

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

17th May 2017

#170

The Fans Make It!

By Sir Peter Leitch



A LOT HAS been said after we lost in Penrith, including about these idiots who burned their jerseys. Firstly, what kind of a dickhead burns a jersey worth a couple of hundred bucks, and secondly, are they true fans?

My local club is the Mangere East Hawks and I have had good times and bad times with the Hawks, but I have never wavered. And that's exactly the same with the Vodafone Warriors. Sure I was disappointed with what happened, but I will be there in Hamilton on Friday night, supporting my team.

I will be behind the team until the day I die - and I hope that day is a long way off - but I will let you in on a little secret. People say I am the Warriors No 1 fan, and I actually hate that.

There are many people just as passionate about the team as I am, like Joyce, who is a wonderful woman who visits the lounge every home game, and Dave and Lorraine, who travel from Christchurch for all the home games.

In truth I have met thousands of fans just as committed to supporting our team but I can't name them all here or we'd have an email longer than War and Peace.

And it all has to be kept in perspective. My friends have heard me say it often: No one died. If you think that's a bit of a cliché, just ask yourself would I prefer the Warriors win, or that I woke up tomorrow for another glorious day? Thought so.

I received this email on Tuesday and I love the line about the first 40 minutes. That's turning a negative into a positive Dot... I love it.

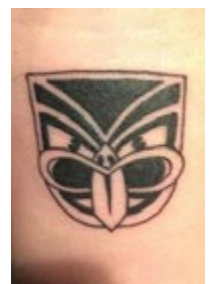
Hi, BUTCH

OMG thank you so much for my SPECIAL card (I will laminate) and for getting my jersey signed by Manu WOW. That is the coolest thing ever and I will wear it with pride. Also the key you sent is amazing. I really mean thank you, thank you I love every bit of it and thanks so much for taking your time to do that for me. You are the best.

How about those first 40 minutes Saturday so exciting and shows how much good is to come this season, I still see us in the finals no problem.

Thanks again I feel blessed and spoilt Rose is a good girl and she loves you and the Warriors as much as I do, for her 18th birthday in march I got her the same tattoo she got me last year.

Dot



Continued on next page...

I also wanted to share a couple of pieces from the Manukua Courier one by me and the other by Alan Apted on the loss of a good mate and a loyal Mangere East Hawks supporter Ross McEwan. Ross was the ultimate fan that any club could wish to have and I want to pay tribute to him in this newsletter. Special thanks to Fairfax and the Manukua Courier for allowing us to put these in the newsletter.

Mangere East Hawks Farewell Club Stalwart

By Sir Peter Leitch



MOST PEOPLE know the Mangere East Hawks have played a major part in my life, indeed the club is where I began my league journey.

Sadly the club has suffered two major blows in recent weeks, first with the death of long-time club stalwart Henry Beazley, and then with another sad loss, Ross McEwan.

It was an honour to be at the Mangere East Hawks club on Sunday for a service that was both moving and beautiful.

Ross had three great loves in life, his family, the club, and in particular the Masters pro-gramme.

He was what I would call the epitome of a club man, always there, always toiling, and forever loyal regardless of good or bad times.

“It was an honour to be at the Mangere East Hawks club on Sunday for a service that was both moving and beautiful.”

Sir Peter Leitch

Being at his service on Sunday was like being among family, and Ross – and Henry – would have appreciated that.

What we are trying to do to acknowledge how important these men were to the club is to get an Old Boys event staged, so if you know anyone who has been a player, coach, club member or official get them together in touch with Byers Beazley at byersbeazley1@gmail.com or on 021 2423456.

The club is very keen to make it happen and Byers is leading the charge, so let's honour two club legends.

It is easy to forget that a club can actually become almost like another family, and that was certainly how it felt to me on Sunday, and throughout my involvement with the Hawks.

And yes the Vodafone Warriors were truly awful in

the second half against Penrith, somehow managing to blow a huge lead and be beaten.

As usual there has been an enormous amount of bad reactions on the air and on social media, but I can tell you this for nothing, no one is more gutted than the players and club officials. I'm often asked what is wrong at the club, especially after events like the weekend, to which I can only say, if I knew I'd have fixed it long ago.

But you know what, sitting in the clubrooms, among men kitted out in Hawks colours to pay their respects to a friend taken too early, puts it all in perspective.

Besides which, I will acknowledge one of the lessons I learned in life from Ross, that you stay loyal through thick and thin, so I will be there this weekend when the boys take on St George in Hamilton.

And speaking of good and loyal men, I have to acknowledge a good friend named Monty Betham. Monty had a great career as a Vodafone warrior. But it is what he does now that really impresses me. He is committed to battling the scourge of obesity in our community.

His Steps for Life programme is giving people a chance to take control of their own health. You should check it out at www.stepsforlife.co.nz.



Ross McEwan's Masters team mates at his funeral on Sunday, May 15, 2017.

Club Legend Given Fitting Send Off

By Alan Apted - Manukau Courier

THE MANGERE East Hawks said goodbye to life member Ross McEwan on Sunday. McEwan, regarded by those who knew him well as the definition of a clubman, died suddenly at his home in Paeroa last Wednesday.

He was 62.

McEwan, better known for his off-field contributions than his on-field heroics, having served in nearly every capacity at the Hawks, made masters rugby league his pet project later in life.

Though he couldn't nail down a regular spot in the Hawk's premier side, McEwan had the distinction of captaining the first Mangere East Hawks team to an Auckland premiership title.

Jeff Carr, a team mate and close friend of McEwan's since the junior grades, says McEwan was the very definition of a club stalwart.

"He was a pillar of the Mangere East Hawks," he says.

"He managed teams, he coached teams and he served on committees in various capacities.

"Ross was a prop and a very, very good captain. He led by example and was always first choice as captain of teams that he played for because of his leadership skills. He was also a driver behind the club's masters team."

Hawks president, the Reverend Peter Sykes, who led Sunday's service, remembers McEwan for his and persistent and was always there. Clubs need people like him."

Rev Peter Sykes actions rather than his words.

"In the years I've been part of Mangere East, Ross always had some role. He was passionate and persistent and was always there. Clubs need people like him."

Sir Peter Leitch, better known in Mangere as the Mad Butcher, was an admirer of McEwan's work.

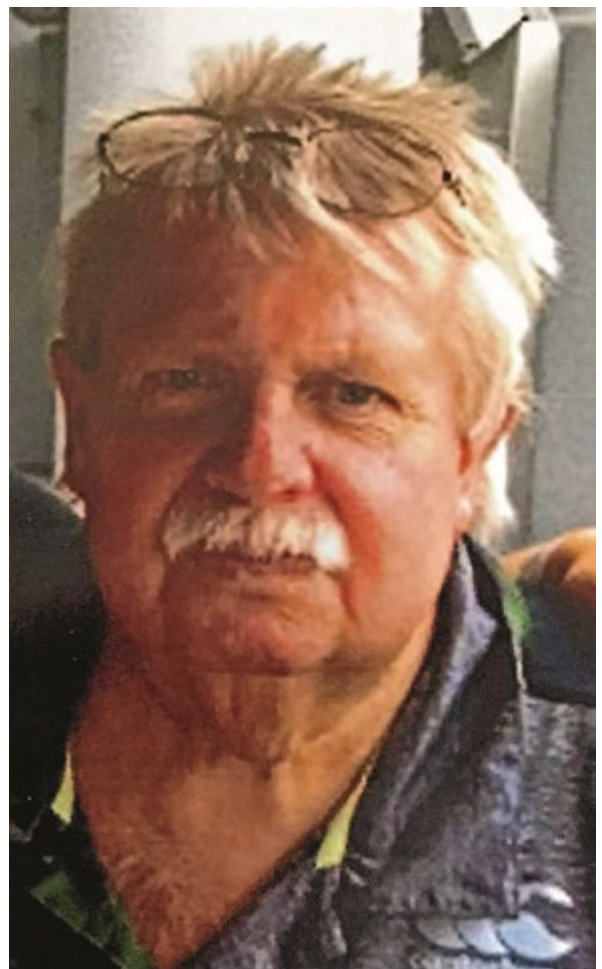
"I've known Ross for many years. He was a life member of the club and was basically involved with the club all his life. He did a bit of everything at the club over the years and was so passionate he slept and breathed Mangere East Rugby Club."

Sir Peter says his phone has been burning up.

"When someone dies, I'd normally get one or two phone calls letting me know about it. But my phone has been going off all day with people ringing me asking: 'Did you hear that Ross has died.' That's how well known he was.

"I'm definitely going to his funeral. I wouldn't miss it for all the tea in China."

McEwan is survived by his wife Mererina, nee Waipouri, daughter Stephanie and son Byers.



Bloody, Sodding, Buggering Hell

By David Kemeys

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



THEY DO not make it easy to be a fan, do they?

I can hear you asking, what will that idiot who writes in the newsletter have to say about this sad sack of shite.

Well I can tell you this much, I did not burn my jersey.

You win some, you lose some – in our case, quite a lot of somes.

But this one was genuinely horrible was it not?

In a sad revelation, I can say, at no stage did I feel confident, such is my diminished faith.

I had the great good fortune to be watching at home with my son, and up 28-6 at half-time, we could not believe what we had witnessed, but both opined it felt like one of those games we'd contrive to lose in golden point.

No such luck.

We lost in regular time.

I was going to say normal time, but nothing about those second half 40 minutes was normal.

If we could not believe how well we went from kick-off, we were gobsmacked at how terrible we were in the second 40.

Even the dog left the room.

Apparently we “switched off mentally”, I know because captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck said so.

A 22-point halftime lead squandered to lose 36-28, the worst capitulation in our history.

It was so bad that at one point we thought it would be easier if Isaac Luke kicked off and the rest just stayed behind the posts for the next conversion attempt.

Four tries in 12 minutes, the Tyrone Peachey kicked us in the guts for good measure.

Poor Tuivasa-Sheck, super-signing that he absolutely is, was as guilty as anyone, missing five tackles, and generally being all at sea.

"It was tough mentally, trying to forget about the quick tries and get back into what we're doing," he said. "It's frustrating because we're all out there saying the right things - we just couldn't deliver."

This is being written on Mother's Day, and my dear old Mum always said if you can't say something nice about someone, say nothing at all.

So I'm finished.

Bring On The Dragons

Down to 12th with four wins from 10, next up are the St George Dragons in Hamilton on Friday and that can not come soon enough, because they really owe us long-suffering fans something.

It is not that we are not used to defending our beloved team, but bloody hell we make it so easy for the knockers.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Coach Stephen Kearney has only a few days to get the boys focussed on Friday, and not licking their wounds. So here is some useful advice to help him out, since after that one, he could use all the help he can get.

Tackle someone!

Our defensive line was like a revolving door – and even then – with the welcome mat out.

I am starting to regret saying I did not care about winning on the road, and just wanted us to win at home.

We have lost every game away from Mt Smart.

So Who Do We Go Shopping For?

Okay, so we at last know Kieran Foran is a goneburger, which means the only question is what do we do next?

Finding the right fit for Shaun Johnson is critical.

With the Kieran Foran situation finally resolved, the focus now turns to Johnson's partner next year.

The poor bugger has never really had a settled partner in the halves, and here we go again, regardless of who we bring in.

He has been tagged a bit of an all or nothing kind of player but I'd argue he is a lot more consistent now than he has been.

We are going to need someone who can handle some of the responsibility of organising the line, and play-making.

Thomas Leuluai did a better job than most give him credit for but was a better defensive player than attacker.

Frustration is something the fans have come to accept, but we are staring down the barrel of another hit and miss season if we are unable to get in someone with the qualities we need.

How many of us need to hear about "works in progress" or "combinations" for another year?

All the talk seems to be about Panther Te Maire Martin, contracted with the Panthers until the end of the 2018 season.

The Sydney Morning Herald has reported they will accept a request an early release.

Gavet Signs On

So James Gavet has agreed to a two-year deal. Am I the only one, I seem to be, less than convinced.

I have admired the progress the 27-year-old prop has made but there are still some glaring gaps in his game, though looking better than the other props at the club might not be that hard at the moment.

But good luck to the bloke, because we have all heard this was pretty much the last chance saloon for the ferocious defender.

He's already been at three clubs - 14 appearances at the Bulldogs, Tigers and Broncos combined – but did manage 10 games for us last season, and he has looked the best we have this year in his half a dozen or so outings.

One In, One Out?

Gavet may have signed, but there is plenty of talk another fan favourite, Charlie Gubb, will go.

The North Queensland Cowboys are said to be keen, with other clubs sniffing about too.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Gubb is a real crowd pleaser, but the same can not be said about coach Stephen Kearney, who clearly does not rate him.

Only last year we took up the option to keep him for 2017, but we weren't keen on a longer deal, and now Gubb has been forced to look elsewhere.

With Ben Matulino back from his knee injury, Gubb has fallen well down the pecking order, as has Albert Vete.

There is talk an early release to allow a mid-season move is in the offing.

Manu On The Move

An early release looks on the cards for fan favourite Manu Vatuvei.

His manager, Peter Brown, has revealed Big Manu is even considering rugby in Japan or the UK, the Super League or even another NRL club.

“ He's got to make his mind up about whether he wants to hang around or explore options overseas.”

Brown says there has been some interest overseas, and Manu needs to decide whether he wants to take on another challenge.

I for one wish him all the best in whatever decision he makes.

Yes I know he has his faults but he has been a huge part of the club and his record speaks for itself.

Having said that, no man lasts forever and Manu plays in such a way that injuries are inevitable and they are taking their toll on him.

Manu missed the Penrith debacle, injured again, and that means he has had only one first grade match for us this year.

Deal For Lino?

Halfback Mason Lino has been offered a new deal, keeping him in the frame as back-up for Shaun Johnson.

He goes pretty well as captain of our NSW Cup reserve grade team but while the deal has not been finalised, he could still go if another club comes in for him.

Lino is definitely one of our best in the NSW Cup and it's easy to forget he played three NRL games in the 2015 season after Johnson broke his ankle.

Chad Townsend, Ben Henry, Ngani Laumape, Thomas Leuluai, Manu Vatuvei and Johnson were all out injured at the time and we got belted, as we all remember, but Lino held his own.

He was supposed to join Carcassonne in France in 2015 but that fell through when he dislocated his shoulder.

Vodafone Warriors v St George Illawarra Dragons **THIS FRIDAY NIGHT AT FMG STADIUM WAIKATO**

Gates Open: 5.30pm

NYC Kick Off: 5.45pm

NRL Kick Off: 8.00pm

Tickets: Adults from \$15, Children from \$9 plus booking fee.

Go on line to ticketek.co.nz it's cheaper than buying at the gate !!!!



Big Ben strikes up his 200th

by Richard Becht

BEN MATULINO becomes just the fourth player to make 200 appearances for the Vodafone Warriors when they face St George Illawarra in their 11th-round NRL clash at FMG Stadium Waikato on Friday night (8.00pm kick-off).

The club's first-ever home game in Hamilton will also be a milestone occasion for second rower Bodene Thompson who plays his 50th match for the Vodafone Warriors, his 135th career game.

Matulino (28) follows Stacey Jones (2005) and current team-mates Simon Mannering (2014) and Manu Vatuvei (2015) in joining the club's elite 200-game club.

A foundation NYC player in 2008, Matulino was the first graduate from the under-20 competition to play both 100 and 150 NRL games but injuries and suspension have held him up with Brisbane's Andrew McCullough and Alex Glenn edging him to the 200 mark.

Matulino has again been named on the bench as he prepares to add a significant achievement to a career which has so far seen him play a total of almost 9100 minutes, make more than 20,000 metres from almost 2300 runs (averaging 100.9 metres a game) and more than 4110 tackles (averaging 20.7 a game).

While Matulino lines up he won't have his long-standing team-mates Mannering and Vatuvei alongside him. Mannering hasn't recovered from the hamstring injury which forced him out of last Saturday's 28-36 loss to Penrith while Vatuvei is sidelined with a calf injury he picked up in the final field session last Friday when he was all set to make his return to the NRL.

Also out of contention this week is Solomone Kata. He was making his comeback from a hamstring complaint last week when he was forced from the field with another leg injury in the 69th minute.

With Kata out, David Fusitu'a switches from the wing to the centres, Ken Maumalo is back replacing Fusitu'a after playing in the Intrust Super Premiership last Saturday and Bunty Afoa, who started on the bench against Penrith, has been named to start at loose forward.

Brought onto the extended bench this week are props Charlie Gubb and Albert Vete as well as utility Tuimoala Lolohea

In their last home game against the Dragons, the Vodafone Warriors prevailed 26-10 at Mount Smart Stadium on May 1 last year to end a run of 11 consecutive losses to St George Illawarra dating back to 2008. When the two sides met in Sydney on March 26 this year, the Dragons won 26-12 on a day when Kieran Foran's anticipated debut was put on hold after he was ruled out during the warm-up.

The Dragons have a 20-5 winning advantage in 25 encounters with the Vodafone Warriors with an 8-4 edge in 12 matches played in Auckland.

Vodafone Warriors

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





By Barry Ross



Angus Crichton in Arnhem Land with some locals and a didgeridoo

Interesting Character

SOUTH SYDNEY'S 21 year old forward, Angus Crichton, is an interesting character. Against The Tigers on Friday, playing in the second row, Crichton ran for 143 metres and made 34 tackles, as well as scoring a vital try just one minute before halftime. Coach Michael Maguire kept the hard working Crichton on the field for the full 80 minutes and he played a big part in the Rabbits 28-8 win. Born at Temora, Crichton grew up at Young, which is about 370 kms west south west of Sydney. It is a major cherry producing centre and Crichton played his junior football with the Young Cherrypickers club. He moved to GPS School, Scots College in Sydney as a boarder, for his high school education and from this school, he was selected in the Australian schools rugby union team in 2013 and 2014. After being selected to tour New Zealand with the 2014 side, he was injured prior to departure and so could not make the trip. Earlier that same year, he was a key member of the Scots College team, which were undefeated winners of the Sydney GPS competition, while at the same time playing a few minor grade games with the Roosters. He joined South Sydney for the 2015 season and was impressive in the Rabbitohs Auckland Nines success that year. Friday night's win over the Tigers was his 17th NRL match, after making his debut in round 19 last season against the Broncos.

The Scots College give some Scholarships to Indigenous teenagers from Arnhem Land which is on the north eastern side of the Northern Territory. In his last year at Scots, Crichton acted as a mentor to these students and even though he is no longer at the school, he still gives a lot of his time to help and guide these young Aboriginal boys. Coming from such a remote community, the Indigenous boys are overawed with Sydney and Crichton helps them blend into school and community life. He helps them with things like clothing, shopping, haircuts and homework, while towards the end of 2016, he spent a week or so with the Gapuwiyak people in Arnhem Land. By road, the community of Gapuwiyak is around 870 kms east of Darwin. Arnhem Land is large and more than 97,000 square kilometres. It is rich in Aboriginal culture and history.

I don't want to say too much about the Warriors first 20 minutes of the second half at Penrith on Saturday afternoon. We all know how well they played in the first 40 minutes but that meant nothing after the final whistle. While Penrith deserved their win, I feel a couple of the penalties they received leading up to tries for the home side in the second half, were dubious. When will the referees act on the attacking player walking forward in the play-the-ball situation? It does not happen at every play-the-ball but it does happen a lot in the modern game. Players from past eras are bewildered by what goes on at the play-the-ball nowadays. The defending marker is entitled to remain where the tackle was made and when the ball carrier gets to his feet and moves forward, there is a problem, which is often not the fault of the defending marker, but he is the player usually penalised. The Warriors were on the receiving end of a couple of these penalties that should not have been given but when they were, resulted in tries for the home team.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

The Bunker is still far from where it should be with more dramas coming from last weekend's round. Manly's Tom Trbjovic was definitely tackled in the air and if this doesn't bring a penalty under the current rules, the rules should be changed. If a player is bumped or interfered with while in the air, it can lead to serious injuries. Reports are now saying that one of the game's best young players is set for a lengthy spell on the sidelines, with ankle and knee problems as a result of the incident in Sea Eagles game with the Broncos..

The NSWRL will name their inductees for their new Hall of Fame at a prestigious gala black-tie dinner this Monday night, 22 June at the Star, Sydney. Around 400 people will be in attendance as seven of the eight Immortals will be the inaugural inductees. These players are Arthur Beetson (28 Tests), Clive Churchill (37 Tests), Bob Fulton (35 Tests), Reg Gasnier (39 Tests), Andrew Johns (26 Tests), Graeme Langlands (45 Tests) and John Raper (39 Tests). As a Queenslander, the eighth Immortal, Wally Lewis, will not be inducted and although Beetson is also a Queenslander, he played 17 non-origin matches for NSW against Queensland, as well as the one State of Origin game for Queensland in 1980. To be eligible for the Hall of Fame, a player must have played at least 10 games for NSW, or captained NSW, and represented Australia and be retired for at least five seasons. During the night, NSW Origin coach, Laurie Daley, will announce his team and captain for this year's first Origin match in Brisbane on Wednesday night, 31 May.

The Toronto Wolfpack collected their sixth successive League win at Kingston Stadium, Newcastle on Tyne last Friday night with a 40-22 victory over the Newcastle Thunder. Halfback, Ryan Brierley was the man-of-the-match, scoring two of his team's seven tries. They lead the competition ladder with the Barrow Raiders. In the previous round, at home in Toronto on 7 May, the Wolfpack belted Oxford 62-12. After just three minutes, five eighth, Blake Wallace from the Dapto club on the NSW South Coast, scored the first of his team's 12 tries. This was the Wolfpack's first home game and they thrilled a local crowd of 6,281. This coming Saturday, 20 May, they play equal competition leaders, Barrow Raiders in Toronto and this should draw a sizeable local crowd. The Wolfpack have scored 412 points to 71 against in their six League games for a positive of 341, while Barrow, who are also undefeated, have collected 352 points to 88 for a positive of 264.



A promotional poster for a rugby match between the Vodafone Warriors and St. George Illawarra. The background features a dark, stylized map of New Zealand. On the left, the Vodafone Warriors logo (a stylized 'W' with a face) and the St. George Illawarra logo (a shield with a horse and rider) are displayed, separated by a 'V' symbol. Below the logos, the text 'THIS FRIDAY!' is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath, it says 'Kick off 8pm, FMG Stadium Waikato. Adults from \$15; Children from \$9' and 'Buy now at Ticketek.co.nz/vodafonewarriors. Ticket terms and conditions, purchase conditions and transaction fees apply.' On the right side of the poster, two players are shown in action. The player in the foreground is wearing a black Vodafone Warriors jersey with 'vodafone' and 'WOODSTOCK BOTTLING CO. LTD.' visible. The player in the background is wearing a red St. George Illawarra jersey with 'st.george' visible. At the bottom of the poster, there is a row of logos for various sponsors: NRL, Vodafone, Canterbury, SKYCITY, WOODSTOCK, A, flava, Harvey Norman, CSG, Suzuki, and Windy.

VODAFONE
WARRIORS

ST. GEORGE
ILLAWARRA

THIS FRIDAY!

Kick off 8pm, FMG Stadium Waikato. Adults from \$15; Children from \$9
Buy now at Ticketek.co.nz/vodafonewarriors. Ticket terms and conditions, purchase conditions and transaction fees apply.

NRL Vodafone Canterbury SKYCITY WOODSTOCK A flava Harvey Norman CSG Suzuki Windy

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**

Special Guest:
Justin Morgan
former Warrior
and Wales
player

**Lounge Opens 5.30PM
Buffet From 5.45PM**

**Only 10 Tickets Left!
Get yours now!**



The Night Kiwis Earned Famous Upset

By Michael Burgess
Herald on Sunday
Sports Writer

Article Courtesy
Herald on Sunday

Hugh McGahan runs at the Australian line, watched by Clayton Friend during New Zealand's famous 1987 win.

FORMER KIWIS hooker Wayne Wallace still smiles when he recalls the headlines in the Australian newspapers 30 years ago.

Three decades on from one of the most famous wins in New Zealand league history, Wallace will never forget the media's dismissal of the Kiwis team.

"Two days before the match, they said 'Kiwi lambs will be slaughtered' said Wallace. "We read it and said 'f**k that'. And I guess the rest is history."

It was arguably the biggest transtasman boilover in league history. There have been some beauties over the years, including the 2008 World Cup triumph, the 24-8 victory in Melbourne in 1991 and the historic victory at Lang Park in 1983.

But what unfolded on July 21, 1987, might top the lot. Probably no New Zealand win has been more unexpected in the modern era.

The Kiwis team was bereft of experience, with Mark Graham (retired), Kurt Sorensen (unavailable), Dane Sorensen (injured) and Kevin Tamati (unavailable) all out of the reckoning.

Two-thirds of the 15 man test team were domestic-based players, with only Hugh McGahan, Clayton Friend and Darrell Williams based in the Winfield Cup, while Dean Bell and Mark Elia returned from the Northern Hemisphere.

It was a team full of 'local heroes', some of whom were earning as little as \$25 a week: unknown Bay of Plenty winger Gary Mercer, rugged Canterbury prop Ross Taylor, Auckland second rower Mark Horo and a 19-year-old Kevin Iro, plucked from the Auckland Fox Memorial competition.

In contrast, the Kangaroos were full of superstars. They had strolled unbeaten through a tour of Britain and France the previous year, recognised as an even better outfit than the 1982 Invincibles.

The backline was marshalled by Wally Lewis and Peter Sterling, with Brett Kenny, Michael O'Connor and Gene Miles outside them.

The pack included hard men Peter Tunks and Greg Dowling, alongside athletic back rowers Wayne Pearce and Bob Lindner.

"They had so many great players," said Bell. "Even I was a bit in awe of that team. But I knew we would rise to the challenge."

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

The Kiwis, coached by newcomer Tony Gordon, who had replaced Graham Lowe, beat Riverina and Queensland (featuring Lewis and five other Origin representatives) before a tough test win in Papua New Guinea.

"It was great for bonding," said Friend. "We had a few good sessions because you couldn't really leave the hotel."

They arrived back in Australia on the eve of the third State of Origin.

"We couldn't get any tickets so we watched it in the hotel," said Friend. "It was daunting, but also quite enjoyable, watching them bashing the hell out of each other."

Preparation started in earnest the next day. As he had emphasised all tour, Gordon demanded a strong physical base.

"We were flogged," remembered Friend. "We did countless 400s - no one likes those. But it made us stronger and probably helped us get through what we were going to face."

Although they had been written off, belief and camaraderie was building in the New Zealand camp.

"There was a real togetherness - I could sense it when I arrived," said McGahan, who joined the team for the Australian test.

Senior players worked to instil confidence in their inexperienced team-mates but found it already present.

"When you are young, you don't really care about reputations or names," said Shane Cooper.

"A lot of us had only played one or two tests but we had nothing to be afraid of."

In the dressing room before the game, Gordon pulled a rabbit from the hat, playing a recording based on the wartime song Maori Battalion.

"The room fell silent and not a word was said," said Wallace. "I remember thinking, 'I think we're going to go all right'."

As recounted in *The Kiwis*, Australian coach Don Furner was having trouble motivating his team. Coming off an epic Origin series, it was hard to imagine the test against a largely unknown Kiwis squad would be little more than a training run. Their complacency was reinforced early in the match, when Sterling crossed for a try.

"That probably didn't help them," said Bell. "They thought it was going to be a stroll."

Instead the Kiwis settled into their work.

"We had a rugged pack and we tried to unsettle the Australians," said Cooper. "It worked and we grew in confidence."

The Kiwis also had some new moves, surprising the Kangaroos by regularly turning and pivoting just before the line to pass, then going wider. Iro and Bell made inroads in the backline, and the likes of Taylor and Horo belied their inexperience.

Stewart set up Taylor for the first Kiwis try, with the prop forward running 25m to dot down near the posts. More was to come, when a sweeping backline move was finished by Mercer, who produced an extravagant sidestep to beat the last defender.

Just before the break, Cooper hit a wobbly drop goal to give the Kiwis a 13-6 halftime lead. Momentum flowed back towards the Kangaroos in the second half. They completely dominated possession, with the Kiwis struggling to progress out of their own territory.

Continued on next page...

"It was relentless," said Bell. "They kept coming and coming. But we kept tackling."

The men in the black and white V repelled numerous assaults and with a few minutes on the clock, the Kiwis cleared the ball over the sideline, inside the Australian half.

"I'll never forget the smile on Clayton Friend's face," said McGahan. "He had a cheeky grin and said 'we've bloody done it'."

It was just the third Kiwis win over Australia since 1971, and the most unexpected.

"We sat in the changing rooms and everyone just looked at each other in disbelief," said Wallace.

Celebrations were prolonged. The team was joined by dozens of Kiwis supporters in the hotel before heading out into the Brisbane night.

"I spent most of the night in my room icing my shoulder," said McGahan. "I had an early flight back to Sydney the next morning and when I left, most of the boys were still out."

Australian dominance was re-established in the following years, but that night, a curious mix of greenhorns and veterans touched the void.

"We were a team as one," said Friend. "We were so united. In the big games, that makes all the difference.

"It was a special group," said Wallace. "Even now, if I see any of the boys, I'll give them a hug. It's been 30 years but nothing has changed."

Don't forget the Kiwis also had a fantastic win in the 2005 Tri Nations beating the Aussies 24 to 0 - Sir Peter Leitch

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 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)

Misi No Longer Missing

Misi Taulapapa is tackled by Leeds's Kallum Watkins & Brett Ferres. Super League Super 8's - Featherstone Rovers v Leeds Rhinos. England 06/08/16. Photo www.photosport.nz

REMEMBER MISI Taulapapa, the strapping wing who played five first-grade games for the Warriors in 2006? He did enough to earn himself a contract extension but was shown the door in mid-season after failing to heed warnings that the evils of alcohol and a serious football career could not be mixed. Taulapapa sought rehabilitation with Central Comets in the Queensland Cup for the rest of that season before joining the Cronulla Sharks, where he made 33 appearances from 2007 to 2009.

Taulapapa had been recruited from rugby union, having played for the Kelston Boys' High School first XV and Waitemata when that club won the Gallaher Shield in 2003. He changed codes a year later and the Warriors spotted him playing for Marist Richmond Brothers in the Bartercard Cup. He did enough at Cronulla to earn selection for Samoa's 2008 World Cup team but when the Sharks released him eight years ago he went off my radar. Until Friday, that is, when he popped up on television in a delayed match from England.

The now 35-year-old Taulapapa is playing in the centres and captaining Featherstone Rovers, one of the great old names of British rugby league but one which has not featured at the top level since Super League was introduced in 1995. Taulapapa performed strongly as Featherstone beat Halifax, another famous club which has been out of the limelight in recent decades, 24-12 to reach the Challenge Cup quarter-finals for the first time in 20 years. It only gets harder from now on with the top Super League clubs poised to enter the knock-out draw.

It transpires – thanks to that know-all named Google and a couple of club websites – that missing Misi has enjoyed a varied and incident-packed last eight years in Britain without breaking into the big time. He originally signed for Gateshead for the 2010 season, only for the club's financial difficulties to wreck that plan. Sheffield Eagles picked up his contract. In his first year Taulapapa moved from wing to fullback, was promoted to captain, scored a hat-trick against Leigh and two weeks later broke a leg against the same club in the play-offs.

Super League club Hull Kingston Rovers signed him for 2012, only for a new coach to turn him away. Sheffield welcomed Taulapapa back and he went on to play 168 games for the club (70 tries) through to 2015. Last year he moved to Featherstone, where he has now scored 16 tries in 28 games. An administrative blip saw his visa expire before the start of this season, costing him nine appearances. But Misi and the Rovers have prospered since then, lying second in the tier-two Championship and still alive in the Challenge Cup.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

While Misi Taulapapa has been around a bit since disappearing from the NRL, the same cannot be said for the Canterbury Bulldogs. It is a stunning fact that the Bulldogs have been required to step on a plane just once this season – by choice, when they took their “home” game against the Warriors to Dunedin in round 3 – and will not fly again until they meet the Warriors “away” at Mount Smart Stadium in round 16! Their only other flight this year will be to Brisbane in round 20. They do not play in Townsville, Melbourne or Canberra.

Not only are the Bulldogs staying in or near Sydney for most of their campaign, but they are not straying too far from ANZ Stadium, their adopted home ground. Because other clubs have also settled in at the former Olympic stadium, the Doggies are in the early stages of an 18-round sequence which includes 11 matches at ANZ, another one at spiritual home Belmore, and two byes. All they have to remember is which ANZ dressing room to occupy each week. Apart from Auckland and Brisbane, they “travel” only to Cronulla and Penrith.

Speaking of home and away, South Island fans had even more reason than their northern counterparts to be angry at the Warriors’ record second-half collapse from leading 28-6 to lose 28-36 at Penrith on Saturday. This game was to have been played in Christchurch as the second of three signed off by the Panthers to bring NRL to the city. But Penrith pulled the plug soon after the Kaikoura earthquake last November, just days before the release of the 2017 premiership draw. Sufficient to say the Panthers are not the most popular club down our way, making their second half romp even more excruciating to watch.

Notorious Whistle Blowers

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)



ASHLEY KLEIN earned the warm plaudits of Warriors fans a couple of weeks ago when he ran many metres across field to penalise Sydney Roosters half Mitchell Pearce for being off-side in the closing minutes at Mount Smart. Shaun Johnson stepped up to kick the goal which placed the Warriors 14-13 ahead and presented them with two precious premiership points. It’s fair to say many more visiting referees have left the field with jeers rather than cheers ringing in their ears. But who were the most notorious whistle blowers of all time?

Rugby league folklore is packed with stories of hookers being told by their captains not to strike for the ball in the era of hotly contested scrums if their team was holding a one-point lead when in goal-kicking range with time running out. Invariably, there would be a sharp whistle blast and the home side would be awarded the penalty which decided the result. There was little if any television scrutiny then and no comeback for an aggrieved team. The 1960s in particular produced referees in several countries who left their marks across the game.

England’s most notorious official was Eric “Sergeant Major” Clay, his nickname not so much stemming from his wartime service as an RAF Warrant Officer as his domineering on-field manner. A big man, Clay did not race after the ball but rather patrolled up and down centre field. He had been the referee when Great Britain last won a home Ashes series in 1959, but was overlooked for the first two Tests of the 1963 Kangaroos tour. In those matches the Australians outclassed their rivals, winning an Ashes series on British soil for the first time since 1911-12.

Continued on next page...

Clay was recalled for the third Test at Headingley, in his Leeds home town. It was one of the most brutal Ashes battles of all time with Clay sending off two Kangaroos and one Englishman. Britain won 16-5, thus avoiding an unprecedented whitewash. Barry Muir, the Australian half who had been one of those ordered off, went up to Clay afterwards and said to him, "You robbed us". Clay reportedly replied, "Barry, I've got to live here". Kangaroos manager Jack Lynch publicly claimed "Sergeant Major" Clay should be promoted to Brigadier.

But Kangaroos captain Ian Walsh later wrote in his book that Clay was no worse than "an Australian refereeing a Test in Sydney". Perhaps he was thinking of Darcy Lawler, who only the previous year had saved Australia from a 3-0 whitewash when he not only awarded a try to wing Ken Irvine after a knock-on but then advised Irvine to re-line the ball as he prepared for the sideline conversion. Irvine goaled the kick and Australia won 18-17. Western Suburbs players heard before the 1963 Sydney Grand Final that Lawler, who liked a bet, had punted on their St George opponents. The Dragons won 8-3 on the back of another controversial try.

Earlier that year the Kiwis were deprived of victory in the first Test at Sydney when another Australian referee, Jack Bradley, recalled scrum-half Bill Snowden and penalised him for being off-side. Snowden, who had made his move from behind Bradley, intercepted the ball and was racing off to score. Australia held on to win 7-3 and eventually won the series 2-1.

New Zealand's most capped Test referee, John Percival, left an impression on overseas teams during his international career from 1965 until 1980. In his first Test Percival ordered off champion Australian centre Graeme Langlands for stiff-arming Kiwis fullback Jack Fagan, and he dismissed fiery Kangaroos forward Les Boyd for persistent professional fouls in his last Test 15 years later. The British often flinched at the blast of his whistle, too, as he once marched them 40 yards upfield for persistent dissent – before it was entered into the official rule book (with a maximum of 10 yards). In 1974 some of the Lions threatened to walk off Carlaw Park after he dismissed forward Colin Dixon but cooler heads prevailed.

The French have had any number of eccentric officials, mostly performing in front of home crowds. But in 1995 they were invited to bring referee Marcel Chanfreau on tour. In the second Test at Palmerston North the Kiwis led 16-8 until Chanfreau awarded a ridiculous penalty try. A French player kicked ahead 25 metres from the goal line and was tackled by Matthew Ridge, marginally late. Although the ball rolled over the sideline well out of the reach of any player, Chanfreau dashed over to the posts and signalled a try. He later ruled a forward pass when Gene Ngamu sent Gary Freeman clear for what would have been the winning try. The match was drawn 16-16.

In the late 1970s, Greg "Hollywood" Hartley starred on the Sydney stage. Critics claim he shepherded Manly to the 1978 premiership by awarding a seventh-tackle semi-final try against Parramatta and disallowing two Magpies tries when Manly narrowly beat Wests in the preliminary final. Manly eventually won the title in a Grand Final replay against Cronulla. Then there was Queenslander Barry "Grasshopper" Gomersall at State of Origin level. A NSW reporter once asked him, "How do you account for the fact that in your nine matches Queensland won seven and NSW won only two?" Gomersall reportedly replied, "Well, surely anyone is entitled to two bad games!"

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



THE 1951-52 NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE TOURING TEAM
Back Row, L. to R. : B. E. Robertson, J. R. Edwards, F. G. Mulcaire, J. Forrest, E. H. English, A. J. Atkinson, C. Eastlake.
Second Row : D. L. Blanchard, D. Richards-Jolley, R. J. Grange, D. H. White, W. E. McLennan, C. R. Johnson, W. Sorensen, W. G. Davidson.
Third Row : T. O. Baxter, J. J. Clifton, J. S. Hartz, T. F. McKennie (Manager), M. E. Robertson (Captain), D. A. Wylie (Manager), J. G. Burgoine,
A. Bannerman, T. A. MacGowan (Coach).
In Front : D. A. Barchard, J. F. Dodd, W. B. K. Hough, G. Menzies.
Absent : C. J. McBride.



By Miles Davis

Cyril Eastlake

The 1951 - 52 New Zealand Kiwis Touring Team

CYRIL EASTLAKE was destined to be an All Black until a fateful knock on the door of his family home one Saturday morning. The visitor, a gentleman called Chapman, had a rugby league team that was short of players and was enquiring whether young Eastlake was keen for a game. He assumed he was about to play rugby union and was slightly confused by the game of rugby league he took part in (he also had to play under the alias of Les Menzies as he was not registered to play in the game). Eastlake later said "I enjoyed the game tremendously and had some success in scoring a couple of tries, mainly because both sides appeared to be a few players short and there seemed to be a lot more room to run before someone tackled you. Towards the end of the game I realised there had been very few lineouts. In fact, I couldn't remember one. Also the rucks were over so quickly that I missed seeing most of them. But all in it was a good game". Later that day he played for St Peter's College against Sacred Heart and was struck with the amount of lineouts and rucks plus the less space due to the extra 2 players. Eastlake was about to convert to league and New Zealand would be grateful for it.

He played his club league for Ellerslie and it was not long till his talents were spotted by Auckland and then the Kiwis. An elusive runner and a strong tackler he made his test debut for the Kiwis in 1951 at Bradford (of his 79 games for the Kiwis he only played six in Aotearoa). The game ended in a 21-15 loss for the Kiwis but Eastlake managed to get on the scoresheet with the first try for his side. He also managed a try in the 2nd test of that tour in a narrow 20-19 loss.

Such was Eastlake's versatility that he played on the wing in the first test and at stand-off (or five-eighth if you prefer). By the end of his international career he had played every position in the backline. He was also a talented goal-kicker and often shared duties with Des White. His point-scoring ability saw him end his career with 257 points for the Kiwis.

In 1952 he was a key part of the Kiwi sides that beat Australia 2-1 in a test series. In the 3 tests he played at stand-off, wing and full-back scoring tries in the 2nd and 3rd test.

By 1954 he had established himself as Kiwi captain and led them at the first World Cup in 1954. The tournament had come about at the exhortation of the French and accordingly was held in France. New Zealand competed along with Australia, France and Great Britain. Despite the arduous travel required in those days Eastlake was optimistic about the Kiwis' chances. Unfortunately his optimism was not borne out as his side lost all 3 of their games. He however had a good tournament both on attack and defence gaining many plaudits from the opposition and overseas media.

Continued on next page...

Being a sensible man he missed the 1955/56 tour to France and Great Britain as he had just recently got married. For reasons unknown he was left out of the squad for the 1957 World Cup but was included in the squad for the 1959 tour to Australia. He managed a try and a goal in the 1st test which resulted in a narrow 9-8 loss. He was kept scoreless in the 2nd test which New Zealand lost heavily but was back with 5 goals in the 3rd test 28-12 victory.

He was included in the squad for the 1960 World Cup held in England and played at full-back and centre in the Kiwis 3 games. He managed 3 goals in the 21-15 loss to Australia and the 9-0 win over France but was scoreless in the loss to Great Britain. After the tournament Eastlake retired ending one of New Zealand's finest rugby league careers. One which only happened because Mr Chapman was short of a player on a Saturday morning.

Kiwi Frank Mulcare recounts the historic 1952 series win in Australia: [Click here](#)



(Top Left) Cyril Aston Eastlake: Wing threequarter, has been described as the find of the season. Plays in a lower grade team in Auckland but was given a run in the first trial match of the season and immediately made good and played a brilliant game in the final trials. In his early twenties he is a very determined runner with a brilliant sidestep and defends well.

ARL Results and Fixtures

SAS Fox Memorial: Round 6

Mt Albert 16 Glenora 20
Marist 18 Pt Chevalier 46
Howick 36 Northcote 14
Papakura 50 Te Atatu 4
Mangere East 26 Richmond 28

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Premiership:

Round 1

Bay Roskill 30 Manurewa 26
Papatoetoe 14 Otahuhu 46
New Lynn 36 Ellerslie 16
Otara 28 Ponsonby 38

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Plate: Round 1

Waitemata 48 Pakuranga 0
Hibiscus Coast 20 East Coast Bays 16
Manukau bye



SAS Fox Memorial fixtures for Saturday May 20:

Round 7

Northcote v Papakura @ Birkenhead War Memorial 2.30pm
Richmond v Mt Albert @ Grey Lynn Park 2.30pm
Marist v Howick @ Murray Halberg Park 2.30pm
Pt Chevalier v Glenora @ Unitec Sports Field 2.30pm
Mangere East v Te Atatu @ Walter Massey Park 2.30pm

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup fixtures for Saturday May 20: Round 2

Sharman Cup Premiership: Round 2
Otahuhu v Otara @ Bert Henham Park 2.30pm
Bay Roskill v New Lynn @ Blockhouse Bay 2.30pm
Ellerslie v Papatoetoe @ Ellerslie Domain 2.30pm
Ponsonby v Manurewa @ Victoria Park 2.30pm

Sharman Cup Plate: Round 2
East Coast Bays v Manukau @ Freyberg Park 2.30pm
Pakuranga v Hibiscus @ Ti Rakau Park 2.30pm
Waitemata bye

Staying in the Fight

By John Holloway



A FEW GREAT examples in this last round of teams "Staying in the Fight". Notably the former cellar-dwelling Titans who have knocked over the reigning prem Sharks and the Knights and now the table topping Storm across 3 weeks. They did this while suffering an overflowing casualty ward before and during games. They persevered and fought to the death and they got the reward 38/36. Our old mate the discarded party-boy Konrad had the final say. The Dragons were another to show grit in adversity with guiding light Pom Widdup and super star Dugan on the injury list and then arguably their next best back the nuggetty Aitken lost during the game.. they showed up, ok the Sharks got over the top in the end 18/14 but I repeat, the Dragons showed up and never gave in. Then we have the Newcastle Knights, nestled securely at the foot of the table but fighting hard every week with a no name roster and they got to the happy place with only their 2nd win of the season deposing Rickys rueful Raiders 34/20. The Coaltown supporters have had a really hard season or two but they keep turning up because they respect their teams efforts...they don't burn jerseys... getting my drift. That's all I have to say about the Warriors.

The other matches in the round saw the Cowboys get back on the horse even without JT and lasso a surprisingly clearcut result 30/14 against the Bulldogs who looked like they had been celebrating Forans signature. Queensland comer Coen Hess who has a growing similarity to the great Gordon Tallis put another brace of tries on his personal score sheet. The loss of Leader Woods was evident in the meek display of the Tigers who were over-run by Russell Crowes resurgent Rabbitohs 28/8. The Bunnies leading packman Sam Burgess who is already like Tallis also put a couple of mince pies on the board. The Broncos and Sea Eagles looked an either way bet to me but Bennetts boys pulled clear at 24/14. The Manly men actually ran to 14pts clear early but after losing Terrific Tom, the influential speedster half of the Trbojevics the Sea-siders faded away. Likewise the Eels who on their day can beat anyone but it wasn't that day. The Bondi Junction boys showing their class with an easy 40/10 blow-out. The tri-colours are firming for the finals.

Sooooo.....looking forward to round 11.

With the extreme topsy turvey nature of current results the forecasting game is fraught with danger. My 4 out of 8 result in round 10 was not exactly tip top but was the average for my NRL Tipping Comp team and enough to keep me in the number 1 Tipster slot...go figure. Anyway let's get the blindfold on and point the pin. Sharks at home versus Cowboys you would have to favour Gallens gallopers. Warriors bus down to Waikato cow country against the Dragons. You would hope that we turn up for both halves against a probably depleted Dragons outfit. I recall a disastrous trip to the Caketin a couple of years back to watch this fixture, possibly one of the worst games I have ever seen. This week we need to have a good long look in the mirror and get on that paddock and have a dig. Broncos hosting the Westie gang, the toothless Tigers will come second. Try hard Titans up against the wounded Sea Eagles really hard to sort this...at home I would tip Manly but up north?? The rickety Raiders visit the Sydney smoke to swim with the Eels. Cory Normans absence will certainly help the visitors who will be looking to refloat the Viking ship. The Novocastrians will turn out in their droves again to watch their valiant Knights joust with the punishing Panthers. They will give their all but I have a feeling the celebration might be a little short-lived for the homies. Bulldog are back in home territory but their backers will not be confident in this cross town clash with the in-form Racy Roosters. Last but not least the Bunnies put out the welcome mat for the incoming Stormtroopers. Cam Smith thought they were comfortably home last week but got run down by two quick Titan touchdowns at the death, Munster continues to shine but Bellyache Bellamy would not have been happy, time for redemption. So there you go guys n gals hope Mothers day was good for your Mums. I wanted to have a shout out for the mighty Richmond Bulldogs besting the Butchers Mangere East Hawks on Saturday but my cheer was muted by Sir Peters loss of a good friend and devoted Mangere man at that same time. Condolences to all concerned. Kia kaha.

Awards Night in the Bay

By Shane Hurndell
Hawkes Bay Today Sports Reporter



IT'S THE showpiece event of the Hawke's Bay sporting calendar ... the province's sports awards function which will be staged in Taradale's Pettigrew-Green Arena on Saturday night.

The finalists for the 14 different categories are again of international quality and indicate just how much the province boxes above its weight. World champion shearer John Kirkpatrick and world record holder in free-diving, William Trubridge join Olympians, kayaker Aimee Fisher, the 2016 winner of the premier award, and rower Emma Twigg, a two-time winner of the premier award, as finalists in the senior category.

Olympic Games cyclist Regan Gough, the 2015 winner of the premier award, is the hot favourite in the junior category. The Hawke's Bay Hawkeyes Superstock team, which won the Palmerston North Teams Champs for the second consecutive year join the Hawke's Bay United football team, which reached the semifinals of the National Premiership, as the favourites for the senior team award.

Last year's winner, Tall Blacks and Breakers basketball teams head coach Paul Henare joins world champion waka ama coach Myka Nuku as the favourites for the coach award. Expect the winner of the premier award to come from one of these four categories.

Gough has to be a serious contender again as he is a junior representing his country at senior level and at the highest level possible, the Olympic Games. But the winner of the senior category will be hard to beat and if Kirkpatrick emerges from this section he will be my pick for the premier award.

Should Kirkpatrick succeed he will become the second shearer to take home the most sought after sporting silverware in the Bay as Cam Ferguson triumphed in 2011. A feature of Saturday night's awards will be the induction into the Hawke's Bay Sports Hall of Fame of former All Whites goal keeper Mark Paston, the 2003 winner of the premier award and Paralympian Duane Kale, the 1996 winner of the premier award.

There was a double dose of misfortune for Hawke's Bay rugby league fans at the weekend. The only game scheduled to be played in the province on Saturday, a Coast to Coast competition encounter between Hawke's Bay champions Bridge Pa and Manawatu's Tainui, wasn't played as Tainui defaulted.

Later on Saturday there was the disappointment of the Warriors 36-28 loss to the Panthers. There was some superb play from the Warriors as they established a 28-6 halftime lead.

But the second half effort was disgraceful. With the vast amount of experience on the Warriors roster the mental lapses which led to those numerous missed tackles in the second half should not have happened.

The Warriors are too good a team to be sitting in 12th place on the table with six losses from 10 games. The fact they have yet to win on the road this season is another example of how mentally soft they are but shouldn't be.

It's time for redemption and a win against the Dragons in Hamilton on Friday night will be the ideal form of apology for Saturday's second half.

HOT PICK: World champion shearer John Kirkpatrick is among the favourites for the Hawke's Bay Sportsperson of the Year award which will be announced on Saturday night.
PHOTO/HAWKE'S BAY TODAY



Role Models

By Miles Davis



THAT'S ENOUGH, it's time to stop.

Every time a sportsman gets into trouble for misbehaving there is an outpouring of pious condemnation and the inevitable assertion that they are 'role models' and have let people down. Time to get a few things straight. Young men all over the world do not need an excuse to get into trouble. It is what men do best. Whilst most women are responsible and mature at a relatively early age, men need constant supervision, boundaries and consequences to keep them in check for most of their lives. Leave men to their own devices and you can guarantee trouble will not be far away.

When you consider the celebrity status of sport stars and their higher level of disposable income then incidents are bound to happen. Their high profile is bound to attract greater media attention than if a young factory or office worker committed the same indiscretion but they should not attract greater condemnation from the public. How many of you have done stupid things or have children that have followed in their parents footsteps and been foolish on the odd occasion? Most of the 'holier than thou' rhetoric that follows such an incident is highly hypocritical and over the top. Their employers and families are the ones that have a right to admonish and punish them not you or I.

Then the argument follows that they are role models and have a responsibility to their fans. Cobblers. Their responsibility is to perform on the field not to set an example of how youngsters are to live their lives. It is the responsibility of parents to act as role models to their children and to pass the blame on any bad behaviour to a sportsman is a gross dereliction of parental duty. There is no harm in admiring sportsmen and choosing to adopt some of their more admirable traits or attributes. As a young lad I idolised a West Ham footballer called Billy Bonds. He was a leader and protector. He was fearless and never dropped his head. I worshipped the man and wished that I could emulate those qualities in life.

I realised a long time ago that he had a greater influence on my than my father had done. Hardly surprising since the old man buggered off when I was 3 but nevertheless something I am grateful for and in partial recognition of that I named my eldest son after him.

There were players that I loved on the field but were very naughty boys off of it. I didn't idolise them in the same way and never blamed them for any of my bad behaviour. I was, and still am, quite capable of getting into trouble of my own accord.

So let's try and be more understanding and less condemnatory next time a sporting idol gets into trouble. And let's take responsibility for the behaviour of our children rather than blaming it on a stranger that happens to play sport professionally.

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

Rugby League - Northland Wrap

By Ben Francis



THE TAKAHIWAI Warriors have snapped the Hikurangi Stags two-game winning streak after claiming a 48-18 win at Hikurangi.

It was close at halftime as the visiting Warriors led 20-12, but a hat trick from Ross McFarlane secured the win for the Warriors to keep their perfect record in tact.

The Portland Panthers have crushed the Hora Hora Broncos 50-6, but it wasn't easy.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Panthers picked up the tempo, running in five tries to lead 28-0 at the break. Both sides exchanged tries to start the second half, but Panthers went in for the kill and finished the game by scoring a further three tries.

Meanwhile the Otangarei Knights have jumped into second place in the Rugby League Northland Premiership after defeating the Moerewa Tigers 32-20. It is the Tigers second straight loss.

This weekend will see the Warriors face the Panthers. Both teams will play for the Pitman cup which the Warriors currently hold.

The Hora Hora Broncos will tackle the Northern Wairoa Bulls and the Otangarei Knights face the Hikurangi Stags.

The Moerewa Tigers have the bye.

Warriors Loss Was A tough Watch

I am still shocked about the Warriors loss to the Penrith Panthers on Saturday, after leading 28-6 at halftime.

Like most fans I was in shock, disbelief, and was left shaking my head after the result which saw the Panthers win 36-28.

During the game there were so many signs that indicated that a Warriors collapse would happen and after rewatching the game and looking into some of the numbers I was amazed.

In ten games in 2017, the Warriors have scored 174 points. However 128 of those points have been scored in the first half while only 46 in the second.

On the defensive end, the Warriors have conceded 102 points in the first half while they have given up 117 points in the second.

Meanwhile in the Panthers last four games they have scored 68 points, 60 of those have come in the second half.

All those numbers really staggered me, and during the first half a number of times I noticed the Warriors were struggling to make metres despite dominating the scoreline.

The 22-point loss was the Warriors worst collapse in the teams history. They had previously blown an 18-point lead three times (Tigers 2011, Knights, Sea Eagles 2012). They also blew a 26-point lead in 2009 against the Panthers but that game finished 32-32.

I am also ashamed of the people who burned their Warriors jerseys.

In the last five seasons (2013-2017) the Warriors have had three 4-6 starts to the season, did that cause people to burn their jerseys? So why start now

On paper, the Warriors have the pieces to contend but the numbers don't lie which indicates they need to improve in the second half.

If they can fix that, who knows where this side will end up



FREE SHIPPING ON ALL ORDERS



SHOP NOW



*Standard shipping on all orders placed until midnight 29th May.

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



SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY



SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY



SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOS FROM a game played at Invercargill on 13.05.17. Only one game down here this week.

The game was between Lonestar Cowboys RLC (Black jerseys) and Otago University RLC .

At half time Cowboys had 40 points on the board and University Nil. The full time whistle saw Cowboys take the win with 68 points to Universities 12.

Multiple Sclerosis
Auckland
PRESENTS

Any Queries
Ring Raewyn
on: 021422239

**CLASH
OF THE
HEMISPHERES
2017**



AN EXCLUSIVE
CELEBRITY RUGBY
DEBATE & CHARITY
AUCTION

In celebration of the British
Lions Tour to
New Zealand, Multiple
Sclerosis Auckland is holding
an exclusive rugby debate and
charity auction at Eden Park
on Tuesday 6 June 2017

To find out more go to:
<https://coth4ms.com/>

Taking Part in the Debate: Sir Graham Henry, Ian Jones, Phill Gifford, Stuart Barnes, Miles Harrison, Scott Quinell. Referee: Jeremy Corbett



Krystal Rota

By Brooke Hurndell - NZRL



INSPIRATIONAL KIWI Ferns hooker Krystal Rota's sacrifice for family and footy Picture this. You're a single parent to a nine-year-old son and three-year-old daughter.

You train five days a week and play rugby league on weekends.

As a semi-professional, you need to maintain a strict diet and fitness regimen because in a few months, you'll be playing footy in front of 20,000-plus fans (but you'll be paid nothing for putting your body through 80 minutes of punishment).

Your daughter's sick. Really sick and spends the next couple of months in and out of hospital.

You're juggling training commitments, schooling for your son, specialist visits with your daughter and you're studying via correspondence.

To keep the cards stacked against you, you've recently lost your biggest supporter, your mum.

The struggles get deeper but we'll get to them shortly. Already, this level of adversity would be more than enough of an excuse for most people to hang up the boots.

But not for Krystal Rota. This is Krystal and this is why her story is important.

A proud Maori woman, Krystal is a dedicated and loving mother but also an elite rugby league player; the star No.9 for the Kiwi Ferns.

What makes her role in the New Zealand spine even more remarkable is the extremely limited amount of time she's been able to spend with the squad due to her daughter Nikayla's condition.

Nikayla has nephrotic syndrome, "the same condition as Jonah Lomu".

"I tend to tell people that because a lot of people know what he had," says Krystal.

Recently the three-year-old needed a kidney transplant. Nikayla's father donated his but Nikayla's little body struggles with an adult kidney so she needs a tube in her tummy, attached to a water pump.

"It's been a struggle," Krystal admits.

"We're in and out of hospital on a weekly basis getting blood tests (and blood transfusions) and she's on a strict medication regimen and water machine.

"We have to lug it around with us because she has an adult kidney. She needs it to be hydrated. It pumps water through a tube in her tummy.

"It's a lot of hard work trying to juggle my daughter, plus my son (La-Ricco), who's nine, who plays sports and is at school.

"That's my struggle with day-to-day life and trying to fit footy in. I only really have my stepmum who is confident enough with her medications and water pump, so I rely on her a lot to look after my daughter so I can make it to training and games."

As a single mother raising two kids with the assistance of her father and stepmother, Krystal was forced to quit her job of 11 years with Blue Bird foods.

Nikayla has no immune system and can't be put in daycare, so Krystal is her full-time carer.

As a result, she's in the process of starting a home beauty business and still, she plays and trains. Some of her sessions, though, are a little unorthodox.

So time-poor, Krystal started taking her boots to hospital and when her daughter dozed off to sleep, she'd slip on the studs and out to the Auckland Domain next door.

"We were living in (hospital) for several months at one stage and I wanted to maintain playing footy, so I used to train at the park next to the hospital," Krystal explained.

"They have a big domain next to the Auckland children's hospital and I would train there when she was asleep. I'd get the nurses to call me if she woke up and cut my training short."

Her inner drive is unrivalled. Determined to set an example for her children, to not only chase their dreams but live them out, is what fuels her.

With the support of her teammates, coaching staff and immediate family, somehow she makes it work.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

"I've never wanted to give up but at times it's felt like it's almost impossible to continue," she admitted.

Such as this, just before the Auckland Nines this year.

"We went in for a blood test the week before going into Nines camp and we were admitted that day.

"My daughter was in hospital during the Nines.

"Weeks like that makes it extremely hard. I don't want to be away from her, so I went into camp for the Nines late."

She broke her wrist during the tournament. Not that it fazed her.

Krystal's efforts to juggle life as a Kiwi international are nothing short of extraordinary but adversity is something she's faced since she was a little girl.

Having caught the rugby league bug as an adolescent, she's had to fight back against tradition to play the game she loved.

"It was frowned upon by my aunties for a woman to play rugby league, because they believed it was a man's game," she explained.

"My dad's my biggest supporter and told me to follow my heart and do what I love.

"It's funny, I wasn't very popular prior (to making it) but all the people who frowned upon it now love it."

In fact, the only time she stopped playing was when her mother Christine was battling cancer.

Like she is doing for her daughter now, in 2012 she was looking after her mum. That was a battle they couldn't win.

"That was one of the biggest struggles of my life," she said of losing her mother. "I took a break for about two and a half years, because I had to nurse my mum.

"I played footy in between but I didn't fully commit and train often. I've been back for two years now." Krystal Rota

Having recently received the 'League 4 Life' grant after some encouragement from Sir Peter Leitch, better known as the Mad Butcher, Krystal's parking and mileage for hospital trips are now covered.

She turns 32 in October and with the Rugby League World Cup at the end of the year, Krystal is more focused than ever.

So determined to make the side, she's training five days a week (two days at club level and three with the Test team) and convinced her father, Roger, to take a break from coaching the Manurewa Marlins to help her at home.

"Now that I'm so full-on with footy, dad's going to be helping with my daughter. With the World Cup this year, they all know how much commitment it's going to take," she said.



THE WORLD'S BEST ARE COMING
ARE YOU?

AUCKLAND

NZ V SAMOA
28 OCTOBER
SEMI-FINAL
25 NOVEMBER

CHRISTCHURCH

NZ V SCOTLAND
4 NOVEMBER
QUARTER-FINAL
18 NOVEMBER

HAMILTON

SAMOA V TONGA
4 NOVEMBER
NZ V TONGA
11 NOVEMBER

WELLINGTON

QUARTER-FINAL
18 NOVEMBER

FOR TICKETS & ALL YOUR RLWC2017 INFORMATION GO TO RLWC2017.COM

#RLWC2017 | | |

*NZ pool matches only, subject to allocation selling out. Transaction & booking fees may apply.

FAMILY TICKETS
FROM
\$45





RLWC COUNTDOWN: 23 Weeks to GO!

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

IT'S A busy weekend ahead for the Rugby League World Cup team!

This Friday, we will be heading down to Hamilton to support the Warriors as they take on the Dragons at Waikato Stadium. If you're heading to the game, come and see us for your chance to win tickets to the RLWC2017!

We're giving away a family pass to Samoa and Tonga, being held in Hamilton on November 4. If the Pacific Tests earlier this month were anything to go by, this game will be one to be at!

On the Saturday morning following the Warriors game, we'll be heading to Hopuhopu to check out all the young rugby league talent that the Waikato has on offer.

If you're around, make sure you stop by the RLWC2017 tent for your chance to win prizes and take photos.

To finish the weekend off, we'll be promoting the World Cup at the Auckland Rugby League Under 6s Gala Day at Ti Rakau Park in Pakuranga.

Tickets are available now from RLWC2017.com, starting at \$10 for kids, \$20 for adults and \$45 for a family of four.

Head along and see the RLWC Team at the following events:

- 19 May: Warriors v Dragons, Hamilton (4:00pm – 10:00pm)
- 20 May: Waikato RL Junior Football, Hopuhopu (8:00am – 12:00pm)
- 21 May: Auckland RL U6 Gala Day, Pakuranga RL Club (7:00am – 1:00pm)
- 27 May: Warriors v Broncos, Mt Smart Stadium (3:00pm – 9:00pm)
- 28 May: Northland RL Mini-Mod Festival, Whangarei (6:00am – 3:00pm)
- 1/2 June: Youth Week, Tokoroa (TBC)
- 3/4 June: NZ Maori RL Rangatahi Tournament, Rotorua (7:00am – 1:00pm)
- 11 June: Auckland RL Gala Day, East Coast Bays (7:00am – 1:00pm)

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.

Keep the change

History shows us that sometimes all it takes is one man to change the fortunes and psyche of a long-suffering club. By **MICHAEL BURGESS**



THEY could be called the Transformers – a select group of players whose arrival has changed the face – and fortunes – of an NRL club.

As well as talent and attitude, such players have been the right men at the right time, the crucial ingredients of a complicated recipe.

Cooper Cronk might be next if he opts to continue his career in Sydney, but for now Kieran Foran is the latest transformer thanks to his profound effect on the Warriors.

Sure, it's only a one-year assignment, but his presence in 2017 could break the club's long finals drought. He's delivered game smarts and structure that haven't been present at the Warriors for an age. He's also brought out the best in his team-mates, especially Shaun Johnson.

"He's been immense," says Warriors assistant coach Stacey Jones. "Having him on the field has lifted the team."

Foran isn't the only piece of the jigsaw at the revitalised Warriors, but he's a hugely important element, as has been evident since pre-season training. His relentless nature surprised some of his young team-mates, as Foran didn't hold back if a drill went awry.

"Kieran is super competitive," says Ryan Hoffman. "He sets high standards and expects nothing less than full commitment. If it doesn't happen, you're going to know about it."

Just over 15 years ago, a hard-nosed Australian had a similar impact at Mt Smart.

Kevin Campion wasn't the biggest name, but his move to Auckland was a case of perfect timing.

In 2001, the Warriors were at a crossroads. They were yet to feature in September football – after six seasons – and had just emerged from a bitter ownership struggle. But the club had a lot of young talent, especially in the forwards, and Campion helped those players to shine.

"He was just what we needed, a guy you wanted to follow," says former captain Monty Betham.

"He didn't back down, and he taught us to be the same. He was very aggressive physically and set the standard. We had a lot of good young players, but probably didn't have that belief."

Campion brought a ruthless approach across the ditch, garnered from his time under Wayne Bennett at the Broncos.

"Even in training, if one person didn't make the line, then we all had to do it again," says Betham. "Maybe even three or four times, but you learned that there were no shortcuts."

The Warriors reached the finals that season, and in 2002 Campion and Jones led the team out for their inaugural grand final.

Unfortunately that night the Warriors came up against another man who altered the destiny of his team in a quite profound way.

The Roosters had been great under-achievers of the 1980s and early 90s, reaching the finals once in 12 seasons before Brad Fittler's arrival. But after 'Freddie' was wooed east, the Tri-colours were ever-present in the playoffs for the next

nine seasons, including four grand finals in five years.

What about Glenn Lazarus, who was so good he managed it twice? He provided the icing on the cake for the Broncos in 1992 and '93, then played a pivotal role in the Storm's foundation years, culminating in their 1999 premiership.

Johnathan Thurston is another example. He helped North Queensland to their first grand final in his debut season and 10 years later he sealed their maiden premiership. Thurston has been surrounded by quality, but if he'd stayed in Sydney, it's unlikely the Cowboys would have become such a consistent force.

But perhaps Sonny Bill Williams is the greatest transformer, having done it across two different codes. He took Super Rugby's Waikato Chiefs from provincial also-rans to champions in 2012 and revolutionised back-line play in the 15-man game with his offloading ability, but his biggest impact was at the Roosters, when he returned to the NRL in 2013 after five years away.

"He inspired me – I think he inspired everyone," recalls Roger Tuivasa-Sheck. "His work ethic and professionalism was incredible, like nothing we'd seen before."

His clean-living mantra rubbed off on the Bondi party boys, who went dry for a month during their triumphant 2013 season, and he was a game changer on the field, culminating in his virtuoso second half display in their grand final win over Manly.



P T G PTS				#NRLWarriorsDragons				P T G PTS			
9	1	0	4	Roger TUIVASA-SHECK (C)	1	Jason NIGHTINGALE	10	6	0	24	
2	2	0	8	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	2	Nene MACDONALD	10	3	0	12	
7	0	0	0	Blake AYSHFORD	3	Taane MILNE	4	0	0	0	
10	8	0	32	David FUSITU'A	4	Tim LAFAI	10	4	3	22	
9	2	0	8	Ken MAUMALO	5	Kalifa FAIFAI LOA	0	0	0	0	
6	2	0	8	Kieran FORAN	6	Kurt MANN	8	2	0	8	
10	3	26	64	Shaun JOHNSON	7	Josh McCRONE	10	1	0	4	
7	1	0	4	James GAVET	8	Russell PACKER	10	1	0	4	
10	1	1	6	Issac LUKE	9	Cameron McINNES	10	2	0	8	
10	0	0	0	Jacob LILLYMAN	10	Paul VAUGHAN	10	3	0	12	
10	3	0	12	Bodene THOMPSON	11	Tyson FRIZELL (C)	10	0	0	0	
10	4	0	16	Ryan HOFFMAN	12	Joel THOMPSON	10	4	0	16	
5	0	0	0	Bunty AFOA	13	Jack de BELIN	10	2	0	8	

INTERCHANGE

4	0	0	0	Nathaniel ROACHE	14	Tariq SIMS	10	1	0	4
10	0	0	0	Sam LISONE	15	Leeson AH MAU	10	0	1	2
7	0	0	0	Ligi SAO	16	Hame SELE	5	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	Ben MATULINO	17	Jai FIELD	2	0	0	0

RESERVES

7	0	0	0	Charlie GUBB	18	Matt DUFTY	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	Mason LINO	20/19	Siliva HAVILI	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	Albert VETE	21/20	Luciano LEILUA	0	0	0	0
4	1	0	4	Tuimoala LOLOHEA	22/21	Jacob HOST	5	0	0	0

COACHES

Stephen KEARNEY Paul McGREGOR

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

40 BIG LEAGUE 2017 Round 11

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 19
VENUE: FMG STADIUM, WAIKATO
KICK-OFF: 8PM (NZ)
REFEREE: HENRY PERENARA
ASSISTANT REFEREE: PETER GOUGH
TOUCH JUDGES: RUSSELL TURNER & CHRIS McMILLAN
SENIOR REVIEW OFFICIAL: JARED MAXWELL
REVIEW OFFICIAL: LUKE PATTEN
FOX LEAGUE: 5.30PM
LIVE RADIO: TRIPLE M, ABC

	WARRIORS	DRAGONS
Position (Points)	12th (8)	5th (12)
Points For	174	239
Points Against	219	169

ATTACK		
Tries	30	41
Completions	77%	80%
Tries 0-20m	20	21
Tries 21-50m	3	16
Tries 51-100m	2	2

DEFENCE		
Tries	37	31
Tries 0-20m	15	23
Tries 21-50m	13	4
Tries 51-100m	3	1

MATCH AVERAGES		
Tries Scored	3	4
Tries Conceded	4	3
Points Scored	17	24
Points Conceded	22	17
Hit Ups/Runs	175	179
Tackles	315	318
Metres Gained	1549	1650
Handling Errors	4	3
Offloads	6	13
Line-breaks	4	4
Goalkicking	77%	74%

HEAD-TO-HEAD
 Played 25, St George Illawarra 20, Warriors 5

AT FMG STADIUM, HAMILTON
 First meeting

WINNING FORM 2017
WARRIORS: WLLLWLLWL Streak – 1 loss
ST GEORGE ILLA: WLWVWWLLL Streak – 3 losses

PAST 8 CLASHES
2017 – ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA D. WARRIORS 26-12 at UOW Jubilee Oval
2016 – WARRIORS D. ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 26-10 at Mt Smart Stadium
2015 – ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA D. WARRIORS 36-0 at Westpac Stadium, Wellington
2014 – ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA D. WARRIORS 20-10 at WIN Jubilee Oval; ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA D. WARRIORS 31-12 at Eden Park
2013 – ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA D. WARRIORS 19-10 at WIN Stadium
2012 – ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA D. WARRIORS 38-6 at WIN Stadium
2011 – ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA D. WARRIORS 26-22 at WIN Stadium

BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS
WARRIORS D. ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 34-6 at Ericsson Stadium, 2001; **WARRIORS D. ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 44-16** at Mt Smart Stadium, 2007
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA D. AUCKLAND 54-0 at WIN Stadium, 2000

NEXT CLASH
WARRIORS: v Brisbane at Mt Smart, 5.30pm Saturday May 27
ST GEORGE ILLA: v Wests Tigers at ANZ, 3pm Saturday June 3

CASUALTY WARD
WARRIORS: Solomone Kata (hamstring), Simon Mannering (hamstring), Manu Vatuvei (calf), Ata Hingano (ankle) – indefinite
ST GEORGE ILLA: Josh Dugan (cheekbone) – Rd 13; Gareth Widdop (knee) – Rd 14; Euan Aitken (hamstring), Will Matthews (hip), Kiti Glymin (shoulder) – indefinite; Drew Hutchison (knee), Levi Dodd (knee) – season

NRL Preview

History on the Red V's side

FMG Stadium, Hamilton Friday, 8pm

Form: The Warriors will welcome the short interval between last Saturday's shock capitulation to the Panthers and this Friday night's home clash against the Dragons. Sometimes, performances like last week's are best forgotten. The Warriors had worked their way up the ladder with a strong win over the Roosters but losing to the Panthers sent them back to square one. St George Illawarra have lost three consecutive

games and coach Paul McGregor will be impatiently marking off the days until key men Gareth Widdop and Josh Dugan return.

History: The Dragons have enjoyed a decade of dominance over the Warriors, winning 12 of the past 13 encounters tracing back to the game's centenary year. The only win by the Warriors for that period was a 26-10 result at Mt Smart Stadium last year. Already, the Dragons have restored the balance of power with a 26-12 win at Kogarah. The Warriors have lost their past three games in Hamilton.

Danger sign: It would be hardly surprising if the Warriors were scarred by their experience at Pepper Stadium and lacking in confidence when they take the field this week. Russell Packer, Paul Vaughan and co. will be motivated to restore some prestige for the Dragons and will test the Warriors from the kick-off. **Best Bet?** The history presents a compelling case for the Dragons, who may be limited to a margin of 1-12 points. **Money-spinner:** Look to David Fusitu'a, Jason Nightingale or Kurt Mann for First Tryscorer.



RUSSELL PACKER

35
tackles in
Round 10

HEAD-TO-HEAD LEADERS

STATS

AVERAGE METRES	AVERAGE TACKLES	LINE-BREAKS
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 179	Cameron McInnes 44	David Fusitu'a 7
Josh Dugan 154	Simon Mannering 42	Jason Nightingale 6
Paul Vaughan 151	Jack de Belin 35	Gareth Widdop 5
Ken Maumalo 149	Buntty Afoa 33	Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 5
Jacob Lillyman 138	Bodene Thompson 30	Joel Thompson 4

NRL FANTASY

FANTASY POINTS

Jack de Belin 57.5
Shaun Johnson 56.7
Cameron McInnes 56.0
Paul Vaughan 55.1
Simon Mannering 54.3



HOLDEN CUP

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 19 **VENUE:** FMG STADIUM WAIKATO
KICK-OFF: 5.45PM (NZ) **REFEREE:** KASEY BADGER
TOUCH JUDGES: ANTHONY ELLIOTT & NATHAN PARKER PRINGLE

WARRIORS V DRAGONS

Lee TURNER	1	Steven MARSTERS
Lewis SOOSEMEEA	2	Matheson JOHNS
Melino FINEANGANOFO	3	Reuben GARRICK
Kane TELEA	4	Zach LOMAX
Elijah SUFIA	5	Jason GILLARD
Paul TURNER	6	Tristan SAILOR
Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA	7	Jackson WILLIS
Kenese KENESE (C)	8	Stuart MASON (C)
Erin CLARK	20/9	Reece ROBSON
Soane HUFANGA	10	Matt SHEPPARD
Tyler SLADE	11	Jackson FORD
Joe VUNA	12	Jayden MORGAN
Chris SIO (C)	13	Joe LOVDUUA
9 Eiden ACKLAND	14 TJ UELE, 15 Tom ANGEL	
14 Matthew FAITOTOA	16 Dylan MORRIS, 17 Josh DOWEL, 18 Trent PEOPLES	
15 Tayler PAORA, 16 Troy PULUPAKI, 17 Jeroma MAMEA	19 Cooper PURCELL	
18 Gibson POPOALII, 21 Isaiah PAPALI'I, 22 Israel OGDEN	20 Elijah HUNT, 21 Max BAILEY	
23 Kelepi LUI, 24 Havi TUPOUNIUA	22 Jack CROSS	
	23 Brayden GALLAGHER	
Grant POCKLINGTON	Wayne COLLINS	

TEN IN A ROW... The Warriors suffered their 10th-straight loss against Penrith. After conceding 22 points and being held to none in the first half, they fought back after the break thanks largely to a Joe Vuna double, both scored on the left side through Chanel Harris-Tavita. The Warriors refused to go away in the second half but couldn't catch their opponents, left to rue 13 errors.

TUMBLING DOWN ... St George Illawarra fell to third place on the ladder after their loss to Cronulla. Their mistakes proved costly as they made nine errors and missed 43 tackles, which allowed Cronulla to notch a further three tries in the second half. No one in the team made more running metres than Jackson Ford, who recorded 158 metres to go with 33 tackles.

— SAM PASFIELD

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

Esme Myrtle Tamati Passes

RUGBY LEAGUE lost a great friend this week with the passing of Esme Myrtle Tamati on the 16th of May aged 94. She was the mother of Howie Tamati, former Kiwis player, captain and coach. Her other son Teri has spent a lifetime in the game of Rugby League. Esme was also a great friend of mine, a lovely lady who will be missed. Rest in peace.



Reader Mail

Dear Rugby League community,

I AM FUNDRAISING for my brother who is receiving AVASTIN treatment (unfunded) for his inoperable brain tumour (\$6200/fortnight). He can no longer have chemo or radiation so this is our last hope. He is a wonderful father of 3 and deserves more time with his children (aged 17,15 & 13). All money will go towards his treatment. His name is Ryan Boerboom and you can find his full story on givealittle.co.nz.

As you can see the collectibles are unopened and in pristine condition. We are selling very reluctantly as we are huge league fans.

Please send offers to candmboerboom@gmail.com

Thank you

Carl Boerboom



**PINK
SHIRT
DAY** '17

Friday 26 May

 **Mental Health Foundation**
mauri tū, mauri ora

SPEAK UP
Stand together
**STOP
BULLYING**



Pink Shirt Day is about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting positive social relationships.

It's about creating a community where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or cultural background.

On Pink Shirt Day we ask New Zealanders to Speak up and Stand together to Stop bullying.

You can buy pink shirts here:

<http://www.mrvintage.co.nz/collections/charitee/pink-shirt-day-2017.html>

PINKSHIRTDAY.ORG.NZ

Vodafone Warriors Milestones



RTS plays his 100th NRL game.
Anthony Minichiello presents him with his
game jersey last weekend.



Simon and Manu presenting Ben with his
jersey for his 200th game this weekend.

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