

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

10<sup>th</sup> August 2016

# Newsletter #134



## Fans out in Force to Support the Boys on the Gold Coast



Fans cheering on the boys.



Jacob Lillyman on the run.



Jarryd Hayne is chased by Bodene Thompson and Blake Ayshford.



Jazz Tevega in action.



Shaun Johnson offloads.



Tuimoala Lolohea on the sprint.

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

# You Can Bet There is More to This

By David Kemeys

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



**A** CROSS THE ditch the New South Wales police are investigating more claims of match fixing - this one makes it three NRL games under suspicion.

Apparently Organised Crime Squad cops are making inquiries after the Seven Network reported an \$18,000 bet was placed on Manly's round seven loss to Parramatta earlier this season.

It just gets worse and worse.

Quite what kind of loony risks \$18,000 betting on NRL is hard to imagine, and it's impossible to get your head around anyone being prepared to back the Eels by that amount.

Unless of course...

It would be bad enough if it was a one-off, but this is the second Manly v Parramatta match to come under the microscope, with a whiff of match-fixing.

Back in June the NRL confirmed it was reviewing Manly's loss to the Eels, and a second loss, this one to the Rabbitohs last season.

Why on earth they couldn't lose to us is beyond me, because match-fixing might be pretty much the only way we'd get past them, such is our record.

Manly were outsiders against the Rabbitohs but were hot favourites to beat the Eels, which most sides last year were, to be fair.

Now for reasons I don't even know, I hate Manly. I hate them with a passion. No rational reason, just do, so I'm perfectly prepared to think the worst of them.

So it comes as no surprise that the sneaky little shits have packed a complete wobbly about the allegations.

They lashed out back in June when the first allegations surfaced, claiming that their 70-year reputation for fair play had been "unfairly tarnished".

To which I can only add, what reputation for fair play would that be?

Former coach Geoff Toovey even turned up on NRL360 saying he had questions himself about how crap Manly were against the Eels last year.

"Could we be that bad? I don't think so. Maybe we could be, but possibly there was some underlying issue there," Toovey said.

Everything in that statement suggests he had doubts - he said as much - so what came next was utterly surprising.

"But I would find it incredibly hard to believe that players would sink that low."

Why?

It's not like it hasn't happened before.

Meanwhile the NRL says its continuing to cooperate with authorities. "Our position has not changed ... we will take whatever action is necessary to protect our game," a spokesman said.

"Anyone convicted of match-fixing can expect to be banned for life but, at this stage, no one has been charged and we should avoid jumping to conclusions."

Bigger that, it's Manly, someone is bound to be guilty.

Of course Manly and the Eels have met again this season at Brookvale. In that one it was 8-8 at halftime but the Eels scored three tries in the final 12 minutes to win a 22-10 victory.

Nothing fishy about that either eh!

Booze-fuelled punch-ups, assaults, drug possession, knocking about with gang members, gambling problems, there all bad. But match-fixing is as low as it goes.

I won't be wasting any tears on anyone involved. There's a long way to go before we find out what can be proved, but this is a very bad look.

## Johnson Keen To Do More

Great to hear Shaun Johnson believes there is improvement to come, and he is determined to make it happen.

Only a week ago we were over the moon with his last gasp try in golden point against the Panthers, and he had a good game on the Gold Coast as we over-ran the Titans Titans 24-14.

Johnson had a hand in two of our tries, and led the team around well, on his way to man of the match.

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You will recall last week Brad Fittler was sticking the boot in, so two words for Brad – up yours.

Even so, Johnson is determined to keep improving. “I didn't think I played too well,” Johnson said.

“I had some nice touches but I know where I want to get to so I'll get back home and work hard and build into the weekend.”

### **Up To Seventh**

As you will all know, we are up to seventh, with three of our final four games at home, so well-placed to finish in the top eight - something we haven't managed since 2011.

Imagine if we had taken the points in all those golden point losses, we would be flying.

Even with those losses, we are a side in good form and hopefully a win this weekend will push us to the brink of qualifying.

Not bad when you think back to how bloody awful we were early in the year.

Don't forget, we have not been beaten in regulation time since Canberra in round 11.

### **Hayne Mania**

Jesus did not get as much press in the Jerusalem Post as Jarryd Hayne managed in Aussie.

Talk about over the top.

And the TV commentators did not make it any easier to watch.

Sure he did some amazing things – his one on one tackle on Bodene Thompson to prevent a certain try in particular.

There was so much hype I was totally over it.

Yes, he is a superstar of the game and after flirting with American football and Rugby Sevens it is good to have him back in the game, but enough already.

I thought his performance was at best mixed.

He had a number of classy touches but also threw some passes that were very easy to read – and Solomon Kata certainly read one of them!

“There was a lot of noise and we just focused on ourselves and got the job done, and that's really all that matters,” Johnson said.

Superstar or not, I only watch Hayne when he plays against us, but I will make appoint of tuning in when he returns to Parramatta. His reception will be interesting to say the least.

Interesting that Hayne also escaped suspension for touching a referee, something the dedicated “Hayne Cam” spotted in the second half.

The match review committee said Hayne was not charged over the accidental touching.

Yeah right. If it was Vatuvei, Leuluai, Johnson?

### **Kata Wins On Points**

I am a fully paid-up member of the Konrad Hurrell fan club, and miss the grinning wrecking ball.

So it was interesting to see him up against his former club, since he had been unable to play against us when the Titans came to Mt Smart – part of the transfer deal.

Much had been said about it.

Konrad scored a good try and celebrated – as he always does – with a kiss for mum to camera and a smile so wide I thought he might swallow his own ears.

But on balance I'd still give the decision to Kata. Another double for the Tongan flier and he is now up to 11 for the season.

When Kata fended off Titans winger Anthony Don before scoring in the corner even the commentators were left gasping to describe it.

The sight of poor Don on the deck hammering his fist into the ground in frustration –and you did not need a degree in lip-reading to work out what he was saying – was a thing of beauty.

Kata is having some year and is a vital part of our team, though someone needs to have a word about taking the ball closer to the posts to make it a bit easier for our kickers.

His one on one strip against the Panthers led to the winning play and he has clearly worked on some of the deficiencies in his defensive game.

Just ask yourself which other NRL side would not be interested if he was on the market.

### **Cappy Is Hard To Please**

The man they call Cappy, our coach Andrew McFadden, could have been excused for being a cheerful chappy after the win over the Titans, but he was having none of it, getting stuck in about our poor finish.

He was quick to praise some outstanding defence, but said undisciplined play in the final 10 left the door open for the Titans.

He has a point. Up 24-10 we blew a try when Thomas Leuluai missed Ryan Hoffman, but I'd forgive the bloke most things at the moment because he has been terrific in recent weeks.

But Hayne put in the kick that led to a try for Don, and from the restart the Titans almost scored again Hurrell's pass to Don going forward.

"We were a little untidy at times even though we did create lots of opportunities," said McFadden.

"We had to defend well to get the points and that's not been typical of us in the past. We're really hanging in there and we threw a bit at them and they scrambled well. Our defence had to really hold up and that's probably what won it for us."

### **Manu Eyes Along Stay**

Did you see the piece on Manu Vatuvei in the Herald, that he wants to play in the NRL until 2020?

The big fella played game number 221 against the Titans, but the 30-year-old wants to extend his career beyond his contract, the end of the 2017 season.

"I've always wanted to play as long as I can. I love the sport and that's why I'm playing. All that other stuff that comes with it is tough, but you have to do what you love. Hopefully I have another five years in me ... but my body will tell me if I can go longer or not."

Ruben Wiki, Lote Tuqiri and Steve Price all played to 35, and Adam MacDougall went one better.

"Hopefully I have five more years, but who knows? I'll do my best to enjoy what I have now and think about it later," Manu said.

First-choice for a decade and the first NRL player to score 10 tries in 10 seasons.

Don't bet against him.

### **Blow For Luke**

It's been a tough year for Issac Luke. He did not cover himself with glory at the start of the year, but battled back and was in superb form, but now his knee injury is threatening to end his season.

It is a serious blow for us too – although Jazz Tevaga and Nathaniel Roache did well against the Titans. Luke stands to be out for a month with a meniscus tear and was heading for surgery this week, with the aim of a return against the Eels on September 4.

So that is two of our marquee signings out, with Roger Tuivasa-Sheck out since his ACL injury.

McFadden admits Luke's injury is a blow. "We're very disappointed. He's a big loss for us. Hopefully it's minor enough to be able to get him back before the season ends."

Roache and Tevaga, both 20, are very different players. Roache can also play fullback and five-eighth, Tevaga is a converted back-rower.

"I've been watching Nathaniel play and he really gives us some threat around the ruck, while Jazz is really a defensive player. He's done a good job and he's only just learning the position."

Thomas Leuluai can play No 9, and Tui Lolohea and David Fusitu'a are versatile enough to plug gaps, but the two youngsters are going to have a big say in how well our season ends.

### **Player Power Saves Former Warrior**

Former Warrior Siliva Havili has been reinstated to Dragons first grade after being stood down with Tim Lafai after a brawl in Wollongong. They have a court date for affray and offensive behaviour next month. But the Dragons faced a player revolt after teammates demanded they be allowed to play and train.

"Both players had been stood down for breaching the club's code of conduct arising from their involvement in an incident. But both are now available to play in the NSW Cup on Saturday."

Havili played in their Under 20s team for three seasons and made his first grade debut at hooker in 2014. Last year he signed a two-year deal with the Dragons.

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## Henry Pulls The Pin

Ben Henry is to retire at the end of the season, and that is a tough break for the talented 24-year-old, who I have had the pleasure of meeting when he visited Middlemore with the team.

He is a terrific bloke and a fine player but he has been dogged by serious injury.

He's been battling his third serious knee injury in four years and the club said he recently had a relapse in his recovery.

He suffered his latest injury in round one against the Tigers, the left knee patella, and was prepared for another battle back to fitness but he has decided not to continue and is apparently in discussions about a role in the club's football department.

Even with his injury run Henry has still managed 54 NRL games after debuting in 2012.

It's a cruel reminder that league is a tough game, and that not everyone can enjoy a Manu Vatuvei-like lengthy career.

All the best Ben, because that is what you always gave us fans – your best.

## Party Favours Anyone?

Warriors boss Jim Doyle says the Warriors won't be committing any Mad Monday blunders.

"One of the things we talk about is the brand and reputation and not damaging it," Doyle said.

Our end of year functions are always private, with only players invited. No members of the public or other players are allowed, and mobile phones are a no-no.

The club is even going to approach law enforcement to help protect players who want to take celebrations late into the night.

"We might ask an off-duty police officer or two to go with the players if they do want to go into town. You've got to make sure it's extremely well managed. You've got to make sure that it's really private, that the players are very aware."

Even taxis are out. Trusted people are used to come and pick players up.

Too much – two words – The Chiefs.

Know anyone coming from out of town to the game at Mt Smart this Saturday?

If they would like a tour of the stadium text Dexter on 021733723 for details.



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# Vodafone Warriors Fans Came from Far and Wide to Watch Their Team Play



Adrian, Brenda, Damon, Janae, Christine, Stephanie Rogers with the Tookie monster, Mark Tookie all EX Porirua Vikings supporters.



Andrew and Matthew Harrington.



Andy Rahman who is battling cancer but is still right behind the Vodafone Warriors and Lloyd Whitelaw who is a massive fan both from Brisbane.



Ashlea Barrow, Matthew Fisher, Mark Gilchrist, Stephen Northey. All from Tauranga now living on the Gold Coast.



Bee & Ki Teariki from Wellington who flew over for the game.



Chris Murray (Brisbane) Kiwi & Joey Mata EX Manurewa.



Had to have a photo of little Maia Rogers, in her Kiwi jersey.



Hayley Heath, Ray Heath, Travis Heath staunch Warriors Fan Ex Palmerston North.



John Harvey-Harris and Sandra Bryen who came down from Brisbane for the game.



Josh Brookelyn and Nixon Cooper at Nixon's first ever game after turning 1 last week and he already loves the Warriors.



Kurukaanga family Kylie, Nevaeh, Kaea, Garry, Renee, Armani and Peter living in Gold Coast from Levin.



Peter Joe and Ruben Morgan who flew up from Sydney.

# More Fans at the Game



Meet Rebecca Holman a true diamond Aussie but loves the Vodafone Warriors. Started following the Warriors back in 2001 loved the style of footy and never looked back. Love my boys.



Met these former South Aucklanders. Ray, Lyriq, Trey, Kordell & Maurena. At CBUS stadium.



Mike and Bernie Wood from Hervey Bay QLD ex Wellington.



My old school mate Les Webb, Me and Gordon Gibbons cheering the boys on Saturday.



Warrior Nation Supporters, Richard Morgan, Ruben Morgan Peter Joe, Jarreau Haami, John Roberts, Pinga King, Preston King, Danyon.



Loyal Warriors support Joyce ex Kiwi Graeme Farrar (who lives on the Gold Coast) and another ex Kiwi Don Hammond enjoyed the Vodafone Warriors win on the Gold Coast.



Taylor Herniman (Gisborne), Richard Ngaha (Auckland), Papa Heke (Mangere), Tyrece Herniman (Gisborne) and Skylah Ngaha (Gisborne) all living in Brisbane.



Great to catch up with my old mate Kevin Campion on the coast check out my Facebook page for the interview I did with him.

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



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# Wonderful World of the NRL

## By John Coffey QSM



**ONE WONDERS** what the New Zealand media would do without Australia's National Rugby League, which keeps producing sensational news stories and fodder for talkback callers. It truly is the competition every other code would love to have, and the best bits might still be to come as the Warriors battle for a top-eight finish. In no particular order, we have been entertained, shocked, delighted and angered, depending on one's allegiance, by the following:

**Bunker Blues:** All was bliss for the first couple of rounds as the \$2 million bunker cranked into action. Then came the first Bunker Blooper and the new video referee system became the cat everyone wanted to kick. Yet there is nothing wrong with the Bunker as such. It is faster and more accurate than the old way. But it is controlled by humans, and humans are fallible. Mistakes are inevitable, which even means sometimes the critics, not the Bunker, are wrong.

**Parramatta Problems:** Eels fans were confident when the club kicked off with a host of new signings led by Kieran Foran and looked a serious premierships contender. Then we found out why. The shifty suits around the board table had been rorting the salary cap for years and still lived in denial after they were exposed. Foran's sad demise was a tragic sidebar. And we still don't know where or what code Fijian wing sensation Semi Radradra will be playing in 2017.

**Norman the Nutter:** Such is the desperation of clubs for NRL glory that half a dozen of them have been tossing small fortunes at off-contract Parramatta five-eighth Corey Norman even after his rap sheet for 2016 included consorting with known criminals, starring in a sex video tape and being convicted of drug possession to incur a season-ending suspension. Yet, despite all those distractions, Norman had been a stand-out performer for the errant Eels.

**Where are you Sam?** What on earth did the England Rugby Union do with the real Sam Burgess? Where is the inspiring forward leader who ignored a broken cheekbone to pilot South Sydney to the 2014 premiership? Silly Sam then went off to do the same for England at the Rugby World Cup, only to be made the scapegoat of a failed campaign. With the real Sam nowhere to be seen, brothers Tom and George have also largely gone missing in action.

**Golden Point:** Despite its foibles, I enjoy Golden Point bringing sudden death to the regular season games. But the referees ruined it by putting their whistles in their pockets. Penrith's blatant off-side play at Mt Smart was virtually ignored by the Aussie media and drew only a mumbled apology from referees' boss Tony Archer. Two days later Cronulla coach Shane Flanagan and captain Paul Gallen called Golden Point a joke and everyone else took notice.

**Taking the Two:** Suddenly every point counts. For decades rugby league coaches ignored opportunities to kick for goal, preferring to tap the ball and run at the try-line. The alternative was something they did at Rugby Park, where the score always seemed to be 3-3 after 20 minutes. NRL teams are now accused of deliberately conceding cheap penalties and two points under pressure. Shame the referees don't have the courage to use the sin-bin to stop it.

**Television one-up-man-ship:** A fierce rivalry has been conducted off the field of play between television giants Channel 9 and Fox Sports. Both have gathered their player "stables", giving them access for those meaningless halftime "interviews". Sometimes the fatigued player seems confused whether the old star or young lady holding the microphone actually works for "his" channel. Last week Fox promoted Retro Round. Nine ignored it.

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**Wests Tigers at War:** It started late last season when coach Jason Taylor told club legend Robbie Farah he would not be playing first grade in 2016. NSW coach Laurie Daley replied he would pick Farah for his Origin team anyway. Well, Farah did play first grade and Origin this season before Taylor lowered the boom when ropeable Robbie was three short of 250 games. Meanwhile, the rest of the squad must have been walking on egg shells around them.

**Super Coach Shambles:** Not long ago there were calls for the Warriors to enlist one of the so-called Super Coaches to lead the club to glory. No coach since Jack Gibson is more super than Wayne Bennett in terms of experience and results. But his two ventures out of Brisbane have not been memorable. At least Wayne won a title with St George-Illawarra but both the Dragons and Newcastle Knights are struggling in post-Wayne World. Carry on Cappy.

And we haven't even touched on the never-ending saga of the NRL match review committee and its judiciary system – which managed to conjure a seven-match suspension for Charlie Gubb which was only one game short of that handed out to Corey Norman -- or the flights of the Hayne Plane from San Francisco to London and Suva and on to Sydney before landing at the Gold Coast. Truly a vintage year. It has had everything, except, of course, the Chiefs!

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# Eighty Minute Effort

By Barry Ross



**T**HERE WAS so much to like from Sunday's win against the Titans and while coach Andrew McFadden has praised his team, he must be ecstatic with every player's efforts. Even with just two minutes to play and leading by 10 points, their goal-line defence was brilliant. There has been many well deserved comments during the past few weeks about the defence, but the fact that the players are working on this for 80 minutes is very encouraging for the coaching staff and fans. To do this in an away game against a side higher on the ladder, is indicative of a happy and well coached side. Earlier in the season, McFadden had more than his share of critics but there can be no complaints after the team's performances in the past month or more. Credit where credit is due and McFadden deserves a wrap, as do all the players and everyone connected with the team.

What an exciting player Solomone Kata has become. Still only 21, he is now a real personality and opposition fans are beginning to appreciate his ability. Against the Titans he ran for a game-high 172 metres with seven tackle breaks, but it is what he does in these blockbusting runs. His second try with 15 minutes to go featured a great fend on Titans winger, Anthony Don and this brought the house down. The crowd really loved this and the smiles were not only on the faces of Warrior supporters. When a defender takes him front on, they have to be careful not to be run over, as happened several times on the Gold Coast. Twelve tries and 2,179 running metres from his 19 games, which is an average of 115 metres a game, shows his attacking value to the team, while his 157 tackles is also a good defensive figure.

The Bunker again came into play over the weekend. Konrad Hurrell's try for the Titans was ruled OK after the referees referred it. In days gone by, most Rugby League people would agree that it was a fair try, but not according to the policy the Bunker used earlier this season. Thomas Leuluai was obstructed and going by what the Bunker has done many times in 2016, the try should have been disallowed. Fox TV commentator, Mark Gasnier certainly thought so, saying on air, "It should have been disallowed. The Bunker was not consistent with other decisions they have made during this season.

In the game following the Warriors-Titans clash, between the Cowboys and the Tigers at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday, the Bunker reversed two of the refereeing decisions. The first one was against the Cowboys Javid Bowen. The referee said try, but the Bunker said no try.

Then at the other end, the referee ruled a no try for the Tigers James Tedesco, but the Bunker said try. In both cases the man in white was well placed and close to the action. There was definitely doubt on both occasions, but the Bunker chose not to go with the referee. To me there was no definitive footage to overturn the ref's ruling but the Bunker thought otherwise. It was an amazing effort by Tedesco to get to the tryline and this has been recognised in the media. But watching the game on TV, I couldn't see him definitely ground the ball.

These decisions have a big bearing on matches, as do many other decisions, as the Warriors Holden Cup team found out on Sunday. Leading 20-18 with five minutes to go the referee awarded a try to the Titans Jordan Scott. This was an amazing decision and cost the young Warriors a win.

Reverting to the Bunker, consistency has been a problem as this season has progressed. How must Tyson Frizell feel, after serving his one match ban for making contact with a referee, after hearing that Jarryd Hayne missed being cited for what appeared to be something very similar. I hear the Bunker and its performance will be reviewed in the off season. This can't come soon enough.

The Eels stopped Manly's winning run. Despite their well documented problems, the Parramatta players are to be commended for their efforts this year. They probably can't make the eight now, but will still provide a tough hurdle for the Warriors at Mt. Smart on Sunday 4 September, in the last game before the play offs begin. In fact, all four of the Warriors last four games will be difficult. Souths were unlucky to lose in Golden Point against the Storm in Melbourne on Saturday night. It was the Rabbitohs best game for a few months and they will be keen to repeat that at Mt. Smart this coming Saturday. The following Saturday, it is the Cowboys at Townsville and this certainly will be a challenge. Then on Sunday 28 August the Warriors take on the Wests Tigers at Mt. Smart. The Tigers were classy in their win over the Cowboys on Sunday. They believe they can finish in the top eight teams and this game could be vital to both the Warriors and the Tigers, as far as top eight positions go.

The Panthers 20 point win (38-18) over the Roosters on Monday night put them in seventh position on the ladder and moved the Warriors back to eighth.



By Ben Francis

## The Hayne Plane Take Off to be Delayed

Jarrod Hayne 7th August 2016. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

**T**HE BIG news from last week in the NRL was the return of Jarryd Hayne. Hayne announced last week he had signed with the Gold Coast Titans in a deal reportedly worth \$1.2 million a season. This shocked many fans as Hayne had announced back in 2014 he was Parramatta for life.

The 28 year old said the Eels did not approach him, however the club said otherwise.

Many fans reaction was that Hayne would make an immediate impact for the Titans as they push for a finals berth for the first time since 2010.

It's true, Hayne would make an impact, but however it would take him a while to get back into the groove of things.

Hayne made himself available for immediate selection, and came on in the 27th minute as the Titans hosted the Warriors at Cbus Super Stadium on the Gold Coast.

The Warriors won the game 24-14

Hayne had 10 runs for 82 meters, an off-load, try assist, and tackle break, 9 tackles and 109 kicking meters. Those numbers are great for your first game in nearly two years, but a few mistakes were noticed in the game which could have been expected.

Jarryd Hayne will take time to adjust back to playing Rugby League after stints in the National Football League with the San Francisco 49ers and Rugby Sevens with Fiji, and his decision to play the rest of the 2016 NRL season was the best decision he could have made for his career.

He might be rusty but going by the numbers and the eye test, Hayne played well.

With Hayne's decision to play this season will give him time to get back into the groove of the NRL and with the off-season also he will be better off next season.

The Titans have games remaining against the Tigers, Knights, Panthers and Cowboys this season and expect Hayne to have a bigger role in all the remaining games.

The Titans have exceeded expectations this season and the young core will thrive next season and with the addition of a former Dally M winner, expect the Hayne Plane to officially take off in 2017 and possibly the Titans.



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By John Deaker



## The Hurricanes Win Was A Great Day For Their Present and Past Players

*Hurricanes Captain Dane Coles celebrates winning with the Investec Super Rugby Trophy. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*

**T**HE HURRICANES secured their franchise's first Super rugby title on Saturday night and while the victory was special for the current crop of players it was just as momentous for many of the great Hurricanes players for whom winning the title has proved elusive over the years. The historical nature of the 2016 team's achievement wasn't lost on the 'Canes courageous captain Dane Coles after the match.

“Obviously JC [Jerry Collins] was a big part of the defensive theme this year. But if you look back at guys like Conrad [Smith], Norm Hewitt, all those ex-Hurricanes boys that have tried to win the trophy, for me, that was a massive motivation,” Coles said.

“Jeremy Thrush, I could go on. Christian Cullen, there were so many Hurricanes legends that couldn't get that thing,” said Coles, pointing at the trophy after the match.

When the 'Canes were thrashed 52-10 by the Brumbies in round one this season it appeared that losing the class and experience that men like Conrad Smith and Ma'a Nonu provided in 2015 was going to make this a much tougher year for them than last year when they lost the final against the Highlanders 21-14.

The horrendous conditions for this year's final weren't ideal for the Lions or the Hurricanes who are both capable of playing entertaining, running rugby. The great defence the 'Canes have shown at the business end of the season again proved to be a decisive factor in the match as their rush defence put pressure on Elton Jantjies who'd been such a crucial attacking weapon for them this season.

While Beauden Barrett's general play was exceptional his improved goalkicking also proved to be important in the match as Jantjies struggled in the heavy rain and wind.

The focus for Hurricanes supporters now turns to the international season. Most 'Canes supporters have felt Barrett has been hard-done by in the past by having to come off the bench so often while Aaron Cruden's been given better opportunities to start test matches. Barrett repeatedly showed his ability to dominate matches for 80 minutes right through the 2016 Super rugby season. Whether he gets the chance to prove he can make a similar impact on the international stage now lies in the hands of the All Black selectors.

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

*The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.*

By John Holloway

## NRL Round 23

Date/ Venue		Game	Sue Phelan	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Bill Hayward	High-Tackle Holloway
			<i>Maloney's Barber Shop - The best haircut in town.</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>Link Business - Buying or Selling a Business</i>	<i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Richmond Leagueie</i>
11/8 - ANZ	Bulldogs v Sea Eagles	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs
12/8 - Suncorp	Broncos v Eels	Eels	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos
13/8 - Cambletown	Tigers v Titans	Titans	Titans	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers
13/8 - Mt Smart	Warriors v Rabbitohs	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
13/8 - Jubilee	Dragons v Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks
14/8 - Hunter	Knights v Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Knights	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
14/8 - ALLIANZ	Roosters v Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys
15/8 - GIO	Raiders v Storm	Storm	Raiders	Storm	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Storm	Raiders

### How they're traveling....

Picks last week	6/8	6/8	5/8	6/8	5/8	5/8	5/8
Total picks	98/162	97/162	109/162	100/162	105/162	111/162	115/162

**B**IG GUNS or Pop Guns, geez mate a bit of a changing of the guard over the weekend with the Sharkies stumbling further, the far North Cowboys shooting blanks, the Manly charge halted and the Hayne plane Titans crashing to the mighty Warriors. Out of the haze and smoke the Raiders announce themselves as the real deal, the Storm stay top (just) and the Tigers growl. A lot of great footy on offer in most games. Lets start with our guys...behind the 8ball on AusTAB the Warriors were expected to come second to the improving and imposing Titans on their home patch but even with the Hayne train on the track and looking like he had never left Cappys cavaliers stayed on task to get the points 24/14. Hurrells try scoring histrionics quelled by a storming Solomone Kata double. The value of Tommygun Leaului's experience and nous is really emerging of late. Fusitua a pearler at centre and Magic Johnson liking the workspace in behind the go forward. Looking ahead, when push comes to shove the top 4 sides are likely to show true colours but right now it has become a rather more even playing field across the 8. The key is making the September shootout and then anything can happen, Go the mighty Warriiiiioorrs. In other results I guess Bennetts Broncos at least got the points at last but still looked laboured against the draft-horse Dragons. 12/8 scoreline tells the story. The never say die Eels got past the desperate Sea Eagles 10/9 and if not for the 12point deduction debacle and key player (Radradra/Foran/Norman) losses would be right in the finals fight. The Bulldogs have seemingly lost a bit of bite but got back on track somewhat with a 28/14 result over the visiting Knights. Not exactly a dazzling display but two points and 4th possie will keep dauntless Dessie amused. Ripper Raiders 30 shifty Sharks 14 the result of the round. Sticky Rickys back division of Sezar, Austin, the excellent Croker, big Joey Lealua, rampant Rapana and jumpin Jack Wighton are easily the best in the comp and playmaker Pom Hodgson is running the cutter in outstanding fashion.

*Continued on next page...*

Take the tip from HighTackle they are a handful. The Shireboys aren't on "use by date" but definitely a little shaky with their unbeaten streak at an end and former high level of confidence taking another hit...suddenly experienced players look like tired players and younger stars face the 26 round grind realities. The Rabbitohs finally showed a bit of bounce and came very close in Melbourne but yet another golden point result saw super smooth Cameron Smith kicking the Storm to victory 15/14. Bellamys boys not to be discounted, Souths just playing for pride. The Cowboys got lassoed `26/14 at the "Old School" footy park, Leichardt. A less than lively JT could not get his troops moving against a high revving and mobile Tiger attack. Moses in the form of his young life taunted the Rustlers all day with all of his run/kick/pass talents on show. Nofoaluma was as usual unstoppable, Tedesco produced one of his 'beat the whole team' tries and tyro hardman prop Woods led from the front. On this kind of form they can upset the best and they did. The Panthers nailed the Roosters 38/18 on the Monday nite, into 7th on the ladder pushing our boys to the foot of the top 8.

Tippin talk: Super Sue (again!!), Big Joe and Fast Eddie (From St Africa) led the way with 6s the rest of us including Montz from Rio 1 behind on 5s. Only four rounds to catch the elusive high-Tackle. Cmon team... mind you might run a week or two into the finals to keep it interesting.

## Reader Mail



**J**UST A note to say thank you for the jersey prize and it will go to good people.

Keep up the good work with all your charities, and do call by and eat drink and be merry any time you are over in Birkenhead.

Go the Tigers and the Warriors!!!

Cheers, Al Vaughan



**I**JUST WANTED to say thank you soooooo much my Warriors Heritage Jersey signed by Simon Mannering on his 250th game!!

I arrived home to a this parcel last night and it blew my mind when I opened it!!

Attached is a photo on me wearing my new top and my son Rico with his cool new haircut.

Thanks again. BIG game Sunday. Go The Warriors!!

Kind Regards, Ben Rzoska



**P**ICTURED FROM left are Felix and Brent Sanders, who live in Templeton, Christchurch. Every Warriors game Brent wears his Warriors jersey and dresses Felix into his. Brent reckons that Felix is a wee Warriors mascot and good luck charm for the team.

All the best for the rest of the season

Cheers, Sue Rowland

# More Reader Mail



**A FEW PICS.** Right 2 are our Brunner Bulls under 6s and 12s very happy with their gifts from you. Left 2 are 12s and 14s. Thanks again. There were lots of smiles on our kids faces after games. Thanks heaps.

Thanks  
Daniel Duggan



Hi Peter,

**J**UST A quick note to say what a pleasure it was to have you on - board Wyndham Cruises today, I know the crew enjoyed your company.

I have attached a couple of photos for you, I have also attached a photo of our new vessel which will be launched in September of this year.

Next time you are on the Gold Coast It would be our pleasure to have you on - board again, which will be on our new vessel

Keep up the great work you do mate.

Kind Regards,

Dean Griffin

General Manager

Wyndham Cruises Gold Coast



Big thanks to the team at Wyndham cruises on the Gold Coast we had a great day and a fantastic feed of prawns on the cruise we will be back.

**T**HE ENTIRE team at Te Omanga Hospice says a massive thanks to the Vodafone Warriors for their support in making a signed jersey available for their big fundraising event in Wellington.

The jersey sold for \$1,600 to King Toyota and looked great framed up as you can see.





# A Moving Letter from a Grieving Family

To whom this may concern,

**C**OULD YOU pass on my email to the entire Warriors team & management, Sir Peter Charles Leitch & anyone else that may have helped yesterday. The Pearson Family were blown away. I can NOT thank you all enough & a thank you is certainly not enough!

You put a smile on the faces of Quentin, Michelle & Tayla.

Kodi Pearson (Kodz) #KP3#

Lost his life on 11/07/2016 instead of returning to school to be bullied & starting a new term, he ended his life. He had only turned 14yrs old March this year.

This family are MASSIVE Warriors supporters :) I have already thanked Emily from the Titans who organised all of this on my behalf for them. Yes, they are Kiwis who have lived over here for many, many years like us all :)

We will get the message out there #STOPBULLYING#

I have attached a few of yesterday's photo's.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Love & blessings to you all.

Regards,  
Dana Marshall



# We're Overflowing with Reader Mail

## KEEP IT COMING

Hi Sir Peter,

**F**IRSTLY A huge thank you for getting me and the two young lads (Joshua & Xavier) access to the Warriors changing room post-match on the weekend. It was the thrill of a lifetime for them! I passed on the photos to both Richard and Jason in Florida, both good mates of mine.

As discussed, see attached photos...both now pride of place in their bedrooms! Good luck for the rest of the season and thanks again.

Kind Regards,

Paul Goldfinch



## Gold Coast Photos - Ra Pomare



*Continued on next page...*



*Photos from the members function after the game.*

## NSW Cup Game Recap

By Joe Williams - NSW Cup Team Manager

**T**HE INTRUST Super Premiership Vodafone Warriors side fell to a 20-16 loss in their Round 22 clash against Wyong Roos at Morry Breen Oval over the weekend. This loss has resulted in the Vodafone Warriors slipping from second equal to third equal on the table.

In changing conditions, the Vodafone Warriors made it hard for themselves with many errors which resulted in the Roos leading throughout the whole game.

With tries to Semisi Tyrell, Toafofoa Siple and Viliami Kaveinga and Mason Lino converting 2 from 3 left the Warriors short by the final whistle.

The Stacey Jones coached side has their last travel of the regular season travelling to Belmore Sportsground to play the Bulldogs on Saturday. Following this weekend they finish off the season with two home games against top of the table Mounties and Penrith Panthers.

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# BIG LEAGUE

## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 23 ISSUE...

Jam-packed with FEATURES and NEWS, plus columnist BRENT TATE and game analysis by BEN IKIN; plus NRL, HOLDEN CUP, NSW CUP, QLD CUP and RON MASSEY CUP team lists and a FULL NRL DRAW.

### FEATURES

- Eels coach **Brad Arthur** has had one of the toughest seasons of anyone in the game. We went out to have a chat and watch him coach the Rouse Hill Rhinos under-14s, the thing which keeps his passion for coaching burning. "I really enjoy it. It keeps me sane, you know? It reminds me why I wanted to get involved in coaching in the first place," he says.
- Analyst and former coach **Matthew Elliott** says **Jarryd Hayne** brings to the Titans the x-factor they lost when **James Roberts** walked out of the club last year. He also says not to expect miracles this season, predicting the Gold Coast still won't make the top eight.
- **Clay Priest** was fixing powerlines earlier this year when he got a call from an unknown number – it was the Canberra Raiders. The 27-year-old is one of the game's oldest rookies and has incredibly gone from thinking his football aspirations were dead to playing for a team in the top four.
- Also, **Dale Finucane** says after suffering two grand final losses, nothing but a premiership will be satisfying this season; **Sio Siua Taukeiaho** takes a leadership role for the Roosters in their time of need; we predict the **final top eight teams** and the **Dragons** try to work out where their season went wrong.

**PLUS...** The Analyst rates the **Broncos halves** and we reveal the **Top 8 Olympians who played rugby league**.

**AND:** Little League, lower grade previews and a Simon Mannering poster.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

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# Zae Wallace Crowned SAS College Rugby League Player of the Year

**WESTLAKE BOYS'** High School's Zae Wallace has been named the SAS College Rugby League Player of the Year at the Auckland Rugby League awards breakfast this morning.

The 17-year-old year 13 student was a real stand out in this year's competition, boosting his side to qualify for the championship division before falling short of making the major semi-finals.

Wallace was also awarded halfback of the year in the SAS College Rugby League 1st XIII Team of the Year.

"The college competition has been awesome this year," said Wallace.

"There was a lot more competition with schools like Wesley College coming up to compete so it's been great.

"I'm happy with the award but I wouldn't be here without the team and their hard work this season."

Already a valued team member of the Mt Albert premier team, Wallace says he's now focusing on club footy and the SAS Fox Memorial competition.

"I'm not sure what the future holds for me, but I know I need to work hard until I get to where I want to be," he said.

Junior Fiu from St Paul's College was awarded Coach of the Year for the Premier competition while Kelston's Michelle Keenan was awarded Manager of the Year.

Tamaki's Raven Takerei won top try scorer with 10 tries, while Wesley's standoff, who was also named in the 1st XIII Team of the Year Adam Pompey took home top goal kicker with 17.

In the U/15 nine-aside competition Saunoa Mika from Aorere College topped the try-scoring with nine, sharing top points scored (42 points) with Semesi Ahoatu from Onehunga High School.

MVP was awarded to Jake Rutherford from Henderson High School.

In the U/85kg competition Mangere College swept the major awards with Lucas Mai-ko winning top try scorer (5 tries), Raven Tongafofoa winning top goal kicker (5 goals) and Maiko also sharing top points scored (20 points each) with team mate John Korenato.

Vanguard Military School were awarded the fair play school award for the Senior A competition while Aorere's Diaz Tauhia was awarded MVP.

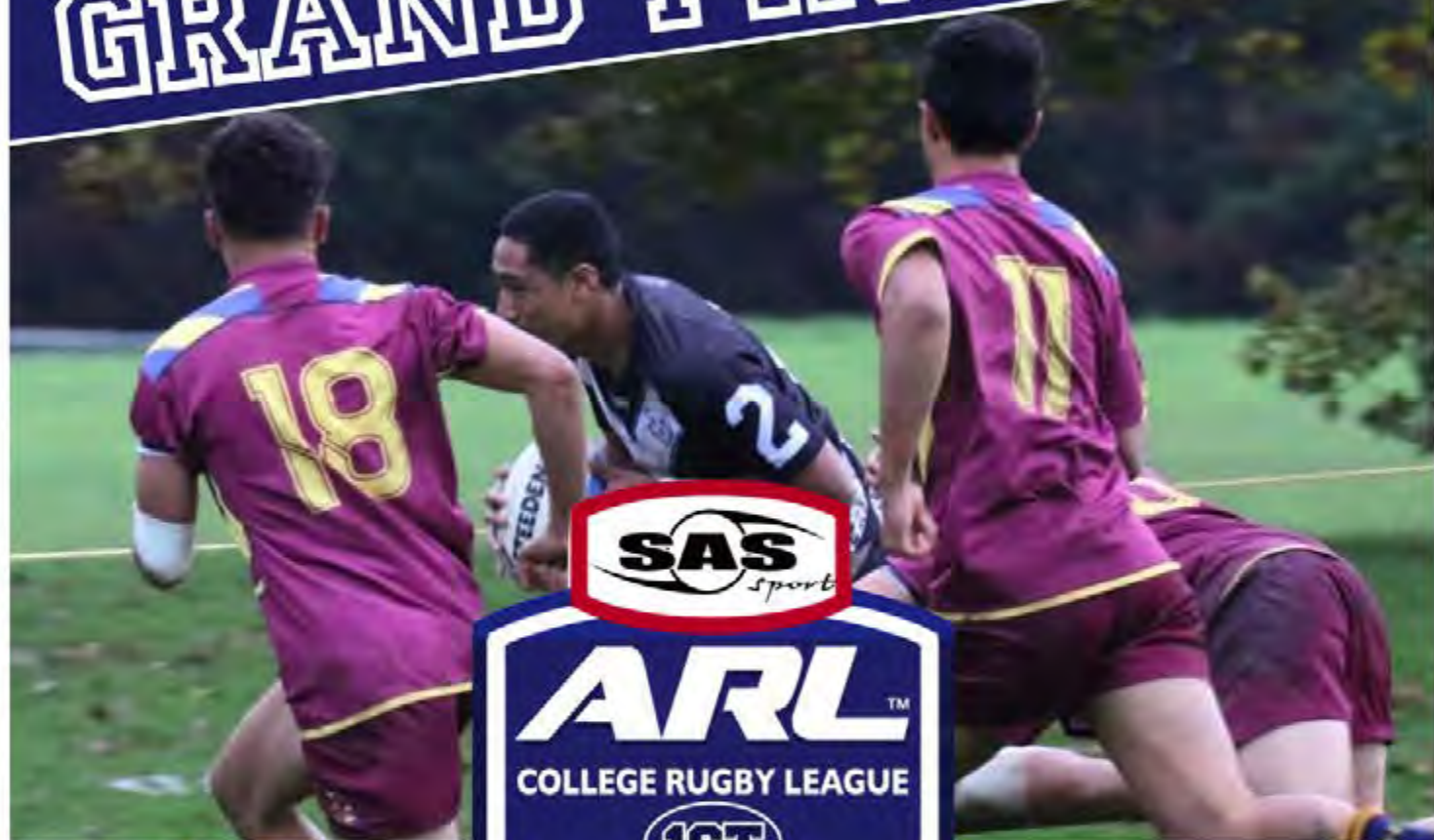
The SAS College Rugby League finals for the Championship, Plate and Bowl competitions will be played this Wednesday August 10 at Mt Smart Stadium #2.



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# GAME ON

## COLLEGE LEAGUE GRAND FINALS



**WEDNESDAY**  
**AUGUST 10**  
**GATES OPEN**  
**4PM**

**\$2 ENTRY**  
**FREE IN SCHOOL**  
**UNIFORM**

4:30PM BOWL GRAND FINAL PAPATOETOE V SIR EDMUND HILLARY  
5:45PM PLATE GRAND FINAL SOUTHERN CROSS V MANUREWA  
7:00PM CHAMPIONSHIP GRAND FINAL ST PAUL'S V WESLEY



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# Roope Roosters Stays South - ARL

**T**HE PAKAKURA Sea Eagles have secured the Konica Minolta Roope Rooster for 2016 following their successful 44-26 defence over the Richmond Bulldogs on Saturday.

This is their second trophy of the season winning the Giltrap Nissan Stormont Shield for the minor premiership.

But it wasn't all about the premiers on Saturday, with the Papakura under 6's and under 7's teams playing Richmond during the break in a half time special.

Despite the horrible weather conditions, it was a great day for the south Auckland club who dedicated the televised round to fundraise and create awareness for Bowel Cancer in New Zealand.

The Saints chances at making the competitions top 4 ended last weekend going down 18-14 to Otahuhu who are fighting to stay in the Fox.

The win by Otahuhu certainly made the relegation race more interesting until Northcote were able to hold out a fast finishing Howick Hornets 32-26 at Birkenhead War Memorial to remain 2 points ahead of the Leopards on the table as we go into the final round.

Pt Chevalier made easy work of Glenora winning 32-0 while Mangere East lost to Mt Albert 58-6.

The weekend's results have finalised the competitions top 4 with Papakura at the top, Pt Chevalier sitting second on the table followed by Mt Albert and Glenora.

All eyes will be on the Tigers this weekend when they take on the Richmond Bulldogs in the 11am game at Paparoa Park.

A win by the Tigers will secure their position in the 2017 Fox Memorial while a loss will mean the Leop-

ards control their own destiny when they take on traditional rivals Mt Albert Lions later in the day.

A win by the Leopards and it will come down to percentages with Otahuhu holding a slight advantage.

Saturday saw the conclusion of the championship round in the Crown Lift Trucks Sharman competition with Te Atatu securing the Phelan Shield for the minor premiership, dominating the improving Otara Scorpions 32-0.

Manurewa's 34-22 win over Pakuranga has secured the final spot in the competitions top 8.

The competitions top 8 are Te Atatu, Ellerslie, Bay Roskill, Waitemata, Hibiscus Coast, Papatoetoe, Otara and Manurewa.

The competitions top 4 will go head-to-head this weekend with a chance for the winning teams to go through to the preliminary finals and the losing teams getting a second chance to play.

There's plenty of footy action on this weekend. Get out to your local field and support some grass roots rugby league.

## SAS Fox Memorial Rd #18 Fixtures

Mangere East v Pt Chevalier @ Walter Massey Park 2.30pm

Howick v Marist @ Paparoa Park 2.30pm

Richmond v Northcote @ Paparoa Park 11am

Glenora v Papakura @ Harold Moody Park 2.30pm

## Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup

Te Atatu v Waitemata @ Jack Colvin Park 2.30pm

Ellerslie v Bay Roskill @ Ellerslie Domain 2.30pm

Hibiscus Coast v Manurewa @ Stanmore Bay 2.30pm

Papatoetoe v Otara @ Kohuora Park 2.30pm

Remaining games TBC





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## Saturday Night Clash Against the Rabbitohs

*by Richard Becht*

**V**ODAFONE WARRIORS head coach Andrew McFadden has been able to name an unchanged squad for Saturday 23rd-round NRL clash against South Sydney at Mount Smart Stadium (7.30pm kick-off; match day sponsor: Suzuki).

The side again features Jazz Tevaga as the starting hooker – in for the injured Issac Luke – with Nathaniel Roache listed to come off the bench as he did in Sunday’s 24-14 win over Gold Coast in Robina.

The 20-year-old 2016 rookies had 40 minutes each on the field against the Titans, making a combined total of 59 tackles with no misses and no ineffective tackles.

“We defended really well as a team against the Titans and Jazz and Nate definitely contributed at a high level,” said McFadden.

“We had a lot of confidence going into the game that they could do the job.

“It was a little different to the way we’ve been playing but it’s great that we can call on anyone and they go out there and do it.”

McFadden said Luke’s operation had gone well yesterday and it was hoped he’d recover quickly to make an anticipated return in the final match of the regular season against Parramatta on Sunday, September 4.

Roache, who made his NRL debut in the opening round of the season, will play his ninth first-grade match on Saturday night having also appeared for the club’s Intrust Super Premiership and NYC sides. Tevaga plays his 11th NRL game and is poised to start for the fifth time.

The rest of the starting combination is the same as the one used against both Penrith and Gold Coast as the Vodafone Warriors hunt a third straight win to retain their position inside the top eight.

They moved into seventh with their success over the Titans but are now one of three teams on 24 points just two behind sixth-placed Brisbane. With their 38-18 victory over the Sydney Roosters last night, Penrith has moved to seventh on points for and against (+3) with the Vodafone Warriors eighth (-7) and Wests Tigers ninth (-47) while Gold Coast is 10th on 23.

In the Rabbitohs, the Vodafone Warriors face opponents who have been struggling this season with the 2014 premiers losing their last nine matches on end. McFadden is extremely wary, though, emphasising the quality players they can call on and the fact they pushed competition leader Melbourne to the brink before losing 14-15 in extra time last Saturday night.

The Vodafone Warriors will be seeking their seventh win in their last 10 matches, a run in which they haven’t lost a match in regulation time (the three defeats have all been in extra time).

Shaun Johnson will play his 21st straight match of the season, the only player in the squad to have played every match.

This will be South Sydney’s first match in Auckland since 2013. The Vodafone Warriors have an 18-11 advantage overall against the Rabbitohs – 9-5 at home – but haven’t beaten them since 2012 and have lost the last four meetings between the two sides.

*Continued on next page...*

**Vodafone Warriors**

- 1 Tuimoala Lolohea
- 2 Ken Maumalo
- 3 David Fusitu'a
- 4 Solomone Kata
- 5 Manu Vatuvei
- 6 Thomas Leuluai
- 7 Shaun Johnson
- 8 Jacob Lillyman
- 9 Jazz Tevaga
- 10 Albert Vete
- 11 Bodene Thompson
- 12 Ryan Hoffman (C)
- 13 Simon Mannering

**Interchange:**

- 14 Nathaniel Roache
- 15 Sam Lisone
- 16 Ben Matulino
- 17 Blake Ayshford
- 18 Bunty Afoa

**Round 23 THIS SATURDAY**

Saturday 13 August

Gates: 5:00 pm

NYC KO: 5:15 pm

NRL KO: 7:35 pm



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