

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

31st August 2016

Newsletter #137



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Should he stay or should he go...

By David Kemeys

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



AND SO it begins...

The season ends with the loss to the Tigers, and within minutes the media is ablaze with stories tipping the end for coach Andrew McFadden.

That can't come as a surprise to anyone, with plenty of conjecture more than once during the year that he was going to lose his job.

Those rumours were just that – rumours, with McFadden backed all the way by the club.

But the failure to make the eight must have him checking for cheap flights.

For anyone who cares to remember, club owner Eric Watson did say on one of his visits to the lounge that he expected to be in the eight.

What did surprise was seeing Jacob Lillyman telling management not to axe the much-criticised coach, something Blake Ayshford was also saying, though he added McFadden was one of the best he's ever worked with.

Bull says the last thing the club needs is a new coach – a sentiment echoed on Radio Sport on Monday by former skipper Steve Price

“It's been a tough year. As players we've let Cappy down and it's a shame his credentials are questioned, because he's the right man to take this club forward to a successful period.”

To which the doubters would add it is five years since we made the eight – three of which McFadden has been at the helm, though he took over when we were already shot in his first year.

It's hard to see what has changed in terms of the sack him or back him argument.

Look objectively at the season.

Poor start, good middle, depressing end. Just like last year, the year before that, the one before that, oh, and 2012...

But that is too superficial. Lillyman has a good point. The players have let McFadden down too often.

Our season in the balance – after two horrible performances in the previous weeks, there is 10 to go and we are ahead, but fall to a blitz of late Tigers pressure we invited through poor play.

Even I am confident McFadden did not outline his game-plan as: “Do okay, hang in there, blow it in the last 10 so I can go on my holidays.”

Far worse for me was the bad start to the year. Another one when we were painfully slow out of the blocks. And that start underlined, to my mind, where the real shortcoming in McFadden's game lies.

Cast your mind back. Johnson at stand-off, Robson at halfback. It didn't work but McFadden wouldn't hear of it. Was it bloody-minded? Did he really believe it just needed time?

In fairness, those around him know more about the game than us mug punters, but surely someone needed to stand up and say: “Cappy, you're in charge but this ain't working.”

It would not be the only time we scratched our heads. His loyalty to players is commendable on one hand, insane on the other when it is to players we all could see were contributing nothing.

Yet when he got into difficulties with Tuimoala Lolohea, the loyalty he had shown to players like Jonathan Wright, vanished. His handling of that problem was at best poor – but still considerably better than his handling of the Konrad Hurrell situation.

Continued on next page...

At times it almost felt like it was McFadden on a crusade to prove he was right.

He was not helped by injuries, but all sides are supposed to have the depth to cope with that.

We also had a particularly galling inability to win at home, but credit to McFadden, he did fix that, and we enjoyed a good run at home through the middle of the season.

The quality of our play during that “we haven’t been beaten in 80 minutes” period, was at times excellent, and had us poor fans believing we might at last be showing – as Watson would have it – “significant signs of improvement”.

The ride through that period was almost enough to make you forget the off-field nonsense we had endured early in the year, and which would ultimately lead to Hurrell getting hit in the arse by the door on the way out.

I don’t mean to labour this point, but Lolohea, Manu Vatuvei, and Hurrell all had their issues with the Aussie during the year, and they don’t appear to be the only players who did. Raymond Faitala-Mariner went, and Sean Lane came in. Hands up anyone who thinks we got the right end of that deal.

And it is Ayshford, Lillyman and Price leading the charge in McFadden’s defence. Maybe, despite what we are being told, there is a gap in cultures.

On the other hand it is not like McFadden does not deserve credit. The revival was great, David Fusitu’a was excellent, Solomone Kata – apart from his tackling technique, even better, and there were signs some younger players are coming along, notably Nathaniel Roache and Ata Hingano.

I couldn’t tip wet cement out of a barrow, let alone what will happen at the club, so should he stay or should he go?

Bugged if I know, but “most probably” defensive coach Justin Morgan is stuffed.

Bunker Clunker

That’s a try, that’s not a try, that’s obstruction, that’s not... whatever.

The bunker has been a disaster.

It was supposed to speed things up and guarantee the right decisions.

It has done neither.

When commentators Mark Gasnier, Jimmy Smith and Andrew Voss are all blowing up about disallowing tries on technicalities something is wrong.

You know, and I know, that the try on halftime got ruled out because of a forward pass – which the bunker is not allowed to rule on. You are left with a suspicion it was a right outcome, never mind the rules, sort of decision.

It is, painful as it is to admit, swings and roundabouts. Some go for you, some against.

But here’s one for the conspiracy theorists – we got the short end of the stick in a bunker decision in round one against the Tigers.

And they are investigating dodgy gambling-influenced results in Manly and Eels games... makes you wonder.

Blame Game Begins

Well done to Marvin France of Stuff, straight out of the blocks early and sticking the boot in.

Another year, another season of underachievement, he wrote.

He called us “New Zealand’s most frustrating sports team” - stunningly predictable, if nothing else.

He was having none of this bunker blunder stuff, laying the blame for another disappointment squarely at the feet of the players, calling ours “a campaign littered with missed opportunities”.

All the usual excuses got an airing, injuries in particular, but Marvin argues the club needs to be held accountable – and wait for it – the coach in particular.

We stood by Andrew McFadden, he said, but questions had to be asked because of a lack of ability to get the best out of the players.

Hard to argue with that, the last three weeks having seen more than 100 points put on us.

But is getting rid of another coach going to fix the problems? he asked.

Instead he said we needed to look at under-performing players and get ready for a clear out.

Of the props, Jacob Lillyman and Ben Matulino did not get a pass mark, shall we say, while the back row was singled out for lacking a ball player.

If you are sticking the boot in, no point not demeaning Manu Vatuvei of course, while, by now in full cry, he moved on to Shaun Johnson, admitting he can't do everything, but then pretty much arguing he should.

God alone knows what the media would do if we were any good.

Meanwhile At The Herald

David Skipwith at the Herald took a different approach – actually using a fact or two, although he arrived at the same overall conclusion, calling it Five Winters of Discontent - a reference to Shakespeare I fear will be sadly lost on us dumb league fans.

The reasons, he wrote, are not new or startling, calling our defence a “well-worn joke that no longer inspires any laughing” – harsh, but fair.

Injuries, errors, a lack of concentration, missed chances and so on, all lead to an uncomfortable time for McFadden, and defence man Justin Morgan. That would be a defence that averaged leaking 24 points a game.

The 42-0 Anzac Day massacre in Melbourne got an airing – thanks David, I've spent a long time trying to erase that from my memory, as did the prescription pills debacle and Konrad Hurrell.

Having vented, that's when he reached for the facts, and they ain't pretty, 588 points given up last year, 554 in 2013 and 609 in 2012. “If the rot is to stop the Warriors need to fix this area of their game.” Hallelujah!

While we have now missed the finals for the past five years the Storm and Cowboys are set to be there for the sixth year running, and the Broncos and Bulldogs for the fifth time in six seasons.

We are a long way off that, are we not?

McFadden's Record

The stats don't lie – although they do a bit because I rounded up some and rounded down others because I can't be arsed with all the decimal points. But McFadden has 66 games as coach for 29 wins and 37 losses (44%), and that's behind Daniel Anderson on 55%, John Monie and Ivan Cleary on 50%, and even Matt Elliott 45% - and we know what happened to all of them.

And They Say Our Game Is Not Growing

Spain and Serbia will meet for the first time as both nations prepare for the 2017 Rugby League World Cup European Qualifiers. They will play on September 24 in Valencia, where Spain's home qualifier against Ireland is played in October.

Canadian Side On Tour In Jamaica

The first Canadian rugby league team to visit Jamaica is on a six-day tour. The Junior Wolverines U17s play in a College 9s competition and undertake a full international against the hosts in Kingston.

Lionhearts Win

The touring England Lionhearts (North West) defeated Canada 38-6 in Toronto. The tourists also defeated Ontario by the same score in Burlington, a first-ever outing for the state side.

Czechs Get Into It Too

The Canadian Military Wolverines, a side comprised of soldiers deployed in Poland to support NATO, were beaten 64-0 when they faced the Czech Republic in Teplice.

And In Ireland

The Northern Ireland Elks have beaten the Republic of Ireland Eagles 24-20 in the second game of the All-Ireland Origin Series, to take the series at the third attempt.



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Stephan Maier at
stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz



Fun in the Lounge and Rugby League To Look Forward To

By Sir Peter Leitch

WE MAY of not have won the game on Sunday but we had a ripper of a day in the Stacey Jones Lounge. Before kick-off I interviewed two former Kiwis in Lyndsay Proctor and Dennis Williams - the youngest player to ever pull on a Kiwi jersey, and two great guys at half time with Charlie Gubb and Ben Henry.

Sir Graham Henry gave his views on the Warriors too, and then after the game former Warrior, Storm, Panther, Tiger, Huddersfield and Eels player - yes he played for all those clubs - Paul Whatuira, shared his journey back from a very dark place. You could have heard a pin drop in the lounge.

Then to top the day off Shaun Johnson come up to the lounge to talk to the members. He was fantastic, and this is one member, Don Grahams' comment: "The Shaun Johnson interview at the end of the day was one of the most humbling I have ever heard."

I was blown away by Shaun's honest and frank comments, very moving stuff.

My last comment of the day was NO ONE DIED!

I then told the members how a Warriors fan had been killed on the railway crossing coming to the game that day, and that really brought home my point - it's only a game of footy.

It's a very big week for rugby league in Auckland this week.

On Wednesday night the Auckland Rugby League hosts its prize-giving, and on Saturday has the SAS Fox Memorial grand final between the Pt Chevalier Pirates and the Papakura Sea Eagles, and that one will be a ripper.

The Bay Roskill Vikings play the Te Atatu Roosters before that to decide the Sharman Cup (Te Atatu game).

It is also finals weekend in Christchurch, where the Linwood Keas take on the Hornby Panthers.

Of course on Sunday at Mt Smart at 6pm the Vodafone Warriors take on the Eels in our last home game of the season. Fallen out of contention for the finals but let's send the boys out on a high by showing our support, and it is Old Boys day, when former players return to meet their old teammates and relive their former glory too.

On top of that, both our NYC and NSW Cup sides will be in action, so a real feast of league for fans this weekend.

Enjoy your week and yes I'll be at Mt Smart on Sunday to cheer my team on, a Vodafone Warriors fan till I die, that's the Butcher.



Dennis Williams 30 test Kiwi 1971-1981 and Legend of League inductee talks about his health problems involving brain damage and a stroke, a truly remarkable man plus an absolutely magnificent.



Lyndsay Proctor 13 test Kiwi 1974-78 and Dennis Williams laughing at the Butcher's joke.

No adverts are paid for in this Newsletter

Blue September Launch

ON WEDNESDAY morning I attended the launch party. The aim of Blue September is to raise awareness of Prostate Cancer and to encourage men to go get checked. The guest speaker was Peter Montgomery, he spoke about his journey of finding out he had Prostate cancer. Mark Hadlow also spoke at the event. Both spoke very well and it was a very good event. The campaign is all about men facing their fear and going to get checked with both speakers emphasising the importance of having the rectal exam done.



All the Prostate Cancer ambassadors.



Steve Priest CEO of Cory's Electrical a big supporter of Blue September with my mate Monty Betham.



Ron and the guys from The Coffee Club.



Anna from SKYCITY with her new boyfriend at the launch.



With my mate Kerre McIvor.



With my men Sam Wallace and Monty Betham.

FACE YOUR FEAR
FOR BLUE SEPTEMBER

faceyourfear.org.nz
blueseptember.org.nz



Blue Ribbon Breakfast



Dave & Ingrid Blyth, Sir Peter Leitch, Norm Wilton. These are the good people who bought the Warriors tickets.



Sir Peter Leitch, Barry O'Shaughnessy (the restaurant owner).



Sir Peter Leitch, Kelly Flavell, Ron Reid, Barry O'Shaughnessy.



Sir Peter Leitch, Ron Reid.



Sir Peter Leitch, Kelly Flavell, Barry O'Shaughnessy.

I WAS MC and Guestspeaker at the The Good Home restaurant for a Prostate Cancer fundraiser. These good people paid \$900 for 8 tickets to last weeks Warriors game. It sure made the old Butcher very happy
THANK YOU Dave & Ingrid Blyth, Norm Wilton. Just a note we raised \$7,500 on the day.

Macular Degeneration NZ

ONCE AGAIN Sir Peter put himself in the spotlight and in front of the camera for the community. This time it was to highlight the importance of eye examinations, particularly for the aging population. Together with his mate Monty, they visited Dr Dianne Sharp to see if there were any early signs of the three most common age related eye issues – Glaucoma, Cataracts and Macular Degeneration. “All clear” was the verdict from Dr Sharp who advised the importance of early detection to save sight loss and direct the appropriate treatment.

Watch the video clip of the Kiwi Living Show on TV One on Tuesday 23rd August. [Here is the link](#)

Sir Peter is an Ambassador for MDNZ and he is up for the challenge of numerous activities that support his charities and the community.

For further information about Macular Degeneration go to www.mdnz.org.nz or call 0800 MACULA (622 852).

Thank you Sir Peter and Monty.

Phillippa Pitcher
General Manager



In the Stacey Jones Lounge



Ashley Miranda talks to Butch.



Ashley Miranda, Matt Cullen (from Bulls), Butch and John Greenwood (from Christchurch).



John Greenwood from Christchurch talking to the Butcher.



Matt Cullen from Palmerston North with Sir Peter.



Ben Henry talks about his retirement.



Brave Anthony Mariner sporting a West Tigers jersey in the lounge.



Charlie Gubb came up to the lounge to talk to the members.



Charlie Gubb, Peter Taylor, Ben Henry.



Peter Taylor is wearing a Rochdale Hornets jersey with 13 of their Hall of Fame players, of which his brother is one, on it.



Hard working Dexter getting the draw ready for the TAB draw with George Popplewell.



Georgia Robinson (Princess) talks to Butch.



Te Amo family drive up from Ohope every home game. Kiyara, Pera and Alizay TeAmo.

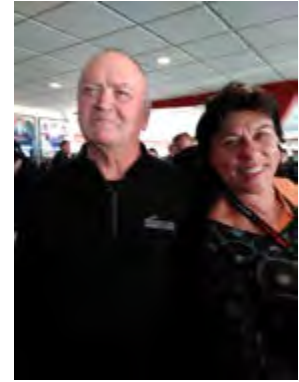
More Stacey Jones Lounge Action



Paul Baker wins the William Aitken and Co grocery hamper donated by Don Graham.



Paul Whatuira ex Warrior and Kiwi with daughter shares an insight into his battle with mental illness and how he came out the other side.



Raewyn from Waiheke Island with Sir Graham Henry. Raewyn was the TAB \$100 winner on Solemona Kata first or second try scorer. Very Close but no cigar.



Sir Peter, Sir Graham, Ben Henry, Charlie Gubb.



Robert Thompson's grandsons Beau on the left and Isaac on the right.



Shaun Johnson speaks from his heart to the members of the Stacey Jones Sir Peter Leitch Lounge.



Worthington family from Maraetai, Anya 10, Ella 9, Sacha 6, Graeme & Debbie.



Lindsay Neilson from Waiheke island recieved a William Aitken gift box for being a good bugger and a great Vodafone Warriors supporter.



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



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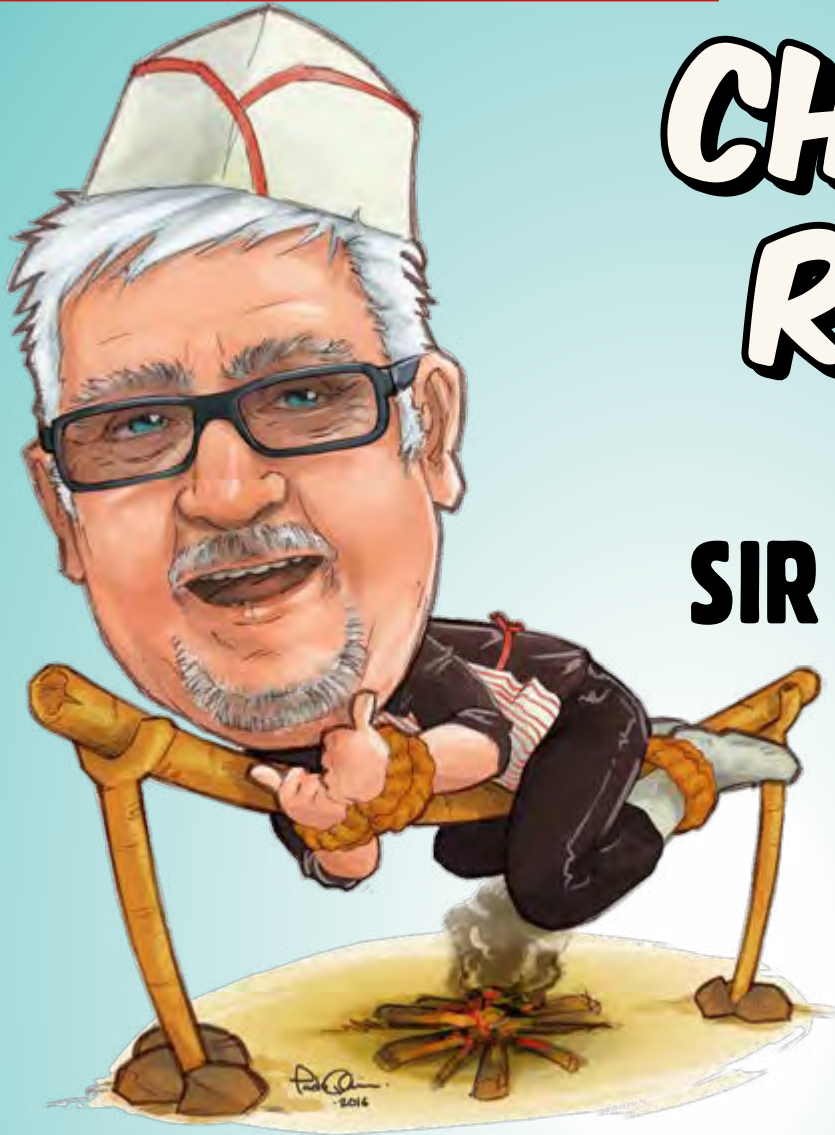
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**Newstalk
ZB**



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

Hull FC Breaks its Wembley Jinx



Hull FC's captain Gareth Ellis (c) celebrates with the Ladbroke's Challenge Cup after their victory over Warrington Wolves. Photo www.photosport.nz

FOR GENERATIONS the black-and-white scarfed supporters of Hull FC had made the long trip from East Yorkshire to London, hoping that this time the jinx would be broken. To a man, woman and child they fervently wished that fans of fierce rival Hull Kingston Rovers would be silenced, that they would never again be able to taunt them with the chant “you’ll never win at Wembley”. Last weekend their prayers were answered in the most dramatic fashion.

Hull recovered from a 10-point deficit to edge out Warrington with a 12-10 Challenge Cup final triumph thanks to two late converted tries. But even when Hull got ahead in the 73rd minute it was far from over. On a stiflingly humid afternoon, Hull needed hooker Danny Broughton’s 52nd tackle in the match to knock the ball from the grasp of Warrington forward Ben Currie as he dived to score and steal certain victory less than two minutes from full-time.

All three of Hull’s previous Cup wins had been achieved at other venues – in 1914 when the final was still played in the north, in a 1982 replay after drawing at the old Wembley, and at Cardiff’s Millennium Stadium in 2005 while the new Wembley was under construction. They had been beaten finalists an insufferable 11 times, four of them between 1908 and 1923 – the first Wembley match was not until 1929 – and seven at Wembley between 1959 and 2013.

More than 22,000 fans travelled from western Hull to London, knowing all too well that their grandparents and parents had preceded them only to always return with tales of woe. Many of them were also there in 2013 when Wigan cruised home 16-0 to add another bleak chapter to a familiar story. Last weekend they were facing a similarly sad homeward trek as Warrington led 10-0. Worse, with time running out Hull had been scoreless at Wembley for 141 minutes.

The turning points came midway through the second spell. First, Warrington lost inspirational stand-off Kurt Gidley to a head injury. Gidley had missed two of his three goal kicks but his experience was invaluable alongside impulsive fellow Australian Chris Sandow. Then Hull scrum-half Marc Sneyd not only put his side on attack with a 40/20 kick but punted across field for centre Mahe Fonua to break the try-scoring drought. Sneyd converted from wide out.

It was another Sneyd cross kick to Fonua which led to fullback Jamie Shaul’s match-winning try, with Shaul having the freedom to run around behind the posts. Sneyd’s conversion was a formality. But Warrington was accustomed to winning at the new Wembley – three times in four years under coach Tony Smith – and surged back. As mentioned, it took Broughton’s desperate diving defence to shatter Currie’s dream finish and send the Hull fans into raptures.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Broughton's tackle will go down in Hull FC folklore – and neither will it be forgotten by the Warrington contingent in the 76,235 crowd. Currie will have nightmares about it for the rest of his life. It also confirmed Sneyd as the winner of the Lance Todd Trophy as Man of the Match. Had Warrington won it would probably have gone to hooker Daryl Clark, the main rival to Canberra's Josh Hodgson for the number nine jersey in England's Four Nations team.

Hull has a long link with players from Australasia, most notably the famous Kiwis backline quartet of Gary Kemble, Dane O'Hara, James Leuluai and Fred Ah Kuoi in the 1980s. The current line-up included former Kiwis Frank Pritchard and Sika Manu, former Warrior Carlos Tuimavave and other NRL players Mark Minichiello, Fetuli Talanoa and Fonua. Their captain was 35-year-old Gareth Ellis, who spent four years with Wests Tigers from 2009.

Coach Lee Radford, only two years older than Ellis, is in his fourth season in charge after playing more than 300 games for Bradford and Hull, plus five for England. He made a point of thanking club officials for keeping faith in him during some rocky times. Hull fans who might still be finding their way home – muttering “so they think we'll never win at Wembley; they'll have to change the lyrics now” – would happily appoint Radford as coach for life.

(The derisive Hull KR chant about Hull FC never winning at Wembley derives from the 1980 final, when the neighbouring clubs clashed at Wembley and Hull KR won 10-5. Such was the exodus of rival fans from Hull to London on that occasion that the local newspaper asked, in a famous headline, “Would the last one out of town please turn off the lights.” The two clubs' boundaries are generally accepted as the opposite sides of the river flowing through the city.

Linwood, Hornby in Grand Final

By John Coffey QSM

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



THE LINWOOD Keas and Hornby Panthers, two clubs with more than a century each of proud history, will compete for the Pat Smith Challenge Trophy in the Canterbury grand final at Rugby League Park (also known as AMI Stadium) on Sunday at 2pm. It is the only club match to be played annually on the site of the long gone and much missed Addington Show Grounds and, of course, the most important showdown of the season.

Linwood is the only survivor of the four original premier clubs from 1913 still playing in the top grade, while Hornby was formed in 1915 and joined the ranks of senior clubs two years later. Though slightly younger, Hornby has enjoyed much more success. The Panthers have been Canterbury champions a record 27 times (plus sharing another in a wartime amalgamation) while Linwood has reigned supreme nine times (with a tenth title shared).

Both clubs celebrated their centenaries in recent years and are in good health. Among the great names on Linwood's roll of honour are renowned Kiwis Lory Blanchard (later coach of the 1971 Grand Slam Kiwis), Alister Atkinson, Jim Fisher and John Greengrass plus Bill Noonan, Brent Todd and Quentin Pongia, who all earned the highest respect in Australian club football. Highly respected NZRL administrator Ray Haffenden is also a Linwood man.

Hornby has achieved success and produced representative players in every decade. The greatest Panther – and all-time Canterbury player – was 1960s Kiwis captain Mel Cooke, loose forward in the NZRL Team of the Century chosen in 2007. In the 1980s Hornby provided an entire Kiwis front-row, Ross Taylor, Wayne Wallace and Adrian Shelford, while current Kiwis assistant coach David Kidwell learned the basics at Hornby's Leslie Park.

Continued on next page...

The biggest surprise was discovering that Linwood and Hornby have clashed only three times since Canterbury grand finals were introduced in 1967, and that they had to wait 38 years to first contest the Pat Smith Challenge Trophy, which is named after the 1947-49 Kiwis captain. That 2005 match was all one-way traffic as Linwood raced away to win 66-10. But Hornby gained revenge in 2006, winning 32-28, and triumphed again, by 27-20, in 2009.

Four players in particular will be most aware of the rivalry. Linwood forward Chris Bamford has been taking on Hornby trio Corey Lawrie, James Baxendale and Craig Smith for at least 15 years. Bamford has also played in Queensland and NSW Country, while second-row forward Lawrie was with the Warriors in 2007 and English club Doncaster in 2008. Lawrie packs down alongside Baxendale, while Smith is a very solid centre in the Panthers backline.

Bamford crossed for two of Linwood's 11 tries in that 2005 landslide victory. Smith, quite remarkably, was a try-scorer for Hornby in 2005, 2006 and 2009, while Baxendale kicked goals in all three matches and added a try for good measure in 2009. Lawrie famously kicked a championship-winning field goal in extra time when Hornby edged out Halswell Hornets 19-18 in the 2012 grand final after both he and Baxendale had been try-scorers.

Previous meetings this winter suggest a close grand final. The home team won both regular-season games by almost identical scores, Linwood by 30-16 at Linwood Park and Hornby by 28-16 at Leslie Park. Two weeks ago minor premier Linwood headed second-placed Hornby 18-12 in the major semi-final. Papanui Tigers eliminated Riccarton Knights 22-12 in the minor semi. Last weekend Hornby overcame Papanui 20-10 in the preliminary final.

Linwood coach Andrew Auimatagi was understandably happy to take the direct route to the grand final as he eyes his club's first title triumph since 2008 after being the beaten grand finalist against Papanui last year. His Hornby counterpart, Jed Lawrie, immediately pledged the Panthers would "do it the Hornby way" by playing in the preliminary final prior to winning the grand final. Many of his current players had done just that in 2012 and 2013.



Help Butch face his fear for Blue September

I'm going to face my fear of wearing a Kangaroos jersey for the day, because while some things in life are scary, a prostate check shouldn't be one of them. Just a simple blood test could prevent death from the most commonly diagnosed cancer for men in NZ.

I'm up against Brett McGregor and Mike Puru in the text to vote challenge. You can help raise awareness by sponsoring me to face my fear. Click the link or text "Peter" to 5144 and help me FACE MY FEAR! - *Sir Peter Leitch*

<https://bluesep2016.everydayhero.com/nz/sir-peter-leitch>

GRAND FINAL

The logo of the Canterbury Rugby League is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top, it says "CANTERBURY RUGBY LEAGUE" in white text on a black background. Below this, the shield is divided into four quadrants: top-left (yellow with a black 'R' and 'L'), top-right (green with a yellow 'M'), bottom-left (green with a black 'H'), and bottom-right (yellow with a black silhouette of a panther). The shield is flanked by two red diagonal stripes.

GRAND FINAL

LINWOOD KEAS
v
HORNBY PANTHERS

2PM 4 SEPTEMBER 2016

AMI STADIUM - CHRISTCHURCH

ENTRY - ADULTS \$15

14 Years & under FREE (must be accompanied by an adult)

McFadden Needs to Stay

By Ben Francis



THE WARRIORS FAILED TO MAKE THE NRL FINALS FOR THE FIFTH STRAIGHT SEASON FOLLOWING THE 36-24 LOSS AGAINST THE WESTS TIGERS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT MOUNT SMART STADIUM.

The Warriors were leading 24-18 into the final 10 minutes before the Tigers ran rampant scoring three tries to finish the game, keeping their finals hopes alive.

Straight after the game, "fans" we're quick to throw McFadden into the fire and call for him to be sacked.

However I disagree with these fans, and one of the main reasons is because the players are behind McFadden.

Post-match Warriors prop Jacob Lillyman believes sacking Cappy isn't the answer to the Warriors woes.

"The last thing we need is another coach," Lillyman stated

"It has been a tough year, but [McFadden's] been tremendous through thick and thin.

"We as players have let him down, it's a shame that his credentials are questioned because, no doubt in my mind, he's the right man to take this club forward."

After the clubs round 11 loss against Raiders, many speculated the McFadden has lost the respect in the locker room but Shaun Johnson was quick to dismiss those reports.

"From a team perspective and a personal level, he does," said Johnson.

"He's got the full respect of the playing group, which is a very rare thing since I've been at the club, to have a coach have that. And that's probably why we've had the turnover of coaches, but Cappy's got it and at the end of the day you need that."

"It's a completely different squad to last year," Johnson added.

"He's trying to change the club and push them in a different direction. And there are going to be teething problems.

Lillyman and Johnson have had four coaches (Ivan Cleary, Brian McClennan, Mathew Elliott and Andrew McFadden) and adding a fifth to that list will not make things easier.

If the players are willing to stand behind and support Andrew McFadden, then I believe the fans should too, it's that simple.

The Warriors close out their season against the Parramatta Eels on Sunday, the club has not won a round 26 match since 2011, when they beat the North Queensland Cowboys 18-6.



Andrew McFadden at the Vodafone Warriors v Wests Tigers. Photo www.photosport.nz



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

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 26

| | | 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> |
| Date/ Venue | Game | | | | | | | |
| 1/09 - Suncorp | Broncos v Roosters | Broncos | Broncos | Broncos | Broncos | Broncos | Broncos | Broncos |
| 2/09 - ANZ | Bulldogs v Rabbitohs | Bulldogs | Bulldogs | Bulldogs | Bulldogs | Bulldogs | Bulldogs | Rabbitohs |
| 3/09 - Jubilee | Dragons v Knights | Dragons | Dragons | Dragons | Dragons | Dragons | Dragons | Dragons |
| 3/09 - 1300Smiles | Cowboys v Titans | Cowboys | Titans | Cowboys | Cowboys | Cowboys | Titans | Cowboys |
| 3/09 - AAMI | Storm v Sharks | Storm | Storm | Storm | Storm | Storm | Storm | Storm |
| 4/09 - Leichardt | Tigers v Raiders | Raiders | Raiders | Raiders | Raiders | Tigers | Raiders | Raiders |
| 4/09 - Mt Smart | Warriors v Eels | Warriors | Warriors | Warriors | Warriors | Warriors | Warriors | Warriors |
| 4/09 - Pepper | Panthers v Sea Eagles | Panthers | Panthers | Panthers | Panthers | Panthers | Panthers | Panthers |

How they're traveling....

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Picks last week | 4/8 | 4/8 | 6/8 | 4/8 | 4/8 | 4/8 | 4/8 |
| Total picks | 109/178 | 112/178 | 124/178 | 112/178 | 119/178 | 122/178 | 129/178 |

AS THE song goes...Its all over now Baby Blue. Another day another nightmare as season 26 whimpers to a close for the Warriors and the Faithfull. Maybe whimper is a bit off centre given we did string together some terrific phases in the game that didn't bear fruit through misfortune or the blinkered Bunker or whatever. I thought Tiger Woods almost beat us on his own in the first half then came v for the last quarter when they buried us at the death, a huge performance from the Westies captain. Some of our boys threw everything at it notably Mannering, Fusitua, Johnson, Kata, Hoffman, Lisone, Lolohia, Leuluai to name a few. Sure some may have made errors but in order to make an error you have to try something or be involved so I can overlook that. I do have trouble overlooking a player being lethargic and casual and un-connected to this most important and season crucial match, go figure. Either way, yesterday around 5.45pm a great sorrow cast its shadow over the 14,000 at the game and countless thousand other poor followers glued hopefully to the telly. So now another offseason of soul searching for the hierarchy and the team. Cappy? Will he go or will he stay...my mail has him packing his rented accommodation last week. My humble and personal opinion is that he is a good coach whose time has yet to come. On the other hand if he goes the organisation has egg on its face and prospective applicants will be extremely wary of joining the treadmill to the Warriors Coach chopping block. The upshot of this can be applicants of a desperate nature but I am reasonably sure we would not fall for that. A new coach if there is one would need firm and favourable credentials to convince Jimmy Doyle. Wailing and complaining and gnashing teeth is I realise non constructive or productive, one should be fact finding, examining reasons, chasing solutions etc etc my problem is like all around me all I can come up with is inconsistency.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Wow, lightbulb moment!! I have no doubt the team is hurting, I am sure they want to win for their own esteem, for the family and friends, for the many months of effort they put in at training let alone their long-suffering fans satisfaction. Better men than I have offered Mr Doyle and Co. their tuppence worth, Graham Lowe , Freddy Fittler et al but what the real fix is nobody seems to know. I am haunted by fellow Herald staffer Chris Rattue's assertion as early as round 3 or 4 that the Warriors would miss the top 8 and fail again, I took issue at the time but now I am looking sideways. Is the problem in the coaching or in the team a number of coaches have come and gone with the same result since Ivan Cleary took us to the Grand Final in his leaving year. We may never know. One game remains against the ill-fated but still very lively Eels, nothing but pride in it for both teams, mind you who can have pride in winning the last game of a losing season, beats me. For all that our group will be there in our season seats, my son in law, my ever loyal grandson other family friends and myself as I am sure will be many more of the usual suspects to witness the last hurrah....to farewell Tommy-gun Leuluai who can go with his head held high. I will still watch the September footy and the grand final of course but once again with a slightly misted view. Bugger. Other action...yeah some teams won and some teams lost. The Tigers and Titans are sweating for the last spot on the top 8 ladder but neither will trouble the big boys above them. Bit of interest around the battle for the minor Premiership title I guess which has a nicely timed meeting of The Storm and The Sharks to decide this next Saturday arvo. In my view the Raiders, Broncos, Storm, Cowboys and Sharks will be the leading contenders to duke it out for the shot at the title. when the dust settles and given the draw pans out, I expect Sticky Rickys Capital Raiders and JTs Far North Cowboys will attend the Big Dance in Sydney, not the desired outcome for the New south Wales wallopers.

Tippin Talk. An average return of 4 for all except the old head John Coffey with a good 6 to snatch 2nd spot. Just the final round26 to go now and High-Tackle holds the reins but the pack closes in. Can we see a big surge in the final play...might take a few upsets to unseat me.

NSW Cup Game Recap By Joe Williams - NSW Cup Team Manager

THE VODAFONE Warriors Intrust Super Premiership team will meet the Penrith Panthers again at the same venue exactly a week later after going down 24-36 to them over the weekend in the final round clash at Mt Smart Stadium.

Penrith Panthers needed the victory to put them into the top eight however that means they will be travelling back to New Zealand this weekend in a game in which the stakes are much bigger in a do or die first week of finals clash.

Over the weekend the Stacey Jones side went into half time with a 24-12 lead after tries from Viliami Kaveinga, Henare Wells and a double from Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, also Mason Lino converting all four tries. However, a slow start to the second half letting the Panthers back into the game gifted them victory and a place in the top eight.

Stacey Jones has welcomed back James Gavet and Patrick Siplely however loses both NRL rookies Nathaniel Roache and Butny Afoa. In the first of three matches at Mt Smart with the ISP NSW team the only team in play-offs, the team would love all the support to get them over the line this weekend.

Kick-off for the Vodaone Warriors ISP NSW team is at 1:35pm at Mt Smart Stadium this Sunday 4th September.

See the team here: http://www.warriors.kiwi/news/2016/08/30/isp_and_nyc_teams_na.html

Paralympics On the Way

WITH ONLY 8 days to go until the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games our New Zealand Paralympic Team are into their final preparations before taking on the world. Next week on Thursday 8 September we invite you to come and watch the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony LIVE on the Panasonic BIG screen at the Sanford Paralympic Games Fan Zone - Auckland Fish Market Cafe from 8.30am. Join our New Zealand Paralympic Family and support the team by wearing GOLD and grabbing a Spirit of Gold Breakfast or Coffee/Cupcake combo. Mr Vintage will have a pop up shop onsite, therefore you will be able to purchase NZ Paralympic Team supporters gear all day. So bring your friends and colleagues, the more people around the better - this event is open to the public.

Date: Thursday 8 Sept 2016

Venue: Auckland Fish Market Café, 22 - 32 Jellicoe Street, Wynyard Quarter

Time: 8.30am - 12.00pm (9am Coverage Begins)

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DURING THIS week's NZRL National Secondary Schools Tournament at Papakura, former Kiwis captain and current Vodafone Warriors development manager Duane Mann joins NZRL communications manager Grant Chapman to discuss events of each day.

After two days of pool play, three of the four groups had clear contenders for the semi-finals, with Kelston BHS, Southern Cross Campus and Westlake BHS all unbeaten through two rounds.

But real drama was developing in Pool A, where defending champions Otahuhu College, top seeds & 15-time winners St Paul's College, Aorere College and Manukura School of Palmerston North all had one win and one loss. Any of these four could be qualifying on Day Three, with Otahuhu facing Aorere and St Paul's up against Manukura.

The tournament awards function will be held on Thursday afternoon, and both premier and development finals will be shown LIVE on SKY Sport on Friday.

Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXTMm3jdkJE>

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



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Stacey Jones
Lounge Menu
Warriors vs Eels
4th September, 2016

Menu:

Glazed ham carvery

W/ apple cider sauce, mustard, chutney

Roast vegetable medley of potato, pumpkin & kumara

Buttered peas & carrots

Garden salad w french dressing

Bread rolls & nz butter

Lounge members to book your meal contact:

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Pt Chevalier Set Up Fourth-Consecutive Grand Final Spot

With the Papakura Sea Eagles having already booked their spot in the decider with a victory in the August 20 qualifying final, Pt Chevalier beat Mt Albert last Saturday to secure their fourth-consecutive SAS Fox Memorial grand final spot.

With the Pirates and Lions going head-to-head in the major semi-final -a week earlier than their usual grand final showdown- the game was destined to be a grinding affair.

Early errors from the defending champions gave the Lions a 16-12 lead at the break.

Despite holding a brave front for 60 minutes, Mt Albert eventually lost their hold on the battle giving away two tries to Pirates centre Malo Solomona leading 26-18 with 3 minutes left on the clock.

Winger Pierre Pili was unsuccessful in converting, but that didn't count for much in the end with the Pirates securing their fourth-consecutive grand final spot winning 26-18 at full time.

Pt Chevalier will play minor premiers Papakura in the SAS Fox Memorial grand final this Saturday, kick-off 3.30pm September 3 at Mt Smart Stadium #2.

The game will be broadcast live on Maori Television from 3.30pm on Saturday, while tickets to the clash are just \$10 for adults and \$3 for people under the age of 16.

In the day's earlier games, Te Atatu will face off with Bay Roskill for the Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup title and promotion to the Fox for 2017, while the Papakura and Manurewa ladies battle for the Women's Premiership in what is a repeat of last year's decider.

Premiership grand final details - Saturday, September 3

11.30am – Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup - Te Atatu v Bay Roskill @ Mt Smart Stadium #2

1.30pm - Women's Premiership - Papakura v Manurewa @ Mt Smart Stadium #2

3.30pm - SAS Fox Memorial Premiership - Papakura v Pt Chevalier @ Mt Smart Stadium #2



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*** SATURDAY 3 SEP**

SAS Fox Memorial Grand Final

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Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Grand Final

Curtain Raiser at 11:30am

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kicks off 1:30pm

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PAPAKURA V MANUREWA 1:30PM

TE ATATU V BAY ROSKILL 11:30AM



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Reader Mail

Great Stuff Sir Peter

JUST WANTED to thank you and the team for putting out a great newsletter.

This year was the first time I got Warriors Season membership, got a family one and the Wife and 4year old daughter are hooked now. We'll definitely be renewing the season membership for a second year, albeit in a higher tier.

It was also the year I signed up to the newsletter and its been a great read heading into the next week of footy. I look forward to each week's newsletter and consider it a real privilege to get it each week.

Just thought I'd also share with you a pic I took on the weekend. Isobel doesn't have a Warriors Jersey but insisted that she had to wear mine.

Cheers

Ben



Thank you Sir Mad Butcher,

YOUR KIND donation of a signed Warriors jersey is now on display with pride at the Saletoga Sands Resort & Spa in Samoa. The photo is of Gavin and Lou the owners of the Resort with the Fiafia dance group. (Local cultural dancers) Proceeds of the jersey sale has gone to the development of the cultural dance group.

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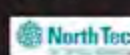
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Changes made for final game of 2016

by Richard Becht

INJURY AND suspension have forced two backline changes for the Vodafone Warriors' 26th-round NRL clash against Parramatta at Mount Smart Stadium on Sunday (6.00pm kick-off).

Veteran wing Manu Vatuvei is out with a sternum injury and his centre partner Solomone Kata is serving a one-game suspension after taking an early guilty plea on a grade one dangerous throw charge following Sunday's loss to Wests Tigers.

The pair's absence has resulted in a backline reshuffle with David Fusitu'a replacing Kata in the centres, Tuimoala Lolohea moving to fullback and Ken Maumalo – back from a one-game injury absence – and Jonathan Wright named on the wings.

The rest of the starting line-up for this Father's Day fixture is unchanged from the one used in the 24-36 loss to the Tigers, a result which ended the Vodafone Warriors' chances of reaching the finals for the first time since 2011.

A five-man bench has been named with last week's interchange players Sam Lisone, Ben Matulino and rookie Ata Hingano joined by two other 2016 newcomers Bunty Afoa and Nathaniel Roache.

VODAFONE WARRIORS

- 1 Tuimoala LOLOHEA
- 2 Jonathan WRIGHT
- 3 Blake AYSHFORD
- 4 David FUSITU'A
- 5 Ken MAUMALO
- 6 Thomas LEULUAI
- 7 Shaun JOHNSON
- 8 Jacob LILLYMAN
- 9 Issac LUKE
- 10 Albert VETE
- 11 Bodene THOMPSON
- 12 Ryan HOFFMAN (c)
- 13 Simon MANNERING

Interchange

- 14 Ata HINGANO
- 15 Sam LISONE
- 16 Ben MATULINO
- 17 Bunty AFOA
- 18 Nathaniel ROACHE

VODAFONE WARRIORS

V

PARRAMATTA EELS

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

6.00pm, Sunday, September 4



BIG LEAGUE

THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 26 ISSUE...

Jam-packed with FEATURES and NEWS, plus columnist **DANNY BUDERUS** 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

- It's the match everyone has been waiting for – Storm v Sharks for the minor premiership. We dissect the games of two of their stars, fullbacks **Cameron Munster** and **Ben Barba**. Former great custodian **Gary Belcher** says while it looks like Barba has missed the boat for rep honours, Munster is on his way to an Origin jersey in the coming years.

- What impact does a rookie season from hell have on a player? **Nathan Brown** and **Jeremy Smith** take us inside the walls of the Knights this season, where 11 debutants have played first grade – but according to a leading sports psychologists, it's not all doom and gloom for the newbies.

- It's Father's Day this weekend and we enlist the help of **Neil Henry**, **Ryan James** and **Sam Thaiday** to explain how having kids changes the careers of the best players in the game in a very positive way.

- Also, **Josh Addo-Carr** desperately wants to play finals with the Wests Tigers before he leaves the club; Raiders across the park back **Sam Williams** to lead them in the finals; **Lachlan Coote** says he's happy to see **Jarryd Hayne** in his best position at fullback and **Andrew McCullough** explains why his house is more like a farm most days.

PLUS... The Analyst can see the **Bulldogs making a grand final tilt** and we look back on the **Top 8 final round chaos**.

AND: Little League, lower grade previews and a **Josh Mansour/retirees tribute poster**.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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