

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

25th July 2018

Newsletter #227



Vodafone Warriors v Storm



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Stacey Jones Lounge Photos

Photos taken by Dave McKee



A big thank you for Cappy McFadden and Peter Hiku for coming up to the lounge to discuss the game.



A very excited Mark Brouer wins the Panasonic Shaver watched on by Lorna.



Dave McKee, Kevin Masterson, Lorraine McKee and Michael Johannink in the lounge.



David Blair who flew up from christchurch wins the Panasonic kitchen tools.



Hayden from Melbourne wins the signed ball.



Ingrid wins the Bluewater Hotel Napier package.



Jeannie wins a copy of the fantastic What a ride mate.



Josh and Phoebe Erick meet Sir Peter.



Kahu wins the Vodafone Warriors junior pack.



Kathy a long time lounge member wins the Selley's package.



Kylie and Phil Mountford from Christchurch.



Lloyd, Dave, Steve, Peter, Craig and Steve who flew up from Christchurch for the game.

Stacey Jones Lounge Photos

Photos taken by Dave McKee



Lounge member Trevor celebrated his 70th birthday with this beautiful cake his daughter made.



Lounge member Trevor Warrington turned 70 on Friday.



Margaret Mangos soon to be 84 from Tauranga speaks with butch. It was an absolute pleasure to host her..



Miles Davis renowned talk back host and celebrity speaker.



Miranda from up north wins the Vodafone cell phone.



Noel the barber from new Lynn wins the TAB FIRST TRY SCORER David Fusitu'a unfortunately it didn't come off.



Paul and Mel Condon Kiwis who now live in Montana, USA..



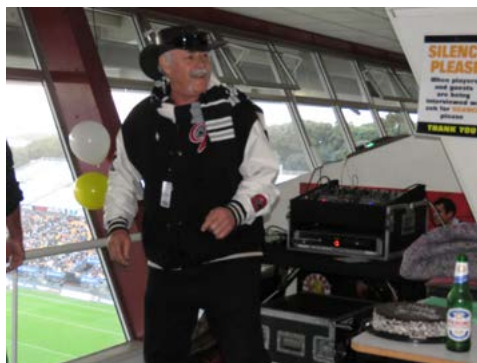
Peter Campbell ex Mangere East hawks player with his old mate the BUTCHER.



Peter Fulton (Two meter Peter) x NZ cricketer speaks with Sir Peter.



Riccarton Knights player development programme players visiting the Vodafone Warriors for the first time. Te Arahi Paraha (14yrs), Kci Newton-Whare (14yrs) and Gareth Neho..



Robbie Lammas warming up to show us his dancing skills.



Ruka Rarere, Mark Graham, Steve Boggs, Shaun Chait, Sloan McPhee and Det Johnson who all flew up from WELLINGTON for the game.

Stacey Jones Lounge Photos

Photos taken by Dave McKee



Trudy wins the Panasonic headphones.



The butchers old school mate Paul Barclay wins the Panasonic Room monitor.



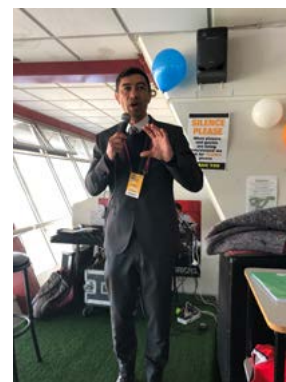
Trevor the birthday boy with his family, Lorna, Lisa, Angelique and Trudy.



Tom Dunn the fire man from Wellington won a Vodafone Warriors jersey.



Tony Condon (former player), Paul Condon (2002 Premiers Grand final winner), Mel Condon (Riccarton manager 2002), Devon Campion (former player) from Riccarton Knights Christchurch.



Was great to have Richie Barnett in the lounge, a top bloke. He has played for Cronulla Sharks, Sydney Roosters, London Broncos and the NZ kiwis..



Trevor wins the ASICS voucher watched on by wife Lorna.



These guys are from Christchurch with one odd guy from Wellington. Back row Craig, Steve, Lloyd and Peter. Front row Dave, Craig and Steve.



These guys all flew up from Wellington for the game.

Stacey Jones Lounge Photos

Photos taken by Dave McKee



Anna & Todd who drive up from Napier for the game to celebrate their honeymoon.



It was just fantastic to have long time lounge member June in the lounge on Sunday. She is 87 and she cheered the team on for the whole 80 minutes.



Jeannie and Ingrid - season ticket holders to the lounge, never miss a game!.



Paul and Shane Olsen up the up specially from the West coast to watch the boys on Sunday.



Sean Tighe who comes up regularly for the games from Wanganui.



Sir Peter with Katie a netball star, Zoe a volleyball star, both have played for NZ and Ruka Rarere who flew up from Wellington with his mate to celebrate his birthday.

For Your Information. We draw our competition winners by numbering every envelope. We then enter in the number entries at www.random.org and click generate to get a truly random number. We then dive back into our pile of envelopes to find the envelope with the corresponding number. Remember though, if you're not in you can't win!

ON SUNDAY we had Paul Whatuira in the Stacey Jones lounge Paul played for Warriors, Storm, Panthers, West Tigers and Huddersfield giants, Eels plus the kiwis. Paul Whatuira is a kiwi rugby league legend with 2 NRL premierships and was one of the most consistent performers over a 12 year pro league career. Paul spoke about his NZ warriors first grade debut as an 18 year old.

Kid straight out of Wainuiomata and the life lessons the great game of rugby league had taught him. He debuted for the Warriors under the guidance of Kiwi legend and then NZ warrior coach Mark Graham who had belief in him given him the opportunity to excel at the highest level.

Paul moved to Australia with the Melbourne Storm a year later teaming up with seasoned professionals like Stephen Kearney, Richard Swain and Robbie Kearns to name a few. In 2003 He moved to the Panthers and the next thing you know he wins the comp. 2005 was a new year in new colours and hello he wins another NRL premiership with the West's Tigers with another kiwi icon Benji Marshall. Paul played 16 test matches for the kiwis and was a key member of the 2005 Tri-nations tournament winning team defeating the Australian's 24-0 in the grand final.

Paul mentioned Rugby league has given him valuable life lessons that he continues to use everyday.

Paul also talked about his battles in 2009 which he suffered a mental health breakdown ending up in a mental health hospital and been heavily medicated over a 5 year period.

Today he is a healthy man that has learnt from the up and downs needing no medication or professional help. Sometimes life throws you curveballs and Paul has demonstrated that you must learn from every situation and move forward but most importantly learn to appreciate the things you do have more so than what you do not. The tips I gathered from Paul was to do things that make me feel good as often as I can throughout the day. That can be as simple as having a laugh or reading a good book, keeping life simple but also working every day to achieve personal goals and having a purpose in life.

Paul is now an inspirational motivational speaker and director of Internal Strength traveling across Australia and NZ delivering his story and mindfulness and wellbeing program. You can check out his website on www.internalstrength.nz also check out his podcast chatz with fatz show. - **Sir Peter Leitch**

Check out my interview with Paul on my facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/sirpeterleitch/videos/1699397526781098/>



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That Was A Hard Watch

By David Kemeys

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



BLOODY HELL that was tough to endure.

We stayed in the arm wrestle until the death, but in truth our second half performance suggested we would struggle to get across the Storm line.

I have a love-hate relationship with the Storm.

It's impossible not to admire what they have achieved, but I struggle to get past the fact the dynasty was built on years of rorting the salary cap, and the advantage of having the best hooker the game has seen in Cameron Smith being allowed to ref the games too.

But it's disappointing, even given when you arrived at the ground thinking getting another thrashing was on the cards, to lose the way we did.

It's easy to forget we got hammered 50-10 by the Storm on Anzac Day, so at least staying with the NRL heavy-weights was a gallant showing. But they went home with the points and on top of the ladder, while we stayed in the eight.

Without Tohu Harris the pack lacked a cutting edge but toiled all day, and that's all you can ask.

Without playmaker Blake Green we lacked a cutting edge in attack too, but same thing, we tried.

Having said that, Mason Lino was excellent. His kick-chase game was really good, he was strong on defence, but Green has been instrumental in our success, and his loss was felt.

Losing hooker Issac Luke early in the second half with a calf problem, didn't help much either.

Shaun Johnson was good, heavily involved all day, but when we did get into scoring slots, our accuracy wasn't there.

The Storm led 8-6 at the break and please, please, do not let the curse of giving up points on the stroke of half-time return.

That was a nothing kick and should have been dealt with. How Melbourne scored is beyond me.

We had worked hard to recover from the soft try we gave up after a few minutes to Will Chambers, who hit a gap even I could have run through. To undo it all as most in the crowd were wondering if they would have sauce or mustard on their hot dogs was beyond galling.

Our try had a little bit of luck to it, to be fair, with David Fusitu'a climbing magnificently to play the ball back to Gerard Beale, who had to take a step and fall over the line.

We came out with intent in the second spell and Solomone Kata will wish he had fed an open Ken Maumalo, his effort ruled out as a double movement.

There were the inevitable curious and questionable penalty decisions too, but we always get that.

I don't know what it is, but we do not seem to be able to win at home, though again, having Smith decide when his side will have a penalty, doesn't help.

That's four on the bounce at home. We stay eighth on points differential, four clear of the Tigers, but I would be a little concerned if I were Stephen Kearney because Ivan Cleary's mob have come into form at the right time, recording wins in the last two weeks over the Dragons and Bunnies.

All we can do is head to Aussie to play the Titans this weekend and repeat what we did against the Storm, because even though we lost, it should be good enough to get us the points.

I'm Not Alone

Want to take me to task for bagging Cameron Smith? I am far from alone.

The Warriors didn't hold back in a tweet during the game, implying he gets special treatment.

There we were, we all saw it, the Storm up 8-6 and Smith smashes Maumalo in a high tackle.

The refs award a scrum to the Storm

I don't know who is responsible for the tweet but I suspect they will be getting an arse-kicking at the club, because the NRL are likely to be far from happy.

The fans on the other hand might be right behind it.

The post read: "High tackle", and then, "Oh wait, it's Cam Smith".

Plenty were quick to chime in behind the tweet, adding remarks on his obvious time-wasting when he decided to go for goal and make it 12-6.

Fans were not happy with Smith, but I will say this, he is consistent. His chat starts when the whistle blows, and ends 80-minutes later. It has always been like that.

Here's a sample of the tweets:

Whilst the referees have copped a lot of negative press this weekend, Cameron Smith's performance has been outstanding controlling this match.

Cameron Smith the master manipulator.

Would love to know why the refs are so terrified of Cameron Smith.

There was a bit of a backlash, with some calling the tweet unprofessional. Tossers.

Coach Stephen Kearney, who, unlike me, has to be a bit more circumspect, still said there is a serious issue with officiating and that it needs to be fixed.

He did not blame the refs but did say there were some strange decisions. You think?

As is the norm, the big calls went against us, and some of them were, to be polite, perplexing.

Kearney reckons that boys in yellow aren't up to it, and it is impossible to argue.

Certainly Ricky Stuart wouldn't after his Raiders got duded against the Sharks.

Bit of consistency there isn't there?

"Unfortunately they have been poorly led. They get a directive to blow the pea out of the whistle and 13 rounds in it changes. We need to make sure we do something about it."

Sunday's officials made themselves unpopular with the crowd, but only because they were shite.

Kearney rounded especially on the 10 metres, which in fairness has never applied to Melbourne, who spent 80 minutes in our line.

"We get penalised for leaving our line too early. By the time we catch the ball, they are in our face."

To make matters even worse, Adam Blair will miss the Titans after being cited for a high shot. Makes what Smith got away with even harder to swallow doesn't it?

Well Done Warriors

The Vodafone Warriors charity day raised more than \$70,000 and last time I looked that is a lot of money!

We announced we would use the game to raise funds for KidsCan, Paralympics NZ, Ronald McDonald House and Shine.

Well done to the club, which smashed its target of \$50,000.

If you are stickler for accuracy, apart from the fact I would question what you doing here, the amount was actually \$71,409.30.

Just Shut Up Would You?

That was the worst Warriors experience I have ever had, courtesy of the drunken, loutish, loud, boring, obnoxious people in front.

They had zero interest in the game apart from one lone voice constantly trying – and failing - to encourage the crowd to chant: Billy's a wanker. No mate, you are, sit down and shut up.

Not a minute went by without one of them getting up to piss, shout down the row to a friend, go to the bar, fall over, pass wine, and generally behave like an arse.

When a polite request to tone it down, given behind them were a load of children sitting with increasingly agitated parents, all that resulted was a string of expletives from one of the younger women – and I use the term loosely – in the group.

Love, you're lucky my Mum wasn't there, she'd have washed your mouth out with soap.

So bad was the experience my wife reckons she won't go back, she'll just watch on TV from now on.

We all blurt things we shouldn't, and I love a bit of banter, but if that constitutes normal behaviour, all I can say is that the next time you think about coming to a game – don't.

Farewell To A Legend Of The Club

Simon "Captain" Mannering pulls the plug, and good on him.

He deserves to go out on his own terms.

He is on 294 NRL games, after the Storm, 45 tests, and 14 gruelling seasons.

Please let him play finals footy!.

He joined us an eternity ago, a kid from Motueka, and now that he has made his decision, and one that can be no surprise to anyone, he wants to focus on the team.

And that is what he has always done.

Gutsy, gives it all, tackles his heart out, always puts in a shift. Anyone who thinks we won't miss him must be soft in the head.

Five times he has been our club player of the year – and he must have been in the reckoning another half dozen times.

"I don't see myself as a special player. I just wanted to go out there and do my job. If I could come off the field and say I did my job that was all I ever wanted."

Mannering had already called time on his Kiwis career, and most thought he would do exactly what he has, and also call time on his NRL career.

Could he go round again? If Cameron Smith can at 35 and Paul Gallen can at 37, Mannering, certainly could, given he's only 31.

But if anyone knows it is time to go, it's the player himself, so good on him.

He's off-contract at the end of the year, and it says a lot about him that he thought he would be doing the wrong thing for the team to play on.

"The last month I've really struggled physically and that has probably affected me mentally. I just haven't had the same spark and I was thinking if I'm feeling this now, it would be selfish to sign for another year and not deliver."

Mannering has given his all for us, and has put his body through hell while earning a reputation for having a work-rate like no other.

It's impossible not to believe that must have taken its toll.

No other player has endured the highs and lows Mannering has, and it is a great shame there have not been more highlights for him, but even then, he says he has no regrets.

"I wouldn't change it. People say do you wish you had left? No, it has been awesome."

It certainly has.

Message from Vodafone Warriors CEO Cameron George

WHAT A few weeks we have had!! Some challenges but most importantly some real positives. One of the great things about our club is no matter what gets thrown at us we are willing to take it on. After a tough night at Penrith our boys bounced into Brisbane and played exceptionally well in front of a big Sunday afternoon crowd, it was pleasing to see the guys set the tone for the rest of the year.

Last week was a big one for the club with our charity day on Sunday against Melbourne Storm. Firstly, we are so proud and thankful to you our fans for helping raise over \$70 000 for 4 worthy charities, the players were great too. It shows that we together can achieve great things for NZ through our community and charity work. Secondly, our team showed tremendous grit against the Melbourne Storm. It's never acceptable to lose but I have said all along I just want our team to have a go and represent our fans with passion and commitment, and they did so on Sunday.

This week we head to the Gold Coast and then onto St George so it's a big few weeks ahead. Our footy unit is focused and committed to getting the best results we can while on the road.

Once again, thanks for your ongoing support and let's be loud and proud for our last 6 games.

See you at MT SMART on Friday 10 August.

Cheers

Cameron George





Harris back to start against the Titans

VODAFONE WARRIORS v GOLD COAST TITANS

**2.00pm, Sunday, July 29, 2018
Cbus Super Stadium, Robina**

by Richard Becht

TOHU HARRIS is named to start and fellow back rower Leivaha Pulu is on the extended bench for the Vodafone Warriors' 20th-round NRL encounter with the Gold Coast Titans at Cbus Super Stadium in Robina on Sunday (2.00pm kick-off local time; 4.00pm NZT).

The 26-year-old comes back four weeks after picking up a knee injury in the final minute of the 16th-round clash against Cronulla on June 29.

Harris is set to return on schedule after having surgery to repair a meniscus tear in his left knee.

Pulu (28) is listed in jersey #21 on the extended eight-man bench.

He appeared in each of the Vodafone Warriors' season-opening five wins before being forced off the field with a midfoot foot injury 23 minutes into the sixth-round contest with the Brisbane Broncos on April 14.

He was side-lined for 14 weeks recovering from the injury before coming back a week earlier than targeted via the club's Intrust Super Premiership side last Sunday. In his 60 minutes against his former side Wyong he made 76 metres from 10 runs and effected 26 tackles without a miss.

With Harris slotting into his regular spot on the right edge, Simon Mannering switches to loose forward replacing Adam Blair, who will miss the Gold Coast game after taking an early guilty plea for a late contact charge on Melbourne's Kenny Bromwich last Sunday.

As well as Harris, experienced standoff Blake Green and prop Sam Lisone are named in the 17.

Green missed the clash against the Storm after playing in each of the first 18 matches of the campaign. His absence last week means no player has appeared

in each of the club's games this season.

Lisone has been called up for just his 10th appearance of the season after last being used in the NRL side against the Sydney Roosters on May 12. He has earned a recall after an impressive performance against Wyong when, in 43 minutes on the field, he gained 144 metres from 16 runs (including 47 post-contact metres) and made 24 tackles.

This week sees hooker Issac Luke edge within one game of his 250th career appearance, leaving him in line for his 250th a week later against St George Illawarra in Wollongong. Captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck plays his 47th game for the Vodafone Warriors while, in his last season, Mannering clocks up his 295th NRL match.

The Vodafone Warriors, one of three teams on 24 points, sit eighth on the table with six games remaining in the regular season. They're two behind the Roosters (fourth) and Cronulla (fifth).

The Vodafone Warriors have won 16 of their 23 encounters with the Titans, giving them a 69.56% winning strike rate, by far their best against all current opponents. They've won 14 of the last 15 meetings.

Vodafone Warriors

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Roger Tuivasa-Sheck | 13 Simon Mannering |
| 2 David Fusitu'a | Interchange: |
| 3 Gerard Beale | 14 Jazz Tevaga |
| 4 Solomon Kata | 15 Sam Lisone |
| 5 Ken Maumalo | 16 Joseph Vuna |
| 6 Blake Green | 17 Bunty Afoa |
| 7 Shaun Johnson | 18 Peta Hiku |
| 8 James Gavet | 20 Karl Lawton |
| 9 Issac Luke | 21 Leivaha Pulu |
| 10 Agnatius Paasi | 22 Mason Lino |
| 11 Isaiah Papali'i | |
| 12 Tohu Harris | |



By John Coffey

Mark Graham Still Leading The Way

Mark Graham during a Warriors press conference back in 1998. Photo www.photosport.nz

EVEN AT 62 years of age Mark Graham is still a pathfinder for the Kiwis. On August 1 Graham will become the first New Zealander inducted into the NRL Hall of Fame, along with dual Australian and Fijian forward Petero Civoniceva and Kangaroos Cliff Lyons, Steve Menzies, Ricky Stuart and Gordon Tallis. They join the 100 originals named when the Australian Rugby League celebrated its centenary in 2008.

To clarify a point, the first 100 places were restricted to Australians because it was, after all, their centenary. Graham is being inducted at the first opportunity for players from overseas who made their mark in the NRL competition and its predecessors, the Winfield Cup and the Sydney premiership. Now living in the Queensland town of Gladstone, Graham had received just about every other honour available to him.

Stacey Jones and Ruben Wiki were also among the 25 players nominated for the six positions selected by a panel of 25 representatives from current Hall of Famers, the news media and independents. My understanding is the 19 nominees who missed out this time – including Jones and Wiki – will be joined by six newcomers for the 2019 inductions. Should they miss again, they will have a third chance in 2020.

The 25 nominees extended back to champion Easts loose forward Jack “Bluey” Watkins, who played first grade from 1913 until 1926. But he and six others who played from the late 1940s through to the 1960s were overlooked this time. It is a measure of Graham’s lasting impact on the judges that his career preceded the other new inductees, to a time when much less was seen of the Sydney premiership on television.

We in New Zealand are well aware of Graham’s stature at international level. He played 29 Tests from 1977 until 1988 (ironically missing the 1983 and 1987 victories over Australia at Brisbane and the 1984 three-Test clean sweep against Great Britain) and was captain in 18 of them. In 1980 and 1985 Graham became the first man to captain two Kiwis teams on tour to Britain (for two drawn Test series).

Australians will remember him most for his 146 appearances in North Sydney’s red and black strip from 1981 to 1988. Norths were dubbed the “Bad News Bears” and accused of finding new and unique ways of losing games. But no-one, particularly those who lined up against him, took the lanky second-row forward with the long, loping stride and the punishing tackle with anything less than total seriousness.

Graham sparked Sydney clubs’ interest in other Kiwis, though he was not the first to cross the Tasman. There had been respect for the likes of front-rower Bill Noonan in his 11 seasons of first grade, goalkicking prop Henry Tatana and silky centre Bernie Lowther. But Graham stamped his authority on “their” competition and proved there were world class rugby league players to be scouted in New Zealand.

His association with celebrated coach Graham Lowe began at Otahuhu and carried on to Norths Devils when they won the 1980 Brisbane premiership, for the Kiwis and later when Lowe was part owner and Graham head coach of the Warriors. It was loyalty which caused Graham to temporarily retire in 1987 after Lowe had gone to Wigan and loyalty which kept him at Norths when richer clubs pursued him.

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Not only was Graham a brilliant all-rounder on attack and defence, and an inspiring captain, he was beyond tough in overcoming near-crippling injuries. In the first Test of the 1985 tour the British were confident they had knocked Graham out of the game, and possibly the series, before halftime. His cheekbone was broken and an ankle badly damaged. Everyone was stunned when Graham led the Kiwis back onto the field.

There was no way he could last another 40 minutes and Lowe replaced him at the first scrum. But the mood of the match had changed. The Kiwis had been lifted, the Lions had lost some of their roar and New Zealand won 24-22. After Great Britain easily won the second Test in Graham's absence, pain killing injections helped him return for the third. Graham scored the only try of a 6-6 draw which levelled the series.

The NRL Hall of Fame is just his latest recognition. Graham was among the original NZRL Legends of League in 1995, inducted into the NZ Sports Hall of Fame in 1996, and named in North Sydney's Team of the Century in 2006, NZRL's Team of the Century in 2007 (when he was also New Zealand Player of the Century), became an Auckland RL Immortal in 2008, and was in Brisbane Norths' Greatest Team in 2008.



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8PM FRIDAY AUGUST 10



By John Coffey

Mannering Is Our 'Horatius At The Bridge'



Simon in action. Photo www.photosport.nz

MY FIRST sports editor, the late R T (Dick) Brittenden, was New Zealand's greatest cricket reporter and author. Dick had studied the works of Neville Cardus, England's premier cricket scribe, and was not reluctant to delve into the classics to aptly describe an outstanding feat. One of his favourites was comparing a courageous backs-to-the-wall defensive batting performance with the bravery of "Horatius at the Bridge".

That classical stuff is way over my head, but Wikipedia confirmed for me that the soon to be retired Simon Mannering has long been the Warriors' version of Horatius. Legend has it that a junior army officer named Publius Horatius Cocles famously defended a bridge which exposed the city of Rome to the invading army of Lars Porsena, king of Clusium, during the war between Rome and Clusium late in the sixth century BC.

Still with me? There is a 1200-line poem on the subject but I will spare you that. Horatius persuaded two generals to stand with him at the bridge as their army panicked around them. When the generals also ran, Horatius stood alone. Despite several wounds, he resisted the enemy long enough for others to destroy the bridge behind him. With Rome saved, Horatius defied his injuries and swam the waters of the moat to safety.

If I was of a classical mind, Horatius would have often entered my thoughts as Mannering's tackle counts exceeded 40, 50, even 60 while many team-mates succumbed to their rivals in the darker seasons. Mannering also took a pounding, was often wounded, but never fell. Now he is approaching the magical 300 appearances. But can the club reward his commitment and courage in the manner Horatius was rewarded 2500 years ago?

Says Wikipedia: "Horatius was honourably crowned and conducted into the city by a singing crowd while the populace streamed into the streets to see him. A bronze statue was later erected to him in the comitium (main meeting place) because of his heroic act. He was given as much of the public land as he himself could plough around in one day with a yoke of oxen. Every citizen of Rome gave him one day's ration of food."

So the Warriors should follow the ancient Romans and arrange the following: a hero's crown; a carriage from Mount Smart to Queen Street by singing Warriors fans while the rest of the "populace" lines the route; a bronze statue; and persuade Mayor Phil Goff to donate "public land" for Simon to contentedly spend his days ploughing with his oxen. The "one day's ration of food" from every citizen might take some organising.

For my money, Mannering was far more of an all-rounder than Horatius, who was an out-and-out defender in the face of the enemy. Let us not forget Mannering played in the centres when Australia was beaten in the 2008 World Cup and 2010 Four Nations finals. In 2014 he filled his more familiar second-row role when another Four Nations title was won and in the 2015 Anzac Test triumph he played at loose forward.

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Who would have thought that arguably the greatest Warrior in the club's first quarter century would be born in Napier and raised in Nelson? There he was discovered by astute coach Paul Bergman and was persuaded to try rugby league with the Wellington Orcas. The rest, like Horatius, is history. As well as being a champion player, Mannering is also acknowledged on both sides of the Tasman as a champion bloke off the field.

His career figures are mind-boggling, having reportedly made over 9300 tackles and carried the ball about 27,000 metres in body-battering NRL action. Then there were 45 Tests for the Kiwis, 14 exhausting pre-seasons and as many years of daily training, plus countless media commitments. Wrote one Australian journalist: "The seemingly impossible has happened. Tiredness has caught up with Simon Mannering."

An 18-year-old Mannering became Warrior number 125 against the Brisbane Broncos on June 26, 2005. He is on schedule to reach his 300th appearance against the Canberra Raiders at Mount Smart on August 31. While Ruben Wiki and Steve Price reached that milestone while playing at the Warriors, Mannering will become the first triple centurion solely for the club -- a totally fitting achievement by the Ultimate Warrior.



Farrelly Photos Women's Competition Semi-Final Match Reports

By ARL

A wrap of the action from week 2 of the play-offs in the 2018 Farrelly Photos women's competitions.

Richmond 18 Otahuhu 12

A strong first half set Richmond up for victory over Otahuhu in the Farrelly Photos Women's Premiership major semi-final, seeing them through to the Grand Final for the second-straight year. Up 12-0 at the break, Richmond's lone second-half try was enough to fend off a comeback from the Leopards. Alice Vailea was a standout for Richmond in the win, scoring a crucial first-half try.

Mt Wellington 12 Mangere East 8

It took 95 gruelling minutes, but Mt Wellington have confirmed their place in the Farrelly Photos Women's Pennant Grand Final alongside Ponsonby. Locked at one try apiece at the break, Mt Wellington took an 8-4 lead early in the second spell, before Mangere East equalised with five to go. After two fruitless periods of extra time, Mt Wellington halfback Faanati Aniseko struck the killer blow five minutes into golden point, with a diving effort in the corner.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES SIMON MANNERING





By Miles Davis

Simon Mannering

Simon Mannering gets tackled during the game against the Cowboys.
Photo www.photosport.nz

AS A young lad I used to avidly look forward to going to watch West Ham United play on a Saturday whether it was at home or away. I consider myself fortunate to have grown up watching not only legends of West Ham but also of England. The World Cup winning trio of Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters, the elegance and grace of Trevor Brooking (we used to refer to him as God), and the livewire Alan Devonshire who was playing part-time at Southall whilst working for Hoover as a forklift driver and cost us a paltry 5000 pounds. All of these players were worth the price of the admission fee just to watch them strut their stuff but it was another player who became my all-time idol – Billy Bonds. He wasn't as skilful as Brooking or as an astute reader of the game as Moore but he had so many other qualities that made him the player I most loved. He was a true leader of men, uncompromising in the tackle, protective towards his team-mates, totally fearless and had the ability to lift his team when things were heading south. As humble an individual as you could ever meet (he once persuaded the manager to give me and 2 of my mates a lift back to London from Wrexham on the team bus on a cold Tuesday night after our car had broken down on the way to the game and we had no way to get back). He never indulged in drinking after the game, preferring to head home to spend time with his family. He missed going to West Ham's FA Cup Final appearance in 2006 (the first such occurrence in 26 years since he led them to victory against Arsenal) because he had committed to his grand-daughter's 5th birthday party. He was also extremely loyal, spending 21 years at the club and making a club record 799 appearances. I loved this man so much I named my eldest son after him.

As a fan I see similarities between Bonds and the Vodafone Warriors legend that is Simon Mannering. His work-rate is phenomenal and he never leaves anything on the park. Even when the Vodafone Warriors have struggled he seems to rise above the rest. He is a leader, even being man enough to step away from the role when he thought it was preventing him from performing at his best and was detracting from team performances. He is brave and never goes hiding when the going gets tough. And for me he was like a wine that got better as it aged.

He has remained humble despite his high profile and praise heaped upon him by the Warriors faithful and the wider New Zealand sporting public. And of course there is the loyalty. After joining the club as a fresh-faced 18 year old he is still donning the jersey 13 years later. In this day and age of instant-gratification and players changing clubs at the drop of a hat, Mannering's unwavering loyalty to the Vodafone Warriors is something that should be celebrated. He is the sort of player that fans love. Granted there are those with flashier skills but none that epitomise the club more than him. None that represent the sort of commitment to the club that a fan feels.

When I heard that he had announced his retirement I felt a sense of impending loss. The club wouldn't be the same without him. He was the constant, the dependable rock on which the club was anchored. Who would replace him? Where would we find another player with all his attributes that would also provide us with his unstinting effort and devotion?

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In the distant future there may well be another player that gets close to providing the service that Mannering has given us over the last 13 years but that is not guaranteed. I am just grateful that I will be able to tell my grandchildren that I was around to watch Simon Mannering in action. Let us hope that the Vodafone Warriors go all the way this season and help him reach the 300 game mark for his one and only NRL club.

Thanks for the memories Captain Mannering



THE VODAFONE Warriors headlined a triple header and fought valiantly against the reigning premiers – and now current table leaders - Melbourne. In what was a solid 80-minute exhibition by both teams, it was the Storm who took the two points away with a 12-6 win. [View highlights here.](#)

The clash doubled as "The Great Vodafone Warriors Charity Day" and, thanks to the efforts of members, fans, sponsors, players and staff, more than \$75,000 was raised for our charity partners KidsCan, Shine, Paralympics NZ and Ronald McDonald House Charities. [Read all about what he had on offer here.](#)

A big congratulations to the men's and women's 7s teams on their back-to-back World Cup wins.



By Barry Ross

Reward

John Sutton in action against the Warriors. 7.06.14.
Photo www.photosport.nz

JOHN SUTTON'S 300 game milestone on Sunday was a well deserved reward for a consistent and hard working team man. He is the first South Sydney player to reach the 300 game mark in the club's 111th season. Now 33, Sutton is a South Sydney junior who began his career with the Kensington club. When a mural at Kensington Oval was unveiled to celebrate his milestone last week, he became quite emotional in front of a large gathering of family, friends and South Sydney identities. John made his first grade debut at Brisbane against the Broncos on 4 July 2004 and scored a try in the 48-28 loss. Over the years, he has rejected some good financial offers to join others clubs and is now in his 15th season with the Rabbitohs. In September 2005 at Port Moresby he represented the Prime Ministers XIII in the 34-0 win over Papua/New Guinea and in 2008 and 2009 he played for City Origin against Country Origin. His most memorable memory is probably captaining South Sydney to the 2014 Grand Final win over the Bulldogs. John became the 32nd player to reach the 300th game mark and the 14th player to do this with the one club. It is a pity that the Rabbitohs could not come up win a win for John but they were well beaten by the Wests Tigers. In the same game, Robbie Farah celebrated his 250th NRL match for the Wests Tigers and his 276th game overall (250 with the Tigers, 26 with Souths) and the win will give the former NSW State of Origin hooker fond memories of the occasion.

While the John Sutton's achievement should be celebrated by Rugby League people, the Bunker continues to cause problems. After the howler in the Roosters-Gold Coast game just last week on 15 July, you would have expected that they would have been over cautious the next time around. But no such luck. At Shark Park on Fridaynight, the Raiders coach, Ricky Stuart was seething after his team's 28-24 loss to Cronulla. In the after match media conference, Stuart said that the NRL's \$2 million bunker was a waste of time. With 23 minutes to play, the Sharks were clinging to a 22-18 lead, when their right winger, Sione Katoa, was awarded a try under the posts. This was done despite touch judge, Rickey McFarlane raising his flag. Although McFarlane raised his flag briefly and then quickly put it down, it was enough for most of the Raiders defenders to stop. We all know that you are taught from an early age to play to the whistle and neither of the two referees blew his whistle. But a touch judge is an official of the match and if he put his flag up, it should have been obvious to the men in front of their TV screens that the Raiders were disadvantaged. Just the day after the game the NRL have admitted, yet again, that the match officials got it wrong but that doesn't help the Raiders players, officials or fans. The referees boss said the bunker did not know that McFarlane had raised his flag. I find that hard to believe but if it was the case, what about the two on-field referees and the other touch judge. Surely one or more of this trio was aware the flag had been raised.

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Six new men and the next Immortals will officially be inducted into the NRL Hall of Fame at a glittering black tie function on Wednesday 1 August at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Each of the six have earned this honour, although many great players from the 25 nominations missed out. The six players are front rower PETERO CIVONICEVA, age 42, (45 Tests for Australia, 6 Tests for Fiji, 33 State of Origin matches for Queensland, two Premierships, 309 NRL games-235 for Brisbane and 74 with Penrith, 25 tries); backrower MARK GRAHAM, age 62, (29 Tests for New Zealand with 18 as captain, one match for the Rest of the World in 1988, 146 first grade games for the North Sydney Bears, 28 tries); five eighth CLIFF LYONS, age 56 (6 Tests for Australia, 6 games for NSW, 332 NRL games- 309 with Manly, 23 with North Sydney, 87 tries); backrower STEVE MENZIES, age 44 (15 Tests for Australia, 20 games for NSW, 2 Premierships, 349 NRL games- 280 for Manly, 69 with the Northern Eagles, 180 tries); halfback RICKY STUART, age 51 (9 Tests for Australia, 14 games for NSW, 3 Premierships, 243 NRL games- 203 Canberra, 40 with the Bulldogs, 41 tries, 1987 rugby union Wallaby to Argentina); second rower GORDEN TALLIS, age 44 (13 Tests for Australia, 17 games for Queensland, 214 NRL games - 160 with the Broncos, 54 for St. George, 66 tries).



Choppy close former Australian and State of origin player with his grandson Tyler with the gear I sent them.

**Good luck to Joseph Parker for this weekends fight.
Details below...**



V



8PM FRIDAY AUGUST 10

DILLIAN WHYTE V JOSEPH PARKER LIVE ON SKY ARENA

Don't miss Joseph Parker's huge comeback fight with the heavy hitting and highly respected UK boxer, Dillian Whyte on Sunday July 29 - LIVE on SKY ARENA

The highly anticipated fight will see Joseph Parker return to the ring for the first time since his heavyweight world title loss to Anthony Joshua in March. Parker's next opponent has drawn widespread admiration in the boxing world for not shying away from a tough opponent. Both fighters have just one loss on their record, both to Anthony Joshua.

Parker has previously commented that this fight is a 50/50 and that he will have to adopt a more ruthless attitude to get the victory. Interestingly, both fighters are the same height and have near identical records. Parker is 24-1 with 18KO's and Whyte is 23-1 with 17 KO's.

Whyte seriously hurt Joshua with a huge left hook and came within a whisker of knocking him out in 2015 and Parker is the only man to go 12 rounds with Joshua. Parker has never been stopped or even knocked down as a pro and is hunting his first KO since 2016. Whyte is a KO expert. With so many storylines to this incredibly even matchup, this is not to be missed.

The pay-per-view price is set at \$49.99, and the fight will screen on SKY ARENA (Channel 65) and also on FAN PASS, allowing non-SKY subscribers to purchase the fight for the same price.

WHAT: Dillian Whyte (GBR) V Joseph Parker (NZL, SAM)

DETAILS: Sunday 29 July, first fight from 5.00am, main event from 9.00am

PRICE: \$49.99

WHERE: SKY ARENA & FAN PASS*

SKY ARENA BOOKINGS: Text PARKER to 4024 or phone 0800 759 780 or visit www.sky.co.nz/sky-arena

FAN PASS BOOKINGS: Go to fanpass.co.nz



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sky sports box office

FIGHT WEEK SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY
PUBLIC WORKOUT
WESTFIELD STRATFORD
5PM START

THURSDAY 26TH JULY
FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE
INVITE ONLY

FRIDAY 27TH JULY
OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN
SPITALFIELDS MARKET
1PM START

SATURDAY 28TH JULY
FIGHT NIGHT
THE O2, LONDON
5PM DOORS OPEN

matchroom boxing William HILL DUCO JD



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

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 19

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 Richmond Leagueie</i>
Thur 26th Suncorp	Broncos v Sharks	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Sharks
Fri 27 1300Smiles	Cowboys v Knights	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Knights
Fri 27 ANZ	Bulldogs v Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers
Sat 28 Lottoland	Sea Eagles v Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
Sat 28 ANZ	Rabbits v Eels	Rabbits	Rabbits	Rabbits	Rabbits	Rabbits	Rabbits	Rabbits	Rabbits
Sat 28 AAMI	Storm v Raiders	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm
Sun 19 CBUS	Titans v Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
Sun 29 ALLIANZ	Roosters v Dragons	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Dragons	Dragons

Picks last week	5/8	1/8	5/8	5/8	5/8	5/8	2/8	6/8
Total picks	89	79	89	84	82	96	80	

Teflon Smith...

A FEW YEARS back there was a topline American Mafia Godfather called John Gotti he was nicknamed TEFLON because the FBI could not make any charges stick to him. I reckon Cameron Smith is coated with the same stuff. He has a high level of exalted status in the game and rightly so but this can appear to give him some kind of invulnerability or even invisibility when it comes to the whistleblowers. He is masterful when it comes to communicating with them during a match...he has this ultra-respectful "nice guy" body language with the obliging smile and understanding nod and hand gestures but continually pushes his case while doing so....including a further sincere suggestion as he backs off. If Cameron Smith says it, it carries weight. Absolutely no insinuation of cheating or anything like it but he knows how to push the officials buttons and that includes a severely questioning glance at linesmen. Another thing...if you play the NRL Fantasy league you will know that CS9 (Cameron Smith) scores huge points every week without ever appear to do much. He is ever present at dummy-half and tackles a fair few most times flopping on late to slow down play. He doesn't dart like Cook or Luke or make long breaks like Nikorima but regularly outscores all of them, beats me. OK whinge over, The Mighty Warriors, we tried hard, we didn't quite finish opportunities, we got beat. Bugger. On the bright-side we did better than we thought against the number 1 side, even without Blake, little guy Lino and Magic Johnson combined well, we stayed in the fight and tackled our hearts out for almost all of the 80 minutes. For all that we are hanging at the edge of the 8 with the Tigers eyeing our tail.

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The pressure don't stop mate. For rueful Ricky and his unlucky Raiders the pain goes on, yet again the refs play their inglorious part, 28/24 to the Shireboys with Sharks boss Flanagan admitting post match that they got lucky. Every man and his dog (including normally reticent Steven Kearney) is crying foul over recent refereeing standards so where there's smoke theres fire eh ...one has to wonder if the NRL hierarchy will front up! I have long thought that with the refs being so well paid (they are) they should be accountable ie be front and centre at the after match press conference to face questions from the coaches and the media. Instead they hide behind the Referees boss who issues "sorry sam thank you mams" each week also with no accountability or correspondence entered into. Transparency its not. That aside surprises continued with the favoured Panthers capitulating 18/50 to a rejuvenated Bronco outfit and Ivan Clearys previously loser-pants Tigers clawing the high flying Rabbitohs 22/6, go figure. The Roosters with their big gun backs firing bashed Barretts maudlin Manly mob 56/24. The Bondi boys have a fast rising star in young second rower Victor Radley... very much in the non-stop mould of his soon to be team-mate Angus Chrichton at the Bunnies, what a pair they will be for the tri-colours in 2019. Mid table the Knights outlasted the Titans 30/24 and both are now looking forward to plans for next season. Just as the Storm, Dragons and Souths are points tied with 28 at the top, the Bulldogs, Cowboys and Eels are on 10 points apiece in the wooden spoon dungeon. Desperate Dean Pays Bulldogs without much in the way of star-power are perhaps as expected but the other two need a good long look in the mirror.

TIPPING. Yahoo I won a week, 6 from 8 for the old High-Tackle much more like it. The Whistle-blower finally had a blow-out for 2 from 8, big Joe also pressed the wrong buttons this week. Tarsh, JC, Fast Eddie and Montz all played cool on 5.

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



Facebook



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VODAFONE
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**TEAM UGG
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The advertisement features a collection of grey and black Ugg boots with the Vodafone Warriors logo. The boots are arranged on a wooden floor. The text 'VODAFONE WARRIORS' is at the top left, 'TEAM UGG BOOTS' is in large bold letters, and 'Available Online Now' is in a script font below it. At the bottom, it says '100% Merino Wool'.

This Warriors Life Top 10: Warriors' Ironmen

By Will Evans

IT'S NO mean feat for a player to go through a gruelling NRL campaign without missing a game – as emphasised by the fact no Warriors players have played all 18 games so far this season.

With Warriors icon Simon Mannering – who makes two appearances on this list – announcing midweek that the 2018 season will be his last, we thought it was an appropriate time to recognise the club's greatest 'ironmen': the players who strung together the most consecutive games without a rest or succumbing to injury.

THISWARRIORSLIFE.COM TOP 10 – MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES BY A WARRIORS PLAYER

10. Nathan Fien – 62 games (2007-09)

Former Cowboys utility Fien joined the Warriors in 2005 and played 21 games or more in his first four seasons at the club. After an injury-interrupted finish to '06, the Queensland Origin rep played his last 62 games for the club in succession – despite frequently bouncing around the team sheet at hooker, five-eighth, half-back and the bench. Fien, who played 21 Tests for New Zealand, made a mid-season switch to St George Illawarra in 2009 and won a grand final with the Dragons a year later, eventually retiring with 276 NRL games to his credit.

9. Sam Rapira – 66 games (2006-09)

Hamilton product Rapira made his NRL debut midway through 2006 at the tender age of 19, becoming a regular interchange fixture towards the end of the season. The bruising front-rower played every game of the Warriors' 2007-08 campaigns – including five finals matches – before sitting out a clash with the Dragons in 2009, the only game he missed that season. A 13-Test Kiwi (2007-11), Rapira played 173 games for the Warriors – equal-sixth on the club's all-time appearances register by the time he headed to Super League club Huddersfield at the end of 2015.

8. Logan Swann – 67 games (1997-2000)

A New Zealand Test debutant in 1996, Logan Swann belatedly made his first-grade debut for the Auckland Warriors in the opening round of the '97 Super League season. The rangy back-rower played the last nine games of that campaign and was a mainstay during the troubled 1998-99 seasons, playing all 24 games in both. Swann's run ended at 67 games when he missed the Warriors' Round 11 assignment in 2000. Only Stacey Jones had played more than Swann's 195 games when his second stint at the club came to an end in 2008.

7. Nathan Friend – 69 games (2013-15)

Gold Coast Titans foundation hooker Friend was a popular and consistent servant for the Warriors from 2012-15. After missing seven games during his first year in Auckland and the opening three rounds of the following season, Friend played 69 straight games for the Warriors until his return to the Titans at the end of 2015. The head-gear'd No.9's unforgettable upside-down, through-the-legs pass to set up a try against the Storm in 2015 took out the Dally M Headline Moment of the Year award.

6. Micheal Luck – 70 games (2006-08)

An honest toiler during five seasons with the Cowboys, Luck developed into a fringe Queensland Origin contender during a 150-game tenure with the Warriors. The industrious back-rower did not miss a game in his first two years at the club, finally having a fortnight off late in the 2008 regular season. Luck, an occasional fill-in Warriors skipper, played at least 20 games a season from 2006-11, but his farewell campaign in 2012 consisted of just six outings thanks to a shocking run of injuries.

Continued on next page...

5. Simon Manering – 73 games (2013-16)

The ultimate example of Warriors resilience, Mannering has played at least 17 games every season since his late-2005 introduction to the NRL. The then-captain started another ironman streak early in 2013, playing every game in the 2014-15 seasons before missing just two games with a badly gashed mouth suffered in the 2016 Anzac Day defeat to the Storm. Despite missing the first month of the 2018 premiership through injury, Mannering is set to become the first Warriors player to bring up 300 first-grade appearances in the final round against the Raiders.

4. Ben Matulino – 73 games (2010-12)

Wellington-born Matulino is one of just four players to break the 200-game barrier for the Warriors and his durability is highlighted by a run of playing 20-plus games every season from 2010-16. The hard-hitting forward missed the last round of 2009 but played every game in 2010-11 – including the run to the grand final in the latter – and featured in the first 20 games of 2012 on his way to the Warriors' Player of the Year award.

3. Feleti Mateo – 79 games (2011-14)

Ball-playing back-rower Mateo was a vital component of the Warriors' charge to the 2011 grand final in his first season at the club, playing all 28 games that season. His form was less reliable thereafter but he was a mainstay in the Warriors pack, featuring in every game of the disappointing 2012-13 campaign before his run was halted four rounds into 2014. Adding the 31 straight games he played for Parramatta prior to his shift to Auckland, Mateo racked up a remarkable 110 consecutive first-grade appearances from 2009-14. The enigmatic forward linked with Manly in 2015 and passed the 200-game barrier.

2. Simon Mannering – 92 games (2006-09)

An 18-year-old debutant for the Warriors in 2005, Mannering was on ice for the first seven rounds of '06 but swiftly became a permanent fixture at centre or in the back-row. The Nelson product played the last 17 games of that campaign and featured in every game in 2007-08, before finally being forced out in the penultimate round of 2009. Mannering overtook Stacey Jones' club record for most appearances in 2017. If the Warriors make it to week two of the finals and the retiring club legend plays every game, he will have made at least 22 appearances in each of his last six NRL campaigns.

1. Stacey Jones – 100 games (1995-99)

'The Little General's' match-winning genius often overshadowed some of his other standout qualities, such as his toughness and durability. Jones made a try-scoring debut off the bench against Parramatta early in the Auckland Warriors' 1995 foundation season and was called up to the starting line-up three weeks later – the first of 100 consecutive run-on appearances in first grade. The 19-year-old played the last 13 games of that '95 season and every match of the embattled club's 1996-99 campaigns. Ironically, it was a broken arm suffered in a post-season Test against Tonga in 1999 that ceased his run of club games, missing the first seven rounds of 2000. The champion halfback subsequently played 160 of a possible 167 games for the Warriors, hanging up the boots for the second time at the end of 2009 after extending his club record to 261 games.

THIS WARRIORS LIFE

FRESH COVERAGE OF THE MIGHTY NEW
ZEALAND WARRIORS

News - Previews - Reviews - Interviews
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Pulse Secure 2018 Minor Premiership Title



SPORTING A new dress and an enhanced attitude, Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse showed why they are the minor premiership champions, with a 66-48 victory over the Northern Stars in Papakura tonight.

Both teams were desperate to bounce back from Super Sunday losses, and the bottom-of-the-table Stars put up a valiant attempt to quash the Pulse throughout the first half.

But the visiting side wanted to cement their place in the grand final, and did so by lifting the intensity in the second half - and almost doubling the score they managed in their day's previous loss to the Tactix.

Shooter Amelianne Ekenasio - making her first starting appearance, and first full game, since the opening round - was MVP with an impressive 29 goals from 35 attempts.

The Stars delighted their home crowd at Pulman Arena by taking a three-goal lead halfway through the opening quarter.

Confident and competent shooting from Maia Wilson, superbly fed by Ellen Halpenny in her 100th appearance, put the Stars in the driving seat.

But a run of three goals just before the break flattered the Pulse, giving them the lead 16-14 as the teams returned to the bench.

The Pulse shooters were also in sharp form - Aliyah Dunn missing only one shot in the first half, backed up and set up well by Ekenasio. Soon the gap was out to four.

But a crucial intercept, followed by a stunning tip, both from goal defence Ama Agbeze helped the Stars

to get back into the reckoning, closing to two.

It was pressure that the Stars couldn't continue to maintain, and as they made unnecessary handling mistakes, the Pulse gathered momentum and movement through court, to be up 34-28 at halftime.

Although Stars goal keep Kate Burley, one of the defensive discoveries of the 2018 competition, and wing defence Holly Fowler kept winning vital ball for their side, the Pulse only carried on building their lead.

Claire Kersten and Whitney Souness established their dominance in the midcourt for the Pulse, driving the ball through court with speed and accuracy, to deftly supply their shooters, and ended the third quarter 10 goals ahead, 49-39.

Captain Katrina Grant and Sulu Fitzpatrick stepped up their defensive pressure in the final phase, and the Stars struggled to thread the ball through court to their shooters.

The news got worse for the Stars when Agbeze left the court with a knee injury in the final moments. But Wilson's shooting stats of 38 from 43 (88 percent) gave them something to smile about.



By public demand we have moved the draw out to the 7th of August!



Enter the draw to win one of ten 2018 Vodafone Warriors Jerseys (size large) signed by Simon Mannering, Tohu Harris, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Shaun Johnson, Jazz Tevaga, Solomon Kata, Karl Lawton, Mason Lino, Ken Maumalo, Stacey Jones, Stephen Kearney, Ben Henry and Andrew (Chappy) McFadden.

Prizes posted internationally!

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Name:
Address:
Phone Number:
Email:

To enter: YOU MUST subscribe to Sir Peter Leitch Club Newsletter.

Then post a stamped addressed envelope with your name, address, phone number and email to the address on the left.

Winner will be drawn on

7th August 2018

Vodafone Warriors Team Function

On Sunday night after the game the Vodafone Warriors team had a team get together and our photographer Sir Peter was on hand to snap these photos with players and their partners.



Anna & Alex.



Anna & Simon.



Blake and Maria Ayshford.



Bunty Afoa & Joseph Vuna.



Dan - NRL Manager, Blake - Halfback and Sam - Analyst.



Elle and Isaiah.



Everyone loved their meal.



Leivaha & Tolina Pulu.



Continued on next page...

Vodafone Warriors Team Function



Luke & Melissa Wilson Physio.



Mason Lino & Anna Saito.



Jess Blair (Adam's wife) and Roi Beale (Gerard's wife).



Roger Tuivasa-Sheck & Ashley Walker.



Stacey and Rachelle Jones.



Stephen the coach with his parents Stephen Sen & Rangi up from Wellington.



Kayla Cullen & Shaun Johnson.



Ken Maumalo and Lereno Rio Tangata.



James Gavet & Gabriella Adams.

Best of luck to the Crusaders and Hurricanes as they battle it out in Christchurch this Saturday night!

Wigan Warriors Have Signed Swinton Lions Centre Chris Hankinson With Immediate Effect.

By Wigan Warriors

A regular reader of the newsletter from the UK, Gary Hankinson, has had their son signed by the Wigan Warriors. He sent us this news article and a few pictures.

THE 24-YEAR old former Salford and Leigh centre has been in impressive form for the Lions in the Championship and will join the Warriors on a deal until 2020, with the option of a one-year extension.

It will be a welcome addition to Wigan's back division considering the injuries to Dan Sarginson, Oliver Gildart, Liam Forsyth and Joe Burgess.

Executive Director, Kris Radlinski: "Chris is a player who we've been impressed with for some time. He is a dynamic centre; possesses good footwork and is a danger with ball in hand.

"He's developed under the stewardship of Stuart Littler at Swinton and we believe that he'll come into our environment and flourish. Chris is keen to progress his career at this level and we believe he'll add quality to our backline options. Our thanks must go to Swinton Chairman Andy Maze and Head Coach Stuart Littler, who have been co-operative throughout this process and it's another example of how strong the Wigan-Swinton relationship is.

"This hasn't been a rushed decision, as we've been impressed with Chris' ability when we've been tracking our own players in the Swinton set-up this year. Chris will be a great addition to the group and we're looking forward to seeing him contribute in the Cherry & White very soon."

On joining the Warriors, Hankinson said: "I'm absolutely made up with signing for the team I've grown up watching as a kid. I can't wait to get stuck in and do a job for the club. It will be a great story to tell.

"I want to thank Swinton for their help and the support they've given me, especially Stuart Littler, Andy Maze and Dave Peet for allowing me to take this opportunity with Wigan."

As part of the agreement with the club's dual-registration partners, three players will join up with the Lions' squad – Joe Brown, Craig Mullen and Macauley Davies – on loan deals for the remainder of the 2018 season.



ACTION PIC v SAINTS.



SHIRT PRESENTATION.



MAD BUTCH DOLL.

The Kiwis Head To The UK Late October This Year Here Is The Draw:

27 October – Hull
3 Nov – Liverpool
11 Nov – Leeds
And hopefully v France 18 Nov





Media Release

MONDAY 23rd JULY 2018

BRONCOS v TIGERS IN INAUGURAL NRL TOUCH PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL

This Sunday 29th July, the (Men's and Women's) Brisbane Broncos will take on the (Men's and Women's) Wests Tigers in the grand finals of the inaugural NRL Touch Premiership.

The two grand final matches will be held at 12pm at the Gold Coast's CBus Super Stadium, as curtain-raisers to the Titans v Warriors NRL match.

Despite there being six clubs (each with a Men's team and Women's team) involved in the tournament, the Broncos and Tigers ended the rounds top of both the men's and women's ladders.

Touch Football Australia (TFA) CEO Steve Mitchell said the Men's and Women's Broncos and Tigers teams are all very strong, so the competition should be tight on Sunday.

"The Brisbane Broncos Women's team is a force to be reckoned with," said Mitchell. "They're captained by Australian Women's Open player Kim Sue See, as well as Australian players Lizzie Campbell, Hayley Maddick, Paige Parker, Catherine Sargent and Samantha Hopkin.

"The Men's Broncos have been playing together at an elite level for years, in our Elite 8 touch football series, so they're a tight team," he added.

"The Wests Tigers Men's team is really strong, featuring a lot of Australian players, including current Australian Men's Open captain Nick Good, Australian Mixed Open captain Cameron Nicholls, and also former Aussie captain Steve Roberts, who's been a serious force in elite touch for more than 15 years, and who is now playing a role in developing touch internationally, as the coach of the Japanese Men's Open team."

"Steve Roberts' cousin Claire Tandek captained the women's Tigers to victory, plus the women's team features NRL player Maddie Studdon, and Australian player Elin Mortimer."

Mitchell has loved working with both the Broncos and the Tigers NRL clubs for the new tournament in this, the 50th year of the sport of touch football.

"Tigers star Benji Marshall is just one of the many NRL players who came from a touch football background, and who credit their speed, agility and ball skills to touch, and he's been a proud advocate for the game. And NRL player Alex Glenn, who also used to play touch, has been outspoken about his support for the brand new NRL Touch Premiership."

"I still reckon Touch is one of the best games in the world to watch or play. I'd love to see Touch going into the Commonwealth Games, it's that good," said Glenn.

"It's a big step to get Touch in the NRL comp. Hopefully, who knows, it could be life after football. I could put the touch boots on and chuck some long balls out to [Scott] Princey or something," Glenn added.



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Reader Mail

Morning Sir Peter,

PASSING ON huge thanks from the lovely kids – Harry and Maddie - who I brought up to the lounge yesterday. The kids absolutely loved the lounge, tour, and most importantly meeting you. I believe the attached photo is being used in show and tell at school for them today. As always, you're a fantastic host!

A message from the kids' Dad:

Thanks again so much for having the kids and I in the lounge yesterday. Despite the result, that's how you watch league!

Please pass my thanks again on to Sir Peter. Legend!

Photo attached, kids are Harry and Maddie.

Much appreciated,

Erin Brightmore



Hi Sir Peter,

MY APOLOGIES for not sending these photos earlier. I was waiting until my two sisters and their families were here including my two Kiwi brother-in-laws, Greg Ruru who is originally from Te Karaka near Gisborne while my other brother-in-law, Peter Minnell is originally from Whanganui.

As it happened, I had the almost opposite experience to you over the last week with 12 of them visiting us from Brisbane, including a few days in New York, the Niagara region including The Falls which is about an hour from us and finally Toronto where they had a great time experiencing all a Toronto Wolfpack game has to offer.

I also wanted the photo to be at a Wolfpack game and with former Kiwi, Chase Stanley. My daughters boyfriend is wearing the Warriors jersey in the group photo.

Thanks again for your generosity and time. Good luck to the Warriors against the Storm.

Regards

Paul Buchanan



Continued on next page...



Trevor and his family.



Nathan Tao, Richie Barnett, Ashley Miranda, John Greenwood (from Christchurch) and Don Graham.

Hi Peter,

Thanks for yesterday, it was a fabulous day with our guests having a wonderful time.

Thanks again.

Don



Zenny with Richie.



Sir Peter and Trevor.

FORMER VODAFONE Warriors assistant coach Steve McNamara is now coaching Catalans Dragons in France. On Sunday morning New Zealand time his team had a massive win beating Salford 44/10 in doing so guarantee his team a place in the UK super league for next year. They have a few kiwi boys involved in the club - Alex Chan is the team manager he also played for them as well as the kiwis. Sam Moa he also played for the kiwis and Louis Anderson also played for the kiwis and Kenny Edwards so a good kiwi presence at the club. The club is owned by a local butcher Bernard Guasch how I had pleasure of meeting him when I went to watch Stacey Jones play his first game for the Dragons's in 2006 and played over 45 games for them. Along the way I made some fantastic friends in Perpignan where the club is based.

- Sir Peter Leitch



Sam Moa On The Burst





Alex Chan, Sam Moa, Louis Anderson and Kenny Edwards.



Former warriors player Lui Anderson on the burst for the catalands dragons in France



Sam & Louie with their kids after the game



Sam Moa & Lousi Anderson Straight after the win on Sunday morning.



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