

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

15th August 2018

Newsletter #230

History Made With The First Ever Warriors Women's Game at Mt Smart



Amber Kani scores the first ever try for the Warriors Women's team



Tanika-Jazz Bell runs down the left edge to add more points to the Warriors Women's scoreboard



After a mid-field kick from captain Laura Mariu, Apii Nicholls chases the footy down to cross over under the posts



Apii Nicholls converts her own try



Georgia Hale making contact with an Auckland player

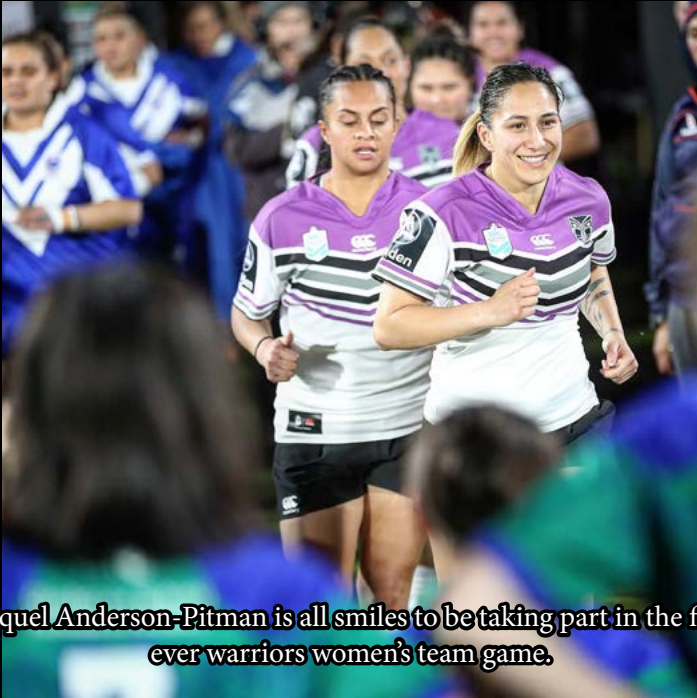
Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz



Laura Mariu the captain of the warriors women's team proudly leads her team out on Friday night for their first every game at MT smart.



Lisa Edwards is pumped to be playing.



Raquel Anderson-Pitman is all smiles to be taking part in the first ever warriors women's team game.



Sarina Clark can't wait to get on the field.



Isaac (bully) runs out with his son and daughter. He is a very proud dad.



Isaac performing the haka.



Isaac Luke beats the drum as the guys sing the victory song in the changing room.



The boys in full swing singing the teams victory song.



the 2 women's teams the warriors and the Auckland team chilling after the game.



8PM FRIDAY AUGUST 24 MT SMART STADIUM



In the Stacey Jones Lounge

Photos by Dave McKee (From Christchurch)



WHAT A fantastic night we had in the Stacey Jones lounge on Friday night with guests from Christchurch, Wellington, Invercargill and the West Coast of the South Island. We even had a few from Waiheke Island. We were privileged to have two former players as our guests Logan Swan & Brett Web. After the game we had assistant coach Tony Iro and injured player Tohu Harris and the win just topped the night off. - Photos courtesy of Dave McKee



Bradley Woon, Brodie Lawson, Luke Woon, Jayziah Sula and Xaviar Herrick from the Hawkes Bay in the lounge.



Brent Webb ex Warrior and Kiwi favorite talks about his career with Sir Peter.



Brent's Mum and Dad Marie and Doug with wife Jenny.



Callum Harrison, James Leary, Richard Preston from Christchurch.



Dan and Jen Lucich enjoyed a night out in the Stacey Jones lounge.



Dan Lucich with Logan Swan.



Gemma Craig doing the lucky draw with the Butcher.



The Butcher getting a hug from Gemma.



Lounge member Shiona Holeman wins the Vodafone Warriors Framed poster and went straight home after the game and made her husband hang it in their bar.



In the Stacey Jones Lounge

Photos by Dave McKee (From Christchurch)



Don Graham, Gemma Craig, Chris Yardley, Sir Peter, Scott Smith & Sam Aitken..



Eon Amansure wins the \$50 TAB bet on Ist Try Scorer Solomonone Kata unfortunately not to be..



Gemma Craig, Sam Aitken, Don Graham, Chris Yardley, Logan Swann and Scott Smith.



Greg Smith, Jason Jones, Steve Ann-gow from Christchurch who organisers groups to come up from Christchurch.



Guests Jamie Cory, James and Sean Nicolle all from Wellington had a great night.



Jamie Cory wins the spot prize of the Selleys Package on Friday night.



Jason Curie wins the Ken Maumalo framed photo and got a Vodafone Warriors key as a bonus.



Jenny Mai wins the a Vodafone Warriors key ring.



Kane Hiddlestone a guest in the lounge from Christchurch wins the Roger Tuivasa-Sheck.



Logan Swann ex Warrior and Kiwi favourite talks about his football career to Sir Peter.



Lounge member Dave wins Kevin Proctors signed football boot.



Lounge member Gail Clifton wins the Vodafone Warriors Hoodie.



in the Stacey Jones Lounge

Photos by Dave McKee (From Christchurch)



Lounge member and lovely lady Joyce wins the Vodafone Warriors Ugg boots.



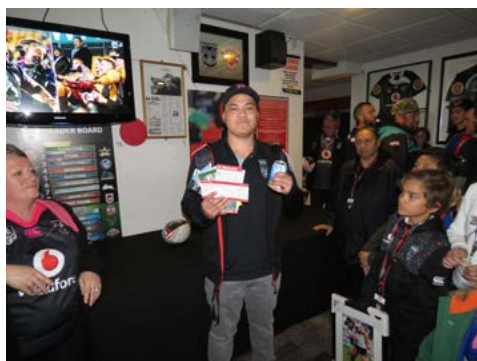
Lounge member Gillian Harrison wins the \$250 Guthrie Bowron voucher.



Lounge member Glen Harding wins the Tohu Harris signed Framed photo.



Lounge member Lorraine McKee who flies up from Christchurch for all our home games wins the Blake Green framed photo.



Wilson wins the Sealink car ferry prize.



Marilyn wins the Bluewater Hotel Napier accommodation and was over the moon.



Michael Johannink wins the 20 year warrior ball.



Neville Kesha former international rugby league referee wins the signed 2018 Vodafone Warriors football.



Sean Nicolle from Wellington wins the Kiwi players Framed photo.



Sir Peter talks to Assistant coach Tony Iro with Tohu Harris looking on.



Tony Feasey who is setting up a rugby league team in the USA talks to Sir Peter about rugby league in the USA.





My mate Dexter lead another great tour of MT Smart Stadium last Friday with over 30 fans enjoying his wit, humour and knowledge.



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Tuivasa-Sheck playing 50th game for club

by Richard Becht

VODAFONE WARRIORS v CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

2.00pm, Sunday, August 19, 2018

ANZ Stadium, Sydney

CAPTAIN ROGER Tuivasa-Sheck takes some of the best form of his career into his 50th appearance for the Vodafone Warriors in Sunday's vital 23rd-round NRL encounter with the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (2.00pm kick-off local time; 4.00pm NZT).

The 25-year-old fullback leads an unchanged side in the quest for a third straight victory following wins over St George Illawarra (18-12) and Newcastle (20-4).

He ran a staggering 338 metres against the Knights last Friday night, following on from 239 against the Dragons, 160 against Gold Coast and 229 against the Storm. His total is a club record topping two 300-metre plus efforts by former Vodafone Warriors captain Steve Price in 2007.

Tuivasa-Sheck's effort last week is a mere one metre less than his career best (339 against Cronulla in 2015) while he also made 330 and 303 in two other games that same season. The NRL record is Justin Hodges' 346 in 2006.

In 19 matches this season Tuivasa-Sheck has totalled almost 3500 metres averaging more than 183 a game and has made a total of 100 tackle breaks.

On a night when the Vodafone Warriors made more than 2000 metres overall, Tuivasa-Sheck combined with the rest of the back five for total of almost 900 metres.

On Sunday he'll lead the Vodafone Warriors in search of their 14th win of the season to match their best record in the last 15 years (they had 14 regular season wins in 2011 and 2010 while the best returns in the club's history have been 17 wins in 2002 and 15 in 2003).

The Canterbury-Bankstown contest also gives the

Vodafone Warriors the opportunity to extend their club record for away wins in one season to nine.

The first four players named on the interchange also remains unchanged with utility Jazz Tevaga joined by second rower Leivaha Pulu, prop Bunty Afoa and utility back Peta Hiku.

The only clash of the season against the Bulldogs will be just the second against the club in Sydney since 2010.

The Vodafone Warriors sit seventh on the ladder on 28 points with a 13-8 record while the Bulldogs are 14th on 14 points, the same total as Parramatta in 15th and the North Queensland Cowboys in 16th.

In 36 meetings, the Vodafone Warriors have 14 wins and the Bulldogs 20 with two draws.

The Vodafone Warriors have won two of the last three contests but the Bulldogs have a 6-4 edge in the last 10 encounters and a 10-5 advantage (with two draws) in clashes at home.

Vodafone Warriors

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



So Close

By David Kemeys

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



HAD TO head to Melbourne at short notice and as I boarded my flight we were 4-0 down to the Knights.

That is a way to guarantee four hours on a plane are more stressful than they need to be.

But when the phone finally connected to a network and allowed me to check on the result, there it was, victory over the Knights, and up to 28 points.

Surely that will be enough, life could not be so cruel as to deny us finals footy.

But the bloody Sharks upset the Storm and dropped us from the lofty heights of sixth down to seventh.

We will need more points yet and the table makes interesting reading really, with the Tigers still sniffing around and the Broncos now looking vulnerable in eighth.

Coach Stephen Kearney will be doing his best to keep everyone grounded and focused on the next game, which for us is of course the Bulldogs.

I had the misfortune to watch the Doggies, because I thought I better had, to get a gauge on what they offered.

Which just made me even more uncomfortable given the way we have been playing great against sides few gave us a chance against, and awful against those who we should put away.

And the Dogs side I saw, despite coming off the back of a couple of good performances, are in the latter class, a team we should be able to put away.

They were horrible against Manly, who in truth were not a lot better themselves. So we can confidently say one of two things will happen, we will win or we will lose.

Depends which side turns up.

But being the know-it-all bastard that I am I will tell you that the eight is the eight. The Tigers will not catch Brisbane, and soon all the talk will be about which of the sides has the momentum and talent to go all the way.

Write off the Broncos, good in Brisbane but just not

the cattle to deliver a title.

The Sharks looked good in beating the Storm, and they have a very intense rivalry with the Melbourne outfit. Being in that city I thought about going to the game but then remembered how much I had to do. The Sharks are a niggly side that are solid all over and no one will be keen on meeting them in finals footy, but they don't have the X factor required to go all the way.

The Dragons race is run. They looked terrible against the Eels, which is really saying something. Hard to see them going all the way.

Penrith have been Gus Goulded. Three wins in a row from behind, miracle escapes if you like, but all against sides in the lower areas of the table and even the luckiest runs end. Sacking your coach a few games out from the finals, which you are already guaranteed a place in, is going to look like one of the stupider decisions of the year.

All of which leaves the Storm, Roosters, Bunnies and Warriors.

Much as I would like to, I can not see it being us, but what a ride the boys have taken us on this year, and by any standard, what has been achieved has been remarkable. We have won in Perth, won consistently on the road, battled through tough periods, bounced back from floggings, and best of all, just plain refused to lie down.

We were everyone's tip for the wooden spoon but have showed a tenacity and spirit that has been sadly lacking from the club in recent years.

Which leaves the current top three, and of those the Bunnies are the ones who will not make the big dance.

If I had to tip, and I do, it would be a Roosters v Storm final, and since my grandson is a Roosters fan, I will be consoling him. The Storm will introduce him to the kind of misery we have been experiencing at Mt Smart for a quarter of a century.

At least it will mean Melbourne will continue for another generation.



Jason Nightingale and Bunty Afoa.
Photo www.photosport.nz



By John Coffey

Jason Nightingale In Rich Company

KIWIS AND St George Illawarra Dragons wing Jason Nightingale, 31, will be in rich company when he hangs up his high-flying boots at season's end. Only a select group – comprising Bob Fulton, Greg Inglis, Darren Lockyer, Brad Fittler and the also-retiring Billy Slater – can count more than 250 NRL appearances, over 30 Test matches, at least 100 NRL tries and one or more NRL premierships.

Nightingale has played 265 games for the Dragons, second only to Ben Hornby's 273-match club record -- and that also incorporates the separate St George and Illawarra Steelers entities before they were amalgamated. Nightingale stepped down from international football after 33 Tests (plus one other tour game) for New Zealand between his 2008 debut and last year's World Cup clash with Scotland.

Fittingly for one who soared across the line for many of his tries, Nightingale's Kiwis number is 747. His 110 Dragons tries have been bettered only by Matt Cooper and Brett Morris while his 19 Test tries rank him second equal with Nigel Vagana behind Manu Vatuvei (22). The premiership triumph came in 2010, when Nightingale touched down twice in the 32-8 Grand Final victory over the Sydney Roosters.

The Dragons have awarded Nightingale every individual trophy within their club during his 12 seasons in the top grade, including Player of the Year in 2011. He shared in the Kiwis' 2008 World Cup success, when his sole appearance was a try-scoring one against England, and was again among the scorers when New Zealand beat the Kangaroos to win both the 2010 and 2014 Four Nations finals.

Weighing little more than 70kg when he cleared junior ranks, Nightingale was always competing against much bigger rivals and took time to consolidate his place on the New Zealand right wing. He first played in the losing ARL Centenary Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 2008 and replaced an injured Brent Webb in the World Cup squad later that year. The 2018 Media Guide lists Nightingale at 91kg.

Although widely regarded as a specialist wing, Nightingale has also proved a worthy fullback option in emergencies. Earlier this season Dragons coach Paul McGregor shocked fans – and possibly Nightingale – by using him off the bench among the forwards in midfield. A willing Nightingale took a pummeling on occasions, suffering a neck injury, but never flinched from his philosophy of “team first”.

“I found a lot of motivation in not wanting to let people down,” Nightingale told NRL.com. “That is something I am proud of myself for being able to do. I love the game. I don't love wing or fullback as a preference, I just love the game. I love tackling people and I love being tackled. I love contact.” His try-scoring deeds made headlines, but his courage on defence and under the high ball equally wowed his team-mates.

Nightingale modestly claimed he would have failed miserably at individual sports, supporting his pride in “team first” and in wearing only one jersey since first pulling on the Red V as a 15-year-old junior. From there he advanced to club and international fame, never more so than in 2010 when his Grand Final and Four Nations triumphs led to selection in the Rugby League World magazine Team of the Year.

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St George Illawarra officials offered Nightingale another season but, typically, he looked around at the promising youngsters challenging for first grade selection and decided to step aside. “Team first” after all. He will join fellow illustrious retirees Jonathan Thurston, Billy Slater, Simon Mannering, Luke Lewis, Ryan Hoffman, Sam Thaiday and Chris Heighington after the final whistle is blown on the 2018 season.

Duane Fyfe Returns To CRL

By John Coffey QSM

Author of ten rugby league books, Christchurch Press sports writer (44 years), NZ correspondent for Rugby League Week (Australia) and Open Rugby (England)



RUGBY LEAGUE in Canterbury received its best news for a long time with the appointment of Duane Fyfe as the new CRL chief executive officer. Fyfe is effectively returning to the job he filled from 2004 to 2008, when the position was known as general manager, before travelling extensively overseas. He starts early next month.

A near musical chairs situation has existed for the last decade, with the role most recently filled by former Olympic women’s hockey representative Shane Collins. She resigned at the annual general meeting a few weeks ago. Fyfe’s most recent appointments have been with Rugby League Northland and Touch Canterbury.

Fyfe is a real rugby league man, to the extent that he found links with the sport in some most unlikely countries during his travels. In the past he has managed New Zealand Army, Junior Kiwis and New Zealand Residents teams and, as the CRL press release pointed out, he has a deep understanding of the game at all levels.

“CRL are very fortunate to obtain Duane for the CEO role, where he can bring both rugby league knowledge and business background to the game,” said CRL chairman Simon Doig. “Duane will be working closely with the clubs and key stakeholders in developing the new strategy forward for CRL in the first few months.”

Rugby league in Canterbury is literally at a crossroads. A century-old association with its spiritual home in Addington is about to be ended as it looks towards a move to a new sports complex down the road in 2019. The CRL office has had four homes in seven years, another symptom of what has been an orphan sport.

While the citizens of Christchurch have been bombarded by the Canterbury Rugby Union’s increasing distaste for the “temporary” AMI Stadium and with claims it desperately needs a \$500 million dollar covered “multi-purpose” facility, it is actually rugby league which has been homeless since the 2010-11 earthquakes.

AMI Stadium was Rugby League Park (and before it the Addington Show Grounds), a strip of turf which traces back to the 13-a-side code’s very first game in the city in 1912 and where it became the A and P Association’s permanent winter tenant in 1951. The CRL held a lease with the Christchurch City Council through to 2040.

Whereas the CRL had previously struggled to convince its city council landlord to carry out even basic maintenance before the earthquakes, the council and the previous Government had no hesitation in annexing it to replace the ruined Lancaster Park. Within 100 days they spent \$20 million to give the Crusaders a home venue.

Rugby union fans were initially thrilled to have a rectangular field which brought them close to the action. More recently they have condemned its basic construction. Crusaders officials have contradicted themselves by rubbishing the venue while simultaneously trying to attract spectators to poorly-attended playoff matches.

Rugby league has been able to play most of its provincial games and two NRL fixtures there. But last August the CRL grand final was shunted out to suburban Linfield Park – home of the Linwood rugby union club – with the excuse Christchurch had experienced a wet winter. Yet no games were played at AMI for weeks either side of it.

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There is no chance that rugby league will ever return to its traditional home. The council has included it along with athletics, tennis and hockey at a new Nga Puna Wai sports complex. Ironically, the facility is positioned alongside Canterbury Agricultural Park, where the A and P Association moved from Addington in 1997.

As with everything else in Christchurch's rebuild, several proposed Nga Puna Wai openings failed to materialise. But last week it was announced the international standard athletics track had been completed and would stage the national championships for the next two summers. Twelve outdoor tennis courts had also been laid.

Two international water-based hockey pitches are also nearing completion, and we were told the two rugby league fields would be ready for the 2019 season. One of them will have a smallish grandstand, with reported seat numbers seemingly dwindling over time from 600 to about 440, and some grassed embankments.

While it will undoubtedly be pristine on opening, it is much smaller than its predecessor. The Show Grounds in their prime accommodated crowds in excess of 12,000, with seating for about 4400. By giving rugby league a mini-replacement, maybe the powers-that-be want us to join the call for a big new covered stadium!

The 2018 grand final is being billed as a farewell to club football at "Rugby League Park" and will feature Linwood, one of the original four clubs from 105 years ago. Linwood beat Northern 48-10 in the major semi-final, while Hornby beat Halswell 50-6 in the minor semi. Northern and Hornby clash in this Saturday's preliminary final.

Grand final Day is scheduled for Sunday, August 26, with the women's match at 1pm and Linwood and either Hornby or Northern contesting the Pat Smith Challenge Trophy at 3pm. It will be a poignant occasion. Thousands of rugby league club players have spilt sweat and blood, and known triumph and despair, on that patch of dirt.

Congratulations to Roger Tuivasa-Sheck on reaching 50 games for the Vodafone Warriors this weekend!



SATURDAY 18TH AUGUST



live from 3pm

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Penrith's new coach Cameron Ciraldo while playing with the Newtown Jets in 2005.



By Barry Ross

Merry Go Round

THE NRL coaching merry go round is big new in the Australian media. The sporting pages in last Sunday's Sydney papers were full of stories about the future of four coaches. Wayne Bennett, Trent Barrett and Ivan Cleary were prominent in the papers, while there was also plenty of discussion about who will coach the Panthers after Anthony Griffin's abrupt sacking last week. At the Broncos, Bennett seems to have the support of his playing group but not the administrators of the club. This came to the surface several weeks ago when stories circulated that the Storm's Craig Bellamy was on Brisbane's wish list for 2019. Bennett turns 69 on 1 January but is keen to continue coaching for a few more seasons. Some media people have suggested that the Brisbane coach could end up at the Panthers but I believe this to be very unlikely, mainly because I cannot see a working relationship between Penrith supremo, Phil Gould and Bennett lasting too long. After the Tigers tight 22-20 win over the Raiders on Sunday, Bennett will be under plenty of pressure to keep his team in the top eight. The Broncos could lose their next two games, against Souths in Brisbane this Thursday night and then with the Roosters in Sydney nine days later on 25 August. The Tigers also have two tough matches in their last three. They meet the Dragons this week, then Manly and finish the regular season on Thursday night 30 August against South Sydney.

Barrett at 40 years of age is a different story. He has plenty of coaching in front of him. He has a background at Penrith, joining the club in October 2012 as an assistant to the then Panthers head coach, Ivan Cleary. Now in his third season with Manly, the Sunday papers reported that Barrett was unhappy with at Manly because of the lack of football resources. He still has two years left on his current contract, but if his off-field support from Manly was not up to scratch, it would be a way out for him. If this happened, Penrith would be a quick solution for both the Panthers and Barrett.

Soon after Griffin's dismissal, Wests Tigers head coach, Ivan Cleary, was mentioned as a possible replacement. This resulted in plenty of anger and even disgust throughout most of the Rugby League community that Cleary might break his current contract which lasts until the end of 2020. In the past few days, Cleary has released a statement confirming that he would honour his agreement with the Tigers and that he had not received a formal approach from Penrith. Gould too has played down any offer, saying it was an innocent discussion about Cleary's long term future. To many it seems amazing that Cleary, now 47 years of age, would be interested in returning to the club where he was sacked by Gould in October 2015. Still with his son, Nathan, playing with the Panthers, it is understandable and natural, that the two would like to work together. In my opinion, there is plenty about what is happening at Penrith that has not been made public.

Griffin has said that he has plenty of support following his axing. In a story on Sunday, he revealed that he had received texts from almost every Penrith player, including a lovely message from Nathan Cleary. Despite these messages, it does not confirm that the players were happy with his coaching methods. Griffin also received messages from other first grade coaches such as Trent Robinson (Roosters), Anthony Seibold (Souths) and the Warriors coach, Stephen Kearney, as well as leading Rugby League identities, Darren Lockyer, Wally Lewis, Todd Greenberg, Bart Campbell and Dennis Watt.

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He also received a message of support from Wallaby coach, Michael Cheika. No doubt there are still several twists and turns to come from the Griffin situation. Why did Penrith resign him just last November until the end of 2020? It will be a large amount needed to pay out Griffin and also sign a new coach. No wonder the NRL is concerned about the spending of clubs. Cameron Ciraldo, 33, will coach the Panthers for the remainder of this season and I believe he will also be given the reigns next year, unless Ivan Cleary miraculously becomes available.

With three games to go before the playoffs, I believe the teams currently in the top eight will remain in this position. Brisbane appears vulnerable and the Tigers have put themselves in a position to move into the eight. But the Tigers probably have to win their last three games to make the cut and this will not be easy. After last weekend's round, five of the top eight teams appear to be in good form at the business end of the season, while the other three are not playing near their best. The Roosters were good in their 18-14 win over Souths on Friday night and despite the loss, Souths were not too far behind them. The Warriors were good against the Knights, while the Sharks were methodical against the Storm. The Storm were not at their best but they are still hard to beat. Watching the Storm-Cronulla game on TV, I was alarmed at several arm grabs which were close to chicken wing tackles. One of these by a Storm forward on Josh Duggan, five minutes before halftime, was alarming to me but did not bother the two on-field touch judges or the two touch judges. On the other side of the ledger, the Broncos lost their second successive game, while the Dragons were poor and have injury worries about Gareth Widdop. I know the Panthers got out of gaol to beat the Titans and their come-from-behind record lately has been impressive. But when they come up against the top sides they will have problems in doing this and unless they can play better in the first hour or so of their matches, they will be beaten.

The media are rightly giving plenty of credit to the Warriors back three of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, David Fusitu'a and Ken Maumalo. Knights halfback, Mitchell Pearce, complemented this trio after the Warriors win at Mt. Smart on Saturday. But there are also many other dangerous players in the team. The skill of Shaun Johnson, Issac Luke and Blake Green will be prominent in the games ahead, while the forwards as a unit are certainly doing their job. The Warriors defence in their last two games has been very impressive. Warrior Stats from the Knights game that interested me were the 727 post contact metres, the 45 tackle breaks and the 90 percent tackle effective rate. On the negative side, they lost the penalty count for the ninth successive game, this time 7-6.

The Bunker was at it again on Saturday. At the Gold Coast, on Saturday In the Titans-Panthers game, they corrected a call from a line drop out to a seven tackle 25 metre tap and that was good. But earlier in the game, they did not interfere to change an incorrect scrum feed call by the referees. Both these decisions favoured the Panthers.

It seems the NRL is well down the track now to begin next season in Los Angeles on 9 March. The game seems likely to be between Souths and Manly and the NRL are hopeful of using the star power of Souths owner, Russell Crowe and Manly supporter, Hugh Jackman, in promoting the clash in the American market.

Good luck to the All Blacks for their game against Australia in Sydney this Saturday!





By Shane Hurdell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Taafi Tears Into Oahu Huia With Four Tries

UNSTOPPABLE FORCE Tamatea secondrower Joe Taafi scores one of his four tries during Saturday's 40-22 win against Omahu Huia. PHOTO: HAWKE'S BAY TODAY

TAMATEA SECONDROWER Joe Taafi scored four tries in Saturday's opening round of Hawke's Bay's premier men's rugby league competition.

Taafi's 16-point haul came in Tamatea's 40-22 win against Omahu Huia at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings. Rugby League Hawke's Bay draw master Mike Tamati has placed all seven senior men's teams in the premier comp for the start of the season and he will divide them into premier and reserve grade divisions once he gauges the calibre of the teams. As has been the case for more than a decade in the Bay the province's league competitions are played during spring to avoid a clash with the club rugby comps.

One of Taafi's secondrow partners, Mark Ioane, was also prominent for Tamatea. He kicked four goals and was just as powerful at centre as he was during his minutes as a forward.

Standoff Haisley Robson directed the Tamatea backline well. Johnny Saifiti, Te Rira Rowlands, Jordarn Harmer and former Hawks basketballer Mataeus Marsh were the other tryscorers for Tamatea.

"We did well for a team we just managed to scrape together," Omahu Huia coach Aki Renata said.

"We lost six players to Bridge Pa and several are busy with rep rugby so we are virtually starting all over again. We were competing well until we lost Taniera [standoff Miratana] with a hamstring injury midway through the second half," Renata added.

His best players were hooker Eddie Miratana and winger Ivan Renata.

Other games saw Bridge Pa A beat Maraenui 42-

18, Dannevirke Tigers pip Bay Bulldogs 40-36 and Bridge Pa B beat Flaxmere 32-20. Premier champions Kahuranaki had the bye on Saturday.

Bridge Pa A player-coach Ihaka Waerea has recruited well in his quest to improve on last year's second placing. But he only gave Saturday's performance a 5/10.

Former Napier Panthers secondrower Leroy Taiapa impressed in the Bridge Pa pack. Captain and centre Jeston Craig and winger Roger Paewai, who made his debut for Bridge Pa after transferring from Omahu, were dangerous attackers in the Bridge Pa backline.

Maraenui are coached by the Bay's most successful premier club coach, 78-year-old Waka Leonard, and they had former Hawke's Bay Strongest Man competition winner Sam Magele playing at prop.

"Sam was a beast. Our boys really struggled to contain him," Waerea said.

Waerea was rapt all three of the Bridge Pa sides won on Saturday. Bridge Pa, the defending champions in the women's grade, who are coached by Leonard's son and former Hawke's Bay Unicorns player and coach Alan Mason, opened their campaign with an 85-10 walloping of Hastings Rugby and Sports.

The other women's game saw Tamatea hand newcomers YMP an 88-0 drubbing. YMP missed six players who had rugby commitments in Wairoa and the bulk of their players were new to league.



By Miles Davis

Breathe Out Warriors Fans

Issac Luke does a haka to friends in the crowd as they acknowledge his 250th NRL game. Photo www.photosport.nz

IHAVE A question – How many of the Vodafone Warriors faithful are breathing more easily this morning? Friday night's win has boosted the Vodafone Warrior's prospects of a play-off spot and should have eased the tension for most fans.

In recent weeks there has been a lot of gloom and doom about the prospects of the Vodafone Warriors making the post-season. This was fuelled, not just by a run of poor performances and results, but also by a recent history of disappointments as far as reaching the play-offs goes. One can understand even the most ardent of supporters fearing the worst after feeling the pain so often. After all if a dog keeps on biting you then you are going to be nervous about petting it.

However if one could stand back and have a look at the NRL overall there may not have been the need for so much angst. This is a tough, exceedingly competitive competition with many teams experiencing fluctuations in form over the 24 game regular season. Here are some examples that underline that. The Penrith Panthers are lying 4th (just 2 points above the Vodafone Warriors) and have won their last 3 games. But they had lost 4 of the previous 5 which would have had their fans feeling the same sort of dread affecting the Mt Smart faithful. Wests Tigers had lost 4 on the trot and were surely destined for a miserable season but have now won 4 of their last 5 to lie just outside the top 8, two points behind the Brisbane Broncos who have lost their last 2. The Melbourne Storm had won 8 straight and looked sure to be minor premiers but back to back losses sees them now in 3rd and 2 points off the top of the table. My beloved Dragons had been top of the table and demolishing sides left right and centre but have now lost 5 of their last 6, including a shameful 40-4 battering by then bottom of the table Eels (who by the way were certain wooden-spooners but have now won 3 of their last 4 and clawed their way off the bottom). The point I am trying to make is that although it is natural to get negative about your team after a couple of defeats, the reality of the NRL is that everything can change in a couple of weeks. The Vodafone Warriors magnificent 2nd half defensive effort last week against the Dragons followed up by a professional and solid performance against the Knights has seen them pick up maximum points and put them in the box seat for a top 8 berth.

Of course it is preferable to go into the play-offs with a bit of momentum behind you so we should all hope that the Vodafone Warriors can kick on over the next 3 games and get themselves a higher berth. But should they have a slip-up or two, don't panic. Keep the faith. I guarantee you that no other side will be relishing playing them. There is no side in the NRL that can produce the sort of football the Vodafone Warriors can on their day and that is what makes them not only dangerous, but a joy to watch when they are in full flight.

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If you want to see a set of fans with a real reason to fear for their prospects in September then take a look at myself and my fellow Dragons fans. As happened last season, the wheels have fallen off in dramatic style. A side that looked great prospects to be minor premiers are now struggling to stay afloat. Had they not picked up so many points earlier in the season they would be looking more like favourites to finish bottom of the table. Am I panicking? No (well perhaps slightly) I am confident, or should that be delusional, that we will string a couple of good performances together over the remaining games of the regular season and go into the post-season in rampant form. With luck it could mean we meet the Vodafone Warriors in the Grand Final which would be a dream come true for me.

The reality is that the Vodafone Warriors look in as good a shape as any to take away the big prize so enjoy the ride.

LOCAL RUGBY league News from Christchurch. Mitchell Fletcher plays Under 6's for the Rolleston Warriors. At prizegiving on Saturday he was awarded Sportsman of the Year for the Under 6's, as well as his team receiving Team of the Year. He also had the huge honour of receiving Sportsman of the Year for the Rolleston Warriors club at just 5 years of age. Pictured with his Patu for Club Sportsman of the Year, and also with his Coach Nui Ririnui, Michell and Trainer Alex Faimalo.



IPOPPED INTO Players Sports in Melrose st in Newmarket a few weeks ago and was pleased with the Vodafone Warriors gear on display.

Check them out on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/PlayersSportsNZ/>



This Warriors Life Top 10: Most Tries In A Season By A Warriors Player

By Will Evans

DAVID FUSITU'A snapped a five-game try drought on Friday night to keep alive his chances of finishing 2018 as the NRL's top try-scorer and eclipse Francis Meli's club record for most tries in a season.

This week TWL revisits the most prolific tryscoring campaigns by Warriors players.

THISWARRIORSLIFE.COM TOP 10 – MOST TRIES IN A SEASON BY A WARRIORS PLAYER

10=. Solomone Kata – 15 (2016)

After ending Manu Vatuvei's nine-season reign as the Warriors' try king with 12 touchdowns in his 2015 rookie year, centre powerhouse Kata led the club again in his sophomore campaign with 15 tries. Kata got off to a flyer with seven tries in the opening six rounds and came home with a wet sail, crossing five times in his last three games, to finish equal-seventh in the NRL. The Tonga and New Zealand international is second at the club behind David Fusitu'a this year with 10 meat pies.



10=. Stacey Jones – 15 (1999)

The mercurial Jones always had a nose for getting over the stripe – racking up 77 tries in 261 first-grade games – but he turned into a genuine try-poacher in 1999. After notching just two doubles in his first 100 appearances for the club, Jones boosted his '99 season tally with a club-record-equalling four-try haul against Western Suburbs in the final round.



7=. David Fusitu'a – 16 (2018)*

'Fus' has crossed 16 times in 19 games this season – fourth in the NRL and just three behind leader Valentine Holmes. But for most of the season the rangy Warriors flyer was winning the competition's tryscoring race, with his hat-trick against Manly giving him 15 tries in just 13 appearances. Injury and a subsequent five-game drought dented Fusitu'a's hopes but a barnstorming four-pointer against Newcastle last Friday has put him back in the frame.



7=. Manu Vatuvei – 16 (2013)

An injury-hampered start to 2013 left 'The Beast' try-less after five rounds but he exploded into action with eight touchdowns in his next six outings. A nine-minute hat-trick in the penultimate round against Canberra saw Vatuvei power past Konrad Hurrell (13) as the Warriors' top try-scorer for the ninth straight year.



7=. Manu Vatuvei – 16 (2008)

Despite missing 10 games with injury, Vatuvei finished among the NRL's top 10 try-scorers in a season that saw him make the transition from enigma to world-class winger. His double in the penultimate round against Penrith and a demon-exorcising hat-trick at Parramatta Stadium a week later were critical to the Warriors scraping into the top eight, and he backed up that blistering form with tries in finals wins over Melbourne and Sydney Roosters. Vatuvei was later named as one of the Top Five Players of 2008 in David Middleton's Official Rugby League Annual.



5=. Manu Vatuvei – 17 (2014)

Big Manu played a career-high 23 games in 2014 and cashed in with 17 tries – equal-third in the NRL at the end of the regular season. Following a dry mid-season run, Vatuvei collected another hat-trick at the Raiders' expense in a year that also saw him break into the premierships' top 20 try-scorers of all time. 1



5=. Clinton Toopi – 17 (2003)

Dynamic centre Toopi backed up his breakout 2002 campaign with another stellar year in '03, crossing 17 times in 22 games for the Warriors. The 23-year-old scored 11 tries in his last 10 outings of the NRL season – including a hat-trick against Wests Tigers – and cemented his status as arguably the world's best centre with another treble for the Kiwis against Australia at the end of the year.



4. Clinton Toopi – 18 (2002)

The Taranaki-born game-breaker was the Warriors' top try-scorer during their minor premierships-winning 2002 season, dotting down for 18 tries in 26 appearances. He went on a particularly productive run from Round 4, scoring 13 tries in 13 games for the surging Warriors, but the most indelible memory of Toopi in '02 was his incredible 50-metre solo try in the preliminary final triumph over Cronulla.



3. Sean Hoppe – 19 (1995)

Already regarded as one of the premierships' finest finishers after three seasons at Canberra and Norths, Hoppe lived up to the hype upon his hometown return with the fledgling Auckland Warriors. The Northcote Tigers product bagged six doubles in '95 and finished behind only Manly duo Steve Menzies and John Hopoate in the competition, while he was rewarded for a fabulous season with the Dally M Winger of the Year award.



2. Manu Vatuvei – 20 (2010)

Vatuvei's phenomenal ability to find the try-line peaked in 2010, scoring 20 tries in just 19 games. He picked up blockbusting hat-tricks against Cronulla and Newcastle, while he pieced together a seven-game streak of putting his name on the scoresheet. Shaun Kenny-Dowall and Akuila Uate (both 21 tries) edged him out for the NRL's tryscoring title.



1. Francis Meli – 23 (2003)

The hard-running, enigmatic Meli was among the NRL's front-runners for much of the 2003 season after scoring 13 tries in his first 14 games, but a five-game drought allowed the likes of Rhys Wesser, Nigel Vagana, Matt Sing and Scott Donald to streak ahead. However, a flurry of five tries in the last four rounds put him within reach of Sean Hoppe's club record, which he obliterated with an all-time finals record five tries in the Warriors' mind-blowing 48-22 win over the Bulldogs. He finished the year second behind Wesser (25). Meli's next best return during a seven-year career in the NRL was 11 tries in 25 games in 2001, though he did manage 23 tries in as many outings for St Helens in the 2010 Super League season.





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

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 23

NRL Round 23		Tarsh Ieremaia	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Neville Kesha	High-Tackle Holloway
Date/ Venue	Game	<i>Flava Star. Moving to the beat.</i>	<i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	<i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran Leagueie</i>	<i>Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...</i>	<i>The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife</i>	<i>Ex International Referee</i>	<i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Rich- mond Leagueie</i>
Thurs 16 Aug suncorp	Broncos v Rabbits	Rabbits	Broncos	Rabbits	Broncos	Rabbits	Rabbits	Broncos
Fri 17 Aug Lottoland	Sea Eagles v Titans	Titans	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles
Fri 17 Aug AAMI	Storm v Eels	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm
Sat 18 Aug Panther Std	Panthers v Knights	Knights	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
Sat 18 Aug Leichardt	Tigers v Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Tigers	Tigers	Dragons	Tigers	Tigers
Sat 18 Aug Sth Cross	Sharks v Cowboys	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks
Sun 19 Aug ANZ	Bulldogs v Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
Sun 19 Aug GIO	Raiders v Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters

Picks last week	3/8	5/8	3/8	4/8	2/8	6/8	6/8
Total picks	101	94	102	99	94	111	95

They Say It Ain't Over Till....

The large person sings, well I can hear her clearing her throat. Our brave boys away to Bulldogs this week and our travelling record is positive, in other words unlike other years we've got off that Silver Bird and beat a few. That will cement the eight, then Panthers and Raiders at Mt Smart present the opportunity to get down n dirty amongst the Home Semi slots. That's the plan Stan. A fairly controlled performance against the Knights I thought, I get the feeling we could have pressed a bit harder on the throat in the second half but it didn't happen. Still 20/4 was a good result...and 2 in a row which had been eluding us. RTS was stellar, Green on fire and Lukestar and the team on task, cool bananas brothers. I note a few other sides are looking a bit jaded, the Doggies, Raiders, Knights, Dragons and even the Broncos just a shade lackluster for mine. The first three maybe realise the seasons gone but the last two need to get the mojo workin if they want to step out in September. Ivan Clearys trailing Tigers are homing in with their eyes on the prize.... a late entry to the 8.

The Roosters and the Rabbitohs duked it out at ANZ , a fairly even affair really with the Bondi Junction crew crowing but not by much 18/14. They get bragging rights for now but that won't count later on. The Storm got set back as well 14/17 by Flannos sharpshooting Sharks but this result also wont carry that much weight when the big dance manoeuvring gets Semi-Serious. Most pundits will say that the ultimate survivor should come from this bunch but the Boys from the Blue Mountain and the Mighty Warriors might have something to say about that. What is really heating up is the Battle of the Bottom as the Doggies, Eels and JT's Far North cattle rustlers jostle to avoid the dreaded wooden spoon.

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16 points a piece for the Cellar-dwellers. The Eels and Cowboys have actually found form of late and both had surprising wins. The Paratroopers sliced and diced the Red V 40/4 and the Cowboys at home looked more like the real deal as they pipped arch rival Bennetts Brisbanites 34/30. Mind you both have daunting away hurdles this week with the Eels up against the tempestuous Storm and the Cowboys facing the Shifty Sharks, meanwhile the Doggies are at home to the mighty Warriors. All 3 of the "Desperate Dans" could go to round 24 still squared up. Go figure.

Hardluck prizes this week would go to the Titans who fell foul of Penriths usual heartbreaking last minute get out of jail trick 16/17 and Rickys rueful Raiders who fell just short of reining in the Tigers at 20/22. A win to the Green Machine would have been a big help to those bottom of the 8 teams that are looking over the shoulder.

TIPPING as usual as we get to the business end the cream rises to the top, High tackle lead the scoring for a second week running with 6 from 8, along with Nifty Nev. When I say rises I am exaggerating a little as I still linger closer to the bottom than the lead but you know what I mean. I am running hot but I'm not. With 3 rounds left it is going to take a big turnaround for Tarsh and JC to catch Nev the Whistle-Blower Keshu. The man in the middle is more like the man way out front! My spies tell me he is actually in the Mad Butchers "Luxury Lounge in the Sky" for every home game, wining, dining and smoozing tips from the rich and famous and very knowledgeable footy followers gathered therein. Myself I am ground level Bay 33 sipping plastic cup beers with the common people and eaves-dropping any info on offer in the queue for the White Lady burgers. I like my egg runny so it can get all over my front which is always a great conversation starter when I get home to Mrs High-Tackle.

Yehaaaaa. The mighty Warriors are back in Steaknkidney this week, suiting up for the Bulldogs in the Sunday ticket at ANZ Stadium. Get your gears on, get in front of the moving picture box and lets cheer our boys on. Kiakaha Vodafoone Warriioorrssss.

Wishing the Vodafone Warriors teams all the best this weekend!



Be a Grandstand Millionaire!

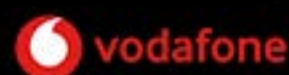
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Just head to a Vodafone Warriors home game, download the Vodafone Stadium Live App, register for Grandstand Millionaire and pick the try scorers in order.

If you nail it, you could be walking home with up to a million dollars!



The future is exciting.
Ready?





Southland District Round League

By SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

Photos by: Dave Loudon

Otago Whalers Win Rugby League Game By Narrow Margin .

AN OPENING round of the South Island premier rugby league competition was played between the Southland Rams and Otago Whalers at the Southland District Rugby League grounds at Elles Road last Saturday .

Otago and Southland players are no strangers to each other with players on both sides having met during the combined Otago / Southland competition earlier in the season .

The Rams opened the scoring with a try just 10 minutes in to the game and they successfully converted it . The Whalers were hot on their tail and punched through a try 5 minutes after that , but missed the conversion kick . The Whalers went on to score two more tries in the first half , bringing the half time score to : Whalers 14 Rams 6 .

The Rams had to play catch up in the second half . The Whalers scored tries very early in the second half followed on by the Rams gaining another try. The rest of the game panned out fairly evenly with both teams going try for try . However when Dunedin Referee Mike Rangihaka blew the full time whistle the score was Whalers 26 and Rams 22.

Try Scorers for the Whalers : Teriapii Taia , Willie Time , Owen Draper , Jong Hoon Lee and Marcel Taani all scored a try each .

Conversions for the Whalers : Louis Tili (3)

Try Scorers for the Rams : Ramera Chambers , Daniel Low , Tuki Hiko and Silvanus Raimona all scored a try each .

Conversions for the Rams : Sam Taukiri (3)

It was a fast flowing game played in a clean manner before a good crowd of supporters and spectators . There was some “ interesting “ predictions from the sidelines ! The Rams effective training and practices drew them close to a win . The Rams are of to Greymouth later in the week to play the West Coast Chargers at Greymouth – Hoping for a win and certainly no rain ! Otago Whalers have the bye next weekend .

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



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Fairy-Tale Finish For Back-To-Back Champions Steel



A SCOT PARK Hotel Southern Steel have sent their captain Wendy Frew out on a dramatic high after coming from behind for a fairy-tale ANZ Premiership crown.

They beat Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse 54-53 at Fly Palmy Arena in Palmerston North on Sunday to claim back-to-back titles.

It marked a magical win for the Steel and outgoing captain Frew who has now played her last game in the blue dress.

They did it in dramatic fashion netting the last seven goals of the game to spoil the hosts' party after the Pulse looked in control for much of the game.

The Steel trailed by four goals heading into the deciding spell and with just over three minutes to play were still three goals behind.

But the determination and composure of the Steel, which has been a trademark of their play, proved the difference in a tense last quarter.

There were few surprises with either starting line-ups with Ameliaranne Ekenasio's experience perhaps giving her the edge to take the starting goal attack bib for the Pulse in what was her 50th game at this level.

She repaid the faith of her coach with a confidence shooting display and sharing the load with teenage shooter Aliyah Dunn.

Both teams made solid starts but an intercept from Pulse centre Claire Kersten was converted to give the hosts the first edge.

They held an 8-5 lead at the mid-way stage of the first quarter but a couple of missed goals gave the Steel an opportunity to level the scores.

There was no easy route into the Steel's shooting circle with Karin Burger, who showed no signs of the rolled ankle she suffered 10 days ago, and Kersten disrupting the attacking flow.

The duo was inspirational through the middle in the first quarter as they picked up one intercept and two deflections between them.

The Pulse led 16-10 at the break and threatened to run away with the game early in the second spell as they extended the difference to 10 goals after five minutes of play.

Ekenasio was given too much space on attack as she dictated the pace of play up front and offered strong support for Dunn.

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But the Steel are a side with plenty of finals experience and their core of senior heads knew when to switch gear to keep the game within their grasp.

Goal attack Te Paea Selby-Rickit led the march up front as she lifted her workload around the circle and increased her attempts at goal.

The Pulse's penalty count spiked in the second stanza as the Steel shooters started to find their feet and the deficit was slashed to six goals at the main break.

Leading 30-24, Pulse coach Yvette McCausland-Durie opted to make one change heading into the second half with Ekenasio making way for young team-mate Tiana Metuarau.

The Steel charge continued as the confidence of Selby-Rickit and O'Connell grew and there was just three goals the difference midway through the third quarter.

It prompted the return of Ekenasio to the court with just under three minutes left in the spell in a bid to inject some pace up front.

With 15 minutes to play, and the Pulse leading just 42-38, the visitors' big names stepped up with Selby-Rickit sisters, Te Paea and Te Huinga Reo, spearheading the challenge at either ends of the court.

Cruelly it was Ekenasio, who had played such a telling role in the final, who missed a last attempt at goal which would have sent the game into extra time.

Congratulations to the Ascot Park Hotel Southern Steel on winning the ANZ Premiership Crown!



v



8PM FRIDAY AUGUST 24

MT SMART STADIUM

Mitchell Pearce says Warriors' back three are 'best in the comp'

By Jackson Thomas - Courtesy of Stuff.co.nz

IT'S A term synonymous with the future hall of fame trio in Melbourne, but the Warriors have their own version of a big three in 2018 and fellow NRL heavyweights have taken notice.

Following Friday's 20-4 win over Newcastle, Knights captain Mitchell Pearce hailed the Warriors' back three of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Ken Maumalo and David Fusitua as the "best in the comp", after the trio ran amok and filled the stat sheet at Mt Smart Stadium.

Lead by captain Tuivasa-Sheck's mammoth 338-metres gains effort, the outside backs worked in tandem to ensure their side started sets on the front foot, something Pearce said they do better than anyone else.

"I probably rate them the best. Melbourne have got a pretty good back three, the Roosters with Fergo (Blake Ferguson) and guys like that. But with the way Roger's playing at the moment and their two wingers, they're unreal," he said.

"There was times there they were making 30 or 40 metres in three plays just on their own. I was hoping I could try recruit them to our side mid game actually."

Pearce, who ran out for NRL game number 250 on Friday, spent several seasons playing with the Warriors' fullback at the Roosters.

He said he was pleased to have seen Tuivasa-Sheck develop so much this side of the Tasman.

"He's been awesome Roger, obviously I played a bit with him at the Roosters and he was our player of the year there one year. He's a super player and [has] really become a great leader here for the Kiwis.

Knights coach Nathan Brown echoed his captain's sentiment and felt the impact of the Warriors' back three ultimately proved the difference on Friday.

"We didn't handle their back three as good as we'd have liked. Roger (Tuivasa-Sheck) had a bit of a day out and the two big wingers are big, powerful men," Brown said.

"Back threes play such a big part in our contests today and Roger is up there as good as any and the two wingers, they're big, big men, so they've got a good nucleus there to really build some momentum if they have their best players in the field."

Combined, the three metre-eaters ran for more than 650m total.

Warriors coach Stephen Kearney revealed post match that he set a challenge for his back three to step up of late, after some lacklustre physical displays mid year.

"In games like these in the past, we've let ourselves down in terms of our physicality, when we haven't aimed up," he said.

"That starts when you carry the footy and Ken (Maumalo), Roger (Tuivasa-Sheck) and David (Fusitua), actually all of the back five, they set the tone for us in attack in terms of their physicality and the way they carried the footy.

"But I thought Roger's effort followed on from last week, in terms of his performance."

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Warriors Beat Auckland In Debut Match

By ARL

Warriors fullback Apii Nicholls scores a try. Photo www.photosport.nz

THE NEW Zealand Warriors women proved too strong for Auckland on Friday night at Mount Smart Stadium, running out 32-4 winners in their first ever game.

The Warriors scored five first-half tries to lead 26-0 at the break, and despite a much-improved showing in the second 40, Auckland couldn't find a way back into the match.

Manurewa Marlins winger Amber Kani opened the scoring on five minutes, after being put into a gap by veteran Richmond forward Lorina Papali'i, before the Luisa Avaiki-coached side struck twice in quick succession to make it 18-0, with the accurate boot of Apii Nicholls converting all three tries.

A breakaway effort from Tanika-Jazz Noble-Bell was followed by a Langi Veainu try down the left flank.

Hilda Mariu and Nicholls added further scores before the break to give the hosts a comfortable lead.

Auckland came out in the second half with new-found intensity, and after just 12 minutes got on the board via a bumping carry from Kararaina Wira-Kohu, which saw her drag multiple defenders over the line with her.

Any hopes of a comeback were soon thwarted though, with interchange back Sarina Fiso slicing through for her side's sixth try just eight minutes later, with Nicholls converting to leave the final score at 32-4.

The two sides will meet again in a fortnight, with the venue and date for that clash still to be confirmed, as the Warriors build towards the kick-off of the NRL Women's Premiership in September.

New Zealand Warriors 32 (Amber Kani, Hilda Mariu, Langi Veainu, Tanika-Jazz Noble-Bell, Apii Nicholls, Sarina Fiso; tries. Apii Nicholls x4 goals) def. Auckland 4 (Kararaina Wira-Kohu try)



Roger Tuivasa-Sheck will play his 50th Game for #Warriors in Round 23 - Joyce Putohe

A little bit of self indulgence I went to watch my grandson Vincent play soccer the other day and I thought I need to put this photo in the newsletter



Match Reports

By ARL

Rd 18 SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Match Reports

Mt Albert 16 Glenora 48

Glenora made an emphatic pre-finals statement to finish the regular season, powering past Mt Albert on the day the Bears received the Rukutai Shield for winning the minor premiership, with Kiwi legend Kevin Tamati on hand to present the trophy and fellow former New Zealand internationals Logan Swann and Joe Vagana among the 300-strong crowd. Up 24-0 at the break, Glenora's attack hit new levels in the second, with centre Chaz Brown doing much of the damage on his way to three tries. The Bears also welcomed back veteran players Jordan Tuarua and Soape Kavaliku from long injury lay-offs.

Northcote 40 Otahuhu 16

A 24-point haul in the second half saw Northcote through for a comfortable victory over Otahuhu. Centre Cole Waaka grabbed two tries, while the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership's leading try-scorer, James Water-son, was a strong contributor, scoring one and working hard out of yardage.

Richmond 42 Marist 10

A spectacular four-try haul from former Sydney Roosters U20 star Johnny Tuivasa-Sheck saw Richmond finish the season on a high. After being locked up at 10-10 at the break, Marist couldn't foot it with Richmond in the second half, with the Bulldogs' superior completion rate leading to a glut of points in the second spell.

Howick 34 Pt Chevalier 24

Howick claimed the fourth and final play-off spot with a convincing upset victory over Pt Chevalier. The Hornets took the lead in the seventh minute and never looked back, with forwards Reece Charlie and Tony Tuia among the standouts. Pt Chevalier scored late to reduce the final losing margin to 10 points, and will now head into the finals off back-to-back defeats.

Mangere East 18 Papakura 44

Papakura finished an otherwise disappointing 2018 campaign on a high, with a resounding victory over Mangere East. Up 30-6 at the end of the first half, Papakura went on with the job in the second, led by a strong showing from back-rower Sam Ikaiahifo and livewire fullback Willie Stowers.

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Week 1 Semi-final Match Reports

Bay Roskill 28 Manurewa 24

Twenty four unanswered points in the second half saw Bay Roskill power home to beat Manurewa, keeping their undefeated 2018 record intact and ensuring they go directly through to the major semi-finals in a fortnight. Manurewa were untouchable through the opening 40 minutes, scoring five tries to lead 24-4 at the break. But the Vikings showed just why they won the minor premiership in the second, powering back into the contest thanks to a Jerome Mamea double and a strong showing from their pack, before Xavier Tutaki went over for a converted try with 10 to go, which sealed the result.

Franklin 44 Waitemata 16

A star showing from Franklin player/coach Jody Henry lifted the Storm to a comfortable victory in their sudden-death semi against Waitemata. Henry laid on six try assists in the win, which was Franklin's first in a month. Darren Kingi was another standout for the Storm, crossing for two tries.

Continued on next page...

Otara 24 Northern 10

After a scoreless opening half hour, Otara got the upper hand over the gritty Northern Brothers and ran away with victory. The loss kicks Northern out of the play-offs. Otara captain Louis Holani led from the front, as his side turned a 14-0 half-time lead into a convincing victory at Ngati Otara Park.

Ponsonby 18 Ellerslie 16

For the second time in seven days, Ponsonby scored a try inside the final five minutes to beat Ellerslie. Down 10-8 at half-time, a second-half double from winger Anthony Goulton got Ponsonby home, with his second effort tying scores at 16-all, before Damon Niko converted to give the Ponies direct entry into the major semi-final in two weeks. Ellerslie get a second chance next week.

Second tier

Manukau 12 New Lynn 30

Fitness proved the difference for the youthful Stags in their second-tier semi against Manukau, with New Lynn reversing a 12-0 deficit at the break to record a big win. Regan Emile-Vaoga crossed for a double, while Teanikumi Piukala was a strong performer for the west Auckland club.

Pakuranga 4 Te Atatu 30

Te Atatu fell behind early but quickly recovered to make light work of Pakuranga in the second-tier semi-final. Fullback Max Urquhart and forward Dylan Murray both scored 60-metre efforts to blow the scoreline out at Ti Rakau Park.



DON & Zenny, two of our favourite lounge members of the Stacy Jones Lounge got engaged in Hawaii recently.

They were on a cruise around the Hawaiian islands. When they got to the island of Maui, Don hired a car and took Zenny to a romantic beach called Kahului. When Zenny was gazing out to sea Don went down on one knee behind her. When she turned around he asked the question.

She initially said “what are you doing” so Don asked her to marry him a second time. This time she said “Yes”

Don said the hardest thing was hiding the ring. On the morning of the proposal on the cruise boat she almost found it when she wanted to repack the Beach towels in another backpack. Don stopped her finding it just in time.

They don't intend to get married until late next year as they want to enjoy the joys of just being engaged first.

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



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MARCIA AND I met “The Mad Butcher” in Burketown Queensland

Darren and Tina run a butchery/bakery there, nice couple, good food

We are approx 120 km from there now, but may have to return for meat and groceries in few days.



Camped on this beaut river, “township” is old.

Gregory Downs Pub which sells fuel as well, and a wee shop that also sells magnificent coffee and muffins

Included a couple of photos, the Burketown butchery/bakery have really bright colourful shirts, check photos

Hope you both are well

Cheers Ian & Marcia

Hi Sir Peter,

Photo:

From left to right, Quinton Nichols, Kamaea Slattery, Brian Nichols, Jasmine Slattery & Sean Slattery.

Fantastic game and really appreciated to be invited to the Stacy Jones lounge by the Sir Peter Leitch. A first live Warriors game for the kids and they look to be back for more as there was great atmosphere at the stadium.

Go the Warriors!

SEAN SLATTERY



Dawson-Bull VODAFONE WARRIORS trip.

After watching a fantastic win against the Knights on Friday night in the Stacey Jones lounge Greg & Kath Dawson lounge members took Rewi & Paula Bull from Invercargill who fly up for the game out for a fish on Saturday.

Jersey Winners

Hi Peter,

Thank you so much for the new signed jersey. Hers my son Sam Burke in it getting amped for our family trip up from the Deep South for the game against Canberra and hopefully Simons 300th game.

Thanks again Olly in Gore



Giddy Butch,

Thanks very much for the Jersey which I was lucky enough to win.

Fits great too!

Regards

Bob McRae



Hey Peter

Thanks for the signed Vodafone Warriors jersey.

Don Schwss - 68 Years Old from Te Puke



Hi Sir Peter,

Attached is a photo of the very happy Kim Dawes with the jersey she won in the recent newsletter competition.

When I found out Kim had entered us and won she had a very happy husband.....

We will display the signed jersey with pride, thank you so much.

Excitement is building as we plan our weekends around game time.....

Go the Mighty Vodafone Warriors! Wo-hoooo!!!

Cheers

Marty and Kim Dawes
- Riversdale Beach



JUST WANT to say thank you my wife is going to get it framed for me for my birthday once again butch the prize is much appreciated. Phil Garner (from Canberra - Australia)



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ON SALE EACH WEEK!

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ROUND 23



VS



SATURDAY 18TH AUGUST
HENSON PARK
KICKOFF 3.00 PM



KICKOFF 12.45PM



Stacey Jones lounge member Pete the Pom is on holiday in the UK and is enjoying the sun at Blackpool beach



Happy birthday Rewi who flew up from Invercargill for last Friday nights game so I brought him a couple of warrior things for making the effort

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The Newsletter Team

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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