

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

10th May 2017

Newsletter #169



Kieran Foran passing at the line from Boyd Cordner and Trent Merrin.

2017 ANZAC Test



Shaun Johnson tackled by Boyd Cordner.



Jordan Rapana beats Jake Trbojevic



Trent Merrin tackled by Russell Packer.



Roger Tuivasa-Sheck scores

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz



Twin Milestones Against Penrith

by Richard Becht

TWIN MILESTONES are in store for captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and prop Sam Lisone while Solomone Kata returns from injury for the Vodafone Warriors' 10th-round NRL encounter with the Penrith Panthers at Pepper Stadium on Saturday (3.00pm kick-off local time; 5.00pm NZT).

Tuivasa-Sheck's 16th appearance for the club will be his 100th career match while Lisone will reach his 50-game milestone after debuting for the club in 2015.

Kata was forced off in the first half of the Anzac Day match against the Melbourne Storm with a hamstring injury, forcing him to miss the last outing against the Sydney Roosters as well as ruling him out of last week's representative round.

He has been named to return in his customary spot at left centre with Blake Ayshford and David Fusitu'a reunited on the right edge.

Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, who became Vodafone Warrior #218 against the Roosters, is included on the extended eight-man bench along with veteran wing Manu Vatuvai.

Nicoll-Klokstad impressed for the Cook Islands in last Saturday night's Pacific Test against Papua New Guinea while Vatuvai had a strong debut for Mate Ma'a Tonga in its win over Fiji Bati.

While Tuivasa-Sheck and Lisone eye landmark appearances this week, interchange prop Ben Matulino and second rower Bodene Thompson move within one game of milestones they're set to jointly reach in the Vodafone Warriors' 11th-round game against St George Illawarra at FMG Waikato Stadium on Friday, May 19 (8.00pm kick-off).

This week Matulino, again named on the bench, plays his 199th career game – all for the Vodafone Warriors – while Thompson makes his 49th appearance for the club (the 134th of his career). The match

will be the Vodafone Warriors' first 'home' game in Hamilton.

Heading into the Penrith match, they lie 11th on the table two points out of the top eight with a 4-5 win-loss record. The Panthers are 15th with a 2-7 record after losing their last five games.

Of the 37 encounters between the clubs since 1995 the Vodafone Warriors have 16 wins, Penrith 20 and there has been one draw.

The Vodafone Warriors have lost their last four away matches against the Panthers with their last win being a 30-16 victory in Penrith in 2012.

VODAFONE WARRIORS v PENRITH PANTHERS

*Pepper Stadium, Penrith
3.00pm, Saturday, May 13*

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Roger Tuivasa-Sheck c | <i>Interchange:</i> |
| 2 David Fusitu'a | 14 Nathaniel Roache |
| 3 Blake Ayshford | 15 Sam Lisone |
| 4 Solomone Kata | 16 Ligi Sao |
| 5 Ken Maumalo | 17 Ben Matulino |
| 6 Kieran Foran | 18 Manu Vatuvai |
| 7 Shaun Johnson | 20 Mason Lino |
| 8 James Gavet | 21 Bunty Afoa |
| 9 Issac Luke | 22 Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad |
| 10 Jacob Lillyman | |
| 11 Bodene Thompson | |
| 12 Ryan Hoffman | |
| 13 Simon Mannering | |



That Was Bad

By David Kemeys

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



ABOUT THE best thing that can be said about getting flogged – again – in the Anzac test, is that it won't happen again.

Our dismal 30-12 loss brings the curtain down on the annual fixture, and given the hidings we cop, I won't miss it.

The calls for the head of coach David Kidwell have been coming thick and fast and I need to declare here that I think the bloke is one of the nicest I've had the pleasure to deal with in the game, so I tend to be a big supporter.

Say what you like, but the first try against us comes off a wonderful high ball - always a bit of a lottery, the second off an intercept, and they get another from a kick that cannons of the pads. If it were not for bad luck we'd have none at all.

All week I had listened to the experts on radio telling us the Kiwis were a good chance. A decent backline, a good forward pack. If we could get dominance, we were in with a good shout, seemed to be the prevailing wisdom.

Only once did I hear the obvious question: And if we don't?

The answer was plain to see, you get flogged.

The forwards were well and truly second best.

That's five in a row to the Kangaroos.

Kidwell's men trailed 24-0 at halftime and it was already over.

We barely fired a shot, one writer calling us clueless, which I thought was a bit tough, but understandable.

The players need to take responsibility but it's poor Kidwell feeling the heat, just one win in six since taking over from Stephen Kearney.

The Anzac test has been played since 1997, so if you aren't too flash at maths, that's 18 times. We've won twice.

But here's a word of advice for the media, please find someone else to talk about the Kiwis than Graham Lowe. Sure he has a fine pedigree in the game, but what he has to say is frequently predictable, and just as often wrong.

The test was a "disaster" – you do not have to have coached State of Origin to recognise that, and that the NZRL is being run by "amateurs", a statement he fails to back up at any point, and which is demonstrably untrue – and also pretty irrelevant.

Lowe goes on to say he didn't have a problem with the team picked, but the players failed.

So it was the players, not NZRL officials like Tawera Nikau then?

"If they would have played to their potential we could have beat Australia, but they didn't."

Where he does have a point, damn it, is when he says: "We might as well not turn up to the World Cup."

If we are going to play like that, it is hard to disagree.

He's Off

The worst kept secret in league has finally been spilled - Kieran Foran is leaving at the end of this season on a three-year deal to the Bulldogs.

Reaction has been swift, the haters climbing in with the utterly predictable, yet monumentally stupid, kick him out now.

Grow up.

Foran never made any secret of his desire to return to Sydney, especially to be close to his children.

Good on ya mate.

It's only a game and your family are far more important.

"It has been an incredibly tough decision to make, but it has reached the point where I had to make a call and I've done that today," Foran said.

Yes I would have loved it if he had been able to stay, but I certainly wish the bloke all the best.

The argument he somehow owed us something for giving him the chance to get his life and football on track is understandable, the malicious nonsense online isn't.

Say what you like about Warriors managing director Jim Doyle, but he is a beacon of common sense in this.

"Of course, we would have liked Kieran to stay longer and we looked at ways of making that possible...but his kids' welfare is paramount. We support him in what he has decided to do and wish him all the best."

Much will be said and written so I will chuck in my bit. Rip the Panthers a new one at the weekend, and I'll carry your bags to the airport when you go if you need me to!

More on the next page...

Jnr Kiwis vs Jnr Kangaroos



Chanel Harris-Tavita tackled.



Kaleb COOPER FUIMAONO on the charge.



Erin-Wayne CLARK kicking.

Kiwi Ferns v Jillaroos



Georgia Hale passing.



Sarina Fiso fends Annette Brander.



Lanulangi Veaimu makes a break.

Tight As!

Great to read a story of “bromance - something I know about because my best friend Neil and I have been tight for 50 years. Obviously we grew up together, though my wife says there may not have been a lot of growing up involved, since we are still a big pair of kids.

But apparently Kieran Foran and Shaun Johnson are so close they get a hard time about it at the club.

Foran has gone on record recently that Johnson has played a big part in him fitting in at the Warriors.

We have won three of the past five games since Foran joined us, and even Stevie Wonder could see our halves are developing a good understanding.

Foran manages a game and straightens the attack, while Johnson is freer to let loose his speed and step.

“My strengths are probably Shaun's weaknesses and it's the opposite way around,” he said.

Knights Join Race For Tui

Last week I opined that Tuimoala Lolohea's days at the club were at an end, and by the week's end he had been given leave to talk to other clubs.

The 22-year-old will get an early release apparently, and the Knights want him at five-eighths to partner Trent Hodkinson.

I have a soft spot for the Knights, it might be the underdog thing, but it certainly has something to do with the fact the fans turn out in big numbers to support a team that is awful, and which has been for a quite a while.

Coach Nathan Brown has been trying to build and has one of the hottest prospects, Kalyn Ponga, incoming next season at fullback.

Lolohea could be worth a punt.

Just to make it complicated, the Cowboys, who are losing Ponga, apparently want Lolohea to replace him. I can only assume they don't have video in Townsville.

In fairness to Tui – something you could argue he has not had a lot of at the Warriors – he was pretty good for Tonga as they beat Fiji at the weekend, in a hell of a test.

Canberra are said to be lurking, and Tui has met with our old gaffer Ivan Cleary at the Tigers.

Where will he go, who knows, but bet your bottom dollar he will return to Mt Smart one day in someone else's colours and tear us apart. That's just the way it seems to go for us.

Test Debut For Big Manu

Speaking of the Tonga v Fiji test, how odd was it to see Manu Vatuvei in the red and white of Tonga?

Languishing in our reserves, the 28-test Kiwi, made it number one for Tonga. “It was a massive honour. It is in my heritage and it meant a lot to me and my family.”

It was typical Manu, good in places, incredible in bits, and terrifying (for Fiji) in others, but passes spilled and bombs dropped.

After 226 games for us, he has managed just one this season. “I don't know where I sit in the team. I just have to keep working myself and let my game do the talking.”

I might be a big softie, but I'd love to see him back.

More on the next page...

That's Just Bizarre

The word bizarre is not one Anthony Mundine has not heard applied to him before, but his latest claim takes the biscuit.

Apparently he reckons he might well become the oldest league player in premiership history, fancying a return at 42.

The sometime boxer and former Dragon says: "I feel that good and youthful. If I can get anywhere up to the speed of what I used to be as a youngster, that could be an option."

Seventeen years out of the game might be a bit of hurdle too pal.

Funnily enough, I, and few people know this, am planning to be Joseph Parker's next fight.

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

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.



V



8PM FRIDAY MAY 19

FMG STADIUM WAIKATO, HAMILTON

NYC KICK OFF: 5:45PM



Tickets Selling Fast

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.

Package includes:

- Hosted by Sir Peter Leitch – the 19th Vodafone Warrior
- Exclusive access to the Sir Peter Leitch Lounge
- Covered grandstand seating
- Buffet style carvery
- Complimentary drink on arrival and cash bar facilities
- Special guests, post-match interviews and live entertainment

Get Your Tickets Now!

**Contact Glenn on 021918201
or email glenn@warriors.co.nz**



Brandon Smith, Kiwis Headshots and team photo session ahead of the 2017 ANZAC test. Photo www.photosport.nz



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)

Depth in Hooking Talent

THE INCLUSION of 20-year-old hooker Brandon Smith in the Kiwis squad for last weekend's Anzac Test was totally unexpected, though it follows a policy of giving highly promising youngsters the chance to further their development within the national squad. Originally from Waiheke Island, Smith linked up with the North Queensland Cowboys about six years ago before being scouted by the Melbourne Storm this season.

Of course, Melbourne already has a first-grade hooker named Smith. But Cameron Smith is nearing the end of his illustrious career, even if he is expected to continue for one or two more seasons. The Kangaroos captain will by then have broken most of the appearance and points scoring records in the game, and be well on the way to joining the elite Immortals. It is a considerable tribute for Brandon Smith – selected for both the Junior Kiwis and NYC Team of the Year in 2016 – to be regarded as a possible successor in the Storm number nine jersey.

Last week Brandon Smith had the opportunity to experience a Kiwis camp. He originally followed elder brother Dylan, a prop who now plays for Norths Devils in the Queensland Cup, to the Cowboys and now has the rare distinction of having served his apprenticeship behind Cameron Smith and Issac Luke. Although the Junior Kiwis lost to the Junior Kangaroos 34-10 last year, Brandon Smith made the most line breaks (three) in either team and ran the most metres (153) of any New Zealand player. He is also a firm tackler.

Although he has not yet made his first-grade debut, Smith's recognition by Kiwis coach David Kidwell increases what is an already pleasing increase in depth of New Zealand hooking talent. We currently have Wellington junior Danny Levi starting at Newcastle Knights, Cantabrian Matt McIlwrick impressing with the Wests Tigers and Kaysa Pritchard at dummy half for Parramatta Eels. Born in Australia, Kaysa is the younger (by 11 years) brother of Frank Pritchard and has already represented Samoa.

For years now the Kiwis have struggled to find a specialist replacement any time that Luke, who since 2008 has made a record 41 Test appearances for a Kiwis hooker, has not been available. Thomas Leuluai willingly switched between hooker and the halves for much of the last decade; Lewis Brown never failed to give 100 per cent whether utilised at hooker, backrow or even in the centres; and enthusiastic backrow forwards Elijah Taylor and Kenny Bromwich are others who would put their hands up if required.

Fulltime hooker Siliva Havili came off the bench against the Kangaroos at Sydney in 2014 but did not play at the Four Nations. After first-grade experience with the Warriors and St George Illawarra, Havili is now playing for Illawarra Cutters in the NSW Cup and for Tonga. Manaia Cherrington went to Britain as a non-playing member of the 2015 Kiwis. He transferred from Wests Tigers to Cronulla this season but has been on the reserves' bench for feeder club Newtown, whose starting hooker is 2008-09 Warriors junior Kurt Kara.

Continued on next page...

Until Brandon Smith's sudden appearance, Danny Levi was generally acknowledged as second in line behind Luke among New Zealand hookers. A Junior Kiwi in 2014 and 2015, the 21-year-old Levi was also an NYC Team of the Year selection before moving up to first grade at the battling Knights. He was indeed the Brandon Smith of 2016, as 19th man for the Anzac Test. Levi has earned great praise for his performances at a struggling club. Knights coach Nathan Brown rewarded him by extending his contract through to the end of 2020.

But Matt McIlwrick, a comparatively late developer at 25, has made remarkable strides in the midst of the Wests Tigers crisis. McIlwrick joined Canberra Raiders in 2008, rising through the ranks to play 19 times in first grade from 2012 to 2014. He also played for New Zealand 16-years and the Junior Kiwis and was in the 2014 Four Nations train-on squad. In 2015 McIlwrick played eight first-grade games for the Sydney Roosters. Last year he chalked up two appearances for Cronulla Sharks and now seems to have landed on his feet at the Tigers.

Having grown up watching brother Frank playing in the NRL and for the Kiwis, Kaysa Pritchard never dreamed he would one day play alongside him for Parramatta and Samoa. The younger Pritchard turned 23 last Friday and has a firm hold on the Eels hooking role. Since debuting for Parramatta's NYC team in 2012 he has twice had his contract extended. Also worthy of inclusion on the list of emerging hookers is the Warriors' Nathaniel Roache, who has made occasional appearances when Luke has been rested during matches. Roache (21) has multiple skills after playing in the backs at NYC level.

Life is Tough Enough

By John Holloway



I'M ASHAMED and I just can't be bothered with everything that's happened, so looking briefly at the Anzac test, others can describe that, but my lingering concern is the NZ coach's after-match comment pointing to the positive of the Kiwis getting the game plan right in the last 30 minutes!.

Hello... at 30 zip I don't think the Ozzies were worried by that point, and they could hardly be blamed for slacking the intensity off a touch. Naïve posturing at best.

Looking at the coming week's footy (if anybody's interested) The Doggies at home will start favourites against the Cowboys.

The Dugan-less Dragons will fall to the Sharks.

The Tigers and the Rabbitohs could go either way, and the Storm will be without their main prop but will still be too good for the Titans, who will be minus their top prop too.

The Sea Eagles and Broncos will be a great tussle, with the Roosters and Eels another probable each way bet.

The Knights are at home to the Raiders, with Ricky's men looking to get back on track, so another disappointing day is in store for the Novocastrian faithful.

Our boys are away to the Panthers, and I fear the loss of spirit that might beset our Kiwi contingent, the heart of our team, after suffering not just the thrashing from the green and gold, but the downfall of their captain and a best mate.

Then they have the attendant criticism of their test performance and the big questions around the viability of national team boss Kidwell.

As a Warriors man, of course I hope they get up, but geez its was a shite weekend.

Tonga Comes Up Trumps

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 BIG winner from last weekend's Test matches was Tonga. Not just from the manner in which the Tongans came from behind to nudge out Fiji 26-24 with a late converted try at Campbelltown Stadium but just as much off the field. The Tongans were ranked a lowly fifteenth (compared to Fiji's seventh and Samoa's fifth) internationally but they gave every impression they will considerably improve on that position during the World Cup later this year. Players and fans alike displayed tremendous pride in their nation.

The Fox Sports statisticians had done their homework on the Pacific nations, providing their commentators with plenty of information to pass on to viewers. Perhaps the most startling snippet concerned Tongan captain Sika Manu, who was sidelined on Saturday night because of a two-match suspension incurred while playing for Hull in the Super League. We were told Manu paid his own airfares from England so he could spend the week with his countrymen. What an inspiring example to his fellow players!

We will never know, but maybe it was Manu's sideline presence which gave the Tongans the lift they desperately needed when trailing 20-24 with time running out. They had been reduced to 12 men after Tony Williams limped from the field with an ankle injury after they had used their full allocation of interchanges. Rampaging Penrith forward Leilani Latu surged across for the tying try and Ata Hingano's conversion from in front sealed the victory and sparked emotional Tongan celebrations on and off the field.

Warriors wing Manu Vatuvei clearly enjoyed his Tongan debut. After scoring a record 22 tries in 28 Tests for the Kiwis he needed just five minutes to cross for his first try in red. Tonga's modest ranking might stem from its narrow loss to Scotland at the 2013 World Cup in England. Subsequent wins over Cook Islands and Italy were not enough to get Tonga into the quarter-finals. Instead, Scotland advanced and was thrashed 40-4 by the Kiwis. But considering the 2016 Four Nations Kiwis could only draw 18-18 with the Scots that Tongan result might not have been too bad after all.

Tonga and Samoa both have the potential to strengthen their squads before the World Cup, an

ominous thought considering they are in the same World Cup pool as the Kiwis – and so, too, is Scotland. Tonga opens its campaign against Scotland at Cairns on October 29 and plays at Hamilton against Samoa (November 4) and New Zealand (November 11). Fiji is hopeful of enlisting Jarryd Hayne if he is not required for Australia's World Cup team and is lobbying strongly for an entry in the NSW Cup to emulate what Papua New Guinea has achieved in the Queensland Cup.

Samoa, with an all-NRL line-up, was well beaten 30-10 by England on Saturday. Coach Wayne Bennett was satisfied with England's disciplined display in leading 14-0 at halftime. The absences through injuries of first-choice halves Gareth Widdop and George Williams were offset by the fine displays of Kevin Brown and Luke Dorn. But in the second spell the Englishmen matched the disorganised Samoans error for error. At least the expected return of the Pritchard brothers, Frank and Kaysa, should add stability to the Samoan game plan, and England has plenty of depth at home and abroad.

Papua New Guinea was held to 12-12 at halftime by a spirited Cook Islands side led by Kiwis forward Alex Glenn before easing away to a 32-22 victory. Having a PNG team in the Queensland Cup obviously helped the Kumuls' teamwork and they will be tough opponents for Wales, Ireland and United States in their World Cup games in Port Moresby. Generally, the incredible passion of the Pacific nations' supporters was marvellous to see and the new two-tier system of international eligibility, allowing players to nominate their country of heritage and still be available for State of Origin, has strengthened them all.

But now the NRL clubs have got rid of the representative weekend, including the 106-year rivalry between City and Country, what is the future of the Pacific Tests? Not to mention the Kiwis v Kangaroos and the Jillaroos v Kiwi Ferns. According to NZRL chief executive Alex Hayton, the mid-year Test will be transferred to October and played alternatively in Australia and New Zealand. But we have previously had October Tests anyway, and one home match every second year is still a meagre ration. Unless a more attractive international programme is announced we seem to be taking another step backwards.



THE REPRESENTATIVE round is over and the many Warriors involved appear to have come through without any injury worries. While it is a good thing for players to gain higher honours, coaches, in particular, hold their breaths hoping that their men return to club football the next week. Jonathan Thurston and Josh Duggan were injured in Friday's Test with the Kiwis and their clubs will certainly suffer from their loss. The Cowboys take on the Bulldogs in Sydney this Thursday night in a vital game for both sides. Both teams are sitting on 10 competition points at the moment with five wins from their nine games. There is talk that Thurston could also miss the first State of Origin game in three weeks. Already missing Greg Inglis and Matt Scott, Thurston's absence would be a major blow to the Queenslanders. St. George/Illawarra meet the Sharks at Kogarah on Friday night. Both these teams are on 12 competition points with six wins from their nine games. But the Dragons are facing three successive losses after being beaten by the Storm and the Roosters in their last two matches. They are missing the injured Gareth Widdop and now that Josh Duggan is out with a broken jaw, they will be up against it with the Sharks keen to avenge their 16-10 loss to the Dragons on 19 March. NSW will also suffer in the State of Origin with Duggan's loss.

The Warriors travel to the foot of the Blue Mountains to take on the Panthers on Saturday afternoon. This will be a tough game, as Penrith will have the home crowd right behind them as they attempt to move up from second last on the table.

During the past week I caught up with three great players from the 1970s. They were all former Manly men, John Dorahy, John Gray and Terry Randall. All three are doing well and still working hard. JOHN DORAHY, now 62, played 239 first grade games with the Wests Magpies, Manly and the Illawarra Steelers, mainly as a centre, scoring 1,296 points, as well as playing two Tests at fullback, both against New Zealand in 1978. He also played with Halifax, Wigan and Warrington in English Rugby League. Back in his home town of Wollongong, which is a coastal city 80 kilometres south of Sydney, John has been involved in local politics for several years and is the Wollongong Deputy Lord Mayor.

JOHN GRAY lives in Sydney's northern suburbs and is 68 years of age. He represented England in Rugby Union before changing to Rugby League with Wigan in July 1973, where he played 55 games, scoring 280 points. North Sydney then paid a huge, for those times, 12,000 pounds transfer fee, to sign him for the 1975 Sydney season. In nine seasons of Sydney football, he played 138 first grade matches and scored 616 points. In 1982 he won the Dally M hooker of the year award and in 1976 won the award for the player of the Amco Cup series. He played 8 Tests for Great Britain (3 against Australia, 3 against New Zealand and 2 against France) in which he scored 41 points plus three Tests for England (2 France, Wales) in the 1975 World Series. On the 1974 British tour of Australia and New Zealand, he was top scorer with 111 points from his 15 games, including all six Tests. It was on this tour that John stunned the locals with his soccer-style goalkicking. He is the player who introduced round-the-corner goal kicking to Sydney Rugby League. He played three Tests against New Zealand in 1974 for Great Britain, landing eight goals in the two-one series win. John was also a top cricketer, representing English schools and playing two seasons of first class cricket with Warwickshire as a fast medium left arm bowler, he took 21 wickets at 25.4 runs each and an economy rate of 2.07 runs an over. John gave cricket up to concentrate on football, but he will always remember his very first, first class game. This was against Scotland and his figures were 10 overs, nine maidens, 5 wickets for 2 runs. He also played three seasons of first grade cricket in Sydney with the North Sydney club. When he first came to Australia, John worked as a High School Maths teacher but several years later, with a group of friends, formed what is now a very successful plastic recycling business.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

TERRY RANDALL, 66, was one of the toughest players to play our game. He features in Tony Adams book, written in 1994, titled “ The Hit Men. A tribute to Rugby League’s Hard Men. “ Terry played 208 first grade matches for Manly mainly in the second row, but he could handle lock, front row and even centre. He was a member of four Manly Premiership teams in 1972, 1973, 1976 and 1978. A 1973 Kangaroo tourist to England and France Terry played 11 Tests. Nicknamed “ Igor, “ he is still very fit and works in his successful landscaping business, while still living in the northern beaches of Sydney. He played two Tests against New Zealand in the 1975 World Series.

Congratulations to Harry Wells, who celebrated his 85th birthday last Monday, 8 May. Harry played 29 Tests between 1952 and 1960. He made two Kangaroo tours to England and France in 1952 and 1959, toured New Zealand in 1953, played with the winning 1951 South Sydney Grand Final winning side as a 19 year old winger and finished with 100 first grade games and 36 tries, in Sydney football with Souths then Wests. He played in three World Cups, 1954, 1957 and 1960 and on the way home from the very first World Cup, in November 1954, was a member of the Australian team which played two exhibition matches against New Zealand in Los Angeles. Named as one of Australia’s Greatest One Hundred players

in February 2008, Harry partnered Immortal Reg Gasnier in 12 Tests. This combination is rated by many as Australia’s best ever centre combination. Still alert and very active, Harry and his wife Yvonne live on the NSW mid North Coast.

Sydney Crowds

I T IS interesting to have a look at attendance figures in NSW over the weekend. A total of 45,128 attended the three rugby league venues. There were 18,535 at Canberra for the Australia-New Zealand Test, 18,271 at Campbelltown (on the south west outskirts of Sydney) for the Pacific Islands and England games, while 8,322 were at Mudgee (270 kms north west of Sydney) for the last ever City-Country game.

For the Auckland Blues-NSW Waratahs rugby match on Saturday night at Allianz Stadium 18,381 saw the Blues win 40-33, then next door at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday afternoon, 25,619 were there to see the Swans win their first game of the season, 135 to 81 against the Brisbane Lions. On the Aussie Rules ladder, the Lions are last and the Swans second last.

There was a real big buzz at Allianz Stadium on Sunday night when a sellout and very vocal 41,546 crowd saw Sydney FC win the A-League soccer Grand Final after a penalty shoot out against the Melbourne Victory.

Want to be rewarded for being a Vodafone Warriors fan? Vodafone has an exclusive deal just for you!

Receive up to \$20 off open term plans every month on New Zealand’s leading network.

And, if you want a shiny new smartphone to take snaps of you and your mates at the games, you can pay it off over 12 or 24 months Interest Free, with \$0 deposit.

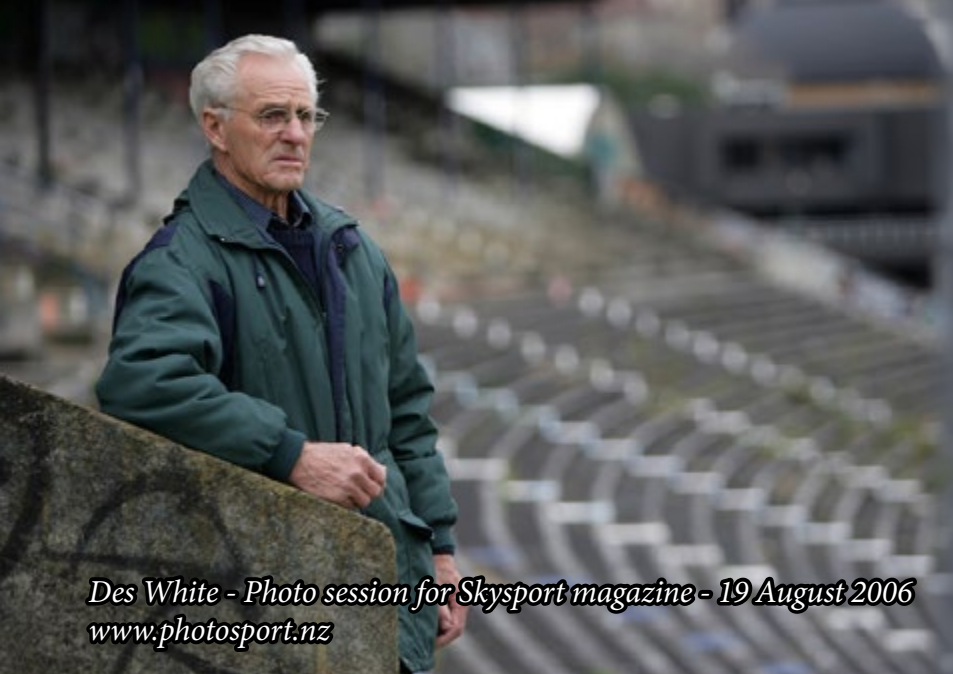
For more information and to make the most of this offer, head to: www.vodafone.co.nz/warriors-club-offers/

An exclusive deal for Vodafone Warriors fans

Receive up to \$20 off open term plans.

Vodafone Power to you





By Miles Davis

Des White

*Des White - Photo session for Skysport magazine - 19 August 2006
www.photosport.nz*

DES WHITE, who was to become one of New Zealand's greatest ever league players, started his career with the Ponsonby United Rugby League club in Auckland. A full-back with great goal-kicking ability it wasn't long before White was recognised by Auckland and New Zealand for higher honours.

He was selected by the Kiwis in 1951 for their home test against France, held at Carlaw Park in front of a 27,000 crowd and described as the most violent game of any code in the country's history (what else do you expect from the French?). The French side were on top of the rugby league world having beaten England, Wales and Australia leading up to the Kiwi test. Half back Jimmy Haig had to leave the field with a smashed cheekbone courtesy of a French head-butt and was followed by West Coast stand-off George Menzies who had his jaw fractured by a high tackle. There were no substitutes in those days so the Kiwis fought on under-manned. Late in the second half there was a huge brawl between the front rows which the referee, Jim Griffin, took 3 minutes to subdue. He was then hit by some mud thrown by a French player so sent of the player he thought responsible, Martin Martin. However he had picked the wrong player and Martin refused to leave the field. More mayhem ensued and the game was held up for 10 minutes and NZRL President Jack Redwood came on to the field to help sort it out. Martin was eventually removed in a headlock by a French trainer. With the Kiwis 14-15 down in the final minute they received a penalty which White converted to win the game. White remembers the day vividly "I saw the head-butt and I saw Jimmy's cheekbone drop level with his mouth, then the injury to George. The crowd was incensed, I've never seen an angrier crowd," recalls White. "After Martin went off the French were lined up and they were letting fly at us with bad language although we didn't know what they were saying and we were lined up calling them some very choice names. Then an apple was thrown out of the crowd and it hit this French fella direct on the head, the crowd were wild."

He was then selected for the tour of Great Britain and France where he played in 33 of the 40 games over a period of 7 months. The 2nd test of the Great Britain series was the first rugby league International to be televised. Whilst in France White was deserted by his team who took off from Villeneuve to Bordeaux without their No. 1 on the bus. "No one spoke any English, it was quite worrying for a young fella. Eventually I got a taxi, the driver couldn't speak English. We were headed to Bordeaux when I saw the bus coming back the other way, after half an hour they'd realised they didn't have their fullback."

In 1952 he was part of the Kiwi side that defeated the Kangaroos 2-1 in a series, including a huge 49-25 win at the Gabba in which White kicked a record 11 of 14 goals.

In 1954, whilst playing for Auckland against the visiting Great Britain side, he was tackled by Doug Greenall and ruptured his spleen. He was to be out of the game for 2 years including missing the first World Cup in 1954.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

In his 61 games for the Kiwis (21 tests) he scored a record 467 points (not likely to ever be beaten). He also posted a phenomenal 202 points in the 1951 tour of Britain and France.

He was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame in 1990, was an original inductee in the NZRL Legends of League in 1995 and named at fullback in the Team of the Century 1907-2007.

A true league legend at a time when the money in league was minimal. White had to take a pay cut compared to his normal job whilst on tour with the Kiwis for 7 months but was given a bonus from the NZRL after tour costs were deducted. A huge 125 pounds.

Des White talks about 1952 series v Australia

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/news/article.cfm?c_id=4&objectid=11631114

Great Britain v New Zealand 1st test 1951 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=559maKpH_Ro

Great Britain v New Zealand 2nd test 1951 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SxDrZV_boM

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

If you wish to **subscribe** to the newsletter go to:
www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz

LIVE STREAMING VIDEO

ARL™ SHARMAN CUP

LIVE

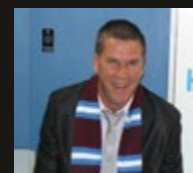
GAME OF THE ROUND

MANUREWA V BAY ROSKILL

2:30PM BLOCKHOUSE BAY RESERVE

13 MAY 2017

STREAMING LIVE WWW.AUCKLANDLEAGUE.CO.NZ



By Miles Davis



Jason Taumalolo hits the gap of Cameron Smith and Trent Merrin
www.photosport.nz

ANZAC Test

THE SUN has set on the final ANZAC league test and there will be many that won't mourn its passing (especially given Friday's result) but I am not one of them. In fact I have felt for years that the test has not been given the respect it should have. Neither, for that matter, has International league in general.

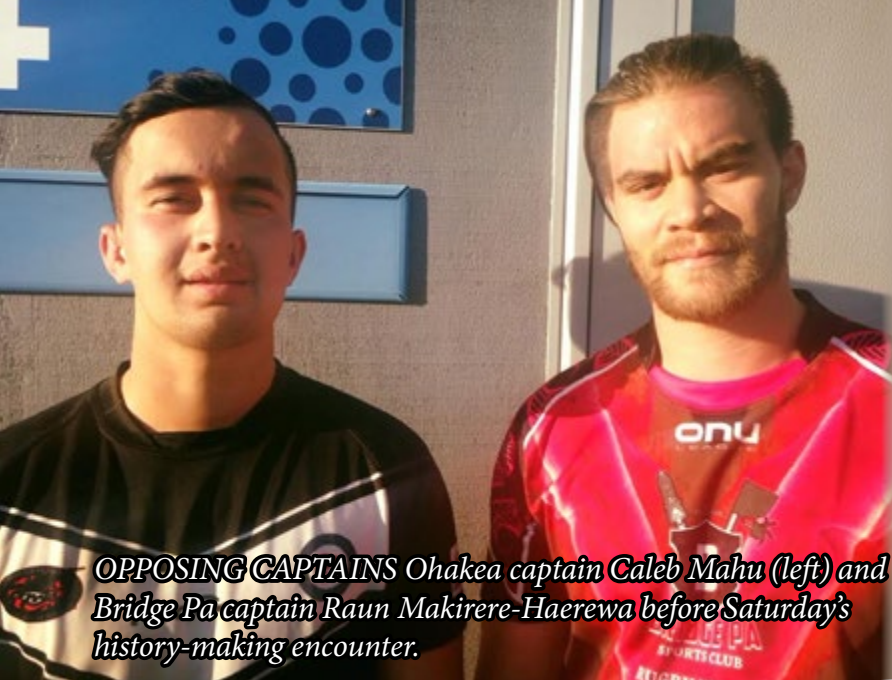
If the test was to be properly recognised and given a place of importance amongst the league hierarchy it should always have been played on Anzac Day itself. What better way to remember those who gave their lives whilst serving their country and celebrate the special relationship between Kiwis and Aussies. By moving it to a convenient nearby date so as to accommodate a couple of NRL fixtures on Anzac Day itself is an insult and shows how lowly International league and the fixture itself is regarded.

With Rugby League bigwigs plainly showing they don't care it is not surprising that fans slowly started being turned off the event as well.

International league should be the pinnacle of the sport and something everyone should aspire to but the sport has sold its soul. The NRL and State of Origin have taken precedence over International representation. As in many other professional sports, money has become the focus and takes priority. Why should a couple of NRL games be played on the 25th April instead of the Anzac Test? Why do a few club sides take priority over the national sides of the two nations that make up the Anzacs?

State of Origin has been a major factor in the declining importance of International league as far as those who run the game are concerned. Players now choose their international status with an eye on getting an Origin jersey. This favours Australia but deprives other South Pacific nations of talent that by rights should be available to them. I know there are many fans of Origin but I view it as nothing more than marketing hype aimed at making money. Granted that in the early 80's when Queensland were looked down on by New South Wales there was a real bite to the tournament. But nowadays with the Broncos, Titans and Cowboys playing a major part in the NRL that dismissive NSW attitude is no longer prevalent. The aura of State of Origin is only maintained by cheesy, confrontational ad campaigns and PR stunts. The reality is professional players playing an extra 3 games to make money for the NRL and get themselves an extra line on their CV.

I appreciate that I will be viewed by many as a dinosaur for my views but I am happy to be seen as such. I believe that International representation and competition should still be the ultimate aspiration for any sportsperson. Sadly the unseemly willingness for league to sell its soul for money means that it is no longer the case and probably never will be again.



OPPOSING CAPTAINS Ohakea captain Caleb Mahu (left) and Bridge Pa captain Raun Makirere-Haerewa before Saturday's history-making encounter.



By Shane Hurndell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

History Making Victory For Bridge Pa Lads

BRIDGE PA player-coach Ihaka Waerea was a little apprehensive going into Saturday's Coast to Coast premier men's competition match against Ohakea at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings.

Waerea had every right to be. Just four of his squad turned up to training on Tuesday and six on Thursday. With Ohakea being an air force base based team Waerea knew the visitors would be fit, well drilled and well disciplined.

Waerea was bang on. Ohakea got the early lead but Bridge Pa, the 2016 Hawke's Bay Spring Competition champions and only Bay team in the competition, got the lead shortly after halftime and managed to hang on for a 38-30 victory.

"This is our second win in the comp and we've booked a home playoff for fifth next weekend. We'll hear later in the week who our opponents are," a delighted Waerea said on Sunday night.

This was the first game between a Hawke's Bay club side and a team from Ohakea so it was labelled a history-making victory by Rugby League Hawke's Bay officials. Prop Kahu Simpson was Bridge Pa's player-of-the-match.

"Kahu was a beast on attack and on defence," Waerea said.

Fellow prop Ben Tahau and secondrower Mackay Marriner were others to impress in the Bridge Pa pack. Scrumhalf Piripi Jessup shone with his distribution and former Havelock North premier rugby player Junior Armstrong was an enterprising full-back.

Former Hawke's Bay softball rep Puhi Rapaea played on the wing and scored two tries for Bridge Pa. Centre Rukutai Craig also scored two, while Simpson, captain Raun Makirere-Haerewa and Patrick Bartlett scored one each.

Waerea, who played standoff, kicked five conversions.

The Hawke's Bay women were beaten 50-14 by the Linton Cobras in their final Mid Central competition match of the season at Palmerston North on Sunday. A slow start, the Bay trailed 44-0 at halftime, and the unavailability of key players including former Kiwi Fern Chanel Huddleston and regular captain Deidre Hakopa were key factors in the loss.

"We introduced a lot of new players and it took a while for them to get the communication going. We won the second half but by then it was too late," said Hakopa who was among the spectators.

Winger Dayna Nuku scored two of the Bay's tries. Scrumhalf Sylvia Bockman, backrower Te Aroha Hunt, prop Awhina Wainohu and Abby Collier, who had stints at standoff and hooker, were the pick of the Bay players.

After the game eight Bay players were selected in an extended Central Vipers squad. They were Bockman, Wainohu, Huddleston, Hunt, Collier, Lara Kendrick and Laurae Blake.



Northland League Wrap

By Ben Francis



THE TAKAHIWAI Warriors remain unbeaten in 2017 after beating the Moerewa Tigers 24-18 in the Rugby League Northland Premiership.

Both teams went into Saturdays top of the table clash unbeaten. The Tigers scored the first try of the match, but Takahiwai bounced back and led 14-4 at the break.

The Warriors extended the lead, but two quick tries to the Tigers in the final 10 minutes set up an entertaining finish, but the home side prevailed.

Meanwhile, the Northern Wairoa Bulls suffered their second straight two point loss, this time at the hands of the Portland Panthers going down 22-20.

The Panthers also won back the Villi Salase trophy, which both teams play for every year.

The Hikurangi Stags claimed back-to-back wins, dismantling the Horahora Broncos 52-24.

The Warriors will look to keep their four game win streak going when they face the Hikurangi Stags in round six, while the Horahora Broncos host the Portland Panthers. The Moerewa Tigers will face the Otangarei Knights while the Northern Wairoa Bulls have the bye.

Who Will Be The New Kiwis Captain?

The Kiwis are on the hunt for a new captain for this year's Rugby League World Cup and many are already asking the question who it will be.

Only one player in the Kiwis squad which played on Friday night is a current captain and that is Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, while Adam Blair, Issac Luke and Simon Mannering have all captained the Kiwis at some point during their careers.

While Mannering is the obvious choice, does the 30-year old want that responsibility? The forward is the Kiwis' most experienced player and Kidwell will be begging for Mannering to take the job.

If Mannering doesn't want the job, then what about Shaun Johnson?

The halfback is arguably destined for the role one day, so why not now?

The players respect the 26-year old but in a World Cup year with little experience as a captain would that put too much pressure on Johnson? I have a feeling the time is not now

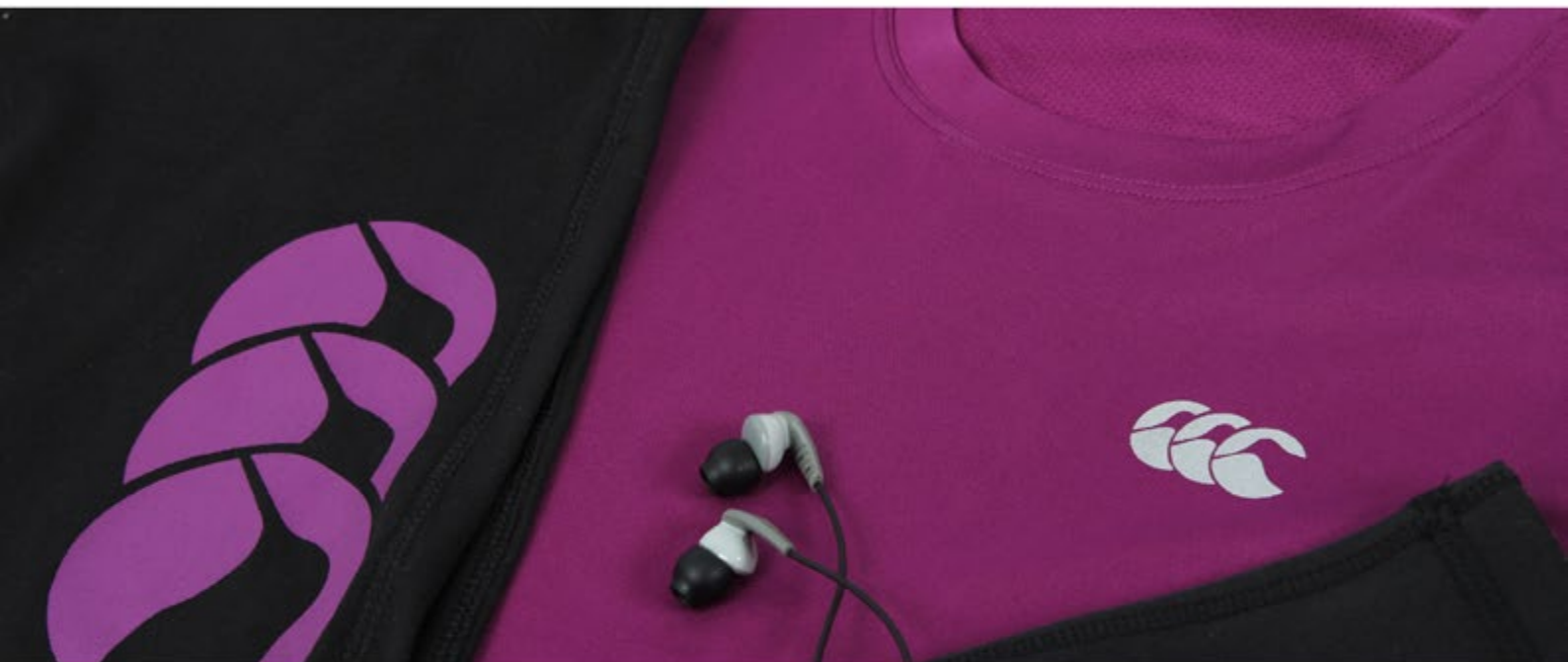
Then next option is co-captains with Adam Blair and Isaac Luke taking the reigns. It makes sense with both players boasting plenty of experience. Both have done it before, so I'm sure they can do it again for six weeks during the World Cup.

Roger Tuivasa-Shock would be my pick as captain as in a few games leading the Warriors, he has proven himself as a natural leader.

But I would only be willing to make that call if it wasn't a World Cup year.

The fact it is a World Cup year makes this decision of a new captain more difficult. Another man who should be considered is Elijah Taylor, but he is no guarantee to be in the squad ever week. That is why David Kidwell needs Simon Mannering to lead the side during the World Cup.

He is simply the best man for the job.



Mother's Day Sale

SAVE \$50

*When you spend \$150**

CODE: SAVE50

SHOP NOW

*Excludes Licensed Ranges. Sale ends Midnight Sunday 14th May.



Pt Chevalier Take the Lead

By Talei Anderson

Pt Chevalier retain Roope Rooster and Lani Latoa Memorial Cup

PT CHEVALIER have successfully defended the Konica Minolta Roope Rooster and Lani Latoa Memorial Cup in a close encounter with rivalries Mt Albert at Unitec on Saturday, winning 24-18 to remain undefeated and taking the lead of the SAS Fox Memorial premierships competition.

It was neck-and-neck for most of the game.

Pt Chevalier looked to take a 4-0 lead at the break, but seven minutes was long enough for Mt Albert to put points on the board with a quick dart through the middle with captain Marcus Fraser scoring under the posts.

Halfback Henry Dunn converted to take a 6-4 lead to the sheds.

Pt Chevalier started the second half strong, scoring soon after the horn to get in front 10-6.

Close to their line and targeting the left edge, the Lions looked to hit back. But good hands from Pirates centre Francis Leger saw him intercept the ball and fly down field to score between the sticks.

Standoff Kevin Locke converted to get up 16-6.

Pt Chevalier went 20-6 ahead with another try in quick succession.

With 12 minutes left on the clock, Mt Albert needed to dig deep.

They showed some mental toughness mounting pressure in the middle of the park before prop and Warriors' ISP player Daniel Palavi stormed through the pack to reduce the deficit to 20-12.

Two minutes later and Leger showed some brilliant footwork, making a short kick on the final play and grounding the ball to collect a double.

An unsuccessful conversion left Pt Chevalier up 24-12.

It wasn't over for the Lions though. Mt Albert standoff Eiden Ackland –who plays in the Warriors' U20s side– gave his team some hope, finding a gap to collect their third 24-18.

Three minutes remained and Mt Albert were desperate to score again, but Pt Chevalier's defence proved too strong, with a penalty allowing them to hold on long enough to secure the 24-18 victory at fulltime.

Captain of the Pt Chevalier Pirates Dylan Moses said their game against the Lions has been their toughest this season.

Continued on next page...

“We haven’t really been tested until now,” said Moses.

“Mt Albert have always been the benchmark and so it’s good to see where we are at with our footy.”

Mt Albert coach Cody Walker said they need to be focused on developing their own game.

“We are still in the early stages of the season,” said Walker.

“We want to get some processes and structures in place and get better week by week.”

“We can’t be worried about Pt Chevalier too much.

“They are a quality footy team across the park and they’ve shown that in the last four-five years.

“We’ve just got to match them and play the full 80 minutes.”

Mt Albert will have the chance to play Pt Chevalier again in the second round of pool play -round 14- when they host the Pirates at Fowlds Park on Saturday July 15.

Pt Chevalier 24 (Saula Solomona, Sione Feao, Matty Faitotoa, Francis Leger x2 tries; Kevin Lock, Francis Leger goals) Mt Albert 18 (Marcus Fraser, Daniel Palavi, Eiden Ackland tries; Henry Dunn x3 goals)

SAS Fox Memorial: Round 5

Northcote 24 Marist 48
Richmond 22 Papakura 54
Glenora 42 Mangere East 12
Te Atatu 22 Howick 30
Pt Chevalier 24 Mt Albert 18

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Results: Round 7

Qualification Series: Section 1
East Coast Bays 26 Pakuranga 24
Otara 40 New Lynn 10
Hibiscus Coast 26 Otahuhu 26
Bay Roskill bye

Bay Roskill, Otahuhu, Otara and New Lynn advance to the Sharman Cup premiership. East Coast Bays, Hibiscus Coast and Pakuranga will play for the plate.

ARL results for Saturday May 6

Qualification Series: Section 2
Ellerslie 44 Papatoetoe 16
Manukau 4 Manurewa 64
Ponsonby bye
Waitemata bye

Manurewa, Ponsonby, Ellerslie and Papatoetoe advance to the Sharman Cup premiership. Waitemata and Manukau will play for the plate.

SAS Fox Memorial fixtures for Saturday May 13: Round 6

Mt Albert v Glenora @ Fowlds Park 2.30pm
Marist v Pt Chevalier @ Murray Halberg Park 2.30pm
Howick v Northcote @ Paparoa Park 2.30pm
Papakura v Te Atatu @ Prince Edward Park 2.30pm

HT: Pt Chevalier 4 Mt Albert 6.

In other games, Papakura made easy work of Richmond with a 54-22 victory at Grey Lynn Park on Saturday. Marist and Howick had a successful weekend away winning their games over Northcote (48-24) and Te Atatu (30-22), while Mangere East are still chasing a win going down 42-12 to Glenora.

Saturday marked the end of the qualification series for the Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup.

In section one of the qualifications series, Bay Roskill, Otahuhu, Otara and New Lynn will advance to the Sharman Cup premiership. East Coast Bays, Hibiscus Coast and Pakuranga will play for the plate.

Section two finds Manurewa, Ponsonby, Ellerslie and Papatoetoe advancing to the Sharman Cup premiership, while Waitemata and Manukau will play for the plate.

The Sharman Cup premiership will be played over two rounds followed by a top 4 play-off series which gets underway this Saturday.

Minor finals are scheduled for Saturday August 19 (highest qualifying club), major finals on Saturday August 26 and the grand final on Saturday September 2.

Mangere East v Richmond @ Walter Massey Park 2.30pm

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup fixtures for Saturday May 13: Round 1

Sharman Cup premiership
Bay Roskill v Manurewa @ Blockhouse Bay 2.30pm
Otara v Ponsonby @ Ngati Otara Park 2.30pm
Papatoetoe v Otahuhu @ Kohuora Park 2.30pm
New Lynn v Ellerslie @ Lawson Pak 2.30pm

Sharman Cup plate
Hibiscus Coast v East Coast Bays @ Stanmore Bay 2.30pm
Waitemata v Pakuranga @ Ranui Domain 2.30pm
Manukau bye



RLWC COUNTDOWN: 24 Weeks to GO!

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

THE PACIFIC Test and the passion of the fans stole the show on international weekend and gave New Zealand fans a taste of what's to come during the Rugby League World Cup.

After the Kiwis went down to the Kangaroos on Friday night, 18,271 fans flocked to Campbelltown Stadium for the international triple-header on Saturday.

The passion of the fans produced an incredible atmosphere for what were the last Test matches before the Rugby League World Cup.

Papua New Guinea beat Cook Islands 32-22 in the opener despite the best efforts of Warrior and Cook Islands fullback Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad.

In the second match, Mate Ma'a Tonga beat Fiji 26-24 in a thriller with Manu Vatuvei crossing for a try on debut in the red and white.

Wayne Bennett's England side then proved too good for Samoa, running out 30-10 winners in the final game.

With Samoa and Tonga both playing two matches in New Zealand during the tournament, the scenes at Campbelltown will be replicated at Mt Smart Stadium and in Hamilton.

Tickets are available now from www.rlwc2017.com, starting at \$10 for kids, \$20 for adults and \$45 for a family of four.

Back on New Zealand shores, community activations were once again in full swing over the weekend.

Rugby League World Cup had a presence at Pasifika by Nature in Hamilton on Saturday where community engagement coordinator Harley Wall was blown away by the performances.

Harley followed that up on Sunday with an activation at the Auckland Rugby League Under 8s Gala Day hosted by Papakura club where he was swamped by kids wanting to test out their passing skills.

Last week we also had the volunteer interviews in Auckland and Christchurch, and like in Wellington and Hamilton, the response was very positive.

The number and quality of applicants leaving the team feeling very positive that volunteers will help us deliver an outstanding tournament.

Southland Rugby League

By Dave Loudon



SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY



SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY



SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY

THESE ARE from a game between: Cooks RLC (Southland) and South Pacific Raiders RLC (Otago). It was a good tight game and Cooks held the lead at halftime with a score of 6 to South Pacs 4. However in the second half the tide turned and South Pac took the win on the day with 28 over Cooks 18.



SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY



SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY



SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY

THESE THREE are from a game between: Kia Toa Tigers RLC (Otago) and Winton Warlords RLC (Southland). It was an interesting game which saw Kia Toa on 30 Points at half time against Winton's 16. The full-time whistle saw an increase in points from both sides. Kia Toa taking the win with 42 points against Winton's 34.

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

MAD BUTCHER SPECIAL

GET YOUR *BIG LEAGUE* DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

AVAILABLE ON TABLETS
AND NOW ON SMARTPHONES!



SAVE
81%

ONLY \$29.99

THIS INCLUDES 32 ISSUES ACROSS 12 MONTHS

So if you sign up now you will get the remainder of the 2017 season and the start of the 2018 season too!

Visit: magsonline.com.au/big-leagueNZ2017

Big League digital edition is available on all iOS6 and greater compatible devices including iPhones and android devices including tablets and smartphones. 12 month subscription includes Rounds 1-26, Final Series including bumper Grand Final souvenir edition and the Season Review.

Print magazine only available to purchase at Warriors home games in New Zealand.



THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 10 ISSUE...

NRL, HOLDEN CUP, INTRUST SUPER PREMIERSHIP, INTRUST SUPER CUP AND RON MASSEY CUP TEAM LISTS, PREVIEWS AND STATS + SCORES AND RESULTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY!

INSIDE

- It's **Indigenous Round** and a reminder there are so many good stories in rugby league. We talk to Kevin Heath, who runs the Dream Time Academy, hoping to mentor aspiring young athletes and keep them on the right path – NRL players such as **Cody Walker, Adam Reynolds, Dylan Walker** all donate their time to help.
- He's always been good but Broncos captain **Darius Boyd** believes team-mate **Matt Gillett** has become one of the most complete second-rowers in the game. Fresh off his Anzac Medal win, it's clear Gillett's family is the reason for his form.
- Columnist and former player **Brent Tate** comes down hard on the recent spate of recreational drugs-related issues in the game, saying he would be happy if offenders were rubbed out for a whole season.
- Gold Coast front-rower **Jarrod Wallace** has gone from bench warmer to starting prop and State of Origin bolter at his new club – something he credits to his friendship with **Ryan James**.

PLUS... We reflect on the **Top 8 marquee signings**, The Analyst shows how **Manly can gain consistency**, a **David Nofoaluma** poster and **country rugby league results** from around Oz.



ROUND 10

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

Thursday, May 11

DIGITAL VERSION

Available via magsonline.com.au

Through Apple Newsstand and Google Play

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

[@bigleaguemag](https://twitter.com/bigleaguemag)

bigleague@newslifemedia.com.au

Contact details

Editorial: maria.tsialis@news.com.au

Advertising: bowie.phillips@news.com.au



V

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 13
VENUE: PEPPER STADIUM
KICK-OFF: 3PM
REFEREE: BEN CUMMINS
ASSISTANT REFEREE: CHRIS SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES: RUSSELL TURNER & CLAYTON SHARPE
SENIOR REVIEW OFFICIAL: JARED MAXWELL
REVIEW OFFICIAL: BEN GALEA
FOX LEAGUE: 2.30PM
LIVE RADIO: TRIPLE M, ABC

P T G PTS				#NRLPanthersWarriors				P T G PTS			
8	1	0	4	Matt MOYLAN (C) 1	Roger TUIVASA-SHECK (C)	8	1	0	4		
7	1	0	4	Peta HIKU 2	David FUSITU'A	9	7	0	28		
9	3	0	12	Dean WHARE 3	Blake AYSHFORD	6	0	0	0		
8	1	0	4	Waqā BLAKE 4	Solomone KATA	8	1	0	4		
7	2	0	8	Dallin WATENE-ZELEZNIAK 5	Ken MAUMALO	9	2	0	8		
4	0	0	0	Bryce CARTWRIGHT 6	Kieran FORAN	5	1	0	4		
9	2	28	64	Nathan CLEARY 7	Shaun JOHNSON	9	3	22	56		
9	0	0	0	James TAMOU 8	James GAVET	6	1	0	4		
9	1	0	4	Peter WALLACE 9	Issac LUKE	9	1	1	6		
9	1	0	4	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD 10	Jacob LILLYMAN	9	0	0	0		
4	0	0	0	James FISHER-HARRIS 11	Bodene THOMPSON	9	3	0	12		
9	0	0	0	Isaah YEO 12	Ryan HOFFMAN	9	3	0	12		
9	1	0	4	Trent MERRIN 13	Simon MANNERING	9	1	0	4		

INTERCHANGE

8	3	0	12	Tyrone PEACHEY 14	Nathaniel ROACHE	3	0	0	0
9	1	0	4	Leilani LATU 15	Sam LISONE	9	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	Tim BROWNE 16	Ligi SAO	6	0	0	0
5	3	0	12	Corey HARAWIRA-NAERA 17	Ben MATULINO	2	0	0	0

RESERVES

5	0	0	0	Moses LEOTA 18	Manu VATUVEI	1	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	Sione KATO A 19/20	Mason LINO	0	0	0	0
5	1	0	4	Viliame KIKAU 20/21	Bunty AFOA	4	0	0	0
7	2	0	8	Te Maire MARTIN 21/22	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	1	0	0	0

COACHES

Anthony GRIFFIN Stephen KEARNEY

PENALTIES				SCRUMS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	13	14	15	16



PENALTIES				SCRUMS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	13	14	15	16

44 BIG LEAGUE 2017 Round 10

	PANTHERS	WARRIORS
Position (Points)	15th (4)	11th (8)
Points For	156	146
Points Against	185	183

ATTACK		
Tries	25	25
Completions	72%	77%
Tries 0-20m	18	20
Tries 21-50m	6	3
Tries 51-100m	1	2

DEFENCE		
Tries	32	31
Tries 0-20m	16	15
Tries 21-50m	9	13
Tries 51-100m	7	3

MATCH AVERAGES		
Tries Scored	3	3
Tries Conceded	4	3
Points Scored	17	16
Points Conceded	21	20
Hit Ups/Runs	177	178
Tackles	309	314
Metres Gained	1568	1573
Handling Errors	5	4
Offloads	11	6
Line-breaks	4	4
Goalkicking	88%	77%

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played 37, Penrith 20, Warriors 16, drawn 1

AT PEPPER STADIUM
Played 18, Penrith 10, Warriors 7, drawn 1

WINNING FORM 2017
PENRITH: LWLWLLLLL Streak – 5 losses
WARRIORS: WLLLLWLLW Streak – 1 win

PAST 8 CLASHES
2016 – WARRIORS D. PENRITH 20-16 at Mt Smart Stadium;
PENRITH D. WARRIORS 30-18 at AMI Stadium, Christchurch
2015 – PENRITH D. WARRIORS 24-10 at Pepper Stadium
2014 – PENRITH D. WARRIORS 22-6 at Sportingbet Stadium;
WARRIORS D. PENRITH 30-20 at Mt Smart Stadium
2013 – PENRITH D. WARRIORS 28-24 at Mt Smart Stadium;
PENRITH D. WARRIORS 62-6 at Centrebet Stadium
2012 – PENRITH D. WARRIORS 18-16 at Mt Smart Stadium

BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS
PENRITH D. WARRIORS 62-6 at Centrebet Stadium, 2013
WARRIORS D. PENRITH 52-8 at Ericsson Stadium, 2001

NEXT CLASH
PENRITH: v Newcastle at McDonald Jones, 2pm Sunday May 21
WARRIORS: v St George Illa at Waikato, 8pm (NZ) Friday May 19

CASUALTY WARD
PENRITH: Josh Mansour (knee) – Rd 12-14; Sam McKendry (knee) – indefinite
WARRIORS: Ata Hingano (ankle), Jazz Tevaga (ankle) – indefinite

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

NRL Preview

by DAVID MIDDLETON
@Middleton_David

Desperation building for Panthers



TYRONE PEACHEY

39
tackle-breaks in 2017

Pepper Stadium Saturday, 3pm

Form: The rep break can upset the momentum of winning teams but it can also act as a circuit-breaker for those on losing streaks. The Panthers will be counting on a week in which many of their stars were preparing for Tests or the City-Country game working in their favour after a run of five-straight losses. The Warriors snuck home

against the Roosters (14-13) at their last start but they have not won in Australia this season.

History: Six wins from the past eight meetings has propelled the Panthers to a tidy lead in head-to-head clashes against the Warriors (20-16) while it is five years since the Warriors last won in Penrith.

Danger sign: The freedom to express their attacking talents for City could benefit creative Panthers Matt Moylan, Bryce Cartwright and Tyrone Peachey

when they mix it with the Warriors but coach Anthony Griffin will be stressing the defensive message to his team considering the 127 points they have leaked in their past five games.

Best Bet? Look for the Panthers to turn the corner by overcoming an inconsistent opposition and win by a 1-12-point margin.

Money-spinner: Best options for First Tryscorer include Waqa Blake, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak and Dean Whare.



HOLDEN CUP

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 13 VENUE: PEPPER STADIUM KICK-OFF: 10.45AM
REFEREE: TODD SMITH ASSISTANT REFEREE: RYAN JACKSON
TOUCH JUDGES: DAN OLFORD & BEN TEAGUE FOX: 10.40PM

PANTHERS V WARRIORS

Caleb AEKINS	1	Lee TURNER
Brian TOO	2	Lewis SOOSEMEA
Richie MUNCHOW	3	Melino FINEANGANOFU
Sam MARTIN-SAVAGE	4	Kane TELEA
Daniel BROWN	5	Mathew FAITOTOA
Dean BLORE	6	Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA
Jarome LUAI	7	Paul TURNER
Stefano HALA	8	Kenese KENESE (C)
Wayde EGAN (C)	9/20	Erin CLARK
Tevita MAPAPALANGI	10	Soane HUFANGA
Reed IZZARD	11	Isaiah PAPALI'I
Billy BURNS	12	Joe VUNA
Liam MARTIN	13	Chris SIO (C)
14 Mitch KENNY, 15 Jake BRENNAN, 16 Vondel WILLIAMS-LIOLEVAE, 17 Tom SKINNER, 18 Mitch REVELL		9 Eiden ACKLAND, 14 Elijah SUFIA, 15 Troy PULUPAKI, 16 Keanu LAUMATIA-PAKI, 17 Tyler SLADE, 18 Tayhler PAORA, 21 Havi TUPOUNIUA, 22 Gibson POPOALII, 23 Javvier PITOVAO, 24 Auzzie TUWHANGAI
19 Ray MAROUN, 20 Mose FEILO, 21 Ben CARTWRIGHT, 22 Jamon WORMLEATON, 23 James CONROY		
David TANGATA-TOA		Grant POCKLINGTON

CLINICAL EXECUTION... The Panthers have held onto top spot after beating Brisbane 44-12 and extending their formidable winning streak. Forward Reed Izzard had a notable game, running 131 metres and making 40 tackles. This team is making inroads to the minor premiership – provided they can keep up this fantastic form.

WOEFUL WARRIORS... The Warriors are at the other end of the table, winless after nine games. They were in contention against the Roosters after Eiden Ackland raced 80 metres down field to score the opening try. Melino Fineanganofu made it 10-0, but the Roosters reeled them in. Fineanganofu was in fine form, recording 184 running metres and two try assists.

- SAM PASFIELD

PHOTO: KYLIE COX/NRLPHOTOS.COM

HEAD-TO-HEAD LEADERS

AVERAGE METRES	AVERAGE TACKLES	LINE-BREAKS	STATS
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 185	Simon Mannering 42	Corey Harawira-Naera 7	
Ken Maumalo 149	Peter Wallace 40	David Fusitu'a 7	
Matt Moylan 139	Bunty Afoa 34	Dallin Watene-Zelezniak 6	
Jacob Lillyman 136	Trent Merrin 31	Tyrone Peachey 6	
Dallin Watene-Zelezniak 133	Bodene Thompson 30	Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 5	

NRL FANTASY FANTASY POINTS	
Shaun Johnson	58.0
Simon Mannering	54.3
Corey Harawira-Naera	52.8
Nathan Cleary	45.6
Isaiah Yeo	44.6

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

If you wish to subscribe to the newsletter go to:
www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz

NO ADVERTS ARE PAID FOR IN THIS NEWSLETTER



ON SUNDAY morning, a few old league guys got together to chat about our game. From the left going around the table Graham Lowe, Dean Bell, Clayton Friend, Nolan Tupaea, Hugh McGahan, Dan O'Hara and Fred Ah Kuoi. These guys have all made massive contributions to the game of rugby league.



If you wish to **subscribe** to the newsletter go to:
www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz

Our Sponsors

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTING BRANDS!

Without the help of these brands the Sir Peter Leitch Club and Newsletter wouldn't be as fantastic as it is. If you do get the opportunity please support them whenever you can.



The Newsletter Team

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

Sir Peter Leitch - Editor
David Kemeys - Editor at Large
Hayden Woodhead - Graphic Designer
Stephan Maier - Distribution

John Deaker - Correspondent
John Coffey - Southern Correspondent
Barry Ross - Australian Correspondent
Ben Francis - Northern Correspondent
John Holloway - Correspondent
Miles Davis - Correspondent
Shane Hurndell - Correspondent