



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

24 June 2015

#78

To subscribe or unsubscribe email: stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

Vodafone Warriors vs Gold Coast Titans

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.co.nz



Ben Matulino gets grabbed.



Bodene Thompson scores a try.



Chad Townsend on the run.



Konrad Hurrell celebrates his try.



Konrad Hurrell scoring his try.



Raymond Faitala-Mariner in action.



Raymond Faitala-Mariner scores a try.



Shaun Johnson converts his try.



The boys celebrating Bodene Thompson's try..

Bring On The Raiders

THE VODAFONE Warriors host Canberra on Saturday at Mt Smart at 5pm. The clash headlines another tripleheader for the club, which kicks off with the NYC clash at 12.40pm, followed by the Vodafone Warriors (third) taking on the Mounties (second) in the New South Wales Cup (2.40pm kick-off).

Coming back into the line-up for the Canberra contest are utility Tuimoala Lolohea and prop Albert Vete. Lolohea replaces right wing Ken Maumalo, who is out after leaving the field with an ankle injury early in the second half on Saturday night; and Vete, who was 18th man against the Titans, returns on the bench for his 12th appearance, replacing Sebastine Ikaiahifo.

The Vodafone Warriors are seeking their fifth straight win against the Raiders. In 33 clashes between the two sides they are just behind on the wins ledger 16-17 but have a 10-6 record in 16 matches at home. Heading into this round the home side is seventh with 16 points, with the Raiders ninth on 14.

Vodafone Warriors: *Sam Tomkins, Lolohea, Konrad Hurrell, Solomon Kata, Manu Vatavei, Chad Townsend, Shaun Johnson, Jacob Lillyman, Nathan Friend, Ben Matulino, Bodene Thompson, Ryan Hoffman, Simon Mannering.*
Interchange: *Siliva Havili, Raymond Faitala-Mariner, Charlie Gubb, Vete.*

Surely That's Offside

The Titans were awarded a try that plenty of people are still saying shouldn't have been given. Eddy Pettybourne was well offside, coming back from an earlier tack-

le, when he picked up a Vodafone Warriors offload that ended in the Titans going over.

The TV commentators were laughing about it, because they thought it was so funny, the crowd – or at least the Warriors fans – were shouting offside, and half a dozen players, all of whom had stopped dead as it appeared so obvious were appealing.

Referee Matt Cecchin ruled no try but the video referee ruled it was. Pettybourne was onside because he had covered more than 10 metres getting to where he did, but to be fair, I could understand how the Warriors were incredulous. Everyone else was. Still, play to the whistle...

Eyes Right

Did you notice that while our left edge has been our attacking weapon throughout the season, all the action was on the right on Saturday against the Titans? All six tries came in that direction.

Some Outstanding Performances

Coming out of his State of Origin outing, Jacob Lillyman was exceptional, carrying the ball 20 times, making 196 metres and also 29 tackles without a miss. And big Ben Matulino was also colossal, making 205 metres from 21 runs, with 16 tackles.

At the back Manu Vatavei topped 150 metres from 17 runs.

Key to the performance though was our completion rate and defence. Making just six errors, we completed 33 of 40 sets and everything flowed off that. The total metres favoured us 1734-1204, total runs 184-124, the line breaks 6-2 and we made just 276 tackles to Gold Coast's 355, missing only 16 tackles to the Titans' 31.

More of that against the Raiders please! The Raiders lost 21-20 at the death to competition leaders North Queensland on Saturday to fall out of the eight, so do not expect them to be any kind of easybeat.

Johnson Joins The 500 Club

Johnson scored two tries and had a perfect six from six from the boot to take his career points tally to 511 as the Vodafone Warriors completely dominated the second spell. We scored six tries all in all, and Johnson had a hand in five of them.

Old Boys Haunt Former Club

Hooker Nathan Friend and second rower Bodene Thompson both had the satisfaction of scoring against their former club in a victory that not only snapped a run of two losses but also carried the Vodafone Warriors back into the top eight, leap frogging – you guessed it – the Titans.

How Unlucky Can One Guy Get?

Some of you will know that Charlie Gubb is a young man I have a lot of time for, and his father is a pretty decent bloke too, often turning up in the lounge all the way from Wellington to support his boy.

So when Charlie had the line at his mercy for his first NRL try I was over the moon. But the Gold Coast's defensive desperation stopped him getting the ball to the line, when both he and Cecchin thought he had.

He was desperately unlucky, and it was about to get even worse.

Continued on next page...

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In the second half the Vodafone Warriors maintained their composure, built pressure and hurtling on to another short ball, Gubb's eyes lit up once more with the line right there – only to be halted again.

It was some of the most desperate defence I have ever seen and there was no more unlucky man in Cbus on Saturday than Charlie. His day will come I am sure of it.

Welcome Back Sam

Wasn't it good to see fullback Sam Tomkins make his return against the Titans?

The England international had a stint on the sideline with a knee injury picked up in the third-round against Parramatta back in March, and then in his comeback against Newcastle on May 31 he aggravated the injury.

While there was optimism he would play against South Sydney and the Roosters he was ruled out both times.

Sam Tomkins' presence made a big difference. He provided a sense of order and calm, as well as adding a dimension to our attack with his ability to link with Johnson and Chad Townsend.



Sam Tomkins

Juniors Back Into Fourth

A 28-20 win over the Titans has lifted the Vodafone Junior Warriors back into the NYC's top four.

The defending premiers went into the 15th-round clash in sixth and conceded the opening try but quickly responded to claim a lead they then held for the rest of the match.

Rookie centre Junior Pauga got his fourth try in six and left wing Tomas Aoake his 14th in 14 appearances.

On Saturday night they're back at home to face a Canberra side running eighth in the competition.

Milestones To Celebrate

Two milestone achievements will provide a big highlight on Saturday night, with Vodafone Warriors prop Jacob Lillyman in line to make his 200th career appearance.

In his seventh season with the Vodafone Warriors, Lillyman will make his 138th appearance for the club after earlier playing 62 times for North Queensland.

And second rower Bodene Thompson will play his 100th NRL game.

Thompson is in his first season with us after representing Gold Coast and Wests Tigers.

Lillyman, who made his 10th Origin appearance for the Maroons last week, is on target to top fellow Queenslander Michael Luck's record for the most games for the club by an Australian player (Luck played 150 times from 2006-2012).

He goes into the match in career-best form after carting the ball 204 metres from 20 runs when he was used off the bench last Saturday.

Thompson has played all 14 matches so far this season and he has also been in superb form collecting back-to-back players' player of the day awards after the wins against Parramatta and Newcastle.

"Jake has been a terrific servant," said Vodafone Warriors head coach Andrew McFadden.

"He has all the qualities we want to see in our players. He puts in every time he takes the field and is consistently among our best. It's great to see him reaching the 200-game mark.

"And Bodene has been a great acquisition for the club as we expected he would be. He works so hard and is adding more to his game as the season goes on."

Time To Don Your Onesie

The Vodafone Warriors stage their annual #OnesieParty when they host Canberra at Mt Smart on Saturday.

Hundreds of Vodafone Warriors members and fans were kitted out in onesies for last year's inaugural mid-winter bash and we are being encouraged to turn out in bigger numbers this time.

The chance to dress up supports JAMMIES IN JUNE, the campaign run by Vodafone Warriors charity partner Kidz First Children's Hospital, which aims to reduce high rates of preventable illnesses by providing children in need with pyjamas.

Kidz First is again appealing to the public to make donations or to buy new pyjamas to help with the cause.

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And this one we all need to support, if only because our esteemed editor David Kemeys, who puts in who knows how many hours every week to bring you this newsletter - and has done since it started - works at Kidz First.

So if you have ever enjoyed the newsletter, you could say thank you to David by donating.

Members and fans will also be able to donate money and/or new pyjamas at Mt Smart next Saturday night.

There will be drop-off points in the community area in the D Zone at the northern end of the ground, and also in the Corporate Lounge in the East Stand. Gold coin donations can be made at all gates.

Kitted out in onesies, Vodafone Warriors Konrad Hurrell, Solomone Kata and Sam Lisone were captured on camera promoting the #OnesieParty at Sylvia Park last week. Check them out on this link. Hurrell, Kata and Lisone in onesies

On Monday Kidz First ambassadors Manu Vatuvei and Glen Fisiiahi plus their team-mates Ben Henry and Albert Vete joined children and caregivers for a special Jammies in June party at the hospital. They were all involved in a range of activities and took the time to visit wards to see patients.

Vodafone Warriors community relations manager Petrece Kesha encouraged all members and fans to get behind the #OnesieParty theme.

“We had a fantastic response last year with so many members and fans turning up in their onesies and we’re challenging them to do even better this time,” she said.

“It’s a great way of showing support for Jammies in June as well as having some fun on what is a big night for the club.”

Better still, you could even turn up in your very own Vodafone Warriors onesie. A special Vodafone Warriors onesie was marketed for the first time last year and a 2015 design is on sale now. Just click this link to check it out. Buy your Vodafone Warriors onesie

To organise Jammies in June pyjama drop-offs or for further information contact the Middlemore Foundation on +64 9 270 8808 or email ankita.luthra@middlemore.co.nz

Saturday Night’s Timetable

12.30pm - Gates open

12.40pm - Vodafone Junior Warriors v Canberra Raiders (NYC)

2.40pm - Vodafone Warriors v Mounties (NSW Cup)

5pm - Vodafone Warriors v Canberra Raiders (NRL)

Buy tickets now - Vodafone Warriors v Canberra Raiders



Calling all Vodafone Warriors Supporters

Who want to go to Wellington



WHAT COULD be better than hanging out with your mates, having a few bebies and watching NRL?

Not much we think, so join us on our very own overnight return fan flight and you can be part of the crowd that witness the Vodafone Warriors take on St George Illawarra Dragons at the impressive Westpac Stadium on Saturday 8th August.

Our premium package includes:

Return flights from Auckland to Wellington watching the Vodafone Warriors in style from the comfort of the premium Sir Peter Leitch Lounge at Westpac Stadium, one nights accommodation at Rydges Wellington, return transfers from Wellington Airport to Rydges Hotel.

Price: \$439 per person (share twin) \$539 per person (single)

We also have just the return flight and game ticket option available for only \$279.00 per person.

Saturday 8th August

Depart Auckland 12.00pm

Arrive Wellington 1.00pm

Sunday 9th August

Depart Wellington 1.20pm

Arrive Auckland 2.20pm

Book online at www.grabaseat.co.nz or contact grabaseat@airnz.co.nz if you have any queries.



Manu's New Job?

Former Warrior Tony Tatupu who is now a police officer. This could be Manu's new job after football.



Warriors vs Titans Match

ON SATURDAY 20th June 2015 I was lucky enough to attend the Warriors v Titans match hosted by the people at BLK sports wear. Whilst enjoying the meal, view and game I meet two ex rugby League lads Nathan ANTONIK and Matt (side show Bob) PETERSON. Nathan was luck or unlucky depending on which way you want to view it by being a founding and departing member of the South Queensland Crushers, yes the infamous 2nd Brisbane team that said that they were going to CRUSH YA. Nathan was lucky enough to play with 2 great NZ players at the Crushers by the name of Dave WATSON and Grant YOUNG. Matty was an inaugural Gold Coast Titan playing 21 games of his 232 professional career games spanning the globe.



From the left Nathan Antonike, Nathan Friend and Matt (side show Bob) Peterson.

Both now have strong ties in the Gold Coast region, Nathan being a Police Officer running Project Booyah which is a program for at risk youth and Matty owning and operating a local tyre shop. Most weekends they support their local footy clubs, Nathan is coaching coordinator at Runaway Bay Junior Rugby League club.

Great night was had by all culminating with a catch up with everyone's friend Nathan FRIEND in the sheds.

Check this out!

Great article on Gary Clark former kiwi and Canterbury coach as well as a good mate of mine. On the Canterbury Rugby League site. [Check it out here.](#)



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Vodafone Warriors Fans at the Casey Warriors

MY NAME is Pera Panga ex player coach from the Otara Scorpions. Now living in Melbourne my boys all play for the Casey Warriors located South Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne and we all Vodafone Warriors supporters hard...



Left: Phillip Panga ex Otahuhu/Otara Scorpions



Left Wynyard Panga ex Otara Scorpions, Right Me.

Right: Truman Tararo ex Manurewa/Otara Scorpions.

Menu for Mad Butcher Lounge, Warriors vs Raiders



Super Deal Only \$19.50 Served At 4Pm
Roast Lamb With Garlic & Rosemary Gravy
Garden Peas & Carrots
Roast Potatoes
Green Salad
Bread Rolls & Butter



On game day, wear your Vodafone Warriors gear at Wendy's and get a

FREE FROSTY FLOAT

with any other purchase*

*Not valid in conjunction with any other offer.





All The News From Oz

LAST WEEK I was in Melbourne, a city known for its love of sport, and in particular Aussie rules. But I was there for the State of Origin in particular.

There were more than 91,000 sports fans at the Melbourne MCG, and when you have that number of people, the atmosphere is always going to be electric.

And the fans were not disappointed, the New South Wales Blues evening up the three-game series with a hard fought but deserved 26-18 win over Queensland's Maroons.

The TV ratings go crazy for the Origin games every year and 2015 has been no exception. Games one and two have been the highest and second highest rating shows on Australian television this year. And you can bet that No3 in Brisbane on July 8 will get even bigger numbers.

To say the decider is going to be something of a showstopper is a bit like saying I like meat.

So it will be state against state, and mate against mate, with the Aussies just loving the battle. And it's not just them.

In Melbourne there were more than 3000 Kiwis over for the game that we know about, and who knows how many more who live in Australia.

Of course I was not unhappy to go on to the Gold Coast and watch my beloved Vodafone Warriors crush the Titans either.

Congratulations To Sam

I read in the Aussie papers that former Souths superstar Sam

Burgess is getting married to journalist Phoebe Hooke. Apparently they got engaged in Greece, where they were on holiday. They met in Aussie, but Phoebe moved to the UK to be with Sam, where he went to play rugby.

Beau Goes Panto

NRL Footy Show funnyman Beau Ryan has swapped the microphone for his stage debut in pantomime as Aladdin in a show called Aladdin and his Wondrous Lamp.

There was a great picture of him in the papers when I was in Oz. He should be used to people shouting "Look out, he's behind you" at least.

Beau said in the story that he was bricking it and apparently he has to dance to MC Hammer's Can't Touch This. Now that would be worth seeing.

Mat Puts His Dancing Shoes On

Former league and rugby star Mat Rogers is appearing on Australia's version of Dancing With The Stars. He might have been twinkle toes on the pitch but he reckons he is an awful dancer. Now living on the Gold Coast, Mat, who is a brilliant bloke, is teamed up with professional dancer Ash-Leigh Hunter, but says he is so far outside his comfort zone that he feels sick!

The Skinny On Mad Dog

Former Newcastle Knights great Adam "Mad Dog" MacDougall has written a book about, wait for it, dieting. He says the death of a close friend inspired him to come up with a diet plan that works for real men.

His mate had it all, lovely wife, great kids, nice career, but he also

had a big gut, and at just 44 he died.

Mad Dog got to work and his book The Man Plan, has just been published.

Cop That

The latest recruit to the NRL's integrity unit comes with a background in the police and league.

Facing down bikies, running the armed holdup unit and sorting out sex crimes were all part of the job. Playing State of Origin and international league for Australia were all part of everyday life too.

But before you go thinking, sounds like one tough man, the person we are talking about is Queensland State of Origin and Jillaroo captain Karyn Murphy, and she says it like it is. "I won't cop for bad boys." You can't say it straighter can you?

Maloney On The Move

Former Vodafone Warrior James Maloney has penned a three-year deal with the Sharks. He says it was one of the toughest calls he's made because the Roosters were so good to him. Didn't he say the same thing when he left Mt Smart?

Woods Wanted

Tigers and Blues star Aaron Wood was offered a \$500,000 a year deal to join Manly in 2013 but stayed with the Tigers. After his State of Origin heroics, what price do you reckon now? I really rate the bloke, who was described in the Aussie papers as Mr Popular, and the hair apparent.



The King Says Enough

League legend Wally “The King” Lewis doesn’t beat about the bush. He has been a lone voice for bringing in Ben Hunt to replace Daly Cherry-Evans at State of Origin level. Wally reckons it is crazy that Cherry-Evans is still regarded as untouchable, and wants the selectors to at least consider the in-form Hunt.

Broncos Fancied

Even the Sydney papers are beginning to sit up and take notice of the Brisbane Broncos. After they beat the Storm 14-12 Peter Badel in the Telegraph wrote this simple first paragraph to his story: This wasn’t just a regulation win. This was the type of victory that wins premierships. We’ll see, but would you bet against super coach Wayne Bennett back at his beloved Broncos?

Kiwi Rooster Still Flying

Shaun Kenny-Dowall – or SKD as he is known – is in line to become the Roosters record try-scorer. He has 103 and is zeroing in on Anthony Minichello’s 139. Sounds a big gap, but SKD is averaging 11 a season.

Has The Bubble Burst?

Former Warriors coach Ivan Cleary might be starting to come under scrutiny. The papers are asking why, since 2010 when Gus Gould came in and declared it was a five-year plan to be No 1, things have not gotten better at the Panthers..

Back then they finished second and had an average crowd of 13,000. With end in sight of those five years Gould talked about, the Panthers average finish is 10th,

and the crowd is down to a little over 11,000.

Buttbean Wants Gallen Or SBW

Former North Sydney prop turned boxer, now called Buttbean, has called out Paul Gallen or Sonny Bill Williams after knocking out two men in one night. He reckons both would go the same way. “I want the chance to beat up Gallen,” he said. “I’m sure every Queenslander would love it.”

News No-one Wants To Hear

I was devastated to read Sunshine Coast Falcons prop James Ackerman has died after being injured playing our great game. It’s a reminder that winning or losing is important sure, but it is just a game. Obviously I did not know this young man, just 25, but it was a terrible tragedy for all concerned and my heart goes out to the family.



James Ackerman with his two children, Millie and Ollie.

Foran Fury

The really big news has been the debacle around the move of Kiwis international Kieran Foran from Manly to the Eels. What a catastrophe this is for all. Talk about a massive cock-up. I won’t get into it here, because the story seems to change every day, but I will say this. Whoever is responsible should get the boot.

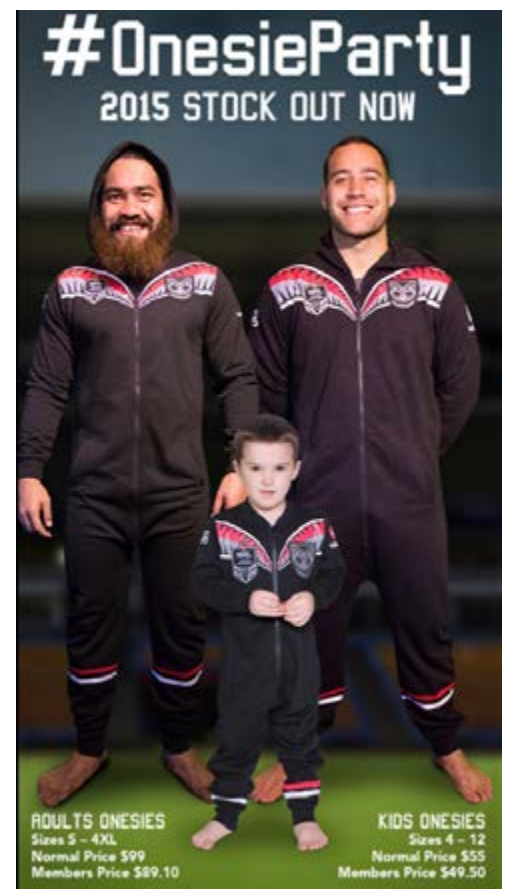
Origin For Sale?

We fail to grasp what a big prop-

erty the State of Origin is in Australia. Apparently the big TV networks are about to go to war to secure the rights to screen it, and the value has been put at a whopping \$100million. That’s serious cash in anyone’s language.

Big Willie’s Time Up?

Love ‘em or hate ‘em big Willie Mason is being tipped to be cut by Manly at the end of the season. That would end a 16-year run in the NRL, and say what you like, that is some career. Willie is not sure. Even at 35, he says he’s got another year in him.



[Warriors Store:](#)

[Click Here](#)



Photos from Australia



Always great to catch up with the boys.



Andy from Brisbane was all geared up at the members function after the Titans game.



Great to catch up with our loyal fans at the game.



How was this for a date on the Gold Coast.



Janice even caught up with the legend Ruben Wiki at Broad Beach.



Jerry Seuseu and family, Wife Kim, (daughter) Mireya, Lazaro and Carlos.



Love meeting fans like Susan. So proud of her Vodafone warriors Jersey. I even got her a discount on her scarf.



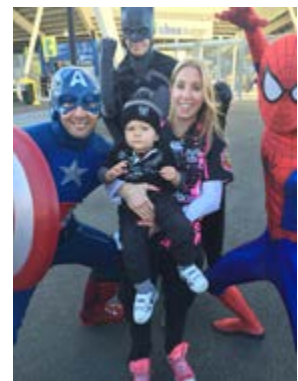
Our fans were out in force at the Titans game.



Spotted this guy at the Carrara markets on Sunday Steve and Ollie Berry all geared up.



Was great to have these two former warriors at the members after match function Mark Tookey and Kevin Champion two top blokes.



The fans young and old were at the game.

CHECK OUT THE NRL FOOTY SHOW

Tonight on Sky Sport 2 at 10.30pm the, replayed Friday on Sky Sport 1 at 12 noon and on Sky Sport 2 at 7.30pm. It's worth checking out.

The Butcher loves it



Exclusive Images From The Members Function After The Titans Game - Photos courtesy www.photosport.co.nz

IT WAS fantastic to have 5 former warriors at our members function after the game. Gordon Gibbons did a fantastic job of MCing and keeping everything rolling. The players were fantastic. They even stayed longer than they had to accommodate the fans. Everyone who went had a ball. Including the Butcher.



Former Warriors Grant Young.



Ex Warrior Sione Faumuina talking to the crowd.



MC Gordon Gibbons and me telling someone off for talking.



Former Warrior Mark Tookey has Gordon Gibbons in stitches.



Kevin Campion former Warrior



Clinton Toopi former Warrior.



Simon Mannering signing posters for the fans.



Proud Warriors fans.



Everyone poses for a photo.

I would like to say a big thank you to the fantastic team at Photosport. They provide the newsletter with their photos for us to use throughout.

Check out their website: www.photosport.co.nz

Take a look at their photos and support them by buying a few. They are top people!

Your Old Mate
Sir Peter Leitch




Black Sticks Women Remain Unbeaten

The Black Sticks Women have continued their winning ways at the FIH World League Semi-Final with a decisive 5-0 win over India.

A total of 31 goal attempts highlights that the Kiwis played their trademark attacking game, pouncing on every opportunity to turn over the ball and counter-attack.

Midfielder Gemma Flynn who had a four goal haul in the opening match, bagged another two and was a stand-out player in today's game.

But both Flynn and coach Mark Hager agree the basics need to be improved if they are to get more wins in the tougher matches ahead.

"We are under no illusion, we are probably not going to get as many chances as we have in the last two games. So whatever chances we do get against Belgium and Australia, we need to finish them off and be really clinical," said Hager.

"We will watch Belgium play Australia tomorrow (local time) and that will give us a chance to see both teams in action. But in the end we will just concentrate on ourselves and getting our own structures and patterns correct."

Flynn got the scoring underway in the 10th minute, picking up a high rebound from the keeper and batting it into the goal.

Early on in the second quarter, the Indian keeper was forced to make a save and lying on the ground with the ball at her feet, Canterbury's Olivia Merry stepped over the keeper and tapped it across the line.

Merry almost got a double in the third quarter but her attempt bounced off the post and Flynn once again swooped in to make it count.

Flynn's impact on the game continued when she

passed to Kirsten Pearce who fired it into the goal in the 52nd minute to give the Kiwis a 4-0 lead.

The opportunities kept coming for the Black Sticks in the fourth quarter. It was a piece of brilliance from Pearce, who moving away from the goal and at the top of the circle, turned and with a reverse stick shot and pin-point accuracy made it 5-0.

It was Canterbury's midfielder Jordan Grant's 50th international test match today.

The Black Sticks next clash is against Australia at 6am on Friday (NZ time), with LIVE coverage on SKY Sport 1. The Kiwis then face the host Belgium in their final pool-play game.

A top four finish at the World League Semi-Final would earn the Kiwis a spot at the World League Final at the end of the year, while the tournament also doubles as an opportunity to qualify for Rio with a top three placing securing an automatic berth.

Vote for your favourite Black Sticks Men's and Women's player from the FIH World League Semi-Final and help decide the 2015 People's Choice Award winners.

BLACK STICKS 5: (Gemma Flynn x2, Olivia Merry, Kirsten Pearce x2)

India 0

Halftime: Black Sticks 2-0



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Week in Northland Sport

By Ben Francis



Rugby Union

OTAMATEA FOR the second straight week have pulled off massive upset in round 11 of the Bayless Southern District Premiers on the weekend. Fresh off handing Welsford their first defeat last week, Otamatea continued their strong form and beat Mid Northern 16-15 which is now their fourth straight victory. Both Mid Northern and Welsford were tied a top the standings heading into the round on 42 competition points. With Mid Northern losing, Welsford now hold a four point cushion over their biggest rivals after they beat winless Kamo 46-0 in Welsford. Other results in round eleven saw Old Boys Marist claiming a 24-14 win over HoraHora, Mid Western claiming a dominant 29-7 win over Waipu and Hikuranga won a low scoring 14-7 win over the Western Sharks.

Rugby League

ALL FOUR games were played in Round 13 of the Scott Electrical Premiership over the weekend. We may have seen some playoff footy take place on the weekend after all the top four teams played each other this weekend. Hikurangi went into round 13 in second place and they had a big win over third placed Portland 42-8. That now puts Hikurangi tied atop the standings after Moerewa (who were first at the start of the round) went down to fourth placed Muriwhenua 30-16. Both Moerewa and Hikurangi are tied atop the standings on 20 competition points, four points clear of Portland and Muriwhenua on 16 competition points. Both Takahiwai and Hokianga are one point out of a top four spot after they both claimed wins on the weekend. Takahiwai had a dominant 58-0 win over HoraHora ending any mathematical chance of them making the playoffs while Hokianga had a hard fought 36-30 win over a spirited Northern Wairoa team.

Three young Northland Rugby League players have been selected to trial for the NZRL 16s and 18s National Representative team in Rotorua from July 12th – 15th Te Kahi Nathan (Centre) and Brody Tamarua (Loose Forward – Standoff) both from Muriwhenua Falcons have both been chosen for the Under 16s trials while Caleb Atkins (Standoff) from Otaika Eagles and Hikurangi Stags has been selected for trails in the Under 18s. Caleb has impressed through his career captaining the Adam Blair XIII in their annual match against the Warriors development squad. The trials are for the National Teams to play their Australian Counter-Parts in October.

Pool

ON SATURDAY while all the great weekend sport was on, the Dargaville Volunteer Fire Brigade hosted the annual Northland Fire Brigades Sub Association Pool Competition. 34 teams from fire stations all over Northland traveled down to the event. In a very exciting day which saw six pool tables bought into the event, two old Dargaville Boys Jim Vallance and Gary Murdoch claimed victory.

ARL Round 10 Results

Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Premiership

Papakura 56 Otara 6
Howick 34 Northcote 14
Mangere East 34 Otahuhu 18
Marist 28 Glenora 22
Mt Albert 22 Pt Chevalier 0

SAS Sharman Cup

Bay Roskill 23 Te Atatu 28
East Coast Bays 14 Manurewa 6
Hibiscus Coast 8 Pakuranga 30
New Lynn 30 Glenfield 24
Papatotoe 4 Mt Wellington 50
Richmond 28 Ellerslie 18

Waitemata 25 Manukau 20

Ponsonby bye



Sea Eagles go top as Lions maul Pirates

A WEEK AFTER they suffered a shock loss to Howick the Mt Albert Lions have bounced back into form with a comprehensive 22-0 shutout of arch rivals Pt Chevalier.

In the first Maori TV feature game of the year Mt Albert were in fine form in the wet weather, crushing Pt Chevalier to avenge their loss to the Pirates earlier this year.

That result sees Papakura assume the outright lead of the Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Premiership for the first time in two years, following their 56-6 rout of Otara.

Richie Blackmore's Papakura side have now graduated to emerge as a genuine rival for Pt Chevalier and Mt Albert heading into the business end of the season.

In the other Round 10 games Marist got up over Glenora 28-22 to assume fourth position on the ladder, and after a sluggish start to the year are shaping as the favourites to claim the final playoff spot.

Northcote remain in danger of dropping down to the SAS Sharman Cup following another loss, going down 34-14 to the improving Howick Hornets.

Mangere beat Otahuhu 34-18 to round the weekend out.

There is plenty of action on again this weekend, so get out to your local field and support some grassroots footy.

Don't forget two selected games each round are being broadcast on Maori TV through the second round, with this week's televised games being Otahuhu v Howick and Glenora v Mangere East. Check the full draw and television details below.



Round 11 Appliance Shed Fox

Memorial Draw

Otahuhu v Howick @ Harold Moody Park – 11.00am. (broadcast on Maori TV at 3.30pm Saturday)

Glenora v Mangere East @ Harold Moody Park – 2.30pm. (broadcast on Maori TV at 3.30pm Sunday)

Northcote v Mt Albert @ Birkenhead War Memorial – 2.30pm.

Otara v Marist @ Ngati Otara Park – 2.30pm.

Pt Chevalier v Papakura @ Walker Park – 2.30pm.



The Richmond Rovers premier team enjoyed a 28-18 win over Ellerslie in Rd 10.



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I'll Still Remember Kirwan As A Great Player And A Great Man

By John Deaker



DURING THE week Sir John Kirwan stepped down as coach of the Blues. Regardless of whether he coaches again or not, when I think of him in the future the predominant lasting impression I'll have of Kirwan is of his stunning feats as a great winger and his even more significant work in mental health since retiring as a player.

As a young boy Kirwan gave me irreplaceable enjoyment on the Eden Park terraces as he dazzled defences at the peak of his playing powers for Auckland's successful Ranfurly Shield-holding sides. Kirwan has also inspired me through his openness regarding his battle with depression (especially the great read 'All Blacks Don't Cry: A story of Hope') and his impact on people has been much more important in this area than his performances on the field ever were.

The word legacy is overused – and misused - when discussing great sportspeople. You often hear casual observers (mainly from the couch!) demand athletes retire to 'protect their legacy.' Many people have suggested that Kirwan's failure as coach of the Blues has diminished the legacy he had built up as a great player of the game. Those people are entitled to that view – but if they had their way those same people would probably have preferred Richie McCaw to hang up his boots after the 2011 Rugby World Cup and many other people to retire earlier than they did.

Those who worry about player's legacies too often forget that sportspeople are not robots. They overlook that someone like McCaw has always loved playing rugby and that the challenge of pushing on when his body is no longer at it's peak is not only something he's entitled to do but also something we should praise.

People who expected Kirwan to step down from the Blues' coaching role earlier than he did failed to acknowledge what makes Kirwan tick - and that the perseverance which made him successful in other areas of his life was a key factor in why he hung in with the Blues when many other people would have given up much earlier.

I admire Kirwan for what he tried to do with the Blues. He gave it his best shot and he's not the first 'good man' (Pat Lam being another very recent one) to fail with the team. It's good that he's stepped aside now because hanging in any longer (even shuffling sideways to the rumoured 'Director of Rugby' role) would have been bad for the franchise, bad for many supporters mental health - and ultimately bad for Kirwan's mental health too!

By stepping aside (or getting pushed) now Kirwan has left a clear path for Tana Umaga to bring the same ownership and accountability to the role that Kirwan was able to have. A 'quick fix' for the Blues doesn't appear to be on the cards and it's likely we'll be constantly reminded early in his tenure as coach how Umaga hasn't done the 'hard yards' of coaching (like Kirwan) prior to his Blues' appointment.

Umaga has nothing to lose and it's fully understandable that he's excited about the role and the great opportunity it could potentially be for his coaching career. Player recruitment and retention are two key areas that Kirwan failed in that Umaga has a good chance of performing better at. Whether he can succeed as a Head Coach at Super rugby level is a huge gamble though and a move that it's surprising a franchise that has struggled for stability is willing to take. This is a franchise whose management is in disarray though and putting Umaga at the helm is possibly viewed as at least buying them back some short-term credibility for their shop window.

Long-term, the question-marks have to be there whether Umaga can do any better than those who've gone before him - especially with the management setup currently in place. For the sake of the Blues' and NZ rugby (yes it is still New Zealand's biggest catchment area) we can only hope that unlike Kirwan, Umaga is able to turn things round and then be remembered as a great player who was ALSO able to become a great coach.

Out of This World

By John Coffey QSM



IT TAKES a long time to travel non-stop from Orlando to Christchurch, via Atlanta, Dallas and Sydney, but it is always good to get home from an extensive overseas trip. Even if it means swapping the almost oppressive heat of Florida for the frosts and snow of our South Island.

Spending six weeks in the United States enabled me to catch up with my sister in Troy, New York state, where she has lived for more than 40 years, and the American branch of our family. Staying with her was a relaxing break between one bus tour of eastern USA and Canada and another in the south from New Orleans to Orlando.

North America is a continent of great contrasts and many physical highlights. Among them were:

The stark reality of San Francisco's former escape-proof Alcatraz prison in the shadow of the Golden Gate bridge;

The grandeur of the magnificent Niagara Falls when viewed from the Canadian side and the unique Frenchness of Quebec City and Montreal;

The stubbornly humble lifestyle of the Amish people in Lancaster county;

The sheer magnitude of Washington's Smithsonian museums, including the zoo with its Giant Pandas;

New Orleans, with its own French quarter, breath-taking World War II museum, and vast traffic along the Mississippi River;

Listening to the blues at B B King's bar, and rock music at Jerry Lee Lewis' bar, both on Beale Street in Memphis;

Country and western music in Nashville, made more memorable by a night at the Grand Ole Opry;

Everything in the stately city of Savannah, Georgia, notably its grand residences, and the bars and restaurants along River Street;

Orlando, where attractions such as the Kennedy Space Centre took us out of this world and Sea World dipped us deep into the ocean.

Our return trip included a 17-hour leg from Dallas to Sydney, the longest of all commercial flights. But it became another highlight, thanks to a Qantas business class upgrade arranged by our daughter who flies with Qantas subsidiary, Jetstar.

Sports-wise, there was an enjoyable day at the baseball in Washington, and live telecasts of American Pharoah winning horse racing's Triple Crown and the Golden State Warriors triumphing in the NBA finals.

Contrary to popular opinion, most Americans we met knew something about New Zealand. That was not always the case, but we have accompanied them to some exotic locations (Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq etc) in recent times. The Yanks celebrate their military personnel, asking them to stand and be applauded at most events we attended.

After the frustrations of following the Black Caps and Warriors via laptop – forever having to calculate time differences between the USA, England, Australia and New Zealand – it was great to see some live cricket and rugby league on television at home last weekend.

There is truly nothing anywhere to match Shaun Johnson's sidestep. He would not be out of place at the Kennedy Space Centre, for his footwork is really out of this world!



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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 16 ISSUE...

Shaun Johnson's quest to be the best

FEATURES

- The Warriors and Kiwis hopes rest quite firmly on **Shaun Johnson's** form, but the halfback isn't overwhelmed by the pressure and believes he's on his way into developing into the premier No.7 everyone believes he can be;
- **Chris Sandow** has had his share of headlines in recent weeks. Matt Logue sat down and analysed his claims of being able to play his own game and whether it is justified;
- Is the **Origin period** really so damaging to a team's chances of making the finals? We have the numbers on who performs best at this time and what record you need to take out of it to keep your hopes alive;
- The **Brisbane Broncos** put in one of the most impressive defensive displays ever against Melbourne last Sunday. Brent Tate sees shades of the efforts that won them the premiership in 2006;
- **Adam MacDougall** learnt plenty while playing elite rugby league and he's put his knowledge of diet and training into a book to help with a reasonable approach to health and fitness;

PLUS... **Damien Lovelock** reflects on the greatness and personality that was Frenchman Puig Aubert; **Matt Elliott** looks back on the week and the good things that have happened in rugby league; **Nathan Brown** analyses the two leading teams – Brisbane and North Queensland – and why they are dominating the comp.

AND: Official team lists, Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Souths v Manly, Who's that kid? Penrith's Brent Naden, lower grade reviews, News: Bryce Cartwright almost lucky to play again, Cowboys keeping Tamou, Dan Carter's NRL work, DCE says let it be; Top 8 ways to get through a long season; and Origin II poster and Game Two review; Cowboys v Eels cheerleaders.



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