

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

5th September 2018

Newsletter #233

Congratulations to the Vodafone Warriors on making the 2018 NRL Finals



Congratulations Simon on playing your 300th game for the Vodafone Warriors we hope you enjoyed the night as we all did.



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Bloody, Penrith, Dragons and Broncos...give me a break

By David Kemeys

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



THIS IS why I am not an NRL tipster.

Last week I boldly opined that to get a home game we would need to beat the Raiders – which happened – and have results go our way – which didn't.

The Storm did not beat the Panthers and blew the Minor Premiership, bugging everything.

The Roosters, as predicted, were way too good for the Eels and snatched the Minor Premiership.

Souths ended their slump by beating a Tigers side that barely looked interested to finish third.

The Sharks at least made me look semi-competent, beating the Dogs to go fourth.

The Panthers, as mentioned, pulled off an upset no-one saw coming, and that left them in fifth.

The Broncos crushed Manly and rose to sixth, only failing to edge the Panthers – having finished on the same points and differential – because they had more points conceded.

The Dragons beat Newcastle yet dropped to seventh.

All of which saw us, despite our win over Canberra, at an almost disappointing eighth.

Being there is the only thing, and our last finals experience in 2011 took us all the way to the final from the same spot, so why not again?

It's doubtful even if I wish I could say differently, but I cannot see it happening.

There is always hope and this is a side that has delivered more than any of us expected, though one weekend journalist banged on endlessly about how terrible it was after our good start to the year that we did not secure a top four spot.

Bollocks. I am more than happy with our year, which I did not see going this well.

Our first up assignment then is the Panthers on Saturday.

A few weeks ago they were all over the place. The coach was shown the door yet his side was winning from ridiculous positions, overcoming huge obstacles to do so.

With the coach out, things wobbled badly with back to back losses and everyone, including me, was telling you it was all over for the boys from the Blue Mountains.

No one gave them a show of beating Melbourne but they did.

Of all the match-ups possible this is the side I wanted, but not the venue.

Having said that, we have won plenty on the road and while we got our arse served to us on a plate when we went to Penrith, we have since beaten them at our place.

The Panthers are a bit like us, in that you do not know which side will turn up, the one that thrashed us, the one that can win from behind, or the rabble we saw in recent weeks.

I'm praying for the rabble they have been – if only because it will wind Gus Gould up.

Whatever the result we have done well and don't let anyone tell you different.

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No one gave us show, several picked us for the wooden spoon, and we were told Mt Smart was the place careers went to die.

They were all wrong then, and 80 minutes of football at Penrith could make them wrong again.

All you can do is turn up in week one and do our best.

Bring it on, and thanks for the ride, it's been more enjoyable in 2018 than it has been in a long time.

Journalists Find A lot To Admire

I enjoyed various season wrap-ups and predictions. Newshub's league tragic s took a punt on player of the year and all but one said Roger Tuivasa-Sheck. Spot on.

They turned their attention to best recruit, and if Tohu Harris is not first, second and third then something is wrong, though Adam Blair and Agnatius Paasi were both mentioned.

Asked for a moment of the year only those who opted for Shaun Johnson's back-to-back field goals against Canberra to grab us that 20-19 win need take a bow.

Sure there were lots of other highlights, not least of which the outrageous offload from Peta Hiku on Friday night that sent David Fusitu'a in at the corner, but when you are down 19-12 with three minutes to go and score a converted try, then two goals, it's hard to go past it.

But I guess where the real interest lay was in tips for how deep into the play-offs we could go.

It would be unfair to name names but some tipsters seemed to be relying on a home semi, and we now know that is not going to happen, and others opting for more surprises from our boys.

But the general consensus, we will win in week one and exit in week two.

Stuff's league reporters were at it too, RTS again red hot for Player of the Year, with Harris and Blair again favoured as the best signings.

That Canberra win got a vote as the moment of the year, but so too did Simon Mannering's 300th; but I always like the worst moment categories – where the disaster on Anzac Day was on an equal footing to getting towelled by the Titans. Personally I'd go for the overlooked forward pass that sunk us against the Sharks. Those two points and our finals destiny might be entirely different.

They too were doubters about our finals credentials, predicting week two at best.

Winning Ugly Is Fine By Me

Our Warriors were not at their best against the Raiders in what I thought was a rather spiteful game.

But we won 20-16 and rocketed up the table and things looked good for us. Then it all unravelled.

Play like that in week one and it will be bye-bye for sure. It is about to go up another level and at least there is experience and wisdom in our side that has me hoping we will not play like possums in the lights.

You have to be happy with our best regular season in seven years, overcoming the Perth hoodoo, winning regularly in Australia and a hundred other improvements .

Harris has already had a spray about eliminating errors, and that is what I mean. His experience and standing won't be ignored, and when someone of his stature tells you that any repeat next week or beyond will be fatal, you are going to listen.

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"You can't freeze when the whole competition's on the line. We went away from the things that worked well for us. I'm glad we experienced that and we'll take the lessons from it."

Crossing the Tasman shouldn't be off-putting given how often we have won on the road but coach Stephen Kearney is making all the noises. "Standards slipped against Canberra but we muscled up against a big pack and found a way to win."

Let's hope we can do it again.

Our Faith Finally Rewarded

Miserable nights in the pissing rain at Mt Smart in a crowd of 408 as we got bashed by the Sharks...don't remember that. All those horrible memories of hard times - and there have been plenty, suddenly faded.

I'm chuffed for the loyal fans who have stuck by our much-maligned side.

Thick and thin I think they call it, and it has been a long diet of thin.

Shoving it up the critics is sweet.

Wooden-spoon, nah.

First coach to be sacked, nah.

Can't start, nah.

Can't win away, nah.

Can't win in Perth, nah.

Never fit, nah.

No depth, nah.

Our five-game winning start was our best ever and included a win in Perth.

We slumped mid-season - one and four - and the knockers loved it.

Then the bandwagon riders started to front, and that's fine by me. Better bums on seats and some noise adding to the atmosphere than not.

In came Adam Blair, Gerard Beale, Peta Hiku, Tohu Harris and most importantly, Blake Green. Out went Manu Vatuvei, Ben Matulino, Konrad Hurrell and others, evidence the same old story would not be tolerated.

In too came some smart people, trainer Alex Corvo credited with turning overweight and slow-starting players into athletes, and Brian Smith, who has more NRL experience than you can shake a stick at.

No matter what the reasons, the one thing that is absolutely evident was the self-belief and faith in each other - Mason Lino is the best evidence.

Time to take a deep breath and keep the faith.

Warriors No More

The final whistle in the last regular game always heralds the end of careers, and for Simon Mannering it was no different. I was gutted he received a knock, a sternum injury, that kept him out of the second half. I would have loved for him to be out there at the end, but it was not to be.

Also now gone are Ata Hingano to the raiders and Albert Vete to the Storm, and I am sorry to see Anthony Gelling off to Widnes in the Super League because he was good when called upon. Manaia Cherrington and Zac Santo also depart after not being offered contracts for 2019.

Fortune-telling

What a season - one to four all on 34 points, five to eight all on 32.

Now to the heavyweight end and how it will all unfold.

Given that I have admitted to being the worst tipster in league history, this is how week one will pan out - or at least I hope so.

Roosters v Sharks - Roosters

Melbourne v Souths - Melbourne

Penrith v Warriors - Warriors

Brisbane v St George - Brisbane





In the Stacey Jones Lounge

Photos by Dave McKee (From Christchurch)



Adam Worth gets the Blue Waters stay at Napier for his work for looking after the POMS!.



Christel gets the Blue Waters Hotel accommodation voucher.



Daryl (Hairbag) Hawker, Russell McCarthy, Zoomie all CANBERRA supporters from Christchurch.



Dave McKee is presented a gift from Sir Peter Leitch by Logan Swann, Dexter Trail and Motu Tony.



Eon Amansure gets the What a Ride Mate from Tony Feasey as a spot prize.



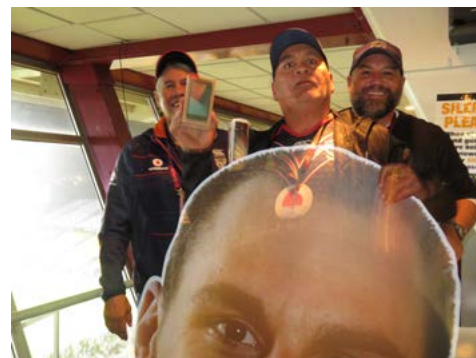
Eru wins the Grocery pack.



Gail Spencer - Clifton tells the lounge about her sponsored walk for breast cancer.



George Mann Peter Campbell 2 ex Mangere East Hawks players.



Glen Harding gets the Vodafone phone watched on by Dexter and Tony stand in for the Butcher.



Glen Harding wins the Vodafone phone.



Jeannie and Ingrid Preston - Hannah is presented a gift from Sir Peter Leitch by Logan Swann, Dexter Trail and Motu Tony.



June gets a gift basket from dexter.



In the Stacey Jones Lounge

Photos by Dave McKee (From Christchurch)



Kairangi wins the Panasonic shaver.



Logan Swann talks about the 2002 Grand Final.



Logan Swann, Motu Tony and Dexter Trail present Joyce Putohe with a present for being so nice during the year.



Lorraine McKee receives a gift from Sir Peter, presented by Logan Swann, Dexter Trail and Motu Tony.



Margie Graydon from waiheke wins a spot prize of a hat.



Mary presented a present from Sir Peter Leitch for her hard work by Logan Swann, Dexter Trail and Motu Tony.



Mike Anderson gets the Panasonic baby monitor.



Motu Tony talks about the 2002 Grand Final.



Mubeen wins the Selley's pack.



Neil Saxton has a great win.



Nick Towner wins the computer games.



Olivia March wins the Sea Link prize.



In the Stacey Jones Lounge

Photos by Dave McKee (From Christchurch)



Paul Bartley about to break out into song.



Peter Herron wins a box of Goodies.



Sam Lisone discusses his injury watched on by Dexter Trail and Andrew.



Steve Angow, Dave Blair, Mike Schrodler, Patrick Walsh, Aaron Stanley, Peter North, Peter North, Mike Towner from Christchurch.



Steve Anngow gets a Vodafone phone for organizing trips from Christchurch for fans.



Susan presented a present from Sir Peter Leitch for her hard work by Logan Swann, Dexter Trail and Motu Tony.



The WORKERS wearing their Simon Mannering 300 Game tee shirts please note Dexter is missing.



Tim gets the Warriors signed football.



Tony Feasey discusses the game with Andrew McFadden.



Zenny Lorigan gets the Panasonic headphones.



Zoomie receives the \$50 TAB sports bet from Brendan Poplewell.





VODAFONE WARRIORS v PENRITH PANTHERS

5.30pm, Saturday, September 8, 2018
ANZ Stadium, Sydney

Line-up named for first finals match since 2011

by Richard Becht

BLAKE GREEN and James Gavet both return from injury to start in the Vodafone Warriors' first NRL finals match in seven years when they face the Penrith Panthers in Saturday's sudden-death play-off at ANZ Stadium (5.30pm kick-off local time; 7.30pm NZT).

Green missed the back-to-back wins over Penrith and Canberra while Gavet was ruled out last week.

Veteran Blake replaces Mason Lino providing the Vodafone Warriors with extensive big-game experience from eight NRL finals appearances since 2008 for Cronulla, Melbourne and Manly as well as title success with Wigan in the English Super League.

Gavet, a finals rookie, replaces Bunty Afoa in a side showing a number of players set to play finals football for the first time this week.

While Green and Gavet return, captain and just-crowned Simon Mannering Medal winner Roger Tuivasa-Sheck as well as the 300-game man Mannering have been included as they look to recover from injuries picked up in the 20-16 win over the Raiders.

Apart from prop Gavet, others named to line up in the finals for

the first time are the NRL's top try scorer of the year David Fusitu'a, fellow winger Ken Maumalo and centre Solomone Kata plus interchange forwards Jazz Tevaga, Vodafone Warriors 2018 NRL rookie of the year Isaiah Papali'i and Afoa. On the extended bench, Lino, Chris Satae and Karl Lawton also have no finals experience.

At the same time the selected 17 includes several players who have appeared in multiple finals including premiership winners Tuivasa-Sheck, Adam Blair, Tohu Harris and Gerard Beale. Mannering has played 10 finals matches including the 2011 grand final while Issac Luke also has vast finals experience although he missed South Sydney's 2014 grand final win through suspension.

The Vodafone Warriors head into the play-offs after a seven-year absence to start the club's eighth finals campaign following previous appearances in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011.

They finished level on 32 points with four teams in the most congested top eight finish in history with the leading four teams just one win ahead on 34 points.

The Panthers clinched fifth place on points for and against while the Vodafone Warriors were eighth after a season in which they were

inside the top eight every week of the regular season en route to a 15-9 win-loss record.

In their two encounters in the regular rounds, Penrith beat the Vodafone Warriors 36-4 at its home ground in July but the Vodafone Warriors avenged the loss with a compelling 36-16 victory to clinch their finals berth at Mount Smart Stadium on August 24.

The rivals have met in the play-offs only once before, the Panthers prevailing 28-20 in the preliminary final in 2003 before claiming the premiership against the Roosters.

In 17 previous finals matches, the Vodafone Warriors have won eight and lost nine while the Panthers have a 13-14 record including two grand final victories in 1991 and 2003.

Vodafone Warriors

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



By **Barry Ross**
Australian Correspondent

Memories



The Jacksonville Axemen, with their trophy, minutes after winning the 2018 USA Championship game.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Simon Mannering on his 300 NRL games. No doubt he has many magnificent memories from his time in our game. One that springs to mind for me is his three successive tries back in 2006. Playing in the centres he collected a try for the Warriors against the Dragons at Wollongong Showground on 13 May 2006. The next week, on 20 May, at Mt Smart, he raced over against the Wests Tigers and then on 27 May, he collected another four pointer against Cronulla at Shark Park. The other centre in all three of these games was Tony Martin. During his 300 games, Simon has scored six doubles. Two of these were done as a centre, two as a second rower and two while playing at lock. Five of the six doubles were at Mt Smart, while the other one came at Penrith. A breakdown of Simon's 300 starting positions with the Warriors shows that he played 156 games in the second row, 73 at lock, 59 at centre, 11 from the bench and one on the wing. The first of his 45 Tests was at Mt. Smart on 14 October in a Tri-Nations clash against Australia, while his last Test was at Wellington on 18 November 2017 against Fiji. In Test football for the Kiwis, he has played 26 Tests in the second row, 11 at lock, seven in the centres and one from the bench. He has played a Test against nine different opponents. These are 22 with Australia, England 6, Great Britain 5, Samoa 4, France 2, Tonga 2, Papua/New Guinea 2, Fiji 1, Scotland 1. It was pleasing to see the Canberra players recognise Simon's achievement, while the messages of support from the New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern and All Blacks captain, Kieran Read, were sincere and very welcome. It is interesting to note, that soon after Simon completed his 300th NRL match, across the Tasman in Melbourne, Storm captain, Cameron Smith, was playing his 381st NRL game.

All Warrior fans must be thrilled to see David Fusitu'a finish as the season's leading try scorer. Let's hope he adds some more this Saturday at Penrith. His 22 tries from 22 games this year means he now has 54 tries in his 79 NRL games.

There were some great moments over the weekend with the last game for several men. The NRL would be very pleased with the total attendance of 175,882 for the last round of this year's regular season.

I was pleased to learn more about the Jacksonville Axemen during the past week. On Saturday 25 August, the Axemen won the USA Rugby League championship when they defeated the Brooklyn Kings 58-16 at the University of North Florida's Rugby ground in Jacksonville. Coached by former Canberra Raider, Sean Rutgeron, now 40, the Axemen were unbeaten throughout the 2018 season. Their 25 year old hooker, Lachlan Bristow, was the star of the Championship game. He finished with 38 points from five tries and nine goals from 10 attempts. Just two weeks before at the same venue, in the Southern Conference title game, he scored 24 points (3 tries, 6 goals) in the 44-16 win over the Atlanta Rhinos. Lachlan grew up in the NSW country town of Tumut, which is about 410 kms south west of Sydney. He was a good player from an early age with the local Tumut team and represented Group 9 at under 18 level.

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While a student at the famous Sydney Rugby League school, St. Gregorys at Campbelltown, he played in the Harold Matthews Cup competition with the Wests Magpies. Around 20 years of age, he moved to Brisbane where he had four seasons with the Wynnum-Manly first grade side. In 2014, Wynnum-Manly won the Brisbane minor premiership with Lachlan at five eighth but were unluckily beaten by Easts in the Grand Final at Suncorp Stadium on 28 September 2014. Lachlan arrived in Florida around April this year and soon after joined the Axemen. With only a holiday visa, he could not obtain full employment but no doubt he found some part-time work. Within the next week or so, he is going to Vancouver Canada, where he will play in the local rugby union competition.

In the USA Rugby League competition, each team is allowed only three imports while the remainder of the team has to be American-born locals. As well as Lachlan, the Axemen has another Australian in their ranks. He is 23 year old second rower, Jed Pearce, who comes from the Queanbeyan Kangaroos club and played a season with the Canberra Raiders under 20 team. The club's third import is New Zealander, Montana Northcroft, a 21 year old halfback from Auckland.

The General Manager and Partner of the Axemen is 39 year old Drew Storey. American-born Drew has an advertising agency and has worked hard behind the scenes for many years at the club. He became a Rugby League tragic in 2005 when he attended a State of Origin match while visiting Australia. The Axemen have 20 plus sponsors of varying degrees, with the main two being the One to One Financial company which is a credit union, along with the Jacksonville Baptist Health and Orthopaedic company. The Axemen do not pay any of their players, but they do help where they are able, with the expenses

involved in playing the game in the USA.

"We have a talented and loyal group of 25 to 30 players, while our supporters are also an asset to our club," Drew said. "At the championship game on 25 August we had a crowd of over 1,000."

Did you notice the story coming out of Green Bay in the USA during the week. Aaron Rodgers the 34 year old Quarterback for the Green Bay Packers has just signed a new contract extension for four years, worth \$35.5 million US a year. This new contract begins in 2020 after he finished the two years remaining on his current contract. This new contract makes him the highest paid sportsman in America and he will be 40 years of age when it is finished. This is the Packers 100th season and they begin this 2018 competition with a home game at Lambeau Field this Sunday, on 9 September, against the Chicago Bears.

Australian, Michael Dickson, age 22, recently signed a four contract worth \$2,750,000 US a season with the Seattle Seahawks as a punter. Born in Sydney, Dickson played with the Sydney Swans academy team in 2014, while he also played a few reserve grade games that season. He has been playing American College Football with the University of Texas for the past three years and was a fifth round draft pick for the Seahawks. He stands 185 cms tall and weighs 95 kgs. He impressed the Seahawks in the pre-season games by making successful tackles on opposition players who had broken the defensive line. American punters are not usually known for their defence.

Another Australian, 21 year old Jordan Mailata, has signed with the Philadelphia Eagles as an offensive linesman. Born at Bankstown in Sydney, Mailata stands 203 cms and weighs 158 kgs. His contract is worth more than \$2,500,000 a season. He played some Rugby League with the South Sydney under 20s last season.



Part of the Happy crowd at the 2018 USA Championship game, 25 August, at North Florida University.



The Axemen's Lachlan Bristow waits at dummy half close to the Brooklyn Kings tryline in 2018 USA Championship game, 25 August at North Florida University.



By John Coffey

Stay Calm -- Another Frenzied Friday

Photo www.photosport.nz

YEARS AGO 1940s Kiwis wing Bill McKenzie told me his doctor had ordered him to stop watching the Warriors on television or risk having a potentially fatal heart attack. Bill is no longer with us and I don't know whether he followed those orders, or even what caused his ultimate demise. But as the Warriors edged their way towards the NRL playoffs I couldn't help thinking of what Bill had said.

You see, my wife has been advising me to "stay calm" as I head off down the hallway to watch the Warriors on our bedroom television. Despite there being three fairly solid walls, another bedroom and an entrance way separating us, her Friday night Coronation Street watching has apparently been punctuated by numerous short, sharp exclamations emanating from the other end of the house.

Last Friday night she also brought the cat down to the bedroom and dumped him alongside me, presumably to be a calming influence. His name is Rufus, he is 16, and because he wears an orange fur coat is clearly a Tigers supporter. So he didn't really care what state I was in as the Warriors lined up to honour Simon Mannering and combat the Canberra Raiders in front of a capacity Mount Smart crowd.

After spending 44 years sitting mute in press boxes around the world, it has been a welcome change to vocally unleash the emotional roller coaster familiar to Warriors fans. I have no doubt a few more expletives carried the length of Coffey's Castle once again before the Raiders were repulsed 20-16. The last 10 minutes were particularly tense but the decisive moments went the way of the Warriors.

I had a good feeling all week about Simon Mannering's 300th game. Club chief executive Cameron George handled the occasion brilliantly in conjunction with Simon and it was a master stroke to fill the stadium by juggling prices. Past Warriors teams have not always responded on their biggest nights but it was unthinkable they would disappoint their legendary team-mate in his milestone match.

Radio Sport did well to interview Australian-based Paul Bergman, Simon's rugby league coach at Nelson College. Bergman told the story of how, in 2010, Simon skipped the Kiwis' Four Nations victory celebrations in Brisbane to visit him in hospital. Bergman learned later that Simon burst into tears when he saw his former coach in a coma. It was a touching story so typical of the club's first triple centurion.

The Warriors also came up with the inspired idea to involve Simon's good friend and former team-mate Micheal Luck in the after-match presentations. Luck's preparedness to travel from Townsville was a measure of the bond between two outstanding footballers and men. Luck is working at the Cowboys and could have given preference to Jonathan Thurston's momentous swansong at Robina the next day.

To their credit, the Raiders came to play, and to play hard. They had made a strong point when beating the Roosters and Rabbitohs that they were as good as any team in the NRL. It was always going to take some attacking brilliance and plenty of defensive determination to deny Ricky Stuart's mob an even more satisfying Mad Monday. The Warriors needed to win to keep alive hopes of a home semi-final.

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Having done their bit, they then required two of the Panthers, Dragons and Broncos to lose their round-25 matches. Of the three the Panthers seemingly had the toughest assignment against a Melbourne Storm outfit which could clinch the minor premiership at home. But this was never going to be a full strength Storm team and it became weaker by the day, and hour, as leading players dropped by the wayside.

Will Chambers was suspended, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Suliasi Vunivalu and Brandon Smith were early injury omissions, Billy Slater withdrew because of a family illness in Queensland, and halves Cameron Munster and Brodie Croft failed late fitness tests. Even the Storm could not sustain the loss of so many internationals and it took two Penrith sin-bins for the home side to lead at halftime.

Journalists are natural cynics and I was soon telling the (sleeping) cat my conspiracy theories. Had Storm coach Craig Bellamy decided to rest Munster and Croft for the playoffs, giving back-up players match practice and banking on a useful points differential to stay ahead of the Sydney Roosters? The minor premiership might have prestige but it carries only \$100,000 prize money in a billion-dollar competition.

Penrith ran in four second-half tries to eventually win 22-16, the margin of victory restricted by Nathan Cleary kicking just one goal from six attempts, but it reduced Melbourne's points differential sufficiently for the Sydney Roosters to claim the minor premiership the following day. The Dragons then beat the Knights at Newcastle on Saturday to snuff out any chance of semi-final football at Mount Smart.

It finally came down to the last minute of the regular season before we learned the eighth-placed Warriors travel to Penrith for their elimination semi-final. The Panthers and Broncos were level on differentials but Penrith finished fifth for conceding fewer points overall. Kiwis topped the individual lists for most points (Jamayne Isaako, 233), most tries (David Fusitu'a, 22) and most off-loads (Martin Taupau).

Hi Sir Peter

THIS EMAIL finds you well and also very excited about the play offs...
A Little reminder about the signed jersey for the Air Cadets fundraiser on the 9th Sept.

Also I've attached a letter received from Harbour Hospice about the show we did and raised \$11,000 which, we are very proud of.

I'm on the last 2 weeks of our Best of British NZ Tour and wondering if you wouldn't mind placing our info in your newsletter.

All the best for the play offs and I'm sure we'll catch up soon...GO THE WARRIORS.....!!!!

Kind regards

Gary Brown

Stage 51
stage51limited@gmail.com

27 August 2018

Dear Gary,

Best of British for Hospice

On behalf of the community of Hibiscus, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your support of our incredibly successful fundraiser, Best of British, which ticks the boxes of awareness of our Hospice message as well as raising valuable funds to ensure hospice service is delivered free for people in our community living with terminal illness.

It was a fabulous event organised by our Women's committee, starring absolute Legends thanks to you and the crew at Stage 51, the incredibly generous sponsorship of Faithfull Funeral Services, New World Orewa and Whangaparaoa and Neville Bros - a truly amazing group, who like yourselves generously support the wider community. We simply couldn't do it without you.

Gary, you truly made this a fabulous show and I can't tell you how many people who were convinced it was the real Rod Stewart when I play the video. Just incredible!

I apologise for the delay in this thank you letter as we were waiting on our last few payments to go through to be able to announce our net total of over \$11,000 raised. A phenomenal result which will go directly to provide patient care.

Thank you again Gary, for your kindness and caring, generous support and personal investment to see that Hospice care is delivered to those who need it. If there is anything more we can do for you please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Kind regards
Pippa Martin
Fundraising Manager



STAGE 51 presents

Legends Best of British

JOE COCKER ROD STEWART AUSTIN POWERS

Featuring the International performer John Crane as Rod Stewart
Also Colin Jones as Joe Cocker
and your host Gary Brown as Austin Powers.

An afternoon full of great hit songs from the Best of British music.

SAT 1 SEPT	HOBURY CLUB, CHRISTCHURCH 8pm	JOE COCKER, ROD STEWART, AUSTIN POWERS
SUN 2 SEPT	OXFORD WORKINGMENS CLUB, CHCH 7pm	JOE COCKER, ROD STEWART, AUSTIN POWERS
FRI 7 SEPT	SWANSON RSA, AUCKLAND 8pm	JOE COCKER, ROD STEWART, AUSTIN POWERS
SAT 8 SEPT	BAYS CLUB, BROWNS BAY, AUCKLAND 8pm	JOE COCKER, ROD STEWART, AUSTIN POWERS
SUN 9 SEPT	HBC COMMUNITY RSA, AUCKLAND 2pm	JOE COCKER, ROD STEWART, AUSTIN POWERS
FRI 14 SEPT	TALUPO COSSIE CLUB 8pm	LULU, CILLA BLACK, AUSTIN POWERS

Keep watching our Facebook page for updates "Gary Brown as Austin Powers"

Or website ggg guide www.stage51limited.com
Email stage51limited@gmail.com
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STAGE 51 ENTERTAINMENT



By Miles Davis

Frank Endacott

WHEN YOU think of rugby league in Canterbury you can't help but think of Frank Endacott. Endacott bleeds rugby league and black and red and has been involved in the game since he was a young lad.

A promising player he represented Hornby and Addington and made it into the Schoolboy Kiwis. But rather than kick on with his playing career he decided to put family first. He had married at 18 and already had a family of his own when his wife, Joan, lost her mother leaving 4 younger siblings in need of care. Despite already having 2 kids of their own and Frank being barely 20, the young couple decided to become carers to Joan's family.

His love for the game meant he was never destined to be away from it for too long and it was coaching that was to become his passion. Firstly with the local Canterbury clubs he had played for then onto the provincial side. Under his guidance Canterbury became a major force in domestic league in the early 90's. The high point undoubtedly their dominant 36-12 win over Auckland in the 1993 national final. A side that included such names as Brendon Tuuta, Quentin Pongia, Whetu Taewa and Logan Edwards.

Such impressive results obviously raised Endacott's profile and after coaching several New Zealand representative sides he was appointed Kiwis coach in 1994. He was to coach the national side until 2000 and took them to two World Cups.

Whilst he was Kiwis coach he was also heavily involved in the formation of the Vodafone Warriors. He was assistant to coach John Monie and coached the reserve side. In 1996 he took the reserves to the Grand Final. When Monie was sacked in 1997 it was natural that Frank should take over the reins. Unfortunately when the new owners took over in 1999 they decided that his services were no longer required.

He wasn't out of circulation for long when in 2000 he was appointed as head coach of another Warriors side – this one based in Wigan. In his first season Wigan won the minor premiership, losing just 3 games, and he took them to the Super League Grand Final where they were beaten 29-16 by fierce rivals St Helens. He was let go by the club in 2001 and he was replaced by Stuart Raper. Rumours were that Raper had already been promised the job a year earlier. Whatever the reason Wigan chairman Maurice Lindsay said that Endacott had left the club in a much better state than when he arrived.

Frank nowadays spends most of his time running his car yard, Endacott Motor Group, which he and his son Shane acquired full ownership of last year. When I spoke to him recently he gave me some insight into the highs and lows of his career. He said his undoubted high was the Kiwis 1998 Anzac Test win over the Kangaroos at North Harbour. It was a star-studded Australian team that were hot favourites. Things took a turn for the worse for the Kiwis when prop John Lomax left the field with barely a minute gone.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

At one stage the Kiwis only had one available sub on the bench and 12-6 down at half-time things were looking grim. The Kiwis however showed true grit and put on a powerful second half effort with tries to Sean Hoppe, Tony Iro and Terry Hermansson ensuring a memorable 22-16 win.

The lowest point in his career was the end of his time at Wigan. Frank felt that the club was on the verge of creating a dynasty and to have that opportunity cut short was a bitter pill to swallow.


When I asked him who was the best player he had coached the every diplomatic Frank said there were too many class players to choose from that he couldn't possibly do it. He did however put forward the name El-lery Hanley as the best player he had seen (that makes two of us Frank).

He also feels very confident about the Vodafone Warriors play-off chances. He strongly feels they should beat Penrith and says the word from Australia is that all the clubs want to avoid the Vodafone Warriors if possible.

In 2007 Endacott was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit and in March 2018 was inducted into the Sporting Legends of Canterbury. An honour he well deserves and I am sure the people of Christchurch will be keen to reward him for his services to local and national rugby league by snapping up the great bargains to be had at the Endacott Motor Group, 519 Moorhouse Avenue, Waltham, Christchurch 0800 644 356 (but keep away from that black Audi S5 that I have my eye on

Anzac Test 1998 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMC_FE4lw78

Good luck to the Vodafone Warriors and Warriors Women playing against the Roosters this Saturday



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

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

2018 Final Totals

Go the Warriors!

Tarsh Ieremaia	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Neville Kesha	High-Tackle Holloway
<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 Richmond Leagueie</i>

Picks last week	7/8	5/8	6/8	5/8	5/8	7/8	6/8
Total picks	118	110	116	112	107	126	111

Its All Over Now Baby Blue...

AFTER 25 rounds of the most upset laden NRL season in history the TIPPING comp has a winner. Surprise surprise its Nifty Neville Kesha the International Whistle-blower. My old mate has led from early on and clung to the lead with the tenacity he showed as a slight little kid playing halfback for the mighty Maroon and Blue Richmond Bulldogs back in the day. The same tenacity he showed as a man standing on tip toes in the Carlaw Park mud to go eye-ball to eye-ball with angry giant forwards in the Test Refereeing arena. Congratulations Nev you are still a champion. The lovely Tarsh kept moving to the beat and the wily old stagger Johnny C ran a good race but they couldn't cut back that early lead. To the rest of the crew Big Joe Vagana, Montz, The Dodgy Dutchman and old High-tackle himself well its not all about winning eh, its about participating, having a go and supporting The Mighty Vodafone Warriors and the Newsletter of the eternal optimist, Sir Sausage himself, The Mad Butcher Sir Peter Leitch. God bless him. From myself, please accept my sincere thanks team for your time and considerations across all the weeks, it was a great year. If The Butcher goes round again with the newsletter next year you will be hearing from me. (Maybe not Nev). Ka kite ano.

Let the dancing begin...

Here we go here we go here we go...on that Silver Bird and off to Steak n Kidney for the opening Stanza, From the number eight barrier draw we go up against The 5th finishing Panthers who are back to full strength and will pose a daunting challenge at the cavernous ANZ on Saturday evening, mind you perhaps less a brutal crowd environment away from their Fortress Panthers Stadium. The die was cast on Friday nite when the Blue Mountain gang touched up the title favoured Storm in Melbourne 22/16. Other possibly advantageous permutations around a Mt Smart Semi faded as the Dragons and Broncos got the points off the KPonga less Knights and the woe begotten Eagles respectively. What the hell... it is what it is and we have to kick off somewhere, lets just put the old best boot forward and get the business done boys. To be honest all the wide eyes are on rampant Latrelle Mitchells minor-prem Roosters, Super-Coach Bellamys Stormtroopers, Val-Holme swirling Sharks the Burgess Gang Rabbitohs and Grumpy Bennetts rapidly improving bucking Broncos.. The Hometown Hero Warriors and Marys dithering Dragons are clearly the punters longshots but as we have shown several times this season, when the chips are down the Penrose Homies can come up trumps. Lets do it for the Ulitmate Warrior Capt Mannering, The leading Try Scorer Fus the Bus, the little known hero Mason Lino, The play Director Blake Green, the Maori magician Isaac Luke, The human cannonball Iggy Paasi, The Man in Motion RTS, Young Gun Papalii, Megaton Maumolo, Beale Kata, Hiku, Tevanga and all the gang. A great 15 win season on a full term top 8 ride. KiaKaha Mighty Warriors.

Lets get readyyyyyy tooo Ruuummblle.



By Shane Hurdell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Napier Boys High School's Turn On Big Stage

HUGE TALENT Napier Boys' High School 1st XV rugby centre Leo Thompson won't be short of offers from union and league scouts later this year. PHOTO: HAWKE'S BAY TODAY

IT'S NO secret ... this week is a big one for NRL club scouts in New Zealand.

There's the national secondary schools rugby league tournament in Auckland to take in as well as the National Top Four secondary schools rugby tournament in Palmerston North. Current Warriors forward Isaiah Papalii played at the 2016 edition of the union tournament for the title-winning Mount Albert Grammar team.

For the third consecutive year Hawke's Bay will have a team at the National Top Four but it won't be 2017 champions and 2016 runners-up Hastings Boys' High School. It will be Napier Boys' High School who beat Hastings Boys' High School 20-10 in the Hurricanes final at Napier's McLean Park on Saturday.

Napier take on Christchurch Boys' High School in the second semifinal on Friday and Hamilton Boys' High School take on St Peter's College of Auckland in the early semifinal. A couple of players in the Napier side likely to attract the attention of league scouts are the Thompson twins – captain and hooker Tyrone and centre Leo.

At least two Super Rugby franchises are keen on the pair's signatures but that's likely to increase if the pair continue their blockbusting form this week. The Napier side which is coached by 2005 and '06 Magpies mentor Brendon Ratcliffe boasts a powerful scrum.

Since almost beating Hamilton Boys' High School in the Super 8 final on August 18 Napier's form has dropped. They need to return to that form if they are going to be competitive against the Christchurch

outfit.

Another Hawke's Bay team which needs to improve is the Hawke's Bay Magpies rugby team. After opening their Mitre 10 Cup Championship campaign with wins against Southland and Otago they lost 29-25 to Counties-Manukau at McLean Park on Sunday. Numerous soft turnovers and a lack of patience proved to be the Magpies downfall.

The Magpies had eight days to prepare for the game while the Steelers were playing their fourth match in 12 days and arrived in Napier with a lengthy injury list.

The other major sporting event in the Bay at the weekend was the first leg of the Bostock New Zealand Spring Racing Carnival. Jockey Shafiq Rusof rode Melody Belle to victory in the group one Tarzino Trophy 1400m race.

Yes there was club rugby league in Hawke's Bay at the weekend. In premier action Maraenui posted their first win with a thrilling 40-36 victory against Dannevirke Tigers and Tamatea beat defending champions Kahuranaki 34-12.

In reserve grade Omahu Huia recovered from a three try deficit to hand Bay Bulldogs their first loss with a 42-28 victory and defending champions Bridge Pa beat Flaxmere 58-26. Both women's fixtures were one-sided affairs with defending champions Bridge Pa walloping Hastings Rugby and Sports 70-0 and Tamatea accounting for YMP 54-0.

Kiwis And Junior Kiwis Wider Squads Named

By Brooke Hurdell - NZRL

TODAY, BOTH rookie and veteran New Zealand rugby league stars get recognition for their performances in the 2018 season with the announcement of the Kiwis and Junior Kiwis wider squads.

Kiwis Head Coach Michael Maguire and Junior Kiwis Head Coach Ezra Howe have collaborated in consultation with the Kiwis selection panel consisting of Mark Horo, Hugh McGahon and Tawera Nikau, to name the best New Zealand eligible players in the running to play in the Trans-Tasman Showdown next month.

On Saturday, 13 October the Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns and Junior Kiwis will come up against their Australian counterparts in a battle that will have the winner lift the Trans-Tasman Cup at Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland.

This triple-header marks the first time since 2014 that players from all three representative teams will get the opportunity to run out in front of a home crowd filled with family, friends and fans. For players such as Adam Blair, pulling on the black and white jumper compares to nothing else.

“I’d represent my country any day of the week. We love playing games here at home in front of our family and friends. To see the fans turn out and sing the national anthem alongside us is something special,” says Blair.

Ahead of Maguire’s second outing at the helm of the Kiwis, his first in New Zealand, he looks forward to working with the players who can’t wait to get into Kiwis camp. The Test earlier in the year against England provided him with insights into many of the players in the wider squad and he says he’s “looking forward to the re-introduction of senior players such as Shaun Johnson, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Tohu Harris who will inject years of experience and leadership back into the squad.”

Isaiah Papali’i also finds himself in both the Kiwis and Junior Kiwis wider squads at the age of 19. His announcement in both wider squads will be the cherry on top following last night’s awards where he also picked up Warriors Rookie Player of the Year.

Joining Papali’i in the Junior Kiwis wider squad, also 19-years-old is Manase Fainu who has been impressive as starting hooker for the Manly Sea Eagles in his first year in first grade.

The Kiwis, Junior Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns (announced earlier in May following the National Women’s Tournament – [view here](#)) wider squads will be narrowed down next month ahead of the Test matches on 13 October.

This Wednesday will also see a significant announcement regarding league fixtures coming up.

Tickets are on sale now from Ticketek – Adult ticket prices from \$35 and children from \$15. Special family and multi-ticket deals are available. [Click here to view ticket deals.](#)

Kiwis wider squad:

Brisbane Broncos: Jamayne Isaako, Jordan Kahu, Kodi Nikorima; Canberra Raiders: Jordan Rapana, Joseph Tapine; Canterbury Bulldogs: Raymond Faitala-Mariner, Reimis Smith; Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks: Sosaia Feki; Gold Coast Titans: Kevin Proctor; Manly Sea Eagles: Martin Taupau; Melbourne Storm: Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Jesse Bromwich, Kenneath Bromwich, Jahrome Hughes, Brandon Smith; Newcastle Knights: Herman Ese’ese, Danny Levi; North Queensland Cowboys: Te Maire Martin; Penrith Panthers: James Fisher-Harris, Corey Harawira-Naera, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Dean Whare; St George Illawarra Dragons: Leeson Ah Mau; Sydney Roosters: Isaac Liu, Joseph Manu, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves; New Zealand Warriors: Gerard Beale, Adam Blair, Tohu Harris, Peta Hiku, Shaun Johnson, Issac Luke, Ken Maumalo, Isaiah Papali’i, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck; Wests Tigers: Esan Marsters.

Continued on next page...

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Junior Kiwis wider squad

Brisbane Broncos: Rory Ferguson, Jordan Riki; Canberra Raiders: Paul Roache; Canterbury Bulldogs: Morgan Harper; Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks: Jackson Ferris, Cruz Topaz-Aveai; Gold Coast Titans: Darius Farmer, Moeaki Fotuaika, Jaxson Paulo, Kea Pere; Manly Sea Eagles: Manase Fainu, Tevita Funa, Moses Suli; Melbourne Storm: Kayleb Milne, Junior Rutava, Kelma Tuilagi; Newcastle Knights: Pasame Saulo; North Queensland Cowboys: Peter Hola, Sean Mullany, Emry Pere, Murray Taulagi; Parramatta Eels: Tui Afualo, Dylan Brown, Haze Dunstar, Oregon Kaufusi; Penrith Panthers: Dean Blore; St George Illawarra Dragons: Steven Marsters; Sydney Roosters: Bailey Bentley-Harper; South Sydney Rabbitohs: Jesse Arthurs, Mawene Hiroti, Lucky Ta'avale; New Zealand Warriors: Tom Ale, Chanel Harris-Tavita, Hayze Perham, Preston Riki, Tyler Slade, Lewis Soosemea, Paul Turner, Joseph Vuna.

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The Vodafone Warriors sent me this message while I was sick in Hospital last week. Check it out:

<https://www.facebook.com/sirpeterleitch/videos/264740337490203/>

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LINE



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Panthers



ELIMINATION FINAL 1



Warriors

Roosters



WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP



Warriors

Saturday September 8

ANZ Stadium | 3:05pm

The Women's Premiership will kick off their first game with the Warriors going against the Roosters at 3:05pm. Followed by a sudden-death elimination final where Penrith will host the Warriors at ANZ Stadium on Saturday at 5.30pm.

GET TICKETS

PREVIEW



Roosters



ALLIANZ STADIUM



Sharks

Saturday September 8

Allianz Stadium | 7:40pm

After wrapping up the minor premiership, the Roosters will host Cronulla at Allianz Stadium on Saturday in a match where the winner advances to week three of the finals and the loser lives to fight another day.

GET TICKETS

PREVIEW



Broncos



ELIMINATION FINAL 2



Dragons

Broncos



WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP



Dragons

Sunday September 9

Suncorp Stadium | 1:45pm

Brisbane Broncos will host a double-header with both Women's Dragons at 1:45pm followed by the elimination final #2 against the Dragons at 4pm.

GET TICKETS

PREVIEW



Storm



QUALIFYING FINAL 2



Rabbitohs

Friday September 7

AAMI Park | 7:40pm

Premiers Melbourne will kick off the NRL finals series with an AAMI Park showdown against South Sydney in the wake of the tightest finish at the top of the ladder in premiership history.

GET TICKETS

PREVIEW



Bay Roskill power to promotion

By ARL

Photo www.photosport.nz

THE BAY Roskill Vikings have completed their undefeated Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup season with a dominant 42-16 victory over Manurewa in Sunday's Grand Final, earning promotion back into the first division for 2019 in the process.

The Vikings scored five first-half tries, while 19-year-old back-rower Justus Leaoeseve finished the game with hat-trick.

Up 26-12 at the break, in torrid conditions at Mt Smart Stadium #2, Bay Roskill kept the foot down in the second half to secure a return to the top flight for the first time since 2013, having been second division runners-up in both of the past two years.

Second rower Moses Oge opened the scoring on five minutes, before the Vikings struck twice in quick succession via Johnathon Wea and Leaoeseve, with Ben Henry converting two from three for a 16-0 advantage.

Ezekiel Paul then put Jerome Mamea into a gaping hole for an untouched run to the line, before Jerome Ropati sent Cori Vogel away for a try down the left, stretching the gap to 26-0.

The Marlins scored two late tries before the break – with Malakai Tohi crossing in the corner, followed by a Khan Areaiiti barge over – to reduce Manurewa's deficit to 26-12 at half-time.

After Henry Dunn set Devin Wilson-Connal up for a try five minutes into the second 40, the Manurewa comeback looked on, only for Bay Roskill to weather the storm and eventually seal the victory with two further Leaoeseve tries and a Jerome Vogel strike inside the final 20.

Bay Roskill 42 (Moses Oge, Johnathon Wea, Justus Leaoeseve x3, Jerome Mamea, Cori Vogel, Jerome Vogel tries; Ben Henry x5 goals) def. Manurewa 16 (Malakai Tohi, Khan Areaiiti, Devin Wilson-Connal tries; Malakai Tohi x2 goals) at Mt Smart Stadium #2.

Breaking News

Vodafone Warriors Simon Mannering is putting out his book around this Xmas this will be a great read it's being published by.

www.upstarpress.co.nz





Pt Chevalier overcome Glenora to win Fox title

By ARL

Photo www.photosport.nz

THE PT Chevalier Pirates are champions of Auckland once again, after edging past Glenora 6-0 in a grueling SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Grand Final on Sunday.

Pt Chevalier scored on six minutes via Matti Tuitama, with Francis Leger converting, before putting in one of the all-time great defensive showings for the 74 minutes which followed, to secure the club's fourth first division title since 2013.

Played following hours of heavy rain at Mt Smart Stadium #2, the middle battle was brutal, while on the edges the Pirates were organised, urgent, and in the end completely dominant.

A clever flick pass from Gary Fuimaono metres from the try-line, on his way to being bundled into touch, set up Tuitama's try, with Leger converting from a tight angle.

Overall the Pirates had the better of the first half, but in the second Glenora enjoyed the lion's share of possession, and went agonisingly close to hitting back via Jordan Tuarae inside the final 10 minutes, only for the veteran playmaker to spill the ball over the line.

The title is Pt Chevalier's first since 2015, having lost the last two deciders to Papakura and Glenora respectively, and means the Pirates finish the season with both the Fox and the Stormont Shield in the trophy cabinet at Walker Park.

Pt Chevalier 6 (Matti Tuitama try; Francis Leger 1 goal) def. Glenora 0. At Mt Smart Stadium #2.

FOUR OF our regulars to the lounge were at the Grocery Charity Ball last Saturday night at Sky City.

Nathan Tao and his lovely partner Olivia Marsh and Don Graham and his fiancé

Zenny Lorigan were amongst the 720 guests that helped raise over \$200,000 for 'Big Buddy' Charity.

Don is a founding Trustee of The Grocery Charity Ball that over the past 16 years has raised close to \$4 million for deserving New Zealand charities.

Next year the 2019 charity will be MND (Motor Neurone disease)





Bulldogs in the Grand Final

By CRL

The winning try.

LAST SATURDAYS' Rugby League Canterbury Cup Grand Final provided the Northern Bulldogs Premier Reserve Grade team an opportunity to create history for the club and a determined group of players and Management were desperate to do just that.

Bulldogs supporters flocked to Canterbury Park in their blue and white to cheer on their team and make sure their voices were heard. As the Bulldogs team ran on to the ground they were met with an eruption of crowd support which appeared to fuel an early ambush by the Kaiapoi based league team, with momentum on the Bulldogs side from the kick off.

Aggression shown with and without the ball had their opponents the Shirley Hawks rattled and out-matched. But with lost opportunities and numerous disallowed tries in the first half it was left to the two players sharing the Dummy Half role to capitalise on their teams dominance by scoring from close range.

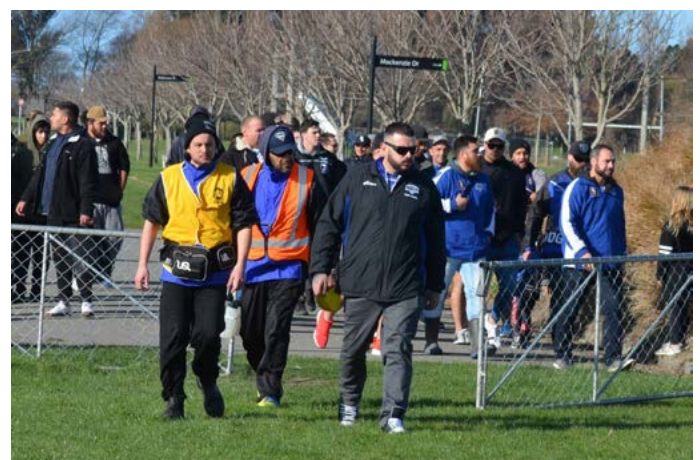
Chris Ringdahl crashed over to open the scoring and when club stalwart Cohen Le Cheminant did the same the Bulldogs chant roared across the park. With a 12-0 half-time scoreline the situation seemed to be under control, however some may have wondered if the Bulldogs had done enough with the possession and territory advantage they enjoyed in the first 40 minutes.

With the Bulldogs being first to score after the break with a try to Frank Koroi it seemed the Bulldogs faithful on the embankment were going to be able to relax and enjoy the day. But with sinbinnings and a number of disallowed tries things were never going to be that easy. A momentum change in the final 25

minutes saw the Shirley team put on 16 unanswered points bringing the score level, setting the scene for a thrilling finish.

Both teams traded unsuccessful field goals and the game looked destined for extra time until a late try by Ziggy Tu'ua that was duly converted by Leon Jar-den. With the final whistle not blown after the conversion the Bulldogs were left with a kick off to deal which proved unsuccessful. With players exhausted they were left to defend their way to victory and force a mistake to finally see the game end 22-16.

The Northern Bulldogs Canterbury Cup side were the first senior team to win a Grand Final for the club since 2007 and the first Premier Reserves team ever to do so. An emotional coach Max Broadhurst praised his players character and commitment and is already looking forward to the 2019 season.



Coach Max and the team.





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New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students Rugby League



Wellington Orcas Comfortably Beat Taranaki Sharks

By Carey Clements

A **HAT TRICK** of tries on debut by the Wellington rugby league right wing Feoafa'aki Tu'agalu assisted the Orcas to comfortably beat the Taranaki Sharks 50-22 at Wise Park in Wainuiomata on Saturday.

Before the match began Tu'agalu was down as a non-playing reserve as the 18th player, before sudden unavailability by one of his team mates, meant the St George Club player was given a dramatic late call-up for his representative debut, in what is only just his second season of playing league since leaving Aotea College.

After narrowly beating Manawatu last weekend, the win has not only allowed the Orcas to take out the Mid Central title, but to qualify them for the next stage by taking on the winners of the Northern and Southern zones.

The clinical win was effectively set up inside the first quarter when Wellington took advantage of a stiff breeze at their backs and some confused defence, to see them up 18-0 after 17 minutes.

By the time a further nine minutes had ticked by, Wellington had continued its run by taking the score out to 30-0, which included five successful converted kicks at goal by the fullback Aaron Whitikia.

Sharks as anyone knows will never back down and so it proved inside the last ten minutes when three tries within the space of seven minutes allowed them to trail by a more respectable margin of 14-30 at halftime.

The try of the game came early in the second half when fast breakaway run at halfway by the Wellington scrumhalf Tamati Davis allowed him to link up with Tu'agalu, who then showed some fine footwork by side stepping his way through three defenders before going over for his side's sixth consecutive converted try.

Although Taranaki did occasionally threaten the Wellington line, they were let down by more basic errors and by not having a sliding defence, making an unforced error ten metres from their line and allowing another overlap to occur out wide, the Orcas struck a 50-14 lead with less than minutes before fulltime.

The last ten minutes of the second half resulted in Taranaki scoring two late tries, in an act of defiance, that was commendable, but a thought of what could have been had they not taken so long to get out of first gear.

Although disappointed with the overall result, the Taranaki coach Wayne Capper was philosophical about his side's loss in stating it owned the last 50 minutes of the game by outscoring Wellington 22-20.

"After we had some players out with injury before we travelled down, it meant I had to use two players in the centres in positions they are not used to do and as a result Wellington capitalised on that from the word go and put us under huge pressure to come back from being 30-nil down," he said.

Capper also said at present the Taranaki side is currently rebuilding with four players in the side being 18, while another three being 19 years of age.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

“We found out today that our inexperience around the simple things cost us, so it is with that I am sure our young players will come out wiser as a result.”

Wellington coach Peter Rikiriki felt his side showed more improvement than their win over Manawatu.

“We have now had seven training runs as a team and although we have players represented in most clubs, we are coming together well as a collective unit.

“At present we just need to tidy up our transition play from when it goes from attack to defence,” he said.

Rikiriki felt his second row John Skinnon, scrumhalf Tamati Davis and debutant Tu’agalu all produced strong games in the Wellington jersey, while Capper singled out his captain and hooker Phil Taylor as his side’s most ‘grittiest’ player.

Scores: Wellington Orcas 50 (Feoafa’aki Tu’agalu 3, Aaron Whitikia 2, Greig Dean 2, Xavier Seal, Zane Wilson tries; Whitikia 7 goals), Taranaki Sharks 22 (Sam Bennett 2, Reagan Coult, Iaiah Graham-Hooper, Ricco Falaniko tries; Phil Taylor goal). Halftime: Wellington 30-14. Referee: Noel Woods.

Good luck to the All Blacks who are playing Argentina this Saturday in Nelson!



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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



Great to see my grandson Reuben volunteering at the Warriors home games and my other grandson Mathew (also a big Warriors fan) doing the radio ads with his Pop. It runs in the family...



Ex Kiwis Luncheon

IT WAS great to host a luncheon for these ex kiwis on Tuesday. They all played for New Zealand including the oldest living ex kiwi Ray Cranch (a real gentleman). We also had the new CEO of NZRL Greg Peters come along and have a chat to us. A few of the players also said some words. The next big get-together will be the Kiwi Associations luncheon on the 14th of October the day after the Rugby league test at Mt Smart Kiwis v Australia. Any ex kiwis that want more details of the day please contact Ray Haffenden at rayhaff@xtra.co.nz. We want as many Ex Kiwis as possible to front up on the day so if you know any former kiwi players please tell the about this help us spread the word. **Check the interviews I did on the day here:** <https://www.facebook.com/pg/sirpeterleitch/videos>



Back row (left to right): Graeme West, Jerry Seu-seu, Joe Vagana, Paddy Tuimavave, Logan Swann, Paul Rauhihi, Epalahame Lauaki, Ali Lauitiiti, Manu Vatuvei

Middle row (left to right): Mike McLennan, Motu Tony, Monty Betham, Lesley Vainikolo, Dane O'Hara, Fred Ah Kuoi, Francis Leota

Front row: (left to right): Bruce Castle, Roy Christian, Don Mann snr, Eric Carson, Ray Cranch the oldest living ex kiwi, Richard Bolton, Dennis Williams



The whole team that came to the luncheon on the far right is the new CEO of NZRL Greg Peters. A great day had by all

Continued on next page...



Brian McLennan former kiwis coach who's team beat the Aussies 240 in the final in 2005. Brian Tracey who went missing when we had the team photo taken is a ex kiwi and Richard Bolton fo.



Dane O'Hara, Mike McLennan, Roy Christian and Dennis Williams played his first test for the kiwis at 17 years old.



Former kiwis captain Graeme West & Logan Swan the snappiest dressed at the luncheon.



Fred Ah Kuoi & Roy Christian both check out my Facebook page as I interviewed these guys on Tuesday.



Fred Ah Kuoi and Ali Lauititi who was a crowd favourite at MT Smart in his day.



Graeme West, Manu Vatuvei and big Joe Vagana.



Manu Vatuvei, Motu Tony who is now working for the NZRL & Epalahame Lauaki who is still playing in the local RL competition in Auckland.



The oldest living ex kiwi Ray Cranch with Lesley Vainikolo who not only played for the kiwis but also played rugby union for England.



MONDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2018

MAUNGAKIEKIE GOLF CLUB

5 Anita Ave, Mount Roskill, Auckland

Arrive: 11.30am – Sign in

Tee Off: 12.30pm Shotgun Format: Ambrose

**LIMITED
SPACES**

**COST
PER TEAM
\$400**

**HOLE
SPONSORSHIP
\$150**

**REGISTER
BY OCT 1**

TEAM PRIZES: TEAM 1 | TEAM 2 | TEAM 3

RAFFLE PRIZES | SPOT PRIZES • BBQ AT THE START AND FINISH

To register team – main contact and for hole sponsorship
please email Scott MacKay: scott@rfc.nz



league4life.co.nz

Reader Mail



HI MR Leitch. I spoke to you on the phone on Monday night sorry for ringing when you were unwell. My name is Dean Waddell the 2nd biggest Warriors fan around after you ofcourse. I'm also a massive Northern Bulldogs fan the old Kaiapoi Bulldogs who play in the Canterbury RL competition. My son and me have been to every club game home or away for many years now. As with the Warriors I my life revolves around the Bulldogs. I have no affiliation to the club just the number 1 fan. Our club has won just 1 first grade title back in 2007. Clubrooms were totalled in the earthquakes and even a couple of years back we were getting beaten by nearly 100 points and even having to default games. Steadily the club has built back up again with our premier team finishing 3rd this year. It is the premier b team I would like to tell you about. A group of young and some older players who feed the main team when needed have had a wonderful year. All year they sat 3rd or 4th on the table. Steadily as the season went on they started to really play great football. I honestly think some games they might of had more supporters than the big boys. They qualified for the final by beating traditional heavyweights Linwood and Hornby. They played Shirley Hawkes which had comfortably beaten us twice in round robin. Mate it was so exciting on Saturday in the final. There was a supporter bus and so many supporters. We lead 16-0 at halftime. Shirley came out and leveled up 16 all. We had injuries and a man who I can't believe could even walk soldering on. We won 20-16 the first final and title for the B's. Through social media every week the players and there coach Max Broadhurst were so thankful for there supporters. It brought me to tears mate when they won. So humble and grateful they are. Thanks for reading all this. Sorry for it been so long. Mate this club is in my heart and I love the club. I just wanted to ask you as the main man in NZ league if you could do a quick video to say congratulations to the boys on there title called the Canterbury Cup and commend the squad and coach for there work. You could send it to me on messenger and I could post it on there Facebook page. Honestly mate that title meant souch to me as a fan and only a Warriors maiden title will trump it. If you could do this for me I would be ever so grateful.

Cheers Dean Waddell Warriors 2nd biggest fan.



Former Kiwi & Warrior Logan Swann caught up with former Warrior Wade McKinen.



Our old mate Dexter caught up with ex Kiwi and Warrior Logan Edwards in Greymouth.

BIG LEAGUE
ON SALE EACH WEEK!

INSIDE | TEAM LISTS | STAT ATTACK | NRL FANTASY
MEN HUNT | TONGA V AUSTRALIA ON THE CARDS | NEW SOUTH WALES

INSIDE TEAM LISTS STAT ATTACK NRL FANTASY CLUB NEWS
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for a final assault

BLACK CATS
Will history repeat
on Friday the 13th?

Adam Blair

How the Warriors

Relishing his return to the Shaky Isles and ready to take down former

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IAN AND Marcia on their 6 month winter adventure around sunny Queensland

We have been at Birdsville for over a week preparing for the iconic Birdsville Races.

And what an atmosphere, population here of 115 but swells to 7000 plus for this annual event, even a couple of Kiwi horses entered

We were both concerned to hear our good mate Sir Peter was not the best, but happy to know he is on the mend and resting at home, getting ready for his next big doo !

Was so good to watch the Warriors have a win over Canberra, be it a little tense towards the end !

A big Hello to all you news letter readers and big Get Well Soon to the Butch

Ian and Marcia Carpenter



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

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