

THE FRONT ROW

L.U. LEAGUE
UNLIMITED

2023 NRL & NRLW GRAND FINALS

VOLUME 4 - ISSUE 31



2023 GRAND FINAL

NRL GRAND FINAL
PENRITH v BRISBANE

NRLW GRAND FINAL
NEWCASTLE v GOLD COAST

GRAND FINAL DAY MATCH PROGRAMME · INCLUDES FIXTURES, TEAMLISTS, RESULTS FOR UK, NSWRL, QRL

THE PROGRAMME

GRAND FINAL DAY COMPANION

- TEAM LISTS
- PREVIEWS
- MATCH DETAILS & STATS

NRL GRAND FINAL

NRLW GRAND FINAL

NRL STATE CHAMPS

FROM THE UK

SUPER LEAGUE PLAYOFFS - Eliminators
CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS - Eliminators



SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER

ACCOR STADIUM

1:50PM

NRL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BRISBANE TIGERS v
SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

3:55PM

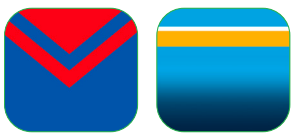
NRLW GRAND FINAL

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS v
GOLD COAST TITANS

7:30PM

NRL GRAND FINAL

PENRITH PANTHERS v
BRISBANE BRONCOS



Thanks to RugbyLeagueProject.org for their support and use of various statistics throughout this publication.

THIS EDITION: MANAGERS Steven Williams & Coby Delaney **EDITOR** Tim Costello **CONTRIBUTORS** Andrew Ferguson, Shawn Dollin, AJ Lucantonio, Rob Crosby, Aidan Edgecomb, Kelly Hollis.

We'd like to thank all our writers throughout 2023 for stellar contributions. Contact us by email - media@leagueunlimited.com. LeagueUnlimited.com © 2023.

NRL GRAND FINAL: OUR SAY

One by one, our contributors share their tips for the big one on Sunday night - the winner & margin, Clive Churchill Medal winner and First Tryscorer in the Panthers-Broncos clash. We've also asked each of our team to share a moment that defined 2023 for them - with some interesting responses!

ADAM HUXTABLE TIP: Broncos by 8 | CCM: Payne Haas | FTS: Kotoni Staggs | Moment of 2023: The Wests Tigers haven't been a serious organisation for much of their existence, and it's not an exaggeration to suggest that these past two seasons will be looked at as rock bottom in years to come. Everyone knows this and feels sorry for the Tigers to varying degrees, which made their 66-point demolition of the Cowboys in Round 12 a special night for Rugby League in 2023. Their attack was clicking, the Leichhardt crowd was up and about, and for a brief moment the NRL world was teleported to a universe where the Tigers, having also won two of their last three including a victory over Penrith, were a machine. It of course didn't last, but this moment had long suffering Wests fans thinking that one day it just might.

AJ LUCANTONIO TIP: Broncos by 6 | CCM: Reece Walsh | FTS: Brian To'o | Moment of 2023: The Wests Tigers defeating the reigning premiers on a cold, wet night in Bathurst. In what was a horrible season for the Tigers, they played perfect wet weather footy punishing the champs. On a personal note: Billy Smith's individual try to seal a finals spot for the Roosters.

ANDREW FERGUSON TIP: Panthers by 14 | CCM: Liam Martin | FTS: Brian To'o | Moment of 2023: The Cowboys' record-breaking return of fire against the Tigers.

ANDREW JACKSON TIP: Panthers by 7 | CCM: Isiah Yeo | FTS: Herbie Farnworth | Moment of 2023: Alex Twal's first NRL try at Campbelltown

ANDREW TARANTO TIP: Broncos by 6 | CCM: Dylan Edwards | FTS: Reece Walsh | Moment of 2023: Alex Twal scoring his first NRL try after 100+ games

ANDY P TIP: Panthers by 12 | CCM: Dylan Edwards | FTS: Stephen Crichton | Moment of 2023: Seeing the support and passion of the fans in PNG last weekend.

AIDAN EDGECOMB TIP: Broncos by 4 | CCM: Reece Walsh | FTS: Brian To'o | Moment of 2023: Ezra Mam's match-winning flick pass for the Broncos to down the Knights

BETH NICHOLLS TIP: Broncos by 8 | CCM: Reece Walsh | FTS: Brian To'o | Moment of 2023: The Broncos ending their 14-year losing streak against the Storm at Suncorp Stadium, holding them to nil, and advancing to their first prelin in six years.

DAN NICHOLS TIP: Panthers by 8 | CCM: Nathan Cleary | FTS: Stephen Crichton | Moment of 2023: The Warriors' immense finals win over Newcastle.

EMILE EL-AZAR TIP: Broncos by 7 | CCM: Adam Reynolds | FTS: Herbie Farnworth | Moment of 2023: The Warriors entire season.

JOSH ROBERTSON TIP: Panthers by 10 | CCM: Jarome Luai | FTS: Brian To'o | Moment of 2023: The Panthers pulling the Minor Premiership out of the bag after seemingly losing it the week before. That - and the Warriors whole season.

JUSTIN DAVIES TIP: Panthers by 1 | CCM: Liam Martin | FTS: Brian To'o | Moment of 2023: The Dolphins' incredible Round 8 comeback win over Queensland rivals the Gold Coast, down 26-0 after 28 minutes and winning 28-26.

KELLY HOLLIS TIP: Broncos by 4 | CCM: Reece Walsh | FTS: Sunia Turuva | Moment of 2023: Missing the first 11 minutes of the game but still seeing the Wests Tigers score 9 tries against the Cowboys at Leichhardt Oval in the craziest moment of my life as a WT supporter (outside of 05!)

LACHLAN MCINTYRE TIP: Panthers by 14 | CCM: Nathan Cleary | FTS: Reece Walsh | Moment of 2023: Panthers losing to the Tigers out of nowhere in Bathurst.

PAUL JOBBER TIP: Panthers by 2 | CCM: Dylan Edwards | FTS: Brian To'o | Moment of 2023: Dom Young's cartwheeling try v St George Illawarra

ROBERT CROSBY TIP: Panthers by 12 | CCM: Brian To'o | FTS: Stephen Crichton | Moment of 2023: The effort shown by Shaun Johnson to chase his own kick and score in the comeback against the Sharks embodied the 'never-give-up' attitude that helped turn the Warriors into premiership contenders. On a personal level, the elation of being present to see the Knights host a home final for the first time in 17 years was the culmination to one of the most enjoyable seasons in my time as a Newcastle supporter.

SAM BOURKE TIP: Panthers by 4 | CCM: Isiah Yeo | FTS: Stephen Crichton | Moment of 2023: Dolphins defeating the Roosters in their debut game.

TIM COSTELLO TIP: Broncos by 4 | CCM: Adam Reynolds | FTS: Selwyn Cobbo | Moment of 2023: The RLPA standing strong for large parts of the year as the NRL dragged it's feet on a joint CBA, ultimately reaching a deal that secured important safeguards for NRL and NRLW Players into the future.

ZACH SMITH TIP: Broncos by 4 | CCM: Patty Carrigan | FTS: Herbie Farnworth | Moment of 2023: The resurgence of Warriors halfback Shaun Johnson.

WHO CLAIMS CLIVE?

AJ LUCANTONIO LOOKS AT THE FRONT-RUNNERS FOR THE NRL'S GRAND FINAL BEST

Winning team or losing team? A half? A fullback? AJ Lucantonio looks at the best chances for both sides to take home the Clive Churchill Medal. All odds listed are courtesy of Sports-Bet and correct at the time of writing. Prices will inevitably change throughout the week.

Penrith Panthers

NATHAN CLEARY (\$3.50)

His arguably the game's best half-back. Under an injury cloud after a hamstring injury post Origin 1. Cleary has been strong in his return managing 11 of his 19 try-assists in 2023 including 3 in the preliminary final. Another strong performance will see him enter folklore with his second Clive Churchill Medal and join some elite company. Cleary's kicking game will be something to watch as Brisbane's defence will be determined to hold them out for long periods of time.

DYLAN EDWARDS (\$10)

The game's most consistent fullback. There's no denying it anymore. Dylan Edwards has continued off where his breakout season ended. Edwards' ability to start Penrith's set right has been the big difference in 2023, the ability to break two-three tackles at once and get a quick play the ball is the momentum that the Panthers thrive on. His ball playing has improved tenfold and makes Penrith an even scarier proposition to face. If he produces the numbers we've seen in 2023, he could join rare company as a two-time winner of the prestigious medal.

ISAAH YEO (\$14)

The man that is considered the heart and soul of the Penrith side. Yeo has been the rock of the Panthers, his creative ball-playing and tough carries generate so much for the Panthers. If the play is positive for the Panthers, there's a good chance Yeo had finger-prints all over the preceding plays. The ability to remain calm in the critical situations will be a massive boost for the Panthers side.

JAROME LUAI (\$23)

At a bit of an outside price, Jarome Luai might be a big smokey to claim the medal on Grand Final day. Luai has made a lot of noise about his game this season rightly or wrongly both on and off the field. His finals were nearly derailed by a shoulder injury. Jarome shrugged off any concerns about being underdone with a strong performance in the prelim-final. Penrith's success depends on Luai linking up with that lethal left-edge and getting through some heavy Brisbane traffic surely targeting that suspect shoulder.

JAMES FISHER-HARRIS (\$26)

On the Penrith side, their leading bolter appears to be James Fisher-Harris. The big front rower has had an amazing season for the defending premiers charging at defenders willy nilly through the middle third since his return from injury in Magic Round. While his minutes have been mixed at times, his production is first class for a forward of his calibre. If he can contain Payne Haas, then he is a major chance at winning the Clive.

Brisbane Broncos

REECE WALSH (\$6.50)

One of the game's most dynamic and lightning quick players. Reece Walsh is the short price favourite for the Northerners to claim the Clive in 2023. Walsh's ability to bounce back after making mistakes is something only a certain skill-set of players have in this competition. The ability to turn something out of nothing can turn the Grand Final in Brisbane's favour.

ADAM REYNOLDS (\$8.50)

After his signing and the Broncos demise last season. Many questioned whether Adam Reynolds would be the man leading forward for the Broncos as they charged towards the finals again. However, he proved all the doubters were wrong and there were Souths fans declaring they made a mistake. This was a career redeeming year and with a solid performance like he delivered in the first round. Then Clive is his for the taking.

PAYNE HAAS (\$12)

Payne Haas has been the leading forward in the NRL for a prolonged period of time. Haas had an amazing 2023 season which also embodied the spirit of Brisbane. Despite some rumours last season he wanted out, Haas played like a committed trooper this season, eventually getting his new deal. Haas had a great year running for over 4000m this season (close to 1600m being post-contact) and was a workaholic in the middle for the Broncos as they charged towards the GF.

PATRICK CARRIGAN (\$14)

It's been a huge 2023 for Patrick Carrigan. He finally crossed the line for his first try, and produced his finest season in first grade to date. Carrigan has ran for close to 3500 metres this season and has been a danger with every touch and tackle he has made. His impact on the side rivals Isiah Yeo on the other side of the field and his positional battle is critical to Brisbane's chances of winning.

EZRA MAM (\$23)

Ezra Mam is the wildcard for the Broncos to win the Clive in 2023. Mam's explosive play-making gives him a great chance of winning the medal. His combination with Herbie Farnworth down the left hand side will be critical in trying to expose Penrith's right like they did in the first round. His try and line-break assists are higher than his rookie season showing his development as a player and his running ability will be critical.

AJ's TIPS

TOP PICKS

Panthers Nathan Cleary
Broncos Reece Walsh

BEST VALUE

Panthers Jarome Luai
Broncos Ezra Mam

BEST ROUGHIE

Panthers Brian To'o
Broncos Patty Carrigan

MY CALL

Panthers Dylan Edwards
Eels Reece Walsh

PREVIOUS WINNERS BY POSITION

Fullback - 7

Robbie O'Davis (Knights) 1997, Darren Lockyer (Broncos) 2000, Billy Slater (Storm) 2009 & 2017, Darius Boyd (Dragons) 2010, Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm) 2020, Dylan Edwards (Panthers) 2023.

Five-Eighth - 4

Cliff Lyons (Sea Eagles) 1987, Greg Inglis (Storm) 2007, Luke Keary (Roosters) 2018, Jack Wightton (Raiders) 2019

Halfback - 11

Peter Sterling (Eels) 1986, Ricky Stuart (Raiders) 1990, Allan Langer (Broncos) 1992, Geoff Toovey (Sea Eagles) 1996, Brett Kimmorley (Storm) 1999, Andrew Johns (Knights) 2001, Scott Prince (Tigers) 2005, Cooper Cronk (Storm) 2012, Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles) 2013, Johnathan Thurston (Cowboys) 2015, Nathan Cleary (Panthers) 2021

Front-row - 3

Paul Dunn (Bulldogs) 1988, Willie Mason (Bulldogs) 2004, Brent Kite (Sea Eagles) 2008

Hooker - 2

Luke Priddis (Panthers) 2003, Shaun Berrigan (Broncos) 2006

Second-row - 4

David Furner (Raiders) 1994, Gorden Tallis (Broncos) 1998, Craig Fitzgibbon (Roosters) 2002, Luke Lewis (Sharks) 2016

Lock - 6

Bradley Clyde (Raiders) 1989 & 1991, Brad Mackay (Dragons) 1993, Jim Dymock (Bulldogs) 1995, Glenn Stewart (Sea Eagles) 2011, Sam Burgess (Rabbitohs) 2014

No winger, centre or interchange player has won the Clive Churchill Medal

STATE OF ORIGIN IV

GRAND FINAL DECIDER

From the opening round to the closing night of the season, the 2023 premierships will come full circle on Sunday evening as the Penrith Panthers and Brisbane Broncos face off in the first Grand Final pitting New South Wales against Queensland for 18 years.

MAJOR PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL, 1990 – PANTHERS 26 V BRONCOS 16

In a historic moment for both clubs, a double to Brad Izzard secured the Panthers victory for the first time in finals football against a Broncos outfit that rallied late in their first finals appearance.

Panthers 26 (Izzard 2, Alexander, McIndoe tries. Alexander 5/7 goals)
Broncos 16 (Langer, Renouf, Kevin Walters tries. Shearer 1/1, Matterson 1/3 goals)

QUALIFYING FINAL, 2003 – PANTHERS 28 V BRONCOS 18

The eighth-placed Broncos looked on track to upset the minor premiers with an 18-4 lead just before halftime, however the home side had other plans and stormed home with Ryan Girdler living up to his legacy as the intercept king to send the Panthers into a preliminary final.

Panthers 28 (Lewis 2, Ross, Girdler, Sattler tries. Girdler 4/5 goals)
Broncos 18 (Kelly 2, Minto tries. De Vere 3/4 goals)

ROUND 1, 2023 – BRONCOS 13 V PANTHERS 12

Adam Reynolds' experience outshone the youthful exuberance of Nathan Cleary as Brisbane made an opening round statement by upsetting the reigning premiers in a tight affair at the foot of the mountains.

Broncos 13 (Farnworth 2 tries. Reynolds 2/2 goals. Reynolds FG)
Panthers 12 (Crichton, Luke tries. Cleary 2/2 goals)

The Broncos hold overall dominance over the Panthers with 34 wins, 25 losses and a draw from 60 premierships clashes since first meeting in 1988. The Broncos boast a greater overall for-and-against differential with 329 more points than their grand final opponents (1,391 – 1,062).

ROUND 3, 2007 – PANTHERS 29 V BRONCOS 28

The Broncos looked to be home and hosed when Justin Hodges crossed for his fourth try only for Penrith to send the match into golden point with two late scores. Peter Wallace, playing his fourth game in first grade, stepped up to nail a long-range field goal to secure an unlikely victory over the reigning premiers.

Panthers 29 (Hodges 4 tries. Lockyer 6/7 goals)
Broncos 28 (Gordon 2, Jennings 2, Lewis, Wesser tries. Gordon 2/6 tries. Wallace FG)

SEMI FINAL, 2017 – BRONCOS 13 V PANTHERS 6

In a do-or-die contest pitting Wayne Bennett against Anthony Griffin – the man he replaced as Broncos coach – the seven-time premierships winner had the final say after Jordan Kahu slotted a field goal to send the home side into the third week of the finals.

Broncos 13 (Oates, Roberts tries. Kahu 2/4 goals. Kahu FG)
Panthers 6 (Campbell-Gillard try. Cleary 1/1 goal)

HEAD TO HEAD RECORDS

PENRITH PANTHERS

MOST TRIES: Luke Lewis (14)
MOST GOALS: Ryan Girdler (41)
MOST POINTS: Ryan Girdler (114)
MOST FIELD GOALS: Matt Moylan, Nathan Cleary (3)
BIGGEST WIN: 26 points (Panthers 46 v Broncos 20 – Round 26, 2004)
MOST TRIES IN A MATCH: Luke Lewis, James Segeyaro (3)
MOST GOALS IN A MATCH: Ryan Girdler (7)
DEBUTANTS: Darren Stewart (1990), Sandy Eperu (1993), Martin O'Connell (1999), Ben Reynolds (2001), Liam Georgetown (2007), John Nuumaalii (2007), Lachlan Coote (2008), Nafe Seluini (2011), Te Maire Martin (2016)



BRISBANE BRONCOS

MOST TRIES: Steve Renouf (14)
MOST GOALS: Corey Parker (53)
MOST POINTS: Corey Parker (122)
MOST FIELD GOALS: Julian O'Neill, Darren Lockyer (2)
BIGGEST WIN: 42 points (Broncos 54 v Panthers 12 – Round 16, 1997; Broncos 48 v Panthers 6 – Round 22, 2000)
MOST TRIES IN A MATCH: Steve Renouf, Justin Hodges (4)
MOST GOALS IN A MATCH: Corey Parker (10)
DEBUTANTS: Kerrod Walters (1988), Grant Graving (1989), Andrew Gee (1989), Grant Thorogood (1989), Pat Savage (1992), Tame Tupou (2004), Reece Robinson (2008), Izaia Perese (2019)



PENRITH PANTHERS

TOP POINTSCORER: Nathan Cleary (208)
 TOP TRYSCORER: Brian To'o (21)
 TOP TRY-ASSISTS: Nathan Cleary (19)
 TOP TACKLES: Isaah Yeo (908)
 TOP OFFLOADS: Nathan Cleary (31)
 TOP LINEBREAKS: Brian To'o (24)
 TOP TACKLE BREAKS: Dylan Edwards (149)
 TOP METRES: Dylan Edwards (5,083)
 TOP POST-CONTACT METRES: Brian To'o (1,533)
 LONGEST WINNING STREAK: 8 matches (Round 17 v Knights – Round 25 v Titans)
 BIGGEST WIN: 44 points (Round 11 v Roosters)
 LONGEST LOSING STREAK: 2 matches (Round 8 v Rabbitohs – Round 9 v Tigers)

PLAYERS USED: 26*
 PLAYERS WHO DEBUTED AT THE CLUB: 19
 APPEARED IN EVERY MATCH: None
 DEBUTANTS: Luke Sommerton (Round 24), Jesse McLean (Round 26)
 STRONGEST SPINE: Dylan Edwards, Jarome Luai, Nathan Cleary, Mitch Kenny (15 matches)
 MOST EXPERIENCED PLAYER: Isaah Yeo (219 matches)

*Taylan May did not feature in the NRL after suffering a season-ending ACL injury in the World Club Challenge.

BRISBANE BRONCOS

TOP POINTSCORER: Adam Reynolds (204)
 TOP TRYSCORER: Selwyn Cobbo (20)
 TOP TRY-ASSISTS: Reece Walsh (25)
 TOP TACKLER: Patrick Carrigan (719)
 TOP OFFLOADS: Payne Haas (47)
 TOP LINEBREAKS: Selwyn Cobbo (21)
 TOP TACKLE BREAKS: Herbie Farnworth (128)
 TOP METRES: Herbie Farnworth (4,191)
 TOP POST-CONTACT METRES: Payne Haas (1,599)
 LONGEST WINNING STREAK: 7 matches (Round 18 v Dolphins – Round 26 v Raiders)
 BIGGEST WIN: 44 points (Round 24 v Eels)
 LONGEST LOSING STREAK: 2 matches (Round 11 v Storm – Round 12 v Panthers)

PLAYERS USED: 29
 PLAYERS WHO DEBUTED AT THE CLUB: 17
 APPEARED IN EVERY MATCH: None
 DEBUTANTS: Josh Rogers (Round 27), Blake Mozer (Round 27)
 STRONGEST SPINE: Reece Walsh, Ezra Mam, Adam Reynolds, Billy Walters (17 matches)
 MOST EXPERIENCED PLAYER: Adam Reynolds (273 matches)

HALF PANTHER / HALF BRONCO: ALL FOOTBALLER

16 players have played for both Penrith and Brisbane in first grade.

Ken Gittens – 8 games for Penrith (1987-1988); 4 games for Brisbane (1989)

Brook Kennedy – 3 games for Brisbane (1988-1989); 13 games for Penrith (1990-1991)

Trevor Gillmeister – 72 games for Brisbane (1991-1993); 22 games for Penrith (1994)

Kieran Meyer – 3 games for Brisbane (1993); 2 games for Penrith (1994)

Sid Domic – 4 games for Brisbane (1993-1994); 88 games for Penrith (1997-2001)

Petero Civoniceva – 235 games for Brisbane (1998-2007, 2012); 74 games for Penrith (2008-2011)

Luke Priddis – 79 games for Brisbane (1999-2001); 162 games for Penrith (2002-2008)

Joel Clinton – 137 games for Penrith (2002-2007); 45 games for Brisbane (2008-2009)

Peter Wallace – 101 games for Penrith (2005-2007, 2014-2018); 139 games for Brisbane (2008-2013)

James Segeyaro – 70 games for Penrith (2013-2016); 13 games for Brisbane (2019)

James Roberts – 6 games for Penrith (2013); 79 games for Brisbane (2016-2019)

Te Maire Martin – 13 games for Penrith (2016-2017); 13 games for Brisbane (2022)

Tevita Pangai Jr – 96 games for Brisbane (2016-2021); 6 games for Penrith (2021)

Sean O'Sullivan – 8 games for Brisbane (2019-2020); 11 games for Penrith (2022)

Kurt Capewell – 32 games for Penrith (2020-2021); 42 games for Brisbane (2022-2023)

Zac Hosking – 4 games for Brisbane (2022); 21 games for Penrith (2023)

PENRITH PANTHERS

BRISBANE BRONCOS



VENUE	ACCOR STADIUM	Adam GEE	REFEREE
LOCATION	WANNGAL SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK	Chris SUTTO, Dave MUNRO	TOUCH JUDGES
DAY & TIME	SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2023 7:30PM AEDT	Ashley KLEIN	NRL BUNKER

P	T	G	FG	Pts	Age		
25	12	2	-	52	27	Dylan EDWARDS	1
25	12	-	-	48	20	Sunia TURUVA	2
15	10	-	-	40	21	Izack TAGO	3
23	14	20	-	96	22	Stephen CRICHTON	4
22	21	-	-	84	24	Brian TO'O	5
21	3	-	-	12	26	Jarome LUAI	6
21	7	85	5	204	25	Nathan CLEARY	7
25	2	-	-	8	27	Moses LEOTA	8
22	-	-	-	25		Mitch KENNY	9
22	-	-	-	27		James FISHER-HARRIS	10
22	4	-	-	16	30	Scott SORENSEN	11
17	6	-	-	24	26	Liam MARTIN	12
23	4	-	-	16	28	Isaah YEO	13
12	-	5	1	11	25	Jack COGGER	14
22	-	-	-	23		Lindsay SMITH	15
20	1	-	-	4	22	Spencer LENIU	16
10	1	-	-	4	27	Luke GARNER	17
15	10	-	-	40	31	Tyrone PEACHEY	18
11	-	-	-	30		Matt EISENHUTH	19
21	3	-	-	12	26	Zac HOSKING	20
2	1	-	-	4	23	Luke SOMMERTON	21
5	5	-	-	20	22	Thomas JENKINS	22

Ivan CLEARY

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

	Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	20	21	9	3	1	43
2	24	19	9	-	-	36
3	24	25	13	7	-	66
4	23	25	15	-	-	60
5	21	23	20	-	-	80
6	20	24	15	-	-	60
7	32	22	5	90	3	204
8	23	21	2	-	-	8
9	29	25	6	-	-	24
10	23	22	1	-	-	4
11	29	23	6	-	-	24
12	23	21	7	-	-	28
13	25	22	2	-	-	8
14	24	12	-	-	-	-
15	21	12	2	-	-	8
16	24	18	-	-	-	-
17	26	19	-	-	-	-
18	28	9	-	-	-	-
19	33	20	-	-	-	-
20	29	21	-	-	-	-
21	23	5	-	-	-	-
22	25	4	-	-	-	-

Kevin WALTERS

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

BROADCAST

WATCH LIVE	NINE NETWORK and 9NOW
LISTEN	ABC SPORT, TRIPLE M, NRL NATION, 2GB & NETWORK
READ	LIVE BLOG with DAN NICHOLS - LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

HEAD TO HEAD: 1988 - 2023

	TOTAL	PENRITH	BRISBANE	DRAWN
ALL MATCHES	60	24	35	1
ACCOR STADIUM	0	0	0	0
FINALS	3	2	1	0

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

YEAR	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2021	Round 6	PENRITH 20-12	Suncorp Stadium	21,224
2021	Round 19	PENRITH 18-12	Suncorp Stadium	8,019
2022	Round 6	PENRITH 40-12	Bluebet Stadium	19,406
2023	Round 1	BRISBANE 13-12	Bluebet Stadium	17,125
2023	Round 12	PENRITH 15-4	Suncorp Stadium	33,343

Match stats courtesy of



BIGGEST WINS

YEAR	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2022	Round 6	PENRITH 40-12	Bluebet Stadium	19,406
1997	Round 16	BRISBANE 54-12	ANZ Stadium (QE II)	13,921
2000	Round 22	BRISBANE 48-6	ANZ Stadium (QE II)	24,912

THINGS TO KNOW

- The last time Penrith played Brisbane in Sydney, but not at Penrith was in the 1990 Finals series, where Penrith won 26-16
- Penrith have won 9 of their last 11 games at Stadium Australia. They won 12 of 31 prior to that.
- Brisbane have won 7 of their last 20 games at Stadium Australia. They won 9 of 14 prior to that.
- Brisbane have won just 7 of their last 19 games on a Sunday, dating back to the 2015 finals series.
- Penrith haven't lost a Sunday game since 2021. They've won 10 straight since.
- A Panthers win will also see them reach 9 straight finals wins, making them just the second team to achieve the feat behind the record breaking Dragons side of the 50's and 60's, who won 10 straight finals games.
- Adam REYNOLDS has 49 NRL tries
- Kotoni STAGGS and Stephen CRICHTON will both play their 100th NRL game.

FORM - LAST THREE

	FINALS WEEK 1	FINALS WEEK 2	FINALS WEEK 3
PENRITH	WARRIORS W 32-6	BYE	MELBOURNE W 38-4
BRISBANE	MELBOURNE W 26-0	BYE	WARRIORS W 42-12

THE GRAND PREVIEW

with Aidan EDGECOMB

This is it - the big dance - the one we've all been waiting for.

Penrith have been the team to beat all year, finishing top of the table with 18 wins, and claiming their 2nd straight minor premiership to cruise to their 4th straight grand final.

Last week, they were ruthless, scoring 38 points against a Melbourne side they held to only 4 points. Gun winger Brian To'o bagged a hat-trick, as Nathan Cleary controlled the game from start to finish. Though they weren't flawless, their ability to defend their errors makes them a formidable foe.

Despite the dominance of the reigning premiers, Brisbane's season has been nothing short of remarkable, finishing 2nd on equal points to Penrith. From a late season collapse that left them 9th in 2022 to their first Grand Final in 8 years, the Broncos are back.

A slow start against the Warriors saw them concede 2 tries in 11 minutes, and left fans holding their breath. They made more errors and completed worse than Penrith, but coach Kevin Walters will be impressed at how his side bounced back to a comfortable 42-12 win.

The matchup is an intriguing one. Arguably the most successful team in the NRL era will clash with a show-stopping young side looking to break a 17-year premiership drought still - haunted by the ghosts of 2015.

Both sides are at full strength, naming the same 17 as last week. Reece's Walsh's Son and Izack Tago were successful in their injury return, and Herbie Farnworth has been cleared after suffering a hamstring injury at training.

WHO TO WATCH: When it comes to players who can split the game open at the drop of a hat, look no further than Broncos fullback Reece Walsh. With blistering speed and a skilful passing and kicking game, it's no surprise the superstar fullback has 8 try contributions in his last 3 appearances. Despite being heavily criticised by fans last year, hooker Billy Walters has come out of his shell, becoming a quiet yet reliable performer. With solid defence and sharp attack, coming off scoring a double last week, Billy will be eager for a strong game.

As always, Panthers halfback Nathan Cleary has been instrumental in his sides success this season. Expect an exceptional kicking game and dangerous attack where he'll look to take the line on. Partnering him in the halves in Polarising 5/8, Reece's Walsh's Son. Villain or victim? It depends who you ask. Luai will undoubtedly be looking to silence the critics and further prove his worth to Penrith, or any potential suitors next year.

Perhaps not dominating the headlines, an equally important matchup is that of Payne Haas and James Fisher-Harris. Both enforcers will be looking to dominate up the middle and lay a strong platform for their team.

FAVOURITE: the Penrith Panthers are the favourite to win their 3rd straight grand final.

MY TIP: This game could really go either way. If Penrith can dominate early, they're a chance of running away with it. Alternatively, if Brisbane can keep it close, I think they can perform an upset. I expect the scores to be level with not long to go, Reynolds will shape up for a field goal and then pass to Walsh who will score.

Broncos by 4.



PENRITH PANTHERS

2023 GRAND FINALISTS

1. DYLAN EDWARDS

Hoping to become the first non-retrospective player to win the Clive Churchill Medal in consecutive grand finals, Edwards has remained consistent as ever with the most running meters in the league.

NRL appearances: 130

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2020, 2021, 2022)

2. SUNIA TURUVA

Building on an impressive World Cup campaign with Fiji to become a mainstay for the Panthers during his first full season in the top grade, Turuva has made the left wing position his own after Taylan May suffered a season-ending knee injury in the World Club Challenge.

NRL appearances: 28

Grand Final appearances: N/A

3. IZACK TAGO

Making a timely return from injury to help the Panthers overcome the Storm last week, Tago has crossed for 10 tries and set up a further eight in 15 appearances this season.

NRL appearances: 47

Grand Final appearances: 1 (2022)

4. STEPHEN CRICHTON

Set to bring up 100 NRL games in his final appearance for the club before joining Canterbury next year, Crichton is a proven big game player with tries in each of the past three grand finals.

NRL appearances: 99

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2020, 2021, 2022)

5. BRIAN TO'O

Helping the side to another premiership decider with a preliminary final hat-trick, To'o's impact with the ball in hand could see him become the first winger to be awarded the Clive Churchill Medal on grand final day.

NRL appearances: 92

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2020, 2021, 2022)

6. JAROME LUAI

Returning from a shoulder injury that threatened to derail the Panthers hopes of reaching another grand final, Luai can expect plenty of attention in defence as the Broncos hope to exploit a potential weakness.

NRL appearances: 106

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2020, 2021, 2022)

7. NATHAN CLEARY (C)

Producing another stellar year at club level while rising even further during the finals, a strong showing from Cleary will go a long way towards getting the Panthers over the line.

NRL appearances: 158

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2020, 2021, 2022)

8. MOSES LEOTA

Continuing to grow in stature as one of the league's premier front-rowers, Leota has been one of the underrated success stories of Penrith's ability to nurture talent into on-field results.

NRL appearances: 148

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2020, 2021, 2022)

9. MITCH KENNY

Taking over as the club's first-choice hooker in 2023, Kenny may not possess the flair of his predecessor but provides the Panthers with the reliability needed to maintain success.

NRL appearances: 82

Grand Final appearances: 1 (2022)

10. JAMES FISHER-HARRIS

Getting his side on the front foot while striking fear into opposition players each week, Fisher-Harris has been integral in transforming the Panthers from regular finalists to grand final specialists in recent years.

NRL appearances: 179

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2020, 2021, 2022)

11. SCOTT SORENSON

Going from an unsung interchange player to an accomplished starting forward in the space of a season, Sorenson's career is a textbook example of the success that comes through tenacity and resilience.

NRL appearances: 104

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2021, 2022)

12. LIAM MARTIN

Returning to his best after spending a large part of the season on the sidelines, Martin produced a match-clinching run to get the Panthers into a fourth consecutive grand final last Friday.

NRL appearances: 103

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2020, 2021, 2022)

13. ISAAH YEO (C)

Joining exclusive company in bringing up 200 first grade games for Penrith this season, Yeo earned high praise from Phil Gould as the best player recruited to the Panthers throughout the storied career of recruitment officer Jim Jones.

NRL appearances: 219

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2020, 2021, 2022)

INTERCHANGE

14. JACK COGGER

Brought back to the NRL to provide cover in the halves following a stint in the English Super League, Cogger's first grade resurrection has seen him earn a long-term deal at Newcastle and potentially a grand final ring.

NRL appearances: 54

Grand Final appearances: N/A

15. LINDSAY SMITH

Working his way through the grades before cementing a place on the bench this season, Smith will be looking to finish the year with a new contact and a premiership.

NRL appearances: 26

Grand Final appearances: N/A

16. SPENCER LENIU

Playing his final game for the Panthers ahead of a move to the Roosters in 2024, Lenui has emerged as one of the most impactful interchange players in the league.

NRL appearances: 82

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2021, 2022)

17. LUKE GARNER

Potentially going from a wooden spoon to premiership glory in one year, Garner's ability to play in the forwards and backline could prove invaluable in the event of injury on Sunday evening.

NRL appearances: 86

Grand Final appearances: N/A

RESERVES

18. TYRONE PEACHEY

Recapturing the form that saw him reach the heights of Origin five years ago, Peachey has flourished in his return to Penrith with 10 tries in 15 appearances this season.

NRL appearances: 207

Grand Final appearances: N/A

19. MATTHEW EISENHUTH

Dependable to a fault, Eisenhuth has been a tremendous depth player for the Panthers over the past three seasons with his ability to fill in across the forward pack when called upon.

NRL appearances: 116

Grand Final appearances: N/A

20. ZAC HOSKING

Making the most of a long road to first grade following stints with Newcastle and a debut with Brisbane, Hosking has relished the opportunity to be part of a successful team in 21 appearances.

NRL appearances: 25

Grand Final appearances: N/A

21. LUKE SOMMERTON

Going from a back-up reserve grader to earning a first grade debut over the course of a year, Sommerton will be hoping to see more time in the NRL with a development contract for 2024.

NRL appearances: 2

Grand Final appearances: N/A

22. TOM JENKINS

Scoring five tries in as many appearances this season, Jenkins has provided strong depth in the backline and will push for regular game time in the coming years.

NRL appearances: 6

Grand Final appearances: N/A

COACH. IVAN CLEARY

Rising to become one of the great modern coaches of the league after qualifying for his fifth grand final in 17 seasons as a first grade coach, Cleary will be looking to do what no coach has done since Jack Gibson by leading a side to three consecutive premierships.

ROAD TO GLORY: PENRITH

HOW THE PANTHERS MADE THEIR WAY TO ACCOR STADIUM THIS SUNDAY

Already creating history as only the second team in the NRL era to qualify for four consecutive grand finals, the Penrith Panthers will be aiming to become the first club in 40 years to record three straight premierships on Sunday evening.

Beginning the year with doubters following the departure of several key players and a golden point loss to St Helens in the World Club Challenge, coach Ivan Cleary put aside a shaky start to have his side back on top of the competition ladder at the start of the representative season. Winning 13 out of 14 matches between Magic Round and the end of August – despite star halfback Nathan Cleary missing six weeks with a torn hamstring – a shock loss to Parramatta in the penultimate round threatened to prove costly when Jarome Luai was forced from the field with a shoulder injury.

Managing to recover with a dominant win in the final round to claim the minor premiership for the third time in four years, a clinical finals performance over New Zealand allowed Luai to recover in time to defeat Melbourne and secure a place in the premiership decider. Coming into the grand final as strong favourites off the back of current form and past deeds, victory will see the Panthers enter the rugby league pantheon as one of the greatest teams of all time.

GAMES: 26 | WINS: 20 | LOSSES: 6 | POINTS SCORED: 715 | POINTS CONCEDED: 322 | FINISHED: 1ST

ROUND 1 - PANTHERS 12 v BRONCOS 13

Getting their premiership defence off to a fast start with first points of the night, a brace of tries to Herbie Farnworth and an Adam Reynolds' drop goal saw the Panthers go down at home in the opening round.

Panthers 12 (Crichton, Luke tries. Cleary 2/2 goals)
Broncos 13 (Farnworth 2 tries. Reynolds 2/2 goals. Reynolds FG)

ROUND 2 - PANTHERS 16 v RABBITOHS 10

Establishing a 16-0 lead midway through the second half, the Panthers had their opponents measure, despite a late fightback, to open their 2023 account.

Panthers 16 (Crichton, Tago, To'o tries. Cleary 1/3, Crichton 1/1 goals)
Rabbitohs 10 (Johnston, Tass tries. Mitchell 1/2 goals)

ROUND 4 - PANTHERS 16 v EELS 17

Nathan Cleary produced one of the moments of the season to nail a two-point field goal with second remaining to send the match into golden point, but it was Mitchell Moses who had the last laugh in a gripping grand final rematch.

Eels 17 (Cartwright, Hands tries. Moses 4/4 goals. Moses FG)
Panthers 16 (Edwards, Hosking tries. Cleary 3/3 goals. Cleary 2pt FG)

ROUND 5 - PANTHERS 53 v RAIDERS 12

Isaiah Yeo celebrated his 200th NRL game in style as the Panthers piled on 40 second half points; Jaeman Salmon, returning to Canberra for the first time since the infamous 'weak-gutted dog' barb, made his feelings known as the Panthers hit a half century on full-time.

Panthers 53 (Turuva 2, Tago 2, Cleary, Hosking, Peachey, Crichton, Salmon tries. Cleary 8/9 goals. Cleary FG)
Raiders 12 (Whitehead, Young tries. Fogarty 2/2 goals)

ROUND 6 - PANTHERS 44 v SEA EAGLES 12

Dylan Edwards more than rose to the challenge in a much-anticipated battle of the fullbacks, finishing with four tries for the first time in his career, as the Panthers celebrated the Easter weekend with a victory at home.

Panthers 44 (Edwards 4, To'o, Sorenson, Cleary tries. Cleary 8/8 goals)
Sea Eagles 12 (Saab, T. Trbojevic tries. Cherry-Evans 2/2 goals)

ROUND 7 - PANTHERS 16 v KNIGHTS 15

Silencing a vocal Newcastle crowd via a Nathan Cleary field goal in golden point, the Panthers were below their best but flexed their premiership credentials when it mattered most.

Panthers 16 (To'o, Salmon tries. Cleary 3/4 goals. Cleary 2 FG)
Knights 15 (Gamble, Frizell, Crossland tries. Miller 1/4 goals. Gamble FG)

ROUND 8 - PANTHERS 18 v RABBITOHS 20

Stephen Crichton's hat-trick looked to be enough to get the Panthers home, however two tries in the final six minutes saw the Rabbitohs rally the ANZAC spirit to clinch victory.

Rabbitohs 20 (L. Mitchell 2, Cook, Tass tries. Mitchell 2/4 goals)
Panthers 18 (Crichton 3 tries. Crichton 3/4 goals)

ROUND 9 - PANTHERS 8 v TIGERS 12

The Tigers claimed their first win and the biggest upset of the season to defeat the reigning premiers in the rain; Nathan Cleary had an opportunity to tie the game up only for Tigers rookie Jahream Bula to produce a match-defining tackle.

Tigers 12 (Wakeham, Nofaloama tries. Wakeham 2/4 goals)
Panthers 8 (Peachey try. Crichton 2/2 goals)

ROUND 10 - PANTHERS 18 v WARRIORS 6

Conceding an early try to the much-improved Warriors, coached by former Penrith assistant Andrew Webster, the Panthers secured a hard-fought win with a late four-pointer to interchange prop Spencer Leniu.

Panthers 18 (Edwards, To'o, Leniu tries. Cleary 3/4 goals)
Warriors 6 (Fonua-Blake try. Johnson 1/1 goal)

ROUND 11 - PANTHERS 48 v ROOSTERS 4

Returning to the top of the premiership ladder with an emphatic victory on home soil, underrated forward Scott Sorenson announced himself as Villame Kika'u's heir apparent with a brace of tries.

Panthers 48 (Sorenson 2, Peachey 2, Edwards, To'o, Turuva, Luai tries. Cleary 8/8 goals)
Roosters 4 (Allan try. Suaali 0/1 goal)

ROUND 12 - PANTHERS 15 v BRONCOS 4

In a top of the table clash kicking off the league's annual Indigenous Round, the class of Nathan Cleary shone through as the Broncos struggled to make an impression on the scoreboard without Adam Reynolds.

Panthers 15 (Turuva, Cleary tries. Cleary 3/3 goals. Cleary FG)
Broncos 4 (Cobbo try. Staggs 0/1 goal)

ROUND 14 - PANTHERS 26 v DRAGONS 18

Nathan Cleary's week went from bad to worse when the NSW halfback suffered a calf injury that ruled him out for the rest of the Origin series; club debutant Jack Cogger filled the breach in his NRL return with a classy try-assist to get the Panthers home.

Panthers 26 (To'o 2, Turuva, Leota tries. Crichton 4/5, Cleary 1/1 goals)
Dragons 18 (Ravalawa 2, Lomax tries. Lomax 3/5 goals)

ROUND 15 - PANTHERS 30 v ROOSTERS 6

Having dismantled their eastern suburbs rivals at home a month earlier, the men from the west did likewise on the road as Roosters-bound prop Spencer Leniu had the last laugh over Jared Waerea-Hargreaves.

Panthers 30 (Crichton, Edwards, Yeo, To'o, Tago tries. Crichton 5/6 goals)
Roosters 6 (Tedesco try. Keary 1/1 goal)

ROUND 16 - PANTHERS 23 v COWBOYS 27

Standing tall without their representative stars prior to Origin II, the Panthers went beyond 80 minutes but couldn't prevent an individual piece of brilliance from Scott Drinkwater in golden point.

Cowboys 27 (Drinkwater 2, Dearden, Finefeuiaki, Feldt tries. Townsend 3/4 goals. Townsend FG)
Panthers 23 (Tago 2, Salmon, Jenkins tries. Cogger 3/5 goals. Cogger FG)

ROUND 17 - PANTHERS 20 v KNIGHTS 12

The decision to back the club's depth reaped rewards for the Panthers as rejuvenated utility Tyrone Peachey crossed for a double to put the Knights' season on life support.

Panthers 20 (Peachey 2, Edwards, Salmon tries. Cogger 2/4 goals)
Knights 12 (Ponga, Hastings tries. Hastings 2/2 goal)

ROUND 18 - PANTHERS 34 v STORM 16

Clawing back a 0-14 deficit to run out emphatic victors away from home, pundits declared it was only a matter of who the Panthers would beat on grand final day to claim a third straight premiership.

Panthers 34 (Tago 2, Crichton, Martin, Hosking, To'o tries. Crichton 5/6 goals)
Storm 16 (H. Grant, Asofa-Solomona tries. Meaney 4/4 goals)

ROUND 20 - PANTHERS 24 v DOLPHINS 14

Establishing an early lead only for a few nervous moments to arise when Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow put the Dolphins in front in the 55th minute, a brace of tries to rookie Thomas Jenkins got the Panthers out of jail against the league's newest team.

Panthers 24 (Tago 2, Jenkins 2, Leota tries. Edwards 2/2, Cogger 0/3 goals)
Dolphins 14 (Nikorima, Lemuelu, Tabuai-Fidow tries. Isaako 1/3 goals)

ROUND 21 - PANTHERS 44 v BULLDOGS 18

Tearing their undermanned opponents to shreds with a 24-0 lead inside the opening quarter, Nathan Cleary made a successful return from injury as the Panthers geared up for another run towards September.

Panthers 44 (Peachey 2, To'o 2, Yeo, Crichton, Sorenson, Garner tries. Cleary 6/8 goals)
Bulldogs 18 (Alamoti, Averillo, Skelton tries. Burton 3/3 goals)

ROUND 22 - PANTHERS 28 v SHAKRS 0

Holding their long-standing rivals to nil for the third time since both clubs joined the league in 1967, the Panthers could have piled on even more points if not for the Sharks brave goal line defence.

Panthers 28 (Luai, Yeo, To'o, Turuva, Martin tries. Cleary 4/5 goals)
Sharks 0

ROUND 23 - PANTHERS 26 v STORM 6

Snapping into gear with three first half tries after conceding the opening four-pointer, the Panthers were far too strong for a Storm side missing several of their primary attacking players.

Panthers 26 (To'o 2, Luai, Crichton tries. Cleary 5/6 goals)
Storm 6 (Tonumaipea try. Meaney 1/2 goals)

ROUND 24 - PANTHERS 24 v SEA EAGLES 12

Facing a Manly side fighting to stay in touch with the top eight, the Panthers held their nerve in a match that saw reserve grade hooker Luke Sommerton make his NRL debut.

Panthers 24 (Crichton 2, Turuva, To'o tries. Cleary 4/5 goals)
Sea Eagles 12 (Siple, Garrick tries. Garrick 2/2 goals)

ROUND 25 - PANTHERS 40 v TITANS 14

Exposing the gap in class between the premiership contenders and also-rans, the Panthers soared home with three late tries to turn a close contest into a one-way affair.

Panthers 40 (Edwards 2, Yeo, Peachey, Jenkins, Martin, Crichton tries. Cleary 6/7 goals)
Titans 14 (Haas, Khan-Pereira, D. Fifta tries. Campbell 1/3 goals)

ROUND 26 - PANTHERS 18 v EELS 32

A shoulder injury to Jarome Luai sent a shockwave across the entire league as the Panthers hopes of going three-in-a-row were dealt a major blow; the Eels closed out a season of missed opportunities on a positive note with former Penrith lower grader Maika Sivo bagging four tries.

Eels 32 (Sivo 4, Gutherson 2 tries. Gutherson 4/6, Brown 0/1 goal)
Panthers 18 (Peachey, Cleary, Martin, Jenkins tries. Cleary 1/4 goals)

ROUND 27 - PANTHERS 44 v COWBOYS 12

Securing their third minor premiership in four years after Brisbane paid the price for resting players two nights earlier, the premiers were on song in attack to the delight of the Penrith faithful.

Panthers 44 (Turuva 2, To'o 2, Crichton, Martin, Sommerton, Cleary tries. Cleary 6/8 goals)
Cowboys 12 (Neame, Laybutt tries. Drinkwater 2/2 goals)

QUALIFYING FINAL - PANTHERS 32 v WARRIORS 6

Securing a week off with a clinical performance played before a sell-out crowd at the foot of the mountains, Nathan Cleary orchestrated the victory to perfection with a personally tally of 16 points.

Panthers 32 (Turuva 2, To'o, Martin, Cleary tries. Cleary 6/6 goals)
Warriors 6 (Egan try. Pompey 1/1 goal)

PRELIMINARY FINAL - PANTHERS 38 v STORM 4

Jarome Luai successfully returned from injury on a historic night which saw the Panthers record their biggest ever win in finals football enroute to a fourth straight premiership decider.

Panthers 38 (To'o 3, Turuva, Cleary, Edwards tries. Cleary 7/8 goals)
Storm 4 (Olam try. Meaney 0/1 goal)

BRISBANE BRONCOS

2023 GRAND FINALISTS

1. REECE WALSH

Achieving remarkable results, including an Origin debut, in his return to Brisbane, Walsh will head into Sunday's decider as single most dangerous player on the field.

NRL appearances: 59 Grand Final appearances: N/A

2. JESSE ARTHARS

Beating out more experienced teammates for a place in the team at the business end of the season, Arthars spent last year on loan at the Warriors before producing his best year in first grade upon return.

NRL appearances: 60 Grand Final appearances: N/A

3. KOTONI STAGGS

Developing into one of the most explosive centres in the game today, Staggs could earn a test debut for Australia with a big performance in the grand final.

NRL appearances: 99 Grand Final appearances: N/A

4. HERBIE FARNWORTH

Lining up for the final time in Brisbane colours ahead of a move to the Dolphins next season, Farnworth has risen above a rough introduction to first grade to become a representative star with England.

NRL appearances: 78 Grand Final appearances: N/A

5. SELWYN COBBO

Capable of changing the course of a game with an individual display of brilliance or madness, Cobbo will be determined to prove his worth as a big game performer after being overlooked following Origin I.

NRL appearances: 48 Grand Final appearances: N/A

6. EZRA MAM

Touted as a star of the future and delivering beyond his years in the present, Mam is expected to be a long-term playmaker for the Broncos.

NRL appearances: 37 Grand Final appearances: N/A

7. ADAM REYNOLDS (C)

Falling short against the Panthers in a grand final two years ago, Reynolds has the opportunity to make amends and go down as a Broncos legend in the process.

NRL appearances: 273 Grand Final appearances: 2 (2014, 2021)

8. THOMAS FLEGLER

Finishing up with Brisbane to join the league's newest club next season, Flegler will be out to leave on the best possible terms as a premierships winner.

NRL appearances: 95 Grand Final appearances: N/A

9. BILLY WALTERS

Blossoming into a consistent dummy half with a reputation of delivering reliable service, Walters will relish the chance to celebrate alongside his father and coach if the Broncos can finish on top at the end of 80 minutes.

NRL appearances: 60 Grand Final appearances: N/A

10. PAYNE HAAS

All of Queensland will be cheering for a New South Wales front-rower on Sunday evening as Haas tries to replicate the heroics of Glenn Lazarus by leading the Broncos to premierships glory.

NRL appearances: 103 Grand Final appearances: N/A

11. KURT CAPEWELL

Winning a premierships with the Panthers before taking up an opportunity to return to Brisbane last season, Capewell's past deeds will be invaluable in a team lacking grand final experience.

NRL appearances: 138 Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

12. JORDAN RIKI

Bursting onto the rugby league scene with an eye-catching try against the Panthers during the Broncos horror 2020 campaign, Riki has become a more consistent player while still retaining the ability to make an impact on the edge.

NRL appearances: 66 Grand Final appearances: N/A

13. PATRICK CARRIGAN

Identified as a future club captain by Anthony Seibold upon his introduction to first grade, Carrigan will be looking to add a premierships ring to his resume after achieving success with Queensland and Australia already in his career.

NRL appearances: 82 Grand Final appearances: N/A

INTERCHANGE

14. TYSON SMOOTHY

Making the most of his opportunity after beginning the year in the Queensland state league, Smoothy has been an unheralded contributor to the side's surge towards September.

NRL appearances: 16 Grand Final appearances: N/A

15. BRENDAN PIAKURA

Taking time to establish himself in first grade after being at the centre of a bidding war two years ago, Piakura has looked at home in the NRL with two tries in 12 appearances this season.

NRL appearances: 14 Grand Final appearances: N/A

16. KOBE HETHERINGTON

Receiving his NRL debut in Kevin Walters' first year at the helm, Hetherington has revelled in the Broncos ascent from cellar dwellers to potential premiers over the course of three seasons.

NRL appearances: 54 Grand Final appearances: N/A

17. KEENAN PALASIA

Beating out forwards with representative and grand final experience for a place in grand final 17, Palasia will be out to justify his inclusion before joining the Gold Coast next season.

NRL appearances: 52 Grand Final appearances: N/A

RESERVES

18. COREY OATES

Enduring an injury-riddled year that has yielded no tries for the first time in his career, Oates is the only remaining member of the last Brisbane team to reach the grand final nearly a decade ago.

NRL appearances: 201 Grand Final appearances: 1 (2015)

19. MARTIN TAUPAU

Providing leadership and reliable impact off the bench for much of the season, Taupau would likely be in the grand final squad if not for a costly suspension towards the end of the year.

NRL appearances: 242 Grand Final appearances: N/A

20. COREY JENSEN

Experiencing the disappointment of losing a grand final in his rookie campaign with the Cowboys, Jensen has been a consistent performer since making the move to Brisbane last season.

NRL appearances: 97 Grand Final appearances: 1 (2017)

21. JOCK MADDEN

Knocking back an offer to join Penrith in order to develop his craft at Brisbane, Madden has come on in leaps and bounds after a tough introduction to first grade at the Wests Tigers.

NRL appearances: 22 Grand Final appearances: N/A

22. TRISTAN SAILOR

Working his way back from a legal ordeal that threatened to have implications for much more than his career, Sailor has performed strongly in limited opportunities in the top grade.

NRL appearances: 9 Grand Final appearances: N/A

COACH: KEVIN WALTERS

Silencing his critics, both externally and within the playing group, Walters has worked wonders to take the Broncos from the wooden spoon to a grand final and restore pride to a club renowned as heavyweight of the league.

ROAD TO GLORY: BRISBANE

HOW THE BRONCOS MADE THEIR WAY TO ACCOR STADIUM THIS SUNDAY

Going from the club's first wooden spoon to the precipice of premiership glory in the space of three years, the Brisbane Broncos will be looking to dethrone the reigning premiers and reclaim their mantle as a rugby league powerhouse.

Determined to make amends for a shocking collapse which saw the side go from the top four to missing the finals entirely last season, coach Kevin Walters had his charges firing during the early rounds off the back of a dominant forward pack and the brilliance of returning superstar Reece Walsh at fullback. Forced to contend with a large Origin contingent during the middle third of the year, the Broncos continued to get the job done without Walsh (suspension) and Adam Reynolds (injury) for weeks at a time and had an opportunity to claim the club's first minor premiership in 23 years on the eve of September.

Finishing second after a calculated move to rest the majority of the top squad resulted in a final round loss to Melbourne, the move ultimately paid off in September with a shut-out against Melbourne giving the side the perfect preparation to defeat New Zealand for a place in the Grand Final. Eyeing off their first premiership since 2006 on Sunday evening, the Broncos will be focussed on stepping out of the shadows of past glories and creating history of their own.

GAMES: 26 | WINS: 20 | LOSSES: 6 | POINTS SCORED: 707 | POINTS CONCEDED: 437 | FINISHED: 2ND

ROUND 1 - BRONCOS 13 v PANTHERS 12

Pulling off a major upset to defeat the defending premiers at the foot of the mountains, a first half double to Herbie Farnworth gave Adam Reynolds the platform needed to kick the Broncos home.

Broncos 13 (Farnworth 2 tries, Reynolds 2/2 goals, Reynolds FG) **Panthers 12** (Crichton, Luke tries, Cleary 2/2 goals)

ROUND 2 - BRONCOS 28 v COWBOYS 16

Reece Walsh marked his return to Brisbane in scintillating fashion with a try and an assist as the Broncos claimed bragging rights in the Queensland derby.

Broncos 28 (Mam 2, Capewell, Staggs, Walsh tries, Reynolds 4/6 goals) **Cowboys 16** (Nanai 2 tries, Holmes 4/4 goals)

ROUND 3 - BRONCOS 40 v DRAGONS 18

Clawing back an eight-point deficit at the break to level the scores at 18-all with ten minutes remaining, the Broncos exploded home with four tries to run out convincing winners.

Broncos 40 (Staggs 2, Walsh 2, Paix, Cobbo, Mam tries, Cleary 5/7 goals, Reynolds 2pt FG) **Eels 18** (Mat Feagai, Sloan, Sullivan tries, Lomax 3/5 goals)

ROUND 4 - BRONCOS 18 v DOLPHINS 12

In a hugely anticipated showdown pitting the two undefeated Queensland teams against one another for the first time, a length of the field effort from Kotoni Staggs got the Broncos over the line in an epic encounter.

Broncos 18 (Arthars, Cobbo, Capewell, Staggs tries, Reynolds 1/4 goals) **Dolphins 12** (Wallace, Tabuai-Fidow tries, Isaako 2/2 goals)

ROUND 5 - BRONCOS 46 v TIGERS 12

Making light work of the joint venture in a mismatch pitting first against last, the Broncos did the damage in the first 40 before going through the motions after halftime.

Broncos 46 (Riki 2, Staggs 2, Capewell, Haas, Cobbo, Farnworth tries, Reynolds 7/8 goals) **Tigers 12** (Papali'i, Simpkin tries, Doueihi 2/2 goals)

ROUND 6 - BRONCOS 14 v RAIDERS 20

Copping a reality check with their first defeat of the season, a penalty against Martin Taupau for contact on Jordan Rapana denied the Broncos an opportunity to push for an equalising score late in the match.

Raiders 20 (Rapana 2, Hopoate tries, Croker 4/4 goals) **Broncos 14** (Cobbo, Riki, Arthars tries, Reynolds 1/3 goals)

ROUND 7 - BRONCOS 43 v TITANS 26

In a tight first half that saw the Titans hold a slender lead at the break, the Broncos came out firing following the resumption with five second half tries to claim another Queensland scalp.

Broncos 43 (Riki, Farnworth, Walsh, Arthars, Capewell, Mam, Cobbo tries, Reynolds 7/8 goals, Reynolds FG) **Titans 26** (Khan-Pereira 2, Sami, Leeming tries, Boyd 5/5 goals)

ROUND 8 - BRONCOS 26 v EELS 16

Continuing to dazzle with the ball in hand by producing four first half tries, the Broncos withstood a minor fightback from the Eels to claim their first win in Darwin.

Broncos 26 (Farnworth, Reynolds, Mam, Staggs tries, Reynolds 5/7 goals) **Eels 16** (Gutherson, Sivo, Russell tries, Moses 2/3 goals)

ROUND 9 - BRONCOS 6 v RABBITOHS 32

Facing off against the high-flying Rabbitohs in a clash of two premiership heavyweights, the class of Latrell Mitchell was too much for the Broncos to contend with as the visitors piled on 20-unanswered points after halftime.

Rabbitohs 32 (Graham 3, L. Mitchell 2, Walker tries, L. Mitchell 4/6 goal) **Broncos 6** (Arthars try, Reynolds 1/2 goals)

ROUND 10 - BRONCOS 32 v SEA EAGLES 6

Making the most of an 'away' trip to Suncorp during Magic Round, a hat-trick to Selwyn Cobbo paved the way for the Broncos to stand as outright competition leaders after ten rounds for the first time since 2016.

Broncos 32 (Cobbo 3, Walters, Arthars, Farnworth tries, Reynolds 4/6 goals) **Sea Eagles 6** (B. Trbojevic try, Garrick 1/1 goal)

ROUND 11 - BRONCOS 16 v STORM 24

Coming in as favourite over a Melbourne side riddled with inconsistency for much of the season, the Broncos were left to rue what could have been after Adam Reynolds was assisted from the field amid precautionary fears of a neck injury.

Storm 24 (Warbrick 2, Munster, Olam tries, Meaney 4/6 goals) **Broncos 16** (Farnworth, Arthars, Paix tries, Walsh 2/3 goals)

ROUND 12 - BRONCOS 4 v PANTHERS 15

Producing a valiant effort to push the reigning premiers until the final siren, the absence of Adam Reynolds proved the difference with Nathan Cleary asserting his stamp on the game with a match-clinching try.

Panthers 15 (Turuva, Cleary tries, Cleary 3/3 goals, Cleary FG) **Broncos 4** (Cobbo try, Staggs 0/1 goal)

ROUND 13 - BRONCOS 26 v WARRIORS 22

Venturing to New Zealand's north island minus a host of regulars away on Origin duty, stars of the future, accompanied by the leadership of Adam Reynolds, shone through as the Broncos withstood a late fightback to clinch two valuable points.

Broncos 26 (Mariner 2, Riki, Mam tries, Reynolds 5/5 goals) **Warriors 22** (Watene-Zelezniak 2, Nicoll-Klokstad, Montoya tries, Johnson 3/4 goals)

ROUND 14 - BRONCOS 20 v SHARKS 12

Continuing a dominant run at Cronulla with their seventh win from eight visits since 2010, the Queensland-based outfit recorded another win over New South Wales just days after the opening State of Origin fixture.

Broncos 20 (Staggs, Mam, Arthars, Farnworth tries, Reynolds 2/4 goals) **Sharks 12** (Talakai, Kennedy tries, Hynes 2/2 goals)

ROUND 15 - BRONCOS 24 v KNIGHTS 20

In a fixture pitting the superstar talents of Reece Walsh against Kalyn Ponga, the Broncos fought back with two late tries to snatch victory in one of the best clashes of the season.

Broncos 24 (Cobbo 2, Piakura, Reynolds tries, Reynolds 4/4 goals) **Knights 20** (Young 2, Ponga, Croker tries, Hastings 2/4 goal)

ROUND 17 - BRONCOS 12 v TITANS 18

Suffering a shock defeat at the hands of the Titans, who sensationally parted ways with their coach only days before the game, the Broncos pain intensified when Reece Walsh was found guilty by the judiciary of directing abuse towards the referee.

Titans 18 (D. Fifita, Kelly, Khan-Pereira tries, Boyd 3/4 goals) **Broncos 12** (Flegler, Mam tries, Reynolds 2/2 goals)

ROUND 18 - BRONCOS 24 v DOLPHINS 16

Hosting the first of three matches at the Gabba due to the FIFA Women's World Cup, Herbie Farnworth snared a brace against his future club while Selwyn Cobbo secured the result with one of the tries of the year.

Broncos 24 (Cobbo 3, Farnworth 2 tries, Reynolds 2/5 goals) **Dolphins 16** (Nikorima, Te Whare, Marshall-King tries, Isaako 2/3 goals)

ROUND 20 - BRONCOS 44 v BULLDOGS 24

Playing their first match at Belmore in a quarter of a century, defence took a backseat for both clubs during a contest which saw the scoreboard tick over at nearly a point per minute.

Broncos 44 (Reynolds, Capewell, Walters, Mariner, Willison, Mam, Piakura, Farnworth tries, Reynolds 6/8 goals) **Bulldogs 24** (Averillo 2, Preston, Waddell tries, Burton 4/4 goals)

ROUND 21 - BRONCOS 36 v RABBITOHS 20

Storming home in the second half to turn a halftime deficit into a dominant victory, experienced forward Martin Taupau copped a lengthy ban for inexplicably raising his knees off a kick-off.

Broncos 36 (Staggs 2, Cobbo, Walsh, Willison, Reynolds tries, Reynolds 6/6 goals) **Rabbitohs 20** (Johnston, Graham, Tass tries, Taaffe 4/4 goals)

ROUND 22 - BRONCOS 32 v ROOSTERS 10

In his 78th appearance in the top grade, star forward Patrick Carrigan crossed for his first four-pointer as the Broncos proved far too strong to leave the Roosters' slim chances of playing finals football in all but tatters.

Broncos 32 (Mam 2, Farnworth, Carrigan, Staggs tries, Reynolds 6/6 goals) **Storm 10** (Billy Smith, Tupou tries, Sandon Smith 1/1, Suaalii 0/1 goals)

ROUND 23 - BRONCOS 30 v COWBOYS 14

In a hugely anticipated fixture between two Queensland sides surging towards September, stand-in halfback Jock Madden stepped up in the absence of Adam Reynolds to guide the Broncos to victory.

Broncos 30 (Arthars, Carrigan, Mam, Walsh, Cobbo tries, Staggs 5/6 goals) **Cowboys 14** (Feldt 2, Luki tries, Townsend 1/4 goals)

ROUND 24 - BRONCOS 54 v EELS 10

Bringing up a half century for the first time since Wayne Bennett's acrimonious exit five years ago, Herbie Farnworth rubbed salt into the Eels' wounds by moonwalking his way to the line as the Broncos guaranteed a top two finish.

Broncos 54 (Mariner 2, Walters 2, Reynolds, Farnworth, Mam, Capewell, Walsh tries, Reynolds 9/10 goals) **Eels 10** (Russell, Brown tries, Gutherson 1/2 goals)

ROUND 26 - BRONCOS 29 v RAIDERS 18

Spoiling the party in Jarrod Croker's final appearance for the Raiders, a hat-trick from Selwyn Cobbo put the Broncos in prime position to claim their first minor premiership since 2000 after the Panthers suffered a shock loss.

Broncos 29 (Cobbo 3, Staggs, Mam, Walsh tries, Staggs 2/6 goals, Walsh field goal) **Raiders 18** (Frawley, Cotric, Young tries, Fogarty 3/4 goals)

ROUND 27 - BRONCOS 22 v STORM 32

Electing to rest a host of first grade regulars ahead of bigger matches to come, the Broncos were unable to sustain a fast start in a result which saw the side have to settle for second place at the end of the home-and-away season.

Storm 32 (Anderson 2, Fa'alofo 2, Papenhuyzen, Smith tries, Papenhuyzen 4/6 goals) **Broncos 22** (Pereira 2, Flegler tries, Rogers 5/5 goals)

QUALIFYING FINAL - BRONCOS 26 v STORM 0

Breaking a drought against the Storm at Suncorp dating back to 2009, the Broncos suffocated their long-standing rivals to secure a week off and move within 80 minutes of a grand final appearance.

Broncos 26 (Staggs, Walsh, Riki, Cobbo tries, Reynolds 5/5 goals) **Storm 0**

PRELIMINARY FINAL - BRONCOS 42 v WARRIORS 12

In a high scoring first half which saw neither side rise to the occasion in defence, the Broncos rallied with three unanswered tries after halftime to secure their first grand final since 2015.

Broncos 42 (Walters 2, Farnworth 2, Arthars, Riki, Mam tries, Reynolds 6/6, Walsh 1/1 goals) **Warriors 12** (Watene-Zelezniak 2, Montoya tries tries, Pompey 0/3 goals)

THE RECORD

THE RESULTS OF EVERY PANTHERS-BRONCOS CONTEST SINCE 1988.

Meeting	Year	Round		Score		Score	Venue
1	1988	2	Penrith	18	Brisbane	20	Lang Park
2	1988	17	Penrith	6	Brisbane	8	Penrith
3	1989	1	Penrith	8	Brisbane	28	Lang Park
4	1989	16	Penrith	18	Brisbane	8	Penrith
5	1990	5	Penrith	26	Brisbane	18	Lang Park
6	1990	20	Penrith	18	Brisbane	2	Penrith
7	1990	Major Preliminary Semi Final	Penrith	26	Brisbane	16	Sydney Football Stadium
8	1991	13	Penrith	12	Brisbane	20	Lang Park
9	1992	4	Penrith	24	Brisbane	10	Lang Park
10	1992	19	Penrith	6	Brisbane	12	Penrith
11	1993	6	Penrith	8	Brisbane	34	ANZ Stadium, Brisbane
12	1993	21	Penrith	14	Brisbane	34	Penrith
13	1994	5	Penrith	6	Brisbane	37	ANZ Stadium, Brisbane
14	1994	20	Penrith	22	Brisbane	6	Penrith
15	1995	18	Penrith	12	Brisbane	17	ANZ Stadium, Brisbane
16	1996	18	Penrith	20	Brisbane	50	Penrith
17	1997	8	Penrith	27	Brisbane	26	Penrith
18	1997	16	Penrith	12	Brisbane	54	ANZ Stadium, Brisbane
19	1998	3	Penrith	18	Brisbane	26	ANZ Stadium, Brisbane
20	1998	14	Penrith	4	Brisbane	44	Penrith
21	1999	14	Penrith	0	Brisbane	28	ANZ Stadium, Brisbane
22	1999	17	Penrith	6	Brisbane	19	Penrith
23	2000	9	Penrith	18	Brisbane	2	Penrith
24	2000	22	Penrith	6	Brisbane	48	ANZ Stadium, Brisbane
25	2001	2	Penrith	22	Brisbane	38	ANZ Stadium, Brisbane
26	2001	15	Penrith	16	Brisbane	29	Penrith
27	2002	6	Penrith	26	Brisbane	30	ANZ Stadium, Brisbane
28	2002	18	Penrith	20	Brisbane	38	Penrith
29	2003	1	Penrith	20	Brisbane	24	Penrith
30	2003	22	Penrith	13	Brisbane	6	Suncorp Stadium

PENRITH PANTHERS

EST
1967

PREMIERSHIPS
4
1991, 2003, 2021, 2022

HOME VENUE
**BLUEBET
STADIUM**

MOST APPEARANCES
STEVE CARTER
(243)

60
MEETINGS

24
PENRITH WINS

35
BRISBANE WINS

1
DRAW

1,062
PENRITH POINTS
SCORED

1,391
BRISBANE POINTS
SCORED

31	2003	Qualifying Final	Penrith	28	Brisbane	18	Penrith
32	2004	7	Penrith	14	Brisbane	32	Suncorp Stadium
33	2004	26	Penrith	46	Brisbane	20	Penrith
34	2005	24	Penrith	22	Brisbane	20	Penrith
35	2006	7	Penrith	6	Brisbane	30	Suncorp Stadium
36	2007	3	Penrith	29	Brisbane	28	Suncorp Stadium
37	2007	16	Penrith	16	Brisbane	24	CUA Stadium
38	2008	1	Penrith	12	Brisbane	48	Suncorp Stadium
39	2008	16	Penrith	12	Brisbane	12	CUA Stadium
40	2009	6	Penrith	18	Brisbane	38	CUA Stadium
41	2009	23	Penrith	24	Brisbane	58	Suncorp Stadium
42	2010	15	Penrith	22	Brisbane	12	Suncorp Stadium
43	2011	4	Penrith	10	Brisbane	18	Suncorp Stadium
44	2011	10	Penrith	33	Brisbane	10	Centrebet Stadium
45	2012	26	Penrith	12	Brisbane	19	Suncorp Stadium
46	2013	24	Penrith	28	Brisbane	12	Centrebet Stadium
47	2014	18	Penrith	35	Brisbane	34	Sportingbet Stadium
48	2015	9	Penrith	5	Brisbane	8	Suncorp Stadium
49	2016	3	Penrith	23	Brisbane	22	Pepper Stadium
50	2016	20	Penrith	31	Brisbane	12	Suncorp Stadium
51	2017	9	Penrith	18	Brisbane	32	Suncorp Stadium
52	2017	Semi Final	Penrith	6	Brisbane	13	Suncorp Stadium
53	2018	19	Penrith	18	Brisbane	50	Suncorp Stadium
54	2019	22	Penrith	12	Brisbane	24	Suncorp Stadium
55	2020	17	Penrith	25	Brisbane	12	Suncorp Stadium
56	2021	6	Penrith	20	Brisbane	12	Suncorp Stadium
57	2021	19	Penrith	18	Brisbane	12	Suncorp Stadium
58	2022	6	Penrith	40	Brisbane	12	Bluebet Stadium
59	2023	1	Penrith	12	Brisbane	13	Bluebet Stadium
60	2023	12	Penrith	15	Brisbane	4	Suncorp Stadium
61	2023	Grand Final	Penrith	?	Brisbane	?	Accor Stadium

BRISBANE BRONCOS

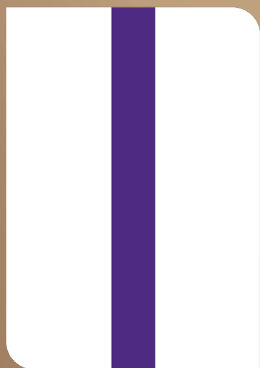
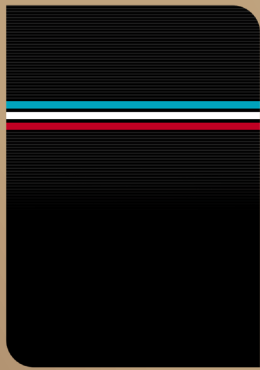
EST
1988

PREMIERSHIPS
6 1992, 1993, 1997 (SL),
1998, 2000, 2006

HOME VENUE
**SUNCORP
STADIUM**

MOST APPEARANCES
**DARREN
LOCKYER (355)**

THE WRAP NRL 2023 PRELIMINARY FINALS



Venue
Accor Stadium Sydney Olympic Park, NSW Wanngal
Kickoff
Fri 22 Sep 7:50PM
Referee
Adam GEE
Crowd
35,578

PENRITH	38	-	4	MELBOURNE
	18	HT	4	
	9	PENS	4	
Brian TO'O	3	T		Justin OLAM
Nathan CLEARY				
Dylan EDWARDS				
Sunia TURUVA				
Nathan CLEARY	7/8	G	0/1	Nick MEANEY
Dylan EDWARDS	1	FB	1	Nick MEANEY
Sunia TURUVA	2	W	2	Will WARBRICK
Izack TAGO	3	C	3	Marion SEVE
Stephen CRICHTON	4	C	4	Justin OLAM
Brian TO'O	5	W	5	Reimis SMITH
Jarome LUAI	6	FE	6	Cameron MUNSTER
Nathan CLEARY (c)	7	HB	7	Jahrome HUGHES
Moses LEOTA	8	FR	8	Tui KAMIKAMICA
Mitch KENNY	9	HK	19	Bronson GARLICK
James FISHER-HARRIS	10	FR	16	Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA
Scott SORENSEN	11	2R	11	Trent LOIERO
Liam MARTIN	12	2R	12	Eliesa KATOA
Isaah YEO	13	L	13	Josh KING
Jack COGGER	14	B	9	Harry GRANT
Lindsay SMITH	15	B	10	Christian WELCH (c)
Spencer LENIU	16	B	15	Tom EISENHUTH
Luke GARNER	17	B	17	Tariq SIMS
Ivan CLEARY		COACH		Craig BELLAMY

TO'O HATTY GUIDES PENRITH TO FOURTH STRAIGHT DECIDER

A hatrick by Brian To'o has capped a dominating team effort by the Penrith Panthers to book their place in the 2023 NRL Grand Final, thrashing Melbourne by 38-4.

Both sides engaged in early warfare with Melbourne answering the call in the opening sets of play. Off the back of a sloppy penalty, Penrith were able to advance up field and threw questions at Melbourne's suspect left edge after just three minutes.

Nathan Cleary drew in the defence before finding Dylan Edwards who drew in Justin Olam to find Brian To'o to cross for the first try of the evening. Cleary's conversion hit the posts and it was a slender lead for the home side. Melbourne hit back soon after following a rare mistake from Edwards who dropped a regulation high ball. Nick Meaney linked up with Olam who got some revenge on the outside of the returning Izack Tago to cross for the visitors. Meaney's conversion also hit the posts and it was tied at 4-4. Nelson Asofa-Solomona was pinged for a late shot and despite Adam Gee wanting a sin-bin, the bunker correctly confirmed the contact wasn't as forceful and illegal as first thought. Cleary knocked over a penalty goal for a 6-4 lead. Penrith's championship qualities came to the forefront when they again capitalised on some poor Melbourne handling out of their own end. It was a similar shift that saw To'o beat the sliding cover defence for his second try. Cleary converted from touch and it was a 12-4 lead.

Seven minutes later, Penrith went down a narrow blind-side off yet another cheap penalty. Jarome Luai did all the work engaging the line before Cleary put Warbrick in two minds and Sunia Turuva crosses outside. Penrith's star half added the extras and despite some late chances from the visitors it was 18-4 at the change of ends.

After a tense opening to the second fourth Jarome Luai decided to put his exclamation point on the second half in the 53rd minute. Luai skipped and danced his way through some Storm defence before sending Liam Martin through a yawning gap before passing to Cleary in support to score. Cleary converted to extend the margin out to 20. Off the ensuing set, Stephen Crichton produced a magical flick outside to Turuva who broke free before finding Edwards to cross. Cleary added the extras for a 30-4 lead. With just over 20 to go, Jarome Luai was put on ice for the remainder of the game and it didn't disrupt their flow. Brian To'o crossed for his hatrick after a strong bust from Isaah Yeo with 11 to go. From the ensuing tackle, Cleary and Tago combined with To'o to cross for his third. Cleary added the conversion and a later penalty goal to secure their grand final place.

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYERS OF THE MATCH:

- 3 points - Brian To'o
- 2 points - Nathan Cleary
- 1 points - Isaah Yeo

Match updated and wrap written by AJ LUCANTONIO

MATCH REVIEW & JUDICIARY NRL FINALS WEEK 3

Player	Club	Grade	Charge	On Who	Base	Offence #	Guilty	Early plea	Plea	Result
Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	Melbourne	1	Dangerous Contact	Isaah Yeo	\$1500	1st	\$1500	\$1000	Guilty - early plea	\$1000
Josh KING	Melbourne	1	Dangerous Contact	Nathan Cleary	\$1500	1st ^	\$1000	\$750	Guilty - early plea	\$750

Offences counted for the previous twelve months.

^ Denotes 3 year incident free discount



Venue
Suncorp Stadium Milton, QLD Yuggera-Turrbal
Kickoff
Sat 23 Sep 7:50PM
Referee
Gerard SUTTON
Crowd
52,273

BRISBANE	42	-	12	WARRIORS
	24	HT	12	
	5	PENS	5	
Herbie FARNWORTH	2	T	2	Dallin WATENE-ZELEZNIAK
Billy WALTERS	2			Marcelo MONTOYA
Jesse ARTHARS				
Ezra MAM				
Jordan RIKI				
Adam REYNOLDS	6/6	G	0/3	Adam POMPEY
Reece WALSH	1/1			
		BIN		Adam POMPEY
Reece WALSH	1	FB	1	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD
Jesse ARTHARS	2	W	2	Dallin WATENE-ZELEZNIAK
Kotoni STAGGS	3	C	3	Rocco BERRY
Herbie FARNWORTH	4	C	4	Adam POMPEY
Selwyn COBBO	5	W	5	Marcelo MONTOYA
Ezra MAM	6	FE	6	Te Maire MARTIN
Adam REYNOLDS (c)	7	HB	7	Shaun JOHNSON
Thomas FLEGLER	8	FR	8	Addin FONUA-BLAKE
Billy WALTERS	9	HK	9	Wayde EGAN
Payne HAAS	10	FR	10	Mitchell BARNETT
Kurt CAPEWELL	11	2R	11	Jackson FORD
Jordan RIKI	12	2R	12	Marata NIUKORE
Patrick CARRIGAN	13	L	13	Tohu HARRIS (c)
Tyson SMOOTHY	14	B	14	Dylan WALKER
Brendan PIAKURA	15	B	15	Jazz TEVAGA
Kobe HETHERINGTON	16	B	16	Bayley SIRONEN
Keenan PALASIA	17	B	17	Joshua CURRAN
Kevin WALTERS		COACH		Andrew WEBSTER

BRONCOS BLITZ WARRIORS TO REACH GRAND FINAL

The Brisbane Broncos have stormed into the Grand Final after an emphatic display of attacking football saw them absolutely dominate the Warriors, who simply couldn't keep up with the fast moving Broncos attack.

The Warriors opened the scoring in just the fourth minute courtesy of a beautiful set play on the short side. Shaun Johnson at first receiver, linked with the trailing runner Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad who drew the defender early before sending a nice ball to the unmarked Dallin Watene-Zelezniak who scored in the corner. Adam Pompey failed to convert from the sideline. The Broncos wasted no time to respond, hitting back in the 8th minute. On the first tackle after getting a set restart and just 5 metres from the Warriors line, Billy Walters at dummy half threw a dummy and then dived over near the posts to score a classic rake's try. Adam Reynolds converted to give the Broncos a 6-4 lead. The points kept flowing when Watene-Zelezniak snatched a brilliant intercept near halfway and raced 55 metres to score. Pompey again failed to convert from out wide. After 13 minutes the Warriors were back in front 8-6. Four minutes later the Broncos hit back again. Reece Walsh on the left side took the ball to the line, shaped to pass long but then hit Herbie Farnworth with a beautiful short ball and the big centre stretched out and scored, despite being tackled around the boot. Reynolds converted and the Broncos were back in front 12-8.

In the 20th minute, the Broncos went quickly on the attack courtesy of a great run by Payne Haas. On the next play, they shifted to the left quickly where Kurt Capewell got out of a tackle and then put Jesse Arthars over for a try in the corner. Reynolds converted from the sideline, to extend their lead by 10 points. The Broncos kept piling the misery onto the Warriors just 4 minutes later when Ezra Mam linked with the fast moving Walsh who exploded through a gap, drew the defender and then put Walters over for his second try. Reynolds converted. The Warriors stopped the Broncos onslaught in the 29th minute when they shifted the ball left to Johnson who passed out the back to Te Maire Martin, who drew and passed to Pompey who shuffled the ball quickly along to Marcelo Montoya and the winger evaded a

tackle before diving over in the left corner. Pompey failed to convert from the sideline. The final ten minutes of the half saw both sides ball control drop off and subsequently, the points stopped flowing. A Warriors turnover with 8 seconds remaining in the half gave Adam Reynolds an opportunity to pot a 2 point field goal from halfway, but it was deflected and only travelled 20 metres. At halftime, 7 tries were scored and the Broncos held a 24-12 lead.

The Broncos went close to scoring twice in the opening 10 minutes of the second half, through Jordan Riki in the 42nd minute, when he made a break but was brought down and wrapped up just inches short of the line on the last tackle and then in the 48th minute when a Kurt Capewell offload put Farnworth over, but the pass was ruled forward. Brisbane finally got the scoreboard moving in the second half in the 62nd minute with a controversial try. Walsh made a break through the line and then threw a very obvious but unintentional forward pass that finds Cobbo, whose pass back inside to Riki also looked forward, and Riki raced away to score under the posts. Reynolds converted to give Brisbane a 30-12 lead. On the 59th minute, Kotoni Staggs was obstructed from chasing a Reynolds grubber by Pompey which resulted in the Warriors centre being sent to the sin bin for ten minutes. In the following set, Ezra Mam received the ball out wide on the left, stepped back inside, beating Bayley Sironen, gets through a gap before getting bumped over in a tackle attempt, before rolling over the tryline to score. Reynolds converts. Brisbane brought up 40 points in the 70th minute when, off the back of a great run by Haas on the previous play, they sent the ball left to Walsh who quickly passed along to Farnworth running back in against the grain and he strolled through a big gap to score. Walsh converted. Watene-Zelezniak tried to barge over from dummy half in the 75th minute but he was held up.

Some open footy closed out the final 5 minutes of the game, but neither side could improve their score, Brisbane victorious 42-12 and advancing to the Grand Final.

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYERS OF THE MATCH:

- 3 points - Reece Walsh
- 2 points - Payne Haas
- 1 points - Patrick Carrigan

Match updated and wrap written by Andrew FERGUSON

OUR TEAM OF THE YEAR

AS CHOSEN BY OUR TEAM OF WRITERS THROUGHOUT 2023

At the conclusion of every game during the NRL season, the dedicated team of live updaters give their votes for the three best players of the match. Based on those votes, here is the LeagueUnlimited.com Team of 2023.

FULLBACK

KALYN PONGA (KNIGHTS) 32 Votes

Given the year KP has had, his selection might raise some eye-brows. But, given how instrumental he was in guiding the Knights home and into a home final for the first time in almost 20 seasons. It is worthy of selection, Ponga boasted a strong stat-line which also included him playing every match bar the last game. He had 21 try-assists, 96 tackle-breaks and 19 line-breaks to go with his nine tries on the season.

Next best: Reece Walsh (29 votes)

WINGERS

JAMAYNE ISAAKO (DOLPHINS) 10 Votes

With his career seemingly at a cross-roads after a horror 24 months at the other S-E QLD teams. Isaako was at his final chance with the Dolphins and he proved it with a spectacular first year with the expansion side. As the NRL's top point-scorer through 27 rounds (244 points), Isaako was immense crossing the line 24 times to complete the rare point-try leader double, considering his arrival was seen as questionable before the year. The output has been exceptional.

BRIAN TO'O (PANTHERS) 9 Votes

In what was another blockbuster year for the NSW Origin rep. To'o took his promising career to even greater heights in season 2023. To'o scored a career high 21 tries, busted 104 tackles and broke the line on 24 occasions. Concerns about his aerial capabilities have been put to the side, as To'o is one of the games premier outside backs and his game will only get stronger especially as he looks towards a third consecutive ring.

Next best: Jordan Rapana (9 votes)

CENTRES

STEPHEN CRICHTON (PANTHERS) 13 Votes

After a strong 2022, Crichton has rebounded in a great 2023 campaign. After starting slowly and getting caught out defensively on some occasions. The man better known as Critta delivered in spades for the Mountain Men. A damaging runner of the football with the skills a half could dream of. Critta will deliver in spades at Belmore next season. In his 100th match, the job is his to get that third premiership ring on Sunday.

IZACK TAGO (PANTHERS) 10 Votes

Given the man has missed half the season through injury. Making the list despite this is an achievement in it's own right. After a pectoral injury that nearly ruined his season, Tago returned against the Dragons and didn't look back. His individual performance against the Storm in Round 16 showcased how lethal Tago can be running the football and if he can keep this up, Penrith's impending departure of Critta can be resolved rather quickly.

Next best: Herbie Farnworth (9 votes)

FIVE-EIGHTH

CAMERON MUNSTER (STORM) 22 Votes

Despite the roller-coaster of a season the Storm had this year. Cam Munster's form has been a large part of it. With the Storm flying high, Munster was in command of a lethal and dynamic attack. But, when he lost weapons around him, he was carrying the load of the attack. Against weak teams, it made him a dangerous player, but when schemed against he was ineffective. Munster's efforts in those matches sees him win the honour as 5/8 of the year with a high poll of 22 votes.

Next best: Cody Walker (17 votes)

HALFBACK and PLAYER OF THE YEAR

SHAUN JOHNSON (WARRIORS) 40 votes

Given the way SJ's 2022 season ended. It appeared as if we would be seeing the retirement tour in 2023. However, we've seen the vintage SJ return for the Wahs this season. His form has been dynamic and what we've come to expect of him in recent seasons, setting up 29 tries and 26 line-breaks as part of a sharp Warriors attack. SJ's season drove the Wahs to an unexpected top-four finish and one game shy of the grand final.

Next best: Nicho Hynes (28 votes)

PROP

PAYNE HAAS (BRONCOS) 23 Votes

Undoubtly the best front-rower in the competition, Haas had an amazing 2023 season which also embodied the spirit of Brisbane. Despite some rumours last season he wanted out, Haas played like a committed trooper this season, eventually getting his new deal. Haas had a great year running for over 4000m this season (close to 1600m being post-contact) and was a workaholic in the middle for the Broncos as they charged towards the GF.

ADDIN-FONUUA BLAKE (WARRIORS) 17 Votes

It's a well known fact that AFB has been flying under the radar as one of the game's best front-rowers. This year, along with the Warriors charge. The NRL world got to see AFB in flight. It was a break-out season for the rampaging front rower, running for 4000m this season (over 1600m post contact) and 73 tackle breaks saw AFB challenge Payne Haas for the top mantle-piece for much of the season. Although he isn't there yet, another strong season and progressions up front could see him get there.

Next best: Nelson Asofa-Solomona (8 votes)

HOOKER

HARRY GRANT (STORM) 15 Votes

The game's premier dummy half again soared to new heights in 2023. His start to the year was dynamic as the Storm's middle third dominated teams, allowing him to play off the front foot setting up tries and breaks for fun. Grant's role somewhat changed at the end of the season as he was brought in as an impact dummy half and it's impact was devastating for opposition middles.

Next best: Api Koroisau (12 votes)

SECOND ROW

DAVID FIFITA (TITANS) 13 Votes

After a quiet year in 2022 which saw pundits question his huge price-tag. Fifita had a huge return to form in 2023 despite the turmoil engulfing the Titans. Fifita was instrumental in the Titans getting as close to the finals race as they did before they eventually faded out, crossing 8 times and looking more involved in the Titans attack as opposed to the Dynamo magic tricks he performed last season and disappeared. If Des gets the best out of him, 2024 is a big year.

HUDSON YOUNG (RAIDERS) 11 Votes

Hudson Young had a break-out season. While most will look at his stint in a NSW jumper and put in the 'never play again' section. His season was strong and consistent for the Green Machine. Young's season saw him cross 9 times, break the line seven times and tackle at a consistent level, exactly what Canberra needed from him in 2023. His ability to change the momentum of the game is what earns him a spot in this team after a strong showing.

Next best: Briton Nikara (7 votes)

LOCK

ISAAH YEO (PANTHERS) 15 Votes

Consistency is Isaaah Yeo's middle name. At club land, you know what your going to get every single week. Hard running, great pass selection and strong consistent defence. It's been the trademark of his game as part of the Panthers premiership window and it's no surprise to see him in this position once again. He's the glue that keeps the Penrith orchestra humming, the calm, relaxed persona to ensure Penrith fails to go off course from it's goal of three-peating.

Next best: Corey Horsburgh (13 votes)

ROOKIE

JAHREEM BULA (TIGERS) 8 Votes

I first observed Jahreem Bula in a trial against the Warriors and my notes were raw and needed development. Well, he was thrown into the deep end debuting in Round 8 and hasn't turned back. Shocking everyone with a solid rookie season and is our ROTY. Bula was outstanding creating so many opportunities in a Tigers side that lacked so many things throughout the year. If Bula can take this form into 2024, the Tigers MIGHT get off the bottom.

Next best: Alofiana Khan-Pereria (6 votes)

PONGA'S LATE SURGE CLAIMS DALLY M

ALL THE WINNERS FROM THE 2023 DALLY M AWARDS

2023 Dally M NRL Player of the Year
KALYN PONGA (KNIGHTS)

NRL AWARDS

Coach of the Year: Andrew Webster (Warriors)
Captain of the Year: Adam Reynolds (Broncos)
Rookie of the Year: Sunia Turuva (Panthers)
Try of the Year: Mat Feagai (Dragons)
Tackle of the Year: Haumole Olakau'atu (Sea Eagles)
Ken Stephens Medal: Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs)
Top Pointscorer - Jamayne Isaako (Dolphins) 244 points
Ken Irvine Award for Top Tryscorer - Jamayne Isaako (Dolphins) 24 tries

NRLW AWARDS

Coach of the Year: Karyn Murphy (Titans)
Captain of the Year: Simaima Taufa (Raiders)
Rookie of the Year: Annessa Biddle (Sharks)
Try of the Year: Jesse Southwell (Knights)
Tackle of the Year: Jakiya Whitfeld (Wests Tigers)
Veronica White Medal: Tahlulah Tillett (Cowboys)
Top Pointscorer - Ali Briggingshaw (Brisbane)
Top Tryscorer - Teagan Berry (St George Illawarra)

2023 Dally M NRLW Player of the Year
TAMIKA UPTON (KNIGHTS)

NRL Team of the Year

Fullback: Kalyn Ponga (Knights)
Wingers (2): Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Warriors), Jamayne Isaako (Dolphins)
Centres (2): Stephen Crichton (Panthers), Herbie Farnworth (Broncos)
Five-Eighth: Ezra Mam (Broncos)
Halfback: Shaun Johnson (Warriors)
Props (2): Payne Haas (Broncos), Addin Fonua-Blake (Warriors)
Hooker: Harry Grant (Storm)
Second Rowers (2): Liam Martin (Panthers), David Fifita (Titans)
Lock: Patrick Carrigan (Broncos)

NRLW Team of the Year

Fullback: Tamika Upton (Knights)
Wingers: Jakiya Whitfeld (Wests Tigers), Julia Robinson (Broncos)
Centres: Isabelle Kelly (Roosters), Mele Hufanga (Broncos)
Five-Eighth: Tarryn Aiken (Roosters)
Halfback: Ali Briggingshaw (Broncos)
Props: Shannon Mato (Titans), Sarah Togatuki (Wests Tigers)
Hooker: Destiny Brill (Broncos)
Second Rowers: Yasmin Clydsdale (Knights), Olivia Kernick (Roosters)
Lock: Simaima Taufa (Raiders)

CLUB AWARD WINNERS

PARRAMATTA Ken Thornett Medal

Clint GUTHERSON

WARRIORS Simon Mannering Medal

Shaun JOHNSON

MANLY Roy Bull Award

Daly CHERRY-EVANS

NSWRL

Brad Fittler Medal (State of Origin)
NSW Cup Player of the Year
Women's Premiership Player of the Year

Brian TO'O
Dean HAWKINS (South Sydney)
Hollie WHEELER (Canterbury)

CANBERRA Meninga Medal

Joseph TAPINE

CANTERBURY Dr George Peponis Award

Jacob PRESTON

NEWCASTLE Danny Buderus Medal

Kalyn PONGA

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA Dragons Medal

Blake LAWRIE

WESTS TIGERS Kelly-Barnes Medak

Jahreem BULA

DOLPHINS Arthur Beetson Medal

Jamayne ISAAKO

CRONULLA Porter-Gallen Medal

Blayne BRAILEY

QRL

Ron McAuliffe Medal (State of Origin)
Petero Civoniceva Medal (QLD Cup)
Steph Hancock Award (QRL Womens)

Reuben COTTER
Trai FULLER (Redcliffe)
Shaniah POWER (Wynnum)

GOLD COAST Paul Broughton Medal

Moeaki FOTUAIKA

NORTH QUEENSLAND Paul Bowman Medal

Scott DRINKWATER

SYDNEY Jack Gibson Medal

Lindsay COLLINS

STILL TO COME

Melbourne Storm
Penrith Panthers
South Sydney Rabbitohs
Brisbane Broncos
RLPA Player's Champion

FIXTURES & RESULTS 2023 NRL SEASON

ROUND 1							
Mar 2nd	Thu 8:00pm	Parramatta	12	Melbourne	16	CommBank	17,301
Mar 3rd	Fri 8:00pm	Warriors	20	Newcastle	12	Sky Stadium	16,676
Mar 3rd	Fri 8:05pm	Penrith	12	Brisbane	13	Bluebet	17,125
Mar 4th	Sat 3:00pm	Manly	31	Canterbury	6	4 Pines Park	17,217
Mar 4th	Sat 4:30pm	North Qld	19	Canberra	18	QLD C.B.	19,855
Mar 4th	Sat 7:35pm	Cronulla	18	Souths	27	Pointsbet	12,757
Mar 5th	Sun 3:05pm	Dolphins	28	Sydney	18	Suncorp	32,177
Mar 5th	Sun 6:15pm	Wests Tigers	10	Gold Coast	22	Leichhardt	14,667
Bye: St Geo Illa							
ROUND 2							
Mar 9th	Thu 8:00pm	Penrith	16	Souths	10	Bluebet	16,906
Mar 10th	Fri 6:00pm	Parramatta	26	Cronulla	30	CommBank	16,663
Mar 10th	Fri 7:00pm	Brisbane	28	North Qld	16	Suncorp	43,162
Mar 11th	Sat 3:00pm	Sydney	20	Warriors	12	Allianz	16,267
Mar 11th	Sat 4:30pm	Dolphins	20	Canberra	14	Kayo Stadium	10,023
Mar 11th	Sat 7:35pm	Melbourne	12	Canterbury	26	AAMI Park	17,248
Mar 12th	Sun 4:05pm	Wests Tigers	12	Newcastle	14	Leichhardt	13,214
Mar 12th	Sun 6:15pm	St Geo Illa	32	Gold Coast	18	Netstrata	8,538
Bye: Manly							
ROUND 3							
Mar 16th	Thu 8:00pm	Manly	34	Parramatta	30	4 Pines Park	13,363
Mar 17th	Fri 6:00pm	Newcastle	20	Dolphins	36	McD. Jones	20,093
Mar 17th	Fri 8:00pm	Sydney	20	Souths	18	Allianz	36,639
Mar 18th	Sat 2:00pm	Gold Coast	38	Melbourne	34	Cbus	14,483
Mar 18th	Sat 4:30pm	North Qld	12	Warriors	26	QLD C.B.	17,818
Mar 18th	Sat 6:35pm	Brisbane	40	St Geo Illa	18	Suncorp	26,612
Mar 19th	Sun 4:05pm	Canterbury	26	Wests Tigers	22	Belmore	16,404
Mar 19th	Sun 6:15pm	Canberra	24	Cronulla	20	GIO Stadium	14,134
Bye: Penrith							
ROUND 4							
Mar 23rd	Thu 8:00pm	Parramatta	17	Penrith	16	CommBank	16,342
Mar 24th	Fri 6:00pm	Melbourne	24	Wests Tigers	12	AAMI Park	11,669
Mar 24th	Fri 7:00pm	Dolphins	12	Brisbane	18	Suncorp	51,047
Mar 25th	Sat 4:30pm	North Qld	24	Gold Coast	12	QLD C.B.	16,426
Mar 25th	Sat 7:35pm	Souths	13	Manly	12	Accor	18,379
Mar 26th	Sun 4:00pm	Warriors	16	Canterbury	14	Mt Smart	18,595
Mar 26th	Sun 4:05pm	Newcastle	24	Canberra	14	McD. Jones	15,106
Mar 26th	Sun 6:15pm	St Geo Illa	8	Cronulla	40	Netstrata	15,126
Bye: Sydney							
ROUND 5							
Mar 30th	Thu 8:00pm	Sydney	28	Parramatta	20	Allianz	20,886
Mar 31st	Fri 6:00pm	Canberra	12	Penrith	53	GIO Stadium	15,334
Mar 31st	Fri 8:00pm	Souths	10	Melbourne	18	Accor	11,239
Apr 1st	Sat 3:00pm	Manly	32	Newcastle	32	Glen Willow	9,024
Apr 1st	Sat 5:30pm	St Geo Illa	38	Dolphins	12	WIN Stadium	16,472
Apr 1st	Sat 6:35pm	Brisbane	46	Wests Tigers	12	Suncorp	27,553
Apr 2nd	Sun 4:05pm	Cronulla	30	Warriors	32	Pointsbet	10,878
Apr 2nd	Sun 6:15pm	Canterbury	15	North Qld	14	Accor	9,626
Bye: Gold Coast							
ROUND 6							
Apr 6th	Thu 7:50pm	Melbourne	28	Sydney	8	AAMI Park	16,323
Apr 7th	Fri 4:05pm	Canterbury	16	Souths	50	Accor	35,211
Apr 7th	Fri 8:00pm	North Qld	22	Dolphins	32	QLD C.B.	22,811
Apr 8th	Sat 5:30pm	Penrith	44	Manly	12	Bluebet	20,312
Apr 8th	Sat 7:35pm	Brisbane	14	Canberra	20	Suncorp	31,962
Apr 9th	Sun 4:05pm	Gold Coast	20	St Geo Illa	18	Cbus	12,452
Apr 9th	Sun 6:15pm	Newcastle	34	Warriors	24	McD. Jones	18,007
Apr 10th	Mon 4:00pm	Wests Tigers	22	Parramatta	28	Accor	28,611
Bye: Cronulla							
ROUND 7							
Apr 13th	Thu 7:50pm	Dolphins	14	Souths	36	Suncorp	23,280
Apr 14th	Fri 6:00pm	Cronulla	22	Sydney	12	Pointsbet	11,489
Apr 14th	Fri 8:00pm	Manly	18	Melbourne	8	4 Pines Park	13,573
Apr 15th	Sat 5:00pm	Warriors	22	North Qld	14	Mt Smart	23,695
Apr 15th	Sat 5:30pm	Newcastle	15	Penrith	16	McD. Jones	26,084
Apr 15th	Sat 7:35pm	Gold Coast	26	Brisbane	43	Cbus	26,563
Apr 16th	Sun 2:00pm	Canberra	20	St Geo Illa	14	GIO Stadium	13,817
Apr 16th	Sun 4:05pm	Parramatta	30	Canterbury	4	CommBank	27,655
Bye: Wests Tigers							

ROUND 8							
Apr 20th	Thu 7:50pm	Souths	20	Penrith	18	Accor	19,548
Apr 21st	Fri 7:30pm	Parramatta	16	Brisbane	26	TIO Stadium	11,864
Apr 22nd	Sat 5:30pm	Canterbury	20	Cronulla	33	Accor	12,148
Apr 22nd	Sat 7:35pm	North Qld	18	Newcastle	16	QLD C.B.	17,970
Apr 23rd	Sun 2:00pm	Dolphins	28	Gold Coast	26	Suncorp	22,034
Apr 23rd	Sun 4:05pm	Wests Tigers	16	Manly	22	Campbelltown	10,033
Apr 25th	Tue 4:05pm	Sydney	27	St Geo Illa	26	Allianz	40,191
Apr 25th	Tue 7:00pm	Melbourne	30	Warriors	22	AAMI Park	23,469
Bye: Canberra							
ROUND 9							
Apr 27th	Thu 7:50pm	Cronulla	44	North Qld	6	Pointsbet	8,148
Apr 28th	Fri 6:00pm	Parramatta	43	Newcastle	12	CommBank	15,875
Apr 28th	Fri 8:00pm	Brisbane	6	Souths	32	Suncorp	40,102
Apr 29th	Sat 3:00pm	Canberra	31	Dolphins	30	Wagga	10,445
Apr 29th	Sat 5:30pm	Manly	10	Gold Coast	26	4 Pines Park	10,107
Apr 29th	Sat 7:35pm	Penrith	8	Wests Tigers	12	Carrington	11,055
Apr 30th	Sun 4:00pm	Warriors	0	Sydney	14	Mt Smart	20,395
Apr 30th	Sun 4:05pm	St Geo Illa	16	Canterbury	18	WIN Stadium	16,678
Bye: Melbourne							
ROUND 10							
May 5th	Fri 6:00pm	Canterbury	30	Canberra	34	Suncorp	41,462
May 5th	Fri 8:05pm	Manly	6	Brisbane	32	Suncorp	50,077
May 6th	Sat 3:00pm	Warriors	6	Penrith	18	Suncorp	38,035
May 6th	Sat 5:30pm	Cronulla	16	Dolphins	36	Suncorp	48,068
May 6th	Sat 7:45pm	Melbourne	12	Souths	28	Suncorp	50,183
May 7th	Sun 1:50pm	Wests Tigers	18	St Geo Illa	16	Suncorp	34,568
May 7th	Sun 4:00pm	Sydney	6	North Qld	20	Suncorp	45,085
May 7th	Sun 6:25pm	Gold Coast	26	Parramatta	24	Suncorp	46,835
Bye: Newcastle							
ROUND 11							
May 11th	Thu 7:50pm	Melbourne	24	Brisbane	16	AAMI Park	16,043
May 12th	Fri 6:00pm	Canterbury	12	Warriors	24	Accor	14,294
May 12th	Fri 8:00pm	Penrith	48	Sydney	4	Bluebet	20,255
May 13th	Sat 3:00pm	Souths	20	Wests Tigers	0	Accor	21,013
May 13th	Sat 5:30pm	North Qld	42	St Geo Illa	22	QLD C.B.	17,852
May 13th	Sat 7:35pm	Canberra	26	Parramatta	18	GIO Stadium	17,414
May 14th	Sun 2:00pm	Newcastle	46	Gold Coast	26	McD. Jones	13,064
May 14th	Sun 4:05pm	Manly	14	Cronulla	20	4 Pines Park	10,358
Bye: Dolphins							
ROUND 12							
May 18th	Thu 7:50pm	Brisbane	4	Penrith	15	Suncorp	33,343
May 19th	Fri 6:00pm	St Geo Illa	24	Sydney	22	Netstrata	9,007
May 19th	Fri 8:00pm	Souths	16	Parramatta	36	Allianz	27,432
May 20th	Sat 3:00pm	Cronulla	26	Newcastle	6	C.ex Coffs	10,156
May 20th	Sat 5:30pm	Wests Tigers	66	North Qld	18	Leichhardt	12,247
May 20th	Sat 7:35pm	Dolphins	16	Melbourne	24	Suncorp	28,325
May 21st	Sun 2:00pm	Canterbury	20	Gold Coast	18	Accor	10,815
May 21st	Sun 4:05pm	Canberra	14	Manly	42	GIO Stadium	14,730
Bye: Warriors							
ROUND 13							
May 25th	Thu 7:50pm	Dolphins	26	St Geo Illa	12	Kayo Stadium	10,047
May 26th	Fri 8:00pm	Parramatta	24	North Qld	16	CommBank	14,810
May 27th	Sat 7:30pm	Warriors	22	Brisbane	26	McLean Park	16,195
May 27th	Sat 7:35pm	Souths	26	Canberra	33	Accor	12,382
May 28th	Sun 4:05pm	Newcastle	28	Manly	18	McD. Jones	20,661
Bye: Sydney, Penrith, Melbourne, Wests Tigers, Gold Coast, Cronulla, Canterbury							
MEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN I							
May 31st	Wed 7:35pm	NSW	18	QLD	26	Adelaide	48,613
WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN I							
June 1st	Thu 7:45pm	NSW	10	QLD	18	CommBank	12,972
ROUND 14							
Jun 2nd	Fri 8:00pm	Wests Tigers	19	Canberra	20	Campbelltown	11,201
Jun 3rd	Sat 5:00pm	Warriors	30	Dolphins	8	Go Media	23,686
Jun 3rd	Sat 5:30pm	Gold Coast	28	Souths	46	Cbus	18,736
Jun 3rd	Sat 7:35pm	Cronulla	12	Brisbane	20	Pointsbet	12,318
Jun 4th	Sun 2:00pm	Sydney	25	Canterbury	24	Ind. Group	18,338
Jun 4th	Sun 4:05pm	North Qld	45	Melbourne	20	QLD C.B.	18,867
Jun 4th	Sun 6:15pm	Penrith	26	St Geo Illa	18	Bluebet	16,912
Bye: Parramatta, Manly, Newcastle							

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS GOLD COAST TITANS



VENUE	ACCOR STADIUM	Belinda SHARPE	REFEREE
LOCATION	WANNGAL SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK, NSW	Mitch CURRIE, Rochelle TAMARUA	TOUCH JUDGES
DAY & TIME	SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2023 3:55PM AEST	Kasey BADGER	NRL BUNKER

P	T	G	FG	Pts	Age		
10	5	-	-	20	26	Tamika UPTON	1
10	5	4	-	28	21	Sheridan GALLAGHER	2
10	5	-	-	20	25	Shanice PARKER	3
10	6	-	-	24	22	Abigail ROACHE	4
10	3	-	-	12	20	Jasmin STRANGE	5
7	1	-	-	4	23	Georgia ROCHE	6
10	3	31	-	74	18	Jesse SOUTHWELL	7
10	3	-	-	12	22	Tayla PREDEBON	8
10	4	-	-	16	30	Olivia HIGGINS	9
9	1	-	-	4	22	Caitlan JOHNSTON	10
9	-	-	-	-	25	Laishon JONES	11
10	4	-	-	16	29	Yasmin CLYDSDALE	12
7	1	-	-	4	24	Hannah SOUTHWELL	13
10	-	-	-	-	31	Nita MAYNARD	14
5	1	-	-	4	22	Tiana DAVISON	15
10	2	-	-	8	21	Kayla ROMANIUK	16
6	1	-	-	4	25	Rima BUTLER	17
2	-	-	-	-	-	Jacinta CARTER	18
3	-	-	-	-	26	Caitlin MORAN	19
3	-	-	-	-	19	Felila KIA	20
1	-	-	-	-	19	Tamerah LEATI	21
-	-	-	-	-	18	Jayde HERDEGEN	22

Ronald GRIFFITHS

- FULLBACK
- WING
- CENTRE
- CENTRE
- WING
- FIVE-EIGHTH
- HALFBACK
- FRONT ROW
- HOOKER
- FRONT ROW
- SECOND ROW
- SECOND ROW
- LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

	Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	28	10	5	-	-	20
2	34	8	1	-	-	4
3	21	8	6	-	-	24
4	-	10	1	-	-	4
5	-	9	3	-	-	12
6	-	10	2	2	-	12
7	28	10	1	10	2	26
8	25	10	1	-	-	4
9	32	10	1	-	-	4
10	25	10	3	-	-	12
11	22	9	2	3	-	14
12	23	10	2	-	-	8
13	28	10	1	-	-	4
14	-	9	2	-	-	8
15	41	10	-	-	-	-
16	-	7	-	2	-	4
17	-	5	1	-	-	4
18	24	1	-	-	-	-
19	26	3	-	-	-	-
20	21	3	-	-	-	-
21	19	2	1	-	-	4
22	24	4	2	-	-	8

Karyn MURPHY

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

BROADCAST

WATCH	NINE NETWORK, 9NOW, FOX LEAGUE, KAYO SPORTS
LISTEN	ABC SPORT, CHECK GUIDES FOR OTHERS

HEAD TO HEAD: 2022 - 2023

	TOTAL	NEWCASTLE	GOLD COAST	DRAWN
ALL MATCHES	3	2	1	0
ACCOR STADIUM	0	0	0	0
FINALS	0	0	0	0

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

HEAD TO HEAD RESULTS

YEAR	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2022 (season 21)	Round 5	GOLD COAST 14-10	Suncorp Stadium	-
2022	Round 2	NEWCASTLE 16-12	Cbus Super Stadium	-
2023	Round 4	NEWCASTLE 22-10	McDonald Jones Stdm	12,889

FORM - LAST THREE

	ROUND 8	ROUND 9	SEMI FINAL
NEWCASTLE	SYDNEY W 20-4	WESTS TIGERS W 28-8	BRISBANE W 30-24
GOLD COAST	PARRAMATTA W 34-12	CANBERRA W 30-6	SYDNEY W 12-0

- Newcastle have won 15 of their last 17 NRLW games
- Gold Coast have won 9 of their last 12 NRLW games

THE PREVIEW

with Kelly HOLLIS

The stage is set for a thrilling NRLW Grand Final showdown as the defending champions, Newcastle Knights, take on the resilient Gold Coast Titans at the pinnacle of women's rugby league. With both teams showcasing their prowess in the semifinals, this battle promises to be a clash of strength, strategy, and determination.

In their semifinal clash against the Brisbane Broncos, Newcastle Knights displayed their championship mettle. With over 12,600 rugby league fans packing McDonald Jones Stadium, the team from Newcastle started strong, leading 18-4 at half-time. Their defensive prowess was matched by their clinical attack, resulting in the side scoring five tries. The accurate kicking of Jesse Southwell proved pivotal, with the Broncos also scoring five tries of their own, however, Ali Brigginsshaw was unable to convert three of them. Southwell's perfect conversion rate helped to secure Newcastle's 8th consecutive victory this season and a place in back-to-back grand finals. Tamika Upton put on another exceptional performance, setting up two tries and scoring one of her own, underling her influence on the team.

In a remarkable turnaround from their previous season where they won just one game and were handed the wooden spoon, the Gold Coast Titans clinched their spot in the Grand Final by defeating premiership favourites, the Sydney Roosters. Their performance at Allianz Stadium was a testament to their growth and determination, holding the Roosters to nil after a previous 30-8 defeat to the Tricolours in Round 5. It wasn't just the experienced players like Evania Pelite and skipper Georgia Hale who displayed immense grit and skill, contributing to this historic win, but their young players also stood up to the occasion. In particular, NRLW Rookie of the Year nominee, Rilee Jorgensen, stepped up to the plate slotting a conversion and a penalty goal to seal the 12-0 win.

The Knights and Titans are set to showcase their best, aiming for glory and etching their names in NRLW history.

Despite a charge against Caitlin Johnson for a dangerous throw, she will line up in the front row for the Grand Final after entering an early guilty plea. As a result, Newcastle Knights coach, Ronald Griffiths has been able to

stick with their winning formula, naming unchanged starting 17 for their final game of the season.

Titans' coach, Karyn Murphy, has also been able to name the same 17 players that took the field against the Roosters, allowing her to keep the combinations together that helped them earn their place in the decider. Murphy is also set to make history herself as the first female coach to lead a team into an NRLW Grand Final. This milestone marks a significant step forward in the representation of women in coaching roles.

The Knights hold a slight advantage in their head-to-head clashes against the Titans, with a 2-1 win ratio. Their most recent victory came in August, where they emerged victorious with a 22-10 scoreline at McDonald Jones Stadium. A win on Sunday would see them become just the second team to win more than one NRLW title, joining the Brisbane Broncos who have secured 3 in their history. The Titans, on the other hand, are aiming to become the first Gold Coast side, either NRL or NRLW, to win a premiership.

The 2023 NRLW Grand Final promises to be a nail-biting encounter, with both teams showcasing their best talents and strategies. Rugby league enthusiasts are encouraged to tune in for this historic clash, and only time will unveil the victor and the next NRLW champion.

WHO TO WATCH: This game is going to be the battle of the fullbacks, with both sides having pure class in this position.

Tamika Upton has consistently topped the run metres, linebreaks and tackle break stats table for her side. She has averaged 222 metres per game, the most of any player across the league and has run for over 200 metres in seven of her 10 appearances. She can break open a game like no other player and the Titans will need to stay on top of her if they have any hope of keeping this game close.

Titans fullback Evania Pelite was a key piece in her side's win against the Roosters, running for 262 metres, breaking seven tackles and throwing a superb cut-out pass that saw her winger Destiny Mino-Sinapati score in the 69th minute, ultimately the try that sent the Titans into their first grand final.

MY TIP: It's hard to go past the Newcastle Knights given their outstanding form throughout the 2023 regular season. With only one loss in Round 2, the Knights have been the best defensive side in the competition, while the team from the Gold Coast have made it to the Grand Final despite having scored the fourth-fewest points in this NRLW season. Newcastle by 8.

SQUAD UPDATE SAT 3:55PM | LATE MAIL SUN 2:55PM | VISIT [LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM](https://www.leagueunlimited.com) FOR UPDATED TEAMLISTS

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project

BRISBANE TIGERS SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS



VENUE	ACCOR STADIUM	Wyatt RAYMOND	REFEREE
LOCATION	WANNGAL SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK, NSW	Cameron PADDY, Tyson BROUGH	TOUCH JUDGES
DAY & TIME	SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2023 1:20PM AEST	Chris BUTLER	NRL BUNKER

P	T	G	FG	Pts	Age		
14	1	-	-	4	23	Tahj WOOD	1
13	13	-	-	52	-	Max LEHMANN	2
22	17	-	-	68	22	Solomona FAATAAPE	3
17	7	-	-	28	23	Kane BRADLEY	4
15	13	-	-	52	30	George JENNINGS	5
23	3	-	-	12	31	Ryley JACKS	6
10	1	23	1	51	20	Jonah PEZET	7
18	1	-	-	4	29	Jordan GRANT	8
17	4	-	-	16	-	Cole GEYER	14
22	8	-	-	32	22	Tristan POWELL	10
20	3	-	-	12	26	Thomas RAFTER	11
21	5	-	-	20	33	Leivaha PULU	12
18	1	-	-	4	22	Charlie MURRAY	13
21	1	-	-	4	32	Bennett LESLIE	15
19	4	-	-	16	21	Joe CHAN	16
8	-	19	-	38	25	Jack MIERS	18
9	2	-	-	8	28	Marion SEVE	19
8	-	-	-	-	-	Jack NATAPU	17
7	3	-	-	12	27	Nat McGAVIN	20
4	1	5	-	14	28	Brayden TORPY	21
4	-	-	-	-	-	Samuel WALLIS	22

Matt CHURCH

FULLBACK
WING
CENTRE
CENTRE
WING
FIVE-EIGHTH
HALFBACK
FRONT ROW
HOOKER
FRONT ROW
SECOND ROW
SECOND ROW
LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

	Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	24	13	6	23	-	70
2	-	27	16	4	-	72
3	26	9	10	-	-	40
4	-	26	7	-	-	28
5	18	7	7	-	-	28
6	-	21	6	3	-	30
7	24	22	6	61	-	146
8	27	9	3	-	-	12
9	22	25	10	-	-	40
10	-	26	3	-	-	12
11	-	10	3	-	-	12
12	24	25	9	-	-	36
13	21	19	2	-	-	8
14	-	22	2	-	-	8
15	-	16	-	-	-	-
16	-	12	3	-	-	12
17	36	24	-	1	-	2
18	26	6	-	-	-	-
19	-	7	-	-	-	-
20	-	2	-	-	-	-
21	23	1	-	-	-	-
22	49	2	-	-	-	-

Joe O'CALLAGHAN

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

BROADCAST

WATCH	NINE NETWORK, 9NOW, FOX LEAGUE, KAYO SPORTS
LISTEN	ABC SPORT, CHECK GUIDES FOR OTHERS

RUGBY LEAGUE project

PREVIOUS NRL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

YEAR	RESULT
2014	NORTHERN PRIDE (QLD) def PENRITH PANTHERS (NSW) 32-28
2015	IPSWICH JETS (QLD) def NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (NSW) 26-12
2016	ILLAWARRA CUTTERS (NSW) def BURLEIGH BEARS (QLD) 54-12
2017	PENRITH PANTHERS (NSW) def PNG HUNTERS (QLD) 42-18
2018	CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (NSW) def REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS (QLD) 42-18
2019	NEWTOWN JETS (NSW) def BURLEIGH BEARS (QLD) 20-16
2022	PENRITH PANTHERS (NSW) def NORTHS DEVILS (QLD) 44-10

THE PREVIEW

with Tim COSTELLO

NSW dominance finally set to end?

It's one of rugby league more forgotten about games. The annual NRL State championship is coming up this Sunday as a curtain raiser to the 2023 NRL Grand Final. This year's edition pits the Brisbane Tigers, QRL Hostplus Cup champions, up against New South Wales Cup premiers South Sydney Rabbitohs.

And for the Queensland combatants - it's been a while. In the history of this clash - instituted in 2014, the mantle has only been claimed by a team north of the Tweed twice. Northern Pride (2014) and Ipswich Jets (2015) took the first two finals, with all five since tipping the way of the NSW Cup premiers, the two COVID years indeed not having a winner declared owing to the effects of the pandemic.

And so to this year's edition. Brisbane (more commonly known to fans as Easts) held on in a thrilling Hostplus Cup decider against minor premiers Burleigh a fortnight ago. The Tigers did dominate the contest for large parts but a strong finish from the Bears nearly put paid to their title hopes. It was the black and orange team's first premiership in 32 years, and the first in the QLD Cup era which began in the mid-90s.

South Sydney meanwhile, came good at the right time to claim their first reserves title in forty years. Facing minor premiers North Sydney in the Grand Final at Commbank Stadium last weekend, the Rabbitohs claimed a 22-18 victory after trailing 18-16 headed into the final ten minutes. A match winning try for Tyrone Munro saw

the Rabbitohs take a late lead, much to the joy of their fans in attendance at Parramatta.

There are at least seven NRL-experienced players on the Bunnies' teamsheet, however the most recognisable name in the 17 hasn't played first grade for over a decade - Yileen Gordon. The interchange utility appeared for the red and green at first grade level back between 2005 and 2008.

Brisbane - who act as one of the Melbourne Storm's feeder clubs - also have seven NRL-capped players, including halfback Jonah Pezet, who has deputised for the Storm several times in 2023 when regular halves Cameron Munster or Jahrome Hughes have been out of action.

WHO TO WATCH: Canterbury-bound Blake Taaffe will play his final game in the cardinal and myrtle on Sunday afternoon and will be looking to go out on a high. The Rabbitohs' fullback has been in and out of the NRL squad owing to Latrell Mitchell's ongoing injury issues and his experience has been a key element of the South Sydney surge to the NSW Cup title this year.

Brisbane second rower Leivaha Pulu has been plying his trade in the Hostplus Cup since departing the Warriors at the end of the 2020 season. After two seasons at Norths Devils - and being a member of the Devils' premiership squad last year - he's back for another bite at the State Championship after winning the QLD Cup with the Tigers. It's not clear if the former NRL star wants a new contract (he turns 34 next year), but if he does, a strong performance here could be eye-catching for any club looking for a hard-working back rower.

FAVOURITE: South Sydney are extremely short priced favourites.

MY TIP: For whatever reason, the Tigers have no backing here. But with more time to recover since their grand final (2 weeks v s 1 week) - I think they will finally start to see QLD balance the State Championship ledger. Brisbane by 6.

SQUAD UPDATE SAT 1:20PM | LATE MAIL SUN 12:20PM | VISIT LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM FOR UPDATED TEAMLISTS

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NRLW RESULTS SEMI FINALS

NEWCASTLE (W) 30 (T. Davison, O. Higgins, C. Johnston, H. Southwell, T. Upton tries; J. Southwell 5 goals) **DEFEATED BRISBANE (W) 24** (L. Dam 2, S. Ciesiolka, T. Gray, C. Lenarduzzi tries; A. Brigginsshaw 2 goals) **AT MCDONALD JONES STADIUM. Date: Sun, 24th September. Kickoff: 2:05 PM. Halftime: Newcastle (W) 18-4. Penalties: 5-all. Referee: Belinda Sharpe. NEWCASTLE (W):** Upton, Gallagher, Parker, Roache, Strange; Roche, Southwell; Predebon, Higgins, Johnston, Jones, Clydsdale, Southwell (C). Int: Maynard, Davison, Romaniuk, Butler. **BRISBANE (W):** Maddick, Robinson, Hufanga, Ciesiolka, Werner; Broughton, Brigginsshaw (C); Lafaele, Brill, Clark, Gray, Teitzel, Storch. Int: Gould, Fogavini, Lenarduzzi, Dam.

GOLD COAST (W) 12 (B. Breayley-Nati, D. Mino-Sinapati tries; R. Jorgensen 2 goals) **DEFEATED SYDNEY (W) 0 AT ALLIANZ STADIUM. Date: Sun, 24th September. Kickoff: 4:15 PM. Halftime: Gold Coast (W) 6-0. Penalties: Gold Coast (W) 6-4. Referee: Kasey Badger. SYDNEY (W):** Baxter, Fressard, Parker, Kelly (C), Wood; Aiken, Kelleher; Boyle, Davis, Hill-Moana, Pule, Kernick, Joseph. Int: Fotu-Moala, Morris, Hamilton, Pasikala. **GOLD COAST (W):** Pelite, Brown, Chapman, Williams-Guthrie, Mino-Sinapati; Kiria-Ratu, Brown; Mato, Breayley-Nati, Elliston, Canfield, Bent, Hale (C). Int: Lofipo, Hancock, Jorgensen, Perese.

MATCH REVIEW & JUDICIARY NRLW SEMI FINALS

Player	Club	Grade	Charge	Base	Offence #	Guilty	Early plea	Plea	Result
Caitlan JOHNSTON	Newcastle	1	Careless High Tackle	1 match	2nd	2 matches	1 match ~	Guilty - early plea	\$400
Brianna CLARK	Brisbane	1	Crusher Tackle	2 matches	2nd	2 matches	3 matches	Not Guilty	Guilty - 3 matches

Offences counted for the previous twelve months ^ Denotes 3 year incident free discount ~ Can opt for fine instead of suspension

2023 FIXTURES

ROUND 1							
Jul 22nd	Sat 12:50pm	Gold Coast	16	North QLD	6	Cbus	7,926
Jul 22nd	Sat 3:10pm	Newcastle	32	St George Illa	16	McDonald Jones	8,109
Jul 22nd	Sat 7:45pm	Brisbane	18	Sydney	36	Sunshine Coast	2,832
Jul 23rd	Sun 12:00pm	Parramatta	8	Wests Tigers	36	CommBank	2,095
Jul 23rd	Sun 1:50pm	Cronulla	28	Canberra	14	Pointsbet	10,634
ROUND 2							
Jul 27th	Thu 5:40pm	Brisbane	16	Gold Coast	17	The Gabba	7,279
Jul 29th	Sat 12:45pm	Canberra	24	Sydney	14	GIO Stadium	8,034
JUL 29TH	Sat 3:10pm	St George Illa	38	Parramatta	12	WIN Stadium	5,872
Jul 30th	Sun 12:00pm	Newcastle	20	North QLD	31	Belmore	1,584
Jul 30th	Sun 1:50pm	Wests Tigers	10	Cronulla	0	Belmore	2,196
ROUND 3							
Aug 3rd	Thu 5:40pm	Sydney	30	St George Illa	0	SCG	4,201
Aug 5th	Sat 12:50pm	North QLD	12	Brisbane	40	QLD Country Bank	22,659*
Aug 5th	Sat 3:10pm	Cronulla	8	Gold Coast	10	Pointsbet	3,021
Aug 6th	Sun 12:00pm	Parramatta	4	Newcastle	38	CommBank	23,596*
Aug 6th	Sun 1:50pm	Canberra	28	Wests Tigers	22	GIO Stadium	7,140
ROUND 4							
Aug 12th	Sat 11:05am	St George Illa	18	Canberra	19	WIN Stadium	1,521
Aug 12th	Sat 12:40pm	North QLD	16	Wests Tigers	12	Totally Workwear	1,173
Aug 12th	Sat 3:10pm	Brisbane	22	Parramatta	10	Totally Workwear	1,811
Aug 13th	Sun 12:00pm	Cronulla	12	Sydney	36	Pointsbet	1,920
Aug 13th	Sun 1:50pm	Newcastle	22	Gold Coast	10	McDonald Jones	12,889
ROUND 5							
Aug 19th	Sat 11:05am	North QLD	12	Cronulla	40	QLD Country Bank	1,878
Aug 19th	Sat 12:50pm	Wests Tigers	16	St George Illa	20	CommBank	3,652
AUG 19TH	Sat 3:10pm	Gold Coast	8	Sydney	30	Cbus	6,943
Aug 20th	Sun 12:00pm	Newcastle	22	Brisbane	20	McDonald Jones	17,043
Aug 20th	Sun 1:50pm	Canberra	28	Parramatta	22	GIO Stadium	7,185

ROUND 6							
Aug 26th	Sat 11:05am	Parramatta	16	North QLD	12	Netstrata	520
Aug 26th	Sat 1:15pm	St George Illa	22	Gold Coast	23	Netstrata	1,312
Aug 26th	Sat 3:10pm	Sydney	48	Wests Tigers	10	Allianz	8,161
Aug 27th	Sun 12:00pm	Brisbane	40	Canberra	8	Totally Workwear	1,692
Aug 27th	Sun 1:50pm	Newcastle	22	Cronulla	14	McDonald Jones	19,519
ROUND 7							
Sep 2nd	Sat 11:05am	Canberra	12	Newcastle	20	GIO Stadium	1,962
Sep 2nd	Sat 12:50pm	Brisbane	32	Cronulla	28	QLD Country Bank	1,478
Sep 2nd	Sat 3:10pm	North QLD	16	St George Illa	48	QLD Country Bank	2,479
Sep 3rd	Sun 12:00pm	Gold Coast	16	Wests Tigers	4	Cbus	4,790
Sep 3rd	Sun 1:50pm	Sydney	46	Parramatta	12	Industree Group	3,756
ROUND 8							
Sep 7th	Thu 7:45pm	Cronulla	16	St George Illa	8	Pointsbet	1,630
Sep 9th	Sat 11:30am	Wests Tigers	18	Brisbane	22	McDonald Jones	3,634
Sep 9th	Sat 1:30pm	Newcastle	20	Sydney	4	McDonald Jones	3,634
Sep 10th	Sun 11:30am	North QLD	12	Canberra	34	Cbus	1,096
Sep 10th	Sun 1:30pm	Gold Coast	34	Parramatta	12	Cbus	2,086
ROUND 9							
Sep 14th	Thu 7:45pm	Wests Tigers	8	Newcastle	28	Campbelltown	1,733
Sep 16th	Sat 6:00pm	Sydney	40	North QLD	16	Netstrata	632
Sep 16th	Sat 8:10pm	St George Illa	12	Brisbane	46	Netstrata	1,736
Sep 17th	Sun 1:05pm	Parramatta	6	Cronulla	56	GIO Stadium	2,889
Sep 17th	Sun 3:15pm	Canberra	6	Gold Coast	30	GIO Stadium	2,889
SEMI FINALS							
Sep 24th	Sun 2:05pm	Newcastle (1)	30	Brisbane (4)	24	McDonald Jones	12,689
Sep 24th	Sun 4:15pm	Sydney (2)	0	Gold Coast (3)	12	Allianz	3,028
GRAND FINAL							
Oct 1st	Sun 3:55pm	Newcastle	v	Gold Coast		Accor	

* crowd figure supplied for NRL-NRLW double header

NSW CUP GRAND FINAL RECAP

MUNRO SEALS A SOUTH SYDNEY PREMIERSHIP FOUR DECADES IN THE MAKING

RECAP WITH ROB CROSBY

The South Sydney Rabbitohs have claimed their first reserve grade title in 40 years after defeating foundation rivals the North Sydney Bears 22-18 in the 2023 Knock-On Effect Cup Grand Final.

Sealing their 21st reserve grade premiership with a try to 18-year-old winger Tyrone Munro with minutes left on the clock, the victory will see the Rabbitohs face the Brisbane Tigers in the State Championship next Sunday.

Going close to opening the scoring only for returning front-rower Terrell May to be held up over the line, the decision to run the ball down the blind side paid dividends for the Bears with Alfred Smalley (7th minute) diving over for first points.

The Rabbitohs worked their way into the contest by building pressure and were rewarded with Shaquai Mitchell (16th minute) barging over from close range.

Regaining the lead after an error from Tom Carr presented the Bears with a scrum in pristine attacking position, Jesse Marschke (27th minute) produced a dazzling solo run to score next to the posts.

Dean Hawkins demonstrated the skills that saw him named NSWRL Player of the Year earlier in the week with well-placed grubber that allowed Ethan O'Neill (34th minute) to strike late in the half.

The Rabbitohs looked to go further ahead through Jacob Gagai only for the try to be overturned due to interference; a penalty goal to Kieran Hayman with seconds remaining in the half saw North Sydney level the scores at 12-all.

Striking a blow after halftime with former North Sydney outside Tom Carr (51st minute) finishing off a left-side shift to touch down for his 16th try of the season, South Sydney fullback Blake Taaffe inspired his side with a brutal tackle on his opposite number Josh Bergamin to the delight of more than 10,000 supporters in attendance at Commbank Stadium.

Aiming to win their first reserve grade title since 1993, North Sydney forward Reuben Porter (69th minute) managed to get the ball down underneath the posts before Hayman converted from in front to give the Bears a two-point lead.

In his final match for South Sydney before joining Canterbury-Bankstown next season, Taaffe, named Player of the Match, produced a premiership-clinching pass that allowed Munro (76th minute) to seal a victory four decades in the making.

Next week, the South Sydney Rabbitohs will face the Brisbane Tigers in the State Championship in the first match on NRL Grand Final day at Accor Stadium.



NSWRL GRAND FINAL DAY RESULTS

NSW CUP

South Sydney Rabbitohs (22) Tries: Shaquai Mitchell, Ethan O'Neill, Tom Carr, Tyrone Munro; Goals: Dean Hawkins (3/4) **def North Sydney Bears (18)**

Tries: Alfred Smalley, Jesse Marschke, Reuben Porter; Goals: Kieran Hayman (3/4)

JERSEY FLEGG CUP

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (22) Tries: Jordi Mazzone 2, Danny Gabrael, Harry Hayes; Goals: Joash Papalii 3/4 **def Sydney Roosters (20)** Tries: Xavier Chatfield-Mooka 2, Tayson Fakaosi, Saleisi Foketi; Goals: Cassius Tia 2/4

PRESIDENTS CUP

Maitland Pickers (32) Tries: James Bradley 2, Matthew Soper-Lawler, Lincoln Smith, Gary Anderson; Goals: Brock Lamb 6 **def St Marys (10)** Tries: Todd Sapienza, Christian Crichton; Goals: Jake Rafferty-Butfield 1

Photo: NSWRL.com.au



BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 27 RECAP with AJ LUCANTONIO

WARRINGTON 20 (M. Dufty, J. Harrison tries; S. Ratchford 6 goals) **DEFEATED HUDDERSFIELD 8** (C. McQueen, W. Pryce tries) **AT JOHN SMITH'S STADIUM**. Date: Fri, 22nd September. Kickoff: 8:00 PM. Halftime: Warrington 12-4. Penalties: Huddersfield 5-4. Referee: Tom Grant. Crowd: 5,656. **HUDDERSFIELD:** Pryce, Halsall, Marsters, Naiqama, McGillvary; Connor, Lolohea; Ikahihifo, Milner, Greenwood, Hewitt, McQueen, Yates. Int: Peats, Wilson, English, Cudjoe. **WARRINGTON:** Dufty, Thewlis, Wrench, Ratchford, Russell; Williams, Drinkwater; Mikaele, Walker, Harrison, Currie, Nicholson, Crowther. Int: Clark, Kasiano, Philbin, Holroyd.

The Warrington Wolves have secured a finals spot with a 20-8 win over the Huddersfield Giants after Salford's home loss to Catalans. It was a fast and furious start for the home side in the opening minutes of the contest scoring two tries in the opening quarter of the contest. Matt Dufty crossed first after just six minutes when he was on the end of a lovely pass from George Williams. Six minutes later, this was added to when James Harrison crossed next to the posts and it was an imposing early lead for the visitors. Huddersfield did have some attacking chances, but some stout defence from the visitors held them out for most of the first half. However, in the shadows of half-time, retiring veteran Chris McQueen capped his brilliant career by crossing for a farewell try and it was 12-4 at the break. There was a distinct lack of tries in the second half, and the Wire chose to keep going up by two's. Stefan Ratchford knocked over the first of his four second half penalty goals six minutes into the stanza. Huddersfield took advantage of some limited field position and Will Pryce celebrated his last UK appearance with a try. Ratchford added three further penalty goals to secure the victory as fans celebrated the Salford demise in the stands as after a season that best depicted a roller-coaster. They were going to be playing finals footy!

LEEDS 46 (D. Fusitu'a 3, L. Hooley, S. Lisone, D. Olpherts, J. Sinfield, S. Walters tries; R. Martin 7 goals) **DEFEATED CASTLEFORD 0 AT HEADINGLEY STADIUM**. Date: Fri, 22nd September. Kickoff: 8:00 PM. Halftime: Leeds 22-0. Penalties: Castleford 7-6. Referee: James Vella. Crowd: 15,109. **LEEDS:** Hooley, Fusitu'a, Newman, Handley, Olpherts; Martin, Sinfield; Oledzki, O'Connor, Walters, Gannon, McDonnell, Donaldson. Int: Edgell, Lisone, Nicholson-Watton, Johnson. **CASTLEFORD:** Rooney, Qareqare, Broadbent, Turner, Eden; Austin, Miller; Matagi, Horne, Massey, Edwards, Mellor, Lawler. Int: Mustapha, Martin, Hall, Watts.

Leeds have capped a disappointing year in dominating fashion, thrashing the Castleford Tigers 46-0 at home. Despite some early attacking chances from the visitors, the Rhinos defence held firm and would do so for the entire 80 minutes. Luke Hooley opened the scoring after 12 minutes with a great individual effort. A penalty opened up the Tigers defence again minutes later and it was David Fusitu'a down the short-side who charged over the top of Greg Eden to score. Derrell Olpherts joined the scorers-sheet when he was on the end of a well-worked overlap and ran past some would-be defenders for a 16-0 advantage. Jack Sinfield got his first try for the Rhinos in Super League as he picked off Jacob Miller's pass and scored under the posts as the half came to a close and it was 22-0. Cas wanted the season to end and end quickly. A poor mistake from the restart gave Leeds cheap possession. A clever cross kick from Sinfield allowed Fusitu'a to fly high and cross for his second of the contest. Liam Watts and Sam Lisone had a final scrap to end the year, but the pair were quickly dispatched to the sin-bin. Fusitu'a's 150th career appearance was capped with his hat-trick after another blind-side raid five minutes later. Lisone made up for his sin-binning when he joined the scorers list before the hour mark charging onto Sinfield's pass. Sam Walters capped his final appearance in a Rhinos shirt crossing to secure the 46-0 home slaughter of the Tigers to end their season on a high.

WIGAN 10 (J. Field, J. Wardle tries; H. Smith goal) **DEFEATED LEIGH 6** (L. Lam try; B. Reynolds goal) **AT LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE STADIUM**. Date: Fri, 22nd September. Kickoff: 8:00 PM. Halftime: Wigan 10-6. Penalties: 2-all. Referee: Liam Moore. Crowd: 10,308. **LEIGH:** O'Brien, Briscoe, Gildart, Chamberlain, Charnley; Reynolds, Lam; Amon, Ipape, Mulhern, Hughes, O'Donnell, Wardle. Int: Mellor, Davis, Nakubwai, Holmes. **WIGAN:** Field, Miski, King, Wardle, Marshall; French, Smith; Dupree, O'Neill, Ellis, Pearce-Paul, Farrell, Smithies. Int: Powell, Mago, Hill, Nsemba.

Sheer grit and determination highlights this dual between Wigan and Leigh. It was a tight contest, but at 10-6, it was enough to secure a minor premiership for the Warriors. Leigh made some early handling errors, immediately putting them on the back-foot and after the 44-18 hiding they were given earlier in the year by the same opposition. It wasn't exactly the start they would've been hoping for. Wigan pounced crossing for two quick tries. Jai Field opened the scoring after 18 minutes, showcasing his fleet footed stepping and shrugging away from three defenders to cross. Harry Smith nailed the side-line conversion for a 6-0 lead. Despite further attacking raids, Leigh held on resiliently, but it was a short-lived fight. Jake Wardle scored in his seventh consecutive match in the 27th minute. Liam Marshall made a fantastic break after a set-restart and Wardle muscled his way over on the left edge to push Wigan further ahead. The touchline conversion from Smith was just wide of the uprights but Wigan held the 10-0 advantage. Leigh hit back in the shadows of the half-time hooter. Lachlan Lam supported a break to collect the ball inside and race under the sticks, with Reynolds converting the score to reduce Wigan's lead to 10-6 going into the interval. The second half was what could've been. Field's second try was called back for obstruction ten minutes into the stanza. While for Leigh, temporary centre Oliver Gildart's effort was denied thanks to Ben Nakubwai impeding the Wigan defence. These efforts were to no-avail as Wigan's gritty defence held Leigh out and secured their status as this season's League Leaders Shield winners.

ST HELENS 30 (J. Welsby 2, L. Dodd, J. Lomax, M. Percival tries; M. Percival 5 goals) **DEFEATED HULL FC 12** (L. Martin, C. Scott tries; T. Hoy 2 goals) **AT TOTALLY WICKED STADIUM**. Date: Fri, 22nd September. Kickoff: 8:00 PM. Halftime: St Helens 8-0. Penalties: Hull FC 5-4. Referee: Ben Thaler. Crowd: 14,036. **ST HELENS:** Welsby, Makinson, Hurrell, Percival, Hopate; Lomax, Dodd; Mata'utia, Roby, Lees, Batchelor, Sironen, Knowles. Int: Walmsley, McCarthy-Scarsbrook, Delaney, Mbye. **HULL FC:** Litten, Martin, Tuimavave, Scott, McIntosh; Hoy, Clifford; Taylor, Dwyer, Satae, Lane, Fash, Cator. Int: Lovodua, Brown, Gardiner, Jebson.

St Helens have secured a top 3 finish in their first season under Paul Wellens with a 30-12 victory over Hull FC. It was a tense opening quarter of the match with no tries being scored. Mark Percival added a penalty goal after ten

minutes for a 2-0 cushion. However, Hull's determined defence could only hold a side like St Helens out for so-long and soon they conceded their first try. Percival got through the gap between Carlos Tuimavave and Darnell McIntosh to score the half's only try, which he converted himself for the final points of the half. After such a tight first half, whichever side crossed first in the second stanza was going to closest to victory. Lewis Dodd crossed immediately after the resumption for Saints after a clever little grubber kick saw him win the race to the ball and score and it was 14-0. Hull did hit back with a lovely try to debutant Lewis Martin who steamed onto the ball at pace to crash over. Tex Hoy converted from touch and it was 14-6. After Hull's try, there was a lull in the action with both sides keen to crash their way through the opposition. However, the class of Saints was on full display when Johnny Lomax crashed his way over with 16 to go. This was then added in quick time by Jack Welsby exposing a tiring Hull middle third and within a blink of an eye, it was 26-6. Hull did collect a consolation try. Cam Scott snatched a Saints pass out of the air and raced away 75 meters on the heavy turf to score an interception try. Hoy converted and it was 26-12. Welsby completed his double in the shadows of the final siren to secure an 18 point deficit and third spot for the conduct of the finals.

CATALANS 19 (J. Bousquet, S. Tomkins, M. Whitley tries; S. Tomkins 3 goals; S. Tomkins field goal) **DEFEATED SALFORD 8** (B. Hellewell try; M. Sneyd 2 goals) **AT SALFORD STADIUM**. Date: Fri, 22nd September. Kickoff: 8:00 PM. Halftime: Catalans 8-2. Penalties: Catalans 6-5. Referee: Jack Smith. Crowd: 4,212. **SALFORD:** Brierley, Sio, Cross, Lafai, Burgess; Croft, Sneyd; Ormondroyd, Bourouh, Singleton, Watkins, Stone, Partington. Int: Atkin, Addy, Sidlow, Hellewell. **CATALANS:** Tomkins, Davies, Romano, Ikuvalu, Johnstone; May, Pearce; Navarrete, McLlorum, Dezaria, Whitley, McMeeken, Garcia. Int: Bousquet, Da Costa, Chan, Ma'u.

The Catalans Dragons have ended Salford's season with a 19-8 victory away from home. Matt Whitley put the home side in front after 10 minutes after Tyrone May engaged the line and drew in the defence. Whitley accepted the offload and crashed over out-wide. Sam Tomkins added the extras for a 6-0 lead. The rest of the first half was a tense and gritty affair with Salford refusing to go down without a fight. Tomkins knocked over a penalty goal with just under 10 minutes to play in the first half for an 8-0 lead. Marc Sneyd answered with a penalty goal of his own in the shadows of the break and it was only a converted try difference at the change of ends. Salford came out aggressive in the second half and their efforts were duly rewarded when Ben Hellewell charged over. It was a simple short ball and Hellewell crashed through two poor attempts of tackle to give his side the equaliser they needed, and it was 8-8. Sensing the tightness of the contest, Tomkins took a gamble and shot a field goal with 11 to play. The kick was successful, and it put Salford on the back-foot chasing points late in the match. That solitary point proved decisive with Catalans going onto score two late tries through Julien Bosquet and Tomkins to seal Salford's fate in the 2023 Super League season.

HULL KR 56 (J. Litten 2, B. Schneider 2, M. Storton 2, R. Hall, M. Lewis, T. Opacic, J. Walker tries; B. Schneider 8 goals) **DEFEATED WAKEFIELD (TRINITY) 12** (L. Kay, K. Tanginoa tries; W. Dagger 2 goals) **AT BE WELL SUPPORT STADIUM**. Date: Fri, 22nd September. Kickoff: 8:00 PM. Halftime: Hull KR 18-6. Referee: Chris Kendall. **WAKEFIELD:** Jowitt, Kay, Pratt, Croft, Kershaw; Dagger, Gale; Atoni, Hood, Bowden, Ashurst, Tanginoa, Pitts. Int: Smith, Battye, Salabio, Schofield. **HULL KR:** Walker, Senior, Opacic, Kenny-Dowall, Hall; Lewis, Schneider; Luckley, Parcell, King, Batchelor, Storton, Minchella. Int: Abdull, Sue, Litten, Aydin.

Wakefield's time in Super League has ended in disappointing fashion, thrashed by Hull KR to the tune of 56-12. The fun began nice and early for the visitors with Jack Walker crossing after just five minutes of play after a lovely chip from Mikey Lewis and it was clear to see that it wasn't going to be a happy ending for the home side. This was added to 9 minutes later when Lewis crossed and it was 12-0 early. Wakefield collected some field position and it was Kelepi Tanginoa who crashed over for the home side to cut the deficit in half. Rovers responded with 6 to go in the half when Lewis again turned provider with a crash ball to Matty Storton, who powered over. Brad Schnieder added the extras and it was 18-6 at the break. Refusing to go down without a fight, Liam Kay crossed in the corner for the home side six minutes into the second and it was 18-12 but the fight ended right there. Eight minutes later, Rovers crashed over to score a Jack Walker kick deflects into the hands of Matt Parcell, who then finds Schneider to dive under the sticks. Schneider then converted his own try. A break up field saw Hull kick through but Max Jowitt obstructed the chaser and it was a yellow card. Rovers went bananas in the sin-bin period. Schneider's grubber was collected by Tom Opacic who won the race to the loose ball and scored to make it 30-12. Four minutes later, Schneider fooled the Wakefield defence to crash over for his second try of the contest. This was followed up by a penalty try in the 66th minute when Storton crossed after another superb bit of lead up play by Lewis. With under 10 to play, Lewis again ran riot, this time linking with Ryan Hall to cross. This was followed by a quick-fire double to Jez Litten to secure a 56-12 victory and a date with Leigh next week.

FINAL 2023 TABLE	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1. WIGAN WARRIORS	27	20	7	0	722	360	362	40
2. CATALANS DRAGONS	27	20	7	0	722	420	302	40
3. ST HELENS	27	20	7	0	613	366	247	40
4. HULL KR	27	16	11	0	589	498	91	32
5. LEIGH LEOPARDS	27	16	11	0	585	508	77	32
6. WARRINGTON WOLVES	27	14	13	0	597	512	85	28
7. SALFORD RED DEVILS	27	13	14	0	494	512	-18	26
8. LEEDS RHINOS	27	12	15	0	537	534	3	24
9. HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS	27	11	16	0	473	542	-69	22
10. HULL FC	27	10	17	0	466	654	-188	20
11. CASTLEFORD TIGERS	27	6	21	0	323	776	-453	12
12. WAKEFIELD TRINITY	27	4	23	0	303	742	-439	8

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 27 RESULTS

BATLEY 32 (J. Campbell 2, J. Meadows 2, E. Kear, A. Leak tries; D. Morton 4 goals) **DEFEATED NEWCASTLE 18** (T. Chapelhow, J. Johnson, N. Williams tries; N. Williams 3 goals) **AT FOX'S BISCUITS STADIUM**. Date: Sat, 23rd September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: Newcastle 18-12. Penalties: Batley 9-4. Referee: Michael Small. **BATLEY**: McGowan, Morton, Hodson, Senior, Kear; Meadows, Woods; Kaye, Leak, Blake, Manning, Buchanan, White. Int: Burton, Ward, Walshaw, Campbell. **NEWCASTLE**: Donaghy, Johnson, Walsh, Walker, Bofo; Balmforth, Williams; Chapelhow, Davies, Chapelhow, Tuliatu, Clegg, Bailey. Int: Miller, Simons, Lightowler, Walton.

TOULOUSE 26 (Z. Santo 2, O. Ashall-Bott, D. Biscarro, C. Gahan tries; Z. Santo 3 goals) **DEFEATED WHITEHAVEN 16** (K. Dixon, J. Doran, C. Teare tries; J. Rourke 2 goals) **AT LEL ARENA**. Date: Sat, 23rd September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: Toulouse 22-6. Penalties: Whitehaven 5-2. Referee: Ryan Cox. **WHITEHAVEN**: Rourke, Eccleston, Taylor, Dixon, Teare; Carter, Doran; Castle, Newton, Ainley, Holliday, Lanskey, Hill. Int: Phillips, Aiye, Spencer-Fonks. **TOULOUSE**: Ashall-Bott, Marcon, Lima, Tropis, Laguerre; Ralph, Santo; Belmas, Gahan, Biscarro, Stefani, Bretherton, Marion. Int: Pélissier, Akauola, Richards, Brochon.

FEATHERSTONE 62 (J. Leilua 3, C. Aekins 2, G. Gale 2, C. Hall, C. Hankinson, C. Jones, J. Moors tries; M. Kheirallah 9 goals) **DEFEATED WIDNES 10** (R. Ince, J. Lyons tries; K. Dixon goal) **AT MILLENNIUM STADIUM**. Date: Sat, 23rd September. Kickoff: 6:00 PM. Halftime: Featherstone 24-10. Penalties: Featherstone 5-1. Referee: Aaron Moore. Crowd: 3,874. **FEATHERSTONE**: Kheirallah, Hall, Leilua, Hankinson, Gale; Aekins, Lacans; Cozza, Wildie, Lockwood, Day, Taylor, Smith. Int: Jones, Yei, Moors, Bussey. **WIDNES**: Dixon, Ince, Fleming, Edge, Millar; Lyons, Gilmore; Field, Fozard, Walker, Wilde, Lawton, Brown. Int: Farnworth, Davies, Owens, Roberts.

YORK 31 (O. Field, R. Michael, B. Santi, U. Ta'ai, A. Towse tries; L. Harris 5 goals; L. Harris field goal) **DEFEATED BARROW 18** (A. Bulman, R. Johnston, T. Wilkinson tries; R. Shaw 3 goals) **AT MATT JOHNSON PRESTIGE STADIUM**. Date: Sun, 24th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: York 12-0. Penalties: York 4-2. Referee: Liam Rush. Crowd: 2,292. **BARROW**: Cresswell, Shaw, Toal, Broadbent, Bulman; Jackson, Johnston; Billington, Wood, Worthington, Emslie, Stack, Wilkinson. Int: Corkill, Carter, Saunders, Sammut. **YORK**: Brown, Bass, Harrison, Clarkson, Towse; Dee, Harris; Santi, Jubb, Ta'ai, Field, Kirmond, Thompson. Int: Pemberton, Michael, Fitzsimmons, Pauli.

SWINTON 22 (M. Cox 2, N. Gregson, R. Lloyd tries; D. Abram 3 goals) **DEFEATED HALIFAX 12** (L. Walmsley 2, B. Crooks tries) **AT THE SHAY STADIUM**. Date: Sun, 24th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: Swinton 18-4. Penalties: Swinton 5-3. Referee: Matthew Rossleigh. Crowd: 2,122. **HALIFAX**: Woodburn-Hall, Walmsley, McComb, Crooks, Saltostall; Jouffret, Keyes; Calcott, Moore, Murray, Kavanagh, Gee, Tangata. Int: Inman, Lannon, Larroyer, Sutcliffe. **SWINTON**: Abram, Lepori, Badrock, Lloyd, Romeo; Butterworth, Gibson; Bennion, Hall, Brogan, Cox, Foster, Gregson. Int: Lowe, Case, Baker, Rodden.

LONDON 24 (I. Macani 2, D. Whare 2, B. Leyland tries; C. Norman 2 goals) defeated Keighley 16 (M. Ioane, D. Parker tries; O. Thomas 4 goals) at Cherry Red Records Stadium. Date: Sun, 24th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: Keighley 10-0. Penalties: 11-all. Referee: Cameron Worsley. **LONDON**: Leyland, Grant, Bassett, Whare, Macani; Raiwalui, Norman; Albert, Davis, Butler, Lovell, Natoli, Parata. Int: Williams, Stock, Leyland, Waine. **KEIGHLEY**: Thomas, Graham, Robson, Sa'u, Stephenson; Young, Spence; Ioane, Kesik, Laidlaw, Lynam, Adebiji, Trout. Int: Parker, Gaylor, Roby, Bibby.

BRADFORD 17 (J. Arundel, J. Lilley, L. Tindall tries; J. Lilley 2 goals; J. Lilley field goal) **DEFEATED SHEFFIELD 16** (M. Dawson-Jones, B. Jones-Bishop, Q. Laulu-Togaga'e tries; C. Aston, J. Hansen goals) **AT SHEFFIELD OLYMPIC LEGACY STADIUM**. Date: Sun, 24th September. Kickoff: 6:30 PM. Halftime: Bradford 8-6. Penalties: 3-all. Referee: Marcus Griffiths. **SHEFFIELD**: Laulu-Togaga'e, Jones-Bishop, Welham, Glover, Dawson-Jones; Aston, Thackeray; Douglas, Hansen, Dickinson, Murphy, Sene-Lefao, Hodgson. Int: Farrell, Gwaze, Broadbent, Liu. **BRADFORD**: Holmes, Blackmore, Arundel, Gill, Tindall; Gaskell, Lilley; Lawrence, Jowitt, Matongo, Butler, Wallace, Doru. Int: Scurr, Appo, Rogers, Wynne.

FINAL 2023 TABLE	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1. FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	27	25	2	0	1079	295	784	50
2. TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE XIII	27	19	8	0	834	385	449	38
3. BRADFORD BULLS	27	16	10	1	677	572	105	33
4. SHEFFIELD EAGLES	27	16	11	0	780	560	220	32
5. LONDON BRONCOS	27	16	11	0	600	552	48	32
6. YORK RLFC KNIGHTS	27	15	12	0	557	557	0	30
7. BATLEY BULLDOGS	27	15	12	0	506	519	-13	30
8. HALIFAX PANTHERS	27	14	12	1	690	572	118	29
9. WIDNES VIKINGS	27	13	14	0	621	654	-33	26
10. SWINTON LIONS	27	9	18	0	426	739	-313	18
11. BARROW RAIDERS	27	8	18	1	471	672	-201	17
12. WHITEHAVEN RLFC	27	8	19	0	481	807	-326	16
13. KEIGHLEY COUGARS	27	8	19	0	504	837	-333	16
14. NEWCASTLE THUNDER	27	5	21	1	415	920	-505	11

BETFRED WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

SEMI FINAL RESULTS

YORK (W) 22 (O. Gale, L. Owen, T. Stanley, L. Whitehead tries; T. Stanley 3 goals) **DEFEATED WIGAN (W) 6** (G. Banks try; B. Salihi goal) **AT LNER COMMUNITY STADIUM**. Date: Sat, 23rd September. Kickoff: 3:30 PM. Halftime: York (W) 14-6. Referee: Elliot Burrow. **YORK (W)**: Stanley, Kershaw, Renouf, Roberts, Whitehead; Rihari, Gale; Akpa, Peach, Staveley, Andrade, Owen, Wood. Int: Bell, Marshall, Hyde, Sharp. **WIGAN (W)**: Salihi, Miller, Davies, Jones, Hilton; Banks, Doria; Speakman, Marsh, Coleman, Hunter, Molyneux, Thompson. Int: Bardsley, Jones, Johnson, Hayes.

LEEDS (W) 20 (S. Robinson 2, C. Beevers, L. Murray tries; R. Enright 2 goals) **DEFEATED ST HELENS (W) 16** (T. Jones, E. Rudge tries; A. Taylor 4 goals) **AT TOTALLY WICKED STADIUM**. Date: Sat, 23rd September. Kickoff: 6:00 PM. Halftime: St Helens (W) 10-6. Referee: Aaryn Belafonte. Crowd: 1,074. **ST HELENS (W)**: Partington, Hook, Travis, McColl, Stott; Taylor, Gaskin; Stott, Jones, Whitfield, Hoyle, Rudge, Cunningham. Int: Williams, Sams, Mottershead, Sutherland. **LEEDS (W)**: Enright, Nuttall, Hardcastle, Beevers, Robinson; Casey, Butcher; Hornby, Bennett, Northrop, Murray, Greening, Dainton. Int: Earnshaw-Cudjoe, Glynn, Lockwood, Sykes.

Grand Final Sunday 8 October 3:00pm: **YORK V LEEDS AT LNER COMMUNITY STADIUM**

PLAYOFF FIXTURES

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BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE ELIMINATORS

Time	Match	Venue	Referee
Fri 8:00pm Sky UK Fox League AU	HULL KR (4) v LEIGH LEOPARDS (5)	Sewell Group Craven Park	Jack SMITH
Sat 12:45pm Ch 4 & Sky UK Fox League AU	ST HELENS (3) v WARRINGTON WOLVES (6)	Totally Wicked Stadium	Ben THALER

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP ELIMINATORS

Time	Match	Venue	Referee
Sun 3:00pm	SHEFFIELD EAGLES (4) v LONDON BRONCOS (5)	Olympic Legacy Park	James VELLA
Sun 6:30pm Viaplay UK Fox League AU	BRADFORD BULLS (3) v YORK KNIGHTS (6)	Odsal Stadium	Tom GRANT





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