

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

20<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## Newsletter #222



**Vodafone Warriors Win  
Against The Cowboys**



Photos courtesy of [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)



## Seven New Faces Selected For Denver Test

**S**EVEN PLAYERS are in line to make their Test debuts for the New Zealand Kiwis after being named in the 19-man squad for the historic international against England at Mile High Stadium in Denver, Colorado, on Saturday, June 23.

In what will be his first Test as head coach Michael Maguire has called up wings Ken Maumalo (Vodafone Warriors) and Jamayne Isaako (Brisbane Broncos), centre Esan Marsters (Wests Tigers), front rowers Leeson Ah Mau (St George Illawarra Dragons) and Herman Ese'ese (Newcastle Knights), hooker Slade Griffin (Newcastle Knights) and second rower Raymond Faitala-Mariner (Canterbury-Bankstown).

"I'm excited for each of them and for everyone included for the first major rugby league international ever played in the United States," said Maguire.

"We have a group of players here who have all been in great form so far this season and totally deserve this chance.

"What has really struck home is just how passionate the players have been when talking to them about playing for the Kiwis and about this Test. They're busting to be involved.

"It's also hugely exciting on a personal level to not only be involved in coaching again but to have the privilege of doing so with New Zealand."

Maguire resumes his coaching career after winning grand finals with South Sydney and Wigan as well as guiding Wigan to Challenge Cup success.

As well as the seven potential debutants, Maguire will have a core of experience in hooker Issac Luke (Vodafone Warriors), front rowers Jared Waer-

ea-Hargreaves (Sydney Roosters) and Martin Taupau (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles) plus centre Peta Hiku (Vodafone Warriors).

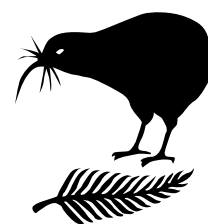
"This is our first opportunity to create an expectation towards taking the Kiwi jersey back to the top of international rugby league," said Maguire.

Of the newcomers, the most experienced is Ah Mau (27), who started his 168-game NRL career with the Vodafone Warriors in 2009. He has tasted international football with 16 Tests for Toa Samoa including last year's Rugby League World Cup. Maumalo, Ese'ese and Faitala-Mariner have also played at Test level for Samoa while Marsters has represented Cook Islands.

### NEW ZEALAND KIWIS

Leeson Ah Mau  
Nelson Asofa-Solomona  
Herman Ese'ese  
Raymond Faitala-Mariner  
James Fisher-Harris  
Slade Griffin  
Peta Hiku  
Jamayne Isaako  
Jordan Kahu  
Isaac Liu  
Issac Luke  
Te Maire Martin  
Esan Marsters  
Ken Maumalo

Kodi Nikorima  
Joseph Tapine  
Martin Taupau  
Jared Waerea-Hargreaves  
Dallin Watene-Zelezniak



**NEW ZEALAND  
RUGBY LEAGUE™**





# New Zealand v England: Denver Test Preview

by *NRL.com*

**W**HILE NO-ONE argues Australia's place at the top of the RLIF World Rankings, the same can't be said about the next two spots.

New Zealand occupy the No.2 spot, with England ranked in third position. That's what the rankings say at least.

Based on their respective performances at last year's World Cup, it would seem England have gone past the Kiwis, who didn't even reach the semi-final stage.

New Zealand were so underwhelming that some observers believe they are no better than rapidly improving Tonga and Fiji, both of whom had World Cup wins over the Kiwis. First-year coach Michael Maguire has a job on his hands, especially with seven debutants in his 19-man squad.

After falling back a little with the pack in recent years, England's performance at the World Cup – they pushed the Aussies all the way in a 6-0 loss in the final – would indicate they are on the rise again.

Despite having to replace injured prop George Burgess, coach Wayne Bennett has a team with a liberal sprinkling of NRL players that looks a little stronger on paper than a Kiwis side missing Shaun Johnson and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck.

Key match-up: American football fans have always marvelled at the big hits in rugby league and how the players don't have protective padding, etc. Well they should enjoy the thunderous clashes between Kiwi forwards Marty Taupau, Nelson Asofa-Solomona and Jared Waerea-Hargreaves and England's James Graham and the Burgess brothers. The battle up front is likely to be a decisive factor in the result.

For New Zealand to win: With a host of new faces it'll be up to the more experienced members of the side to calm any nerves. A lot rests on the shoulders of halfback Kodi Nikorima and talented five-eighth Te Maire Martin, while the Kiwis will be relying on

hooker Issac Luke to maintain his superb NRL form.

For England to win: Holding Australia to six points in the World Cup final and 18 points in an early Group A loss showed that the Poms have knuckled down defensively, which is probably the influence of coach Wayne Bennett. They might miss dynamic hooker Josh Hodgson on Wednesday, but if Graham and the Burgess boys see to it that defensive detail is a big focus it will help free up Gareth Widdop to push the right buttons in attack.

And another thing: The Kiwis have won eight of their past 12 meetings with England, including their most recent clash in the 2016 Four Nations tournament. However both teams are in somewhat of a transitional period right now, with England on a steady incline over the past 18 months and New Zealand trying to ward off recent decline in the shape of 2017 World Cup losses to Fiji and Tonga. Michael Maguire steered the Rabbitohs to their first premiership in 43 years in 2014 and has embraced his new challenge to get the Kiwis snapping at Australia's heels like they were just a few short years ago.

England v New Zealand, Saturday 2pm (Sunday 6am AEST, Sunday 7.30am NZT) at Mile High Stadium, Denver

Steve Turner's prediction: It's a new-look New Zealand side with a new coach and seven debutants named for the Denver Test against England. The Kiwis will be wanting to make a statement after a disappointing World Cup, while England will go into the game with plenty of confidence following last year's result at the Word Cup. Wayne Bennett has selected plenty of experience and this will favour his side. It is a one-off Test, but there will be plenty of feeling between the two sides. TIP: England by 6

*You can find the Kiwi's squad in the previous story and the English squad on page 10...*

# Two In A Row...

By David Kemeys

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



**A**LL THIS winning is getting me down, I don't get to have a bash. Time for a spot of honesty, I had serious doubts going into Friday's clash against the Cowboys, mainly because it has been a while since we went back to back, and more because it mattered so much for the Townsville mob. Win and their season would stay alive – on a lifeline admittedly, but alive nevertheless; lose and they might as well pack it in for the year.

Thurston's lot were rubbish in the first half, mono-dimensional, looking like they could play forever and not cross the line.

It was different story in the second half though, when they gave it a crack from anywhere, and really pout our boys under serious pressure.

But credit where it is due, we were outstanding on defence when we were taking a battering really.

I don't think anyone is going to suggest the 23-16 win should be the lead game on a highlights reel, but two points is two points and you take the where you can get them.

Winning ugly is always better than losing pretty.

Which is not to say we didn't do some pretty things.

The try to Roger Tuivasa-Sheck was class.

That step would have seen him polling highly in Dancing With the Stars.

Come the business end of the season no one will care that it was a scratchy one.

But talk about a game of two halves. As I said, the Cowboys were awful in the first 40 while we looked like champions, shooting out to an 18-2 lead after Ken Maumalo, who had another fine game, RTS, and a revitalised Solomone Kata all crossed.

I have no idea what got said in that Cowboys' changing room but they were unrecognisable in the second half, coming out and piling on the pressure to get right back into the contest.

Last year we could not defend – end of.

This year has been another story and the effort on Friday was excellent, with Shaun Johnson knocking over that field goal to put it out of reach finally putting an end to my heart palpitations.

Johnson had a good game. He was deadly accurate off the tee and stared the game around well, stepping up and taking more control when things started to get dicey. He remains much maligned, which never fails to amaze me. What do you want, 10 tries every game of something?

It is not the first time this season that our defence has won us the game, and that is why we are sitting at 10 and four, an utterly unbelievable turnaround.

Almost exactly opposite us, the Cowboys slumped to four and 11, so how the mighty have fallen.

They are nothing like the team they were last year, and that is fine by me.

But it does raise a slight concern.

Better sides might have kept the momentum the Cowboys had going and come over the top of us.

And better sides lie in wait.

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Next up are the Sharks at home, then it is the Panthers (away). To be fair, I watched the Panthers v Roosters encounter and one side was excellent, and it wasn't the Panthers.

Then it is the Broncos (away) and Storm (home).

Points from any of those would be a major boost to not only making the eight, but actually heading further up the table and grabbing a home semi.

Certainly confidence is building and what seemed like an impossible dream -making the finals - looks more and more likely to come true.

After that monster month come the Titans and Dragons (both away), but then the struggling Knights at Mt Smart, before a trip to Sydney for the Bulldogs. The final two weeks see the Panthers and Raiders in Auckland.

Suddenly it does seem quite so daunting.

### **I'm With Sticking With The Warriors**

Never thought I'd say this, but good on players who have turned down the Kiwis to stick with the Warriors.



Coach Stephen Kearney made no secret of the fact he did not want to risk naming players who had travelled back from Denver, where the Kiwis play England, in the team to face the Sharks.

Just three Warriors will play for the Kiwis, and I have no bone to pick with them either.

Issac Luke got a recall after being dropped for the last year's World Cup, so you can hardly blame him for wanting to go; Ken Maumalo deserves his call-up, and with Peta Hiku opting to go it still makes it three Warriors in the side.

But with Adam Blair getting banned for two weeks for shoulder contact to the head of a Cowboys player, Simon Mannering retiring from international football, and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Shaun Johnson, Gerard Beale and Tohu Harris all opting to stay home, things are nowhere near as bad as they could have been.

Add to that Tongan internationals David Fusitu'a (ankle) and Solomone Kata (hamstring), who will miss next Saturday's Pacific test in Sydney, and that is more time for them to recover.

The Kiwis only get back to New Zealand three days before the round 16 match at Mt Smart.

New Kiwis coach Michael Maguire had a tough job on his hands with Mannering and former Warriors Russell Packer and Ben Matulino all calling time on international duty, and injuries to Benji Marshall (calf), Jesse Bromwich (hamstring), Kieran Foran (toe), and Jordan Rapana (hamstring).

The other Kiwis named are former Warriors Leeson Ah Mau, and Raymond Faitala-Mariner, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Herman Ese'Ese, James Fisher-Harris, Slade Griffin, Jamayne Isaako, Jordan Kahu, Isaac Liu, Esan Masters, Te Maire Martin, Kodi Nikorima, Joseph Tapine, Marty Taupau, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, and Dallin Watene-Zelezniak.

### **On Your Bike Melbourne**

Those cheeky buggers in Melbourne have offered Chris Satae a three-year deal.



It must be a hell of a decision because you have to assume it is for decent coin, and he has family connections in Australia.

We don't want to let him go and when the promising forward appeared against the Cowboys it made it game number five, which trips a contract clause that means we could keep him next year.

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There is apparently another clause in his package that offers an upgrade if he goes on to feature in 10 games, which you would not bet against.

In fairness, he probably doesn't want to be a bench player, and the deal on offer at Melbourne offers more chance of a starting role.

Adam Blair is close to Satae and will chat to him to see where his head is at.

"I'm here to guide, more than telling him what to do. We don't want to lose our players to any Australian teams."

Especially not Melbourne, though if they have any more like Tohu Harris they want to send our way it would be fine with me.

### **Foran In The Gun**

Despite being a miserable got of the first order, I would not actually wish misery on most people.

So it is tough to see former Warrior Kieran Foran struggling for form at the Bulldogs, and having to cope with even more injuries too.

There is no doubt that Foran was a fantastic player in his day, but it looks like the horrendous run of injuries he has suffered throughout his career might be about to catch up with him.

There have been stories that the Bulldogs are looking to force Foran into retirement on medical grounds.

To be fair, club boss Andrew Hill has rubbished that claim.

But if moving the halfback on to make salary cap space has not been discussed I would be amazed.

Foran has not lived up to the hype since signing a three-year deal as the Dogs' marquee recruit, presumably not for peanuts.

You will get a free pass for inserting "good job" at this point.

The Dogs are in a pile of trouble, which will happen if you sort the salary cap. They are facing problems next year because of back-ended deals.

Josh and Brett Morris are both set to go at the end of the year, Moses Mbye has signed a four-year deal with the Tigers and it is heavily touted that prop Aar-

on Woods could jump ship to the Sharks.

### **Cop That Cherry-Evans**

Please note in the bit above about Kieran Foran I said I would not wish misery on most people. Most does not extend to Daly Cherry-Evans – or Manly in general come to that.

Former Manly enforcer Anthony Watmough – who I consider to be an arse, but for the purposes of this story, is the good guy – unloaded on the Sea Eagles skipper.

Watmough said Cherry-Evans "turned into a fuck-wit" after demanding a pay increase when Manly won the 2011 premiership. Turned into is generous in my opinion.

Watmough claims many of that Sea Eagles generation accepted less money to keep the playing group together, but Cherry-Evans held Manly to ransom over his contract, which, unsurprisingly, put him offside with his teammates.

He said Cherry-Evans would not go to training unless the club gave in to his demands.

"I said to him 'mate, you know what we've sacrificed to stay together, to be successful. Your time will come' and he just went 'nah, not turning up'.

Cherry-Evans' is not flavour of the month, having turned his back on a contract with the Titans, and personality clashes with teammates. He copped a \$10,000 fine for a fallout with Jackson Hastings, but anyone seen him around lately.

## **Good Luck Kiwis!**

We want to wish the Kiwis all the best  
for their test against England in  
Denver Colorado this Sunday the  
24th.

Sky Sport 2 will be broadcasting  
live at 7.30am.

NEW ZEALAND  
RUGBY LEAGUE™





By John Coffey

## 1954 Kiwis Did It Tough In America

1954 Kiwis captain Cyril Eastlake

**N**RL CLUB officials who expressed alarm “their” New Zealand and England players want to wear their national jerseys in the Denver Test during this designated representative weekend would have been absolutely horrified at the travel marathon inflicted upon the 1954 Kiwis and Kangaroos before they played each other in two exhibition games in California. They certainly did not have such luxuries as airline business class beds or medical support staff to pander to their every need.

Having watched Great Britain beat France in the inaugural World Cup final in Paris, the 1954 Kiwis and Kangaroos travelled on to Britain. On November 17 Kiwis captain Cyril Eastlake and countrymen Ron McKay, Alister Atkinson and Bill McLennan joined with nine Aussies to beat a star-studded British Empire XIII 25-13 at Bradford. Two days later New Zealand lost to Australia 18-5 in a “friendly” match on a muddy, foggy night at Leigh’s before the Kiwis returned to their base in Glasgow.

Had they been around 64 years ago those insular NRL officials would have demanded the players return home immediately. But an American promoter had persuaded the New Zealand and Australian leagues to play each other at Long Beach and Los Angeles. The British also supported the venture and even made a financial investment. An American team had toured Australasia in 1953 and the two games were designed to build awareness in the United States – sound familiar?

The Kiwis were driven 50km to meet the Kangaroos at Prestwick Airport for the first leg of their trans-Atlantic journey but, after waiting past midnight, the flight was cancelled because of bad weather. International air travel was then still in its infancy, with the planes hopping from one short-haul refuelling stop to another. A day later the teams flew together to Keflavik in Iceland, then on to Gander in Newfoundland, and finally to New York. It took them 22 hours to cross the Atlantic.

After a day of sightseeing in New York City they left for Los Angeles, stopping at Pittsburgh and Chicago on the way. The cross-country trip lasted 12 hours. By this time the novelty of air travel was quickly wearing off. In his tour diary Kiwis team manager Tom McKenzie wrote: “The tour has now reached a stage where excessive travelling is having an effect on everyone’s condition, and personally I find it very hard to even concentrate on vital matters.” It’s called jetlag, Tom.

Some Kiwis and Kangaroos were introduced to television as guests on the CBS Bob Crosby Show but fate dictated the entire venture was to be a costly financial failure. Four days before the first game at Long Beach Memorial Stadium the worst fog for years descended upon the Pacific seaboard and stubbornly stayed. An optimistic but vain attempt was made to entertain the 1500 spectators who had found their way to the stadium but after six farcical minutes the game had to be abandoned.

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“It was like pea soup,” recalled Kiwis forward John Bond, who still lives in Christchurch. “The fog just came straight in over the top, down the paddock and under the lights. You couldn’t see the lights for the fog. The line umpire and some others were still on the other side of the ground. They hadn’t come in and didn’t know the game had been called off. We had to go out, arms linked to each other, to get them back in.” However, not everyone was found by the search party.

Kangaroo Denis Flannery recalled his fate: “I stood there out on my wing waiting to hear play coming my way or see someone coming into view. But I must have been out there five or 10 minutes when a young boy walked up to me and asked me what I was doing. I told him I was playing in a football match and he said, ‘the game’s over’ and that’s when I realised they had left me out there. When I got back to the dressing room they thought I was the biggest joke in the world.”

The match was rescheduled for the next afternoon, a Saturday, and attracted an audience of similar size. Although Kiwis wing Neville Denton scored the first international try on American soil from an Eastlake break, the Kangaroos were ahead by 10-3 at halftime and went on to win comfortably 30-13. Eastlake and John Yates scored the other New Zealand tries, then worth three points, and Eastlake kicked two goals. The two teams were to meet again 24 hours later.

Because the return match had always been set for the Sunday, it went ahead as scheduled at the Los Angeles Coliseum, a vast stadium which had hosted the main events of the 1932 Olympic Games. Fog was still hovering about and radio stations warned residents to stay off the motorways. Despite that, just over 4500 spectators watched Australia complete a double by 28-18. Atkinson, Yates, Cliff Johnson and Jim Austin touched down for the Kiwis and Bond kicked three goals.

Columnist Maxwell Stiles declared rugby league was “a sport that could become a springtime interlude of considerable stature in this country” if American fans had their own team to support. Sadly, several subsequent attempts to promote the code in the States have also failed. But what if this one succeeded? Those self-interested NRL club officials would be even more aghast at the threat of rich American clubs buying their top players instead of just borrowing them for a one-off match in Denver!

## **Sky Sport details for Kiwis v England Test:**

**SKY SPORT** is proud to announce that it will provide LIVE coverage of the historic Denver rugby league Test match between the Kiwis and England on Sunday morning, June 24th.

This is the first time that the countries currently ranked two and three in world rugby league have met in the United States, and will also be Michael Maguire’s first test as coach of the Kiwis.

Match commentary will be provided by experienced NRL and FOX commentator Andrew Voss.

**WHAT:** Kiwis v England

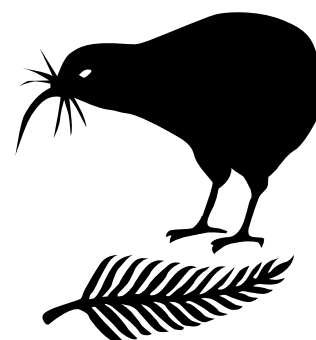
**WHERE:** Denver, Colorado, United States

**WHEN:** Sunday, June 24

**CHANNEL:** SKY Sport 2 (Channel 52)

**TIME:** 7.30 am Sunday Morning - NZ Time

# **Go the Kiwis!**



**NEW ZEALAND  
RUGBY LEAGUE™**





**S**INCE OUR game began, Rugby League people have known that good defence is vital. At Townsville last Friday night, the Warriors showed plenty of commitment and courage in their defensive work. After an impressive first half, there were some heart stopping moments in the second stanza, but strong tackling led to the important 23-16 win. Over the years, the Warriors have had problems in Townsville and the win broke a seven game losing streak. Statistics from the game show the home team had the better of play but despite this, the Warriors took the competition points. The Cowboys enjoyed 59 percent of possession and an 81 percent completion rate (30 from 37). The Warriors had a completion percentage of 74 (23 from 31). The Cowboys did 310 tackles while the New Zealanders had to make 369 tackles, or nearly 20 percent more. This is where the Warriors forwards stood up. Tohu Harris topped the tackle count with 46 and he was followed by Issac Luke (38), Simon Mannering (37), Isaiah Papali'i (35), Adam Blair (34) and Bunty Afoa (30). In the backs, Blake Green made 25 tackles. In his 13 matches this season, Tohu has made 441 tackles at an average of 32 a game. As well as his 46 tackles, Tohu had 37 post contact metres and four tackle breaks.

Kicking was a big bonus for the Warriors and they were far superior than the Cowboys in this department. The Warriors made 494 metres with their kicking compared to 342 by the Cowboys. Shaun Johnson collected 276 metres of this total, while Issac Luke had 111 metres and Blake Green 73.

The coming two week break will do the Warriors good but coach Steve Kearney and the players will be very aware that there are plenty more challenges to come this year, particularly during the next month. The next four games are the Sharks at Mt. Smart on 29 June, the Panthers at Penrith on 6 July, the Broncos in Brisbane on 15 July and the Storm at Mt. Smart on 22 July.

Speaking of the Storm, the club will be ecstatic that coach, Craig Bellamy, has decided to reject the Broncos offer and remain in Melbourne. It has been reported that he has accepted a \$5.1 million deal for three seasons. That would seem to be to be a life contract for the 58 year old Bellamy, as he has said publicly several times that he would not coach much after he turned 60. What will the Broncos decide with their coaching situation. Wayne Bennett, who turns 69 on 1 January, completes his current contract at the end of next season. Bennett has told the Broncos board that he wanted to coach the club in 2020, but whether they resign him at 70 years of age is far from certain.

I am pleased with the three debutants named by Brad Fittler in the extended 20 man NSW squad named for Sunday's second State of Origin in Sydney. I do not know whether any of the three will play but they deserve the recognition. Cronulla forward, Matt Prior at 31 is the oldest, but he has been a hard working and high standard player for many years. He has played 216 top grade games after making his debut with St. George/Illawarra in April 2008 against the Cowboys. Titans forward, Ryan James, is another non stop and aggressive player. He is 26 and turns 27 on 20 July. Ryan has played all of his 128 first grade matches with the Titans and this season in his 13 appearances, has averaged around 38 post contact metres a game. The Roosters Luke Keary, 26, is the third newcomer. The ball playing five eighth has played 103 first grade games after his debut with South Sydney against the Knights in June 2013.

Probably one of James, Prior and Tariq Sims will replace Reagan Campbell-Gillard who suffered a broken jaw playing with the Panthers in their loss to the Roosters last Friday. All three are potential NSW debutants but Sims was already on the scene, after being named in the 19 man squad for the first game in Melbourne on 6 June. NSW five eighth, James Maloney also had some injury worries after the Roosters game and if he misses Origin Two, Keary would take his place. Latrell Mitchell, the Roosters classy 21 year old centre, appeared to suffer a serious neck injury against Penrith and was stretchered off the field. The next day, he seemed to have recovered and is likely to play for the Blues on Sunday. Injuries have also upset the Queensland selection plans. Roosters prop, Dylan Napa, has ankle problems after the Penrith game, while Michael Morgan is now out for the remainder of this season, following a biceps injury while playing for the Cowboys in their loss to the Warriors. Morgan is set to have surgery this week.

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The Magic weekend in Brisbane, next year, seems a good concept. In May 2019, all 16 NRL teams will play on the same weekend at Suncorp Stadium. The actual matches will not be known until later this year when the 2019 Premiership draw is released. Two games will be played on Friday night, three on Saturday and three on Sunday. NRL CEO, Todd Greenberg, made the official announcement in Brisbane last Sunday and thanked the Queensland State government and the Brisbane City Council for their support. He also thanked the 16 clubs, Suncorp Stadium and Channel 9 and Fox TV. No doubt the clubs will be well compensated for the loss of their home games.

Lets hope the New Zealand-England Test in Denver this Saturday is a big success. The NRL is keen to play some Premiership games in the USA and if things go well at Denver, this would be a boost to their plans.

## England Squad for Denver Test



England squad: John Bateman, Sam Burgess, Tom Burgess, Jake Connor, James Graham, Ryan Hall, Chris Hill, Jonny Lomax, Tommy Makinson, Jermaine McGillvary, Sean O'Loughlin, Mark Percival, Stefan Ratchford, James Roby, Scott Taylor, Luke Thompson, Gareth Widdop, George Williams, Elliott Whitehead

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## Breaking News!

**Rugby League fans.. Buy it or lose it! Big League magazine is now on sale!**

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- Paper Plus Group
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- Z Oil
- Mobil
- Independent bookstores
- Selected Dairies and Superette

# BIG LEAGUE

**On sale EVERY  
Thursday!**



By Shane Hurndell  
Hawke's Bay Today  
Sports Reporter

## Exciting Times For Kiwis Fans

Issac Luke. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

**Y**ES IT'S a shame but it's just a reflection of the status of international rugby league in New Zealand.

That was my reaction on Sunday when the Kiwis team to take on England in Denver this weekend was announced. Of course it would have been better to have the likes of key Warriors Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Shaun Johnson and Tohu Harris.

It is going to be a tough ask for rookie international coach Michael Maguire to guide the Kiwis to a win against a strong English outfit coached by Wayne Bennett without them. Looking at the bigger picture the Kiwis will be better served come the October test against the world champion Kangaroos, the end-of-season northern hemisphere tour and at the next World Cup by having seven newcomers in the 19-strong squad preparing for this weekend's fixture.

I'm looking forward to watching Kiwis hooker Issac Luke relish his leadership role. Luke is having an outstanding season and produced another top-shelf display in Friday night's win against the Cowboys.

I want to gauge whether or not the Kiwis inside back combination of Kodi Nikorima and Te Maire Martin have what it takes to steer the waka at this level.

We know the likes of Ken Maumalo, Jordan Kahu and Dallin Watene-Zelezniak are hot finishers. But they still require quality service.

With the likes of Luke, Joseph Tapine, Martin Taupau and Nelson Asofa-Solomona the Kiwis should have enough grunt to at least gain parity with the England engine room.

Getting back to Harris, Johnson and Tuivasa-Sheck. One can understand the Warriors coaching staff giving them a well deserved rest.

Kiwis and Warriors fans won't mind if they return from the rest period in style by maintaining the high standards they have set in recent weeks and continue to guide the Warriors towards a finals berth.

The Warriors 23-16 win against the Cowboys across the Tasman on Friday night was a memorable one for several reasons. Our lads beat last year's runners-up and displayed admirable composure in the process.

It was good to see Tuivasa-Sheck consulting with the likes of Luke, Harris and Johnson and deciding on sensible options. One was the penalty kick at goal by Johnson which he converted to give the Warriors a 22-16 lead with 13 minutes remaining and another was Johnson's late field goal.

There's no doubt about it. With the Warriors on track for a finals berth and seven newcomers in Maguire's squad these are exciting times for Kiwis fans.

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Hawke's Bay's senior spring competitions will begin on August 11 and the junior ones on August 25. All games including finals will be played at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings.

Rugby League Hawke's Bay chairman, Kiwis legend Kevin Tamati, said eight clubs will be represented in the competitions and they have until the end of July to decide what grades they will enter.

The clubs are Bridge Pa, Omahu Huia, Tamatea, Dannevirke Tigers, Napier Panthers, Kahuranaki, Bay Bulldogs and Maraenui.

Tamati was thrilled to announce a rugby league academy will be up and running in the Bay by August. It will be run as part of Sir Graeme Avery's AUT Millennium which is based at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park.

"It's no secret many players who get scouted by NRL clubs aren't prepared for the weight training programmes and other parts of the training regimes. By setting up the academy any Bay youngsters who are identified as potential NRL players can receive the best possible training available so they will be better prepared if given the opportunity by NRL clubs," Tamati said.



## Tony Iro Is This Weeks Guest On The Kiwi League Show!

**Tony Roy Iro is a selector and Assistant Coach of the New Zealand national rugby league team and a former rugby league player. He was a New Zealand international - a veteran of 25 Tests.**

**T**HURSDAY'S NIGHTS 8.30pm on Sky Sport 2 Monty Betham and Courtney Tairi will co-present a new league show for 30 minutes with the emphasis being on Kiwi's playing the game in the Nrl and UK Super-league. We see Vodafone Warriors players like never before with a segment that gets us closer to them and we help you keep updated with your favorite Kiwi players across the ditch and on the other-side of the World. It's a great relaxed show where it's not all about the stats but about the Kiwis who play in their respective jumpers to earn a living in a privileged job. We have our own Kiwi version of the Dally M's and quite rightly named after a Kiwi legend! Tune in this Thursday to find out who that legend is and what else the show brings you.



**It's worth a look!**



# John Coffey Life Member

*By Will Evans*

**Our correspondent - John Coffey**

**J**OHN COFFEY has documented the rich history of rugby league in New Zealand more extensively than any other person, but he has also become part of its fabric himself.

His standing in our game was officially recognised on Monday, when New Zealand Rugby League made Coffey their newest Life Member at the 2018 AGM.

New Zealand's most prominent rugby league journalist, historian and author, West Coast-born Coffey covered rugby league, cricket and other sports for The Press for 44 years (1963-2007).

He authored, among many other books and sporting biographies, the seminal work *The Kiwis: 100 Years of International Rugby League* (2007), which was part of a trio of tomes he and the late Bernie Wood painstakingly put together along with the histories of Maori Rugby League and Auckland Rugby League; *New Zealand Rugby League Greats* (1991); the brilliantly researched *Strike! The Tour That Died of Shame* (2012); *Canterbury XIII: A Rugby League History* (1987); and *The Hard Yards: Rugby League in Canterbury 1912-2012* (2012).

A keen club rugby league player and cricketer who played in the 1971 CRL grand final for Marist, Coffey covered the 1974 Commonwealth Games and many Kiwis tours to Australia, and Great Britain and France, as well as grassroots footy during its Canterbury heyday. Coffey was bestowed with the Queen's Service Order in 2012 for services to sports journalism and history, and still resides in Christchurch.

A long-time correspondent for iconic Australian magazine *Rugby League Week*, the esteem Coffey is held in beyond these shores was perfectly illustrated by the NRL inviting him to be on the voting panel for the recently revamped Hall of Fame this year.

Coffey has covered (and continues to, through his weekly contributions to the *Mad Butcher's Newsletter*) rugby league with integrity, style, humour and passion that earned him scores of fans but also the respect and friendship of the players and coaches he wrote about.

His journalistic example should be held up as a beacon for young scribes to follow.

As a historian Coffey's contribution cannot be understated. Without his immense dedication, as well as the efforts of the likes of Wood, Bud Lisle Carey Clements, and the NZRL Museum team, there would be cavernous gaps in our knowledge of the game's narrative.

And it was fitting that Coffey was awarded Life Membership (to enthusiastic applause from everyone at the AGM) within the walls of the NZRL Museum, which celebrates countless moments, games and legendary figures that he has covered and documented for more than half a century.



# High-Tackle Holloway... I'll give ya the tip mate!

*The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.*

By John Holloway

## NRL Rep Round

Date/ Venue	Game	Tarsh Ieremaia <i>Flava Star. Moving to the beat.</i>	Joe Vagana <i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	John Coffey <i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran Leagueie</i>	Fast Eddie <i>Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...</i>	Monty Betham <i>The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife</i>	Neville Kesha <i>Ex International Referee</i>	High-Tackle Holloway <i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Rich- mond Leagueie</i>
Sydney	PNG v FIJI	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji	Fiji
Sydney	TONGA V SAMOA	Samoa	Samoa	Tonga	Tonga	Tonga	Tonga	Tonga
Denver USA	NZ V ENGLAND	NZ	NZ	England	England	NZ	England	NZ
Sydney	Blues v Maroons	Maroons	Blues	Blues	Blues	Maroons	Blues	Blues

Picks last week	5/8	4/8	4/8	6/8	4/8	5/8	5/8
Total picks	71	70	68	64	65	74	64

### When Ugly Is Pretty.....

**O**K IT was an ugly win but you would have to agree the D was pretty damn good. Everyone you talk to has the same view, last year and years previous the Warriors would have folded and got run over in that second half. Maybe so but not this team, whatever switch has been flicked I don't give one, just happy to see our boyos fighting for that top 4 spot, playing with heart and for each other. We sit smack in the middle of the 2018 big guns with the Dragons, Rabbitohs and Panthers just above and the Storm, Roosters, Sharks and Broncos snappin at the heels. A hard draw immediately ahead for Kerneys men with the Sharks **H**, Panthers **A**, Broncos **A**, Storm **H**, Titans **A**, Dragons **A**. We will need to knock off the two Home games and perhaps an Origin weakened Penrith on the road I reckon to hold our ground. The canny Pom Hodgson's long awaited return for Rickys Raiders paid an immediate divvy as he engineered a 48/12 Tiger taming at the spiritual Westie homebase, Campbletown. The Green machine sit just out of the 8 but with this new found energy could scare a few from here on in. The rest...sorry no cigar. Talking of Green the new look Kiwis have plenty of it but it can't be helped, The NRL premiership is a bloody tough grind for every club and the scheduling of this game out of nowhere and way the hell across the globe in Denver is a daunting bridge too far especially for the clubs aspiring to go through to September. The sapping of energy and the risk of injury don't stack up well. It is a timing issue that no doubt will be addressed in the future. For the NZRL it's a money issue, they have none, hence they need the match.

For newbie Kiwi main man Madge McGuire it's not an ideal opener, going to the gunfight with a knife....but as they say "it is what it is." Kiakaha Kiwis.

The Tipsters are 15 rounds in and no-one has done the deed, 8 from 8, matter of fact very few 7 from 8s prove just how tricky it is. The Devonport Dutchman my old mate Ed had a day in the sun with his 6 wins being best but still equal bottom with guess who. Out out front is Nifty Nev the WhistleBlower who remains clear on 74 big ones. Someone needs to take the pea out of his whistle.



# Aspatia Hornets Rugby League Football Club

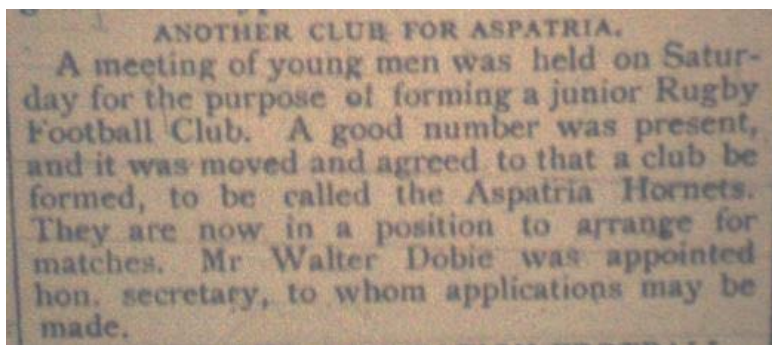
By Craig Hamilton - Aspatia Hornets RLFC

## Introduction

**A**SPATRIA HORNETS is a small, community rugby club in the far north-west of England in Cumbria. The club has a rich history, a lot of which is still to be researched and documented. We run teams from Under 6 to Under 11 level in our junior section as well as having a Masters team and our 1st XIII. For a small town of around 2,500 people we co-exist with the town's 2 football teams as well as our rugby union counterparts. Relations are good between the clubs and codes with many players turning out for one or both of the other teams during the winter in addition to playing for us during the summer.

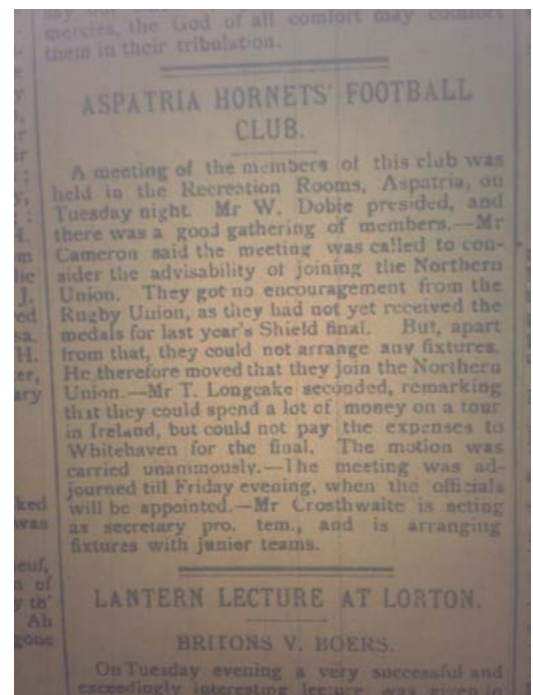
## Early Days

The club was founded following a meeting on Saturday 17th October 1891 (see the article below) and played their first game on Saturday 21st November, away to Brookland Rovers losing 9-0.



West Cumberland Times- Wednesday 21.10.1891

The club then made the switch to the Northern Rugby Football Union in December 1899 after the County Rugby Union did not send the team medals from a cup final and Mr T. Longcake remarking that 'they [the Cumberland RU] could spend a lot of money on a tour in Ireland, but could not pay the expenses to Whitehaven for the final.' The original article is on the left from the West Cumberland Times, Saturday 9th December 1899.



The club reformed in 2010 after 14-year hiatus and the 1st XIII play in the second tier of the Cumberland Rugby League. The main focus for the club is that of sustainability; by building a solid junior section and forging strong links with the local community, the aim is to become the leading amateur rugby league club in the east of the county.

We have a vibrant and committed group of volunteers who run the club and they have been pivotal in securing a Sport England grant to help renovate some changing rooms as the club bids to secure its own facilities.

Our juniors are a source of pride as we have built this section of the club from scratch and now have teams at 4 age groups. We are growing this organically in the sense that when the oldest group goes to the next age group then we establish another team.

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We also try to do our bit for the local community and also for the development of rugby league further afield. We donated some chocolate to the local hospital Children's Ward at Christmas as we also sent one of our old playing kits to Burundi in Africa to help with the development of the game there.



Our course, one of the biggest honours that we have had in recent years was the visit of the New Zealand Kiwis to Aspatia ahead of their Four Nations game against Scotland. The team trained at Bower Park, the home of our RU brothers Aspatia RUFC, and it certainly was a great occasion for the town as the schools came along and watched the session and we were very fortunate to make the acquaintance of the 'Mad Butcher' himself, Sir Peter Leitch.





# This Warriors Life Top 10 - Youngest Warriors Debutants

By Will Evans

**I**N ROUND 8 Joseph Vuna joined a select band of players to have debuted for the Warriors while still a teenager. But he was still a year too late to break into this list of precocious youngsters the Warriors have blooded over the years.

## THISWARRIORSLIFE.COM TOP 10 – YOUNGEST WARRIORS DEBUTANTS

### 10=. Jerome Ropati (2003) – 18 years and 281 days

St Paul's College product Ropati surged into Warriors first-grade contention in 2003 on the back of his sizzling Bartercard Cup performances for Marist Richmond Brothers. He debuted off the bench in a memorable late-season win over the Roosters and travelled with the team as injury cover during the NRL finals series.

A regular at centre, fullback, wing or five-eighth when fit over the next decade, the 10-Test Kiwi was plagued by serious injuries from 2011 onwards and hung up the boots in 2014 with 145 games for the Warriors to his name.

### 10=. Ali Lauti'iti (1998) – 18 years and 281 days

Prodigiously talented back-rower Lauti'iti played in the Auckland Warriors side that made the 1997 Super League Under-19s grand final and scored on first-grade debut against Norths early the following season. He broke the record of teammate Stacey Jones (18 years and 352 days in 1995) as the Warriors' youngest-ever player.

He cemented a regular spot in 1999 under Mark Graham – who famously dubbed him 'the Michael Jordan of rugby league' – and he became recognised as one of the most damaging, skilful forwards in the game in the early-2000s.

The Dally M Second-rower of the Year in 2002, Lauti'iti left the Warriors in acrimonious circumstances after 115 games for the club in '04. But the 19-Test Kiwi created a rich legacy in 12 Super League seasons with Leeds and Wakefield Trinity before returning to the Warriors as a 36-year-old in 2016 to play for their ISP outfit.

### 9. Louis Anderson (2004) – 18 years and 276 days

The younger brother of centre/back-rower and clubmate Vinnie, Louis Anderson received an early-season call-up from Warriors coach Daniel Anderson in 2003, scoring a try off the bench in a 42-22 loss to Penrith.

He played 16 NRL games that year and made his Kiwis debut less than four months after his 19th birthday, again dotting down in a 16-all draw with Australia after being chosen at hooker. Anderson's versatility helped him played 18 Tests for New Zealand, while he left the Warriors at the end of 2007 with 67 appearances to his credit. He has racked up over 200 Super League games for Warrington and Catalans, who he is still playing for in 2018.

### 8. Francis Meli (1999) – 18 years and 255 days

Apia-born Meli came through the ranks at City-Marist and Marist Saints before being called up as a centre for the Warriors' Round 9 loss to Souths in 1999, breaking Lauti'iti's record. He played just five games in two seasons under coach Mark Graham but became a first-choice winger when Daniel Anderson took over in 2001.

A member of the 2002 grand final squad, Meli's tenure at the Warriors peaked the following season when he crossed for a club record 23 tries – including an all-time finals record five-try haul against the Bulldogs. The 14-Test Kiwi finished with 60 tries in 110 games for the Warriors but went on to score more than 150 four-pointers in nine seasons in England with St Helens and Salford City.

*Continued on next page...*



### **7. Paul Whatuira (2000) – 18 years and 198 days**

Whatuira debuted for Wellington and won a grand final with Wainuiomata in 1999 but was still eligible for the New Zealand Under-18s team that year. He was snapped up by the Warriors on an elite scholarship and earned his NRL spurs early in 2000, coming off the bench in a loss to Wests Tigers and breaking the Warriors' youngest player record.

But the gifted utility-back played just five games under Mark Graham that year and joined Melbourne for the 2001 season. Whatuira's career took off after linking with Penrith in 2002, winning a grand final with the Panthers in '03 and collecting another premiership ring with the Tigers two years later. He played 16 Tests for the Kiwis from 2004-07.

### **6. Isaiah Papali'i (2017) – 18 years and 166 days**

Papali'i was the bolter in Stephen Kearney's maiden Warriors first-grade squad, coming off the bench in the Round 1 victory over Newcastle last year less than six months after turning 18. The hulking back-rower was the youngest Warriors debutant in more than a decade.

The Te Atatu and Richmond junior was not sighted again until Round 22 but finished 2017 in first grade and has been a permanent fixture this season.

### **5. Manu Vatuvei (2004) – 18 years and 80 days**

A teenaged behemoth on the wing, Otahuhu product Vatuvei made five mid-season appearances for the Warriors in 2004. His debut against Souths provided several signs of things to come, with a spectacular try assist, a string of barnstorming runs and a radical bleached afro drawing plenty of attention.

With just 17 NRL games under his belt, the 19-year-old starred in the Kiwis' famous 2005 Tri-Nations triumph, scoring two tries in the 24-0 rout of Australia in the final. The enigmatic fan favourite went on to score a Warriors club record 152 tries in 226 games and a New Zealand record 22 tries in 28 Tests.

### **4. Evarn Tuimavave (2002) – 18 years and 65 days**

Daniel Anderson took a hatchet to his team sheet after a 44-0 loss to the Roosters late in the Warriors' watershed 2002 campaign. The most eye-catching change was bringing skilful 18-year-old prop Evarn Tuimavave onto the bench to become the club's youngest debutant.

The Marist-Richmond junior played in the last two regular-season games for the minor premiership-winning Warriors but was not required for their finals campaign. Part of the Kiwis' 2008 World Cup squad, Tuimavave played 105 NRL games for the Warriors before rounding out his career with stints at Newcastle and Hull KR.

### **3. Patrick Ah Van (2006) – 18 years and 24 days**

Warriors coach Ivan Cleary turned to Kelston Boys High product Ah Van when injury brought Kiwi Test winger Manu Vatuvei down early in 2006. The 18-year-old started on the flank in a 22-8 loss to Manly in Round 5 and went on to rack up 15 rookie-season appearances.

The New Lynn Stags and Te Atatu Roosters junior was also a capable fullback and centre, but stiff competition for backline spots dictated that Ah Van played only 54 games for the Warriors before departing for Super League at the end of 2010. Ah Van has been a prolific try scorer on the wing over the past eight seasons for Bradford and Widnes.

*Continued from previous page...*

## **2. Thomas Leuluai (2003) – 17 years and 314 days**

Leuluai held the record as the Warriors' youngest-ever first-grader for more than a year after being blooded off the bench early in 2003 – two months shy of his 18th birthday. He reappeared 10 weeks later as Stacey Jones' halves partner and featured in the No.6 throughout the club's charge to the preliminary final.

He became one of New Zealand youngest Test reps later that season, coming off the pine in an upset win over Australia only a few months after turning 18. The half/hooker played 85 NRL games across two stints for the Warriors and has turned out in 38 Tests in a Kiwis career spanning 15 seasons.

## **1. Cooper Vuna (2004) – 17 years and 47 days**

Powerhouse winger Vuna shattered the Warriors' youngest player record when he came off the bench in a heavy loss to Parramatta in 2004. The Otahuhu junior was the youngest player to appear in first grade for 11 years (Adam Ritson was 16 years and 303 days when he made his debut for Cronulla in 1993), while there has been just one younger NRL debutant since (Gold Coast's Jordan Rankin was 16 years and 238 days when he debuted in 2008).

Vuna was promoted to the starting line-up a week later, crossing for a try in a narrow loss to eventual grand finalists Sydney Roosters, but only made five top-grade appearances for the Warriors before joining Newcastle in 2007. After four fruitful seasons with the Knights, Vuna switched codes and represented the Wallabies at international level.

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# Southland District Round League

By SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

Photos by: Dave Loudon

SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY

## Southland District Rugby League - Semi Final Round Up.

**C**OWBOYS WERE to play Winton City in the first semi final of the day. Winton City have struggled all season to get player numbers and had to default to Cowboys in the semi final due to , only being able to produce 5 players for the game .

Cowboys will head into next weeks Grand Final as favourites and injury free , after going through the season undefeated.

The main game of the day between He Tauaa and Cooks was a game that could of gone either way.

He Tauaa started off strong from the kick off by posting 2 unanswered tries in the first five minutes , putting them in the lead by 12 points.

Cooks defence wore He Tauaa down and from there they were able to post some points of their own.

Referee Bruce Aupouri had to talk to both captains a couple of times during the game to get them to settle their players down , as there was a bit of back chat going on from both sides.

The small crowd that were out at the Sandy Point grounds were not short of action. It was a full on.

Crunching tackles , hard runs and some free flowing league.

Cooks began to open the He Tauaa defence line with some hard running. This took its toll on He Tauaa by letting Cooks in for 4 answered tries. The score was looking like it was starting to slip away from He Tauaa , with Cooks leading 22 - 12.

He Tauaa dug deep and found that they still had some fuel in the tank to finish the game the same way they started.

With time ticking away on He Tauaa to fight their way back into it. They knew it was now or never to put more points on the score board if they wanted to make the Grand Final for a straight seventh season.

He Tauaa scored with 15 minutes remaining putting them 4 points behind on the score board. He Tauaa found a gap in the Cooks defence line and went over again with 10 minutes to go. They took the lead from Cooks and we had a game on our hands. With just over 8 minutes of play left in the game and the score at 24 - 22 , He Tauaa scored in the corner to take them to 30 -22.

Cooks were not going to give up that easy and gave everything they had left in the tank.

With time almost up , He Tauaa made a break through the backs which saw them cross over just before full time.

Half Time Score : 12 All

Full time score :

He Tauaa 36 - Cooks 22

## 2018 GRAND FINAL

Cowboys vs He Tauaa

Saturday 23rd June

Kick off :2.30pm

SDRL Grounds - Elles Road





# ARL Match Reports

By ARL

## Results From SAS Fox Memorial Premiership – Rd 10

Papakura 28 Mt Albert 24

Papakura lifted for an upset victory over top-four side Mt Albert, with Junior Kiria scoring the match-winner inside the final two minutes, in his SAS Fox Memorial Premiership debut. The Lions were up 20-12 at the break thanks to three converted tries and a penalty. But in the second the Sea Eagles' Willie Stowers and Phoenix Hunt took control, orchestrating a comeback which saw them overpower the Lions.

Glenora 34 Pt Chevalier 14

Glenora became the first team to beat Pt Chevalier this year, ending the Pirates' run and wrestling back control of the Roope Rooster challenge trophy. In the process the Bears moved to the top of the ladder for the first time this season. Glenora centre To'o Alo scored a double inside the opening 20 minutes, while standoff Jordan Tuarae also grabbed two tries, to help the Bears to a 28-4 lead at the break. Pt Chevalier had Tevita Latu and Chris Sio spend time in the sin bin in the second half, and despite a much-improved effort, couldn't get close to the Bears on the scoreboard.

Otahuhu 14 Marist 12

A penalty with 10 minutes left on the clock gave Otahuhu their fifth victory of the campaign. Marist footed it with the Leopards through the first half, and led 12-6 with 15 to go, before Connor Taurua-Purcell scored a converted try, and fullback Geronimo Doyle nailed the match-winning penalty.

Northcote 42 Mangere East 38

Northcote survived a late raid from Mangere East to remain inside the competition's top four. The Tigers were in fine touch through the first 40 minutes, and led 42-20 with 15 minutes to play, before the Hawks turned it on to give Geoff Morton's side an almighty scare. Winger James Waterson and young centre Casey Smith both scored doubles for Northcote, along with experienced back-rower Matthew Tafutu.

Howick 58 Richmond 18

The Howick Hornets ran out comfortable winners over Richmond, with their lethal right edge doing much of the damage. Centre Anthony Fuimaono scored three tries, along with winger Aaron Tulafono, who was on SAS Fox Memorial Premiership debut. Howick playmaker Drew Radich was accurate off the boot, converting all but one of the Hornets' tries.

*Continued on next page...*

### **Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup – Rd 8**

**Manurewa 36 Mt Wellington 6**

Manurewa ran out comfortable 30-point winners over Mt Wellington, helped along by a second-half double to Mariota Mariota. The staunch Marlins defence kept the Warriors scoreless through the opening stanza, and off the back of it Manurewa were able to generate a number of scoring chances.

**Pakuranga 40 Otara 4**

Pakuranga made a statement with a commanding victory over top-eight side Otara, with winger Ioane Asu-eru among the Pakuranga heroes, crossing for three tries. Despite the two forward packs being well matched in terms of size, Otara were helpless to stop the Jaguars' roll for much of the 80 minutes

**Te Atatu 0 Bay Roskill 18**

Bay Roskill remain unbeaten ladder leaders with an 18-0 shutout of Te Atatu in a west Auckland derby. Former Kiwi international Ben Henry was the Vikings' standout, leading from the front with his defence. Up 6-0 at the half, Bay Roskill went on with the job in the second, outlasting the Roosters.

**Ponsonby 48 Northern Brothers 6**

Ponsonby ran out big winners over Northern Brothers, picking up a victory to celebrate back-rower James Koloamatangi's 100th premier game for the central Auckland club. The result keeps Ponsonby inside the competition's top four and shunts Northern out of the top eight for the time being.

**Hibiscus Coast 40 v Papatoetoe 10**

The Hibiscus Coast got on the board in style, running riot against Papatoetoe to claim their first win of the year. A hat-trick to livewire fullback Nehumi Teu did much of the damage, while Hibiscus Coast lock Kavana Tekiri-Ryan caused trouble for Papatoetoe all game, scoring a try and clocking a number of line breaks through the middle of the park.

**New Lynn 12 Waitemata 36**

A blistering final 20 minutes saw Waitemata home against west Auckland rivals New Lynn at Lawson Park. Behind 12-8 at the break, Waitemata clawed back to 12-12, which the score remained for most of the second stanza. A hat-trick to Ilai Faamita and a double to Suliano Faukafa gave the Seagulls the edge.

**Franklin 78 Manukau 4**

Franklin powered to their sixth win of the year, making light work of south Auckland neighbours Manukau. Winger Roydon Tupaea scored four tries, while a number Storm players registered doubles. The win keeps the Storm in second position on the Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup ladder.

**Ellerslie BYE**

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# West Coast Rugby League Legends Weekend

*By Jennifer Pope - West  
Coast Rugby league*

**Trevor Kilkelly v Jock Butterfield.**

With Struggling numbers on the West Coast our President Tony Gurden came up with a great concept for our players to have an Origin type contest but playing for past West Coast Legends who represented the Kiwis from our province. Hopefully some of you will recognise these legends of our game.

West Coast Rugby League Legends weekend kicked off with Under 12's representing Tony Coll playing Quentin Pongia side.

The game was a high-quality game, both teams willing to put the ball through the hands with very little errors. Prop Simon Norris started the game strong for Tony Colls side, bruising runs up the middle and putting the opposition on the back foot, put his side in good scoring position. Winger Kahlykah McHutton who rang strong all game went close to scoring, then they shifted the ball left with good hands to put Matt Molloy in some space to score the first points.

High completion rate by both sides had the ball going back and forth with both teams trying to win the arm wrestle great runs by Quentin Pongia's prop Decklyn King who had an outstanding game, always getting over the advantage line and getting his team in quick play options. However, Tony Colls side were using the ball cleverly through halves Jacob Walker and Sam Levein and only by great scrambling defence by the Quentin Pongia's team led by half Liam Gurden they weren't able to score.

Tony Colls side finally broke Quentin Pongias team with a storming run by Liam Donaldson to dot down to score.

Tony Colls side were the dominate team in the first half with a try to McHutton who had a strong contribution in the first half. Score going into the break was 12 – 0 to Tony Coll.

Second half Quentin Pongia's side must've had a good rev up as they came out all guns blazing King picked up where he left off but he had a side kick in Franklin Barry who seemed untouchable. They both scored quick tries to get their side within four points. Molloy who was Tony Colls best wasn't going to be out done and picked up another try with brilliant footwork close to the line, to push his side forward again on the score board. Both number ones had fantastic games unfortunately for Molloy, Barry got the better of him to score two more tries and kick a conversion. King not wanting to be outshined pick up another try which Barry converted to come from behind and win.

Cohn Blyth and Liam Gurden topped the tackle count.

Quentin Pongia 24 (Barry 3, King 2 tries Barry 2 conversions) Tony Coll 16 (Molloy 2, Donaldson, McHutton tries)

*Continued on next page...*



Second game Don Ladner played Bob Neilson represented by Under 13s and 14's players. After the first game being such quality, the crowd were excited to see what this age group could offer. Mac Gibson stepped up and had a great first half for Bob Neilson's side, had his hand in everything, he was backed up by Kayne Wall and Jayden Uriao who score the first try and Gibson converted. Gibson scored two tries with his outstanding acceleration to get away from the defence. Wall converted these two tries taking the score to 18 – 0.

Alex McCullum tackled well for Don Ladner's side, but they were starved of the ball and Bob Neilson's side ran in three more tries to Niko Barnett, Ben Giles who showed great footwork to always beat the first defender and Connor Green. Don Ladner's forward Theo Barnett scored in the corner over a lot of traffic to make sure his side got on the score board in the first half. Score 30 – 4 to Bob Neilson.

A couple of personnel changes to even out the teams showed the spirit of these games to bring the best out of the players. In the second half Isaac McCullum showed what he brings to his footy sides, size and skill, proved a handful and Connor Green relished running off him to open the score board in the second half. Aston Wilson directed play well putting his forwards in the right places to run. Catching Bob Neilson's side short on the left side, good ball to Theo Barnett to score. They were chipping away at the big lead.

Riley Fairhall tackled well for Bob Neilson's side, always there in cover defence.

McCullum too strong in this period of play and run through tired defence to score close to the posts so Wilson was able to convert. Connor Green scored this time for his new team to get the score to 22 only 12 points separating both teams. Jayden Uriao had the last say and scored a well timed try to end the game. Final Score 38 Bob Neilson – 22 Don Ladner.

Great game by both sides who really showed the spirit in which Rugby League should be played. Special mention from Don Ladner Coach PG Gibson to Isaac McCullum and Aston Wilson, on the other side Bob Neilson coach Gene Wilson was equally impressed with Mac Gibson, Jayden Uriao, Niko Barnett and Riley Fairhall.

Bob Neilson 38 (Gibson 2, Uriao 2, Giles 2, N Barnett, Green tries Wall 2, Gibson conversions) Don Ladner 22 (T Barnett 2, Green 2, McCullum tries Wilson Conversion)

Third game and the mostly anticipated game. Trevor Kilkelly under 15 side played Jock Butterfields Under 17's these two teams have played twice this year with both teams coming up winners. This game was going to give the age group the bragging rights.

Right from the kick off you could hear in the grandstand how hard these young men were hitting each other and what it meant to them. Riley Pascoe half back for Trevor Kilkelly's side showed what a star he is putting his forwards in gaps and leading his team around the park. Dean Wisdom also wowed the crowd, we got a good glimpse of how talented our young players are. Wisdom opened up the score board with his quick legs, from good ball movement to the left, he hit a hole and scored.

Jock Butterfield's side didn't want the young bucks having it all their way. Half Brett Rees with a trademark try used his footwork to get through the front line and accelerated to score close to the posts unfortunately it wasn't converted so the score was locked up at 4 all.

Trevor Kilkelly's side really gelled and played as a really strong unit. All the players knew their job and didn't over play their hand, superb football to watch. They played really smart football to score their second try to Auryn Barber. Pascoe scored the next try he caught Jock Butterfields off guard by tucking the ball under his wing and running hard.

Jock Butterfield's fullback Henry Gibson had an amazing running game making huge metres when his team needed it. He found some room on the left-hand side and made the most of it opening up Trevor Kilkelly's defence. Good cover tackle by Pascoe couldn't stop the ball movement, Gibson passed onto Taylor Berry who scored.

*Continued from previous page...*

The Campbell brothers proved why they are such hot Rugby League property at the moment combining with each other to put the other one away. Their hole running specially Tom Campbell was a great spectacle. Together they set up the next try to Wisdom. Successful conversion by Pascoe took the half time score 18 – 8 to the Under 15's.

Second half was fairly similar to the first. Trevor Kilkelly's team played professional football and leading up to their tournament in July looked every bit prepared. Callum Donaldson played well from backrow. First points went to Wisdom who didn't miss a beat in the break and dazzled with his speed.

Campbell brothers combined again for the next try taking Trevor Kilkelly team to 28. Jock Butterfield weren't about to roll over, Jordan Duggan and Jack Coleman stood up and gave as good as they got scoring tries to get them within 10 points and full of running.

Second rowers Tom Campbell and Donaldson finished the scoring to shut down the Jock Butterfields late run at the scoreboard. Final Score 38 – 18 to Trevor Kilkelly side.

Tim Morton coach of Jock Butterfield team was happy with the boys' commitment and thought George Gibson was outstanding, Henry Gibson, Zeb Thompson and Jordan Duggan played really well.

Kerry Calder coach of Trevor Kilkelly was extremely pleased with the defensive effort from the boys. He was happy with Tom and Jack Campbell, Callum Donaldson tackled well and Dean Wisdom had an outstanding game.

Trevor Kilkelly 38 (Wisdom 3, T Campbell 2, Pascoe, Barber, Donaldson tries Pascoe 3 conversions) Jock Butterfield 18 (Rees, Berry, Duggan, Coleman tries Rees conversion)



Bob Neilson v Don Ladner .



Bob Neilson v Don Ladner .



Trevor Kilkelly v Jock Butterfield .





# Netball Northern Throw Spotlight On Young Leaders



**NETBALL**  
NEW ZEALAND

**N**ETBALL IS providing opportunities for young leaders to explore concepts of leadership, grow their social skills and develop confidence.

Headed by Netball Northern with backing from Aktive, an Auckland Sport and Recreation charitable trust, and the Ministry of Youth Development, the Netball Leaders Bronze Award programme aims to inspire young people in South Auckland to build an understanding and knowledge of leadership and ultimately practice their skills in their local community.

The programme is targeted at young people between the ages of 12-24 years and living in the Counties-Manukau area with participants completing four leadership workshops focusing on the concepts of leading others, challenges, and preparation for giving back.

A group from Rosehill College are the latest recipients of the Netball Leader's Bronze Award which they earned after attending four workshops before school.

A Netball Leaders Bronze Award is presented on completion of the workshops before participants choose one of three leadership pathways – coaching, umpiring or giving back which all lead to gaining a Silver/Gold Leadership Award. The coach and umpire pathways utilise Netball New Zealand modules to support learning.

Netball Northern Chief Executive Nicole Spratt has praised the programme saying “we want to nurture leadership through netball and support our participants to positively impact the community through many different avenues whether that is coaching, umpiring or volunteering at the netball centre or other community events.”

“Many athletes have the mind set of just playing netball and not realising that the skills that come with the sport including team work, values, leadership and identity can help you grow as a person and a netballer.”

---

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# 2018 Ox & Palm Pacific Test Invitational teams confirmed

**P**ACIFIC NATIONS Tonga, Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG) have formally announced their squads to participate in the 2018 Ox & Palm Pacific Test Invitational at Campbelltown Sports Stadium this Saturday, June 23.

Fiji Bati will take on PNG Kumuls in the first match of the evening, before Tonga takes on Pacific neighbours Samoa to round out the Pacific double-header.

All four Pacific Test teams will call Western Sydney home for the week, with Campbelltown playing host to a number of community and cultural events, as well as the annual Pacific Test Fan Day and NRL Pacific Youth Program.

The Pacific Test Fan Day takes place at Campbelltown Athletics Track on Wednesday July 20 from 4:30pm, with live entertainment, stalls, player interviews, cultural performances and full team signing and selfie sessions.

In its third year, the 2018 NRL Pacific Youth Program has been designed to lead and inspire Pasifika youth through a series of learning experiences over the course of the week, ultimately empowering them to become responsible leaders in their respective schools, Rugby League clubs and the wider community.

Tickets for the Pacific Test Invitational are still available, starting from just \$10, with fans encouraged to purchase online via [NRL.com/tickets](http://NRL.com/tickets) to avoid missing out following last year's sell out event.

## **OX & Palm Pacific Test Invitational**

3.45pm Gates open

4:00pm FIJI BATI v PNG KUMULS

7:10pm MATE MA'A TONGA v TOA SAMOA

### **Mate Ma'a Tonga**

Andrew Fifita (Cronulla Sharks)  
Addin Fonua-Blake (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)  
Siliva Havilli (Canberra Raiders)  
Ata Hingano (New Zealand Warriors)  
Will Hopoate (Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs)  
Koniseti Hurrell (Gold Coast Titans)  
Michael Jennings (Parramatta Eels)  
Robert Jennings (South Sydney Rabbitohs)  
Sione Katoa (Penrith Panthers)  
Tuimoala Lolohea (Wests Tigers)  
Manu Ma'u (Parramatta Eels)  
Joe Ofahengaue (Brisbane Broncos)  
Junior Tatola (South Sydney Rabbitohs)  
Jason Taumalolo (North Queensland Cowboys)  
Sio Siua Taukieaho (Sydney Roosters)  
Peni Terepo (Parramatta Eels)  
Daniel Tupou (Sydney Roosters)

Coach: Kristian Woolf

### **Toa Samoa**

Bunty Afoa (New Zealand Warriors)  
Josh Aloiai (Wests Tigers)  
Michael Chee Kam (Wests Tigers)  
Christian Crichton (Penrith Panthers)  
James Gavet (New Zealand Warriors)  
Pita Godinet (Wests Tigers)  
Sam Kasiano (Melbourne Storm)  
Tim Lafai (St George Illawarra Dragons)  
Joey Leilua (Canberra Raiders)  
Luciano Leilua (St George Illawarra Dragons)  
Mason Lino (New Zealand Warriors)  
Dunamis Lui (Canberra Raiders)  
Tyrone May (Penrith Panthers)  
Anthony Milford (Brisbane Broncos)  
Isaiah Papali'i (New Zealand Warriors)  
Jospeh Paulo (Cronulla Sharks)  
Ligi Sao (New Zealand Warriors)  
Jorge Taufua (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)

Coach: Matt Parish

*Continued on next page...*



### Fiji Bati

Kevin Naiqama (Wests Tigers)  
Suliasi Vunivalu (Melbourne Storm)  
Akuila Uate (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)  
Tyrone Phillips (Penrith Panthers)  
Marcelo Montoya (Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs)  
Jarryd Hayne (Parramatta Eels)  
Henry Raiwalui (Mounties)  
Kane Evans (Parramatta Eels)  
Joe Lovodua (St George Illawarra Dragons)  
Tui Kamikamica (Melbourne Storm)  
King Vuniyayawa (New Zealand Warriors)  
Salesi Junior Fainga'a (Parramatta Eels)  
Eloni Vunakece (Sydney Roosters)  
Pio Seci (Ipswich Jets)  
Sitiveni Moceidreke (Mounties)  
Pio Sokobalavu (St George Illawarra Dragons)  
Mikaele Ravalawa (Canberra Raiders)  
Junior Roqica (Newcastle Knights)

Coach: Matt Adamson

### Papua New Guinea

Adex Wera (PNG Hunters)  
Enock Maki (PNG Hunters)  
Nene McDonald (St George Illawarra Dragons)  
Junior Rau (PNG Hunters)  
Justin Olam (Melbourne Storm)  
Kurt Baptiste (Sydney Roosters)  
Lachlan Lam (Sydney Roosters)  
Luke Page (Burleigh Bears)  
James Segeyaro (Cronulla Sharks)  
Nixon Putt (PNG Hunters)  
Rhadley Brawa (PNG Hunters)  
Rhyse Martin (Canterbury Bulldogs)  
Richard Pandia (Ipswich Jets)  
Rod Griffin (Townsville Blackhawks)  
Stanton Albert (PNG Hunters)  
Thompson Teteh (PNG Hunters)  
Watson Boas (PNG Hunters)  
Willie Minoga (PNG Hunters)

Coach: Michael Marum



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# ***GAME 2***

## **BLUES TEAM LIST**

**JOSH ADDO-CARR**

**NATHAN CLEARY**

**DAMIEN COOK**

**BOYD CORDNER (C)**

**ANGUS CRICHTON**

**JACK de BELIN**

**TYSON FRIZELL**

**RYAN JAMES**

**LUKE KEARY**

**DAVID KLEMMER**

**JAMES MALONEY**

**LATRELL MITCHELL**

**TYRONE PEACHEY**

**MATT PRIOR**

**JAMES ROBERTS**

**TARIQ SIMS**

**JAMES TEDESCO**

**JAKE TRBOJEVIC**

**TOM TRBOJEVIC**

**PAUL VAUGHAN**



**COACH: BRAD FITTLER**

**PLAYERS NAMED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER\***





# ***GAME 2***

## **MAROONS TEAM LIST**

**JAI ARROW**

**WILL CHAMBERS**

**GAVIN COOPER**

**DANE GAGAI**

**TIM GLASBY**

**COEN HESS**

**VALENTINE HOLMES**

**BEN HUNT**

**GREG INGLIS (C)**

**FELISE KAUFUSI**

**ANDREW McCULLOUGH**

**JOSH McGUIRE**

**CAMERON MUNSTER**

**DYLAN NAPA**

**JOSH PAPALII**

**KALYN PONGA**

**BILLY SLATER**

**JARROD WALLACE**



**COACH: KEVIN WALTERS**

**PLAYERS NAMED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER\***





## THIS WEEK IN OUR REP ROUND ISSUE

WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN, PNG V FIJI, SAMOA V TONGA,  
DENVER TEST, PREVIEWS AND STATS + SCORES AND  
RESULTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY!



### REP ROUND, 2018

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### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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COWBOYS star Jason Taumalolo shocked the rugby league world when he withdrew from New Zealand selection ahead of the 2017 World Cup, instead choosing to represent Tonga. It was a move that started a slew of events, with Andrew Fifita also withdrawing from the Australia squad to join the team. On the back of it all, Tonga were inspirational through the tournament, and Taumalolo realised the special influence he can have on the game if required.

Finally, we have a Women's State of Origin. After years of being branded the 'Interstate Challenge', New South Wales and Queensland will play under the Origin banner in a stand alone game on Friday night. One of the stars for Queensland, Annette Brander, explains what happened when Trevor Gillmeister joined the camp for tackling practice, while Blues rookie Hannah Southwell tells of her impressive sporting journey back to rugby league.

New South Wales have announced Matt Prior will play in Game Two of the State of Origin series on Sunday, beating out Titans captain Ryan James for the position. However, Gold Coast team-mate and Queensland forward Jai Arrow says James deserved a shot and won't be far from making his Origin debut.

PLUS... This Week in History, a look back at Darren Lockyer's Origin debut, 10 minutes with Tui-moala Lolohea and posters of all the representative teams.


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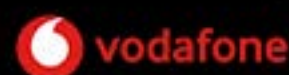
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Here is the team that help me put together the newsletter each week. We have a number of fantastic contributors who send in content each week that along with my editorial gets wrapped up by our graphic designer and sent out by our distribution man to your inbox.

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