

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

30th August 2017

Newsletter #185



From the Stacey Jones lounge on Sunday: this photo will hopefully be on the NRL Footy Show's Thats Gold segment this week.



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Fancy Owning A Footy Club?

By David Kemeys

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



FIRST THINGS first...the bid by Auckland businessman Paul Davys to buy the Vodafone Warriors came to nothing.

The words piss and wind spring to mind.

I was part of the crowd gathered in Pete's lounge on Sunday ahead of our final home game of the year against Manly, when former Warrior Monty Betham stopped by to talk to us.

His on again-off again crowd funding bid to buy a chunk of the club is on again, and I will tell you this for nothing, I'm in.

Yes I bag the boys when I get depressed – which has been often, but on the other hand, it's my team and I love them to bits, and come 2018 I will be back at Mt Smart cheering them on and hoping for better, and enjoying mixing with the other fans, Pommy Bastards excepted.

Monty told us all, his plan has moved forward and he and some of those involved have gone so far as meeting with board chairman Jim Doyle, and new CEO Cameron George, and that his (our) lot will be having a look at the books during the week.

Monty says it was all positive.

"There was a real passion shown by all on their side to work with us to try and make our dream a reality, so we will be working directly with Warriors management to get all the information we need to bring to the fans like you."

Now I have known Monty for a long time – not well certainly, but well enough to know his word is worth something - so I for one will be looking forward to hearing what he has to say, and who the people are he has assembled to lead the club if the bid comes off.

As he spoke to us, his genuine affection for his club was obvious, as was his affection for ordinary fans.

"Your love for the Warriors makes me proud every day, so no matter what happens, we will do everything in our power to make this happen."

Bugger?

We could not buy a bit of luck could we? Our last home game of the year, against Manly, and most are expecting - I suspect – another flogging.

Instead the boys put in a good shift, battling to stay in the game, only to lose it in golden point.

Apparently Manly are the club everyone loves to hate, and that sounds fair enough to me. I certainly hate them, having never forgiven them for, well, being from manly really.

We had the buggers on the ropes, seven points up with five to go, but we watched them pull off a dramatic 22-21 win at Mt Smart.

Even so, those around me, and given there were fewer than 10,000 in the ground, were not upset, because at least we played well, hung in there and put in a decent shift, and that is as much as I ever ask.

Time for a confession, I thought we would get belted, but I could not tip wet cement out of a wheelbarrow, let alone the result of a footy match.

Manly stay alive, we slip to eight straight losses.

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I am not a bitter and twisted man – actually that's exactly what I am - so when Manly skipper Daly Cherry-Evans landed a field goal in the fifth minute of golden point, then jumped round like he was on a trampoline, all I could think was: roll over on your ankle and injure yourself in a freak accident you little shit.

And having read at the weekend about the "Kids in Cars" slot on Aussie league TV, when children were encouraged to laugh at Pasifika names, Tom and Jake Trbojevic should have been excluded in my view, for having equally unpronounceable monikers.

Such has been our lot all year, but it was great to see David Fusitu'a revelling in playing on the wing, and he was the best player on the park by some distance.

If he does not get player of the year something is crook.

It was also great to see Shaun Johnson back, never mind all the hoo-ha apart whether it was worth risking him with nothing to play for in the season. It's a very simple one, we are miles better with him in the side.

Farewell Old Friends

No matter how much I might want to, I will not visit Mt Smart again and see Ben Matulino, Charlie Gubb or Ryan Hoffman in our colours, so I was a bit gutted we could not at least send them off with a win.

Not too sure about Jacob Lillyman, but we may have also see the last of "Bull" too.

Hoffman spoke in the week about his disappointment at not achieving what he wanted at the club.

Lillyman and Hoffman are divisive types, some fans rate them, some don't.

I mention this because there seems to be no end to the calls to bring in more Aussies to fix whatever our perceived problems are.

More disappointing for me was Gubb, who might as well have said he was glad to be out of the place.

But Matulino is the one who most will mourn, hardly surprising when you consider he has been a fixture at the club, racking up 211 games.

Ben's season was hampered by injury at the start but at the back end his form has been good.

"I started pretty slow and then found my feet," he said.

Best of luck to all the departing players, just don't come back to Mt Smart and rip us a new one.

Hawks Drop By After Clubrooms Destroyed

It was a pleasure to meet members of the Mangakino Hawks at Mt Smart at the weekend. Most will recall the club hit hard times when a fire ripped through the place and destroyed the club's gear.

Mangakino is a bit of a blink and you'll miss it sort of a place, but they are no mugs in the BOP league competition, only being ousted this year at the semi-finals stage.

Because the club has no insurance, good old Sir Peter has been involved, chipping everyone to chuck in a few bucks to get the club back on its feet, or at least ensure the poor sods have a kit to wear and a ball to pass.

A half dozen or so players were at the lounge, and they were given a swag of Warriors gear to help with their fundraising efforts, including caps, balls, drink bottles and books.

Manager George Samuels was a bit taken aback by all the support that has come in for his little club – which Peter reckons must be a cousin to his beloved Mangere East Hawks.

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“Mangakino is a very small town, so to have people we have never heard of, who must barely know anything about us, offering to help, has been amazing,” he said.

“We haven’t really asked for help, but people have set up a givealittle page for us, and New Zealand being New Zealand, lots of people have offered to help.”

Captain Johnson Peri was at the ground and he said having the Mad Butcher get hold of the story and pitch in to help meant a lot to the club. “The local motel owner, who we have never met, stepped in to help, so it has been cool, but we have a way to go to get back on our feet.”

Lounge member Michael Johannik stepped up too, donating \$300 to both the Mangakino Hawks and the Disability Rugby League cause the lounge was supporting on Sunday. James Gavet has taken on a role with disabled players, and there is more on that in the newsletter.

If you want to help the Hawks, and every little bit does, visit: <http://bit.ly/2wYJMPN>



Tony Tatupu foundation Warrior and Kiwi with the Mangakino boys.



George Samuels, from Mangakino rugby league who lost their club rooms in a fire, receives a donation (\$300) from Michael Johannik towards the clubrooms.



Sir Peter talks to Mangakino Rugby League member George Samuels coach and captain Johnson Peri.



The Mangakino Rugby League team. Special guests in the lounge courtesy of the Vodafone Warriors.



The team from Mangakino rugby league where stoked to get a photo with rugby legend Steve Price.



Tommy Conroy x Kiwi presents George Samuels coach and chairman of Mangakino Rugby League with a framed signed rugby league jersey donated by the Vodafone Warriors club.

Move Over Brad Pitt

Did you see in the papers at the weekend that halfback Shaun Johnson visited the studio where they make Shortland St, where he revealed he hoped to have a career in TV when he hangs up the boots.

He talked about being a gangster in an intermediate school production of Bugsy Malone.

“I just remember, I was playing a gangster and thug. We were in suits, with top hats, and I remember the girls would sit on our knees.”

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Shaun has actually already been on Shorty St, you can check it out here: Shorty.

It was great to see him back on Sunday, and glimpse what we have been missing since he got injured against the Panthers.

Shaun cops plenty, and I am one of those given to believe much of it is unfair, if understandable given his status as our marquee player.

But since we lost him, we have not won, and we have only lost the last 11 games where he didn't play, so a blind man could see how critical he is to us.

That isn't just my opinion, it's Stacey Jones' opinion too. "Sometimes it's not until a player is out that you realise how much you'll miss them. Shaun is definitely like that."

Pete Told Me To Be Positive

Remember when the sun shone and the season loomed. We had the Kiwis spine, all would be well, and we would not be the Warriors of old.

Shit happens.

Same old slow start, failed to get the usual Origin period boost, terrible run of injuries, flogged daily on talk-back radio and in the papers.

Shit happens.

Too easy to be among the coach Stephen Kearney knockers, and trot out the old "told you so" lines. He will have learned plenty, harsh lessons they have been too.

For me, he was the right choice. Good pedigree in the game, good coaching stints alongside people like Craig Bellamy and Wayne Bennett, successful with the Kiwis, a former Warrior, comfortable with Maori and Pasifika cultures.

None of that has changed, and when he came out after we lost to the Knights and had a pop at players not trying hard enough, it was to me, a breakthrough.

It signalled he had had enough, and I expect him to be a lot better for the experience - painful though it has been.

So to all the "sack the coach" merchants, bugger off.

The other much trotted out solution is a wholesale clearout of players.

It just isn't that easy actually. There is a little thing called employment law, and once a player is contracted you can't just rip the deal up because it suits you.

Tui Lolohea, Ben Matulino, Ryan Hoffman, Manu Vatuvei...all among those we have seen the last of. That list shows Kearney is not frightened of tough decisions.

His recruitment for next year might tell us more though, and it certainly is an area the club can, and must, improve on.

Tohu Harris is on the way, and there is endless talk of Adam Blair joining too.

I wish I could say that filled me with confidence, but it doesn't.

Whoever comes in, and those still on the roster, have to show some pride in the jersey, that's all we have any right to expect.

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That's why Simon Mannering remains so popular with the vast majority of fans – because no matter what, he works his arse off.

Would anyone be surprised if he was player of the year yet again, surely only David Fusitu'a could stop him.

Mannering is not one of those people who love the sound of their own voice, like me!

But he did have quite a pop in the press at the weekend, though even then it was said in such a way as to encourage his teammates rather than criticise them.

“As a team, we are inconsistent, and as individuals, we are inconsistent. In the NRL, that should be your primary objective, to be consistent, and the difference between your best game and worst game is close.

“It's not about how many tries you can score, or all that other stuff, or how good you can be. It's about getting the win each week, whether it is pretty or ugly, it doesn't matter. It is disappointing that hasn't been a common theme and we need to create an environment where consistency is the norm.”

Mannering is approaching 300 games for us, and we can't expect him to roll on forever.

Time for some others to step up, and let's hope that time is 2018, because we have to have something to look forward to.

I can't take much more of this.

I went to Sir Colin Earl Meads' funeral on Monday. It was a lovely service with some lovely speakers. I want to share a couple of pages from the service booklet with you - Sir Peter Leitch



Colin's funeral service held at the Les Mares Centre, To Kaiti at 4pm on Monday, August 28, 2017

Piper	Don McColl
Officiant	Jamie Mackay
Widow/Trilogist	Stan Meads
Tributes	Sir Brian Lechove John Sturgeon Shelley Mitchell Grandchildren - 'Monkey Joe's'
Reflection	Green, Green Grass of Home Unforgettable What a Wonderful World
Reading	The Last Farewell
Recessional	You'll Never Walk Alone
Flowermen	Stan, Karen, Kelvin, Rhonda, Glynn & Shelley





Same side for season ender

by *Richard Becht*

VODAFONE WARRIORS v WESTS TIGERS Leichhardt Oval, Sydney 6.30pm, Sunday, September 3

AN UNCHANGED squad has been named for the Vodafone Warriors' season-ending 26th-round NRL clash against Wests Tigers at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday (6.30pm kick-off local time; 8.30pm NZT).

Head coach Stephen Kearney has retained the same starting combination used in last Sunday's heartbreaking 21-22 golden point extra time loss to Manly.

The extended eight-man bench is also unchanged ahead of a weekend when the club's Intrust Super Premiership team begins its finals campaign against Penrith after finishing second in the regular season. The Ricky Henry-coached side faces the Panthers at UOW Jubilee Oval on Sunday (4.00pm kick-off local time; 6.00pm NZT).

All eight players included on the bench are eligible to play in the ISP finals but not all will be able to do so due to the NRL side being without injured regulars Jacob Lillyman, Bodene Thompson, James Gavet and Nathaniel Roache while Albert Vete has only just been cleared to return.

Late-season encounters with Wests Tigers have been the norm in the last three seasons, this meeting following 25th-round clashes at Mount Smart Stadium last year and at Campbelltown Sports Stadium in 2015.

It's also the fourth season on end that the Vodafone Warriors have featured in a late kick-off on the final day of the regular season.

The match will be the last in Vodafone Warriors colours for Ryan Hoffman, Ben Matulino, Kieran Foran and Charlie Gubb with Matulino lining up against the club he's joining next season.

Wing David Fusitu'a will become the only player to appear in each of the club's 24 games this season, extending his run of consecutive appearances to 42 since his first match last year in round seven.

He is also poised to finish as the team's leading try-scorer in 2017. His double against the Sea Eagles took his tally to 12, three clear of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, while his career total stands at 32 in 56 appearances.

With 51 tackles against Manly, Simon Mannering ranks second among all players in 2017 with 937. He's set to finish his 13th NRL season with a career total of 280 games, leaving him on track next year to become the first player to reach 300 games for the Vodafone Warriors and only the second New Zealander after Ruben Wiki to join the 300 club.

Sunday's contest matches two sides looking for a positive end to challenging campaigns. The

Vodafone Warriors sit 13th on 18 points after seven consecutive defeats and have had just one win in 11 away games this year while the Tigers are 15th on 16 points with four losses in their last six games.

It will be the 28th match between the two side since Wests Tigers entered the NRL in 2000. They have won 14 encounters with the Vodafone Warriors bagging 13 victories but the Tigers have a 9-5 advantage in home encounters. It will be only the sixth time the sides have met at Leichhardt Oval, the Vodafone Warriors winning the last time the teams met there in 2013 (24-14) and 28-26 in 2008 while the home side prevailed 24-22 in 2012, 20-12 in 2011 and 17-16 the first time they clashed in 2000.

Vodafone Warriors

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Roger Tuivasa-Sheck | Interchange: |
| 2 David Fusitu'a | 14 Mafoa'aeta Hingano |
| 3 Blake Ayshford | 15 Charlie Gubb |
| 4 Solomon Kata | 16 Isaiah Papali'i |
| 5 Ken Maumalo | 17 Jazz Tevaga |
| 6 Kieran Foran | 18 Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad |
| 7 Shaun Johnson | 20 Chris Satae |
| 8 Ben Matulino | 21 James Bell |
| 9 Issac Luke | 22 Mason Lino |
| 10 Sam Lisone | |
| 11 Bunty Afoa | |
| 12 Ryan Hoffman | |
| 13 Simon Mannering | |



In the Stacey Jones Lounge



CEO Cameron George presents Odette with a gift.



Happy Sir Peter Leitch club members on Sunday.



James Gavet, Reuben Wiki joined us in the Stacey Jones lounge at half time on Sunday.



Jim Doyle presents a gift to Michael Johannink the biggest fan in the lounge.



Gail Clifton the best dressed lady gets a gift from Jim Doyle.



Kaye Ellis is presented a present from Steve Price who was a special guest in the Stacey Jones lounge on Sunday.



The POMS Adam, Peter, Neil and Lee got the prize for the best singing in the Stacey Jones lounge all receiving their favourite Selley's BBQ cleaners.



This photo will hopefully be on the NRL Footy Show's that's Gold segment this week.



Paul Douglas our comedian on the day.



Steve Price gave us a great talk about his Warriors days and his upcoming return to Australia.



Willie Gillette gets the Greg Inglis boot.



Sir Peter Leitch interviews Brent Webb a past Warriors Fullback great to see him in the lounge.

50 Years Ago: When Dragons Ruled

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)



THIS SEASON'S NRL play-offs mark the 50th anniversary of rugby league's greatest winning sequence coming to an abrupt end. The mighty Dragons of St George had triumphed in eleven consecutive NSW Grand Finals from 1956 to 1966. But their historic run was halted when beaten 12-11 by Canterbury-Bankstown in the 1967 preliminary final. The Berries (as they were known in their pre-Bulldogs days) advanced to the Grand Final where they themselves were out-pointed by South Sydney.

I can still recall my disappointment on hearing the Dragons had lost. That was the year of my OE, playing footy for Illawarra Western Suburbs before and after reporting the Kiwis tour for the New Zealand Press Association, and then working behind the bar at Wests Leagues Club until my 12-months leave from the Christchurch Press expired. But the 1967 Grand Final was still a classic, made famous by Souths forward Bob McCarthy scoring the decisive try after sprinting 75 yards from an interception.

The book of St George's victorious decade was accurately entitled "Never Before, Never Again". The salary cap is a major factor why no other club will ever achieve such a decade of domination. It is just impossible to gather so many great players in one team and unleash them upon their rivals. Manly-Warringah attempted it in the early 1980s, when Kiwis prop Mark Broadhurst was one of seven Test forwards on the books at Brookvale, but the deeds of the men wearing the Red Vee will not be replicated.

Back in the 1950s payments to players reflected their results – win, draw or loss – and were very modest by modern standards. Fulltime professionalism was still 40 years away and all players and coaches worked day jobs. But the introduction of poker machines led to bigger Leagues Clubs to financially support their teams and the transfer market boomed. St George had moved its home ground from Hurstville Oval to Kogarah Oval and their new Leagues Club was so lavish it was dubbed the Taj Mahal.

A gathering of experienced Sydney rugby league authors attributed St George's remarkable sequence to three factors: the 1956 appointment as secretary of Frank Facer who with his fellow administrators planned an inspired recruitment policy and created an attractive family atmosphere; the Leagues Club revenue flow which lured quality local, country, inter-state and overseas players to the club; and the players' mastering the art of unlimited tackle football with robust defence, superior ball skills and total commitment to fitness.

That combination produced some incredible statistics. Of 222 first-grade games the Dragons won 183, drew five and lost 34. They were unbeaten in 1959, did not lose a game at Jubilee Oval from 1954 to 1965, and conceded only five tries in their eleven victorious Grand Finals at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Wests players from 1963 still swear they were robbed by a cheating referee who bet big on St George to win but their protests were buried in the SCG mud while the Dragons did yet another lap of honour after the 8-3 result.

Second-rower Norm Proven featured in the first ten Grand Finals, his last four as captain-coach. Proven is the tall figure on the NRL trophy, arm in arm with comparatively tiny Wests half Arthur Summons after that 1963 blockbuster. A Team of the Era, selected last year, included Graeme Langlands, Eddie Lumsden, Reg Gasnier, Billy Smith, Johnny King, Brian Clay, Bobby Bugden, Kevin Ryan, Ken Kearney, Billy Wilson, Harry Bath, Norm Proven, Johnny Raper; interchange Ian Walsh, Monty Porter, Elton Rasmussen, Brian Graham.

Gasnier (nicknamed Puff the Magic Dragon for his wizardry in the centres) and Raper were two of the original four Immortals. Langlands has since joined that exclusive group of eight. They and Proven were named in Australia's Team of the Century in 2008. Bath, Clay, Kearney, King, Lumsden, Smith and Walsh were also chosen among Australia's Greatest 100 players. Secretary Frank Facer's most inspired local signing was mercurial loose forward Raper, while Great Britain Test forward Dick Huddart signed up after the 1962 Lions tour.

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St George players were treated as movie stars and the club's stranglehold on the J J Giltinan Shield did not lessen enthusiasm for the sport. They drew records crowds. In 1965 an amazing 78,056 fans, many of them perched precariously atop the grandstands, packed the SCG for the Grand Final. Norm Proven retired after that, but St George won again in 1966. Why, then, did the sequence end at eleven? The most obvious reason was retirements and the lessening influence of several other senior players. Two more reasons were also offered.

The Dragons had fielded powerful, frequently brutal, forward packs to capitalise on the unlimited tackles of the time, wearing down their opponents before unleashing the brilliance of Gasnier and company. But the radical four-tackle rule was introduced in 1967 and all clubs had to make major adjustments. Secondly, dual international prop Kevin Ryan transferred to Canterbury-Bankstown as captain-coach when snubbed by St George officials after the 1966 Grand Final and his inside knowledge contributed to the Dragons' fire being finally doused.

It's time for you to tell us who you think has been the best Vodafone Warrior this season!

WANT THE chance for you and a mate to head along to the Season Close awards and present the Vodafone People's Choice Award to the winner? Plus get a 2018 season's pass*, Meet and Greet and a signed team jersey? Thanks to Vodafone Fantastic Fridays you could be in to win the ultimate VIP Vodafone Warriors experience just by voting for the Vodafone People's Choice Award here.

The awards night will be hosted on Tuesday 19 September in Auckland, flights and accommodation included.

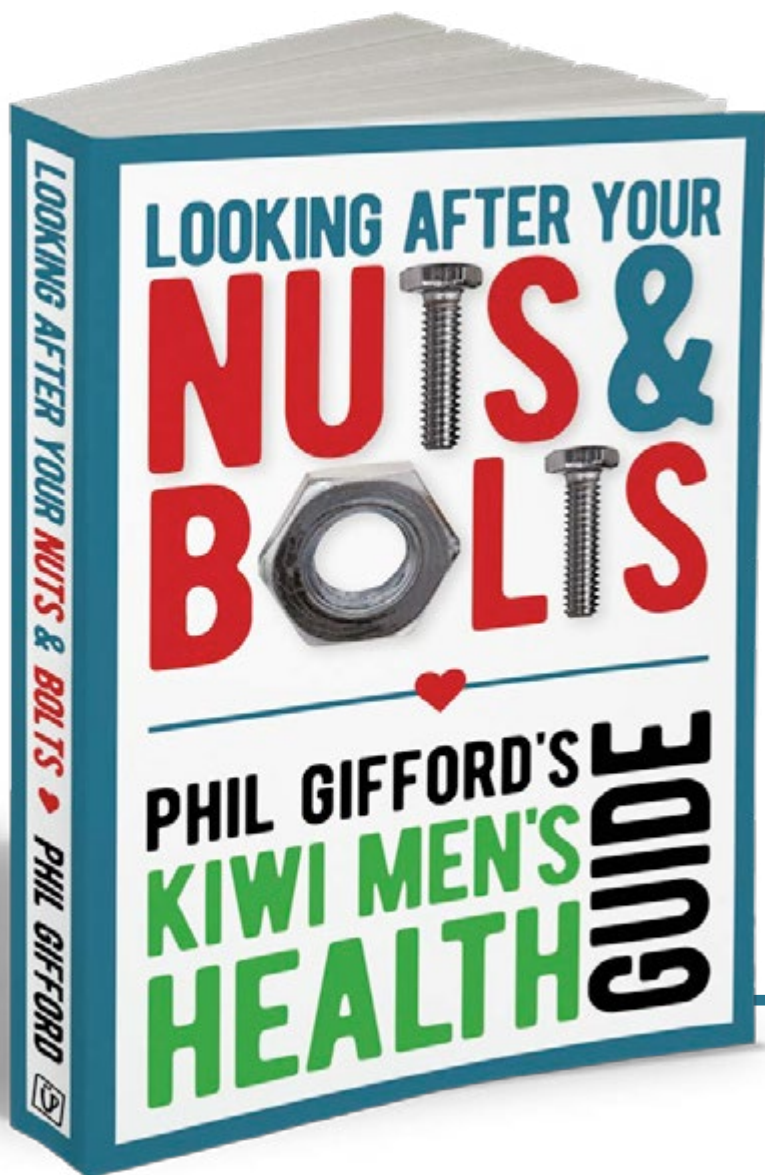
Head to vodafone.co.nz/peopleschoice to get your vote in now! Terms and conditions apply.

*if you don't live in Auckland we will fly you up for 1x game during the 2018 season instead of a season's pass.

**Award your
favourite
player**



THIS SUNDAY
FATHER'S DAY IS COMING UP ~~FAST~~,
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, AND IF YOU LOVE YOUR DAD,
WHAT BETTER GIFT COULD YOU GIVE HIM THAN MAKING
SURE HE STAYS HEALTHY FOR MANY, MANY MORE?



My mate Phil Gifford has spent two years writing a great book *Looking After Your Nuts And Bolts* which would make a perfect gift for your Dad. Us Kiwi blokes aren't always great at looking after our health, but here's one easy-to-read way to get Dad on board with how he can stay well, and live longer and better.

Your Mate
The Mad Butcher
It's a bloody good book!



IF YOU LOVE YOUR DAD
BUY HIM THIS BOOK FOR FATHER'S DAY!

FIND IT IN ALL GOOD BOOKSTORES!



By Miles Davis

Dane O'Hara

Dane O'Hara v Wigan 1985 Wembley

ATENDING ST Paul's College, a producer of many top rugby league players, it is perhaps not a surprise that Dane O'Hara would go on to excel in that sport.

Cutting his teeth with Bay Roskill Vikings the powerful winger soon caught the attention of the Auckland selectors and toured Australia in 1973 with the provincial Under 23 side. In 1977 he was part of the legendary Auckland side that defeated Great Britain, France and Australia in the space of 20 days (although he was injured and missed the Australia game).

In 1981 he ventured overseas and signed for Hull FC where he was one of a trio of Kiwis along with Gary Kemble and James Leuluai. His first game vs Castleford ended with victory but a painful injury where he suffered broken ribs and a punctured lung. He soon recovered and was to be part of a hugely successful Hull side in his first season. They finished runners-up in the Premiership, won the John Player Trophy and lifted the Challenge Cup for the first time since 1914. The initial final at Wembley ended in a 14-14 draw with Widnes with O'Hara scoring a try to tie the scores. He missed out on the replay through injury but his side prevailed 18-9.

In 1983 Hull won the league but lost the Premiership final (they were to lose that final the next two seasons as well). They also made a return trip to Wembley for the Challenge Cup Final but were upset 14-12 by underdogs Featherstone Rovers.

There was another trip to Wembley for the 1985 Challenge Cup final versus Wigan, touted by many as the greatest final ever, but Hull ended up on the wrong side of a 28-24 scoreline.

In the mid 80's Hull suffered a financial crisis and O'Hara re-signed on a reduced contract, showing the sort of loyalty that made him a fan's favourite.

He was an ever-present for Hull from 1981-1990 and notched up almost 300 appearances for the club scoring 116 tries. He was captain of the side from 1987-1990. In his last season for the club, 1989/90, he was given a testimonial – the first overseas player to be given such an honour.

In 1990 he joined Doncaster but injuries meant that he only made 8 appearances for them over the next 2 seasons.

Making his debut for the Kiwis in 1977 he went on to make 75 appearances, including 36 tests in which he scored 15 tries. He was a member of the Kiwi side at the 1977 World Cup.

1982 Challenge Cup Final Hull FC v Widnes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fDuXEhpND0>

1983 Challenge Cup Final Hull FC v Featherstone Rovers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQnIyQLbyvEb>

1985 Challenge Cup Final Hull FC v Wigan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2b3IbRSI1io&t=18s>

Exciting Weekend

By Barry Ross



THE FINAL makeup of the top eight teams for this year will not be known until the second last game of the season. Nine sides are still in contention for a place and there will be plenty of excitement this weekend before we will know who will be playing next weekend. Although they are in ninth position at the moment, it is highly likely that if St. George/Illawarra defeat the Bulldogs at ANZ Stadium on Sunday afternoon they will finish in the top eight because of their superior for and against. With just one round to play, Penrith (sixth), North Queensland (seventh) and Manly (eighth) are equal on 30 competition points, while the Dragons (ninth) are on 28 points. The Dragons for and against is currently +89 and this will increase if they defeat the Bulldogs. Manly are the most vulnerable with a for and against of +24 at the moment. If Penrith beat the Sea Eagles at Lottoland on Saturday and the Dragons win the next day, Manly will be finished for the year. The Cowboys-Broncos game in Townsville on Thursday night could also play a role in what happens in the top eight battle. If the Cowboys win, they will be safe, but if the Broncos are the victors, the Cowboys players, coaches and fans will be counting on Penrith to defeat Manly.

While it appears likely that if the Dragons beat the Bulldogs, they would finish in the top eight, that outcome is not certain as they need some results to go their way. If the Cowboys beat the Broncos and the Manly-Penrith game finishes in a draw, the Dragons will miss out even if they win on Sunday. So there are many permutations that might happen before the final eight teams are decided. What we already know is that the Melbourne Storm are the minor premiers and they deserve to be. They have 19 wins so far this season and their 64-6 thumping of South Sydney on Saturday was clinical. They now have a points difference of +271 which is way ahead of the Broncos who have the next best figure of +154. After their 16-14 victory over the Sharks on Saturday, the Roosters seem to have second place wrapped up. The Roosters meet the Titans this Saturday in Sydney and will continue their recent good form. The Titans are going through the motions and just want the season to finish. How will Jarryd Hayne perform might be an interesting topic from this game, but he was not great at fullback against the Bulldogs on Saturday, making just 90 metres from his 14 runs. The Knights will finish with the wooden spoon even if they can defeat the Sharks at Newcastle on Sunday and the Warriors beat the Tigers at Leichhardt Oval a few hours later. Newcastle have a points difference of -212 while the Tigers is -170 and this is too big a difference, even if the two teams finish with the same number of competition points.

St. George/Illawarra coach, Paul McGregor showed plenty of strength to drop Josh Duggan hours before his team's vital clash with Penrith at Penrith on Sunday. McGregor knew that if the Dragons lost they were gone for the season but he made the decision to axe the State of Origin centre despite this. The reason given was that Duggan had missed the team bus and so the coach and his senior playing group, made the tough decision. Reading between the lines there is a lot more to this and many people also believe that some of Duggan's off-field actions in the third State of Origin camp, contributed to the sacking of coach Laurie Daley. It will be interesting to see if McGregor selects the Cronulla-bound Duggan for this week's clash with the Bulldogs.

There was plenty of interest for southern hemisphere fans in the English Challenge Cup final which was played at London's Wembley Stadium on Saturday. Hull defeated Wigan 18-14 with both sides scoring three tries. It was Hull's fifth Challenge Cup win and they also won it last year. Tongan winger, Mahe Fonua, who will join the Wests Tigers next season, scored two of Hull's tries, while the other winger, Fetuli Talanoa, who is also a Tongan, collected the other four pointer. Hull captain, Gareth Ellis, now 36, was impressive in his four seasons with the Tigers from 2009 to 2012, in which he played 75 games. Despite his age, Hull wanted to sign him for next year, but the 33 test veteran (17 for Great Britain, 16 for England) has decided to retire. Hull are coached by 38 year old Lee Radford, who played five Tests for England and 340 Super League games for Hull and Bradford in a 15 season career. He was in the Bradford second row when they defeated Leeds 22-20 in April 2003 in the Challenge Cup final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium before 71,212 fans. This year the crowd was 68,525 which was the lowest crowd figure since the Challenge Cup finals returned to the rebuilt Wembley in 2007.

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Playing fullback for Wigan on Saturday was 28 year old, Sam Tomkins, who played 37 matches for the Warriors in 2014 and 2015. Tomkins, who has played 18 Tests for England, has been a member of two Wigan Challenge Cup Final winning teams, playing fullback in both matches. In April 2011 before a crowd of 78,482 at Wembley, Wigan beat Leeds 28-18 and in August 2013 at the same venue before 78,137 fans, Wigan defeated Hull 6-0.

Good to see Gerringong win their preliminary semi final 24-16 over the Warilla Gorillas on Saturday. Coach by former Parramatta and Australian Test centre Michael Cronin, Gerringong will meet Kiama this Saturday at Kiama Showground in the NSW Group 7 minor semi final.

I was pleased to see how well the Wallabies played against the All Blacks at Dunedin in their 35-29 loss. It was a thrilling match and the Australians proved they could compete at this level. I did warn in my column last week not to write them off for the remainder of 2017 and they will be up for their next Test which is against South Africa in Perth on 9 September.

The American College Gridiron game in Sydney at Allianz stadium on Saturday was a one-sided affair. Stanford University thrashed Rice University 62-7. The official crowd was given as 33,101, but a large portion of these were in around the bars watching the Mayweather-McGregor fight on television, especially when the scoreline began to blow out.

The Toronto Wolfpack did not play last weekend. They have three Super 8 matches still to play before their season ends and it is confirmed which teams will be promoted to a higher division next season. All three remaining games for the Wolfpack are at Lamport Stadium in Toronto and they meet Whitehaven (2 September), Barrow (9 September) and Doncaster (16 September).

Congratulations to the Black Ferns on Winning the Women's Rugby World Cup



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By Miles Davis

Cameron George

A RESTRUCTURING OF the Warriors management structure has seen Jim Doyle move from Managing Director to the post of Executive Chairman, taking over from current owner Eric Watson who is stepping down, and Chief Operating Officer, Cameron George now becoming the club's Chief Executive Officer.

George built his career in the Sport of Kings in Australia, being involved in the integrity unit. He then moved to New Zealand to run the integrity unit across all three codes, thoroughbred, harness and greyhounds.

In 2012 he was appointed CEO of Auckland Racing and it was while in that position that he was asked by Eric Watson to join the board of the Vodafone Warriors in 2015. A rugby league fan all of his life (he had the affliction of supporting the Roosters till he came to New Zealand and fell madly in love with the Vodafone Warriors) it was a position he was delighted to take up.

It was therefore no surprise when he was offered the chance to join the Vodafone Warriors management team in May this year that he accepted without hesitation.

His first few months at the club have obviously been tough ones with the team struggling to get results on the field but this has only made him more determined to knuckle down and revitalise the outfit.

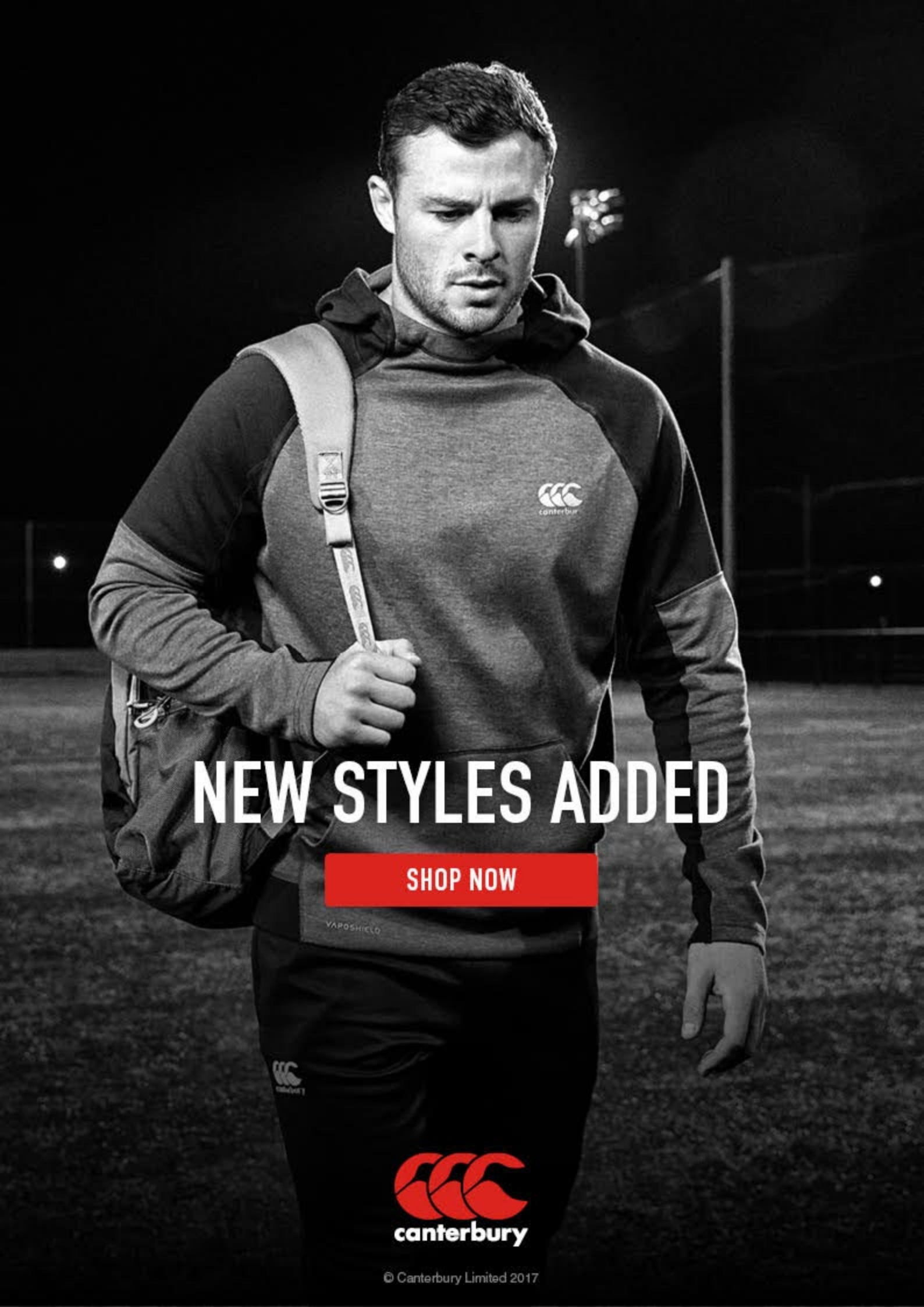
George says that the uncertainty surrounding the club's ownership has no effect on his ability to do his job. He will be holding a review of the season for all grades with the football department and any decisions regarding recruitment and personnel changes will take place after that.

A priority for next season will obviously be for the club to make the top 8 and have a chance at the big prize. 6 seasons of failing to at least be at the dance has been frustrating for fans (including George himself) and does not give the faithful the rewards their devotion deserves.

George is firmly of the opinion that having an Executive Chairman that is resident in the country is a big advantage and the fact that it is someone with Jim Doyle's experience in both the game and at the Vodafone Warriors makes it doubly so.

Despite the lack of on-field glory in recent seasons the Vodafone Warriors remain one of the best supported and most financially stable of all NRL clubs and George is confident that he can get all the mechanisms in place to ensure the playing side is in the best possible position for success.

One person who is sure George will do great job is Sir Peter Leitch who said that not only is George a sharp operator he is also a "good bastard". No higher praise.



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By Shane Hurdell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Hawke's Bay League Fraternity In Mourning

BUSY FORWARD: Tamatea's Hamiora Rowlands unloads in the tackle of Omahu Huia counterpart Cruze Nukuon Saturday. PHOTO/HAWKE'S BAY TODAY

THE FUNERAL for a Hawke's Bay women's club rugby league player was held in Flaxmere yesterday.

Tamatea's Katiana Waikao, 23, died on Monday morning in Hawke's Bay Hospital. The mother of one collapsed after a tackle during her team's 40-6 win against the Dannevirke Tigers at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings on Saturday.

Waikato had recently started playing league again after some years away from the game. Speaking before the funeral Rugby League Hawke's Bay chairman Mike Tamati said his organisation would offer all the support it could to Waikato's family and friends, players from the two teams and the referee.

A small field blessing took place on Monday near the spot where Waikato played her last moments of sport. It was attended by teammates, RLHB officials and park sports trust chief executive Jock Mackintosh.

Saturday's other third round fixture in the women's grade saw Hastings Rugby and Sports beat Omahu Huia 70-8.

The feature match in the premier men's grade saw Tamatea pip Omahu Huia 30-28 in a thrilling encounter. Former Black Sox softball player Fabian Makea, 39, scored a try for Tamatea and set up another.

He was thrilled to have six minutes of action alongside cousins Hamiora and Terira Rowlands as he had been unable to do anything sporty for the previous 12 months as he recovered from leg injuries received when his dog bit him as he tried to break up a fight between it and another dog.

Makea first played for the Tamatea premiers as a 17-year-old and turned out regularly for the team in between his softball commitments during his 20s.

"It was awesome to have Fabian involved again. You can't beat his composure and experience in pressure situations like we had out there today." Tamatea coach and former Unicorns and Hawke's Bay Magpies rugby team speedster Jason Robinson said after the final whistle.

Robinson was thrilled with the contributions from his son, New Zealand open men's touch rep Ash Robinson and nephew, Hawks basketballer Mataeus Marsh, to the victory.

Another of Robinson's sons, Dennon, scored a try for the Hastings Boys High School 1st XV rugby team during their 78-0 thrashing of Wellington College in their Hurricanes Region semifinal in Hastings on Saturday. Coach Robinson will miss Dennon's final against St Pats Silverstream from Wellington in Palmerston North on Saturday because of his coaching commitments.

"It's a killer but I'm committed to the coaching role. I'm sure someone will livestream Dennon's final and I will be able to have the odd glimpse on the sideline here."

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The other premier men's games saw defending champions Bridge Pa beat Dannevirke Tigers 40-16 and Kahuranaki beat Napier Panthers 44-30. Reserve grade fixtures saw Bridge Pa pip Flaxmere 30-28 and MAC beat Omahu Huia 50-22.

The best sporting feat in Hawke's Bay during the weekend was HBHS 1st XV winger Kini Naholo's five tries against Wellington College. He has scored 39 tries in 18 games for the unbeaten Hastings team which has scored 934 points while conceding 78.

Should HBHS win Saturday's final they will return to Palmerston North again the following week for their second consecutive appearance at the national top four tournament.

Graeme Langlands A Rugby League Legend

By Barry Ross



Graeme played 45 games for Australia, 22 games for NSW and 227 games for St George

RUGBY LEAGUE Immortal and Team of the Century member, Graeme Langlands, will turn 76 this Saturday, 2 September. It is well known that "Chang" has had some health issues over the past year or so and is now in a Jannali nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He also has some knee problems and has just returned to his nursing home on 29 August after a week in Sutherland hospital. During this period in hospital, he was treated for pneumonia and also had some surgery on his knee to remove some fluid and other muck. Because of the knee problems, Graeme's doctors and his daughter, Monique, are keen for him to lose some weight. Friends can help with this by taking healthy foods such as fruit when visiting Graeme, rather than cakes and sweets. Born in Wollongong, in the Illawarra district 80 kilometres south of Sydney, Graeme joined the St. George Dragons in 1963, playing 227 first grade games in 14 seasons. He finished with 1,554 points in Sydney football, from 86 tries and 648 goals. Currently he sits at equal 16th all-time for points scored in a career. Graeme played the first of his 45 Tests at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 8 June 1963, when he partnered Reg Gasnier in the centres in Australia's tight 7-3 win. His last Test was again at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 28 June 1975, in the World Series 10-all draw with England. Graeme captained Australia in 15 of his Tests and also coached his country in 16 Tests for 12 wins, a draw and three losses. During his 14 seasons in first grade, he made three Kangaroo tours to England and France (1963, 1967 and 1973), two tours to New Zealand (1965 and 1971), was a member of the 1968 winning World Cup team and also the 1972 World Cup team, as well as playing in the 1975 World Series. He also played 33 matches for NSW between 1962 and 1975, captaining the team in many of these and also coaching the side. In 1962 he represented Country Firsts in the 18-8 defeat of City Firsts. After joining St. George, he represented City firsts in eight games, also captaining and coaching this team.

In 1976, Graeme was awarded an MBE for his services to Rugby League, in 1986 he was admitted to the Sport Australia Hall of Fame and in 1999, he became an Immortal. The Australian Rugby League named him in its Hall of Fame in 2002, in February 2008, he was named as one of the Greatest 100 Players and two months later was selected in the 17 man Team of The Century.

Although he has some health problems, Graeme still enjoys catching up with old team-mates, opposing players and friends for a coffee.

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Floyd Mayweather Jr. in action against Conor McGregor.
©INPHO/Derek Hogan from www.photosport.nz



By Ben Francis

McGregor Still A Champion Despite Loss To Mayweather

CONOR MCGREGOR was unable to pull off a famous victory against Floyd Mayweather Jr. on Sunday (NZT) in Las Vegas – but he still left the ring a champion.

The Irishman went into the highly anticipated bout as a massive underdog – nobody really gave him a realistic chance, but the objective was to complete the fight without getting embarrassed and he achieved that.

The 29-year-old started the fight with a hiss and a roar, but as the fight progressed, he began to fatigue and Mayweather pounced – winning with a 10th round TKO.

It was an impressive showing for McGregor who had never stepped inside a boxing ring before – and let's not forget he was facing arguably the best fighter of this generation.

McGregor landed 111 punches which was probably 100 more than what people thought he would land.

"He's a lot better than I thought he was," Mayweather said after the fight.

"He used different angles. He's a tough competitor, but I was the better man tonight."

That is very high praise for one of the greatest ever.

It will be interesting to see what his next move will be. He is the current holder of two UFC belts and is expected to fight Nate Diaz for the third time inside the octagon.

Or will he surprise the world and focus on boxing for a while. It is unlikely who knows what the future holds.

"I don't know, I've got two belts to defend," McGregor said after the fight.

Regardless what McGregor decides to do in the future, he can hold his head high and know that he has won loads of fans after a respectable display in the ring.

Congratulations to Otahuhu Leopards and Bay Roskill for making into the ARL Grand Final.

Saturday at Mt Smart Stadium #2 (1.35pm kick-off).
The match will also be available to watch live on SKY Sport.

More details below...



Otahuhu Comeback Secures Grand Final Spot

By Talei Anderson

A LATE COMEBACK to the Otahuhu Leopards will see them play in the 2017 Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup grand final this weekend, winning 22-18 over Ponsonby in their major semi-final at The Trusts Arena on Saturday August 26.

Ponsonby were first to score with an opening try to hooker Aaron Nootai who darted over from close range. Lock Ben McCallum converted for an early 6-0 lead.

On numerous occasions Otahuhu had the opportunity to score, but unforced errors caused major problems for the south Auckland side losing possession while in good position.

With Ponsonby on the back foot, the Leopards finally looked to find some success with a restart 30 metres from their line.

With a bit of room to move and a quick touch-pass from halfback Brodie Clark, the Leopards shuffled the ball in time for winger Sitiveni Taufua to dive over in the right corner.

With the conversion unsuccessful, the Leopards trailed 4-6 with nine minutes remaining before the break.

Wrestling back into momentum, it wasn't long before Otahuhu crossed for another. Clark kicked the ball high and the chase was on as he finished with execution scoring between the sticks.

Fullback Geronimo Doyle converted for a 10-6 lead.

Ponsonby hit back taking advantage of a chipped ball which deflected into their possession.

A timely try and successful conversion saw them get ahead 12-10 on the hooter.

The Ponies were early to score in the second half through centre Damon Niko. He converted his own to get up 18-10.

The scoreboard stayed the same for the next 25 minutes, but Otahuhu were given a fighting chance when a powerful carry from prop Connor Purcell reduced the shortfall 14-18.

Doyle converted and the Leopards trailed by two-points 16-18.

It took them a long time to get back in the game, but Otahuhu started to put on the pressure.

In fine attacking possession and ten metres out from their line, interchange Richard Holani busted through to take the lead with just five minutes remaining.

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Doyle kicked perfect off the boot and the Leopards got in front 22-18.

Desperate to score Ponsonby halfback Tama Guthrie unlocked opportunities with a 40/20 dual, but it wasn't enough to out-do the Otahuhu Leopards who secured their spot in this year's Sharman Cup grand final with a 22-18 victory at full-time.

Otahuhu captain Connor Purcell said they were one step closer towards their ultimate goal - being promoted back into the Fox Memorial for 2018.

"Ponsonby gave a real good effort today," he said.

"They [Ponsonby] were leading for most of the game but we managed to turn things around in the last ten minutes."

"In the end, I think it came down to the comradery in the team. The extra fitness sessions have probably helped too.

"If we can avoid any unnecessary penalties we should be fine come the grand final next week."

The Otahuhu Leopards will go up against Bay Roskill this Saturday at Mt Smart Stadium #2 (1.35pm kick-off). The match will also be available to watch live on SKY Sport.

Otahuhu 22 (Sitiveni Taufua, Brodie Clark, Connor Purcell, Richard Holani tries; Geronimo Doyle x3 goals)
Ponsonby 18 (Niuvaio Sione Taka, Damon Niko, Aaron Nootai tries; Damon Niko, Ben McCallum x2 goals).

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



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SAS Fox Memorial Grand Final

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Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Grand Final

Curtain Raiser at 11:40am

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Pt Chevalier Set Up Fifth Consecutive Grand Final Spot

By Talei Anderson

The Pt Chevalier Pirates have secured their fifth-consecutive SAS Fox Memorial grand final spot edging past Howick 26-24 in their major semi-final at The Trusts Arena last Saturday August 26.

The Hornets were first to put points on the board with hooker Jethro Friend kicking a grubber in-goal and standoff Drew Radich touching to score. He converted his own for an early 6-0 lead.

Five minutes later and Howick crossed for another with winger Jesse Keven snatching a loose ball to get up 10-0. Radich converted his second to extend their lead 12-0.

Finally holding onto the ball and building some pressure, Pt Chevalier second rower Paki Afu gained momentum to reach out and score over the line.

A successful conversion by centre Francis Leger reduced the deficit 6-12.

A strong front through the middle found the Pirates just metres from their line. Centre Francis Leger received the ball inside fullback Siua Otunuku before finding a gap and stepping inwards to score.

Leger converted to square things up 12 all.

With just a minute left in the first half it looked to go to the break, but Pt Chevalier standoff Kevin Locke kicked over the top in time for fullback Siua Otunuku to chase and pass to winger Matty Faitotoa.

Leger converted his third and the Pirates took an 18-12 lead to the sheds.

Howick second rower Nicolas Wilson opened the score in the second half, extending his reach off the back of a charging centre Anthony Fuimaono.

A successful conversion left the score locked in at 18 all.

The Hornets immediately found themselves under pressure, losing control of the ball on the first carry.

One minute later and Pt Chevalier hit back with Leger collecting his second on the right edge.

The conversion went wide, but the Pirates went ahead 22-18.

It wasn't long before the Hornets replied with a kick and chase to see Longo Fotofili cross over the line.

Radich put the kick over and the east Auckland club were in front 24-22.

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The Hornets were only five minutes away from advancing through to this year's grand final, but they lost their hold on the battle when a pass was seized upon by Pt Chevalier winger Matty Faitotoa blitzing 90 metres to get them ahead 26-24.

Standoff Kevin Locke was unsuccessful in converting, but that didn't count for much in the end with the Pirates securing their fifth-consecutive grand final spot with a close 26-24 victory at full time.

"Howick showed good character to come back in the game," said Pt Chevalier captain, Dylan Moses.

"We had a bit of a rocky start but we needed to remain confident."

"We've been in this situation before... we started playing a bit of panic football but we had to stay relaxed and keep our heads in the game - that's probably where we let ourselves down last week.

"Matty got the runaway at the end there and it was enough to get the win."

Moses says his side will need to work hard in the middle of the park if they have any chance of winning the grand final against Glenora on September 2.

"They [Glenora] won that middle ground last time round. That's their strength, but we also see it as their weakness," he said.

"If we can stay in the arm wrestle set-for-set and take it to the back-end of the game, we'll give ourselves a good chance."

Pt Chevalier play Glenora in the SAS Fox Memorial grand final this Saturday September 2 at Mt Smart Stadium #2 (3.35pm kick-off). The Women's grand final Manurewa v Richmond (1.35pm kick-off) and Sharman Cup grand final Bay Roskill v Otahuhu (11.40am kick-off) will also be played on the day.

All three games will be available to watch live on SKY Sport.

Pt Chevalier 26 (Paki Afu, Francis Leger x2, Matty Faitotoa x2 tries; Francis Leger x3 goals) Howick 24 (Jesse Keven, Drew Radich, Nicolas Wilson, Siulongus (Longo) Fotofili tries; Drew Radich x3 goals, x1 penalty goal).

These lucky punters got to do the final tour of Mt Smart for the year with my good mate Dexter!





Grand Final Victory Secures Rare League Trophy For Pakuranga College

By PJ TAYLOR

Courtesy Eastern Courier

The Pakuranga College team celebrates their 18-8 win in the Auckland Rugby League College Senior A grade grand final against James Cook High School on August 16. Photos SUPPLIED / BC PHOTOGRAPHY / SHANE WENZLICK

RUGBY LEAGUE and sport in general is on a positive high at Pakuranga College following their Senior A grade side's 18-8 win over James Cook High School in the Auckland Rugby League College season grand final last Wednesday.

The team's coach and manager Nicole Jensen, a sports coordinator at the college who won the grade's coach of the year award last week in her debut season as a league coach, says she's "extremely proud the boys were able to take out the grand final".

"They worked really hard to get there. Anything past the first round of semi-finals was a bonus for us, so to win in the style we did was absolutely awesome.

"It's been really exciting for Pakuranga College. We have a number of talented athletes at this school and rugby league is another sport we excel at."

Jensen says the victory success has received a lot of support from staff, students and parents, and has raised the profile of Pakuranga College sport in the wider community.

"We couldn't have asked for a better final. Both teams showed great skill and it was a great game of rugby league. It had bit of everything.

"I was really nervous for the team, especially when we were up in the first 10 minutes and then went into half-time even after two quick tries from James Cook," Jensen says, of the final at Mt Smart No 2.

"We had been in similar situations throughout the year, so I had complete faith that we could take out the win in the last 25 minutes, and the boys delivered.

"It was a great feeling in the last two minutes to know we had won. Seeing the excitement and joy of the boys after the final whistle was definitely a highlight."



Andrew Mana is jubilant to score a try in the grand final victory over James Cook High School.



Jacob Tuisalega, who won the Auckland Rugby League College Senior A grade player of the season award last week, on the burst in the final at Mt Smart Stadium No 2.



Pakuranga College skipper Kenshin Tsutsui leads from the front and takes it to the opposition's defensive line.

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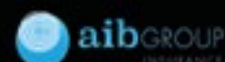
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Rugby League World Cup Enjoy A Fantastic Wellington Rugby League Final As Whiti Te Ra Beat Wainuiomata Lions To Win Back-To-Back Premierships

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

Five schools were lucky enough to take a look at the Rugby League World Cup.

IT WAS a great day for rugby league in Wellington last Saturday as Whiti Te Ra downed Wainuiomata Lions 18-8 in a tense Wellington rugby league grand final at Petone Recreation Ground.

The result gave the Otaki club its second premiership in just its second year in the Wellington competition after moving south from the Manawatu.

The first 70 minutes were evenly fought with Wainuiomata opening the scoring through a Murphy Albright penalty goal before Whiti Te Ra centre Tanira Cooper crossed for a converted try.

The Lions hit back with a try of their own through fullback Nicholas Alofi and went the conversion attempt went wide it meant that the two teams were level at halftime.

With both teams trading penalty goals in the second half, it took a brilliant solo try from Whiti Te Ra fullback Aaron Whitikia to break the deadlock try in the 67th minute.

Fittingly, the Whiti Te Ra custodian, who was one of the best players on the field, crossed for a second try shortly after to put the result beyond doubt in front of a big and vocal crowd.

The real reason that we were in Wellington was to show off the Rugby League World Cup, also known as the Paul Barrière Trophy, and not to watch the game, though that was certainly a bonus.

The trophy was very well received at the five schools we visited as well as the Porirua market and the crowd gathered at Petone Recreation for the big game. Anticipation is certainly building in the capital city for international rugby league's return to Wellington for the Rugby League World Cup quarter-final on November 18.

Tickets for that match and the other six games in New Zealand are available now at rlwc2017.com



Comedian Tofiga Fepulea'I was a special guest as a Wellington school welcomed the Paul Barriere trophy..



Former Kiwi Howie Tamati (centre) and Hutt City Mayor Ray Wallace (right) pose with the Paul Barriere Trophy..



Whiti Te Ra with the Paul Barrière Trophy.



Gavet's Special Role

By Savannah Tafau-Levy

VODAFONE WARRIORS prop James Gavet has taken up a role as an ambassador for Physical Disabilities Rugby League New Zealand (PDRLNZ).

PDRLNZ is for any able-bodied athlete with a physical disability who has a desire to play rugby league. The game has been modified depending on the impairment level of each individual.

After attending team trainings at the Otago Scorpions' home base in South Auckland, Gavet saw the difficulties they faced to get team sponsorship and gear as well as attendance and travel to and from trainings.

"We approached James to be our ambassador because he epitomises our core values of respect, integrity, acceptance of diversity and the belief that all things are possible," said PDRLNZ spokeswoman Sandra Hickey.

Gavet, who is in rehab with a broken arm, says his recovery from the injury has provided him a better understanding of what it feels like being physically disabled.

"These people soldier on every day. You don't even realise how much we take for granted with the smallest things like hanging up the washing, getting dressed, showering and in a lot of cases getting out of bed," he said.

"It's a big deal to me because they are athletes, too. They've just had a bad run".

Hickey says the PDRLNZ's mission is to ensure the theoretical right to sport is met providing physically disabled people across New Zealand with unique rugby league experiences.

"For those playing it is a life changer to be able to play the game that they love instead of watching from home or the side lines," she said.

Gavet is fighting for greater recognition for PDRLNZ.

"They're no different to our Paralympians who get sponsorships, first-class treatment and television exposure. They need all the support they can get," he said.

"Sir Peter Leitch has put a few ads for PDRL in his newsletters which has been huge.

"I've got a lot respect for these people. To keep fit and excel in a sport on top of their daily struggles is simply amazing".

PDRLNZ is working towards a nines tournament in November which will include New South Wales Physical Disabilities Rugby League Australia (NSWPDRLA) teams hosted in Auckland. Teams featured include the Manly Sea Eagles, South Sydney Rabbitohs and the newly-formed West Tigers and Waitemata Seagulls.

The tournament will be played at Waitemata's home ground Ranui Domain in Waitakere City from November 3-5.



Rams And Eels Draw At Invercargill Rugby League Game

By Dave Loudon

TALKING TO people on the sideline before kick off in the South Island Rugby League championship game between The Aoraki Eels and The Southland Rams , the general consensus was for the Eels to peg a win over the Rams.

For the first 32 minutes of the game the score card remained blank ! Aoraki opened the scoring with a try 33 minutes in and converted it successfully . Unfortunately one of the Eels players Leighton Veale suffered a blow to his head during a tackle and was taken to hospital , during the first half .

Half time saw the teams on 6 points each .

It was an evenly fought , but hard and physical game throughout. This was even more evident going in to the second half . Both teams continued with the even scoring in the second half . Both teams managed to convert all tries , thanks to the consistent footwork from Tane Puki (Rams) and Nathan Robinson (Eels) . The Eels coach Sonny Hammond said the Eels should have won the game – He went on to say they let the Rams in for some tries and the Eels also bypassed some penalty opportunities . The Rams demonstrated the consistency that they have displayed in other games . The Rams are off to Nelson next weekend to challenge Tasman whilst the Eels play The Otago Whalers at Timaru the same weekend .

The final score in the Southland Rams vs Aoraki Eels game at the SDRL Elles road ground last Saturday saw both teams with 24 points each in the game . Not too many would have picked the game ending in a draw.

Try Scorers for The Rams : Joe Gillies and Silvanus Raimona one each and Dylan Lovett getting two tries . Tane Puki successfully converted the four tries.

For The Eels : Derryn Bolt ran in two tries and Tyrone Hill and Jarrod Carey got a try each. Nathan Robinson successfully converted the four tries.





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VS



SUNDAY 4PM



81m



NZ Resident 18S and Taurahere Wider Squads Named

*By Brooke Hurdell
NZRL*

WE ARE one week away from the National Secondary Schools Tournament, New Zealand Rugby League's largest tournament being held September 4-8 at Bruce Pulman Park, Auckland.

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck takes us back to 2011 when he captained Otahuhu College to victory at the National Secondary Schools Tournament. That year he was named in the merit team at fullback and was awarded the 'It's Not Okay Fair Play' award.

Roger reflects on his National Secondary Schools Tournament experience where he was scouted by a Sydney Roosters recruiter, and offers some timely advice for the players gearing up to take the field next week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoD0JIH3kw&feature=youtu.be>

This year there are 24 schools, 16 Premiership and eight Development, preparing to put their best foot forward. The 2016 Premiership division winners Southern Cross Campus, will be back to defend their title joined by last year's runners-up Kelston Boys High School who will be vying to take back the top spot they lost back in 2014. Both 2016 Development division finalists, Onehunga High School and Tai Wananga will also take to the field again.

With the game of rugby league growing each year, we welcome four new schools, Haeata Community Campus (Canterbury), Marcellin College (Auckland), Dargaville High School (Northland) and Naenae College (Wellington), who are gearing up to compete at the National Secondary Schools Tournament for the first time.

Supporters and on-lookers can expect five days of full-on footy as schools from all across New Zealand battle it out to decide 2017's National Secondary Schools' Tournament champions.

Can't be at Bruce Pulman Park September 4-8? Make sure you stay updated by following the @NZLeague Facebook page, NZRL ios & Android App and the Secondary Schools dedicated [NZRL website page](#). A live-stream of one game per day will also be available on the New Zealand Rugby League Facebook page (available live-stream games to be confirmed).

[Click here for the 2017 National Secondary Schools Tournament draw.](#)

You can watch Finals day live on Sky, September 8 from 9am.

2017 Premiership teams:

Aorere College, Dargaville High School, James Cook High School, Kelston Boys High School, Manukura, Manurewa High School, Mt Albert Grammar School, Papatoetoe High School, Rotorua Boys' High School, Southern Cross Campus, Southern Cross Campus (B) St Paul's College, St Thomas of Canterbury, Tokoroa High School, Wesley College, Westlake Boys High School.

2017 Development teams:

Francis Douglas Memorial College, Haeata Community Campus, Marcellin College, Naenae College, Onehunga High School, Papakura High School, Tai Wananga, Trident College.

West Coast v Otago

By Jenny Pope

WEST COAST Chargers played host to the Otago Whalers on Saturday afternoon, in wet conditions to hold on for a six-point win. In an error riddled game West Coast came up trumps winning 18-12.

West Coast came up with the first error of the game from the first kick off, giving Otago a great start deep in their territory, lucky for the chargers they were unable to hold on to the ball also. The game went a bit tit for tat with both side guilty of not holding on to the ball in slippery conditions. The Chargers settled down first with good a kick from standoff Luke Negri, was well chased by fullback Nik Davy and Navare Jacobs on the wing and they forced another error from the visitors to get the ball back in a great attacking position. With a little patience, second rower Bernard Alexander received the ball and with determination carried a couple of defenders over the line to score the opening points. Phil Thomson kicked the conversion to be 6-0 in front. Unfortunately, Royce Green wasn't having the best start to the game and came up with a couple of drop balls and West Coast found themselves doing a lot of tackles in their red zone. A bit out of puff and a couple of arm grabs got Otago's fullback Tama Apineru into a little space and able to push off some tired defenders to score the second try of the match. The conversion was unsuccessful West Coast were still in front 6-4.

Lose forward Logan Woodham had a great start to the game and didn't stop for the whole 80 minutes. He took the ball up strongly and defended like his life depended on it, along with half-back Brad Campbell who just gets better playing with his experienced pack. Saved a couple of tries with his tenacity to not let anyone beat him. Both had some great runs in this passage of play to help get themselves out of their own half. Billy Fisher was again strong up the middle.

Otago were the next to score with a great set of six on the Coasts try line, West Coast were up for the challenge, held them out till the 6th tackle, Taua Piri half for the Whalers put in a little grubber behind the line and was fumbled by a couple of West Coast players, standoff Vila Apuula was in the right place to put his hand on the ball to score. They missed the kick again and West Coast were only down by two. Otago's forward Jong Lee was sinbinned for a dangerous throw on Woodham, had the Chargers playing against 12 men. Substitute hooker Rueben Ellen made the most of his chances and dived from dummy half, and another successful conversion from Thomson. West Coast were in the lead at halftime 12 - 8.

West Coast came out after the break a little dusty which would've had coach Brad Tacon pulling his hair out. They had their chances just some break down of communication and not handling the ball had them gift it back to their opposition. If it wasn't for their brutal pack defence headed up by Brad Houston with help from fellow forwards Tayla Eason and Woodham this game could've ended up a lot different. They were also very solid at the back, Davy had an excellent game taking some tough hit ups, Jacobs and Harley Vui on the wings were also instrumental in bringing the ball back strongly, but it was the toughness of Campbell and fellow half Negri that got the Coast boys over the line. Both halves played with a true ruggedness and determination to not lose. They kept their cool and dictated play when their tired team mates needed direction. Phil Thomson also had a great kicking game in field and his conversions were the difference in the end.

Woodham did a clever chip kick over the first line of defence, Otago's winger Willie Time left it and with Jacobs putting pressure on him, Negri was able to swoop on the ball offload it to Lewis Jackman who was too fast to get caught to score. West Coast had a handy lead going into the last part of the game up by 10 points. Coast still coming up with odd error, kept Otago in the game and they grew in confidence, taking strong hit ups up the middle and quick play the balls, causing an overlap on the right side, centre Chris Talauta hit a hole and scored untouched to get the visitors within 6 points and the pressure was back on the home side.

Great cover defence by Campbell and Thomson had them both shut down some attacking options for them to finally end the game ball in hand for their second win of the tournament, they go into bye weekend for a well-deserved rest, and take on South Canterbury the following weekend to see who will end up on top.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Coach Brad Tacon was content with the win, saying “a win is a win” they boys mad it hard for themselves and it was almost a copy book of what happened last weekend. Their defence was strong and won them the game. He was happy with hooker Tayla Eason for his defence, both halves Campbell and Negri, also forward Brad Houston.

West Coast 18 (Alexander, Ellen, Jackman tries, Thomson 3 goals) Otago 12 (Apineru, Apuula, Talauta tries)



West Coast forward Brad Houston is tackled in strong defence by Otago players Taua Piri, Ruben Katene and Ricki Allan.



Whalers Taua Piri (7) and Manassah Kutia holt the progress of West Coast forward Taylor Eason.



Otago Whalers Tama Apineru looks for support as the West Coast Chargers defence closes in.



West Coast Chargers defenders Jordon Forsyth and scrum half Brad Campbell look to contain Otago Whalers second row forward Ruben Katene as he makes a determined run up field during the hard fought representative Rugby League match played at Wingham Park, Greymouth, on Saturday afternoon. The Chargers held on to win the match 18-12 over a gallant Otago Whalers team.



The Otago players Manassah Kutia, Ricki Allan and Ruben Katene has this unidentified West Coast player all wrapped up.

The Newtown Jets And North Sydney Bears Have Drawn The 2017 Frank Hyde Shield Series

By Glen Dwyer - Media Officer Newtown RLFC

We are sharing this article as Frank Hyde was a rugby league legend and a bloody good mate of Sir Peter

THE ANNUAL Frank Hyde Shield series contested between the Newtown and North Sydney clubs has ended in a draw for 2017.

In the first leg of the Shield series played at North Sydney Oval on 14th May, Newtown defeated the Bears 16-12.

In the second leg at Henson Park on 26th August, played in front of a big Newtown RLFC reunion day crowd, Norths won by ... 16-12.

With both teams winning one game each and scoring identical points for and against, the 2017 series was declared to be an honourable draw between the two old foundation clubs.

Newtown retains custody of the prized Frank Hyde Shield as they had won the series in 2016.

Members of Frank Hyde's family – his three sons Greg, Mike and Patrick and one of his daughters, Maria – were at Henson Park to watch the game and join with the two teams after full-time for this group photo.

It is a great link of history between these two 1908 foundation clubs of the NSW Rugby League and the shared memory of one of rugby league's greatest and most admired identities, Frank Hyde.

Our good friends the North Sydney Bears have the last laugh though – they proceed into the Intrust Super Premiership semi-finals while the Jets 2017 season has now ended.



Members of the Hyde family with the Newtown and North Sydney teams at Henson Park on Saturday, 26th August 2017.



Newtown v North Sydney, NSWRL First Grade Grand Final, Sydney Cricket Ground, 1943.



The somewhat surreal Jetman from Newtown and Barney the North Sydney Bear engage in some mock fisticuffs at Henson Park last Saturday. Photo taken by Gary Sutherland Photography.



Congratulations To Our 3 Vodafone Warriors For Making The Intrust Super Premiership Team Of The Year - By Joyce Putohe

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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 26 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

- **Cameron Smith** has set or surpassed almost every record in the NRL, and he reaches another milestone this weekend as he draws level with **Darren Lockyer** at 355 first-grade games. Storm assistant Adam O'Brien says he's never seen anyone like Smith before. "He still has hunger and desire to perform. I don't even look at how old he is, sometimes I actually forget. I can't see it ending any time soon."
- The halfback position at Parramatta has often been described as cursed since the late 1980s, but one of the best of all time **Peter Sterling** has decided **Mitchell Moses** is finally the man to lead the club into a successful finals charge. "I just wasn't sure where Mitchell would come in, but I have to say coach Brad Arthur's done a great job with him. I've got no doubt he's up to finals football."
- The **National Youth Competition** is ending following almost a decade of producing rugby league stars. We look back at the biggest games, the most successful clubs and the best players to come out of the under-20s.
- Cowboys halfback **Michael Morgan** says he finds it disrespectful his team is being written off for the finals following the club's massive injury toll. "We want to be competitive and I find it a bit disrespectful to the guys who are coming in."

PLUS... The **Top 8 club injury crises**, **The Analyst** works out who will make the top eight and an **Alex Johnston** poster.



ROUND 26

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

Thursday, August 31

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DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
VENUE: LEICHHARDT OVAL
KICK-OFF: 6.30PM
REFEREE: ADAM GEE
ASSISTANT REFEREE: PETER GOUGH
TOUCH JUDGES: DAVE RYAN & PHIL HENDERSON
SENIOR REVIEW OFFICIAL: LUKE PATTEN
REVIEW OFFICIAL: STEVE CHIDDY
FOX LEAGUE: 6PM
LIVE RADIO: ABC

				#NRLTigersWarriors										
P	T	G	PTS		P	T	G	PTS		P	T	G	PTS	
20	5	0	20	James TEDESCO	1	Roger TUIVASA-SHECK (C)	22	9	0	36				
23	7	0	28	David NOFOALUMA	2	David FUSITU'A	23	12	0	48				
12	4	0	16	Esan MARSTERS	3	Blake AYSHFORD	20	5	0	20				
22	7	0	28	Kevin NAIQAMA	4	Solomone KATA	18	4	0	16				
13	6	0	24	Malakai WATENE-ZELEZNIAK	5	Ken MAUMALO	22	7	0	28				
16	4	34	84	Tuimoala LOLOHEA	6	Kieran FORAN	17	2	0	8				
16	4	0*	17	Luke BROOKS	7	Shaun JOHNSON	18	4	45*	108				
21	2	0	8	Aaron WOODS (C)	8	Ben MATULINO	15	1	0	4				
21	5	0	20	Elijah TAYLOR	9	Issac LUKE	22	1	15	34				
18	0	0	0	Tim GRANT	10	Sam LISONE	22	0	0	0				
11	1	0	4	Joel EDWARDS	11	Bunty AFOA	16	1	0	4				
14	2	0	8	Josh ALOIALI	12	Ryan HOFFMAN	18	6	1	26				
10	0	0	0	Matt EISENHUTH	13	Simon MANNERING	21	5	0	20				

INTERCHANGE

8	0	0	0	Alex TWAL	14	Mafoa'aeta HINGANO	12	1	0	4
21	4	0	16	Sauaso SUE	15	Charlie GUBB	10	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	Bayley SIRONEN	16	Isaiah PAPALI'I	4	1	0	4
13	0	0	0	Jack LITTLEJOHN	17	Jazz TEVAGA	3	0	0	0

RESERVES

18	2	0	8	Ava SEUMANUFAGAI	18	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	6	6	0	24
0	0	0	0	Jeremy MARSHALL-KING	19/20	Chris SATAE	3	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	JJ FELISE	20/21	James BELL	2	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	Watson HELETA	21/22	Mason LINO	5	0	2	4

*Field Goals: L Brooks 1

*Field Goals: S Johnson 2

^Played 1 game for Penrith ^Played 4 games for Warriors

COACHES

Ivan CLEARY

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

	TIGERS	WARRIORS
Position (Points)	15th (16)	13th (18)
Points For	385	428
Points Against	555	547

ATTACK		
Tries	65	75
Completions	76%	79%
Tries 0-20m	47	45
Tries 21-50m	11	17
Tries 51-100m	6	5

DEFENCE		
Tries	101	93
Tries 0-20m	46	36
Tries 21-50m	31	30
Tries 51-100m	13	15

MATCH AVERAGES		
Tries Scored	3	3
Tries Conceded	4	4
Points Scored	17	19
Points Conceded	24	24
Hit Ups/Runs	172	174
Tackles	328	324
Metres Gained	1556	1577
Handling Errors	4	4
Offloads	11	8
Line-breaks	4	4
Goalkicking	77%	78%

HEAD-TO-HEAD
 Played 27, Wests Tigers 14, Warriors 13

AT LEICHHARDT OVAL
 Played 5, Wests Tigers 3, Warriors 2

WINNING FORM 2017
WESTS TIGERS: WLLLLWLWLLLLLLLLWBLWLWLL Streak – 2 losses
WARRIORS: WLLWLLWLLWLBWLWBLWLLLLLLL Streak – 8 losses

PAST 8 CLASHES
2016 – WESTS TIGERS D. WARRIORS 36-24 at Mt Smart Stadium;
WESTS TIGERS D. WARRIORS 34-26 at Campbelltown Stadium
2015 – WESTS TIGERS D. WARRIORS 50-16 at Campbelltown Stadium;
WARRIORS D. WESTS TIGERS 32-22 at Mt Smart Stadium
2014 – WARRIORS D. WESTS TIGERS 42-18 at Westpac Stadium, Wellington
2013 – WARRIORS D. WESTS TIGERS 24-14 at Leichhardt Oval
2012 – WESTS TIGERS D. WARRIORS 24-22 at Leichhardt Oval
2011 – WARRIORS D. WESTS TIGERS 22-20 at Sydney Football Stadium

BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS
WESTS TIGERS D. WARRIORS 50-4 at Jade Stadium, Christchurch, 2004
WARRIORS D. WESTS TIGERS 42-18 at Westpac Stadium, Wellington, 2014

CASUALTY WARD
WESTS TIGERS: Matt McIlwrick (suspension), Michael Chee Kam (suspension), Chris Lawrence (pectoral), Moses Suli (ankle), Jacob Liddle (shoulder), Justin Hunt (leg), Jamal Idris (ACL) – season
WARRIORS: Albert Vete (arm), Nathaniel Roache (hamstring), Jacob Lillyman (biceps), James Gavet (arm), Bodene Thompson (pectoral) – season

NRL Preview

by DAVID MIDDLETON
@Middleton_David

Wests Tigers plan winning send-off for stars

**Leichhardt Oval
Sunday, 6.30pm**

Form: Wests Tigers have enjoyed a far better finish to their season than their troubled start, which included the sacking of coach Jason Taylor, the early departure of five-eighth Mitch Moses and the signing of stars James Tedesco and Aaron Woods with rival clubs. Under new coach Ivan Cleary, the Wests Tigers have been highly competitive over the past couple of months and finally there is optimism for

the future. The Warriors have had little to cheer about during a season of dramatic under-achievement. A place in the top eight was considered a formality for a team that boasted one of the strongest 'spines' in the NRL.

History: The Wests Tigers have won the past three encounters to hold a one-win lead between these teams since 2000. Sunday's clash will be the first between these teams at Leichhardt since 2013, when the Warriors scored a 24-14 victory.

Danger sign: There is little

except bragging rights at stake, although it's possible for Wests Tigers to jump a couple of places on the ladder if they can conjure a win by 26 points or more. Wests Tigers will be keen to farewell Woods and Tedesco on a winning note and a big crowd should be on hand after the memorable win over the Sea Eagles in Round 23.

Best Bet? Look for the Wests Tigers to end their year on a high with victory by 13+ points.

Money-spinner: Consider David Nofaloaluma, James Tedesco or Esan Marsters for First Tryscorer.

HOLDEN CUP

DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 VENUE: LEICHHARDT OVAL KICK-OFF: 4.15PM
REFEREE: JOEY BUTLER
TOUCH JUDGES: BEN McMURRAY & CAMERON TURNER

WESTS TIGERS V WARRIORS

Toa MATA'AFA	1	Lee TURNER
Liam PAKAU	2	Israel OGDEN
Peter PAKOTI	3	Gibson POPOALII
Toni TALI	4	Kane TELEA
James TAUTAIOLEFUA	5	Kayal IRO
Gus GARZANITI	6	Paul TURNER
Josh BERMINGHAM	7	Melino FINEANGANOFU
Jakob GILES	8	Chris SIO (C)
Daniel PECK (C)	9	Eiden ACKLAND
Thomas MIKAELE	10	Kenese KENESE (C)
Alex SEYFARTH	11	Jerome MAMEA
Trent PYE	12	Havi TUPOUNIUA
Rhys SCIGLITANO	13	Joe VUNA
15 Royce TOUT, 16 Ben SEUFALE 17 Jai DOOLAN, 18 Bayley FAULL 19 Jamin WILLIAMS 20 Max BUREY, 22 TJ CARTER 23 Bennett WHEELHOUSE 24 Corey KURNOTH 25 Siaoisi NASILIA		14 Kelepi LUI, 15 Tayhler PAORA 16 Troy PULUPAKI 17 Sheldon ROGERS, 18 Dylan TAVITA, 20 Donovan BRIGGS 21 Preston RIKI, 22 Dean KOUKA-SMITH, 23 Edward VAEAU-MULITALO, 24 Elijah SUFIA
Chris HUTCHISON		Grant POCKLINGTON

AARON WOODS



191
metres in Round 25

HEAD-TO-HEAD LEADERS

AVERAGE METRES	AVERAGE TACKLES	LINE-BREAKS
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 180	Simon Mannering 45	Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 15
James Tedesco 172	Elijah Taylor 42	David Nofaloaluma 13
David Nofaloaluma 171	Bodene Thompson 35	James Tedesco 12
Aaron Woods 160	Matt Eisenhuth 35	David Fusitu'a 11
Ken Maumalo 158	Kyle Lovett 31	Shaun Johnson 9

STATS

NRL FANTASY

FANTASY POINTS
Simon Mannering 60.0
Shaun Johnson 57.0
James Tedesco 51.7
Aaron Woods 48.0
David Nofaloaluma 44.1

LAST HURRAH... Much like the first grade team, the Wests Tigers under-20s have had a rough season in 2017. Sitting second-last on the Holden Cup ladder, the Wests Tigers come into Sunday's clash as a genuine chance against the bottom-placed Warriors. Last week, the Wests Tigers came within eight points of a win against the Cowboys, scoring two late tries to make the scoreline a respectable 26-18.

WINDING UP... The Warriors under-20s have the worst attack and defence in the Holden Cup competition and cannot avoid the wooden spoon even with a win on Sunday. Last week the Warriors conceded 10 tries to Manly but managed to score two, one in each half.

- PAMELA WHALEY

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

PHOTO: David Meiri/AP Image

Reader Mail



HI SIR Peter! Just a quick email to say thank you for the Kiwis t-shirts we received today! Carter and Abbie were very excited and wanted to put them on straight away after school! Thank you again!

Brendon Dawson.



HI SIR Peter. Just wanted to thank you very much for the Kiwi T-shirts I received. You have made one wee boy very happy tonight. Thank you once again for everything you do.

Cheers, Sharon Woolhouse



THANK YOU Sir Peter and the New Zealand Kiwis for BLK t-shirts My nephew Regan (12) and son Jaxon (5) absolutely love them and are looking forward to wearing them when they support the boys later this year at the Rugby League World Cup.

Maria Stephens

Good Morning Sir Peter,

I am just sending you a couple of photos from yesterday when the Warriors Membership Council got together to celebrate the end of the Season.

We were invited to the Captains Run & had the opportunity to wish the boys luck for the final home game & grab a few photos.

Afterwards we had a lunch in the Members Clubrooms & were presented with certificates & gifts from the club.

It was a lovely morning & we're all going to be sad that another season is over & we'll be saying goodbye to our little family for a few months.

Take care & hope to see you soon,

Emma Harper





MANY THANKS for the jerseys, presented them to two league players at Maungatapere School Bailey and Dylan, they loved them. Rgds Mike Eagles.



BLK



A BIG THANK you for the BLK t/ shirts from the HBC Raiders u7 restricted team. It made or a very proud bunch of boys at their prizegiving this morning and they received plenty of compliments from the other parents on how smart they all looked we had a 60% win rate this season.

Kind regards, Joe Watt

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