

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

5th July 2017

#177

Vodafone Warriors v Sea Eagles



Bodene Thompson eyes up the opposition



Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad scores a try



Mafoa'Acata Hingano and Kieran Foran make a tackle



Mafoa'Acata Hingano looks to pass



Nathaniel Roache passes



Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad high five



Shaun Johnson on the run



Simon Mannering gets tackled



Young Warriors fans

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Manu On The Move

By David Kemeys

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



IHAVE BEEN supporting the Vodafone Warriors for so long that Manu Vatuvei was only about 10 when I got seriously into it.

And if there is a player who polarises opinion more than Manu, I have yet to meet him.

So I better declare that I will not hear a bad word said about the bloke.

Now it seems the big fellah is going to take up an opportunity to play with Salford, a British club in the UK Super League.

Big Manu's contract with us doesn't expire until the end of the 2018 season, but reports from Guardian rugby league reporter Aaron Bowler say he has signed with the Salford Red Devils.

He has been a bit player of late, suffering from a range of injuries, and it is clear other players are more favoured nowadays, but it is easy to forget it is only a few years ago we were celebrating Manu becoming the first NRL player to score 10 tries or more every year for a decade, and that he was International Winger of the year in 2008 after the Kiwis' won the Rugby League World Cup.

I have known him for many years because he has been one of the Warriors' official ambassadors for Kidz First Children's Hospital, and credit where it is due, he has never shirked his role with us, was easily the most popular visitor, was always up for a laugh with the kids, and put in plenty every time he visited, often going the extra mile to visit kids too ill to even leave their rooms.

His laughter would fill the playroom and he was always a pleasure to be around.

And of course on the field I witnessed the highs and the lows. To my mind, too much was made of the lows, and not enough was made of the highs, but the depressing reality of professional sport is that all careers come to an end.

So if we are to grant Manu an early release, I say good luck to the bloke.

He has been a fantastic servant and I'm only sorry we will probably not get the chance to see him thundering out of the back or crashing over in the corner again.

It also can't be denied that it is a good bit of business for the club too, because it will free up a bit of space under the salary cap, and as popular as any player is, that will give us the chance to wheel and deal in the market, not necessarily at wing of course.

Reports are a bit sketchy about whether the deal will see Manu join Salford immediately or next season, but we know the 31-year-old has been weighing up his options.

What a battering his body has taken over the years - shoulders, ribs, hamstrings, arms and knee injuries.

Manu has only managed one appearance this year, when we lost to the Doggies in Dunedin, a game in which the 28-test Kiwi played just less than an hour before succumbing to a knee injury.

Bloody hell, at the end of the day I will claim I was young when he debuted back in 2004, and am I sad if this is the end after 226 appearances?

Yes, one of our greats surely.

No Rhyme Nor Reason

Being one of the few people who doesn't care much about the All Blacks, makes you a member of a very select club. But having said that, the Lions tour has captured the imagination, mostly because it is not South Africa, Australia and Argentina, who provide the annual content of the bore -fest that is whatever it is called now, the Rugby Championship I think.

Now we have Chris Rattue, the columnist who can find a reason to hate most anything, but rugby has Mark Reason, who does not need any justification to put the boot into the game he really despises, league.

I have zero time for Reason, mostly because when I was involved in the media I knew what he was being paid for the syndicated nonsense he dishes up, and he wasn't worth it.

So he had plenty to say after the Lions won the second test, and Sonny Bill Williams was famously sent off for an action Reason said was "utterly reckless". Fair enough.

But then he went on to say: "It was the tackle of a man who still hasn't got the violent stupidity of rugby league out of his system."

Oh please.

League is certainly not for the fain-hearted, but to describe it as violently stupid goes beyond any kind of reason.

Funnily enough one of the reasons I am not that keen on rugby is because of some of the cheap shots that it is riddled with.

You virtually never see a game when someone is not tempted to take a sly whack at the head of someone prone of the ground, trapped in a maul or the like.

I'm left with the feeling way too often that those are the kinds of acts cowards really like, When there is no risk to them, and while the intention to do real physical harm is evident, it can be hidden and disguised.

But it does pay to remember that largely Reason is writing for a British audience, and that's why there was also lots of stuff about "brutality that still sometimes exists in the All Blacks game", playing Ireland in Chicago in an "appallingly violent game", and Jerome Kaino being some kind of wrecking-ball intent on sending people to hospital.

I don't say one game is better than the other, and I also doubt the vast majority of rugby or league players ever go out to intentionally hurt someone.

But it does depress me when men like Reason dig out their prejudice and flaunt it for all to see as if it is some kind of god-given wisdom.

What it is, is crap.

And that kind of anti-league sentiment is why I was not amused to read that Masterton's bid to host the Warriors v Melbourne Storm pre-season game at Memorial Park could be sunk by an ancient rule that bans league forever from the park.

Apparently someone has come up with the fact that back in the dark ages the NZ Rugby Union lent money for the park to be developed on the strict condition league never be played there.

At first it is tempting to smile, and I don't think for a moment it really will scupper the game, but it is indicative of an anti-league sentiment we are foolish to believe is really behind us.

Mark Reason is the proof.

Perth Hoodoo Strikes Again

We lost 26-22 sure, our ninth straight loss in the western extremes of Australia, but that's not really what got me down.

That was more watching Nathaniel Roache limp off with a knackered hamstring.

The youngster had grabbed his chance a week earlier when Issac Luke had to go off with a shoulder injury, and looked good doing it.

Here was his chance at last to shine as the starting hooker.

A fixture on the bench, poor Roache has struggled for game time, he might find himself back exactly where he started now.

Up against Manly he proudly said before kick-off that he was "excited but nervous".

"If I need to play 80 for the team I think I could push myself to do it, it's just a matter of being a quality 80 than a sloppy 80."

Roache was our rookie of the year last season but had a run of problems that seem to dog some players. He's had ankle surgery, a thyroid operation, and a bulging disc in his back.

League can be cruel can it not?

If you want more evidence of that, how about prop Albert Vete.

Saturday's papers reported he was playing for a contract, with his deal all but up, and the big fella in negotiations to stay, but with no deal imminent.

Then he cops a broken arm.

Vete wants to stay and must have been relying on good form to get him over the line and into the roster.

On the other hand, Ryan Hoffman won't be staying, with his contract up and Tohu Harris coming in as his replacement, but who would have wanted to see Hoffman's time with us end with a broken bone in his foot?

The big Aussie has not always been everyone's favourite, but he is a first class professional and his presence will be sorely missed as we head into the final weeks of the season.

What I would never claim to sorely miss is Perth

itself.

The fact the Warriors get sent there every year is, frankly, bullshit. Andrew Voss was on the Radio Sport during the week, and he is in my camp, claiming it is grossly unfair that the efforts to expand the game into West Australia see us carrying more than our fair share of the load.

At least we expect to have more say next season.

Until now, the home side could dictate, and that has seen us dragged to Perth by an Aussie opponent six years straight.

The new broadcast deal starts next year and it is expected to allow more consultation for clubs with the NRL about the draw, match scheduling, and travel.

Warriors managing director Jim Doyle has had plenty to say about it.

"With the new funding deal, there's been a lot more discussion with clubs because the NRL get more say in the draw and the locations. So most likely in the future things will change."

Coach Stephen Kearney downplayed the travel – it's 15 hours by the way – and said we needed to focus on the mental challenge, and refused to use it as an excuse.

I'm not too sure many fans would agree, having watched us lose 24-22 to Manly in 2012, before three straight losses to Souths, 30-13, 34-18 and 36-4, before falling to Manly last year 15-14.

Chuck in Saturday night at 26-22 and that is six in six years.

Perth, no thanks.

More Of The Same

Funny how even though I did not expect to win in Perth, I was still bitterly disappointed we didn't.

You can not escape the fact that being 16-0 up and looking pretty good doing it, is the kind of platform you probably should kick on from.

Instead we saw the odd lapse, and a side as good as Manly are going to punish you for them.

Three tries in the first 17 minutes, I could not believe it.

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The wheels falling off after that, a little easier to understand, since we have seen it before.

Manly scored 26 unanswered points at one point. Same old story, you are not going to win, though we were in with a fighting chance to the end, and at least we did battle all the way.

Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad added to his highlight reel, giving us a chance in the final quarter or so.

But when Shaun Johnson made that break at the death, it was up on the feet at our place and much shouting of go, go, go - as is want to happen - but Manly held on.

Patchy at best I suppose.

“You’ve got to be on your game for the full 80 minutes,” coach Stephen Kearney said. “You can have periods where you’re not quite where you need to be, but you’ve got to minimise the damage, and we just couldn’t do that.”

Fair play, Manly were excellent, and many people, including me, thought they would find the going tough this year. But despite the early setback, they never let it show and ground their way back into it.

I don’t mean to sound like a whinger, but knowing the Perth travel factor would kick in sooner or later, must have made it easier to keep on task.

Three long-range tries, and good ones at that, and the sodding Sea Eagles were soaring again.

Dally Cherry-Evans was exceptional and we could just not contain that Manly attack.

“We could see they were getting a bit of a roll-on,” captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck said. “We spoke about trying to tighten up, but Cherry-Evans and Dylan Walker just played on the back of the momentum.”

Tui The Tiger

I watched Tui Lolohea have maybe his best game for the Tigers on Sunday. The 33-12 win over Newcastle moved the Tigers off the bottom.

Lolohea linked well with halfback Luke Brooks in three tries, and his coach, Ivan Cleary, seems happy with his progress, given the 22-year-old is at five-eighth but still has designs on fullback.

It’s kind of interesting, because Tui might just find himself in the same old position he was in with us.

Used here, there and everywhere, and sparingly at that.

Despite Cleary’s praise, Josh Reynolds joins the Tigers next year, and you are not going to pick Tui ahead of him, and now the Tigers are chasing Roosters utility Connor Watson, who also favours fullback.

“He has been moved around a lot. He’s only played 50-odd games. He’s still only young,” Cleary said of Tui. “We just wanted to give him half a season in the one position.”

Welcome Aboard Bureta

We have signed Wellington-born Bureta Faraimo as injury cover for the rest of the season.

At 26, he can - play centre or wing and has been a stand-out for the Parramatta Eels’ reserve grade, leading the competition with 14 tries.

“We’ve signed Bureta on a short-term deal,” recruitment manager Tony Iro says.

“He’s planning on heading to the UK next year so he’s only on our books until the end of the season, but he wanted to come home and this gives us some good cover in our outside backs.”

Of American Samoan heritage, he actually represented the USA at the World Cup in 2013.

New Home For SKD

It’s been tough times for former Kiwi Shaun Kenny-Dowall, being sacked by the Roosters in the wake of his legal troubles.

But now he’s been thrown a lifeline by the Newcastle Knights, signing until the end of the 2019 season.

He’s out anyway for a week or three, suffering with a hamstring injury, but is tipped to be back in time for round 20 – when the Knights play the Roosters.

“It’s a fresh start and I’ve got new motivations and goals to come here and make a difference. It’s time to get on the field and get stuck in.”

SKD was sacked after pleading guilty to cocaine possession even though the 29-year-old escaped conviction. He is instead on a good behaviour bond.



Hero

By Barry Ross



JEFF HORN is the new Australian hero. The 29 year old Brisbane schoolteacher surprised the boxing world with his unanimous points decision over legendary Filipino, Manny Pacquiano to win the WBO (World Boxing Organisation) welterweight title on Sunday at Brisbane's Suncorp stadium. More than 50,000 fans packed into the venue to watch the underdog take the decision. Soon after the verdict, criticism was coming from all over the world saying the judges got it wrong. But there have also been plenty who have said the decision was correct and that the courageous Horn was rightly judged the winner. The three judges were Mrs Waleska Roldan from New York, Chris Flores from Arizona, who has a background as a criminal defence attorney and Argentina's Ramon Cerdan. All three are very experienced and neutral. Roldan scored the fight 117-111 to Horn and received the most criticism. The other two judges both scored the fight 115-113 to Horn. Referee Mark Nelson is also an American from Minnesota, while the fight supervisor was 67 year WBO President, Francisco Varcarcel from Puerto Rico. The fight received huge television coverage world wide and it was shown in at least 159 countries. After the fight, Pacquiano said that he had underrated Horn. "I didnt expect him to be so tough," he explained. Pacquiano received around \$10 million for the fight and Horn pocketed \$1 million. Who will be Horn's next opponent is not known as yet, but it could be a return bout with Pacquiano at the same venue in November.

The Australian Womens cricket team continued on its winning way in the World Cup with a five wicket win over the New Zealand girls at Bristol on Sunday. The Aussies have now beaten the West Indies, Sri Lanka and the Kiwis. Ellyse Perry, 26, was the Aussie star, top scoring with 71. She is married to Wallaby midfielder, Matt Toomua (33 Tests). The Australian girls next play Pakistan in Leicester on 5 July, while New Zealand meet the West Indies at Taunton.

Unless something drastic happens, the Raiders appear finished for this Rugby League season, as far as a final position goes. They have lost 10 of their 16 games this year and were outclassed by the Cowboys in Canberra on Saturday night. Without Johnathan Thurston and Matt Scott, as well as playing in below zero temperatures, which were around 20 degrees colder than the Cowboys' Townsville base, things certainly favoured the locals. But Ricky Stuart's team made too many errors and showed poor discipline, allowing the visitors to win comfortably by 31-18. Now in his fourth season as Raiders Head Coach, Stuart now 50, has 42 wins, 48 losses and one draw in his 91 games as coach of the Raiders. Before moving back to his home town of Canberra, Stuart coached Parramatta, Cronulla and the Roosters. His overall record as a first grade NRL coach is 163 wins, 171 losses and two draws from his 336 games, with a winning percentage of 48.5 percent.

The Sharks came back with a vengeance after their 35-18 drubbing by Manly in the previous round. They were extremely impressive in the second half as they smashed Premiership contenders, the Roosters, 44-12 at Gosford on the NSW Central Coast on Saturday afternoon. Cronulla finished with seven tries to two, while James Maloney landed all eight of his shots at goal. The Sharks moved up to second place on the ladder with Manly moving back to third. For and against could play a part in the final positions of teams leading up to the semi finals. At the moment competition leaders Melbourne have the best for and against with plus 136, then comes Cronulla, plus 85, Manly plus 83 and fifth placed Broncos on plus 56, ahead of fourth placed Roosters with plus 51. Sharks centre, Ricky Leutele, 27, had one of his best games for the club, topping the running metres with 203 and scoring two tries in his 80 minutes on the park. Leutele has now played 94 first grade games and has scored 26 tries. Paul Gallen only played for 55 minutes, but he was second with 181 metres and also second on the tackle count with 22. Bench forward, Jason Bukura topped the tackle count with 26, in his 54 minutes of play. The Sharks NYC under 20 team had a good 32-18 win over the Roosters who won this competition last year. Sharks Coach John Morris, is very happy with his competition leading young charges.

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Alex Johnston equalled the Souths club record for tries in a match with his five tries in the Rabbitohs 42-14 win over Penrith at ANZ Stadium on Sunday. The other seven South Sydney players to score five tries in a match are Harold Horder, who did it twice in 1917, Alan Quinlivan 1936, Don Manson 1937, Johnny Graves 1949, Ian Moir 1957, Eric Sladden 1957 and Nathan Merritt who scored five against Parramatta in August 2011. South Sydney were very impressive against the Panthers and showed they could still be a force in this year's competition. Their match with the Roosters this Friday night at Allianz Stadium in Sydney, will be vital to both teams. Currently the Roosters are fourth on the ladder and South Sydney are in 11th place.

I had an interesting dinner on Friday night (30 June), at Jensens Restaurant at Kareela in Sydney with Sir Peter and his personable wife Lady Janice, my wife Sue and 2002 Roosters Grand Final winner, Craig Wing (16 Tests for Australia and 12 State of Origin games for NSW). Now 37. Craig has just retired after six seasons playing Rugby Union in Japan, where he played 11 Tests for Japan and played in the 2015 Rugby World Cup. Over a very enjoyable meal, Craig tipped NSW to win this year's State of Origin series in the deciding match at Brisbane next week on Wednesday night, 12 July.



From left to right, Jensens restaurant owner Brooke, Sue Ross, Lady Janice Leitch, Craig Wing, Sir Peter and Barry Ross.

The Toronto Wolfpack continued on their winning way with a 64-22 win over fourth placed York City Knights before a crowd of 5,646 in Toronto on Saturday. They have now won all 13 of their Premiership matches and sit on top of the Kingstone Press League table. Winger, Liam Kay, 25, scored five tries against York.

Kay began his senior football with Wakefield and then moved to Doncaster, before joining Leigh in 2014. He was a member of the Leigh team who won the 2014 Grand Final against Featherstone Rovers to win the championship. In 78 matches for Leigh, he scored 74 tries. The Wolfpack play the Gloucestershire All Golds this Saturday 8 July in Toronto.



Caught up with Allan Fitzgibbon. Player 42 games for the Balmain Tigers including the 1969 grand final winning team. He also coached for the Illawarra Steelers. His son Graig played for the Sydney Roosters and the Dragons and is now coaching back at the Roosters.



Had dinner the other night with Rugby League star Craig Wing. Former Sydney Rooster, Rabbitoh and Kangaroos player.



Had lunch the other day at Mick Cronin's pub in Gerringong. He played 64 games for the Kangaroos and 216 for Parramatta.



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)

Warriors 'Banned' in Masterton!

The picture of the year. New Zealand international coaches Brian Lochore (Rugby Union) and Graham Lowe (Rugby League) share a moment before their double billing weekend in Auckland. Scanned from the 1985 NZRL Annual Magazine.

JUST ABOUT the best sports story of the last week came from the Fairfax website's Masterton outpost informing us the Warriors – and every other rugby league team and player – were officially banned from using the Wairarapa town's Memorial Park! The Masterton District Council is bidding for a 2018 pre-season game against the Melbourne Storm, but historian and author Gareth Winter pointed out the 13-man code was not allowed to be played there.

It seems that money loaned by the New Zealand Rugby Union to help develop Memorial Park in 1963 was given with one strict condition – rugby league was outlawed. “They stipulated that other sports could use the ground for international matches, except rugby league which must be banned forever,” wrote Winter in his history of the park. Nobody could recall that rule ever being broken in the 54 years since the facility was opened.

Winter's revelation exposed the severe rugby union prejudices which existed against its rival code for decades and led to some hasty back-tracking when the local newspaper made enquiries. “I think society has moved on, hasn't it?” replied a member of the Wairarapa-Bush Rugby Union. “That was a very long time ago and I don't particularly think it is an issue.” A New Zealand Rugby Union spokesperson denied any knowledge of the stipulation.

Given that lack of opposition, Masterton district council economic development officer Kieran McNulty announced the bid to attract the Warriors and Storm was going ahead. “I think it's really just a relic from a long rivalry between the two codes,” he said. “I don't see it as an issue and I'd be surprised if it was still New Zealand Rugby Union policy. It's a reminder of what was going on in the old days, but that's certainly not the case now.”

Masterton has an urban population of 21,200 and a district population of 24,600 according to the June 2016 census. Memorial Park itself has a capacity of 10,000 and its floodlighting is believed to be sharp enough for live telecasts. Although several other towns are also seeking the game, McNulty has been heartened by his discussions with the Warriors and also the general excitement around the region since the bid became public knowledge.

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Situated 100km north-east of Wellington, Masterton has never hosted a major rugby league match, which is the reason the ban never came to light before. It was actually part of a national edict by the rugby union. Such was its influence over local bodies and stadium trusts that no rugby league was played at Eden Park from 1919 to 1988, Lancaster Park from 1920 to 1996 or Athletic Park from 1908 to 1990. It was never played at Carisbrook at all.

The 1988 World Cup final at Eden Park was an exception, but it was played within the cricket season (October). The Warriors and Kiwis were allowed on Lancaster Park only after rugby union turned professional and finance was needed to improve the facilities. The late Bernie Wood performed a near miracle by gaining approval for a 1990 Test match against the Kangaroos at Athletic Park as part of Wellington city's 150-year celebrations.

My favourite story about ground wrangles occurred in 1911, when NSW toured New Zealand and Napier was given a game. Hawkes Bay rugby union officials tried in vain to stop it going ahead. They then demanded a huge hire fee for use of "their" grandstand. The NZRL refused to pay up, so the union had the grandstand dismantled. Upon hearing that, league enthusiasts, with the help of sympathetic locals and even the NSW players, rebuilt it overnight and the match went ahead as scheduled.

To salve old wounds maybe Sir Peter Leitch can persuade Wairarapa-Bush rugby union's favourite son and fellow Knight, Sir Brian Lochore, to attend the pre-season game if it is held in Masterton. Back in 1985 then Kiwis coach Graham Lowe invited the All Blacks to have a few beers with his players. The NZRU predictably said no, but All Blacks coach Brian Lochore was happy to be photographed sharing a pint with his Kiwis counterpart.

Good luck to the All Blacks playing their final game against the Lions this Saturday



If you're going to the Vodafone Warriors next Friday make sure you check out the Women in League Games!

Gates: 4:30pm
Girls kick off: 4:45pm 2 x 20 minute halves.
NYC kick off: 5:45pm Warm up #2 field
NRL kick off: 8:00pm



Who Was Peter Mander?

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)



IHAVE IT on good authority that Peter Mander and Russell Coutts are New Zealand's greatest yachtsmen. Renowned sailor and commentator Peter Lester told me that during the 2003 America's Cup when he elevated Coutts, then masterminding Alinghi's 4-0 victory over Team New Zealand, to equal standing with Mander. Recently I heard Peter Montgomery say the same on Radio Sport (maybe Lester had told him too). Montgomery was ruminating whether current Olympic Games 49er gold medallist and America's Cup-winning helmsman Peter Burling should join them at the top of our all-time yachting pyramid.

Most of the readers will be familiar with Coutts' achievements, of how a young lad bobbing about on chilly Otago waters went on to overcome an attack of boils on his backside to claim Olympic gold in the Finn class at the 1984 Olympics at Long Beach and to win the America's Cup for New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States. A lot of rot has been written and spoken about how he "deserted" his homeland to fly the flags of overseas billionaires but Coutts was first and foremost a sailor and he went where the winds of his career took him. He was not on the water at Bermuda but proved to be a gracious loser as boss of Oracle.

Mander hailed from a very different era to Coutts and even more so to Burling. New Zealand triumphs in Olympic sailing regattas are now liberally sprinkled throughout our proud Games history, but it was Mander who led the way when he and Jack Cropp won the Sharpie class off Melbourne in 1956. The manner in which they achieved that could have been lifted from a Boys' Own magazine. Instead, it is told in Mander's biography, aptly titled "Give A Man A Boat" and published in 1964. Mander died in 1998 but there was an enlightening interview with Cropp, then 85 years of age, in a Nelson newspaper five years ago.

New Zealand had not been represented in Olympic yachting before 1956. Indeed, Mander and a few other enthusiasts formed what is now the New Zealand Yachting Federation to affiliate with the national Olympic association so a team could be entered at Melbourne. There was also the problem that no Sharpie yachts existed in this country, but that was the class Mander and his mates chose to make their bid for Games glory. Peter Mander and his brother, Graham, joined with Cropp and Graeme Wilson to build two boats. They then competed in an "Olympic trial" where they easily beat crews from Auckland and Wellington.

Cropp reckoned they had the perfect syndicate, comprising an accountant (Peter Mander), a shipping clerk (Graham Mander), a boatbuilder (Cropp) and a carpenter (Wilson). They constructed their boats from century-old kauri logs that Cropp picked up from a demolition site in Christchurch before adding native hardwoods rata and kawaka to the blend. "I didn't want to go to Australia with Australian wood in the boat," said Cropp. When the two boats were finished they measured to within 3mm of each other, such was the craftsmanship that went into them. They named them Jest and Quest, and Jest went to Melbourne.

You have no doubt heard of one-eyed Cantabrians. Peter Mander was one of them. The son of a New Zealand hockey representative, he was displaying inherited skills with the hockey stick until he lost the sight in one eye while experimenting with an aero-propeller. Very few people, especially his opponents, knew that he had a blind side. His achievements were all the more remarkable because he sailed with such a handicap. The entire Mander family switched to sailing. Graham was also an Olympian and younger brother David a national champion. Peter won two world 18-footer titles in the early 1950s as well as numerous national events.

Jest proved strong enough to withstand winds of up to 45 knots on Port Philip Bay as the crazy Kiwis proved more than competitive in the seven-race Olympic series. So, too, did Australians Roly Tasker and John Scott and the gold medal was in the balance starting the last heat. Mander and Cropp were already assured of silver and a second placing would lift them to the gold so long as Tasker and Scott did not finish ahead of them. Alas, they did, and Mander and Cropp went off to enjoy a few beers to celebrate their second placing. Legend has it the few beers were threatening to turn into many as news of their silver success spread.

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A couple of hours into the party they learned the jury of appeal had upheld a French protest and the Australians were disqualified from the last race. That put the trans-Tasman rivals on equal points, but because Mander and Cropp had won three heats and Tasker and Scott only two the New Zealanders were declared over-all winners and gold medallists. They swapped their beers for wine, shouted the Aussies, and carried on! Justice probably prevailed: in an earlier race Mander and Cropp wanted to protest against Tasker and Scott but had left their protest flag on shore. The ribbon they waved was deemed not to be an official protest flag.

Peter Mander retired soon after Melbourne, only to return to the Olympics in 1964 and finish a creditable fourth in the demanding solo Finn class at Tokyo. He was appointed yachting manager at the 1980 Moscow Olympics before New Zealand joined the United States-led boycott. Mander held many senior positions in national yachting and Olympic organisations and was project manager to the first New Zealand America's Cup challenge at Perth in 1987. In 1990 Mander and Cropp were inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame and in the 1992 New Year Honours Mander was appointed an Officer of the British Empire (OBE).

Rugby League Northland Premiership Round 12 Wrap

By Ben Francis



AFTER SUFFERING their first loss of the season last week, the Takahiwai Warriors played out a 18-all draw against the Moerewa Tigers.

Two first half tries put the Warriors up 10-4 at the break in horrid conditions.

The Tigers hit back with two early tries in the second to take the lead. The Warriors hit back, but the Tigers hit right back to lead 18-14 with 15 minutes remaining.

The Warriors continued to attack the Tigers line and eventually crossed the line with seconds remaining through Ross McFarlane.

Jamie Hurring took the conversion to win the game but it was unsuccessful.

In other results the Hikurangi Stags edged the Hora Hora Broncos 24-10.

The Stags held a 10-4 lead at the break after a tight first half, but Hikurangi turned it up a gear to secure the 14-point win.

Meanwhile the Northern Wairoa Bulls secured their second win of the season, edging the Portland Panthers 28-26.

The loss proved costly for the Panthers who are now six points off fourth place with only two rounds to go.

The Otangarei Knights sit in first with 22 points, one point ahead of the Takahiwai Warriors in second.

The Moerewa Tigers are in third with 19 competition points with the Hikurangi Stags on 15 points in fourth.

The Panthers are fifth, while the Northern Wairoa Bulls are sixth with six points. The Hora Hora Broncos are in seventh with four points.

Round 13 action sees the Otangarei Knights host the Moerewa Tigers, the Portland Panthers will face the Hora Hora Broncos while the Takahiwai Warriors tackle the Hikurangi Stags.

The Northern Wairoa Bulls have the bye.



Photo www.photosport.nz



By Miles Davis

2nd Lions Test

IMUST ADMIT that I was slightly more apprehensive than usual on Saturday night as kick-off for the 2nd test between the Lions and All Blacks drew near. It wasn't the prospect of my Lions losing (as a Pom I am well used to that scenario, especially when the AB's are the opposition) it was the fact that I was in the Valley Inn in Christchurch surrounded by Cantab All Black fans. As a staunch Wellington Pom the experience following a Lions loss was bound to be one of extreme character building. Fortunately for me what followed was a sporting occasion for the ages.

For me it was a true test match. Both sides giving everything in poor conditions. When Sonny Bill was sent off the All Blacks grew an extra leg with each man lifting their effort. This in turn meant that the Lions had to lift their effort to overcome their opposition. That it took them till the final minutes to get in front was testament to how tough the All Blacks are to defeat. Those who have knocked the Lions for being unable to thrash a handicapped opponent are not giving the home side the credit they deserve. The atmosphere at the ground was electric and I am sure that every bar in Wellington would have broken takings records for a Saturday night.

Of course All Black fans would have been happier to have sealed the deal on the night but the Lions victory has now set up a magnificent finale in Auckland this weekend. The sporting public will be focused on the game for the whole week which will only serve to heighten the anticipation.

The Lions only tour here once every 12 years so it is fitting that the last game of the tour has so much riding on it. Let us Lions fans not be fooled. A wounded All Black side is one of the most dangerous beasts in the sporting world and they are bound to raise their game, not to mention keep 15 men on the field for the duration. They are also playing at their fortress of Eden Park, not having lost there for 23 years.

The Lions are going to have to play out of their skins to get a result but where there is life there is hope. I may be deluded but I still feel they can get the rarest of results on Saturday and secure only the second Lions tour series win in history.

Whatever the result the Lions and their supporters have done themselves proud and they will have enjoyed and appreciated the usual Kiwi hospitality (apart from certain negative elements of the media). Friendships will have been formed and memories gained that will last a lifetime. I went to every game in 1993 so know what a special tour it can be.

Here's hoping that I don't have another character-building experience on Saturday night and if I do, let me handle it with dignity.

When The Going Gets Tough

By John Holloway



THE TOP sides get going. The Storm and the Sharks posted their colours to the mast with emphatic wins over the other top contenders. Bellamys Battlers are machine like with gun players in the important positions backed up by superbly drilled strike weapons and soldiers across the park. The General Cam Smith orchestrates the tempo, the attack and the defence (and even the ref). The rise of young cannons mighty Munster, Vunivalu and greased lightning Addo-Carr providing the new edge to Slater, Cronk and co. Bennetts Brisbane bombers are also well coached and structured but could not stay the pace getting belted 42/12. On the other hand Flanagans Cronulla Flash mob have a different style. Led up the guts by hardmen Gallen, Prior and veteran Heighington with the guiley game-breakers Lewis, Graham and the wayward genius Fafita. The frontal force is finessed by Maloney, Bird, Gordon, Valentine-Holmes and Feki an explosive combination when the fuse is lit. They blew the ruptured Roosters off the park in similar fashion 42/12. Mitchells chooks back to the drawing board. Next cabs off the rank look like the Far North rustlers who are making a good fist of things without their mainstay man JT . Expected to wilt they are defying the odds with other seasoned campaigners stepping up a notch. The forwards led by Glanville, Cooper and Taumalolo are setting platforms. Morgan is firing, Feldt is sensational, Coote is everywhere and they got on top of the rickety Raiders 31/12. One of the big mysteries is the continued rapid slide of the Green Machine, the wheels off bigtime with loss after loss. You look at their roster and wonder how can this be! Ricky reaching for the migraine tablets. Not to be forgotten in 3rd possie now the Manly mob. Our boys were into them early, 16/zip but then momentum and possession shifted and they whacked on 24 unanswered thru the middle quarters. We came back but fell just short at 26/22. Bugger, Perth not a happy hunting ground for us. To be brutally honest while my heart hoped for 2 points my head said that the Seaside's recent form predicted a handy win over our boys so frankly I was not too bad with the result. Its that old Warriors bugbear good but not 80 minutes good. Russell the Gladiator was all smiles watching his beloved Bunnies recapture the glory days form. They stomped all over the poopy Panthers 42/14 with a brutal display from slammin Sammy Burgess with his twin bros also running amok and young tyro Chrichton getting better all the time. Stat star tho was express flyer Alex Johnston dotting down a record 5 meat pies!!! Alongside the Raiders the Mountain Men are also major enigma head-scratchers with a formidable armoury that just wont fires. Moylan tries hard, Peachey scuttles left and right, Blake is huge and fast, Merrin, Tamou, Mansour, Clear, Whare, Cartwright (sometimes) but cant take a trick what is up with these guys???. We get further into the also rans with Clearys 15thplaced Tigers turning one on against the hapless Knights. Kingpin prop Woods, and halves Brooks and Loloheah leading the troops to a handy 33/12 result. Hate to say it but castoff Tuimoala L is starting to show very good form at at standoff. That just leaves the Eels borefest against the Bulldogs. 13/12 was really the most interesting factor although ex Westie Moses is catching the eye.

A short sharp round leading up to State of Origin III. Given there will be key player losses, The Roosters will need to regroup to beat the Bunnies, Likewise the Panthers have an opportunity at home to get past the on-a-roll Sea Eagles without key cog DCE and a couple of others. The Storm will be decimated but still have enough structure to make it tough for the Eels but untouched by Origin the Parratroopers could get home. The Bulldogs lose Klemmer, Jackson and Morris which might even things up a little for the wooden-spoon bound Knights.

I guess after the euphoria of Americas cup, the weekend was a bit of a fizzer with the Warriors, ABs and my mighty Richmond rover missing out. Still not to worry they will all rise like Pheonix from the Ashes. You heard it here first. Stay Cool.



By Miles Davis

George Menzies

THE WEST Coast of New Zealand has been the breeding ground for many of New Zealand's top rugby league players and Kiwi #326 is one of the finest. George 'Geordie' Menzies learnt his craft at the Runanga club near Greymouth. As a 16 year old in 1946 he was picked for New Zealand Schoolboys and while still a teenager made it into the South Island representative side.

An elusive five-eighth he was first picked for the Kiwis in 1951 and made his debut in one of the most violent games in International history. Facing the French at Carlaw Park he was to face the highs and lows of league in his first foray for his national team. Things got off to a memorable start with Menzies scoring a try but went downhill as the desperate French became increasingly violent. A head-butt from an opponent fractured his cheek-bone and concussed him so he had to leave the field, taking no further part in the game. Team-mate Jimmy Haig was also injured in similar fashion and had to depart leaving the Kiwis with 11 men to finish the game. A huge brawl midway through the 2nd half went on for 3 minutes and took a further 10 for the referee to fully regain control. When the dust settled Frenchman Martin Martin was sent off but refused to go as he (rightly) protested his innocence. The President of the French Rugby League had to go on to the field to persuade him to depart. With all this going on it is no wonder that the big crowd of 27,000 was becoming increasingly incensed so you can imagine their scenes of delirium when a Des White penalty late on sealed a 16-15 victory for the home side. Menzies said many years later that it was the dirtiest game he had ever played in but was charitable towards the offenders "I think it was just the excitable way the Frenchmen were. They had beaten Australia in the

test series over there and it meant so much for them to go home with another victory."

In 1952 Menzies was a key part of the Kiwis side that went to Australia and won the series 2-1. After missing the first test in Sydney which the Kiwis lost he made it into the 2nd where they destroyed the Kangaroos 49-25. He was retained for the 3rd test which the Kiwis won 19-9. He was injured so missed out as the Kiwis beat the Aussies in their next two encounters in New Zealand making it a record 4 wins in succession over the old foe.

In his 10 years with the Kiwis he managed 69 games including 29 tests in which he scored 4 tries. He played at 3 World Cups (1954, 1957 and 1960) and captained his national side on their 1956 Australian tour. He retired from International play in 1961 after withdrawing from their Northern hemisphere tour and turned his hand to coaching. Firstly as a player-coach for New South Wales Country before returning to his beloved West Coast to coach the provincial side.

In 1973 he became a national selector and in 1974/75 was the Kiwis coach, taking them to the 1975 World Cup. He also worked as a coal miner and was lucky to survive a coal slip that could easily have taken his life.

In 1995 he was admitted to the NZRL Legends of League and in 2007 was declared the finest stand-off New Zealand had produced. In 2009 he was named in the NZRL team of the Century.

Mention his name on the West Coast and they will regale with tales of his deeds. George 'Geordie' Menzies passed away in Greymouth in March 2016 but his spirit and legend live on.

McClutchie's On Coach Renata's Radar

By Shane Hurdell
Hawkes Bay Today Sports Reporter



HAWKE'S BAY Unicorns rugby league coach Aki Renata is confident he will have the services of exciting Hastings Boys' High School rugby 1st XV pivot Lincoln McClutchie when they take on Wellington.

The Unicorns host Wellington in their opening Mid Central inter-provincial competition match at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings on July 15. McClutchie, who played first five-eighth for the New Zealand Secondary Schools rugby team last year, won't be able to train with the Unicorns next week as he will be attending a Hurricanes under-18 training camp in Masterton but that's a risk Renata is prepared to take.

"Lincoln plays league as often as he can and always fits in well. We're hoping to start him at scrumhalf," Renata said.

Renata had 30 players at his first training session but rugby commitments and injuries from union fixtures have taken their toll in recent weeks. Former Mid Central Vipers hooker Colin Hokianga and former Clive rugby player James Tango are the other big names in Renata's squad.

"We'll be trying to compete the best we can with the squad we have against Wellington. By then time we play Manawatu on August 20 we will have more players available as club rugby will have finished and our Spring league comp will have started," Renata explained.

McClutchie scored a try and shone in the 10 jersey as Hastings Boys High School thrashed Rotorua Boys' High School 53-0 in Hastings on Saturday. This was the defending champions fourth consecutive win in the Super 8 and 13th for the season. They have scored 778 points in 13 outings while conceding 50.

Renata has Hawke's Bay league stalwart George Hokianga as his assistant coach and their Omahu clubmate Tahī Ioane and Bridge Pa's Ihaka Waerea as co-managers.

Meanwhile Hawke's Bay's sole member of the Kiwi Ferns training squad, versatile utility Chanel Huddleston, is happy with the way she is "chipping away" on her individual training programmes in her quest to make the World Cup squad. With her MAC rugby team beaten semifinalists last weekend she will have more time for league training this weekend.

She was unable to attend the June 17 Kiwi Ferns training camp in Auckland because fog forced the cancellation of flights out of Hawke's Bay Airport. Huddleston is scheduled to attend the next training camp in Auckland on June 29.

Long-serving Hawke's Bay rugby league representatives Deidre Hakopa and Lisa Ropiha will turn out for Clive when they host Taradale in Friday night's Hawke's Bay women's rugby final.

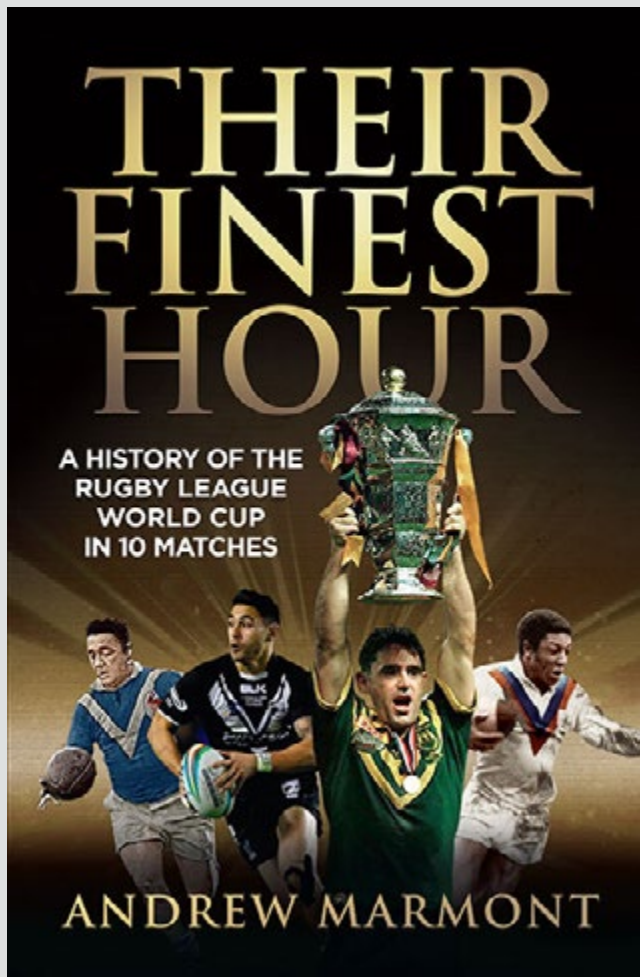
Hawke's Bay won't be represented in the under-17 or 15s rugby league national tournaments in October or the under-13s Central Region tournament. RLHB secretary Mike Tamati said Mid Central officials have stated Bay teams can't attend these tournaments because they have not had any meaningful tournaments as part of the buildup.

The Unicorns squad for the Wellington match is:

Lincoln McClutchie, Harris Solomon, Boy Waaka, Colin Hokianga, Lima Eteru, Jarome Mareikura, Des Manuo, Hayden Rapana, Rukutai Craig, Terry Vaiusu, James Tango, Joseph Taunoa, John Harley-Wong, Richard Gillies.

UNICORNS KINGPIN? Lincoln McClutchie in action for the country's No 1 secondary schools rugby team Hastings Boys' High.





THEIR FINEST HOUR

The story of the Rugby League World Cup, vividly brought to life with first-hand stories from the players, coaches and administrators

FOREWORD BY WAYNE BENNETT

Their Finest Hour features interviews with some of New Zealand rugby league's most influential personalities such as Roy Christian, Dean Bell, Richie Blackmore and Nathan Cayless, plus an insightful chat with Shaun Johnson's dad Paul. Andrew Marmont brings together an exciting mixture of stories and anecdotes that will appeal to both rugby league supporters and anyone who loves a good sporting read.

"As a rugby league player, you never get tired of hearing these stories, whether it's for the first or one-hundredth and first time. It's great to read about the grand history of the game that I fell in love with." – **WALLY LEWIS**

It will be in NZ stores from 1st July at Paper Plus and Whitcoulls, or online at Booktopia.

To celebrate the release of the book, we will be giving away 5 x copies for readers of the Sir Peter Leitch Club Newsletter.

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**Winner will be drawn on
18/07/17**

ARL Celebrate Women in League This Sunday

By Talei Anderson - ARL

THE AUCKLAND Rugby League are gearing up for the annual Women in League Day to celebrate and acknowledge all ladies in league this Sunday July 9, 2017.

It's a rugby league extravaganza with a whopping nine games being played on the day. From the under 15s grade through to our premiers, there will be plenty of action throughout for all to enjoy.

Three games will also be streamed live online from the Auckland Rugby League website (www.aucklandleague.co.nz) with special guests and Kiwi Ferns Georgia Hale (Richmond) and Madison Bartlett (Richmond) joining the commentary team.

Kiwi Fern and NRL ambassador Georgia Hale says ARL's Women in League Day is one of the most important events in her calendar.

"I love the fact that the day is about the young girls and the women of our game," said Hale.

"To celebrate and recognise our ladies in league, and their tireless efforts on and off the field – whether they play, referee, manage, coach or match manage – the game would not be possible without our women."

"I love being acknowledged as a woman in league and it makes it so special to be able to share this day with all women of our game."

Bring your friends and whanau, and enjoy a great day of rugby league.

FREE ENTRY + SPOT PRIZES FOR THE BEST SUPPORTERS BANNER!

Join us in celebrating our women in league this Sunday.

KEY INFORMATION

What: Women in League Day

When: Sunday July 9, 2017

Time: 10am - 5pm

Where: Cornwall Park

Cost: Free

GAME DETAILS

10.30am - U/15 Marist v Bay Roskill

10.30am - U/15 Otahuhu v Manurewa

11.00am - U/15 Richmond v Mangere East

11.30am - U/17 Otahuhu v New Lynn

11.30am - U/17 Otara v Richmond

(Live stream match)

12.30pm - Pennant Pt Chevalier v Manukau

(Live stream match)

2.15pm - Pennant Te Atatu v Mangere East

2.30pm - Championship Richmond v Manurewa

(Live stream match)





AUCKLAND RUGBY LEAGUE LADIES DAY

*** SUNDAY 9 JULY**

Women in League extravaganza day at Cornwall Park with a bumper 9 matches of play!
Catch some of the Kiwi Ferns IN ACTION
NO ALCOHOL



- U15 Marist v Bay Roskill 10:30am
- U15 Otahuhu v Manurewa 10:30am
- U15 Richmond v Mangere East 11:00am
- U17 Otahuhu v New Lynn 11:30am
- Pennant Pt Chevalier v Manukau 12:30pm
- Pennant Te Atatu v Mangere East 2:15pm

Georgia Hale & Madison Bartlett join the Commentary team

**LIVE
STREAMING
VIDEO**

3 GAMES - ARL WOMEN IN LEAGUE

RICHMOND V MANUREWA 2:30PM

OTAHUHU V MARIST 12:30PM

U17 OTARA V RICHMOND 11:30AM

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STREAMING LIVE

www.aucklandleague.co.nz



Good Luck To The New Zealand Defence Force Teams Playing In The Festival Of World Cups In Sydney

By Daniel Fraser
New Zealand Media & PR
Manager RLWC 2017

NEW ZEALAND'S men's and women's defence force rugby league teams will take centre stage this month as the 2017 Festival of World Cups is contested over a ten-day period from this Friday 7 July 2017.

360 players, representing 12 teams from the United Kingdom and Australia Pacific will compete in three divisions; Defence Force (men), Defence Force (women) and Universities (draw below).

New Zealand is represented in the men's and women's Defence Force divisions, with the men's team one of four competing nations while the women will go up against old rivals Australia.

Five venues across Western Sydney; Cabramatta, St Marys, Wentworthville and Windsor will host the pool rounds and play-off matches, with Pepper Stadium in Penrith hosting Finals Day on Sunday 16 July 2017. St Marys Rugby League Club will also host the official opening ceremony featuring all competing teams and officials from 6.00pm this Friday, 7 July 2017.

The Festival of World Cups marks the start of a huge six months of international Rugby League with the Wheelchair Rugby League World Cup to take place in France from July 20, the first-ever standalone women's World Cup to be staged in Sydney during November, and the men's tournament to be hosted by Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Rugby League World Cup 2017 tickets and information at www.rlwc2017.com



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Check out Sir Peter talking to League Legend George Peponis about the 2017 Rugby League World Cup.

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*NZ pool matches only, subject to allocation selling out. Transaction & booking fees may apply.



Opportunities For Aspiring New Zealand League Players Multiply

By Brooke Hurdell - NZRL Digital Content Producer

ASPIRING RUGBY league players will be in for an action packed year of representative level matches. In addition to last year's fixtures, New Zealand Rugby League have added four new match-ups to their youth calendar ahead of the 2017 Rugby League World Cup.

The re-introduction of the New Zealand Resident 16s v New Zealand Maori 17s game in Rotorua later this month (Saturday, July 22) is the first game on the NZRL calendar. New additions to the calendar, taking place in September include New Zealand Resident 18s v Taurahere. From this fixture there will be a selection chosen to play against Australia over two matches on September 23 in Rotorua and September 30 in Auckland.

While Australia have typically dominated 18s fixtures in the past, New Zealand Rugby League's National Talent Manager, David McMeeken believes the full schedule will strengthen the pathway for our young rugby league players.

"It's important that we expose our young New Zealand talent to international fixtures and provide them with the opportunities to be able to play at the highest level and one day represent the Kiwis,"

"The fact that we are able to host a match of such high calibre on New Zealand soil is great news for the New Zealand Rugby League community,"

"This year presents the opportunity to select from, not only the best of those residing in New Zealand (NZ Residents 18s), but also those New Zealanders currently playing in Australia (Taurahere) to create a New Zealand 18s side that truly represents the best of New Zealand," McMeeken says.

NZRL Youth Fixtures include:

New Zealand Resident 16s v NZ Maori 17s
Puketewhero Park, Rotorua
Saturday 22 July

National Secondary Schools Tournament
Bruce Pulman Park, Auckland
Monday 4 – Friday 8 September

New Zealand Resident 18s v Taurahere
Auckland
Saturday 23 September

New Zealand 18s v Australian Schoolboys
Puketewhero Park, Rotorua
Tuesday 26 September

New Zealand 18s v Australian Schoolboys
Trust Arena, Auckland
Saturday 30 September

National Youth Tournament
Rotorua
Monday 2 – Friday 6 October

New Zealand Secondary Schools v New South Wales
Combined High Schools
Puketewhero Park, Rotorua
Wednesday October 4

New Zealand Secondary Schools v New South Wales
Combined High Schools
Puketewhero Park, Rotorua
Saturday, October 7



ISP Play Canterbury Bulldogs at Belmore Sportsground

By Savannah Tafau-Levy

THE VODAFONE Warriors' ISP team suffered a heart-breaking 22-20 loss to the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs at the Belmore Sports Ground in Sydney on Saturday afternoon.

After leading for a large portion of the match, the visitors saw victory snatched from their grasp in the final two minutes after Joshua Cleeland crossed for his second try of the game which was then converted by Reimis Smith.

Early on, it was the Bulldogs who opened up the scoring through Tyrone Phillips.

Both sides then battled hard before Isaiah Papali'i responded in the best way possible with his side's first four-pointer.

Minutes later, soft goal line defence provided an opportunity for Toafofoa Siple, who was able to easily barge through for a try and give the Vodafone Warriors the lead for the first time.

A 42-metre downfield break from Semisi Fotu then paved the way for the Vodafone Warriors to score again, this time the points coming from James Bell just before half time.

Both sides entered the second half firing with the Vodafone Warriors holding on to a 16-6 lead.

Bulldogs standoff Cleeland gave the hosts the start they desperately needed after dummied the ball before exploding off his right foot to slice through for a try.

Zac Santo then got on the scoreboard for the Vodafone Warriors only for Smith to respond for the Bulldogs not long after.

With a four-point lead, the Vodafone Warriors looked to have victory in the bag only for Cleeland and the Bulldogs to pull off a late upset.

ISP Ladder After 17 Rounds

	Team	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	I/-	Pts
1	WYONG	17	14	1	1	1	502	266	236	31
2	WARRIORS	17	9	3	4	1	396	296	100	23
3	PENRITH	17	8	1	6	2	339	230	109	21
4	CANTERBURY	17	8	2	6	1	326	274	52	20
5	MOUNTIES	17	8	1	7	1	346	354	-8	19
6	NORTH SYDNEY	17	7	0	8	2	241	259	-18	18
7	ILLAWARRA	17	8	0	8	1	334	382	-48	18
8	NEWCASTLE	17	6	1	8	2	348	406	-58	17
9	WENTWORTHVILLE	17	7	0	9	1	349	315	34	16
10	BLACKTOWN WORKERS	17	5	0	10	2	314	386	-72	14
11	NEWTOWN	17	5	1	10	1	304	413	-109	13
12	WESTS TIGERS	17	4	0	12	1	270	488	-218	10



THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 18 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

- An emotional **Josh Reynolds** has opened up about his feelings leading into his final game at Belmore Sports Ground wearing the blue and white strip. "If there's one thing I want Bulldogs fans, past players and team-mates to know is that I can say from the bottom of my heart that every time I wore that jersey I wore it with a lot of pride and never took it for granted."

- We've run the numbers and there's no doubt **Daly Cherry-Evans** is the form half of the competition in attack and defence. But Queensland legend **Brent Tate** has stuck by Kevin Walters' selections, saying **Ben Hunt** will be a more difficult for tired NSW forwards to tackle.

- Roosters second-rower **Ryan Matterson** was adamant he would never play anything other than five-eighth, but the 22-year-old has joined the ranks of the forward pack and is only getting bigger – and is learning his trade from NSW captain **Boyd Cordner**.

- Melbourne Storm Football Manager Frank Ponissi has been around for several special groups of players and says the new breed of young stars like **Brodie Croft** and **Curtis Scott** are on par with the best he's seen.

PLUS... The **Top 8 career revivals**, **The Analyst** rates your team's chances of making the top 8 and a **Nathan Cleary** poster.



ROUND 18

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Black Sox fall to Canada at Bob Law Memorial

By Glen Roff - Softball Manager at Softball NZ

THE GOLDEN Homes Black Sox concluded their World Championship build up tour of British Columbia with a heavy 10-3 loss to Canada in the semi-final of the Bob Law Memorial Tournament this morning.

The Kiwis were up 2-1 heading into the bottom of the third over the current world champs when the Canadian bats fired amassing 5 runs off Black Sox pitchers Nik Hayes and Campbell Gibson.

Ben Enoka pegged one back in the 5th with a solo homerun which only seemed to aggravate the Canadians as they replied with 4 of their own run-ruling New Zealand and knocking the Black Sox out of the tournament.

Canadian Blake Hunter went 2-2 with a walk, and a total of 5 RBIs including a huge 3-run homerun for Canada.

2015 world championship gold medallist Sean Cleary got the win for Canada while starting pitcher Nik Hayes took the loss for the Black Sox. Campbell Gibson relieved Hayes for 1.1 innings.

Canada will now play Team USA in the final of the Bob Law Memorial Vancouver Challenge.

The Black Sox will now take a few days to rest and regroup before heading to Whitehorse for the World Championships.

Australian U23 Championships

The Temperzone Junior Black Sox and Major Sox teams will compete in the Australian U23 Championships commencing tomorrow at Redlands Park, Queensland.

The Major Sox will compete for the first time together as a team under the coaching of Steve Deans and Fergus McAlpine. The team boosts a strong line up with the majority of the team having played in a Junior World Championship final.

Jarrad Martin will step up as Head Coach of the Junior Black Sox as Thomas Makea is unable to make the tour for personal reasons. Emerging Sox Head Coach Kurtis Tomkins will take up the role as Assistant Coach for the Juniors.

Both teams are competing at the event for the first time and are ineligible to play in the final.

Key information:

- [Men's World Championships - Live streaming & Website](#)
- [Australian U23 Championships - results](#)

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Hi Sir Peter,

I JUST WANTED to say thanks for the signed copy of your book I won in your last competition.

You're a bloody LEGEND butch!

Kind Regards, Ben

ARL results for Saturday July 1

SAS Fox Memorial: Round 12
Northcote 22 Te Atatu 18
Mt Albert 18 Papakura 18
Marist 24 Richmond 16
Howick 10 Glenora 20
Pt Chevalier 56 Mangere East 18

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Premiership: Round 8
Otahuhu 44 Papatoetoe 16
Ellerslie 14 New Lynn 54
Manurewa 38 Bay Roskill 26
Ponsonby 28 Otara 28

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Plate: Round 8
Manukau 36 Pakuranga 6
Waitemata 34 Hibiscus Coast 0
East Coast Bays bye



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