



Sir Peter Leitch's
MAD BUTCHER CLUB

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Newsletter

14 NOV 2014
#50

14 : 12



the Kiwis line up as the National Anthem is sung.

PHOTO: SHANE WENZLICK
NRLPhotos.com

"I would go so far as to say it was one of the best test games I have witnessed in some time, even including our upset win over the Aussies, because although we were sensational in that one, the Aussies were off their game, whereas England were fiercely competitive... [it was] a real old-fashioned game of attrition."



Led by Isaac Luke, the Kiwis gave a full-on haka.

HAKA

I headed to Wellington on Tuesday, which is always special for me being a born and bred working class boy from Newtown.

I'm staying in the hotel with the **Kiwis** and it is a huge privilege to be included in the preparations for Saturday's Four Nations final against Australia.

Our biggest challenge is going to be filling Westpac Stadium. I am of course desperate for a good crowd to front and get behind our boys as we look to pull off a famous win. If you want to get tickets to the game all you need do is go to www.ticketek.co.nz

Maybe Air NZ should be putting on some special fans' flights to get supporters from out of the capital to the game.

I confess to being a bit worried because Wellington has not enjoyed a good reputation in terms of getting crowds out to sport at the stadium, and the Kiwis, despite being the form team, will need every ounce of support and home backing against an Aussie team that will be desperate to take revenge for the first round loss to our boys.

Dunedin a great experience

It was not the biggest crowd at Dunedin for the **Kiwis** against England on Saturday night but I will say this; those that did come were incredibly vocal, and helped make it a great night.

Sure, it was not the number the Butcher expected, but it was still a reasonable turnout, and we were treated to a fantastic game.

I would go so far as to say it was one of

the best test games I have witnessed in some time, even including our upset win over the Aussies, because although we were sensational in that one, the Aussies were off their game, whereas England were fiercely competitive.

All the experts I spoke to after the game agreed it had been a fabulous test, a real old-fashioned game of attrition.

Thomas Leuluai and **Jason Nightingale** would attest to that, both having received gashes to the head that needed stitches.

It was incredibly close throughout, but our two-point winning margin was enough to make it three from three and guarantee our place in Wellington for the final this weekend.

It has been a terrific Four Nations, and even though England lost, their hopes were still alive ahead of the Samoa v Australia game on Sunday.

Samoa exit with heads held high

Sadly, Samoa had their poorest game of the tournament, and ended up being comprehensively outplayed by the **Kangaroos**, which is a great shame, because really they were the story of the tournament, providing much stiffer opposition than anyone thought possible. I had been very much looking forward to the game, and thought Samoa would be more of a test for the Aussies, who have not looked flash.

All the same, I thought Samoa added a lot to the tournament, and particularly in terms of their supporters getting along

to cheer them on, which added heaps of colour and noise to the grounds, especially Whangarei.

But Samoa's loss means it is once again the old rivals – the Kiwis v Australia at Westpac Stadium.

All Blacks win too

And of course it was two from two against England at the weekend, with the **All Blacks** winning the rugby at Twickenham. Just like their league team, England battled throughout and never gave up, but the **All Blacks** looked composed and got the result.

Like many people, I was a bit confused by some of the ref's decisions in this one though, which surprised me a bit, because I rate **Nigel Owens**.

Of course **Richie McCaw** and the boys go on to Murrayfield this weekend to take on Scotland, but there is only one place I am going to be, and that is at Westpac to see my mighty **Kiwis**.

Coach **Stephen Kearney** has done a fine job in getting the team into the big dance, and with three wins from three we have every right to be confident.

But Australia are not world champions for nothing, and they will fancy their chances. So come on **Kiwis**, make an old Butcher proud!

Old friend shares his thoughts

Experienced sports journalist and league nut **John Coffey*** worked for **The Press** in Christchurch for many years. Here he shares his thoughts about the Four Nations.

Old foes again in Four Nations

Most pundits would have predicted a **Kiwis v Kangaroos** final before the Four Nations kicked off at Suncorp. But none guessed what drama would unfold with thoroughly competitive England and **Toa Samoa** teams.

The English scrambled to beat the Samoans, but could then count themselves doubly unlucky to lose to Australia and New Zealand.

Samoa shared the 10 tries in the opening match against England, falling behind only on the goalkicking. It was a similar story at Whangarei when **David Fa'alogo's** men were good enough to equal the **Kiwis'** three tries but lost by two points. Only against Australia did their defensive effort falter.

No-one foresaw the **Kiwis'** second half dominance in beating the **Kangaroos** 30-12 at Suncorp. But it must be remembered both **Greg Inglis** and **Daly Cherry-Evans** were off the field as their teammates conceded 18 unanswered second-half points.

Much was made of Australia missing their established combinations such as **Jonathan Thurston** and **Billy Slater**. But Cherry-Evans and Inglis are gifted replacements, and this tournament has actually served to increase the Kangaroos' depth.

In effect, the traditional trans-Tasman roles have been reversed. Whereas the **Kangaroos** usually start with a big first-up win, and the **Kiwis** steadily improve, it is the **Kangaroos** who are learning quickly under

What's up, Doc? Manu and Simon.



PHOTO: SHANE WENZLICK
NRLPhotos.com

Tim Sheens. The challenge now is for the **Kiwis** to be as dominant at Wellington on Saturday as they were in Brisbane.

Winging it in Dunedin

All six tries in New Zealand's thrilling 14-12 victory over England in Dunedin were scored by the wings – two each to the **Kiwis' Jason Nightingale** and the **Lions' Ryan Hall**, and one to **Manu Vatuvei** and **Josh Charnley**.

That fact emphasised the effectiveness of the rivals' more convincing attacks. Nightingale flew high to claim the opening try from a perfect kick, and the others were the result of expert finishing.

It also testified to the solidity of the midfield defences as two beefy forward packs stood staunchly shoulder to shoulder to deny their opponents. There could even have been more winger's tries, with Vatuvei and Hall both losing the ball near the try-line.

Trans-Tasman tournament finals

Saturday's showdown at Westpac will be the ninth time since 1988 that the **Kiwis** and **Kangaroos** have clashed in a tournament final. The **Kiwis** have triumphed only three times, all at overseas venues.

1988 (World Cup):

Australia 25, New Zealand 12 at Eden Park, Auckland.

1999 (Tri-Nations):

Australia 22, New Zealand 20 at Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland.

2000 (World Cup):

Australia 40, New Zealand 12 at Old Trafford, Manchester

2005 (Tri-Nations):

New Zealand 24, Australia 0 at Elland Road, Leeds

2006 (Tri-Nations):

Australia 16, New Zealand 12 (extra time) at Sydney Football Stadium

2008 (World Cup):

New Zealand 34, Australia 20 at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

2010 (Four Nations):

New Zealand 16, Australia 12 at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

2013 (World Cup):

Australia 34, New Zealand 2 at Old Trafford, Manchester

"If you build it..."

According to the **Kevin Costner** movie **Field of Dreams**, if you build a playing field they will come. But the attendance at Dunedin's impressively roofed Forsyth Barr Stadium on Saturday night was disappointing at less than 16,000. In contrast, Whangarei's Toll Stadium attracted 17,000 for New Zealand's clash with Toa Samoa.

True, busloads of Aucklanders headed north to support Samoa and the **Kiwis**. But there was a similar migration of quality-starved Canterbury league supporters south to see the **Kiwis** take on England. Every bed was booked in Dunedin. Dunedin has a population of 116,000, compared to Whangarei's 54,000.

It was an ominous warning that rugby demand for a 35,000 seat roofed stadium as part of the Christchurch rebuild will burden ratepayers and taxpayers for decades. Dunedin's venue has a 22,000 capacity and cost far less than the \$500 million rugby expects from the council (ratepayers) and Government (taxpayers).

Milestone for Mannering

Tireless **Kiwis** captain **Simon Mannering** will become the fifth New Zealander to play 40 league tests in Saturday's Four Nations final at Wellington.

He trails only **Ruben Wiki** (55), **Gary Freeman** (46), **Stacey Jones** (46) and current **Kiwis** coach **Stephen Kearney** (45) among 787 players to have worn the **Kiwis** jersey since 1907.

Mannering has gone ahead of 2008 World Cup-winning captain **Nathan Cayless** and test try-scoring record-holder **Nigel Vagana**, who both played 38 tests.

Running down Nigel

Fleet-footed **Nigel Vagana** was never an easy man to catch but current **Kiwis** wings Vatuvei and Nightingale are fast making inroads on his New Zealand test try-scoring record.

Vagana scored 19 tries in his 38 appearances. Vatuvei is now just one behind, his 18 tries coming from 26 matches. Sean Hoppe (17) is alone on the third rung, with Stacey Jones, Hugh McGahan and Kevin Iro next on 16 tries.

Nightingale's four tries in the Four Nations has spurred him along to 15 in 23 tests, bringing him level with such illustrious former internationals as Richie Blackmore, Tom Hadfield, Phillip Orchard and Ruben Wiki.

Shaun's century

While on the subject of individual achievements, Shaun Johnson has become the eighth Kiwi to exceed a century of points at test level. Johnson sits on 110 points, trailing only Matthew Ridge (168), Stacey Jones (160), Daryl Halligan (137), Des White (132) and Henry Paul (121), the great Olsen Filipaina (108), and Benji Marshall (106).

New Test venues

Whangarei's Toll Stadium and Dunedin's Forsyth Barr Stadium have become, respectively, New Zealand's 20th and 21st league test venues since the first British team toured this country in 1910. The full list, under the host cities and with the year of their Test "debut", is:

Auckland (5):

Domain Cricket Ground 1910, Carlaw Park 1924, Eden Park 1988, Mt Smart Stadium 1989, North Harbour Stadium 1997.

Wellington (3):

Basin Reserve 1919, Athletic Park 1990, Westpac Stadium 2001.

Christchurch (6):

Sydenham Park 1919, Lancaster Park 1920, English Park 1928, Monica Park 1932, Addington Show Grounds 1950, Queen Elizabeth II Park 1989.

Dunedin (3):

Tahuna Park 1924, Caledonian Ground 1928, Forsyth Barr Stadium 2014.

Greymouth (1):

Wingham Park 1954.

Rotorua (1):

International Stadium 1989.

Palmerston North (1):

Show Grounds Oval 1990.

Whangarei (1):

Toll Stadium 2014.

Of course, some of those have undergone name changes over the years as sponsors have come and gone. Of the 21 venues, only Carlaw Park, Monica Park and Wingham Park were league owned. And of those three, only Wingham Park still exists.

Kiwi Ferns triumph

Congratulations to the **Kiwi Ferns** who beat the **Australian Jillaroos** 12-8 in last Sunday's curtain-raiser to the **Kangaroos v Toa Samoa** match at Wollongong's WIN Stadium. They came from 0-8 down to regain top international ranking after losing last year's World Cup final to the Australians.

Second-rower **Teuila Fotu-Moala** scored the winning try two minutes from fulltime. The other **Kiwi Ferns** try-scorers were **Hilda Peters** and **Atawhai Tupaea**. The result was all the more commendable when it is considered that women's league

is now receiving a higher profile across the Tasman.

The **Jillaroos** were actually paid for the first time – even if their \$500 payment paled in comparison to what the men receive. It was recently reported that 138,000 females now play league in Australia.

Black mark for officials

Those officials (reportedly from Australia and New Zealand) who decided neutral referees were not needed during the Four Nations have gone close to bringing the game into disrepute. Perception is important, and spectators should not be talking about the referee's allegiance, as they were in Melbourne, Dunedin and Wollongong.

There was the extraordinary, and embarrassing, sight of Australian on-field referee **Gerard Sutton** sending a decision up to his video ref and brother, **Bernard**, to decide if England wing, **Ryan Hall**, had scored a last-minute try that would have sent the **Kangaroos** out of an international final for the first time in 60 years.

Englishman, **Phil Bentham** awarded a selective penalty that not only halted the **Kiwis** in their tracks in Dunedin after Jason Nightingale's second-minute try, but led to Hall's first try for the **Lions** and 20 minutes of desperate **Kiwis** defence.

Against Australia, the Samoans were blasted with five early penalties by Sutton, who is accustomed to officiating with a partner in the NRL. He has struggled with the play-the-balls and 10-metres and is far more whistle-happy than the Super League's Bentham.

League loses a good bloke

My condolences go out to a good man, **Chris Jordan**, after the sad loss of his father, **Len**.

Both Len and Chris wore the black and white jersey of the **Kiwis**, and were great lovers and servants of our game.

These days Chris lives in Australia, where he trains racehorses – a far cry from the days when he actually even worked for me at the Mangere shop.

Len was **Kiwi No 287**. He played for Auckland and won eight caps, the first against Great Britain back in 1946, six more in 1947-48 against Britain and France, and his final test in 1949 against Australia.

Chris, **Kiwi No 530**, followed in his dad's footsteps, also playing for Auckland, and pulling on the **Kiwis** jersey five times. In 1977 he played two World Cup games, and the following year got three caps against Australia.

My thoughts are with you Chris.

**John Coffey was West Coast raised and Christchurch-based, he has been writing about league for more than 50 years and has covered more than 100 tests for New Zealand newspapers and overseas magazines, and written nine books. He was awarded a QSM in the 2014 Queen's Birthday honours for services to sports reporting and history. Great stuff John and much appreciated. You have a wealth of knowledge about our great game.*



Jesse Bromwich takes on the poms.



Tohu Harris who played his 5th test for the Kiwis.



Jason Nightingale goes over for a try.



Shaun Kenny-Dowall under attack.



Kevin Proctor on the burst.



There's always one....

It's all high fives after the win. Wellington, here we come!



ALL Photos this page courtesy of

SHANE WENZLICK
NRLPhotos.com

Jason Nightingale got a nasty gash which required stitches.





Shaun Johnson showing his kicking skills.



Captain Mannering on attack.



Sam Tomkins congratulates Simon Mannering.



Isaac Luke says, catch me if you can!



Touchdown!

Manu Vatuvei runs in a try!



And in with a grin!

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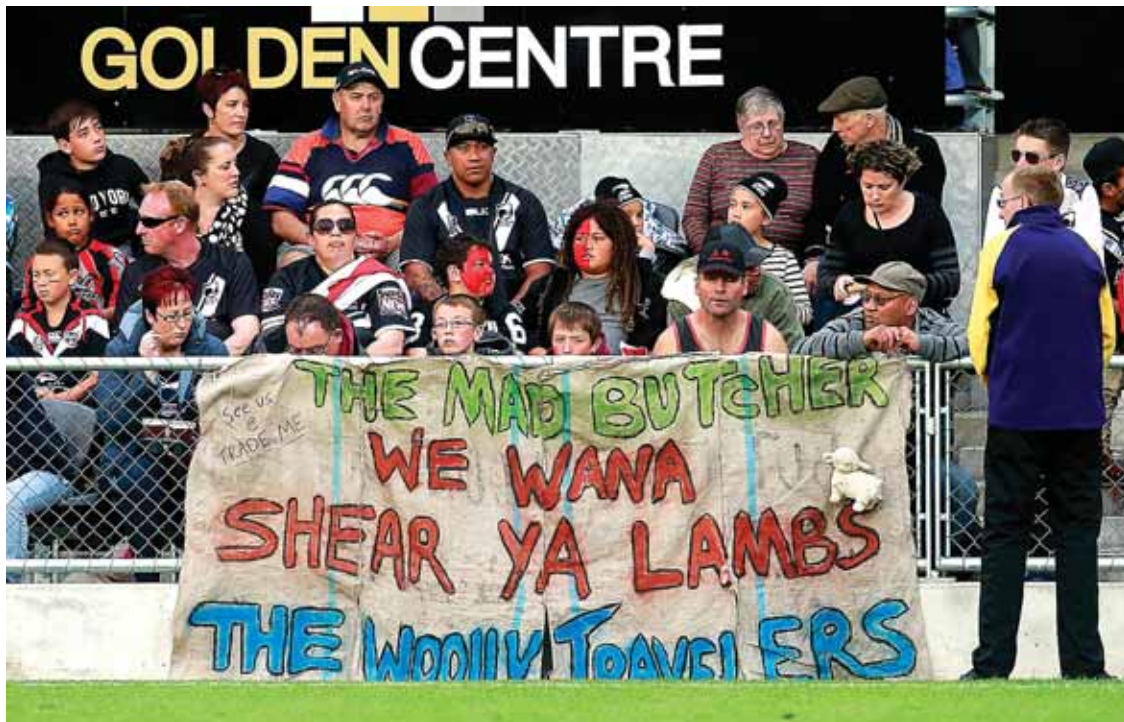
SUPPORTERS



photosport



Luke Whittaker, Reuben Wilson, Jacob Wilson, Jack Mundy, Emily Woolhouse at the test – all from Christchurch.



The best sign at the stadium!

PHOTO: SHANE WENZLICK
NRLPhotos.com



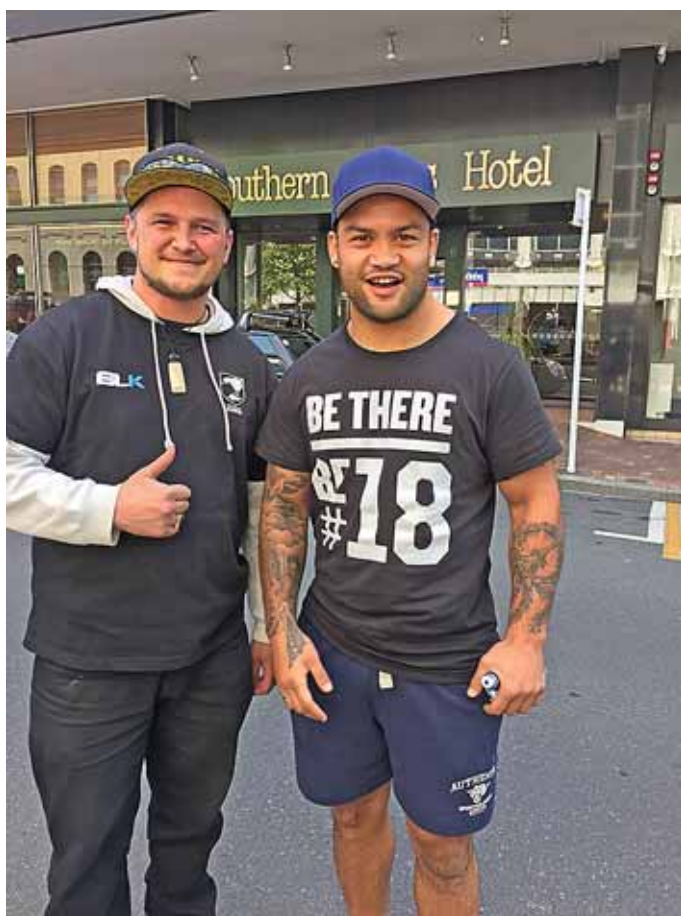
Kiwi coach, Stephen, and assistant coach, David, caught up with - from the left - Lucas, Kymani, Yahwei and Corey: all from Christchurch.



Storm and Lauren from dear old bluff who drove up for the test.



photosport



Ngakoata from Christchurch was stoked to meet Isaac Luke.



photosport



Calendar and Ray from invercargill.



PHOTO: SHANE WENZLICK
NRLPhotos.com



Christian, from Dunedin, showing her support for the Kiwis.



PHOTO: SHANE WENZLICK
NRLPhotos.com



Olivia Winikerei and David Whelan from Christchurch, who come down to support the Kiwis.



The Robinsons: Danielle, Mark (sponsor of the Point Chev Pirates and NZ Kiwis; CEO of AUTEX Industries), and Michelle.



Phil and Marian all the way from Wigan, England, following the English team. Dedicated!



Gordon and Huia Jones in Dunedin – all the way from Auckland.



Josh and Mitchell from Amberley, North Canterbury.



Shaun and his new mate.



PHOTO: SHANE WENZLICK
NRLPhotos.com



Joe Johnson (Shaun Johnson's brother), Jethro Donald (Shaun Johnson's cousin), Paul Johnson (Shaun Johnson's father), and Rachael Ingram.



Tony Vietch, from Radio Sport, who was doing some hosting in the corporate boxes, is flanked by ex-Kiwis Tony Iro and Richie Barnett at the game. Nice cap, Richie !



Nadene Conlon, the Kiwis manager, and team doctor, Simon Mayhew.



Dianne and Dean from Queenstown, were rearing to go and support the Kiwis.



Naiomi from Dunedin was stoked to be at the game.



The win and weekend was just to much for Mark Robinson, who dozed off as soon the plane took off for Auckland.

AIR NEW ZEALAND 

**A Big Thanks to
Air New Zealand
for helping the Butcher out!**



Adam Blair receives his 30th test jersey and gives us a nice cheesy smile while Mark closed his eyes for this photo!



Simon Mannering receives his 39th test jersey from Mark.



Mark gives Thomas Leuluai his 33rd test jersey. Mark played with Thomas's dad, James, in the Kiwis.

On Friday night in Dunedin the *Kiwis* held their test dinner as they do before any test match and their special guest was **Kiwi Number 549, Mark Broadhurst**, who played 17 tests for the *Kiwis*. He made his test debut in 1980 against Australia. He played club league in Christchurch then went to Sydney and played for *Manly Warringah* before moving

on to the *Illawarra Steelers* and then heading to the UK to play for *Hull Kingston Rovers* before returning to Christchurch and coached his old club Papanui and even played lower grade league well into his 40s. He was named an NZRL legend of league in 2013 and was known as a hard man of league.



A Big Thank You to the Sponsors of the 2014 Kiwis team.



Trevor and Jill Patrick with the Governor General of New Zealand, Sir Jerry Mateparae.

The last Kiwi selected for Otago

The **Governor General** of New Zealand, **Sir Jerry Mateparae**, had a surprise visit from a former Army colleague following the rugby league Test in Dunedin last Saturday night.

The visit was made by the last Otago selected Kiwi, **Trevor Patrick**, who represented New Zealand in two Tests in 1969 and 1970, and for more than 15 years now has called Australia his home.

Like Sir Jerry, Patrick was an Officer in the elite Special Air Service from the early 1970's after deciding that teaching was never going to be his chosen career.

These days a fit 67 year old that still looks like he could cause trouble to his opponents around his old positions of scrumhalf or standoff, Patrick was back in his old university town to attend the 30 year reunion

of the first New Zealand Universities side that went to England and France.

16 players along with the team manager attended the reunion along with other former NZU players and officials, including Patrick's first team manager Bruce Pert, who managed the first national student side to go overseas to Australia in 1969 along with his 1984 manager, John Haynes.

It was the first time that many had seen each other and included in the players besides Patrick were brothers Emil and Greg Vaafusuaga, Andrew Ah Kuoi, younger brother of former Kiwi Fred Ah Kuoi, and the current CEO of the New Zealand Institute of Sport, John Fiso.

The reunion began with a special Friday night dinner, followed by get togethers at various times over the remainder of the weekend.

Nobody cares about the Four Nations and international rugby league is irrelevant.

by **Corey Rosser**

That was a popular swarm of opinion which met the opening weekend of the first international league tournament to be played partly on Kiwi soil since the 2006 Tri Nations.

Those sharing that message were probably the same people who would have you believe the tournament was a mere formality.

That Australia would go unbeaten, that Samoa would finish last without so much as a whimper – and have a few cricket scores put on them along the way – and that the Kiwis and England would compete for the runner-up tag.

So much for that.

The opening night saw Samoa take England right to the edge in a thrilling encounter, while immediately following

that the Kiwis dismantled the world champion Kangaroos in clinical fashion. Through the six pool games the biggest winning margin was 26 points, while four of those matches were decided by six points or less – including two involving Samoa.

A total of 118,789 people passed through the gates to watch the pool stages, averaging out at 19,798 per game.

Those are hardly earth-shattering figures, but impressive still given the apparent lack of care fans had for the tournament in the first place.

On the television front the England v

Australia game was a ratings boom in the UK, raking up viewership 20 times the usual figure according to sources.

The really impressive part? It was played at 5am UK time!

In the end as widely predicted Samoa did finish last, but given their admirable performances against England and New Zealand, two games they were entitled to win, it doesn't seem fair to put that tag on them. Toa coach Matt Parish said he believed his side had kept the Four Nations alive with their enthusiastic performances and I am inclined to agree.

It is a real shame they will be replaced

by a European side for next year's Four Nations, just as they were starting to build some momentum as an international force. Overall it has been arguably the most-evenly contested and entertaining international tournament since the Tri Nations in 06, and has served as proof that test match rugby league still means a lot to a lot of people.

Nobody cares about the Four Nations and international rugby league is irrelevant? Mate, you're having a laugh.

Corey Rosser is a national correspondent for NRL.com, follow him on Twitter @CoreyRosser23

SAMOA'S SUCCESS SHOULD LEAD TO A PACIFIC ISLAND REP TEAM

by **John Deaker**

The Samoan Rugby League team's great performances during the Four Nations has added a lot to this year's tournament. It's also got people speculating more about the future of International rugby league and where the Pacific Islands fit in to that picture.

A combined Pacific Islands League team that would actually play against the Kiwis and Kangaroos is a mouth-watering prospect. Samoa only qualified for the Four Nations tournament back in May this year when they defeated Fiji 32-16. Samoa's improvement has followed that of Fiji who made the semi-final of last year's World Cup. Tonga would be able to add players like Konrad Hurrell and Fuifui Moimoi to the selection mix of a combined Island team. Not only would the Islanders form an intimidating and exciting team but it would be likely to give both Australia and New Zealand tough matches consistently.

The Samoa v Fiji match in Sydney this year got over 9,000 fans and it's likely any combined league team would be popular. Rugby union experimented with a Pacific Island team between 2004 and 2008 and it was very well received by the fans. The All Blacks 41-26 victory over the Islanders in 2004 was a memorable match because it displayed not only Polynesian flair at its best but how competitive a PI team could be against a full-strength All Black team. Unfortunately the popular and promising concept lost enthusiasm and the team made its last tour to Europe in 2008.

The rugby team's struggles were more off the field than on it. It's likely any Pacific Island rugby league side would encounter similar challenges to what the rugby team did. A Pacific Island NRL team might have better long-term prospects than a combined team trying to regularly fit itself into the International calendar. A team in the NRL may sound far-fetched but it has been mentioned in recent years as one consideration by the NRL if it elected to expand the league to 18 teams.

One other bit of Food-for-thought: the Indigenous Aboriginal teams match against the NRL All Stars team looks to no longer fit in the annual rugby league schedule due to the emergence of the Nines tournament. A Maori match against the Aboriginals seems like a logical matchup that could be considered to be played on New Zealand soil around State of Origin time. Yes, the Indigenous side would be missing many of its stars like Jonathon Thurston – but that may actually help to make the match more competitive just like we've seen in this year's Four Nations when Australia and New Zealand have been missing many of their best players

Leuluai out of Four Nations climax

Hooker Thomas Leuluai has been ruled out of the NZ Kiwis line-up for Saturday's Four Nations final at Wellington's Westpac Stadium.

The **Vodaone Warriors** utility has started in the front row for New Zealand's lead-up wins against Australia and England over the past three weeks, but sustained a shoulder injury – as well as a badly gashed face – during his last outing in Dunedin.

Tests this week showed he would not be fit to face the **Kangaroos** again in the final, so **Issac Luke** has been promoted from the bench, with utility **Lewis Brown** joining the playing line-up.

Otherwise, **Kiwis** coach **Stephen Kearney** has stuck to the same team that held out the English, taking the precaution of naming back **Gerard Beale** and forward **Bodene Thompson** as 18th and 19th men.

Several others emerged from the weekend with injury concerns, but **Tohu Harris** (shoulder), **Dean Whare** (foot) and **Jason Nightingale** (face) are all expected to line up as named.

The full **NZ Kiwis** team to face Australia in the Four Nations final at Wellington's Westpac Stadium on Saturday is:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Peta Hiku | 11 Simon Mannering |
| 2 Jason Nightingale | 12 Kevin Proctor |
| 3 Shaun Kenny-Dowall | 13 Jason Taumalolo |
| 4 Dean Whare | 14 Lewis Brown |
| 5 Manu Vatuvei | 15 Greg Eastwood |
| 6 Kieran Foran | 16 Martin Taupau |
| 7 Shaun Johnson | 17 Tohu Harris |
| 8 Jesse Bromwich | 18 Gerard Beale |
| 9 Issac Luke | 19 Bodene Thompson |
| 10 Adam Blair | |



RUGBY LEAGUE FOUR NATIONS 2014



Four Nations Final - Westpac Stadium, Wellington THIS SATURDAY

The Four Nations returns to New Zealand in 2014, the first time down under since the Kiwis won 16 – 12 with an exciting last minute try against Australia in 2010. This year's competition features New Zealand, Australia, England and the Pacific Island representatives Samoa.

The Experience Group has official hospitality on offer for matches at Westpac Stadium in Wellington.

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New Zealand Students side bow to the South Island

By Carey Clements

The New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students side went down 32-16 to the South Island in Dunedin last Saturday.



Waikato University second row Jason Whareaitu gets his jersey from NZUTSRL Life Member John Haynes.

The students went into the game with just three training sessions and with 13 new caps they got off to the worst possible start, conceding in the first minute.

The South Island were at 12-0 soon after and it quickly became 16-0 before the students regrouped, keeping their opponents scoreless for the rest of the half, and adding a try of their own.

In the second half the South Island shot out to a 28-4 lead, before the students rallied, piling on three tries of their own to get it back to 28-16. But the South Island

had the final say.

After the game, Southern Zone chairman John Brimble announced he would like the fixture to be an annual game to help develop both the South Island and NZUTSRL players.

South Island 32 (Maka Mohi 2, MacKenzie Haugh 2 Phil Wahngig, Phil Nati tries; Haugh 3 goals, penalty goal), NZ Universities and Tertiary Students 16 (Isaac Robinson 2, Sean McDowell, Chaz Brown tries). Halftime: South Island 16-4.

Young baseballers a get great win

A four-run seventh inning when all nine batters came to the plate made all the difference, as the **NZ Under 21 Diamond Blacks** got their first win and pulled off the biggest upset so far at the U21 world champs in Taiwan.

After a 7-2 loss to Italy, the team rallied to upset one of the pre-tournament favourites, winning 9-5, with three Kiwis recording multiple hit games, and pitcher **Roland Shaw** giving up only 2 runs on three hits.

The Kiwis gave up an early run in the bottom of the first, but it was the only time in the game they were behind, after replying with one run in the second and two more in the third innings, before stretching out the lead in the sixth—and the blowout four in the seventh inning

Mexico scored the rest of their runs with one in the fifth and three in the bottom of the ninth, making the final score look closer than it was. Right hander **Brendan Jones** came on to get the final out and record the save.

Mexico is ranked inside the top 15 countries in the world and Baseball NZ boss **Ryan Flynn** said it was a huge victory for NZ, currently ranked 25.

“This really is massive for our programme. Two years ago we were not a ranked nation. Every day this is changing. This is a proud day.”

But sadly a “Super Round Robin” spot was just three outs away for New Zealand when they went down to Korea.

Seattle-based Kiwi pitcher **Jimmy Boyce** pitched a one hit, 8-inning shutout to give the Kiwis a 1-0 lead going in to the top of the ninth after New Zealand catcher **Dewald De Klerk** scored on a wild. De Klerk had earlier walked and advanced to third on a **Scott Drinkwater** hit.

Boyce was in the groove for his eight innings but couldn't go any further, and four runs by Korea saw off the New Zealand challenge.

The loss put New Zealand in a three-way tie for the third qualifying spot in the group with Italy and Czech Republic, but it was the Czechs who qualified on a count back.


Hurry! Get your Tickets for the Final NOW from <http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=4NFINAL14> November 15, Four Nations Final, 8.45pm Westpac Stadium, Wellington

Calling all rugby league fans! You wanted more international rugby league and now you've got it, as four of the world's best compete for Four Nations glory this year.

See the best of the best battle it out in the blockbuster final in Wellington on November 15.

Who will be crowned 2014 Four Nations CHAMPIONS? Be there to see for yourself!

Four Nations Final - Kiwis vs Kangaroos




FOUR NATIONS FINAL
WESTPAC STADIUM WELLINGTON
NOVEMBER 15

Calling all rugby league fans! You wanted more international rugby league and now you've got it as four of the world's best rugby league playing nations compete for Four Nations glory this year.

See the best of the best battle it out in the blockbuster final in Wellington on November 15.

Who will be crowned 2014 Four Nations CHAMPIONS? Be there to see it for yourself!




Hospitality options available for this event

Host clients, entertain guests, organise a group of family & friends or treat yourself and book a Private Suite or Lounge Package. More information coming soon. Contact Ticketek Hospitality on 09 336 4118 or email us to register your interest.

| Categories | Price Per Ticket/Item* |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| A Reserve (includes Admit of 4) | \$45.00 - \$136.00 |
| B Reserve (includes Admit of 4) | \$20.00 - \$50.00 |
| C Reserve | \$10.00 - \$25.00 |

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Just ONE More



Shaun Johnson had a great game.

PHOTO: SHANE WENZLICK
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KIWI'S FLAGS \$5



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