

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

3rd May 2017

Newsletter #168

Vodafone Warriors Triumph Over Roosters



David Fusitu'a scores a try.



Shaun Johnson in action.

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz



Kiwi Ferns.



Mt Smart Joker.



Ray White Coin Toss.



Shaun, James and Issac during the team song.

Bloody Hell That Was Close

By David Kemeys

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



NOW A negative bugger would say we were poor in the second half and scrapped home courtesy of a penalty you would never have imagined we would get.

But a positive bugger like me would happily point out they don't care, and while we were not great on offense in that second 40, we were bloody remarkable in defense, and those who know the game will tell you that defence wins matches.

Besides, we were due a bit of a bloody luck anyway.

Our coach Stephen Kearney said that 14-13 win over the Roosters was all down to defence.

I can not have been the only one ready to concede we were about to suffer our third straight defeat when Mitchell Pearce put the Roosters 13-12 ahead with five minutes to go, but up stepped our million dollar man Shaun Johnson to kick the winning penalty.

But really that defence was crucial, because the Roosters had chance after chance.

"They certainly turned the screws on us and put us under pressure," Kearney said.

"But we found a way to stay in there. I was really pleased with the effort and resilience."

I was chuffed because I don't care how we win, just that we win, and I would have been beyond grumpy if yet again we had got overtaken in the second half.

Which brings me to Johnson.

Talk about rocks and diamonds. Good in patches, and incredible resilience under what must have been astonishing pressure to get us home, nailing that penalty. But also a game that was otherwise pretty forgettable.

Johnson's game management really came under fire after the 20-14 Melbourne loss.

But on Sunday he tackled strongly and played a key role in the tries.

When he signed his new deal, the knockers were quick to point out the difference between the class and steadiness of Storm captain Cameron Smith, and the sometimes erratic nature of Johnson's play.

There remains a perception Johnson struggles to take charge of games, and no matter who is right, now that the deal is signed it is time for Johnson to step up.

A million dollar price-tag is going to come with a fair whack of expectation attached.

Other NRL clubs were said to want him, but while a new two-year deal has ended the speculation, there will be more at the end of the 2018 season, and it is hard to escape the conclusion the two-year term means the club still has a few doubts.

On the other hand, it also indicates Johnson is prepared to keep his options open, and who wouldn't, given the revolving door that is the coach's office at Mt Smart.

Can Johnson be a Johnathan Thurston or Cooper Cronk? Who knows, but I do know I am delighted he has signed.

With the Kieran Foran debacle dragging on, it was critical Johnson put pen to paper.

If the Roosters game was the first test ahead of Johnson, he may not have passed it with flying colours, but he certainly passed it.

Well Done Ref!

Now there is a headline I never thought I would write.

Referees are on a hiding to nothing and regularly cop all sorts of abuse, much of it from Warriors supporters, who cling to the notion we do not get a fair go.

Almost never do refs give penalty decisions at big moments, especially at the end of games, and to be fair, I would not want to be in Klein's shoes this week in Australia, because he is unlikely to be getting any fruit baskets from Rooster fans.

But he made the call as he saw it.

Kearney was, obviously, pretty pleased. "I didn't think we handled the set well. We were going side to side, passing the ball trying to look for something."

On the other hand, and he deserves great credit for it because it must have been gutting, Roosters coach Trent Robinson didn't have any issues with the call.

He did still have some criticism though, questioning Daniel Tupou's sin-binning for a professional foul.

"I don't think it was fair. They'll say technically it was a send off, but the holding down, there was enough there not to say it was a breakaway."

Eight Within Touch

The win against the Roosters leaves us two points outside the top eight going into this weekend's rep round.

Captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck said it was pleasing that after two good showings in a fortnight, we finally got a reward.

"We've been building well, just needed the rewards. It's a good feeling to get the points and show we're going the right way."

Good Debut

Well done Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, a solid debut against the Roosters. With Solomone Kata injured, Blake Ayshford took his spot, and the 21-year-old came in on the wing.

He has been outstanding on the right wing for the Intrust Super Premiership side and was our 2016 ISP player of the year.

In a reversal of what seems to happen, the man they call CNK, started life with City Newtown junior and moved to Melbourne's NYC squad before signing for us for the 2016 season.

If he puts in performances like the one he did on Sunday, we can expect to see a bit more of him.

Tui On The Move?

Five clubs are said to be sniffing around Tuimoala Lolohea.

If there is a player who divides as much as this guy, I can't think of his name. There is a camp that says he has enormous potential, and one that says they are sick of hearing about potential and want to see the goods delivered.

At the end of the day I have no idea if it is right or not, but supposedly the Tigers, Raiders, Cowboys, Knights and Bunnies are all interested.

We have his signature on a contract that binds him to Mt Smart until the end of next season, but Lolohea might ask for a release, and is said to be none too pleased at being dropped after we lost to the Dragons.

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I'm sorry to admit that I am one of those over hearing about his potential. How I would love to be wrong, and see him blossom, but I fear his days are numbered.

The Tigers with prop Ben Matulino seems most likely to me, especially given the Tigers need someone in to allow them to let Mitchell Moses go to Parramatta.

Lolohea has played here, there and everywhere of course, but we all know he wants a spot at five-eighth or fullback, and with James Tedesco also exiting the Tigers, there is a spot there too.

A return looks increasingly unlikely, especially given Nicoll-Klokstad's naming on Sunday. That would tend to indicate Tui is a long way down the pecking order now.

More Bunker Blunders

The bunker is again under fire.

And the officials are again backing the bunker.

They say the decision to disallow Penrith a try in their 32-18 loss to Brisbane was right.

For anyone who didn't watch, Panther James Tamou was denied when the bunker claimed hooker Peter Wallace knocked on in the lead-up. Referee Gerard Sutton had sent it up as a try and replays showed the ball being dislodged by a defender and bouncing backwards to Tamou.

Ryan Girdler went crook, calling it a howler.

Don't forget a week earlier referees' boss Tony Archer admitted a decisive Tautau Moga try in Brisbane's last-round one-point win over the Bunnies should not have been given by the bunker.

Anyone else think there is one set of rules for Brisbane (and the Storm for that matter) and another for anyone else?

But the NRL says the bunker's call this time was right because the defender had no intention of playing at the ball when it came loose.

They reasoned that because the defender did not dislodge the ball, Wallace must have knocked on.

Give me strength. The decision was rubbish, the defence of it even worse.

Te Maire Martin For Mt Smart?

Kieran Foran's likely departure means, apparently, we are looking at the Panthers Te Maire Martin as a replacement.

Aussie TV station Channel 7 has reported the Warriors want Martin, who has fallen out of favour recently.

Martin, who is only 21, has only had one NRL season, although it was a good enough one to earn him a Kiwis call-up.

These stories go on and on and it has to be pointed out that Panthers coach Anthony Griffin has dismissed this one.

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In the Stacey Jones Lounge



All smiles from Dougie West after his holiday and winning a Vodafone phone.



Anthony Minichiello former Roosters, Australian and Italian great.



Winners are grinners; Ben Matulino and Sam Lisone.



Dave Gardiner from Lone Star with Sir Peter.



John (the man from Hong Kong who won one of our prizes) and Brian Keane with Sir Peter.



Justin Morgan ex warrior discusses his many playing and coaching positions.



Mark, Dale, Dave, Glenn celebrate the win.



Nigel Thompson from Christchurch wins a Warriors merch prize pack.



Paul Edmunds from Otahuhu with Sir Peter.



Ricky Henry Reserves coach talks to the lounge post game.



Stacey Jones talks to the lounge pre game.



Toni and Jim Josi live in Waiheke and Hoholulu.

In the Stacey Jones Lounge



Wane Perkins and Ken Hunter Roosters fans, who flew over from Sydney, review the game.



Wayne Perkins cuts his 60th birthday cake with James Bell and Toafofoa Siple.



Brendon Popplewell from the TAB presents Tania Charman with the TAB Ticket \$50 for David Fusitu'a the first Try Scorer, unfortunately he was the third try scorer.

Free Bus to Hamilton Vodafone Warriors Game!

I have chartered a bus that you can hitch a ride on free of charge. If you're keen email me your details at pcleitch@xtra.co.nz

Friday 19th May 2017

3pm - Depart The Falls Carpark, 22 Alderman Drive, Henderson

3:45pm - Depart Papatoetoe Train Station, Station Road, Papatoetoe (opposite Papatoetoe West School)

4.30pm - Depart Homai Train Station, Dalgety Drive Carpark (bus stop is inside the carpark), Manurewa

Arrival at Waikato Stadium by 6pm. Return after the match.



8PM FRIDAY MAY 19
FMG STADIUM WAIKATO, HAMILTON

NYC KICK OFF: 5:45PM

After the Vodafone Warriors sensational win over the Roosters, this match will be something to see. Come support the boys in Hamilton! - Sir Peter Leitch

Sir Peter Leitch Lounge in Hamilton

**Vodafone Warriors
VS
St. George Illawarra Dragons**

Fri 19 May 2017 8:00pm

Be entertained by the one and only Sir Peter Leitch QSM, the 19th Vodafone Warrior. Located on level three of the Brian Perry Stand, the Sir Peter Leitch Lounge gives you the opportunity to enjoy pre and post-match hospitality with covered grandstand seating to take in the match. Your ticket includes a delicious carvery and drink on arrival along with access to your own private bar.

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- Buffet style carvery
- Complimentary drink on arrival and cash bar facilities
- Special guests, post-match interviews and live entertainment

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or email glenn@warriors.co.nz**

Comings and Goings

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)



THERE IS nothing quite like waiting into the night for the announcement of a Kiwis team. In the era when our leading players actually played in New Zealand that was usually carried out in the hushed confines of an after-match function after a final trial. Many were held at Carlaw Park but the 1965 team to tour Britain and France was famously named at the Marist Club in Greymouth. That it went over rather well was not surprising considering the host club provided Graham Kennedy, Leo Brown and Kevin Dixon to the Kiwis. The men of Marist were still not satisfied, labelling their second-rower Tony Dennehy as the shock omission.

But in this era we look on our heroes from afar, with most of them resident in Australia. As time has advanced Kiwis teams have clattered out of telex machines, fallen out of fax boxes, arrived via email or blinked up on computer screens. On Sunday night I first learned the headlines of the Anzac Test squad via the 9pm radio news – not the whole list of 20 players, just the comings and goings of some new or prominent names. That alerted me to flick over to a couple of websites to fill in the gaps. New Zealand did indeed favour the alphabetical squad system, in contrast to Kangaroos coach Mal Meninga allotting numbers to his players.

The Radio Sport chaps were not happy at all that the only access to any Kiwis squad member was a telephone conference with head coach David Kidwell. Even that had apparently been arranged only after some persuasive talk. None of the players were available. Of course, radio journalists can do very little without voice contact. There are also very few newspaper scribes specialising in rugby league these days – the New Zealand Herald is a notable exception to this rather sad situation – who can deliver a sermon from the mount about the merits of various players and the sanity of national selection panels. Most need to quote other people.

I'm sure there were journalists keen to discuss with Russell Packer his remarkable comeback, not just after a six-year absence from the Kiwis but it putting his life and sporting career back together after serving a prison sentence. His is not the longest absence from the international rugby league scene, however. Without looking any deeper, I recall Canterbury front-rower Jim Fisher toured Australia as a prop with the 1963 Kiwis before earning a recall for the 1971 tour to Britain and France as a hooker. Big Jim went on to play all six Tests on that vintage trip when the Kiwis won Test series in both countries to complete a unique Grand Slam.

Then there were the two new caps. Towering Melbourne Storm prop Nelson Asofa-Solomona surely played his way into the squad with his match-defining Anzac Day dominance of the Warriors in Melbourne. I was obviously not alone in adding him to my list after that stand-out performance. On the other hand, I knew nothing about club-mate Brandon Smith until I checked the NRL guide. Using my magnifying glass, I found Smith among the players not in the fulltime Storm squad and discovered he hails from Waiheke Island and will turn 21 on May 31. He was the Junior Kiwis hooker last year and is Issac Luke's latest understudy.

If anyone made a brave last-gasp bid for selection it was St George Illawarra wing Jason Nightingale at Wollongong. His match against Melbourne was to finish only a few minutes before the announcement of the Kiwis and after half an hour it was not going too well at all. The Storm led 22-0 and high-flying Fijian Suliasi Vunivalu had, through no fault of Nightingale, crossed for two of the four tries. Nightingale, who has scored 17 tries in his 32 Tests since 2008, then demonstrated his own finishing skills to out-score Vunivalu 3-2 and take his NRL career tally to 98 tries. I fear the Kiwis squad had already been typed by then.

While Kidwell was quietly submitting his list late on a Sunday night, Kangaroos coach Mal Meninga had revealed his 20 players in midweek prime time. Meninga is eager to nudge the insular Australian media into looking beyond club and Origin football and to lift the standing of his team in the public eye. New Zealand fans must grudgingly admit he succeeded in terms of results before and during the 2016 Four Nations tournament. But even Mal seems to be having problems adhering to the "no dickheads" policy which led to the omissions of wing Semi Radradra and prop Andrew Fifita from last year's trip to Britain.

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Outside backs Blake Ferguson and Josh Dugan, sacked by Canberra some years ago, are presumably regarded as reformed dickheads. Fullback Darius Boyd, who was retained ahead of a returning Billy Slater, is another with previous form. Mal's first inkling that Radradra was a dickhead surely came when he was sin-binned on Test debut. He later committed the dual sins of bringing the game into disrepute off the field and signing to play rugby union in France. No sooner had Mal named his squad than forward Josh Papalii was sentenced for drink driving – it transpires he twice telephoned police from his car to report himself!

Mal's problems continued. Prop Aaron Woods, now regarded as even worse than a dickhead by his former Wests Tigers fans, was injured when the victim of a Cronulla "wishbone" tackle. One of the leg-pullers was fellow Kangaroos squad member James Maloney, who later clouted another Tigers departee, James Tedesco, with a high shot. Maloney was on stand-by for Johnathan Thurston, whose calf injury prevented him playing for the Cowboys last weekend. With Woods out and fitness doubts over fellow prop Shannon Boyd, Meninga probably felt he had little choice than to call up Fifita, the biggest dickhead of them all.

Tuivasa-Sheck Leads With His Matchwinning Actions

By John Deaker



IT WAS always likely that Roger Tuivasa-Sheck would let his actions speak just as loud as his words when he took over as the Warriors captain this year.

On Sunday afternoon 10 minutes into the second half and the Warriors still leading 12-10 he pulled off a sensational try-saving play that proved to be crucial to their nail-biting victory over the Roosters.

Boyd Cordner had broken through the line and had a 2-on-1 (at least) as he approached Tuivasa-Sheck defending as the last man , ten metres out from his line. Cordner passed too early which gave Tuivasa-Sheck the sniff of an opportunity to pull off what became a try-saving and match-winning play.

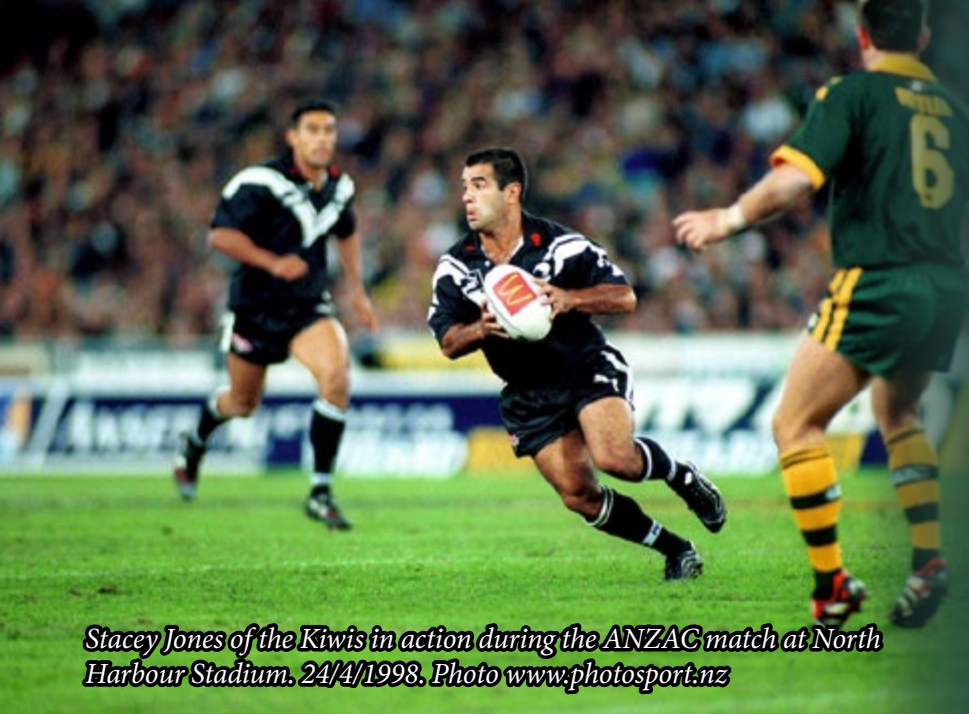
Very few men in rugby league would have the nous combined with the physical attributes to do what RTS did as he tackled Jake Friend a few metres out from the line. To make his effort all the more stunning though the former Rooster's player then got straight up and successfully flung his body under Mitchell Pearce's try-scoring effort.

Tuivasa-Sheck is mainly praised for his attacking prowess and possibly because he is so exciting some of his defence qualities are overlooked. In particular he was also a shining light under the high ball at the weekend.

The Warriors' captain's try-saving efforts epitomised some of the great scrambling defence that the Warriors displayed at the weekend, especially in the group of sets on defence that followed his remarkable play. Their pride in defending their line led Monty Betham to say in Commentary: "This is very good stuff by the Warriors. It's the most spirited 6 or 7 sets I've seen by them in a very long time."

Yes, coach Stephen Kearney should be given some credit as well as recent captains Simon Mannering and Ryan Hoffman who were absolute rocks at the weekend but this was a match that I'll remember for the current captain, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck's stunning defensive play.





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)

Triumph Over Adversity

Stacey Jones of the Kiwis in action during the ANZAC match at North Harbour Stadium. 24/4/1998. Photo www.photosport.nz

THE KIWIS at Canberra on Friday night have a chance to become only the third, and last, team to beat the Kangaroos in an Anzac Test before the near-annual fixture is consigned to history. We still have vivid memories of the great 2015 victory in Brisbane when, after a two-day postponement so the flooded Suncorp Stadium could be drained to provide a perfect playing surface, the Kiwis led 26-6 at halftime and resisted an inevitable Kangaroos fightback to win 26-12. It was New Zealand's third consecutive Test victory over Australia, something which had not happened since 1953, and ended a 17-year Anzac drought.

Anzac Tests were introduced by Super League in Australia and the NZRL in 1997 and the Australians won the first encounter 34-22 in Sydney. Later in the year the Kiwis decisively dealt to the Super League Kangaroos 30-12 at North Harbour Stadium. During the following summer an uneasy peace broke out between Super League and the ARL, the club scene reverted back to one competition in 1998 and the Anzac Test was retained. What is more, North Harbour was chosen to host the second contest. Frank Endacott coached the Kiwis and Bob Fulton the Kangaroos. It proved to be one of the finest occasions in Kiwis history.

The new NRL judiciary suspended Kiwis forward Stephen Kearney out of the game while allowing Kangaroos prop Paul Harragan to change his plea and play in the Test. Gene Ngamu (stand-off), Syd Eru (hooker) and 18-year-old replacement forward Tony Puletua all withdrew injured. Endacott filled two of the gaps with the Paul brothers, Robbie at stand-off and Henry at hooker, while 30-year-old Terry Hermansson was recalled for his second Test four years after the first. Jarrod McCracken, after 15 Tests as a centre, was switched to the second-row. Nigel Vagana joined cousin Joe on the bench as the only new cap.

The Kiwis team comprised Matthew Ridge (captain), Sean Hoppe, Richard Blackmore, Ruben Wiki, Richard Barnett, Robbie Paul, Stacey Jones, John Lomax, Henry Paul, Quentin Pongia, Jarrod McCracken, Tony Iro, Logan Swann, and (interchange) Nigel Vagana, Terry Hermansson, Kevin Iro, Joe Vagana.

The unified Kangaroos were Robbie O'Davis, Wendell Sailor, Terry Hill, Steve Renouf, Mat Rogers, Laurie Daley (captain), Andrew Johns, Rodney Howe, Geoff Toovey, Paul Harragan, Steve Menzies, Brad Thorn, Brad Fittler, and (interchange) Darren Lockyer, Nik Kosef, Glenn Lazarus, Dean Pay. It was the first of Lockyer's world record 59 Tests.

The match had hardly started before Kiwis prop Lomax was down and out, bound for hospital with a neck injury. Hermansson, only a third choice after Kearney and Puletua, was propelled into the action much earlier than planned and went on to play the game of his life. In the 55th minute he rampaged over two defenders for the try which put the Kiwis 18-12 ahead and firmly on course for victory. Lomax was far from the only Kiwi casualty. Barnett bravely battled on with a broken hand, McCracken needed stitches in a cut above his right eye and Tony Iro and Pongia also suffered in the fierce forward exchanges.

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Wiki received a taste of what was to come later in his career by spending the last hour in the forwards, with fellow centre Kevin Iro joining him there before the finish. As the Kiwis' bench was emptied – and Lomax listened to the drama on a hospital radio – Australia raced to a 12-2 lead. Kevin Iro's first try made it 12-6 at halftime. Hoppe touched down next, before Hermansson's irresistible scoring run. Australia regained some composure to cut the deficit to 18-16, only for Kevin Iro to surge over again in the 79th minute and complete the 22-16 triumph. It was his sixteenth Test try, equalling Hugh McGahan's then New Zealand record.

“It was fairly physical,” understated Pongia, who showed tremendous stamina in his first game after a five-week suspension. “When we lost Johnny (Lomax), it was time for the boys to stand up, especially Terry (Hermansson) and Joe (Vagana).” Captain Ridge echoed the words of his forward leader: “This is by far the best, by far the greatest win for me. I thought last year's win was good but this one was even better.” Endacott put the victory down to “Kiwi pride and passion. They came back from the dead at 12-2 down, and after losing Johnny Lomax two minutes into the game. It was just a superb effort.”

Disappointingly, the Anzac Test often struggled to raise the excitement which captivated the 24,630 fans at North Harbour on that pulsating night. Once the NRL had full control of the decision making, its clubs ensured their players did not stray too far from home. Kiwi coaches had problems getting their players released and the NRL blamed television contracts, which they had negotiated, for playing the great majority of the Tests in Australia. English referee Russell Smith controlled the epic 1998 Test but neutral officials were soon discarded. Now the Anzac Test has been omitted altogether from the next television deal.

TAB and the HIA

By John Holloway



On Sunday I took a \$10 first scorer bet on David Fusitua, well the ever improving James Gavet stuffed me up there and Fus scoring a bit later didn't help. What occurred to me during the weekend is that the TAB could also run a book on first HIA walk off each game or even “guess the total number of weekend HIA walkoffs” as they have now become a regular occurrence. I am not against being careful of concussion but geez if you stub your toe now some bloke in a high viz vest pats himself on the head and carts you across the chalk. Most of them are back in a heartbeat. I have seen a few refs lately that should be carted to the sideline but that's an ongoing story and don't get me started on the Bunker or is that “BUNKEM”. As I have noted previously this column is written on the weekend and handed in first thing on the Monday 9am and then processed by our learned IT guy Hayden for mailout weds/thurs. My point being stuff we Newsletter contributors write can be mightily outdated by the time you read it. A bit frustrating but what can you do...last week I said Matulino was rumoured to be talking to another club. By the time you read the Newsletter he was already signed, I look a bit silly but that's the trap. Bottom line I need to write only facts but where's the fun in that. Right Facts...At the Top of the Table the Storm are running hot with Billy the Kid back in town and on full noise at the back. Lozzas Blues will be nervous. Captain Cams men are just too clinical with and without the pill and their two wonder wingers Vuni- whatsits and Addo-thingy are flying. They dismissed the Dragons 34/22 and the fire-eaters only got their points when the game was gone. Book a big dance ticket for Bellamys bashers. Penrith continue to confound the critics (including my humble self) with another loss, this time to the bucking Broncos 32/18. The talent laden and nicely balanced Panther lineup just not climbing that mountain, go figure. Some injury probs but who hasn't had that. Manly on the other hand are making giant strides with their newly cobbled together team under still a rookie coach Barrett. The Trbojevics, DCE, powerhouse Kiwi Tapau, dynamic Dylan Walker and born again Uate are carving them up as the Eagles bagged their 6th win at the expense of the brittle Bunnies 46/8...whoa back to the hutch. The electric Eels are also running upstream unseating the rudderless Cowboys 26/8 with Gutherson and Norman orchestrating the attack. The Rustlers cant wait to get Thurston back but it could be a hard week or two yet.

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In the battle at the bottom the Titans were too tough for the luckless Knights, 38/8. After a promising start and a few close run defeats the spoon beckons for the Coaltown boys. The troubled and injury affected Tigers were full of fight but got run down by the sharp-witted Sharks 22/16. The Westie hardman Capt Woods has finally admitted his move (fact) and his leadership and workrate will take some replacement to say nothing of Tedesco and Moses. Coach Cleary already on the case with Matulino and Bulldog Reynolds signed (fact) and others under approach. The battling Bulldogs surprised a few with their 16/10 win over Rickys not so rampant Raiders. Rapana tryless again lets hope he is back on the sheet for the KIWIS! So friday nite we chase a rare midseason Test win against the infamous foe the mighty Kangaroos. Bristling with the big name line-up. For the Homies, 5 Warriors in the side including the spine of Luke/Johnson RTSheck. Sad to see Mr Reliable Nightingale missing the cut but youth has to come through in Fusitua and Zeleznik . Also out were a few usual suspects in Kenny-Dowel, Alex Glen and hopeful Waerea-Hargreaves. On the whole I like our squad and it all depends on the punishing platoon up front. The big artillery... Bromwich, Packer, Taumalolo, Tapau, Mannering, Luke, the wily upsetter Blair and the young new giant Asopha-Solamona. If they can do the job on their imposing Ozzie counterparts we are in with a shout. Had they not been injured I would have had the mean streak men Manu Mau and James Fisher-Harris adding mongrel to our pack. Not sure I can agree with the choice of "Brandon Smith"??? total unknown never played NRL first grade and into the Kiwis.!!! By all means if he is promising invite him along to the training camp and give him a taste of things but to deprive another seasoned NRL player of a Kiwi jersey I don't think so. No offence or untoward meaning intended but his coming from Kidwells old club the Storm might not be a good look to some. Lets hope that the selection proves fruitful in years to come. To finish, well done the Warriors, a massive defensive effort, in the second half in particular when the highly rated Roosters were camped in our cold, rain-swept and treacherous red zone forever. Gavet another big showing, Big Ben slipping into the power groove, Mannering mighty as usual, Hoffman on a mission, RTS terrific under the high ball and the halves duo Foz and magic Johnson doing the business. Even the intercept didn't faze me as SKD's long reach undid a pass that would very likely have resulted in a try for us and was worth the punt. Shaun more than made up for that with his efforts on defence and his massive pressure penalty to seal the match .A very good and mistake free debut by newbie winger Nicoll-klockstad it will be good to see him in a more open game with a bit of air to run into cause this boy can sniff an opportunity to score. He showed that with the ruled out effort Coach Mooks said our boys had to continue to improve and step up to the plate with consistency and he was right, not perfect obviously but on the track eh. As a closing comment I will admit to being lukewarm towards the journeyman Ayshford but I am becoming a fan..

Kia kaha Warrriooooorrss.

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Test Time... Bring it On!

By Shane Hurdell - Hawke's Bay Today Sports Reporter



JUST TWO more sleeps and it's all on ... yes Friday night's Anzac test in Canberra has the potential to be a beauty.

Kiwis coach David Kidwell has plenty of talent and potential in his squad of 20 and should come up with a more than handy team of 17 to push the Kangaroos. Providing the Kiwis keep disciplined and control their aggression they are capable of upsetting the Aussies.

The Warriors nail-biting 14-13 NRL win against the Roosters at Mt Smart Stadium on Sunday provided the ideal lead-in to the test. The six Warriors in the Kiwis squad should be buzzing after that victory and hopefully that enthusiasm will have spread through the Kiwis camp this week.

The defensive work and composure displayed by the Warriors in difficult weather conditions on Sunday was outstanding. It was pleasing to see more intelligence and variation on the last plays also.

Winger Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad had a memorable debut. He was safe under the high ball, made the right defensive reads and was thirsty for work on attack.

Fans could not have asked for any more from him and it was great to hear he led the victory song during the post-game celebrations. Repeating this display on a regular basis and building consistency is the challenge for coach Stephen Kearney and his troops during the coming weeks.

His team is too good to be sitting in 11th place in the comp. Providing there isn't too much panelbeating required to the Warriors Kiwis stars after the test there's no reason why the Warriors couldn't be sitting in seventh place in six weeks.

Back to the Kiwis team. It's awesome to see Kidwell name hooker Brandon Smith in the squad. While he's unlikely to make the 17 he is a player for the future and will benefit from the experience of being in camp.

His selection brings back memories of the 1980s when players were plucked from obscurity into the Kiwis squad and often came up trumps. One of those was Taranaki hooker Barry Harvey who played between 1986 and '89.

Plenty has been written about the recall of Dragons enforcer Russell Packer. This bloke has been one of the key architects in the Dragons unexpected rise this season and deserves another crack at international level.

It's no secret the Kiwis missed the services of Warriors backrower Simon Mannering and standoff Kieran Foran during recent losses to the Kangaroos. They should provide big boosts to the squad on Friday night.

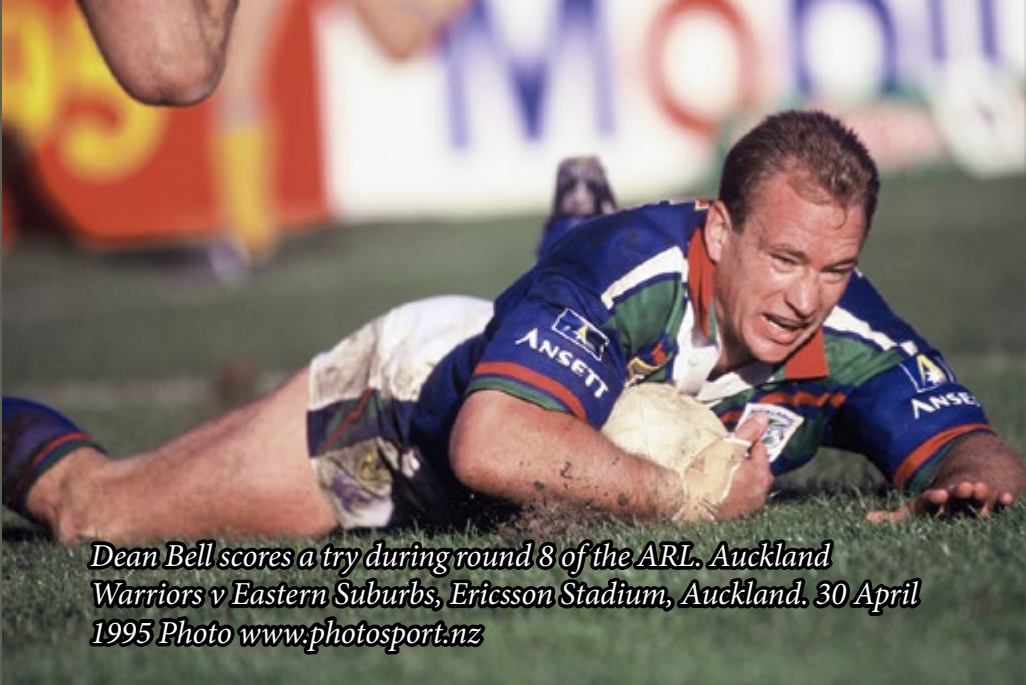
On the Hawke's Bay league scene last weekend was a quiet one. The Hawke's Bay women's team didn't have a game and end their Mid Central competition campaign with an away game against the Linton Cobras this weekend.

The 2016 Spring Competition premier champions Bridge Pa defaulted their Coast to Coast competition game against leaders Kia Ora in Palmerston North on Saturday because coach Ihaka Waerea only had seven players available for the trip through the Manawatu Gorge. Bridge Pa will host Ohakea in their final outing in the comp at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings on Saturday.

**Goodluck to Joseph Parker
for his fight this Saturday!**



By Miles Davis



Dean Bell scores a try during round 8 of the ARL. Auckland Warriors v Eastern Suburbs, Ericsson Stadium, Auckland. 30 April 1995 Photo www.photosport.nz

Dean Bell

DEAN BELL'S journey in league, which was to adorn his sideboard with multiple trophies, started in the late 70's with the Manukau Magpies. The sport was in his blood with dad Cameron coaching, his uncle Ian Bell and cousin Clayton Friend both prominent players. It was the latter two that took Dean with them in 1982 when they signed to play for newly promoted Carlisle in the English championship (the 3 were also to play a test together for the Kiwis vs Papua New Guinea in 1983).

After a season for Carlisle he signed for Leeds playing 22 games and scoring 5 tries and helping his side win the Rugby League Cup with an 18-10 win over Widnes in the final. At the end of the 1983/84 season he returned down-under with his new wife Jackie to play for the Eastern Suburbs Roosters.

He spent 3 seasons with the Roosters but his playing time was limited to 42 games (5 tries) due to injuries and suspension. In 1986 he was to return to England and was expected to sign for his old club Leeds but former New Zealand coach Graham Lowe (who had first selected Bell for the Kiwis) managed to secure his signature for Wigan. That move was to be the most productive of Bell's career.

In his first season with the club he won the first of 6 Rugby League Championship titles. In his 2nd season he won the first of 7 consecutive Challenge Cup finals and managed to bag a try in the process (he also crossed the line in his last Challenge Cup triumph in 1994). In 1991 he took over the club captaincy from Ellery Hanley and was to achieve the League and Cup double in each of the 3 years he was at the helm. Whilst at Wigan he was awarded Rugby League's Man of Steel in 1992 (awarded for the outstanding player in British League) and the Lance Todd Trophy (for the best player in the Challenge Cup Final) in 1993.

After 8 seasons with the Lancashire Club he was to return to New Zealand and become part of history. When former Wigan coach John Monie took up the challenge to be the inaugural boss of new NRL club the Auckland Warriors there was only one person he wanted as captain and that was Dean Bell. Bell took up the challenge and became Vodafone Warrior #1.

At the end of that season he retired from playing and returned to his old stomping ground of Leeds as their coach. In a turbulent season where his side were struggling Bell made the shock decision to lace up his boots once more in an attempt to lift the troops. The ploy worked as Leeds beat Paris St Germain 34-12 with Bell scoring a try (and Tony Kemp getting a brace). He was coach at Leeds for 2 seasons before being appointed Head of their Academy for 2 years.

In 2000 he was assistant coach under his father Cameron with the Maori side at that year's World Cup before returning to Wigan to head their youth development. After 7 years in the job he returned to the Vodafone Warriors firstly as Development Officer before taking over responsibility for recruitment and in 2012 became the General Manager of Football.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

In April 2015 Bell resigned from the club a year before the end of his contract "I probably wasn't enjoying going to work as much as I used to and that's nothing to do with what is going on at work. That's more about me just looking for a new challenge.

"I just wanted to be fair to the club and think the time is right now and the club is in a good position."

As well as his glittering club career Bell managed 26 games for the Kiwis scoring an impressive 15 tries. In 2000 he was inducted into the Legends of League and in 2007 into Wigan's Hall of Fame.

During his playing days Graham Lowe rated him as the greatest centre in the world. A man respected on and off the field and a true Kiwi Legend.

1988 Challenge Cup Final <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1CWjholgkw&t=35s>

1994 Challenge Cup Final <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQoAZifjvX0>

Dean Bell – This is Your Life (ITV 1994) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7I4RyHcNEQ>

The banner features a black and white photograph of a female hockey player in a white jersey, looking intently at the camera. To her right, two other players are visible, one holding a hockey stick. The text on the banner is as follows:

Vantage Black Sticks Women vs India

TICKETS FROM \$5

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GALLAGHER HOCKEY CENTRE, HAMILTON

PUKEKOHE SUNDAY 14th May 3pm
PUKEKOHE TUESDAY 16th May 7pm
PUKEKOHE WEDNESDAY 17th May 7pm
HAMILTON FRIDAY 19th May 2pm
HAMILTON SATURDAY 20th May 2pm

Logos for Vantage and Black Sticks are at the bottom left.

TICKETS ARE on sale now for the Vantage Black Sticks Women's five test series against India in Auckland and Hamilton from 14 - 20 May.

The first three matches will be played on 14th, 16th and 17th May at Rosa Birch Park in Pukekohe before tests on 19th and 20th May at the Gallagher Hockey Centre in Hamilton.

New Zealand last played India at the International Hockey Open in Darwin in May last year, where the Black Sticks came away with a 4-1 result.

The Kiwis, coached by Mark Hager, are currently ranked fifth in the world while India are 12th but come into the series fresh from winning the FIH World League Round 2 event in Canada.

A Vantage Black Sticks team to compete at the series will be announced later this week.

Rosa Birch Park, Pukekohe

Sunday 14th May, 3pm

Tuesday 16th May, 7pm

Wednesday 17th May, 7pm

Gallagher Hockey Centre, Hamilton

Friday 19th May, 2pm

Saturday 20th May, 2pm

CLICK HERE TO BUY TICKETS



WADE GRAHAM (Sharks) and Jarrod Croker (Raiders) were unlucky to miss out on Australian selection for this Friday night's Test match in Canberra. Both are 26 years of age and have been in good form this year. Kangaroo coach Mal Meninga has been loyal to the players who served him well last year but he may look at some new blood for the coming World Cup. Croker missed out to the Storm's Will Chambers who will turn 29 in three weeks or so. To be fair to the Australian coach, Chambers has played at a high and consistent level this year and deserves his place and the chance to play his second Test for Australia. Both Matt Gillett (6 Tests) and Boyd Cordner (10 Tests), have justified their inclusion as second row partners, but lock, Trent Merrin (6 Tests), has been below his 2016 form. Blake Ferguson (6 Tests) is another who hasn't been playing as well as he did last season, but he and Merrin have retained their places because of their efforts last year, which earned them the coach's loyalty. Graham, who has scored 37 tries in his 188 first grade games, would have slotted in well as lock or on the bench. Croker, too could have been included on the bench. He now has 1,484 points from his 198 first grade games from 102 tries and 538 goals. Meninga added some size and grunt to the Australian pack on Sunday when he called in Andrew Fifita for the injured Aaron Woods. Although he made several uncharacteristic handling errors in Cronulla's 22-16 win over the Tigers on Saturday, the 120 kgs and 194 cms Fifita ran for 130 metres and made 38 tackles in his 60 minutes on the field. Australian captain, Cameron Smith, will play his 50th Test match and his 27th as captain. This is a great reward for such talented, classy and humble man. After the Storm's impressive 34-22 win over the Dragons on Sunday, Smith, who will turn 34 on 18 June, has now scored 2,049 points in his 344 first grade games. His five goals against the Dragons made him the greatest ever NRL goal kicker. He has now landed 943 goals to move past Jason Taylor who kicked 942. Smith's career conversion rate is just above 73 percent.

The Australians will face a solid and talented New Zealand team. The battle of the forwards will be the highlight of the Test match and I believe the Kiwis have the edge in this department. Each of the New Zealand forwards are in top form and the Aussies will have plenty of problems in holding them. Add to the mix backline stars, Kieran Foran and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, who did not play Test football in 2016, and

you have a great all round side.

A third of the way through the competition and Melbourne are worthy competition leaders, four points clear of the Dragons, Sharks, Broncos and Roosters, who are all in equal second place. The good form of Manly and Parramatta have rightfully gained them a place in the top eight teams. Both teams have been impressive during their last three games. The Sea Eagles went down to Melbourne 30-26 but then defeated the Raiders 20-18 and South Sydney 46-8. The Eels beat the Tigers 26-22, the Panthers 18-12 and the Cowboys 26-6 in Townsville. I was elated when Shaun Johnson landed the late penalty to give the Warriors their tight 14-13 victory over the Roosters at Mt. Smart. How many games has the 26 year old halfback won for his club? Now that he has re-signed until the end of the 2019 season, no doubt there will be many more match winning performances to come. The home team played with plenty of commitment, while their defence was strong. While they lost their previous two matches to the Storm (20-14) and the Raiders (20-8), the Warriors held their own in these away games against two of the competitions most fancied sides. Against the Roosters, the six starting forwards and the replacements, made 250 of the team's 329 total tackles. Roger Tuivasa-Sheck ran for 146 metres, while Simon Mannering made 48 tackles. Of the eight top sides, the Sharks look the most vulnerable. Although they got the money against the Tigers on Saturday, they were not brilliant. The Bulldogs have also had their poor moments so far this year, but they certainly stood up against the Raiders on Saturday, as they did against the Broncos a few weeks back.

It was pleasing to see Jason Nightingale collect three tries against Melbourne. Now 30 years of age, the Kiwi Test winger is playing his 11th NRL season, all with the Dragons. This was the second treble for the popular Dragon, following his three against the Tigers in round five. He now has 98 NRL tries in his 230 games. And what about Billy Slater? Two tries and two try assists against the Dragons indicated he is back near his best. He now has 174 tries from his 285 first grade games. Although he turns 34 in June, Slater still has plenty to offer. Queensland State of Origin coach, Kevin Walters, would be a happy man after what he saw at Wollongong's WIN Stadium on Sunday.



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The Art of Boxing

By Miles Davis



ISTILL REMEMBER when I first fell in love with the art of boxing. It was 1971 and my housemaster at boarding school allowed us first formers to stay up late and watch the world title heavyweight fight between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali. It was 15 rounds of the most brutal boxing with no man giving an inch or willing to go down. I can still remember getting back to our dormitory and all of us replaying the fight using our pillows as opponents. Little did I realise that I had witnessed the Fight of the Century and that not all bouts would be that memorable. (Even less did I realise that years later I would meet Joe Frazier and be punched by him during a mock sparring session but that's another story.)

In recent years heavyweight boxing has lost a lot of its appeal, with multiple championship belts around and too many contenders with a lack of ability as well as character. But I get the feeling that things may be about to change. The fight at the weekend between Wladimir Klitschko and Anthony Joshua was one that took me back to the days of Frazier, Ali and George Foreman. Two combatants who gave it everything and a fight that either one of them could have won. In the 5th round it looked as if Joshua had one hand on the title but by the end of the 6th it seemed just a matter of time before he was knocked out. Somehow he managed to stay out of trouble for a couple of rounds and find his second wind which eventually proved too much for the 41 year old Klitschko to handle. No shame in defeat as he put in an impressive performance especially given his age and the fact that he hadn't fought for 17 months. What was especially pleasing was the respect which both boxers had shown each other before and after the fight. None of the WWE type trash-talking which is more the norm nowadays.

And that brings me to Joseph Parker. Another current heavyweight who always handles himself with decorum and is a great ambassador for the sport as well as for New Zealand. Whether Parker is good enough to stand atop of the heavyweight division will only be decided in the ring but there is no doubt that he is rapidly moving towards the day that he finds out.

Unfortunately due to us living in a reality TV age, Tyson Fury is likely to get a crack first. Not because he is more worthy a challenger than Parker but because he attracts so much media coverage and would be a commercial drawcard in the UK. The big money option for Joshua's next opponent would be the American Deontay Wilder so he will also be nearer the front of the queue. However once the dust has settled there is a good chance that the last man standing will have to confront Joseph Parker. How great would it be if that humble young man could go one better than David Tua? I can imagine myself giving my pillow a beating if that happened.



8PM FRIDAY MAY 19
FMG STADIUM WAIKATO, HAMILTON

NYC KICK OFF: 5:45PM



By Ben Francis

Northland Sports Wrap

Memorial Park in Dargaville

IT WAS long overdue but for the first time in over a year, I finally managed to head back up to Dargaville to catch up with friends.

I was living in the little Northland town when Sir Peter gave me the chance to write for this newsletter and it is a place I love.

While I was visiting I went along to the football club and watch Northern Wairoa face KeriKeri in the Chatham Cup.

The Chatham Cup is contested by teams from throughout New Zealand, and has been held annually since 1923.

Northern Wairoa struggled against their higher ranked opponents, going down 7-1 and towards the end of the match only had eight players on the field.

Despite the loss, it was great to be back in town and being around the club atmosphere having a good time.

In Northland Rugby League results over the weekend, the Takahiwai Warriors defeated the Otangarei Knights 36-12 in their grand final rematch. The Warriors have only conceded 22 points through four rounds.

Meanwhile, the Moerewa Tigers continued their unbeaten start to the season, crushing the Hora Hora Broncos 74-0. The Tigers sit first in the standings with four wins.

The Hikurangi Stags picked up their first win since re-entering the Rugby League Northland Premiership, edging the Northern Wairoa Bulls 30-28 in a thriller. Both teams were tied at 22-all at the break and at 28-all with minutes remaining, but a late penalty goal to the Stags secured the win. The Bulls have yet to win a match this season.

As a final note, I have to congratulate the Warriors on their one point win over the Roosters on Sunday.

The Warriors defended their hearts out during the second half, and it would have been disappointing to see them lose. The Warriors might only have four wins, but you have to admit they club has improved since Stephen Kearney took over. A Warriors team two years ago would not have been able to pull off that defensive effort.

Let's hope they continue that effort in the coming weeks!

Kiwis ANZAC Squad 2017

By NZRL

THE RETURN of experienced trio Simon Mannering, Kieran Foran and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck is a highlight for Kiwis Coach David Kidwell as he announced his squad to face the Kangaroos in Friday's ANZAC Test in Canberra.

Mannering, a former Kiwis captain, and New Zealand Warriors teammate Tuivasa-Sheck missed all representative matches last year due to injury while Foran was unavailable for selection. "First of all, all three of them bring a lot of Mana to our group and that's hugely important," Kidwell said of the trio.

"Simon's experience in any squad is invaluable, he's been a leader in our side for a long time, so it's fantastic to have him fit and ready. Kieran's been playing some good footy this year and his combination with Shaun Johnson and Roger at the back is certainly benefiting from the more time they all spend together too," Kidwell continued.

Aside from naming two debutants, Melbourne Storms Nelson Asofa-Solomona and Brandon Smith, the other talking point is the inclusion of St George Illawarra Dragon Prop Russell Packer, who hasn't played in the black jumper since 2011. "Russell's form speaks for itself," said Kidwell, "he was pretty delighted to get a call from me, like anyone in life they have their ups and downs, and Russell's been putting the hard yards in, and we just want him to do the same for the Kiwis."

* Uncapped

Note Manu Ma'u was unavailable for selection due to injury.

Kiwis ANZAC Squad 2017

Adam Blair Brisbane Broncos
Jesse Bromwich (Captain) Melbourne Storm
Kenny Bromwich Melbourne Storm
Kieran Foran Vodafone Warriors
David Fusitu'a Vodafone Warriors
Shaun Johnson Vodafone Warriors
Jordan Kahu Brisbane Broncos
Issac Luke Vodafone Warriors
Simon Mannering Vodafone Warriors
Kodi Nikorima Brisbane Broncos

Russell Packer St George Illawarra Dragons
Kevin Proctor Gold Coast Titans
Jordan Rapana Canberra Raiders
Brandon Smith Melbourne Storm
Jason Taumalolo North Queensland Cowboys
Elijah Taylor Wests Tigers
Martin Taupau Manly Sea Eagles
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck Vodafone Warriors
Dallin Watene-Zelezniak Penrith Panthers
Dean Whare Penrith Panthers



Good Luck to the Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns and Jnr Kiwis playing this weekend!

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Friday May 5th



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Roope Rooster On The Line This Weekend

By Talei Anderson

THE ROOPE Rooster challenge trophy will be on the line this weekend when the current holders -Pt Chevalier Pirates- host Mt Albert at Walker Park in the fifth round of the SAS Fox Memorial premiership on Saturday.

This will be the Pirates second defence after taking it off Papakura in the opening round and defending it in round two against Te Atatu.

The Pirates and Lions are the only unbeaten sides so far, leading the competition ladder on eight points with Pt Chevalier holding a slight percentage advantage.

Papakura have moved inside the competitions top five after securing their first win in front of a home crowd with a close 14-10 over the Glenora Bears last week. They travel to Grey Lynn Park this weekend to play Richmond who will be looking to bounce back from their 44-10 loss against Howick in round four.

In other games, Marist go up against Northcote, Glenora will host Mangere East at Harold Moody Reserve and Howick will play Te Atatu at Jack Colvin Park.

There were some surprising results in the Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup competition last weekend which saw Pakuranga get their first win against table leaders Otahuhu. This result coupled with New Lynn's win over East Coast Bays leaves the Leopards sitting third on the competition ladder in section one of the qualification series behind Bay Roskill who sit at the top on 10 points and New Lynn who are on eight and ahead on differential.

Bay Roskill did just enough to get a 28-26 win over Otago last week proving that the Scorpions are working hard to qualify for the Sharman premiership. Manurewa, Ponsonby, Papatoetoe and Ellerslie lead the ladder in section two.

With the qualification series concluding this Saturday, clubs will need to work hard to get the two points this weekend in hopes to qualify for the Sharman Cup premiership. The bottom three from section one and bottom two in section two will qualify for the plate.



Continued on next page...

ARL results for Saturday April 29

SAS Fox Memorial: Round 4

Northcote 10 Pt Chevalier 28
Mt Albert 34 Mangere East 12
Marist 26 Te Atatu 14
Howick 44 Richmond 10
Papakura 14 Glenora 10
Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup: Round 6

Qualification Series Section 1
New Lynn 36 East Coast Bays 6
Otara 26 Bay Roskill 28
Pakuranga 18 Otahuhu 16
Hibiscus Coast bye

Qualification Series Section 2
Ellerslie 18 Waitemata 14
Ponsonby 0 Papatoetoe 30 (Ponsonby default)
Manukau bye
Manurewa bye



**SAS Fox Memorial fixtures for Saturday May 6:
Round 5**

Northcote v Marist @ Birkenhead War Memorial
2.30pm
Richmond v Papakura @ Grey Lynn Park 2.30pm
Glenora v Mangere East @ Harold Moody Reserve
2.30pm
Te Atatu v Howick @ Jack Colvin Park 2.30pm
Pt Chevalier v Mt Albert @ Walker Park 2.30pm

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup fixtures for Saturday May 6: Round 7

Qualification Series: Section 1
East Coast Bays v Pakuranga @ Freyberg Park
2.30pm
Otara v New Lynn @ Ngati Otara Park 2.30pm
Hibiscus Coast v Otahuhu @ Stanmore Bay Reserve
2.30pm
Bay Roskill bye

Qualification Series: Section 2
Ellerslie v Papatoetoe @ Ellerslie Domain 2.30pm
Manukau v Manurewa @ Moyle Park 2.30pm
Ponsonby bye





RLWC 2017 Team at Mt Smart

*By Daniel Fraser
New Zealand Media & PR
Manager RLWC 2017*

WHAT AN afternoon it was at Mt Smart on Sunday. As if the Warriors winning a nail-biter wasn't enough, it was especially enjoyable for the Rugby League World Cup team.

We had a couple of former Warriors stars popping down to help and even gave away a family pass to the semi-final at Mt Smart in November.

The team had a marquee set-up at the northern end of Mt Smart with a passing competition for the kids and some giveaways as we continued to spread the word about RLWC before kick-off.

Then at halftime, we were on the field as three contestants vied for a family pass to the semi-final on November 25.

Francis Meli and Epalahame Lauaki, who played 179 matches for the Warriors between them, spun the competitors around before Francis kicked a ball into the air for them to catch.

With all three doing well to see the ball let alone catch it, it was Sam Brown, a junior coach at Hibiscus Coast Raiders who prevailed and will now get to take his semi-final later in the year.

Don't worry if you missed out on the giveaways and passing competition though, we'll be doing similar activations at the Warriors' match against the Dragons on May 19 in Hamilton and also on May 27 when the Warriors face the Broncos. Make sure you come and say hello!

New Zealand is hosting seven RLWC2017 matches with two games at Mt Smart Stadium, tickets are available now from www.rlwc2017.com, starting at \$10 for kids, \$20 for adults and \$45 for a family of four.



Francis Meli, Epalahame Lauaki and Harley Wall.



Sam Brown (second from right in Kiwis jersey) proved to be safest under the high ball and won the family pass to the semi-final.

Pacific Test Squads

Updated squads for this Saturday's historic triple-header at Campbelltown Sports Stadium.

England Squad

NB: Players listed in alphabetical order

Kevin Brown
Sam Burgess
Thomas Burgess
Luke Gale
James Graham
Ryan Hall
Zak Hardaker
Chris Heighington
Chris Hill
Josh Hodgson
Jermaine McGillvary
Mike McMeeken
Chris McQueen
Sean O'Loughlin (c)
Mark Percival
Stefan Ratchford
Scott Taylor
Alex Walmsley
Kallum Watkins
Elliott Whitehead

Mate Ma' Tonga Squad

Addin Fonua-Blake – Manly Warringah Sea Eagles
Siliva Havili – St George Illawarra Dragons
Mafoa'aeata Hinganao – New Zealand Warriors
Will Hopoate – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs
Sione Katoa – Penrith Panthers
Felise Kaufusi – Melbourne Storm
Patrick Kaufusi – North Queensland Cowboys
Samisoni Langi – Penrith Panthers
Leilani Latu – Penrith Panthers
Brenko Lee – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs
Tuimoala Lolohea – New Zealand Warriors
Joe Ofahengaue – Brisbane Broncos
Leivaha Pulu – Gold Coast Titans
Moses Suli – Wests Tigers
Daniel Tupou – Sydney Roosters

Manu Vatuvei – New Zealand Warriors
Siosaia Vave – Parramatta Eels
Sione Vea – Tongan Rugby League
Tony Williams – Cronulla Sutherland Sharks

Fiji Bati Squad

NB: Players are listed in alphabetical order

Waq Blake (Penrith Panthers)
Kane Evans (Sydney Roosters)
Tui Kamikamica (Melbourne Storm)
Viliame Kikau (Penrith Panthers)
Apisai Koroisau (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)
Taane Milne (St George Illawarra Dragons)
Marcelo Montoya (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs)
Sitiveni Moceidreke (South Sydney Rabbitohs)
Kevin Naiqama (Wests Tigers)
Ben Nakubuwei (Sunshine Coast)
Tyrone Phillips (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs)
Henry Raiwalui (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)
Daniel Saifiti (Newcastle Knights)
Jacob Saifiti (Newcastle Knights)
Korbin Sims (Brisbane Broncos)
James Storer (Illawarra)
Akuila Uate (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)
Eloni Vunakece (Sydney Roosters)
Suliasi Vunivalu (Melbourne Storm)

Papua New Guinea

1. Stargroth Amean – PNG Hunters
2. Justin Olam - Melbourne Storms
3. Thompson Teteh - Redcliffe Dolphins
4. Nene McDonald - St George Illawarra Dragons
5. Adex Were - PNG Hunters

6. Watson Boas - PNG Hunters
7. Ase Boas - PNG Hunters
8. Henry Noki - PNG Hunters
9. Wartovo Puaa Jnr - PNG Hunters
10. Luke Page - Burleigh Bears
11. Rod Griffin – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs
12. Rhys Martin – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs
13. Stanton Albert - PNG Hunters
14. Tommy Butterfield - East Tigers
15. Willie Minoga - PNG Hunters
16. Wellington Albert - PNG Hunters
17. Richard Pandia - Ipswich Jets
18. Nixon Put - PNG Hunters

Toa Samoa

Iulio "Bunty" Afoa - New Zealand Warriors
Leeson Ah Mau – St George Illawarra Dragons
John Asiata - North Queensland Cowboys
Fa'amanu Brown – Cronulla Sutherland Sharks
Herman Ese'ese – Brisbane Broncos
Sam Kasiano – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs
Tim Lafai - St George Illawarra Dragons
Joseph Leilua – Canberra Raiders
Josh McGuire– Brisbane Broncos
Peter Mata'utia – Newcastle Knights
Sione Mata'utia - Newcastle Knights
Suaia Matagi – Parramatta Eels
Ken Maumalo - New Zealand Warriors
Anthony Milford – Brisbane Broncos
Junior Paulo - Canberra Raiders
Kaysa Pritchard – Parramatta Eels
Sauaso Sue – Wests Tigers
Antonio Winterstein – North Queensland Cowboys

Southland Rugby League Pictures

By Dave Loudon

THE TEAMS are : Lonestar Cowboys RLC (Invercargill) and South Pacific Raiders (Dunedin). Lonestar Cowboys took the win 70-12 .

Just to put you in the picture. There is a combined comp between Southland and Otago. (Dunedin only had 4 premier teams, same with Invercargill)- so it made good sense to have a combined comp. At the same time the change was made away from Sunday games as there was too many playing union and league. The change seems to going well so far !



2017 Kiwi Ferns Team Picture



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EVERY TEAM LIST FROM ALL GAME ACROSS REP WEEKEND, LOADS OF FEATURES, NEWS, PREVIEWS AND STATS + SCORES AND RESULTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY!

INSIDE

- Stars such as **Will Hopoate** (Tonga) and **Anthony Milford** (Samoa) have praised the new relaxed international rugby league rules for giving them a chance to boost the profile of their minnow countries and still be eligible for Origin and Australia.
- Bulldogs prop **David Klemmer** is only 23, but has quickly become a Kangaroo mainstay – picked at starting prop against New Zealand this Friday for only the second time in his career. He says despite reports, there is no Qld v NSW divide in Australians camps.
- England have rubbished criticism about picking Australians **Chris McQueen** and **Chris Heighington** in their squad against Samoa, with captain **Sean O'Loughlin** declaring: "No rules have been broken."
- Columnist **Michael Ennis** reminisces on some of his Country Origin camps, including one of the best weeks of his life captaining the side in 2013.
- Team posters for Australia, NZ, Jillaroos, Ferns, PNG, Cook Islands, City, Country, Fiji, Tonga, England and Samoa.

PLUS... We celebrate the **Top 8 Country-City matches**, The Analyst checks on how **Shaun Johnson** and **Kieran Foran** are progressing and **country rugby league results**.



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Neighbours From The 50'S Reunite At World Masters Games Tennis

WHEN RICHARD (Dick) Garratt arrived in Auckland from Whakatane in the early 1950's his father built a house in Oranga Ave opposite Ngapora St where only 50 yards away lived one Bruce Castle – Bruce was the Senior club champion at near-by Fergusson Park Tennis Club, late Dick joined and became Junior Champion.

As with time their paths went different ways Bruce to Ellerslie Rugby League Club and Dick to Manukau Rovers Rugby Club, but on the odd occasion have run into each other, and Dick as the CEO of the Maori Sports Awards where both Marlene Bruce's ex wife for bowls and Raelene there daughter now the CEO of the Canterbury bull dogs have received awards honours, but the former Kiwi's Rugby League Captain has produced another champion in his son Ryan, and as fate would have it Dick's son Patrick was in the same event, Ryan and Patrick collected the bronze and silver medals respectively in the 40+ singles section.

Both Bruce and Dick were at the medal ceremony, proudly having a quiet ale and recalling those old friends and sporting champions from a tough working class area of Penrose, One Tree Hill and Onehunga.



Bruce & Ryan Castle.



Bruce, Ryan and Grandchildren.



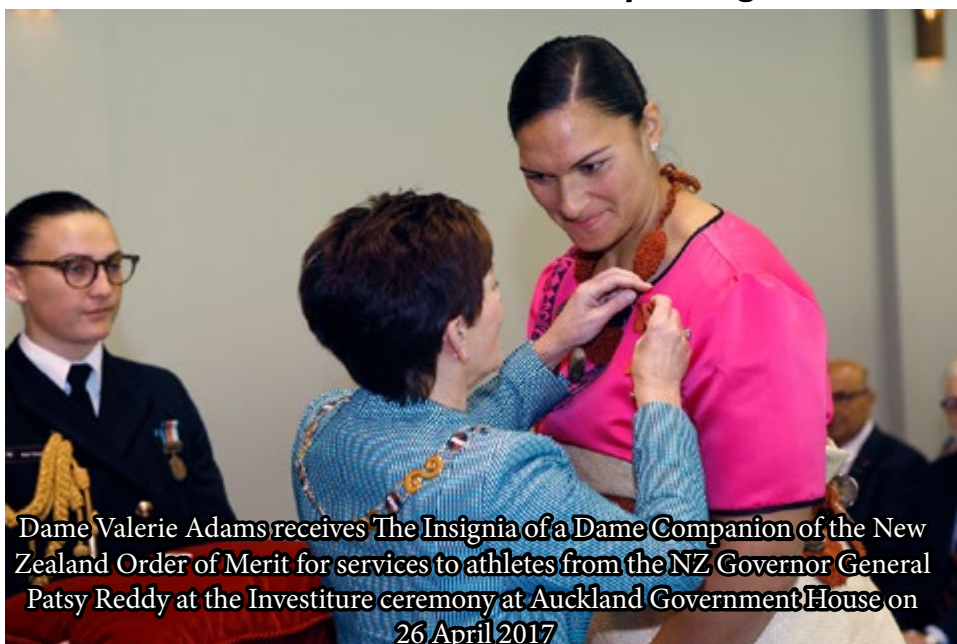
Dick Garratt & Bruce Castle.



Patrick Garratt (Silver) Phil Buys (Gold) Ryan Castle (Bronze).



Congratulations To Valerie Adams On Becoming A Dame and Expecting A Child



Dame Valerie Adams receives The Insignia of a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to athletes from the NZ Governor General Patsy Reddy at the Investiture ceremony at Auckland Government House on 26 April 2017



Dame Valerie Adams and husband Gabriel

CONGRATULATIONS TO Vodafone Warriors staff members Lisa Dalton and Richard Becht for taking part in the World Masters Games last week.

What an event it was with more than 28,000 athletes involved in 28 sports. Great for Auckland and for New Zealand – and there were Lisa and Richard having a go. Good on them.

Lisa, the club's ticketing officer, won the silver medal in the women's 30-34 1.5km open water swimming race and was also sixth in the women's 30-34 sprint triathlon. She just loved being involved and is now planning to be at the next World Masters in Japan in 2021.

Richard, who has been the media manager at the Vodafone Warriors for a long time now, says he'll be in Japan, too.

He said the experience was brilliant, attending the opening and closing ceremonies as well as swimming in five events at the National Aquatic Centre on the North Shore. Richard, who hadn't swum competitively since he was at school, had personal bests in the 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle plus the 50m breaststroke in the men's 60-64 category and he also did the freestyle leg in the 4 x 50m mixed medley relay.



Lisa with here silver medal.



Richard in the pool.

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