



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

18th July 2017

Newsletter #179



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Bugger

By David Kemeys

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



SOMETIMES I think we are cursed. If it would not for bad luck we wouldn't have any kind at all. Watching Shaun Johnson limp off was almost as bad as it gets.

I say almost, because we then slumped from 22-18 up to get shellacked 34-22.

But it all had such a horrible feeling of seen it all before, and what came after the last time our prized play-maker was badly injured was not pretty.

You do not need to be a genius to figure our chances of making the eight were dealt a blow by the loss, and that losing Johnson compounds the problem.

It was bitterly cold at Manu Vatuvei Stadium and most of us must have trudged out utterly miserable.

It was meant to be the big send-off for Manu, and all week we had been hearing about how the players were determined to give the big fella a send-off marked with two precious points.

Bugger.

Now coach Stephen Kearney has more on his plate than he can have bargained for, and if he ever thought coaching this mob was going to be a walk in the park, he will have disavowed of that notion by now.

Last time we lost Johnson it was a horror show, belted by all and sundry, but this time, cliché or not, the players have to step up.

A repeat of the last time, fiasco that it was, just will not do.

The problem is that we have not seen a lot to suggest it will be any different.

I've lost count of the leads we have blown, and while Nathan Cleary is a hell of a player - and one who is only ever going to get better - watching him score three tries and be everything Johnson is meant to be was bloody depressing.

It comes to something when you are pleased your star player only has a posterior cruciate ligament injury and not an anterior one.

At least it means the boor bugger should escape the surgeon's knife, and might even be fit in time to represent the Kiwis at the Rugby league World Cup. Whether you would risk him is quite another matter.

What we know is that Johnson is out for six to eight weeks, and with seven rounds to go and sitting in 11th, the maths is not good.

"This is a much better outcome than we had expected," Warriors team doctor John Mayhew said.

"We had believed the injury was likely to be an ACL but scans have indicated that isn't so and Shaun won't need surgical intervention to repair the injury."

You have to feel for the poor bastard, snapped ankle ligaments, then this.

He cops way too much criticism, the level of expectation on him completely over the top, and let's not forget he was right up there in terms of try assists.

Without him we have really struggled - seven losses on the bounce last time.

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You would assume having Kieran Foran gives us a ray of hope of avoiding that fate, but he has not exactly set the world on fire, and poor Ata Hingano, who we can all see has enormous potential, is likely going to have to carry the can.

Foran summed it up: "You can't replace a guy like that. It's going to come down to the leadership group, everyone stepping up a notch. Everyone will have to play that little bit better."

Time For A Rethink

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. So time for some optimism. When I said last week we would need five wins from our remaining eight games, and that we would get the first of them against the Panthers, but lose against the Cowboys, what I really meant was we would lose to the Panthers but surprise everyone by winning in Townsville.

Five out of seven, a doddle.

So I will say it again, we will head to North Queensland having to win won few will have thought possible.

Do that and there is still hope.

The week after we have the Sharks, and let's face it, winning that, even at Mt Smart, would be a huge bonus.

Then it's the Knights away, and the Raiders at Mt Smart, not impossible.

We would then probably have to beat the Bunnies in Oz, because I am never confident of getting any points against Manly, which would leave us having to beat the Tigers on the last day to hit 28 points.

Optimists' view, still alive; realists' view, slim to none; pessimists' view, we're stuffed.

Tears For Manu

Disappointing that only 13,000 turned up to farewell The Beast – Manu Vatuvei, but Friday night is a curse forgetting to Mt Smart, and the bitter weather can't have helped.

Manu's new contract with Salford meant he could not play, so he finishes on 226 games and 152 tries – way better than a try every second game - and that is some achievement.

Manu is right up there with Stacey Jones and Simon Mannering in our history and it was great fun listening on the radio last week as callers were asked to choose which four players would be our Mt Rushmore.

Personally, the answer is obvious – Awen Guttenbeil would grab the fourth spot for his courage and determination alone.

It is amazing to consider that there have still only been 218 Warriors, and about half of them have played alongside Manu, and while he might have had his lows, there were many more highs. In NRL history, only 11 guys have more than 150 tries, and don't expect to ever see another player do what he did - 10 tries across 10 consecutive NRL seasons.

Good luck big man, and thanks.

What Was That Decision All About?

The bunker is a crock. And it is a crock that I believe hits us more than any other club. Almost every Warriors try goes upstairs.

The latest decision that will have had plenty of people shaking their heads was the decision to over-rule the ref's call of try when Ken Maumalo showed exceptional hands to gather in an offload and dot down in the corner.

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To say he was unlucky would be an understatement. To say he was robbed would be closer to the truth.

The number of replays it took before they finally found the evidence they seemed hell-bent on finding was ludicrous.

The bunker was supposedly all about getting the right decision, yet it all it really is, is technology for the sake of it.

The decision's coming out of it are not always right, and I am proud to be one of the dinosaurs who says: "You know what, let the ref make a call and deal with it."

Where To Recruit Now

Big cheese Jim Doyle surely has a problem on his hands. The injury to Shaun Johnson may well mean a re-think of our recruitment strategy.

With our most valuable player likely to be sidelined for a long time, and with Kieran Foran off to the Dogs, what do we do now?

The Warriors did not get enough credit for the Te Maire Martin decision, and I was one of those who did the wondering.

But with Ata Hingano at the club, Martin was not really likely to add more than we already had.

Now Hingano will be our preferred five-eighth, but what do we do inside him. I'm not too sure, but I think there are only Johnson, Hingano and Mason Lino under contract for 2018.

Surely it might all might mean that we look for another.

Obviously it was Johnson, Hingano and Lino as a bit of cover, but now our depth will be severely tested.

Johnson Injury Not As Serious As Feared - By Richard Becht

SHAUN JOHNSON'S injury isn't as serious as initially feared following confirmation today that he has ruptured the posterior cruciate ligament in his left knee and is expected to be out for six to eight weeks.

Initial diagnosis suggested the 26-year-old may have suffered season-ending damage to the anterior cruciate ligament during the Vodafone Warriors' 19th-round NRL encounter with Penrith on Friday night.

"This is a much better outcome than we had expected," said Vodafone Warriors team doctor John Mayhew.

"We had believed the injury was likely to be an ACL but scans have indicated this isn't so and Shaun won't need surgical intervention to repair the injury."

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Lino named to replace Johnson

by Richard Becht

MASON LINO will play his first NRL match in almost two years replacing injured halfback Shaun Johnson for the Vodafone Warriors' 20th-round NRL encounter with the North Queensland Cowboys at 1300SMILES Stadium in Townsville on Saturday night (7.30pm local time; 9.30pm NZT).

It means the 23-year-old Lino will revive his NRL career against the same side he faced on debut as Vodafone Warrior #202 at Mount Smart Stadium on August 22, 2015.

It was the first of three matches he played at the tail-end of the 2015 campaign. Since then he has been a constant in the club's Intrust Super Premiership side, leading it to the finals last season and second after 19 rounds in this year's competition.

Lino's selection follows confirmation yesterday that Johnson will be out for six to eight weeks after rupturing the posterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during last Friday night's match against Penrith. Ata Hingano will again be on the interchange.

"It's tough losing a player of Shaun's calibre but we know Mason will do a good job for us," said Vodafone Warriors head coach Stephen Kearney.

"He has been really consistent for our ISP side. At the same time, we have Ata on the bench with his ability to cover the halves and hooker."

Lino's inclusion forced by Johnson's injury is the only change to the starting line-up used in the 22-34 loss to the Panthers.

The first four players named on the bench – Hingano, Sam Lisone, James Gavet and Ligi Sao – were also used against Penrith while the four additional players are Jazz Tevaga, Chris Satae, Isaiah Papali'i and Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad.

Veteran prop Jacob Lillyman play his 246th career match when he faces his original NRL side (his 184th

for the Vodafone Warriors) while wing David Fusitu'a lines up for his 51st first-grade appearance.

Loose forward Simon Mannering goes into Saturday night's match having topped 50 tackles in each of the Vodafone Warriors' last three matches with 60 against Canterbury-Bankstown, 54 against Manly and 53 against Penrith (he has missed only three tackles).

He has also been the leading metre-eater among the forwards in consecutive 80-minute efforts with 155 against the Bulldogs, 179 against the Sea Eagles and 128 against the Panthers.

This will be Mannering's 17th match against the Cowboys as the Vodafone Warriors take on the NRL's most difficult road trip.

While the sides have split their 36 previous encounters with 18 wins each, the Vodafone Warriors have won only once in their last 11 meetings in Townsville since 2002 (a 20-16 victory in 2014).

VODAFONE WARRIORS v NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS

1300SMILES Stadium, Townsville
7.30pm, Saturday, July 22

Vodafone Warriors

1 Roger Tuivasa-Sheck c	Interchange:
2 David Fusitu'a	14 Mafoa'aeata Hingano
3 Blake Ayshford	15 Sam Lisone
4 Solomone Kata	16 James Gavet
5 Ken Maumalo	17 Ligi Sao
6 Kieran Foran	18 Jazz Tevaga
7 Mason Lino	20 Chris Satae
8 Jacob Lillyman	21 Isaiah Papali'i
9 Issac Luke	22 Charnze
10 Ben Matulino	Nicoll-Klokstad
11 Bodene Thompson	
12 Buntty Afoa	
13 Simon Mannering	

In the Stacey Jones Lounge



Manu recalls some of his career highlights.



Manu with his big laugh.



Mr and Mrs Vatuvei proud parents of Manu and very humble.



Mike Chunn living legend from Split Enz sings Islands in the Stream.



Brendan Popplewell presents the TAB's Bet of the Day (Solomone Kata to score first) to Bruce McLellan.



Caprice Wade with Sir Peter.



Cath Dawson, ex Invercargill now Gulf Harbour resident, receives orchids from Dexter.



Catherine Matson receives orchids from the Butcher.



Dexter and Nathaniel Roache.



Emmy Harragon daughter of Australian, New South Wales and Newcastle prop Paul Harragon, with Sir Peter.



Joe Potroz enjoys the night with Butch.



Josh Sayles and Alessandra Vergati from Italy.



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)

Beaten By The Ball Boy

*Nathan Cleary of the Panthers in action against the Warriors. 13/05/17.
Photo www.photosport.nz*

IN THE aftermath of NSW's State of Origin capitulation Penrith Panthers boss Phil Gould attempted to shut down media speculation that Nathan Cleary might be the man to take over the contentious Blues No.7 jersey from the much maligned perennial loser Mitchell Pearce. Gould was adamant that 19-year-old Cleary, in his second NRL season, would not be ready by next year. Less than 36 hours later young Cleary demonstrated he really has all the skills, as well as the physical and mental toughness, to step up to Origin football in 2018.

Warriors halfback Shaun Johnson brilliantly set up a try for Simon Mannering in the second minute of last Friday's NRL match at Manu Vatuvei Stadium. But Cleary owned the other 78 minutes as the Panthers twice came from behind to win comfortably. Cleary contributed much more than his personal statistics of three tries and five goals. He also set up the first two Penrith tries, to Corey Harawira-Naera and debutant Tyrone May, and his cross-field punt (plus poor Warriors positioning and catching) laid on the last try for Waqa Blake.

Cleary overcame all sorts of handicaps to produce that performance. Captain and halves partner Matt Moylan was a late pre-match withdrawal. His two previous five-eighths, Bryce Cartwright (injured) and Te Maire Martin (flicked off to North Queensland) were nowhere in sight. May was the last-minute replacement. He and Cleary conceded a huge advantage in experience to their Kiwis Test opponents, Johnson and Kieran Foran. Worse, Cleary also lost the support of former Kangaroos loose forward Trent Merrin to injury after 27 minutes.

Only when they scored two tries after Issac Luke cleverly engineered the mini-contact which had Harawira-Naera sin-binned did the Warriors look a serious winning chance. Otherwise, what was supposed to be Beast Friday in honour of the departing Manu Vatuvei quickly turned into Bleak Friday as Ligi Sao bombed a try which could have opened a match-winning lead and then became Black Friday as Johnson limped from the field. Cleary, who was a ball boy when his father Ivan was Warriors coach, ran through the remnants of what was left.

The Daily Telegraph next morning proclaimed the arrival of Cleary and resumed speculation he would be NSW's Origin saviour next year. But the writer did so with one reservation – the youngster's coming of age was achieved against the Warriors. That, unfortunately, is the image the Warriors have across the Tasman. Hang in there for long enough and the Warriors will crumble under pressure. They simply have not won enough games against the other clubs now battling for the positions between fifth and eighth and none against the very best teams.

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In his after-match chat with current captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, former Warriors captain Monty Betham made one of those priceless Freudian slips. “How do you regroup now for next year ... for next week?” asked Betham. To his credit, RTS blinked, recovered and acknowledged his players faced a difficult assignment against the Cowboys at Townsville on Saturday night. By then I will be somewhere in the air between Brisbane and Hong Kong, en route to England and Europe, which brings me to the second half of this column.

Planning extensive overseas holidays must be done many months ahead of time, even before the NRL draw is released. Frankly, I don't like my chances of asking one of the Cathay Pacific flight attendants if she would mind having the captain twiddle his dials and relay a radio commentary of the Warriors' clash with the Cowboys. He would probably send her back to the insane passenger in seat 41C with the message that he does not believe in “mathematical possibilities” when it comes to the Warriors' notorious late-season form.

I will no doubt again frustrate my wife by seeking Wifi in Hong Kong, England, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Austria to check progress scores of Warriors matches. We get home in time for the last regular season game, against Wests Tigers at Leichhardt Oval but the NRL obviously decided neither the Tigers nor Warriors would make the top eight by giving them a late Sunday night kick-off before the start of the play-offs.

However, the Mad Butcher Newsletter is in possession of seven historical stories I have written about happenings in years ending in 7 (i.e. 1907, 1937, 1987 etc). I hope you enjoy reading them. Our game really does have a great history.

So I will temporarily sign off with a Manu memory. About a decade ago another dedicated leagueie and I were invited to a corporate box at a Warriors game. On the way he told me he doubted Vatuvei's value to the Kiwis. I don't like corporate boxes, so was sitting outside watching the footy while he socialised inside. When there was a mighty cheer he rushed out. “What happened?” he asked. I replied, “That bloke you don't rate just ran 40 metres, palmed off one tackler, ran over another and crashed between two more to score. He's in my team!”

Some of the Warriors went around to see Trevor's garage which is a shrine to the Vodafone Warriors. If you would like to visit the garage you can ring Trevor on 0212420665.



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Back to Normal

By Barry Ross



WE ARE back to normal now with all 16 clubs playing each weekend in the countdown to the semi finals. No more byes and each team has completed 17 games. With so many of their players involved, Melbourne have done well to get through the State of Origin period as competition leaders. The Roosters are hot on their heels and with seven rounds to play, the race for the minor premiership is tight. This is evident with four teams locked on 26 competition points, just two behind the Roosters. Teams outside the current top eight sides, such as the Raiders, Panthers, Warriors, Bulldogs and Titans need to win most of their remaining games if they are a chance to finish in the top eight.

Many believed that the Cowboys are vulnerable without Johnathan Thurston but they have won their last three games without him and now sit on equal fourth place, or sixth with points difference. The Cowboy forwards paved the way for their 23-10 win over the Rabbitohs on Sunday. Coen Hess, the big 21 year old forward, was impressive for the Cowboys, after backing up from last week's State of Origin triumph with Queensland. Coming off the bench, he played 55 minutes, scored a try, ran for 114 metres and made 11 tackles. Known as Drago, from the Rocky IV movie, by his team-mates, Hess now has 16 tries from his 25 NRL games, including 11 this year.

After the loss, South Sydney appear finished for the year. After winning the 2014 Grand Final, they have spluttered backwards, winning just 28 of their 65 games since the beginning of the 2015 season. That is a winning percentage of 43. In 2014, Souths were first, in 2015, they came seventh, last year they were down to 12th and at the moment they sit at 14th on the 2017 ladder. Since joining Souths as Head Coach at the beginning of the 2012 season, 43 year old Michael Maguire, has 82 wins from his 146 matches in charge for a winning percentage of 56. In end of season playoff games, Maguire has five wins from nine matches. Now in his sixth season with Souths, Maguire has an excellent record, both in Australia and England.

If the Panthers can beat the Titans at Penrith on Saturday afternoon, they will eagerly watch the Dragons-Manly clash the next day at Wollongong. If the Sea Eagles can beat St. George/Illawarra, a win for the Panthers will put them into equal eighth position with the Dragons.

The State of Origin moves interstate next season and also in 2019. Game One next year is at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Wednesday night, 6 June and then Game Two will be a stand alone Sunday 24 June in Sydney at ANZ Stadium. Like this year, Game Three will be played at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium on 11 July. An Origin clash has not been played on a Sunday since the 2001 season and there will be no NRL games played anywhere on that weekend. Next year, the regular season will be shortened from 26 to 25 games.

Game Two in 2019 will be at the new Perth Stadium. NRL chief, Todd Greenberg, has emphasised that NSW and Queensland will always host at least one Origin match each year.

The Hurricanes play the Brumbies in Canberra this Friday night in a 2017 Super Rugby Quarter Final. Australian Super Rugby teams have lost all of their 25 games against New Zealand teams this season and I don't expect Friday's game to be any different. It has been a bad year for NSW rugby teams. In Rugby League we again lost the Origin series, while in Rugby Union the NSW Waratahs finished fourth from five teams on the Australian Super Rugby table.

Arsenal proved they are one of world sports biggest teams when they played two games in Sydney last week. On Thursday night they beat Sydney FC before 80,432 fans and then two days later, on Saturday night, they defeated the Wanderers 3-1 in front of a 83,221 crowd. Both games were played at ANZ Stadium bringing in a total of 163,653 people.

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I have been following the Australian team in the Womens Cricket World Cup being held at the moment in England. They are doing well and won six of their games against the other seven countries. They finished equal top with England but the Poms were placed first because of their better aggregate. England play South Africa in the first semi final this Tuesday at Bristol, while Australia meet India in the other semi final at Derby on Thursday. The final is at Lords this Sunday 23 July.

The Toronto Wolfpack finished the regular season with a 74-16 thrashing of the Hemel Stags before a crowd of 7,247 in Toronto on Saturday. They have won all their competition games and finished top of the English League One ladder, scoring 916 points to 157 against in their 15 matches. Against the Stags, Craig Hall finished with 38 points from four tries and 11 goals. Blake Wallace, returning from an ankle injury, collected three of the team's 13 tries. The League One regular season has now finished and the Wolfpack have a week off before they begin the Super 8s round of playoffs involving the top eight teams on the ladder. The team that finishes top is then automatically promoted to a higher league, while the second and third placed teams meet to decide the second club to be promoted.

Rugby League Northland Premiership round 14 Wrap

By Ben Francis



THE OTANGAREI Knights have won the Rugby League Northland minor premiership after winning their last match of the regular season.

The Knights needed to defeat the Hikurangi Stags to finish top, and they did - winning 40-22.

Meanwhile, the Takahiwai Warriors finished second after beating the Portland Panthers 24-4.

The Warriors scored two tries in the first half to take a 12-0 lead into the break. Portland countered scoring early in the second half, but that was as close as they got as the Warriors scored two more tries to secure the win.

The Northern Wairoa Bulls ended their season on a positive note, claiming a 34-20 win over the Hora Hora Broncos.

The first round of the finals will see the Otangarei Knights square off against the Takahiwai Warriors in the major semi-final. The winner will advance straight through to the grand final, while the loser will face the winner of the Moerewa Tigers and Hikurangi Stags in the elimination semi-final.

The Warriors and Knights have faced each other twice this season, with the Warriors dominating the first match 36-12 back in round four, however, it was a different story in round 11 as the Knights handed their rivals their only loss of the season in a thrilling 26-24 encounter.

The Tigers have crushed the Stags in both their matches between the two sides in 2017, the Tigers won 84-6 in round one, and it wasn't much prettier in round 8 as the Tigers won 72-12.

All finals matches will be played at Toll Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

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Oh No, Not Another Cameron!

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)



JUST WHEN we were again comforting ourselves that the Kangaroos old guard was nearing the end of a long road we have been jolted back to reality. For Kangaroos read Maroons, and look at the performances of Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk and Billy Slater in the deciding State of Origin clash at Suncorp Stadium. The records will show a 22-6 result to clinch their eleventh victory in twelve seasons but on the night the margin between Queensland and NSW was much greater than that. Johnathan Thurston's season-ending injury made no difference.

Not that Thurston was not influential. Even sitting in the coach's box, his right shoulder strapped after surgery, Thurston was the talisman for Smith, Cronk, Slater and the new wave of Queensland youngsters who had either played alongside him or thrilled at his skills over 37 Origin matches. His sideline conversion, busted shoulder and all, to win the second game in Sydney three weeks earlier had levelled the series and given the Maroons every incentive not to lose in front of their own fans -- all 52,540 of them who packed Suncorp to capacity.

Worse, NSW and probably other nations who aspire to win the World Cup later this year now have another rising star to content with. Another Cameron in fact, and one who will be wear Thurston's number six jersey for the next decade. Cameron Munster, 22, is 12 years younger than Cameron Smith. It was Smith (along with Cronk and Slater) who persuaded Queensland coach Kevin Walters to choose Munster ahead of in-form but apparently unpopular Manly half Daly Cherry-Evans. That preserved the Melbourne Storm "spine", and they thrived.

Smith had been baited by the Sydney Daily Telegraph newspaper leading up to the decider. The headline proclaimed he was running on old legs, the story accused him of being nothing more than a stationary dummy half in the first two matches, won 28-4 by NSW at Brisbane and 18-16 by NSW in Sydney thanks to Thurston's great, late goal. Smith completely owned the first half in Origin III, carving a path through the NSW forwards and opening the way for Cronk's miraculous 40m punt-pass kick for the second of wing Valentine Holmes' three tries.

Ironically, both Smith, by turning back infield when he had a two-man overlap, and Cronk, who dived one stride too early and lost control of the ball as he skidded over the goal-line, cost Queensland more first-half tries. It was 12-0 but could have been double that. NSW coach Laurie Daley looked like a condemned man when interviewed by Brad Fittler as the players returned to the field. He desperately hoped for a reprieve when Josh Dugan retrieved a try from an attacking kick and NSW fleetingly applied some pressure on the home side.

But that was when Munster took over. He had already been one of Queensland's best, darting here, there and everywhere to unsettle the NSW formation. At 12-6 Munster broke upfield and threw a pass out of the Wally Lewis play book. The ball flew near Holmes, who balanced and then juggled it in one hand, brought it under control and evaded two cover defenders to score. By then Daley was down on the sideline, all too aware there would be no redemption. Munster fittingly applied the final blow by setting up a try for rookie prop Jarrod Wallace.

We have heard much about the Warriors boasting the Kiwis Anzac Test "spine" this year. But the Melbourne and Queensland combination of Slater at fullback, Cronk and Munster in the halves and Smith conducting it all from dummy half has been supreme. All were born in Queensland and moulded in Melbourne by Storm coach Craig Bellamy. After two injury-plagued years, Slater is back to his brilliant best and Cowboys half Michael Morgan was a convincing Maroons replacement for Darius Boyd in the unfamiliar role of centre.

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Queensland will derive great encouragement from the result. Walters and his squad have survived a transition period by bleeding eight new players and still emerged with the Origin shield in their trophy cabinet. The rookies learned quickly. NSW dominated the first two hours of the series but Queensland ruled the last two hours as the newcomers found their comfort zones. Aggressive prop Dylan Napa assumed the mantle of injured Matt Scott and the three new interchange forwards were far more comfortable in their second appearances.

It was a memorable series, one that produced a worthy winner. Although there was criticism rival players are now too friendly off the field, it does not extend to the fans. Former NSW hooker Benny Elias, infamous for his public taunting of Queensland rival Steve Walters, was in a taxi to Suncorp last week when the driver asked, "Aren't you Benny Elias?" When Benny proudly replied he was, the driver pulled over and ordered him out. Steve Mortimer, the first NSW captain to win an Origin series, was in the back seat and he was punted too!



Watch Manu's interview on
TV One Breakfast. Click here

<http://sirpeterleitch.co.nz/videos.php?p=594>



INTRUST SUPER PREMIERSHIP



3pm
Newtown Jets
Vs
New Zealand
Warriors



Saturday 22nd July 2017
Coverage Starts @ 2.30pm



Listen live at
www.steelesports.com.au





Photo www.photosport.nz



By Miles Davis

The Beast

IN THE modern era where sporting stars and their agents tend to think only of their bank balance there are still loyal servants who stand out. Those rare individuals are idolised by fans but some of them have a relationship with supporters that go beyond that. They are so loved they become family. Manu Vatuvei is undoubtedly one of them.

There are many aspects to Manu apart from his 13 years of loyalty that makes fans warm to him. His size and explosive style of playing the game. His warm smile, which is accentuated because it is not something one would normally associate with someone nicknamed 'Beast'.

There is also his ability to knuckle down and work on his game. Many of us remember a nightmare game he had against the Eels many years ago where they targeted him all night with aerial bombs that saw him struggle. Many players would have been destroyed by that but Manu simply got down to working on it. Of course that didn't mean he never dropped a high ball again but teams became increasingly reluctant to aim in his direction for fear of he would do to them when he caught it. His aerial ability was also a potent attacking force with many of his 150+ tries coming from attacking kicks to his left wing.

Despite his star status he maintained a humility which further ingratiated him with fans. A big part of the Warriors community efforts he was always willing to help promote his club and charitable causes.

His farewell at Manu Vatuvei Stadium on Friday night was naturally an emotional one. The tears in his eyes as he walked on to the field with his family were replicated by many in the stands as they said goodbye to one of their favourite sons. The only downside was that he was unable to take a playing role on the night and that the Vodafone Warriors failed to mark his departure with a top-level performance (I still have the faith but have some serious questions for many top players in the side who do not appear to be performing to their undoubted high level).

I for one will always remember the Beast fondly but feel that his move is best for both parties. He has not been at his highest level recently and the change of scenery will no doubt do him good.

There is no question in my mind that it will not take long for Salford fans to garner love for Manu Vatuvei the same way we did.

Thank you so much for the last 13 years Manu and I look forward to watching you start in Super League over the coming months.



By Miles Davis

Ron Ackland

ARGUABLY A prototype for the modern, ball-playing second-rower, Ron Ackland started his career as a centre. The pace and handling skills he showed in the midfield were to serve him well when he moved into the engine room as was his ferocious tackling.

A devoted servant to Auckland rugby league as both player and coach he featured for several local clubs, including Mt Albert and was to win 4 Fox Memorial trophies. An Auckland representative player he was a member of sides that beat France, Australia and Great Britain. On his Auckland debut he scored 3 tries in the defeat of fierce rivals Canterbury.

He made his Kiwi debut in 1954 in a memorable 20-14 win over Great Britain. During his time with the Kiwis he achieved 3 wins over the Kangaroos and his 18 test appearances would surely have been greater had it not been for injury (he broke an ankle in Australia in 1956) and also missing the 1961 tour of Great Britain and France due to a dispute over player allowances.

He featured at the 1957 and 1960 World Cups as a player and in 1977 as coach of the Kiwis. He also skippered the national side.

After retiring from international football in 1963 he moved to New South Wales and took up a player/coach position with the Goulburn club. Such was his influence in that part of Australia his legacy is almost as great as that in Auckland.

After finishing with Goulburn he became coach of Inverell Swans and led them to 2 local Grand Finals. Although he had a fearsome reputation on the field (he was well known to the judiciary) he was loved by one and all off of it. One of his players during that period, Doug Goldman, said of Ackland "He was a bloody brilliant coach, I haven't played under anyone better. Ron was the bees knees".

In 1974 he returned to New Zealand and coached a Mt Wellington side that included the Sorensen brother, Kurt and Dane. In 1976 he led them to victory in the Fox Memorial final.

In 1995 he was one of the original inductees of the NZRL Legends of League and in 2007 was named as a second-rower in the New Zealand Rugby League Team of the Century, partnering Mark Graham.

A passionate supporter of the Vodafone Warriors he was a season-ticket holder from their inception in 1995 until he passed away in 2013 aged 78 (his nephew John was coach of the successful Junior Warriors).

In 2014 to honour his contribution to Auckland Rugby League, the ARL introduced the Ron Ackland Medal which is awarded to the best and fairest in each year's ARL under-17 Grand Final.

Ron Ackland – Hall of Fame

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZccOH0eYbEY>

Black and white footage Australia v New Zealand

1963: <https://youtu.be/DeS0MSKMmMw>

High-Tackle Holloway Laid Low...

By John Holloway



GEEZ MATEYS must be getting old...out of town (with no TV!!) over the weekend and spent it laid up with a crook hip. Almost as painful as the Warriors result. Managed to look at highlights packages last nite to get a brief view of things. Seeing only the scoring highlights doesn't gather a real overview of games but beggars cant be choosers. Most memorable as a spectacle was the big splashdown up in Titan county. Should have suited the Sharks but they got torpedoed by the Surfers soldiers with ace pivot Ashley Taylor walking on water. A huge boilover at 30/10 to the homies. The Raiders and Dragons looked evenly matched but the Green Machine took the honours just, 18/14 in Golden point time. Rickeys rickety rockets getting back on the horse after 4 defeats in a row. Once again the luckless Knights give it all for nought. Played good but no cigar with the Broncos galloping into the lead in sight of the post. 22/34 bugger, poor old Nate Brown and the knuckle biting novocastrian supporters cant believe their (lack of) luck. The Rabbitohs have shown a bit of their old swagger of late with slammin Sammy Burgess leading the way but fell short at 10/23 to the Far North Rustlers. Cowboy fans enjoying 3 wins on the trot without JT. The Sea Eagles started favourite against The Westies and ran true to form 28/16, enough for the W. Something very amiss in TigerTown and old homie Cleary has his work cut out to figure it out. An even bigger conundrum for Steven Kearney looking forward to life without Million dollar man Shaunie-boy Johnson. De ja vue a-la last year. As I say only saw highlights which showed some very good Warriors offense that was undone eventually by some less than stellar defence as the younger Cleary had a much better day than his dad. Hat-trick of meat pies for star quality tyro. The Mountain men are running into the form that they promised early on. I will be honest I felt that they would be a touch too good for us but hoped the home advantage and Manus farewell might just give us the edge. Yeah right. Unfortunately for the faithful The Prowling Panthers had other ideas. Right now the outlook over Penrose is gloomy, on the other hand it is (another) opportunity for our boys to stand up and be counted. Ata Hingano will get the chance to go to the next level and those around him to push back at the negativity that is sure to surface now. Look in the mirror time guys.v

State of Origin the Finale.....the old adage a Champion team will always beat a Team of Champions. One team adjusted their bow-ties while the other team just rolled their sleeves up. Lozza left to lament. Go figure.

Back to the Bizzo. All teams in action this week. The Broncos will buck the Bulldogs, The Roosters should continue the Knights misery. The Sharks will swim faster this week and the Rabbitohs will pay the price. At home the Panthers will have too much for bustling Titans but the Raiders will have to improve even more to get par with the Captain Cams comp leading Storm. By the way you can add the name Munster to Melbourne's leading light roster of Smith, Cronk and Slater. The Red Vs injury problems will not help them shoot down the high flying Sea Eagles who are cruising nicely in the top 4 but beware the Dragons are always a handful at Winn Stadium. The Balmain bashers face another big hurdle at ANZ with the electric Eels on the charge. Tiger fans will not be anticipating a lot of change from the Parratrooper lineup with Gutherson, Norman, Radradra, French and their own expat Moses who is on fire. So over the ditch and up the Hill to Townsville we go, Coach Mooks and the Warriors take on yet another tough away assignment. Fair to say now the expectation of the faithful is mightily challenged. Might be time for a pep-talk from the Butcher to get us back in the bus eh.

Chin up time brothers gotta keep the faith.

Subscribe to the newsletter at
www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz



By Shane Hurdell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Unicorns Fans Do It Tough

ONLY REPLY: Unicorns backrower James Tango charges over for the hosts only try.

SO YOU are a Warriors fan and you think you've got it tough as the pressure to make the playoffs intensifies.

Well spare a thought for fans of the Hawke's Bay Unicorns rugby league team. They had to watch the Unicorns receive an 86-6 thrashing from the Wellington Orcas in their Mid Central inter-provincial competition opener at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings on Saturday.

Considering Unicorns coaches Aki Renata and George Hokianga had known about the fixture for more than six weeks a more competitive display was expected. It was shambolic, disgraceful and an embarrassment to the code in the province.

Hopefully it forces Hawke's Bay league administrators to have a major review of their competition structures which are not functioning in the way they should to produce a competitive Unicorns team. The time has come to have a winter club competition on Sundays reintroduced.

In the mid 1990s when club league was at its strongest in the Bay the competitions were played on Sundays which allowed those who wanted to play league and union to do so. The only club league team to play in the countdown to the selection of Saturday's Unicorns team was last year's Hawke's Bay Spring Competition premier champions Bridge Pa who played in the Mid Central Coast to Coast competition.

However only one of their players fronted on Saturday and Renata was hoping for seven. Bridge Pa player-coach Ihaka Waerea said he was disappointed about the lack of communication and training sessions in the buildup to the match.

"It needs to be a bit more professional. There's a lot of meaning behind the Unicorns jersey."

Just five of the players Renata named on Thursday night fronted for the match. The Unicorns started with 11 players and within the first five minutes were down to 10 when John Kaka had to be taken to hospital with a leg injury.

None of the Unicorns had fitness levels to match those of referee and former Unicorns winger Shane Foster who produced a polished display. Just three Unicorns, backrower James Tango, standoff Harris Solomon and centre David Noho, were close to the standard required at this level.

Tango finished the game with 44 tackles and the hosts only try. Secondrower Tahi Neera, a student at Napier Boys' High School, did enough to suggest he could progress in the code with the right coaching and fitness training schedules.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

The fact it wasn't the strongest of Orcas sides which travelled north must suggest it's time for a crisis meeting or two for Bay league officials.

"We had eight players away at a funeral and another six were unavailable with injuries," Wellington Rugby League general manager and former Kiwi David Faiumu pointed out afterwards.

Orcas fullback Tony Sukroo had plenty of gas and deserved his four tries. Secondrower Junior Filo was powerful and lively hooker Satch Pryor did well to land eight of his 10 conversion attempts.

The Unicorns next outing is against Manawatu in Palmerston North on August 20. One would hope Renata and Hokianga can assemble a squad together and have at least two trainings each week before then.

Hoping for players to front for a rep fixture without any training sessions and asking spectators to grab a jersey after the game has begun isn't acceptable.

Back to the Warriors. Yes departing legend Manu "The Beast" Vatuvei deserved a better farewell than the 34-22 loss to the Panthers in Auckland on Friday night before beginning his Super League stint with

Salford.

However to be at the match in person and to hear Manu speak at halftime and meet his parents was a memorable experience. It was definitely worth the 11 hour road trip from Napier.

I had to wait six-and-a-half hours for SH 5 to open on Friday in the wake of last week's Polar Blast and arrived at the stadium an hour before kickoff after being the first driver allowed through the road block.

That's how much Manu meant to me and no doubt thousands of other league fans throughout the country. Hopefully Renata and Hokianga and Bay league administrators show similar levels of commitment in getting the Unicorns back on track.

Scorers:

Wellington Orcas 86 (Tony Sukroo 4, Andrew Sukroo 2, Jordan Makatea 2, Jeremy McKee 2, Rikki Simmonds, Johnny Skinnon, Satch Pryor, Lui Afamasaga, Jon-marc Stowers, Enoch Tanfolu tries; Pryor 8, Tony Sukroo 2, Kurt Karini-Heta cons), Hawke's Bay Unicorns 6 (James Tango try; Harris Solomon con). HT: 44-0.

**Just wanted to share a few photos from up north with you. We are up north to bury my nephew, tragically killed in a car accident.
- Sir Peter Leitch**



Was driving through Awanui up north and spotted this young man in this rugby league jersey that was sponsored by you know who the Mad Butcher. The club was Whangatauatia out of Ahipara.



Caught Up With The Minstrel At Tokaraue Beach Check Him Out.

<http://www.theminstrel.co.nz/>



I visited the Karikari Lounge with 3 former league guys. Sel Bennett former chairmen of the NZRL and former international board member, Lindsay Procter former Kiwi and Paul Merrick former Ellerslie player who owns the lodge



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Black Sox Win Their 7th World Title

By Glen Roff - Softball Manager

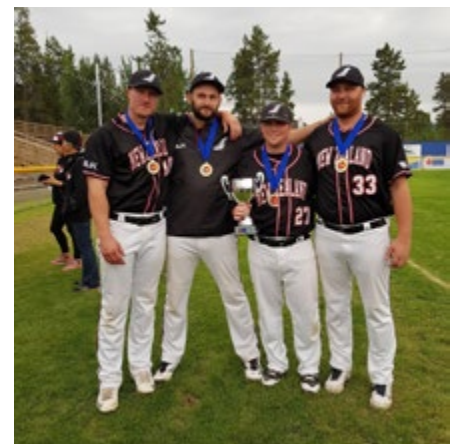
IT DOESN'T get any bigger than a grand slam in the grand finale. That's exactly what Joel Evans achieved when he put one out of the park for the Golden Homes Black Sox as they won their 7th world title today.

The Black Sox beat Australia 6-4 in the grand final of the Men's Softball World Championships in Whitehorse, Canada after knocking out the home team 12-11 yesterday in a game that went a marathon 4 hours in wet and trying conditions.

Back to Joel... Joel Evans lived out his childhood dreams with the grand slam to clinch it for the men in black. Loaded bases, two out, full count and BOOM!! The Black Sox dugout and proud kiwi fans erupted when they knew that was enough to win it for the Black Sox in the bottom of the 6th inning.

The Black Sox who were beaten up prior to the World Champs in Vancouver by Czech Republic and Canada rebounded to finish top of their section at the world champs and play Australia in the cross over. New Zealand put the Aussies away 6-1 setting them up with Team Canada, the winner going straight through to the final.

It was a very special moment for New Zealand who had lost to Canada 9-5 at the 2015 world champs after being up 5-1 in the 3rd inning. The title was the first on Canadian soil and the 7th in all for the greatest men's softball team of all time.



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‘The Beast’ Manu Vatuvei Desperate To Play In New Zealand One More Time During Rugby League World Cup

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

MANU VATUVEI is desperate to earn selection for Mate Ma'a Tonga at the Rugby League World Cup and play one final time in New Zealand later this year.

The Salford Red Devils recruit was named in the Vodafone Warriors' No.5 jersey but didn't take to the field against the Panthers last Friday as Mt Smart Stadium was renamed Manu Vatuvei Stadium in his honour.

Before he bade an emotional farewell to the club he represented 226 times, Vatuvei admitted he was already thinking about playing one last time in New Zealand.

"It will be awesome to come back to New Zealand (during the Rugby League World Cup) and play one more time in front of my family," Vatuvei said last week.

"I'm already thinking about it as something to work for."

If selected, Vatuvei would face Samoa and the Kiwis in consecutive weeks in Hamilton.

Both matches would be interesting propositions for the man affectionally known as 'The Beast', who made his debut for Mate Ma'a Tonga in the Pacific Test earlier this year.

He is New Zealand's highest ever try-scorer having dotted down 22 times in 29 Tests for the Kiwis so facing the haka would be a weird moment.

While any Samoa-Tonga clash is always eagerly anticipated by both sides and Vatuvei is no different, though there will be a funny twist for the hulking winger should he play in the all-Pacific battle at Waikato Stadium on November 4.

"My wife is Samoan so I always try to get my girls to pick the Tongan side but they say they're going to be half-and-half," Vatuvei said.

"I'll have to get split jerseys for them (my daughters)," Vatuvei admitted with a laugh.

Family loyalties aside though, the Warriors record try-scorer knows he needs to perform well for Salford to make his Rugby League World Cup goal a reality.

"Right now, I have to concentrate on getting myself right so I can be a part of it."

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





Mt Albert Maul Pirates at Lions Den

By Talei Anderson

THE MT Albert Lions mauled table leaders' Pt Chevalier Pirates on Saturday, taking them down 40-4 in Round 14 of the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership at Fowlds Park.

It took 13 minutes before points were scored. Mt Albert's Manaia Osbourne kicked across field to the right edge which bounced back into the hands of lock Joseph Price with space to score between the posts.

Winger Mark Graham – who also made his debut for the Vodafone Warriors' under 20s side the night prior – converted for a 6-0 lead.

It was a battle of the forwards which saw the game fought largely in the middle of the park.

With a minute left before the half time hooter, Mt Albert gained metres before a quick play of the ball saw them cross for another.

Graham added the extras to take a 12-0 lead at the break.

A dream start to the second stanza saw Mt Albert halfback Trent Wallace make a break and score in the opening seconds. They scored another two in quick succession to lead 28-0.

With no points on the board and only 20 minutes remaining, Pt Chevalier looked flat and under pressure.

Some dynamic play from the Pirates saw them rewarded on the right edge of the field, but it wasn't enough to outplay a confident home side who secured a 40-4 victory at full time.

Mt Albert captain Marcus Fraser said it was a huge victory for the side and one of their best this year.

"There was a lot of energy on the field," he said.

"We haven't been performing to what we know we are capable of. Today's win is one we are proud of and will boost the morale going forward."

"We have a big game against Glenora next... and to play another side inside the competitions top four will help us progress towards finals."

Mt Albert will play Glenora in a Konica Minolta Roope Rooster challenge trophy clash this Saturday at Harold Moody Reserve (2.30 pm kick-off). The game will be streamed live online for free at the Auckland Rugby League website www.aucklandleague.co.nz

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

ARL Results For Saturday July 15

SAS Fox Memorial: Round 14

Mt Albert 40 Pt Chevalier 4, Marist 6 Northcote 24,
Howick 46 Te Atatu 12, Papakura 40 Richmond 24,
Mangere East 8 Glenora 30.

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Premiership: Round 10

Ellerslie 8 Otara 74, New Lynn 46 Papatoetoe 26,
Otahuhu 24 Manurewa 36, Bay Roskill 34 Ponsonby
20.

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Plate: Round 10

Hibiscus Coast 28 Manukau 54, Waitemata 22 East
Coast Bays 32, Pakuranga bye.



ARL Fixtures for Saturday July 22

SAS Fox Memorial: Round 15

Northcote v Howick at Birkenhead War Memorial
2.30pm

Richmond v Mangere East @ Grey Lynn Park 2.30pm

Glenora v Mt Albert @ Harold Moody Reserve
2.30pm

Te Atatu v Papakura @ Jack Colvin Park 2.30pm

Pt Chevalier v Marist @ Unitec 2.30pm

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Premiership: Round 11

Bay Roskill v Papatoetoe @ Blockhouse Bay 2.30pm

Manurewa v Ellerslie @ Mountfort Park 2.30pm

Otara v New Lynn @ Ngati Otara Park 2.30pm

Ponsonby v Otahuhu @ Victoria Park 2.30pm

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Plate: Round 11

Waitemata v Pakuranga @ Ranui Domain 2.30pm

Hibiscus Coast v East Coast Bays @ Stanmore Bay
2.30pm

Manukau bye

A promotional banner for a live streaming rugby match. It features two players in profile, facing each other. The player on the left is wearing a blue and white jersey, while the player on the right is wearing a yellow and blue striped jersey. In the center is the ARL Fox Memorial Shield logo, which includes the text 'SAS sport', 'ARL™', and 'FOX MEMORIAL SHIELD'. A large red 'LIVE!' graphic is overlaid on the logo. Below the logo, the text reads 'ARL LIVE LEAGUE ACTION', 'GLENORA V MT ALBERT', '2:30PM HAROLD MOODY PARK', and '22 JULY 2017'. At the bottom, there is a red button that says 'STREAMING LIVE' and the website 'WWW.AUCKLANDLEAGUE.CO.NZ'. The background is a dark, textured blue.

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LIVE!

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GLENORA V MT ALBERT
2:30PM HAROLD MOODY PARK
22 JULY 2017

STREAMING LIVE WWW.AUCKLANDLEAGUE.CO.NZ

ARL Women in League Day

Photos by Farrelly Photos



Girls Nines table leaders Otago.



Manurewa Girls Nines grade.



Manurewa Marlins Wahine.



New Lynn Girls Nines grade.



Otahuhu Girls under 15s Nines grade.



Otahuhu under 15s Girls Nines grade.



Pt Chevalier and Manukau Womens pennant post match at Women in League Day.



Richmond Girls Nines grade.



Richmond Roses all smiles after a victory over Manurewa at Cornwall Park.



Te Atatu and Mangere East post match at Women in League Day.



**Read more
from ARL at:**

<http://www.aucklandleague.co.nz/>

He Tauaa Retains Dominance !

By Dave Loudon

SOUTHLAND RUGBY League club , He Tauaa played Kia Toa Toa Tigers from Otago last Saturday at Sandy Point – For the interprovincial club challenge. Each of those clubs were championship winners in their respective club competitions.

He Tauaa having already demonstrated their dominating spirit in Southland for the last 5 years , Kia Toa Tigers had a big task ahead of them.

Just prior to kick off a minutes silence was observed to mark the passing of Eddie Hei Hei – Eddie passed away on July 15th 2015 and is respectfully remembered .

Kia Toa Tigers opened the score book very early in the game with a try two minutes in .This start from Kia Toa Tigers had He Tauaa on their toes . Kia Toa Tigers then ran in another try at about ten minutes in .He Tauaa then fired in to action and scored a try . From there on in He Tauaa demonstrated their form that has seen them reign supreme over the last 5 years . The half time score was He Tauaa 34 against Kia Toa Tigers 16.

In to the second half and He Tauaa did not let up , however Kia Toa Tigers used their defence well and saw them back in the game to score more tries . He Tauaa were still on the charge though and consequently put more points on the board to take the win with 58 points against Kia Toa Tigers on 26.

A good clean fast flowing game of Rugby League that was played in great conditions before an enthusiastic crowd.

Try Scorers were :

He Tauaa RLC :

Lucas Pikia 3 , Javaan Fa'Amoe Ioane 2 , Shaun Tamariki – Todd 2 , Chez Cameron 2 , Willy Pera 2 . Conversions : Sam Taukiri 6

Kia Toa Tigers RLC :

Josiah Mani 2 , Shane Unahi 1 , Tayla Hazlett 1 , Amara Folimatama 1 . Conversions : Vila Apuula 3



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Vodafone Launches Stadium Live App

Vodafone's new game-day app Stadium Live has launched, and it's making your in-stadium experience that much richer. The app lets you live stream the Warriors in action straight to your smartphone while you're at Mt Smart.

Whether you're sitting in the back of the stands, lining up for a hot dog or waiting for a friend, you won't miss a moment.

Vodafone has worked closely with SKY to provide multiple camera feeds direct to the hands of fans in the stand via the official Vodafone Stadium Live app. They want to bring you closer to game, and give you control over replays, and angles. Fans can use Stadium Live to switch between eight different camera angles, replay highlights as well as view the previous 30 seconds of footage from any camera angle all from their digital devices and more.

Relive the moment of that winning try by replaying highlights from the game. Disagree with the refs call? Check out the close ups on different camera angles to see if that penalty should have been awarded.

If you're heading along to the games this season, make sure you download the app and check out all the action. Download it for iPhone [here](#) and Android [here](#) OR search for 'Stadium Live for Vodafone Warriors' in the app store.

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



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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 20 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

- The Sharks have a few veterans kicking around and **Luke Lewis**, who plays his 300th game this weekend, credits it all to physical performance manager Andrew Gray. But Gray says Lewis's achievements are his own – and he's never seen a player so mentally and physically prepared for everything footy and life has thrown at them.

- Clubs celebrate Women in League Round and it's female rugby league players who have some of the best stories of overcoming adversity, including NSW player **Talesha Quinn** – who played through a dislocated hip and has travelled up and down the eastern seaboard for the chance to play footy.

- **Anthony Milford** talks about his shoulder injury, which requires surgery that would put him out of contention for the World Cup – but the five-eighth is willing to do anything to make sure the Broncos succeed.

- The Origin period is over and we analyse which clubs have taken full advantage of the draw – and who will struggle to make the finals after struggling in the middle section of the season.

PLUS... The **Top 8 late-season surges**, **The Analyst** figures out if the Warriors can win without **Shaun Johnson** and an **Origin champions poster**.



ROUND 20

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V



#NRLCowboysWarriors

11	2	0*	10	Lachlan COOTE	1	Roger TUIVASA-SHECK (C)	16	6	0	24
17	8	17	66	Kyle FELDT	2	David FUSITU'A	17	8	0	32
13	0	0	0	Justin O'NEILL	3	Blake AYSHFORD	14	4	0	16
17	2	0	8	Kane LINNETT	4	Solomone KATA	12	3	0	12
11	4	0	16	Antonio WINTERSTEIN	5	Ken MAUMALO	16	6	0	24
9	4	0	16	†Te Maire MARTIN	6	Kieran FORAN	12	2	0	8
16	7	0	28	Michael MORGAN	7	Mason LINO	0	0	0	0
17	0	0	0	John ASIATA	8	Jacob LILLYMAN	16	0	0	0
13	3	0	12	Jake GRANVILLE	9	Issac LUKE	16	1	6	16
17	1	0	4	Scott BOLTON	10	Ben MATULINO	10	1	0	4
16	2	0	8	Gavin COOPER (C)	11	Bodene THOMPSON	17	5	0	20
17	0	17	34	Ethan LOWE	12	Bunty AFOA	10	0	0	0
15	2	0	8	Jason TAUMALOLO	13	Simon MANNERING	15	3	0	12

INTERCHANGE

16	1	0	4	Ben HAMPTON	14	Mafoa'aeata HINGANO	7	1	0	4
16	11	0	44	Coen HESS	15	Sam LISONE	16	0	0	0
12	1	0	4	Shaun FENSOM	16	James GAVET	13	2	0	8
6	1	0	4	Corey JENSEN	17	Ligi SAO	9	0	0	0

RESERVES

0	0	0	0	Braden UELE	18	Jazz TEVAGA	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	Kyle LAYBUTT	19/20	Chris SATAE	0	0	0	0
6	3	0	12	Kalyn PONGA	20/21	Isaiah PAPALI'I	1	0	0	0
7	1	0	4	Javid BOWEN	21/22	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	6	6	0	24

*Field Goals: L Coote 2

[†]Played 7 games for Penrith

COACHES

Paul GREEN 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

48 BIG LEAGUE 2017 Round 20

DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 22
VENUE: 1300SMILES STADIUM
KICK-OFF: 7.30PM
REFEREE: HENRY PERENARA
ASSISTANT REFEREE: TIM ROBY
TOUCH JUDGES: CLAYTON SHARPE & DAVE RYAN
SENIOR REVIEW OFFICIAL: LUKE PATTEN
REVIEW OFFICIAL: STEVE CHIDDY
FOX LEAGUE: 7.30PM
LIVE RADIO: 2GB, ABC

	COWBOYS	WARRIORS
Position (Points)	6th (26)	11th (18)
Points For	355	339
Points Against	299	377

ATTACK

Tries	58	59
Completions	79%	79%
Tries 0-20m	43	36
Tries 21-50m	5	11
Tries 51-100m	2	4

DEFENCE

Tries	51	66
Tries 0-20m	26	24
Tries 21-50m	9	20
Tries 51-100m	10	10

MATCH AVERAGES

Tries Scored	3	3
Tries Conceded	3	4
Points Scored	21	20
Points Conceded	18	22
Hit Ups/Runs	178	175
Tackles	296	321
Metres Gained	1617	1568
Handling Errors	3	4
Offloads	6	7
Line-breaks	4	4
Goalkicking	79%	78%

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played 36, North Queensland 18, Warriors 18

AT 1300SMILES STADIUM

Played 17, North Queensland 12, Warriors 5

WINNING FORM 2017

NORTH QLD: WWLWWLLWLWLBWWLWBW Streak – 3 wins
WARRIORS: WLLLWLLWLLWLBWLB Streak – 1 loss

PAST 8 CLASHES

2016 – NORTH QUEENSLAND D. WARRIORS 34-6
 at 1300SMILES Stadium
2015 – NORTH QUEENSLAND D. WARRIORS 50-16
 at Mt Smart Stadium; **NORTH QUEENSLAND D. WARRIORS**
28-24 at 1300SMILES Stadium
2014 – WARRIORS D. NORTH QUEENSLAND 20-16
 at 1300SMILES Stadium
2013 – WARRIORS D. NORTH QUEENSLAND 20-18
 at Mt Smart Stadium
2012 – NORTH QUEENSLAND D. WARRIORS
52-12 at Dairy Farmers Stadium; **WARRIORS D. NORTH**
QUEENSLAND 35-18 at Mt Smart Stadium
2011 – WARRIORS D. NORTH QUEENSLAND 18-6
 at Mt Smart Stadium

BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS

NORTH QUEENSLAND D. WARRIORS 52-12 at Dairy
 Farmers Stadium, 2012
AUCKLAND D. NORTH QUEENSLAND 52-6 at Ericsson
 Stadium, 1996

NEXT CLASH

NORTH QLD: v Sydney Roosters at Allianz, 7.30pm Saturday July 29
WARRIORS: v Cronulla at Mt Smart, 8pm (NZ) Friday July 28

CASUALTY WARD

NORTH QLD: Matt Scott (ACL), Pat Kaufusi (foot), Johnathan
 Thurston (shoulder), Ben Spina (biceps) – season
WARRIORS: Albert Vete (arm) – Rd 22; Ryan Hoffman (foot)
 – Rd 23; Shaun Johnson (knee), Nathaniel Roache (hamstring) –
 indefinite

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

NRL Preview

Warriors' resolve put to the test

by DAVID MIDDLETON
@Middleton_David



SCOTT BOLTON

166
metres in
Round 19

1300SMILES Stadium
Saturday, 7.30pm

Form: It's a huge credit to the Cowboys that they lost only once during the State of Origin period, especially considering the demands on their rep stars and the loss of Johnathan Thurston. Replenished with their Origin reps last Sunday, the Cowboys dominated the Rabbitohs and convinced many that they aren't a spent force. It's a different story for the Warriors, who failed to make the most of their annual Origin advantage to move up the ladder and now the loss of halfback Shaun Johnson threatens to completely undermine their cause.

History: Traditionally, this clash is a lock for the home side with only an occasional triumph for the travelling team. The Warriors have managed to buck the trend only once since 2003. That was back in 2014, when they claimed an early-season 20-14 victory in Townsville.

Danger sign: The Warriors will be tested by the Cowboys' forward barrage with lock Jason Taumalolo the key danger man. Too much emphasis on the 113kg wrecking ball will open opportunities for Scott Bolton, Gavin Cooper, Ethan Lowe and John Asiata.

Best Bet? Spirits could be on the wane at the Warriors, where the magnitude of their task to make the finals grew significantly more difficult when Shaun Johnson went down with his knee injury last Friday. This looks like a comfortable (13+) win for the home side.

Money-spinner: Options for First

Tryscorer include Kyle Feldt, Michael

Morgan and Ken Maumalo.



HOLDEN CUP

DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 22 **VENUE:** 1300SMILES STADIUM **KICK-OFF:** 5.15PM
REFEREE: DREW OULTRAM
TOUCH JUDGES: JACK EBERT & GIULIAN FICHERA

COWBOYS V WARRIORS

Kalyn PONGA	1	Israel OGDEN
Michael CARROLL	2	Mark GRAHAM
Enari TUALA	3	Melino FINEANGANOFO
Kurt WILTSHIRE	4	Dean KOUKA-SMITH
Murray TAULAGI	5	Gibson POPOALII
Mitch DUNN (C)	6	Kane TELEA
Jake CLIFFORD	7	Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA
Kaleb FUIMAONO	8	Kenese KENESE (C)
Calum GAHAN	9	Eiden ACKLAND
Connor LUHAN	10	Tayhler PAORA
Cody MAUGHAN	11	Jerome MAMEA
Ryan LLOYD	12	JoE VUNA
Corey HORSBURGH	13	Chris SIO (C)
14 Kyle PATERSON	14	Lewis SIO, 15 Soane HUFANGA
15 Duane DEMPSEY, 16 Jack GLOSSOP, 17 Jack LOTE	16	Kelepi LUI, 17 Troy PULUPAKI
18 Jayden STEPHENS, 19 Nathan TRAILL, 20 Jacob BOURKE	18	Sheldon ROGERS
21 Sam MURPHY, 22 Marshall HUDSON, 23 Logan BAYLISS	20	Keanu DAWSON
	21	Donovan BRIGGS
	22	Havi TUPOUNIUA, 23 Isaiah PAPALI'I, 24 Javvier PITOVAO
Aaron PAYNE		Grant POCKLINGTON

LOSING THEIR GRIP... The Cowboys are in desperate need of improvement to remain inside the eight after losing their third straight game to the Rabbitohs. A second-half comeback looked on when Kurt Wiltshire crossed after the break and Jake Clifford followed suit to close in on the Rabbitohs lead, but it wasn't enough. Discipline was their biggest flaw – 58 missed tackles and just 44 per cent of possession didn't help their chances.

STUCK ON THE BOTTOM... The last-placed Warriors lost their 14th game of the season at the hands of Penrith. The Panthers were in control with the Warriors' only points coming from Chanel Harris-Tavita breaking the line and scoring. The away team struggled to find their footing for most of the game, finishing with 52 missed tackles and 10 penalties. – KAMILIA HANNA

HEAD-TO-HEAD LEADERS

AVERAGE METRES	AVERAGE TACKLES	LINE-BREAKS
Jason Taumalolo 204	Simon Mannering 44	Coen Hess 9
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 175	Bodene Thompson 34	Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 9
Ken Maumalo 160	Gavin Cooper 32	Shaun Johnson 9
Kalyn Ponga 142	Scott Bolton 32	Kalyn Ponga 8
Scott Bolton 140	Issac Luke 30	Michael Morgan 8

STATS

NRL FANTASY

FANTASY POINTS
Jason Taumalolo 62.5
Simon Mannering 58.9
Coen Hess 44.8
Bodene Thompson 43.4
Issac Luke 41.4

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

NZRL Survey – Complete To Win!

NEW ZEALAND Rugby League invites members of rugby league clubs to take part in a very important survey. Everyone who takes the time to complete this survey will go in the draw to win one of three NZRL goodie bags.

Sport New Zealand is undertaking a research programme that aims to understand what is important to players and how clubs are performing. We would like to understand the experience you've had with your club.

Nielsen, an independent research company, is carrying out this confidential survey on behalf of Sport New Zealand and results will not be reported in a way that will allow you to be individually identified.

The survey will only take around 10 minutes to complete. At the end of the project a summary of the results will be shared with you.

To complete the survey, follow this link: <https://nielsenwebsurveys.com/wix/p3653377098.aspx?sport=2>



Sir Peter & Team,

JUST WANTED to send you this picture of the signed jersey I won in the recent competition, Dom at Personality Framers in Gisborne has done a fantastic job of framing it and it is now on the wall of our 18 year son's room. He's the biggest Warriors fan I know and was blown away when he saw it.

Thanks again.

Go the Mighty Vodafone Warriors!!

Cheers,

Dean Tucker

Just had breakfast today at ex Kiwi Don Munro's cafe, The Gecko in Kaoitai. Don played for the Kiwis in 1975 and played for Porirua City. Still looking great!



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