafone Warriors players just before kick-off.

After being introduced to and saluted by the crowd, the 1977 team enjoyed the evening watching the game from the upper East Stand.

On Saturday, the Auckland Rugby League paid tribute to the side at the home of the Richmond Bulldogs (Grey Lynn Park) where clubs, players and fans joined them in celebrating their reunion of 40 years.

A replica-team photo was produced and the 1977 Auckland international champions watched the Northcote Tigers take on the Richmond Bulldogs in Round 11 of the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership.

1977 international champion and former Tigers player Dave Lepper was stoked with the result after his former club Northcote took home a 22-10 win at fulltime.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

On Sunday, the team came together for a relaxed lunch, karaoke and to say their final goodbyes before heading back home.

3-Test Kiwi prop Lyndsay Proctor – who inspired the 40-year reunion – said he was thankful for all the support he received in making the reunion a success.

“I was looking through my things one day and I came across our team photo,” he said.

“I saw Bill Sorensen, Bill Nesbitt and George Rainey and reflected on how great they were back then... I started to look at all the guys and realised we were still all alive – all of us. That was a good enough excuse to get us all together to have a laugh.

“I have to thank the butcher – Sir Peter Leitch – for his support in all of this. The Vodafone Warriors for a great night at the game on Friday night, and the Auckland Rugby League for putting on such a wonderful weekend for us all.

“It has just been incredible,” he said.

1977 captain and NZRL Legend of League Dennis Williams said the weekend had brought back a lot of memories for him.

“What a magnificent weekend it has been,” he said.

“We had a bunch of fantastic footballers, we achieved something very special and it has been wonderful to reflect and remember those days with you all.”



Alan McCarthy, Lyndsay Proctor and Mark Lowe .



Dane O'Hara, Luther Toloa and Gary Kemble at the NZRL museum on Friday evening.



Dave Sorensen, Tippy Taylor and Mark Lowe get a selfie together.



Fred Ah Kuoi, Glenn Tippy Taylor and Mark Graham enjoy some laughs at the Warriors game on Friday night.



Olsen Filipaina, Dave Lepper and Warren Winter.



Team masseur Graeme Coutts and Glenn (Tippy) Taylor.

Reader Mail

Bonjour Monsieur LEITCH,

HOPE YOU are well, i know by your newsletter that you're missing your coach STEVE MC-NAMARA, that why i send you a photo during his first training session tday in PERPIGNAN

All the best

Keep in touch, sincerely

Pascal



ARL Results

SAS Fox Memorial: Round 11

Mt Albert 10 Howick 22

Richmond 10 Northcote 22

Te Atatu 0 Pt Chevalier 46

Marist 20 Glenora 50

Papakura 28 Mangere East 6

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Premiership: Round 7

Otahuhu 36 New Lynn 22

Bay Roskill 76 Ellerslie 6

Otara 30 Manurewa 16

Ponsonby 24 Papatoetoe 6

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Plate: Round 7

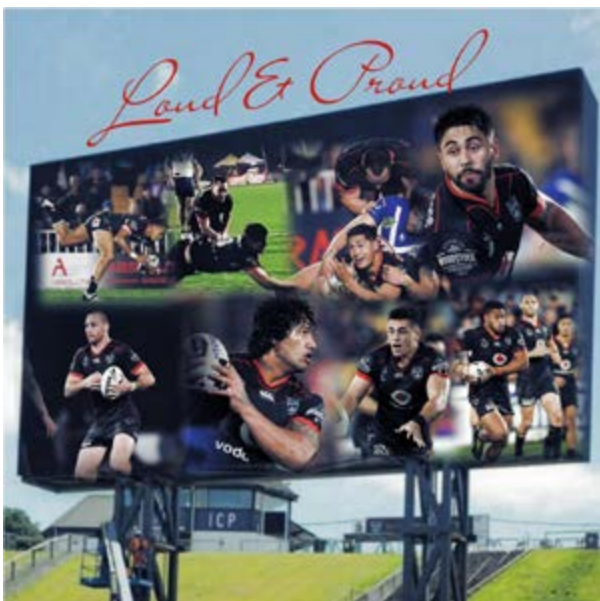
Manukau 22 East Coast Bays 26

Hibiscus Coast 26 Pakuranga 24

Waitemata bye



Joyce Putohe Artwork



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BREAST CANCER PROSTATE CANCER

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Thank you for your Support!





Was great to catch up with Bulldogs captain James Graham on Saturday before heading to the rugby test he is a top guy and I even managed to get him a tickets to the rugby test!

Was great to catch up with Kevin Sinfield and James Graham at lunch on Saturday at Euro bar

Great to catch up with these former Kiwis Rugby League players at the AGM for the NZRL. Nigel Vagan, David Faumuina, Olsen Filipaina, Howie Tamati, Tony Kemp and Tawera Nikau. Together they've played over 138 games for the Kiwis

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