

THE FRONT ROW

L.U. LEAGUE
UNLIMITED

2024 NRL & NRLW GRAND FINALS

VOLUME 5 · ISSUE 31



GRAND FINAL MATCH PROGRAMME

PLUS NSWRL GRAND FINAL RESULTS - RESULTS & FIXTURES FOR SUPER LEAGUE & OTHER UK COMPS

NRL MELBOURNE STORM v PENRITH PANTHERS
NRLW SYDNEY ROOSTERS v CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

IN THIS GRAND FINAL ISSUE

OUR SAY ON GRAND FINAL DAY - CONTRIBUTORS TIPS	3
GRAND FINAL ENTERTAINMENT, ORDER OF EVENTS	4
CLIVE CHURCHILL MEDAL GUIDE	5
NRL GRAND FINAL STATS PACK & HISTORY	6
2024 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL TEAMLISTS, STATS & PREVIEW	8
MELBOURNE STORM PLAYER PROFILES & ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL	10
PENRITH PANTHERS PLAYER PROFILES & ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL	12
THE RECORD - GRAND FINALISTS MATCH HISTORY	14
GRAND FINAL TRIVIA	15
NRL PRELIMINARY FINALS MATCH RECAPS, MATCH REVIEW & JUDICIARY	16
LEAGUEUNLIMITED NRL TEAM OF THE YEAR & PLAYER OF THE YEAR LEADERBOARD	18
THE BIRTH OF RUGBY LEAGUE IN AUSTRALIA	20
2024 NRL TELSTRA WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL TEAMLISTS, STATS & PREVIEW	24
NRLW TEAM OF THE YEAR	25
NRLW ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL	26
NRLW SEMI FINALS WRAP	28
NRLW FIXTURES, SEMI FINALS JUDICIARY, PLAYER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS	29
NRL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAMLISTS	30
NRL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW, NSWRL GRAND FINAL DAY RECAP	31
SUPER LEAGUE ELIMINATORS RECAPS, SEMI FINAL FIXTURES	32
WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL FIXTURE	32
CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 26 RESULTS, LADDER, STATS, PLAYOFFS FIXTURES	33
NRL 2024 FIXTURES & RESULTS	34

Thanks to our contributors to this special edition:

*Managers
Editor
Statistics*

*Steve WILLIAMS, Coby DELANEY
Tim COSTELLO
Andrew FERGUSON & Shawn DOLLIN
- Rugby League Project*

Contributors

*Rob CROSBY
AJ LUCANTONIO
Luke JOBSON
Beth NICHOLLS
Josh ROBERTSON*

*Olivia T
Aidan EDGECOMB
Sam BOURKE
Kelly HOLLIS
Justin DAVIES*

OUR SAY

Our LeagueUnlimited.com contributors share their tips for Sunday's big day, plus share their favourite moment of the 2024 NRL season!

ADAM HUXTABLE

NRL GRAND FINAL Penrith
NRLW GRAND FINAL Sydney
STATE CHAMPS Newtown
CLIVE CHURCHILL MEDAL Jarome Luai
FIRST TRYSCORER Jarome Luai
MOMENT OF 2024 Mitch Moses' series-winning try for NSW in Origin III

AIDAN EDGECOMB

NRL Melbourne
NRLW Sydney
SC Newtown
CCM Jahrome Hughes
FTS Eli Katoa
MOMENT Selwyn Cobbo's 58th minute try Against the Dolphins in R6

AJ LUCANTONIO

NRL Melbourne by 4
NRLW Sydney by 8
SC Norths by 4
CCM Jahrome Hughes
FTS Jack Howarth
MOMENT Angus Crichton and Connor Watson go from NSW Cup, to NRL, to Origin, to Kangaroos

ANDREW FERGUSON

NRL Penrith
NRLW Cronulla
SC Norths
CCM Dylan Edwards
FTS Sunia Turuva
MOMENT The Eels v Dragons game in Round 26 was just mental.

ANDREW JACKSON

NRL Penrith by 2
NRLW Sydney by 10
SC Newtown by 4
CCM Jarome Luai
FTS Will Warbrick
MOMENT Xavier Coates' aerial try v Warriors in Round 2

ANDY P

NRL Melbourne
NRLW Sydney
SC Norths
CCM Jahrome Hughes
FTS Xavier Coates
MOMENT Xavier Coates freakish try in the dying seconds to win for Storm v Warriors Round 2

BETH NICHOLLS

NRL Melbourne by 12
NRLW Sydney by 8
SC Norths
CCM Ryan Papenhuyzen
FTS Will Warbrick
MOMENT Xavier Coates with the insane aerial try to give Storm the win against the Warriors.
Chelsea Lenarduzzi scoring in the final 20 seconds against the Sharks in Round 8 for the Broncos to go one step closer to their fifth minor prem.

NRLW

EMILE EL-AZAR

NRL Melbourne by 1
NRLW Sydney by 8
SC Newtown by 12
CCM Jahrome Hughes
FTS Will Warbrick
MOMENT Canterbury awaking from their slumber with a stirring run to the finals.

JOSH ROBERTSON

NRL Penrith
NRLW Sydney
SC Newtown
CCM Isaah Yeo
FTS Sunia Turuva
MOMENT Penrith becoming the first team in 50 years to make 5th straight GF

JUSTIN DAVIES

NRL Penrith by 1
NRLW Sydney by 10
SC Newtown by 20
CCM Isaah Yeo
FTS Jarome Luai
MOMENT A selfish one but Dragons winning in Melbourne for the first time since the new millennium.

KELLY HOLLIS

NRL Penrith
NRLW Sydney
SC Norths
CCM Harry Grant in a losing side
FTS Sunia Turuva
MOMENT The debut season of Wests Tigers' rookie half Lachlan Galvin!

LACHLAN MCINTYRE

NRL Melbourne
NRLW Sydney
SC Newtown
CCM Jahrome Hughes
FTS Harry Grant
MOMENT Spoon Bowl in Round 27 - Tigers v Eels to decide last place

LACHY MACCORQUODALE

NRL Penrith
NRLW Sydney
SC Norths
CCM Nathan Cleary
FTS Eli Katoa
MOMENT NSW demolish QLD in game two to keep the series alive

LUKE JOBSON

NRL Melbourne by 2
NRLW Sydney by 10
SC Newtown in Golden Point
CCM Jahrome Hughes
FTS Brian To'o NRL, Isabelle Kelly NRLW
MOMENT Xavier Coates insane leaping try to secure a comeback win against the Warriors in Round 2

OLIVIA T

NRL Melbourne
NRLW Cronulla
SC Norths
CCM Jahrome Hughes
FTS Xavier Coates
MOMENT Melbourne's spine playing together for the first time in 627 days in Round 5

ROB CROSBY

NRL Melbourne by 4
NRLW Cronulla by 6
SC Newtown by 14
CCM Cameron Munster
FTS Eliesa Katoa
MOMENT State of Origin is billed as 'mate versus mate' and Bradman Best delivered by fending off his club teammates Dane Gagai and Kalyn Ponga to score a decisive try in a famous win for New South Wales Honourable Mention: Shaun Johnson farewelling rugby league with one last moment for the highlights reel.

RHYS SULLIVAN

NRL Melbourne
NRLW Sydney
SC Norths
CCM Jahrome Hughes
FTS Will Warbrick
MOMENT Bradman Best's Origin-sealing try in Game 3

SAM BOURKE

NRL Melbourne by 4
NRLW Cronulla by 8
SC Norths by 2
CCM Harry Grant
FTS Brian To'o
MOMENT Blues clinch Origin decider at Suncorp Stadium for the first time since 2005.

TIM COSTELLO

NRL Melbourne by 12
NRLW Cronulla by 4
SC Newtown by 26
CCM Ryan Papenhuyzen
FTS Xavier Coates
MOMENT 50,000+ packing Accor as Canterbury return to the finals for the first time since 2016

NOT JUST A KID

ENTERTAINMENT PREVIEW
with OLIVIA T

This Sunday, Aussie icon The Kid LAROI will be performing at the NRL Grand Final. I'm still speechless to be honest - as a fan for the last five years of both the NRL and LAROI - this is such a monumental moment for Australian music and sport (and a big day to be me as a Storm supporter as well - GO STORM!). I've been told I don't shut up when it comes to LAROI, so if you are reading this, you are in the right hands!

LAROI (Charlton Howard) is a proud Kamilaroi man and Rabbitohs supporter. Coming off the back of his 'THE FIRST TIME TOUR' in Europe and North America, along with being a speaker at SXSW Sydney in a few weeks, AND four ARIA nominations this year, it is safe to say that it is LAROI's world, and we're just living in it. Howard has accolades upon accolades (ARIA and Billboard Award winner, diamond and platinum certified singles, all-round legend) and is the perfect choice for the rugby league's biggest day.

I could give a whole run down of his career, but this IS a rugby league magazine, and the crossover of League Unlimited readers and LAROI fans is very small. However, if you do happen to care about LAROI and this performance this is my predicted setlist as a devoted and certified fan:

GIRLS (hit single, currently on radio)

STAY (need I explain?)

WITHOUT YOU (refer to STAY)

NIGHTS LIKE THIS (popular on the TikTok)

BABY I'M BACK (refer to NIGHTS LIKE THIS)

The thing is - I am unsure of how long his set will be and I think these are quite good options, because everyone knows them (while I could go deep into the discography), but only three of these songs are upbeat, so I'm also thinking GO, TOO MUCH and maybe the unreleased song APEROL SPRITZ. A bit far fetched, but maybe even a ONEFOUR appearance?

However, if you watched their documentary, you'd know why that is unlikely.

LAROI's performance is scheduled to start at 6:30pm and if you really like it, you can catch him on THE FIRST TIME TOUR this November around Australia!

GRAND FINAL DAY - THE RUN DOWN

- 1PM** Accor Stadium gates open
- 1:20PM** STATE CHAMPIONSHIP: Newtown Jets v Norths Devils kick off
- 3:55PM** NRLW GRAND FINAL: Sydney Roosters v Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks kick off
- 6:30PM** PRE-GAME ENTERTAINMENT: The Kid LAROI commences
- 7:30PM** NRL GRAND FINAL: Melbourne Storm v Penrith Panthers kick off

WHO CLAIMS CLIVE?

FORM GUIDE
with AJ LUCANTONIO

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.

MELBOURNE STORM

JAHROME HUGHES \$4.50

One of the game's premier halfbacks this season. The 2024 Dally M Medal winner* has been the catalyst for the Storm's improved showing with his game management improving to new heights this season. His short kicking game and combination with Eli Katoa will be huge to try and stop the Melbourne dynasty.

CAM MUNSTER \$8

Munster has had an injury interrupted season. However, in the charge to the finals is when we have seen Munster at his best. Explosive running and great kicking has seen the Storm repeatedly put on the front foot. His decision making will be critical to the outcome of this grand final.

HARRY GRANT \$10

The Wizard of AAMI Park. After an extraordinary finals series for the little number nine. Grant is backed at good odds to take home the Clive in his maiden Grand Final. His work around Penrith's tiring middle third will be critical and some big plays down that corridor may well get him there.

RYAN PAPHENHUYZEN \$11

After taking the gong in 2020. Paphenhuyzen's career stumbled and we thought our mullet donning hero would never see the field after a spate of horrific leg injuries. But, through sheer hard work, Paphenhuyzen has returned to the field and seems to have that zip back in his game.

ELI KATOA \$31

Katoa's partnership with Hughes will be a key portion of this game of rugby league. His work down the right edge will be crucial. His work in the air off the bombs was a big reason why the Storm beat Penrith in Penrith earlier this season and will be a big factor in this one.

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 \$4.50

After missing 11 of Penrith's 24 matches, doubts were raised about Cleary's importance to this Panthers side. All you needed was to watch the finals and it was there on full display against the Sharks. Up against it twice in the game, Cleary came up with the moments that changed the game and got Penrith into their fifth grand final on the bounce. If Cleary wins, he will become the first three time Clive Churchill Medallist.

DYLAN EDWARDS \$10

The 2022 Clive Churchill Medallist has had a break out season, making his Origin debut and being an integral part of NSW's success. At the back, he will be desperate for revenge after the 2020 grand final where he was outplayed by Papenhuzyen.

ISAAH YEO \$11

Mr Reliable himself. The main cog of this Penrith machine, without him, the Panthers have looked directionless. He is the wildcard for me to win the Clive as he is approaching career best form and his importance to the Panthers has never been more important.

JAROME LUAI \$14

The Last Dance vibes are real with Luai. Off to the Tigers at season's end but he has shown an ability to still set up attacking play even with Cleary in the side. If and I say if Cleary comes from the ground hurt and Luai steps up to get Penrith home, Luai's value will be immense for those that jumped on him.

JAMES FISHER-HARRIS \$31

The famous Bash Brother in his last game for the Panthers. Fisher-Harris has had a strong season for the Panthers, his work out of yardage and defensive capabilities have stunted oppositions all season long. He will be keen to go out on top against a physical Melbourne pack who are missing NAS. If Fish wins his forward battle, anything can happen when it comes to the Clive (just ask the winning teams when the losing side won it).

AJ'S TIPS

TOP PICKS

Storm: Jahrome Hughes \$4.50
Panthers: Nathan Cleary \$4.50

BEST VALUE

Storm: Ryan Paphenhuyzen \$11
Panthers: Jarome Luai \$14

BEST ROUGHIE

Storm: Josh King \$56
Panthers: Mitch Kenny \$46

MY CALL:

Storm: Jahrome Hughes \$4.50
Panthers: Isiah Yeo \$11

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 Paphenhuyzen (Storm) 2020, Dylan Edwards (Panthers) 2022.

Five-Eighth - 4: Cliff Lyons (Sea Eagles) 1987, Greg Inglis (Storm) 2007, Luke Keary (Roosters) 2018, Jack Wighton (Raiders) 2019

Halfback - 12: 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 & 2023

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



A RIVALRY OF RENEWAL AND REDEMPTION

There was little feeling between the Melbourne Storm and Penrith Panthers until a Grand Final meeting set against the backdrop of a global pandemic four years ago.

Time has shown that moment to be a changing of the guard with Cameron Smith departing as a premierships winner and Nathan Cleary taking his place as the game's premier player.

The rivalry forged between the two sides has defined the 2020s, however the Storm hold an overall advantage with 31 wins and 15 losses from 46 clashes since the birth of the NRL in 1998. The Storm boast a superior for-and-against differential with 418 more points than the Panthers in all matches (1,151-733).

ROUND 13, 2016 – STORM 24 V PANTHERS 6

The Storm were clinical in outlasting a Panthers team featuring a teenage playmaker appearing in the NRL for the very first time.

Nathan Cleary's introduction to first grade marked the end of Jamie Soward's distinguished career in Australia with the veteran premierships winner selflessly stepping aside to allow Cleary an opportunity to shine.

Storm 24 (J. Bromwich, Proctor, Morgan, Cronk tries. C. Smith 4/5 goals)

Panthers 6 (Mansour try, Soward 1/1 goal)

GRAND FINAL, 2020 – STORM 26 V PANTHERS 20

The Panthers had lost only one game all year leading into the premierships decider, yet when it mattered most, they saved their worst half for the biggest stage.

A runaway try shortly after halftime to Ryan Papenhuyzen secured the result – despite a spirited comeback from the Panthers – to give Cameron Smith the perfect send off in what would prove to be his final game.

Storm 26 (Olam, Vunivalu, C. Smith, Papenhuyzen tries. C. Smith 5/6 goals)

Panthers 20 (To'o, Crichton, Mansour, Cleary tries. Cleary 2/3 goals)

PRELIMINARY FINAL, 2021 – PANTHERS 10 V STORM 6

A redemption tale twelve months in the making paid off for the Panthers with an early set play paving the way for a hard-fought victory witnessed by a reduced capacity crowd in Queensland.

For a historic side that equalled the most consecutive wins and scored the second most points in a season, the Storm could only manage one try midway through the second half to walk away lamenting what could have been.

Panthers 10 (Crichton, To'o tries. Cleary 1/2 goals)

Storm 6 (Papenhuyzen try. Papenhuyzen 1/1 goal)

PRELIMINARY FINAL 2023 – PANTHERS 38 V STORM 4

A hat-trick to Brian To'o saw the Panthers record their biggest finals win and book a place in the big dance for the fourth consecutive year.

The Storm equalised early in the first half but were powerless to prevent an onslaught that cemented the Panthers as the dominant team of the era.

Panthers 38 (To'o 3, Turuva, Cleary, Edwards tries. Cleary 7/8 goals)

Storm 4 (Olam try. Meaney 0/1 goal)

ROUND 24, 2024 – STORM 24 V PANTHERS 22

In a contest that had multiple lead changes before drawing level at the hour mark, a late tackle by James Fisher-Harris saw Nick Meaney step up to nail the decisive penalty goal.

The result ensured Melbourne finished 2024 as minor premierships while Penrith's pain was compounded by a shoulder injury that threatened to rule Nathan Cleary out of the finals.

Storm 24 (Katoa 2, Anderson, Wishart tries. Meaney 4/5 goals)

Panthers 22 (Smith, Tago, Edwards, C. McLean tries. Cleary 3/5 goals)

FACING OFF: STORM v PANTHERS HEAD TO HEAD RECORDS

MELBOURNE STORM

MOST TRIES

Cooper Cronk (12)

MOST GOALS

Cameron Smith (93)

MOST POINTS

Cameron Smith (210)

MOST FIELD GOALS

Cooper Cronk (4)

BIGGEST WIN

52 points (Storm 66 v Panthers 14 - Round 17, 2004)

MOST TRIES IN A MATCH

Aaron Moule, Steve Turner, Greg Inglis,
Justin O'Neill, Dean Ieremia (3)

MOST GOALS IN A MATCH

Matt Orford (11)

DEBUTANTS in MEL v PEN

Tony Martin (1998), Semi Tadulala (2001),
Jake Webster (2003), Dustin Cooper (2003),
James Maloney (2009), Richie Kennar (2015),
Tui Kamikamica (2017), Scott Drinkwater (2018)

PENRITH PANTHERS

MOST TRIES

Brian To'o (9)

MOST GOALS

Nathan Cleary (30)

MOST POINTS

Nathan Cleary (69)

MOST FIELD GOALS

Matthew Rodwell, Peter Wallace, Nathan Cleary (1)

BIGGEST WIN

34 points (Panthers 38 v Storm 4 - Prelim Final, 2023)

MOST TRIES IN A MATCH

Lee Hookey, Brian To'o (3)

MOST GOALS IN A MATCH

Nathan Cleary (7)

DEBUTANTS in PEN v MEL

Brian Leagama (1998), Frank Puletua (1998)
Luke Lewis (2001), Shane Rodney (2002)
Steve Turner (2002), Trent Waterhouse (2002)
Luke Dyer (2004), Josh Mansour (2012)
Travis Robinson (2012), Sam Anderson (2013)
Nathan Cleary (2016), Liam Martin (2019)

HEAD TO HEAD: 2024 STATS

MELBOURNE STORM

TOP POINTSCORER	Nick Meaney (230)
TOP TRYSCORER	Will Warbrick (15)
TOP TRY-ASSISTS	Jahrome Hughes (26)
TOP TACKLES	Harry Grant (876)
TOP OFFLOADS	Shawn Blore (38)
TOP LINEBREAKS	Jahrome Hughes (21)
TOP TACKLE BREAKS	Jahrome Hughes (89)
TOP METRES	Will Warbrick (3,740)
TOP POST-CONTACT METRES	Eliesa Katoa (1,288)
LONGEST WINNING STREAK	7 matches (Round 14 v Knights – Round 21 v Eels)
BIGGEST WIN	42 points (Round 25 v Dolphins)
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	1 match (Round 3 v Knights; Round 10 v Sharks; Round 12 v Sea Eagles; Round 22 v Dragons; Round 26 v Cowboys)
PLAYERS USED	33
PLAYERS WHO DEBUTED AT THE CLUB	23
APPEARED IN EVERY MATCH	None
DEBUTANTS	Lazarus Vaalepu (Round 20), Aivalu Lisati (Round 26), Tristan Powell (Round 26), Keagan Russell-Smith (Round 26)
STRONGEST SPINE	Ryan Papenhuyzen, Cameron Munster, Jahrome Hughes, Harry Grant (11 matches)
MOST EXPERIENCED PLAYER	Cameron Munster (211 matches)

PENRITH PANTHERS

TOP POINTSCORER	Nathan Cleary (116)
TOP TRYSCORER	Sunia Turuva (16)
TOP TRY-ASSISTS	Nathan Cleary (15)
TOP TACKLES	Mitch Kenny (968)
TOP OFFLOADS	Jarome Luai (37)
TOP LINEBREAKS	Brian To'o, Sunia Turuva (20)
TOP TACKLE BREAKS	Brian To'o (149)
TOP METRES	Brian To'o (4,513)
TOP POST-CONTACT METRES	Brian To'o (1,691)
LONGEST WINNING STREAK	5 matches (Round 18 v Broncos – Round 23 v Eels)
BIGGEST WIN	42 points (Round 12 v Sharks)
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	2 matches (Round 24 v Storm – Round 25 v Raiders)
PLAYERS USED	31
PLAYERS WHO DEBUTED AT THE CLUB	25
APPEARED IN EVERY MATCH	Lindsay Smith
DEBUTANTS	Mavrik Geyer (Round 4), Trent Toelau (Round 13), Preston Riki (Round 13), Casey McLean (Round 17), Luron Patea (Round 17), Isaiah Iongi (Round 22)
STRONGEST SPINE	Dylan Edwards, Jarome Luai, Nathan Cleary, Mitch Kenny (7 matches) Dylan Edwards, Brad Schneider, Jarome Luai, Mitch Kenny (7 matches)
MOST EXPERIENCED PLAYER	Isaah Yeo (244 matches)

SPLIT / LOYALTIES

20 players have represented both Melbourne and Penrith in first grade since 1998:

- BEN ROARTY - 94 games for Melbourne (1998-2001); 32 games for Penrith (2002-2003)
- PAUL WHATUIRA - 6 games for Melbourne (2001); 62 games for Penrith (2002-2004)
- STEVE TURNER - 2 games for Penrith (2002-2003); 105 games for Melbourne (2004-2009)
- GARRET CROSSMAN - 24 games for Penrith (2004-2005); 35 games for Melbourne (2006-2007)
- RICHIE FA'AOSO - 10 games for Penrith (2004); 6 games for Melbourne (2012)
- MATTHEW CROSS - 33 games for Penrith (2005-2007); 14 games for Melbourne (2009)
- BRYAN NORRIE - 28 games for Penrith (2006-2007); 120 games for Melbourne (2010-2014)
- JUNIOR MOORS - 24 games for Penrith (2007-2008); 20 games for Melbourne (2013-2014)
- SIKA MANU - 88 games for Melbourne (2007-2012); 60 games for Penrith (2013-2015)
- CLINT NEWTON - 15 games for Melbourne (2007); 46 games for Penrith (2012-2013)
- MAURICE BLAIR - 48 games for Penrith (2007-2009); 36 games for Melbourne (2011-2013)
- ADAM WOOLNOUGH - 17 games for Penrith (2008-2009); 21 games for Melbourne (2011)
- WILLIE ISA - 1 game for Penrith (2008); 5 games for Melbourne (2009-2010)
- JAMES MALONEY - 4 games for Melbourne (2009); 44 games for Penrith (2018-2019)
- JOEL ROMELO - 3 games for Penrith (2009); 2 games for Melbourne (2014)
- SANDOR EARL - 16 games for Penrith (2010-2012); 8 games for Melbourne (2019-2020)
- DAYNE WESTON - 33 games for Penrith (2011-2012); 16 games for Melbourne (2014-2015)
- TOM EISENHUTH - 1 game for Penrith (2012); 58 games for Melbourne (2019-2023)
- GEORGE JENNINGS - 5 games for Penrith (2015); 21 games for Melbourne (2021-2023)
- PAUL MOMIROVSKI - 6 games for Melbourne (2020); 19 games for Penrith (2021)



MELBOURNE
STORM



PENRITH
PANTHERS



VENUE	ACCOR STADIUM (STADIUM AUSTRALIA)	ASHLEY KLEIN	REFEREE
LOCATION	WANNGAL COUNTRY SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK, NSW	DAVE MUNRO, CHRIS SUTTON	TOUCH JUDGES
DAY & TIME	SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2024 7:30PM AEDT	GRANT ATKINS	NRL BUNKER

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts							Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts
26	19	13	-	1	53	Ryan PAPENHUYZEN	1	FULLBACK	1	Dylan EDWARDS		28	19	10	31	-	102
26	23	15	-	-	60	Will WARBRICK	2	WING	2	Sunia TURUVA		22	22	16	-	-	64
21	15	4	-	-	16	Jack HOWARTH	3	CENTRE	3	Izack TAGO		22	25	10	-	-	40
27	23	5	105	-	230	Nick MEANEY	4	CENTRE	4	Paul ALAMOTI		20	15	7	18	-	64
23	15	10	-	-	40	Xavier COATES	5	WING	5	Brian TO'O		26	23	14	-	-	56
30	16	5	-	-	20	Cameron MUNSTER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Jarome LUAI		27	23	4	-	-	16
29	22	12	-	-	48	Jahrome HUGHES	7	HALFBACK	7	Nathan CLEARY		26	12	4	49	1	116
30	21	1	-	-	4	Tui KAMIKAMICA	8	FRONT ROW	8	Moses LEOTA		29	25	2	-	-	8
26	22	11	1	-	46	Harry GRANT	9	HOOKER	9	Mitch KENNY		26	23	2	-	-	8
29	25	3	-	-	12	Josh KING	10	FRONT ROW	10	James FISHER-HARRIS		28	22	4	-	-	16
24	23	2	-	-	8	Shawn BLORE	11	SECOND ROW	11	Luke GARNER		29	16	7	-	-	28
24	24	12	-	-	48	Eliesa KATOA	12	SECOND ROW	12	Liam MARTIN		27	21	3	-	-	12
23	25	-	-	-	-	Trent LOIERO	13	LOCK	13	Isaah YEO		29	24	2	-	-	8
24	25	12	14	-	76	Tyran WISHART	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Brad SCHNEIDER		23	14	4	1	-	18
30	19	-	-	-	-	Christian WELCH	15		15	Lindsay SMITH		24	26	4	-	-	16
25	7	1	-	-	4	Lazarus VAALEPU	16		16	Liam HENRY		23	23	2	-	-	8
22	21	2	-	-	8	Alec MacDONALD	17		17	Matt EISENHUTH		32	19	-	-	-	-
24	14	8	-	-	32	Grant ANDERSON	18	RESERVES	18	Casey McLEAN		18	7	3	-	-	12
22	11	1	-	-	4	Joe CHAN	19		19	Scott SORENSEN		31	15	3	-	-	12
24	4	-	-	-	-	Kane BRADLEY	20		20	Trent TOELAU		24	12	1	-	-	4
29	4	-	-	-	-	Tepai MOEROA	21		21	Daine LAURIE		25	15	2	-	-	8
21	14	8	-	-	32	Sualauvi FA'ALOGO	22		22	Luke SOMMERTON		24	3	1	-	-	4
65	578	-	-	-	-	Craig BELLAMY		COACHES		Ivan CLEARY		53	450	-	-	-	-

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

LIVE BROADCAST

WATCH	NINE NETWORK AND 9NOW
LISTEN	ABC SPORT, TRIPLE M, NINE RADIO, SEN
READ	LIVE BLOG - LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

HEAD TO HEAD since 1998

	TOTAL	MELBOURNE	PENRITH	DRAWN
ALL MATCHES	46	31	15	0
ACCOR	2	1	1	0
FINALS (inc GF)	3	1	2	0
GRAND FINALS	1	1	0	0
ASHLEY KLEIN	8	6	2	0

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

YEAR	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2023	Round 18	PENRITH 34-16	Marvel Stadium	26829
2023	Round 23	PENRITH 26-6	BlueBet	19953
2023	Prelim Final	PENRITH 38-4	Accor	35578
2024	Round 1	MELBOURNE 8-0	AAMI	20169
2024	Round 24	MELBOURNE 24-22	BlueBet	20516

BIGGEST WINS

YEAR	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2004	Round 17	MELBOURNE 66-14	Olympic Park	9042
2023	Prelim Final	PENRITH 38-4	Accor	35578

THINGS TO KNOW

- Penrith have won 8 of their last 14 games against the Storm
- Penrith in Finals – 27 wins, 17 losses
- Melbourne in Finals – 37 wins, 23 losses
- Ivan Cleary leads the coaching head-to-head in finals footy against Craig Bellamy, with 4 wins to Bellamy's 1.
- This will be Jahrome HUGHES' 150th NRL game

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE

project

SQUAD UPDATE SAT 7:30PM | LATE MAIL SUN 6:30PM
VISIT [LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM](https://www.leagueunlimited.com) FOR UPDATED TEAMLISTS

THE GRAND PREVIEW

Luke **JOBSON**

27 rounds. Over 200 games of rugby league across three countries. It all comes down to 80 minutes at Accor Stadium.

The two best teams in the NRL over the last five years do battle on the grandest stage of them all. The Penrith Panthers and the Melbourne Storm will run onto the hallowed turf at Accor Stadium with one goal in mind, to lift the Provan Summons trophy and be named the 2024 NRL Premiers.

The minor premiers in the Panthers are coming off a convincing 26-6 win against the Sharks at Accor Stadium last weekend to qualify for the grand final. In unpleasant conditions, the Panthers were brilliant from start to finish as they held the Sharks to just the one try when it was too little too late.

There were concerns about Nathan Cleary's shoulder towards the back end of the game, with Cleary coming off the field when the result was all but secured. Coach Ivan Cleary has said that his son and star half will need surgery over the off-season to resolve his issue, but it will be all systems go come Sunday night.

The Melbourne Storm absolutely obliterated the Sydney Roosters to secure their spot in the decider, in a 48-16 trouncing of the tri-colours at AAMI Park.

Despite being down to 12 men for the first 10 minutes, the Storm showed their systemic class with Jahrome Hughes once again proving why he should be the Dally M Player of the year. Doubles to Cameron Munster and Ryan Papenhuyzen just put the cherry on the top of what was a class performance at home.

With an expected crowd of 85,000 anxiously waiting for this game to play out, there will be a mountain of pressure on both sides to produce their best 80 minutes of the season to finish what they've started.

The Storm have lost Nelson Asofa-Solomona to suspension, which sees Tui Kamikamica called up to the starting side and Lazarus Vaalepu moving to the bench for the biggest game of his career. Grant Anderson remains 18th man.

The Panthers have named the same 17 from last week, with Scott Sorenson still touch and go to play this Sunday. Brad Schneider will be the utility man should either half or hooker Mitch Kenny go down during the game, having seen that tactic work wonders last year for the premiers

WHO TO WATCH: There's always someone who steps up in these games for the Storm, and this week it will be Jack Howarth. While not a name that has the impact of a Cam Munster or Harry Grant, Howarth has been brilliant in the second half of the season for Melbourne. One of the better defensive centres in the competition at the moment, he's got a knack of being there in support when the Storm make a break and will bust his backside no matter what the scoreline says to rally his team. I would not be surprised at all if Howarth scores the first try of the game purely through sheer workrate, supporting off a kick.

Say what you want about the impact the Panthers spine can have, but James Fisher-Harris will have one gameplan for his first stint - run hard, hit hard, tire the Storm out. With no Nelson for the Storm, Fisher-Harris will look to make a massive impact in the opening minutes with crunching hits on the Storm forwards, as well as charging hard at the likes of Harry Grant and Jahrome Hughes to limit their impact. If Fisher-Harris can make 15 tackles and run for 80 metres in his first stint, he will have gone a long way to getting his side well and truly on the front foot.

FAVOURITE: The Storm hold very narrow favouritism at the time of publication.

MY TIP: A record in the NRL era, the Panthers compete in their fifth grand final in a row. Last year, they came back from 16 points down to win on the stroke of full time against a Broncos side who switched off. This year, the Storm won't give them that opportunity. While the Panthers know how to win these games, the Storm will temper the early attack and kick on in the second half through Jahrome Hughes and Cameron Munster. This is not to say that the dynasty is over.. but in 2024, the Panthers will be Thunderstruck on Grand Final day. **Melbourne by 4.**

MELBOURNE STORM

2024 GRAND FINALISTS PLAYER PROFILES

1. RYAN PAPENHUYZEN

Enduring a challenging road plagued by injury in the years since his Clive Churchill Medal winning performance in 2020, Papenhuyzen will be aiming to produce a similar effort to ensure the Storm finish on top at the end of 80 minutes.

NRL appearances: 91

Grand Final appearances: 1 (2020)

2. WILL WARBRICK

Going from an Olympic medal as a New Zealand Rugby 7s player to a Grand Final appearance three years later, Warbrick has hit a purple patch of try-scoring form with five four-pointers in his last three games.

NRL appearances: 48

Grand Final appearances: N/A

3. JACK HOWARTH

Enjoying a breakout campaign after years of hype as a schoolboy talent, Howarth has made the centre position his own after gaining a long-awaited opportunity midway through the year.

NRL appearances: 16

Grand Final appearances: N/A

4. NICK MEANEY

Providing reliable service for Melbourne across the entire backline, the former Newcastle and Canterbury-Bankstown fullback has made consistency his trademark in his first season as a full-time centre.

NRL appearances: 136

Grand Final appearances: N/A

5. XAVIER COATES

Producing a gravity-defying effort to score the try of the year back in March, Coates will be content to keep his feet on the ground in order to add to his tally of ten tries in October.

NRL appearances: 85

Grand Final appearances: N/A

6. CAMERON MUNSTER

Boasting more finals experience than any player taking the field on Sunday night, Munster will be looking to step out of the shadows of Melbourne's Big Three and own the night with his performance.

NRL appearances: 211

Grand Final appearances: 4 (2016, 2017, 2018, 2020)

7. JAHROME HUGHES

Going from a one-game fullback at the Titans to a premiership-winning halfback at the Storm in the space of a decade, Hughes has developed into one of the best players in the league with 26 try-assists this season.

NRL appearances: 149

Grand Final appearances: 1 (2020)

COACH: CRAIG BELLAMY

Standing among the greatest coaches in the game's history following two decades of sustained success, Bellamy will head into his tenth Grand Final with the knowledge of what does and doesn't work on the last day of the season.

9. HARRY GRANT (CAPTAIN)

Taking his game to new heights after being named captain at the start of the season, Grant will be determined to make his first Grand Final appearance one for the history books to remember fondly.

NRL appearances: 100

Grand Final appearances: N/A

8. TUI KAMIKAMICA

Making his first Grand Final appearance seven years on from his first grade debut, Kamikamica will come into the starting pack with ambitions of emulating fellow Fijians Petero Civoniceva and Viliame Kikau as a premiership-winning forward.

NRL appearances: 203

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2017, 2018, 2020)

10. JOSH KING

It took more than a year for King to win his first match in the NRL – now the hardworking front-rower stands on the precipice of knowing Grand Final glory for the first time.

NRL appearances: 154

Grand Final appearances: N/A

11. SHAWN BLORE

Going from a wooden spoon to a Grand Final after moving on from the Wests Tigers over the off-season, Blore has played with a confidence rarely seen throughout his first grade career in 23 appearances this season.

NRL appearances: 56

Grand Final appearances: N/A

12. ELIESA KATOA

Terrorising opposition teams with 12 tries in a career-best campaign, Katoa has thrived over the past two years at Melbourne to become one of the best second-rowers in the game.

NRL appearances: 91

Grand Final appearances: N/A

13. TRENT LOIERO

Moving into the middle of the field after playing the bulk of his career as an edge forward, Loiero gained his first taste of representative football this season as Queensland's 18th man for the State of Origin decider.

NRL appearances: 74

Grand Final appearances: N/A

14. TYRAN WISHART

Set to become a man in demand after emerging as the most-improved player in the league, Wishart will be prepared to play anywhere on the field to help the Storm win on Sunday.

NRL appearances: 54

Grand Final appearances: N/A

15. CHRISTIAN WELCH

Giving his best off the bench after returning from a late-season injury, Welch has put aside the disappointment of losing the captaincy to do what is needed for the team.

NRL appearances: 162

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2016, 2018, 2020)

16. LAZARUS VAALEPU

Cracking the top grade late in the season after impressing in the Queensland Cup over many years, Vaalepu could set a NRL record as the least experienced premiership winner after getting the call up to replace suspended forward Nelson Asofa-Solomona.

NRL appearances: 113

Grand Final appearances: N/A

17. ALEC MACDONALD

Providing solid service off the bench in 21 appearances this season, MacDonald is viewed as a long-term player for the Storm after signing a four-year extension earlier in the season.

NRL appearances: 45

Grand Final appearances: N/A

18. GRANT ANDERSON

Playing across the backline – including a game at halfback – throughout the year, Anderson has been one of the most improved players in the entire competition.

NRL appearances: 24

Grand Final appearances: N/A

RESERVES

19. JOE CHAN

Beginning the year as a starting forward in a sign of bigger things to come, Chan is set to play plenty of first grade after extending his time at the Storm for a further four years.

NRL appearances: 12

Grand Final appearances: N/A

20. KANE BRADLEY

Transitioning into the forwards after making his NRL debut as a winger, Bradley has given a strong account of himself whenever he's been called upon in the top grade.

NRL appearances: 8

Grand Final appearances: N/A

21. TEPAI MOEROA

Spending the bulk of 2024 in reserve grade with North Sydney, the Cook Islands international will be prepared to play in the biggest game of his career if called upon.

NRL appearances: 134

Grand Final appearances: N/A

22. SUALAUVI FA'ALOGO

Dazzling opposition teams in the NRL and on the international stage with speed and footwork, Fa'alogo has generated a reputation as an attacking weapon with 10 tries in 15 games to date.

NRL appearances: 15

Grand Final appearances: N/A

MELBOURNE STORM

ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL

Reaching a Grand Final for the tenth time in Craig Bellamy's 22nd season as coach, the Melbourne Storm will be striving to achieve their first premiership win in the post 'Big Three' era.

Coming into the season as contenders but far from title favourites with just five members remaining from their last premiership success in 2020, the decision by Bellamy to appoint Harry Grant as captain ushered in a new era for the club with Grant, Ryan Papenhuyzen and Jahrome Hughes thriving as Cameron Smith, Billy Slater and Cooper Cronk did before them.

Losing just five matches over the course of 27 rounds, including a calculated move to rest 11 first-choice players for a penultimate round trip to Townsville, the Storm hit the top of the table midway through the year and held on for 15 straight weeks to secure the minor premiership with a fit-and-firing roster primed for September.

Emphatically disposing of the Sharks to earn a weekend off and doing likewise against the Roosters to book a ticket for the big dance, the Storm have been dealt a blow with starting

front-rower Nelson Asofa-Solomona suspended for a careless high tackle.

Experience was on the side of the Storm when they ambushed the Panthers in the Grand Final four years ago – time will tell whether new faces can make the same impact on Sunday night.

FINISHED: 1ST

GAMES: 26 WINS: 21 LOSSES: 5
POINTS FOR: 777
POINTS AGAINST: 477

ROUND 1 – STORM 8 v PANTHERS 0

Extending their unbeaten opening round record to 22 years in succession, a try to Reimis Smith early in the second half was enough to get the better of the reigning premiers | Storm 8 (Smith try. Meaney 2/2 goals) Panthers 0

ROUND 2 – STORM 30 v WARRIORS 26

Two tries in the final three minutes, headlined by a gravity-defying match-winner from Xavier Coates, allowed the Storm to get out of jail in a thrilling contest | Storm 30 (Papenhuyzen 2, Warbrick, Meaney, Coates try. Meaney 5/6 goals) Warriors 26 (Watene-Zelezniak 2, Ford, Montoya tries. Metcalf 5/7 goals)

ROUND 3 – STORM 12 v KNIGHTS 14

The absence of first choice halves Cameron Munster and Jahrome Hughes saw the Storm fall short of clawing back a 14-0 halftime deficit despite the best efforts of Ryan Papenhuyzen | Storm 12 (Papenhuyzen, Wishart tries. Meaney 2/2 goals) Knights 14 (Gagai, Tuala tries. Ponga 3/3 goals)

ROUND 5 – STORM 34 v BRONCOS 32

The return of Cameron Munster saw the Storm extend their record over the Broncos to eight straight wins at AAMI Park in a contest where points flowed freely | Storm 34 (Katoa 2, Coates, Warbrick, Wishart, Hughes tries. Meaney 5/6 goals) Broncos 32 (Mam 2, Mariner, Arthurs, Te Kura tries. Reynolds 3/3, Staggs 3/3 goals)

ROUND 6 – STORM 16 v BULLDOGS 14

Former Melbourne premiership winner Josh Addo-Carr snared a hat-trick for the improving Bulldogs, but a try to off-season signing Shawn Blore with minutes remaining was enough to get the hosts over the line | Storm 16 (Papenhuyzen, Smith, Blore tries. Meaney 2/3 goals) Bulldogs 14 (Addo-Carr 3 tries. Burton 1/3 goals)

ROUND 7 – STORM 18 v ROOSTERS 12

Xavier Coates produced his second match-winning try of the season to give the Storm their ninth win from ten matches against the Roosters this decade | Storm 18 (Hughes, Katoa, Coates tries. Meaney 3/3 goals) Roosters 12 (Jennings, Manu tries. Sua'alii 2/2 goals)

ROUND 8 – STORM 54 v RABBITOHS 20

Six tries from the Storm in the opening half served as the final nail in the coffin for Jason Demetriou as the Rabbitohs remained winless in Melbourne from 19 attempts | Storm 54 (Coates 3, Papenhuyzen 2, Warbrick, Grant, Munster, Wishart, Chan tries. Meaney 7/10 goals)

Rabbitohs 20 (Gagai 2, Milne, Murray tries. Hawkins 2/4 goals)

ROUND 9 – STORM 22 v TITANS 20

Cameron Munster marked his 200th career game with a try, but the win came at a price with Ryan Papenhuyzen suffering an ankle injury that sidelined the star fullback for six weeks | Storm 22 (Munster, Warbrick, Papenhuyzen, Fa'alogo tries. Meaney 3/6 goals) Titans 20 (Foran, Sami, Brimson tries. Kelly 4/5 goals)

ROUND 10 – STORM 18 v SHARKS 25

Former Melbourne playmaker Daniel Atkinson emerged as an unlikely hero for the Sharks on a night that left the Storm fuming after Harry Grant was sent to the sin bin for making contact with the legs of a kicker | Storm 18 (Katoa, Smith, Wishart tries. Meaney 3/4 goals) Sharks 25 (Hau Tapuha, Kaufusi, Ramien, Talakai tries. Atkinson 4/4 goals. Atkinson FG)

ROUND 11 – STORM 48 v EELS 16

An avalanche of points after halftime saw the Storm bring Brad Arthur's time at the Eels to an ignominious end, however the win was far from magical with Cameron Munster aggravating a groin injury | Storm 48 (Grant 2, Smith 2, Kamikamica, Warbrick, Coates, Katoa tries. Meaney 8/9 goals) Eels 16 (Simonsson, Talagi, Sivo tries. Asi 2/2, Russell 0/1 goals)

ROUND 12 – STORM 20 v SEA EAGLES 26

The Storm were close but not close enough as their fierce rivals soared to victory on a night that saw Lehi Hopoate join his father and brothers in the top grade for the Sea Eagles | Storm 20 (Katoa, Meaney, Hughes tries. Meaney 4/4 goals) Sea Eagles 26 (Tatau 2, B. Trbojevic, J. Trbojevic tries. Garrick 5/6 goals)

ROUND 14 – STORM 36 v KNIGHTS 28

Trailing by six with two minutes left in the first half, the Storm piled on five tries in a 20 minute barrage either side of halftime to get the job done at home | Storm 36 (Meaney 2, Wishart 2, Hughes, Coates tries. Meaney 6/7 goals) Knights 28 (Lucas 2, Sharpe, Gagai, Tuala tries. Hastings 4/5 goals)

ROUND 15 – STORM 38 v WARRIORS 24

Dean Ieremia scored a try in his first appearance for nearly two years as the Storm fought back from a slow start to run out comprehensive winners across the Tasman | Storm 38 (Fa'alogo 2, Katoa, Anderson, Ieremia, Meaney, Coates tries. Meaney 5/7 goals) Warriors 24 (Montoya 2, Pompey, Barnett tries. Pompey 3/4, Harris-Tavita 1/1 goals)

ROUND 16 – STORM 30 v DOLPHINS 24

Both sides traded four-pointers in the first half before two tries in quick succession following the resumption allowed the Storm to hold on without their Origin stars | Storm 30 (Papenhuyzen, Wishart, Hughes, Warbrick, King tries. Meaney 5/6 goals) Dolphins 24 (K. Bromwich, Aitken, Fuller, Isaako tries. Isaako 4/6 goals)

ROUND 17 – STORM 16 v RAIDERS 6

Points were at a premium for both teams on a winter's night that saw centre Jack Howarth seal the result with his first try in the top grade | Storm 16 (King, Blore, Howarth tries. Wishart 2/4 goals) Raiders 6 (Weekes try. Rapana 1/1 goal)

ROUND 18 – STORM 40 v WESTS TIGERS 28

The Leichhardt Oval scoreboard attendant was kept busy with 12 tries scored between the two teams, including a brace of tries to substitute speedster Sua Fa'alogo | Storm 40 (Fa'alogo 2, Katoa, Papenhuyzen, Warbrick, Anderson, Wishart tries. Wishart 6/8 goals) Wests Tigers 28 (Staines 2, Pole, Galvin, Bula tries. Koroisau 4/5 goals)

ROUND 20 – STORM 24 v ROOSTERS 8

In a contest billed as a finals pre-cursor between two heavyweight competitors, two tries only minutes apart early on gave the Storm a lead that was held from start to finish | Storm 24 (Anderson 2, Howarth, Fa'alogo tries. Meaney 4/6 goals) Roosters 8 (Tupou, Young tries. Walker 0/2 goals)

ROUND 21 – STORM 32 v EELS 14

A close first half blew out after halftime as the Storm capitalised on errors to entrench their position atop the premiership ladder | Storm 32 (Anderson, Grant, Warbrick, Wishart, Papenhuyzen tries. Meaney 6/6 goals) Eels 14 (Russell 2, Tago tries. Gutherson 1/1, Asi 0/2 goals)

ROUND 22 – STORM 16 v DRAGONS 18

The Storm were dealt a humbling lesson in patience as the Dragons produced the upset of the season to claim their first win in Melbourne in a quarter of a century | Storm 16 (Grant 2, Anderson tries. Meaney 2/3 goals) Dragons 18 (Su'A 2, Sloan tries. Lomax 3/3 goals)

ROUND 23 – STORM 28 v RABBITOHS 16

Scoring minutes after halftime to take their lead beyond 20 points, the Storm were content to coast to victory in a lacklustre contest where the less said the better | Storm 28 (Warbrick 2, Asofa-Solomona, Papenhuyzen, Anderson tries. Meaney 4/6 goals) Rabbitohs 16 (Myers 2, Murray tries.

Myers 2/3 goals)

ROUND 24 – STORM 24 v PANTHERS 22

A top of the table match-up lived up to the hype with the lead changing multiple times before a penalty goal to Nick Meaney saw the Storm wrap up the minor premiership with three games to spare | Storm 24 (Katoa 2, Anderson, Wishart tries. Meaney 4/5 goals) Panthers 22 (Smith, Tago, Edwards, C. McLean tries. Cleary 3/5 goals)

ROUND 25 – STORM 48 v DOLPHINS 6

Nelson Asofa-Solomona powered over for a try in his 200th game for the Storm to leave the Dolphins' hopes of making the finals in tatters | Storm 48 (Fa'alogo 2, Grant, MacDonald, Howarth, Hughes, Katoa, Asofa-Solomona, King tries. Meaney 6/9 goals) Dolphins 6 (Averillo try. Isaako 1/1 goal)

ROUND 26 – STORM 30 v COWBOYS 38

Debutants Keagan Russell-Smith, Ativalu Lisati and Tristan Powell headlined 11 changes as the minor premiers elected to strategically rest players ahead of a finals assault | Storm 30 (Wishart 2, Vaalepu, MacDonald, Lisati tries. Wishart 5/6 goals) Cowboys 38 (Feldt 2, Taulagi, Holmes, Robson, Nanai tries. Holmes 7/7 goals)

ROUND 27 – STORM 50 v BRONCOS 12

Jahrome Hughes and Will Warbrick closed out the regular season with respective hat-tricks in a lopsided contest resembling a training run at times | Storm 50 (Hughes 3, Warbrick 3, Katoa, Grant, Coates tries. Meaney 7/9 goals) Broncos 12 (Rogers, Arthurs tries. Reynolds 2/2 goals)

QUALIFYING FINAL – STORM 37 v SHARKS 10

With just four points separating the 2016 Grand Final combatants at the change of ends, a scintillating second half saw Harry Grant become the first hooker to score a hat-trick in finals football to move the Storm within 80 minutes of the premiership decider | Storm 37 (Grant 3, Warbrick 2, Munster tries. Meaney 6/8 goals. Papenhuyzen FG) Sharks 10 (Katoa, Nikora tries. Hynes 1/2 goals)

PRELIMINARY FINAL – STORM 48 v ROOSTERS 18

Shaking off an explosive start that saw Nelson Asofa-Solomona sin-binned in the opening tackle, Melbourne's spine players ran riot to secure a return to the Grand Final for the first time since 2020 | Storm 48 (Hughes 3, Papenhuyzen 2, Munster 2, Howarth tries. Meaney 6/7, Grant 1/1, Wishart 1/1 goals) Roosters 18 (Tupou, May, Butcher tries. Sua'alii 3/4 goals)

PENRITH PANTHERS

2024 GRAND FINALISTS PLAYER PROFILES

COACH: IVAN CLEARY

Becoming the first coach since Clive Churchill to lead a team to five consecutive premierships, Cleary has been willing to adapt on the run in big games with bold interchange calls.

7. NATHAN CLEARY (C)

Orchestrating the greatest comeback in Grand Final history to win his second Clive Churchill Medal last season, Cleary has shown no ill effects of an injury disrupted year by stepping up in September.

NRL appearances: 171
Grand Final appearances: 4
(2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

13. ISAAH YEO (C)

Remaining consistent as ever in leading the Panthers into a fifth straight premiership decider, Yeo surpassed Steve Carter in the win over Cronulla to claim the record for the most first grade appearances for the club.

NRL appearances: 244
Grand Final appearances: 4
(2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

1. DYLAN EDWARDS

Getting a deserved chance at representative level with Australia and New South Wales over the past 12 months, the Penrith fullback has averaged more metres than any established player this season.

NRL appearances: 150
Grand Final appearances: 4 (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

2. SUNIA TURUVA

Making his final appearance for the club before joining the Wests Tigers next season, the Fijian flyer has scored the most tries of any Penrith player in 2024.

NRL appearances: 51
Grand Final appearances: 1 (2023)

3. IZACK TAGO

Lining up for his third Grand Final in as many years as a starting centre, the St Marys junior has scored ten tries while appearing in all but one game this season.

NRL appearances: 73
Grand Final appearances: 2 (2022, 2023)

4. PAUL ALAMOTI

Going from a discard at Canterbury to a Grand Final with Penrith in the span of a year, the young outside back started the year in reserve grade before making the most of a fortuitous opportunity.

NRL appearances: 34
Grand Final appearances: N/A

5. BRIAN TO'O

The powerhouse Samoan is a proven big game performer having averaged more than 200 running metres in the past four Grand Finals – the Storm will need to contain To'o in order to prevent the Panthers from getting on top.

NRL appearances: 116
Grand Final appearances: 4 (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

6. JAROME LUAI

Playing a vital role in elevating the Panthers to one of the greatest teams of any era, Luai will line up in black one last time before becoming the main man at the Wests Tigers in 2025.

NRL appearances: 130
Grand Final appearances: 4 (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

8. MOSES LEOTA

Forming part of a brutal front-row rotation that has served the reigning premiers well over many years, the Kiwi wrecking ball crossed for a vital try in last year's decider that kick-started a historic comeback.

NRL appearances: 174
Grand Final appearances: 4 (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

9. MITCH KENNY

Rising through the ranks to become a fan favourite at the foot of the mountains, the underrated hooker was the unlikely of first try scorers in the 2023 Grand Final win.

NRL appearances: 106
Grand Final appearances: 2 (2022, 2023)

10. JAMES FISHER-HARRIS

Finishing up his time at Penrith as a club great with more than 200 NRL games to his name, Fisher-Harris will be hoping to return to New Zealand with a fourth premiership ring.

NRL appearances: 202
Grand Final appearances: 4 (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

11. LUKE GARNER

Starting on an edge but capable of shifting into the outside back as required, Garner's versatility will be crucial in the event of a HIA at any point in the match.

NRL appearances: 103
Grand Final appearances: 1 (2023)

12. LIAM MARTIN

Terrorising opponents with and without the ball as a mainstay of the Panthers pack, look for Martin to capitalise on the scoreboard if he gets a sniff of the try line on Sunday night.

NRL appearances: 125
Grand Final appearances: 4 (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

14. BRAD SCHNEIDER

Taking on a role that has been instrumental to the side's sustained success, Schneider's involvement as a back-up playmaker in the Grand Final could be minimal or game changing – as was the case with his predecessor – Jack Cogger – last year.

NRL appearances: 26
Grand Final appearances: N/A

15. LINDSAY SMITH

Providing impressive service off the bench with 100 running metres and 33 tackles on average each week, Smith is the only player to appear in every match for the Panthers this year.

NRL appearances: 53
Grand Final appearances: 1 (2023)

16. LIAM HENRY

Thriving in his first full season in the top grade, the Blayney junior has been another success story to come out of the Panthers investment in nurturing talent from regional NSW.

NRL appearances: 26
Grand Final appearances: N/A

17. MATTHEW EISENHUTH

Excelling as a replacement forward every time he has been called upon over the past four seasons, Eisenhuth will be hoping Sunday is the day he finally gets the chance to experience the glory of playing in – and winning – a Grand Final.

NRL appearances: 134
Grand Final appearances: N/A

18. CASEY MCLEAN

Set to play plenty of first grade alongside his older brother, Jesse, in the years to come, McLean got his chance in the top grade just months after turning 18 and impressed with three tries in seven matches.

NRL appearances: 7
Grand Final appearances: N/A

RESERVES

19. SCOTT SORENSEN Enduring an injury-interrupted campaign that has seen the New Zealand international spend a third of the year on the sidelines, Sorenson will be pushing to be a late inclusion for the biggest match of the season. NRL appearances: 120; Grand Final appearances: 3 (2021, 2022, 2023)

20. TRENT TOELAU Coming off the bench nine times in his debut season as an impact playmaker, Toelau will start next year as a development player before moving into the Top 30 in 2026. NRL appearances: 9; Grand Final appearances: N/A

21. DAINE LAURIE Returning to Penrith after developing his craft with the Wests Tigers over the past three seasons, the versatile outside back has delivered as a depth signing in 14 matches at fullback and off the bench. NRL appearances: 66; Grand Final appearances: N/A

22. LUKE SOMMERTON Opportunities in first grade have been few and far between for Sommerton, but the back-up hooker has impressed the right people to earn a place in the Top 30 for next season. NRL appearances: 5; Grand Final appearances: N/A

PENRITH PANTHERS

ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL

In an age where the salary cap makes success near impossible to sustain, the Penrith Panthers under the coaching of Ivan Cleary have achieved a level of greatness that may stand unmatched for generations.

Beginning their premiership defence with losses to the Super League champions and their eventual Grand Final combatants for the second year in a row, the Panthers recovered from a slow start to cement a place inside the top four heading into the representative season. Managing the workload of their State of Origin

stars during the middle third of the year, captain Nathan Cleary struggled to put games together due to injury, yet the star halfback's absence did little to deter the Panthers from confirming a top two finish for the fifth straight year.

Blowing the Roosters away in the Qualifying Final with a devastating opening on home soil, a tougher assignment followed a fortnight later with the Sharks trailing by less than a try heading into the final quarter before the Panthers flexed their muscles to secure a premiership record 11th successive finals win

enroute to the decider.

Standing alongside St George and South Sydney as the only teams in history to play in five straight Grand Finals, Penrith will be out to avenge the heartache of 2020 while giving James Fisher-Harris, Jarome Luai and Sunia Turuva a premiership ring as a departing gift.

FINISHED: 2ND

GAMES: 26 WINS: 19 LOSSES: 7
POINTS SCORED: 636
POINTS CONCEDED: 410

ROUND 1 – PANTHERS 0 v STORM 8

Suffering an opening round loss for the second straight year, the reigning premiers struggled to make an attacking dent with first-choice hooker Mitch Kenny sidelined through suspension | Panthers 0 (no scorers) Storm 8 (Smith try, Meaney 2/2 goals)

ROUND 2 – PANTHERS 26 v EELS 18

Facing the prospect of going down to the Eels when former Panther J'maine Hoppood crossed on the stroke of halftime, the hosts flexed their premiership muscles to hold their Western Sydney rivals scoreless while posting two tries of their own | Panthers 26 (Turuva 2, Edwards, Leota, Tago tries. Cleary 3/5 goals) Eels 18 (Lussick, Lane, Hoppood tries. Gutherson 2/2, Moses 1/1 goals)

ROUND 3 – PANTHERS 34 v BRONCOS 12

Conceding an early penalty goal before going on to post six straight tries, the Grand Final rematch failed to reach great heights with Adam Reynolds watching on from the sidelines and Reece Walsh ruled out in the opening minutes | Panthers 34 (Tago 2, To'o 2, Turuva, Kenny tries. Cleary 5/6 goals) Broncos 12 (Mariner, Arthurs tries. Staggs 2/3 goals)

ROUND 4 – PANTHERS 22 v ROOSTERS 16

A hat-trick to Sunia Turuva ensured the Panthers continued an impressive winning streak over the Roosters on a night that saw Mavrik Geyer join his famous father as a first-grade player with the club | Panthers 22 (Turuva 3, Edwards tries. Edwards 3/5 goals) Roosters 16 (Tupouniua, B. Smith, Tupou tries. Walker 2/2, Tedesco 0/1 goals)

ROUND 5 – PANTHERS 18 v SEA EAGLES 32

An early try to replacement halfback Brad Schneider was the closest the Panthers came on the northern beaches as the Sea Eagles dominated to claim a major scalp | Panthers 18 (Edwards 2, Schneider tries. Edwards 3/3 goals) Sea Eagles 32 (T. Trbojevic, Koula, Cherry-Evans, Waddell, Paulo tries. Cherry-Evans 6/6 goals)

ROUND 7 – PANTHERS 22 v WESTS TIGERS 6

Having stunned the rugby league world by announcing his decision to leave the Panthers at season's end, James Fisher-Harris finished an emotional week with a try to the delight of a sold-out crowd in Bathurst | Panthers 22 (Turuva 2, Alamoti, Fisher-Harris tries. Edwards 3/4 goals) Wests Tigers 6 (Tupou try. Koroisau 1/1 goal)

ROUND 8 – PANTHERS 26 v COWBOYS 20

The Cowboys almost clawed back a 20-point deficit but a strong performance from Nathan Cleary in his return from injury paved the way for a rare win in Townsville | Panthers 26 (To'o, Edwards, Alamoti, Martin tries. Cleary 5/5 goals) Cowboys 20 (Valemei, Holmes, Finefeuiaki, Nanai tries. Holmes 2/4 goals)

ROUND 9 – PANTHERS 42 v RABBITOHS 12

The difference between the two sides was made clear midway through the second half when Talyan May scored off a 20 metre restart to condemn the Rabbitohs to another loss in Ben Hornby's first game at the helm | Panthers 42 (Garner 2, Turuva, Schneider, Smith, May, Tago tries. Edwards 6/6, Schneider 1/1 goals) Rabbitohs 12 (Thompson, Hawkins tries. Hawkins 2/2 goals)

ROUND 10 – PANTHERS 16 v BULLDOGS 10

The Panthers won the game but lost Nathan Cleary to a hamstring injury that sidelined the star halfback for the entire State of Origin series | Panthers 16 (Garner, To'o tries. Edwards 3/3, Cleary 1/1 goals) Bulldogs 10 (Burton, Kiraz tries. Burton 1/2 goals)

ROUND 11 – PANTHERS 20 v WARRIORS 22

Unheralded Warriors fullback Taine Tuaupiki stole the show in Magic Round with a match-winning conversion that left the Panthers to lament an afternoon of missed opportunities | Panthers 20 (Edwards, Luai, Yeo, Tago tries. Edwards 2/5 goals) Warriors 22 (Montoya, Leiataua, Pompey, Tuaupiki tries. Tuaupiki 3/3, Pompey 0/1 goals)

ROUND 12 – PANTHERS 42 v SHARKS 0

The showdown between Jarome Luai and Nicho Hynes ended in a knockout as the Penrith playmaker suffocated the ladder leaders in one of the most emphatic performances of 2024 | Panthers 42 (Fisher-Harris, Luai, Alamoti, Edwards, Cole, Henry, Sorenson tries. Edwards 7/8 goals) Sharks 0

ROUND 13 – PANTHERS 10 v DRAGONS 22

The Panthers appeared in control without their representative stars at the break only for the Dragons to come out breathing fire with four unanswered tries to steal an upset win | Panthers 10 (Alamoti, J. McLean tries. Alamoti 1/2 goals) Dragons 22 (T. Couchman, Sloan, Mat Feagai, Faitala-Mariner tries. Flanagan 3/4 goals)

ROUND 14 – PANTHERS 32 v SEA EAGLES 22

A first half treble to Brian To'o was bested by a four-try haul from Tommy Talau as the Panthers avenged their early season loss to the Sea Eagles on home soil | Panthers 32 (To'o 3, Turuva 2, Henry tries. Alamoti 4/7 goals) Sea Eagles 22 (Talau 4, Saab tries. Garrick 1/5 goals)

ROUND 15 – PANTHERS 26 v KNIGHTS 18

The Knights surged home to trail by two points before a powerhouse run by Moses Leota allowed Dylan Edwards to give the Panthers enough breathing space to get the job done on the road | Panthers 26 (Sorenson, To'o, Luai, Smith, Edwards tries. Alamoti 3/5 goals) Knights 18 (Sharpe, Lucas, Best tries. Hastings 3/3 goals)

ROUND 17 – PANTHERS 6 v COWBOYS 16

Casey McLean and Luron Patea made their NRL debuts in a low-scoring affair that was in the balance until teenager Jaxon Purdue crossed to give the visitors an upset victory | Panthers 6 (Schneider try. Alamoti 1/1 goal) Cowboys 16 (Feldt, Burns, Purdue tries. Drinkwater 1/1, Clifford 1/2 goals)

ROUND 18 – PANTHERS 14 v BRONCOS 6

In a tightly fought contest befitting of last year's Grand Final combatants, a run from dummy half late in the second half by Mitch Kenny saw the Panthers come out on top once again | Panthers 14 (Cole, To'o, Kenny tries. Edwards 1/3 goals) Broncos 6 (Walsh try. Walsh 1/1 goal)

ROUND 20 – PANTHERS 28 v DOLPHINS 26

Nathan Cleary stood tall when it mattered most with two clutch plays – a penalty goal to send the game into golden point and a match-winning field goal – to mark his return in style | Panthers 28 (Turuva, Alamoti, Leota, Laurie tries. Cleary 5/5 goals. Cleary 2pt FG) Dolphins 26 (Tabuai-Fidow 2, Katoa, Bostock tries. Isaako 5/5 goals)

ROUND 21 – PANTHERS 46 v DRAGONS 10

The Panthers recorded their biggest ever win in Wollongong thanks to Nathan Cleary contributing a 26-point haul to put rival teams on notice in the run towards September | Panthers 46 (Cleary 3, C. McLean, Martin, Sorenson, Smith, Toelau tries. Cleary 7/8 goals) Dragons 10 (Tuipulotu, Su'A tries. Lomax 1/2 goals)

QUALIFYING FINAL - PANTHERS 30 v ROOSTERS 10

A blistering opening quarter orchestrated by Nathan Cleary saw the side keep pace with the clock to earn a week off in September | Panthers 30 (Garner 2, To'o, Tago, Luai tries. Cleary 5/6 goals) Roosters 10 (Sua'alii, Tedesco tries. Sua'alii 1/2 goals)

ROUND 22 – PANTHERS 22 v KNIGHTS 14

The Knights produced one of their best performances of the year to level the scores at 14-all heading into the final ten minutes, but once again Nathan Cleary stepped up to get the Panthers over the line | Panthers 22 (C. McLean, Tago, Cleary tries. Cleary 5/5 goals) Knights 14 (D. Saifiti, Frizell tries. Ponga 3/3 goals)

ROUND 23 – PANTHERS 36 v EELS 34

The Eels were poised to pull off the upset of the year only for the Panthers to surge home with three tries in as many minutes to get out of jail in a memorable Western Sydney derby | Panthers 36 (To'o 2, Turuva 2, Tago 2 tries. Cleary 6/7 goals) Eels 34 (Gutherson 2, Talagi, Tago, Russell, Penisini tries. Gutherson 5/8 goals)

ROUND 24 – PANTHERS 22 v STORM 24

Penrith lost on the scoreboard but were dealt an even greater blow when Nathan Cleary was forced from the field with a shoulder injury that threatened to derail their chances of a fourth straight title | Panthers 22 (Smith, Tago, Edwards, C. McLean tries. Cleary 3/5 goals) Storm 24 (Katoa 2, Anderson, Wishart tries. Meaney 4/5 goals)

ROUND 25 – PANTHERS 18 v RAIDERS 22

A length of the field intercept finished off by Xavier Savage kept the Raiders' finals hopes alive in a result that extinguished the Panthers ambitions of winning the minor premiership | Panthers 18 (Sommerton, Laurie, Fisher-Harris tries. Edwards 3/4 goals) Raiders 22 (Savage 2, Weekes, Hopoate tries. Fogarty 3/4 goals)

ROUND 26 – PANTHERS 34 v RABBITOHS 12

Bouncing back from consecutive defeats with a comprehensive win at home, Sunia Turuva made the most of a first grade recall by bagging a brace of tries | Panthers 34 (Turuva 2, Fisher-Harris-Garner, Schneider, Yeo tries. Alamoti 5/6 goals) Rabbitohs 12 (Munro 2 tries. Myers 2/2 goals)

ROUND 27 – PANTHERS 18 x v TITANS 12

Playing at Penrith Park for the final time in the regular season, the Panthers did enough to ensure James Fisher-Harris celebrated his 200th game for the club with a win | Panthers 18 (To'o, Edwards, Garner tries. Alamoti 3/4 goals) Titans 12 (Campbell, Khan-Pereira tries. Campbell 2/2 goals)

PRELIMINARY FINAL - PANTHERS 26 v SHARKS 6

On a night that saw Isiah Yeo surpass Steve Carter as the most-capped player for Penrith, the reigning premiers stood tall to earn the right to defend their crown on Grand Final day | Panthers 26 (Alamoti 2, To'o, Martin tries. Cleary 4/5, Alamoti 1/1 goals) Sharks 6 (Katoa try. Hynes 1/2 goals)

PLAYER PROFILES &
ROAD TO GLORY by ROB CROSBY

THE RECORD

STORM v PANTHERS

46	31	15	1,151	733
MEETINGS	MELBOURNE WINS	PENRITH WINS	SCORED BY MELBOURNE	SCORED BY PENRITH

Meeting	Year	Round	Score	Score	Venue		
1	1998	7	Melbourne	22	Penrith	14	Olympic Park
2	1999	1	Melbourne	32	Penrith	10	Olympic Park
3	2000	4	Melbourne	22	Penrith	30	Penrith
4	2000	17	Melbourne	20	Penrith	23	Olympic Park
5	2001	11	Melbourne	58	Penrith	14	Penrith
6	2001	24	Melbourne	28	Penrith	24	Colonial Stadium
7	2002	20	Melbourne	16	Penrith	36	Penrith
8	2002	23	Melbourne	42	Penrith	10	Olympic Park
9	2003	2	Melbourne	42	Penrith	16	Olympic Park
10	2003	14	Melbourne	32	Penrith	12	Penrith
11	2004	5	Melbourne	26	Penrith	30	Penrith
12	2004	17	Melbourne	66	Penrith	14	Olympic Park
13	2005	5	Melbourne	16	Penrith	36	Penrith
14	2005	15	Melbourne	14	Penrith	28	Olympic Park
15	2006	6	Melbourne	40	Penrith	18	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide
16	2006	12	Melbourne	17	Penrith	16	Olympic Park
17	2007	6	Melbourne	30	Penrith	20	Olympic Park
18	2008	24	Melbourne	40	Penrith	6	Penrith
19	2009	5	Melbourne	16	Penrith	14	Olympic Park
20	2010	3	Melbourne	16	Penrith	10	Penrith
21	2010	20	Melbourne	18	Penrith	10	AAMI Park
22	2011	6	Melbourne	25	Penrith	10	Penrith
23	2011	22	Melbourne	26	Penrith	6	AAMI Park
24	2012	9	Melbourne	44	Penrith	10	Penrith
25	2012	22	Melbourne	46	Penrith	6	AAMI Park
26	2013	9	Melbourne	10	Penrith	12	Penrith
27	2014	2	Melbourne	18	Penrith	17	AAMI Park
28	2014	24	Melbourne	24	Penrith	10	Penrith
29	2015	13	Melbourne	20	Penrith	0	Penrith
30	2015	19	Melbourne	52	Penrith	10	AAMI Park
31	2016	13	Melbourne	24	Penrith	6	AAMI Park
32	2017	5	Melbourne	28	Penrith	6	AAMI Park
33	2018	25	Melbourne	16	Penrith	22	AAMI Park
34	2019	3	Melbourne	32	Penrith	2	Carrington Park, Bathurst
35	2020	6	Melbourne	14	Penrith	21	Campbelltown Sports Stadium
36	2020	Grand Final	Melbourne	26	Penrith	20	ANZ Stadium
37	2021	3	Melbourne	10	Penrith	12	Penrith
38	2021	20	Melbourne	37	Penrith	10	Suncorp Stadium
39	2021	Preliminary Final	Melbourne	6	Penrith	10	Suncorp Stadium
40	2022	10	Melbourne	6	Penrith	32	Suncorp Stadium
41	2022	22	Melbourne	16	Penrith	0	Penrith
42	2023	18	Melbourne	16	Penrith	34	Marvel Stadium
43	2023	23	Melbourne	6	Penrith	26	Penrith
44	2023	Preliminary Final	Melbourne	4	Penrith	38	Accor Stadium
45	2024	1	Melbourne	8	Penrith	0	AAMI Park
46	2024	24	Melbourne	24	Penrith	22	Penrith
47	2024	Grand Final	Melbourne	?	Penrith	?	Accor Stadium

MELBOURNE STORM

ESTABLISHED
1998

HOME VENUE
AAMI PARK

MOST GAMES
CAM SMITH (430)



1999 2012 2017 2020

PENRITH PANTHERS

ESTABLISHED
1967

HOME VENUE
BLUEBET STADIUM

MOST GAMES
ISAAH YEO
(244*)



1991 2003 2021
2022 2023

GRAND FINAL TRIVIA

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

Plenty has been written over the years about the greatest games in the history of the greatest game of all. Put your premiership knowledge to the test with our League Unlimited NRL Grand Final Quiz!

All questions span the National Rugby League era from 1998 onwards. Find out if you've saved your worst performance for last or destined for premiership glory!

Compiled by **ROB CROSBY**
ANSWERS SEE PAGE 19

- Who played hooker for Melbourne in the 2008 Grand Final due to Cameron Smith being suspended?
- Who kicked the conversion for Penrith's first try in the 2023 Grand Final?
- Which 2 players have won the Clive Churchill Medal in the NRL era in a losing Grand Final team?
- Who are the 2 Clive Churchill Medal winners in the NRL era who have not played State of Origin?
- Which player lost two Grand Finals with Melbourne and had a younger brother who won two Grand Finals at the same club a decade later?
- Which player won a Grand Final in his debut season with Penrith in 2003?
- Who are the 3 players who scored the first and last tries of a Grand Final in the NRL era?
- Which Grand Final in the NRL era had the earliest last try?
- What position did Greg Inglis play when he won the Clive Churchill Medal in 2007?
- What positional change did Ivan Cleary make to his backline for the 2020 Grand Final?
- Who is the only player in the NRL era who didn't get on the field in a Grand Final?
- Who are the 3 players in the NRL era to play Grand Finals with 3 different clubs?
- Which player had the longest gap between playing NRL Grand Finals?
- What connects this group of Grand Final players?
Matt King, Steve Turner, Brett White, Dallas Johnson, Adam Blair, Ben Cross, Israel Folau, Anthony Quinn, Clint Newton, Jeff Lima, Scott Anderson, Brett Finch, Aiden Tolman, Ryan Tandy.
- Craig Smith was famously awarded a penalty try in the 1999 Grand Final – how many games did he play for Melbourne in the regular season that year?
- Which player has appeared in the most games for Penrith between 2020-24 without playing in a NRL Grand Final?
- Who are the 7 Five-Eighths to play alongside Cooper Cronk in NRL Grand Finals?
- Which player had the lowest number of appearances when they won a NRL Grand Final?
- There have been 11 players who have appeared in 5 or more Grand Finals in the NRL era. Who is the only player out of that group who did not play for either the Melbourne Storm or Sydney Roosters?
- Who will win the 2024 NRL Grand Final?

NRL 2024 TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP FINALS SERIES

13 - 15 SEPTEMBER	20 - 21 SEPTEMBER	27 - 28 SEPTEMBER	6 OCTOBER
QF1 AAMI SAT 4:05PM 	SF1 ALLIANZ FRI 7:50PM 	PF1 AAMI FRI 7:50PM 	GF ACCOR SUN 7:30PM
EF1 QLD C.B. SAT 7:50PM 		PF2 ACCOR SAT 7:50PM 	
EF2 ACCOR SUN 4:05PM 	SF2 ALLIANZ SAT 7:50PM 		
QF2 BLUEBET FRI 7:50PM 			

FOLLOW THE NRL FINALS AT LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

NRL FINALS WEEK 3 WRAP

STORM INTO THE BIG DANCE WITH DOMINANT WIN OVER ROOSTERS

SAM BOURKE

Melbourne has secured a ticket to the 2024 Grand Final following a dominant 48-18 win over the Roosters at AAMI Park this evening.

In the big games you need your big guns to stand tall and that was what occurred for the home side with Jahrome Hughes scoring a hat-trick, while Ryan Papenhuyzen and Cameron Munster both scored two tries each in a superb performance from Craig Bellemy's men.

Melbourne were superb from the start racing in four first half tries and despite a brief Roosters fightback early in the second half, Melbourne went up a gear to race in another four to give the men in purple a huge confidence boost heading into next week's Grand Final no matter who they play.

It was an eventful start at AAMI Park, when Lindsay Collins was collected high off the kickoff by Storm enforcer Nelson Asofa-Solomona. The Storm prop was sent to the Sin Bin, while Collins was ruled out for the match with a Category 1 concussion.

The Tricolours advanced up field and were awarded another early penalty against Jahrome Hughes for taking out Angus Crichton who was chasing a kick. Joseph Suaalii made no mistake and the Roosters took an early 2-0 lead.

With the Storm down to 12 men, the Chooks took advantage of the extra number as the Roosters went through the hands for Joseph Suaalii to create enough space for Daniel Tupou to score in the corner and it was 6-0 following the missed conversion.

Melbourne then returned to full strength at 13 players, which coincided with Ryan Papenhuyzen slicing through close to the line to get the home side on the scoreboard.

The Storm began to turn the tide and their continued possession took its toll as Papenhuyzen and Nick Meaney combined to put Hughes under the posts untouched to extend the scoreline to 12-6.

Melbourne continued to overpower the Roosters and caught the Chooks on the back foot from a 20 metre re-start as Ryan Papenhuyzen exploded onto a ball from Xavier Coates. Papenhuyzen then found young gun Jack Howarth in support as the rangy centre skipped out of a covering tackle to score in the corner.

Melbourne then ran in try number four just before halftime and it was a second to the Dally M Medal favourite Hughes, as he crashed over off a flat pass from Harry Grant close to the line to give his side a commanding 22-6 lead at halftime.

Following the break Melbourne were awarded a gift penalty for an escort on Harry Grant by Rooster forward Naufahu Whyte. Nick Meaney made no mistake extending the Storm lead to three converted tries.

The Roosters simply needed to score the next try to mount a comeback and they did exactly that through prop Terrell May who pushed away from two Storm defenders to score under the posts.

It was game on minutes later for the Roosters, as Ryan Papenhuyzen spilled a kick on his



48 - 18



AAMI Park, Melbourne / Wurundjeri

own tryline. Roosters backrower Nat Butcher picked up the scraps to score and all of the sudden the visitors were down by just a converted try.

The Storm were quick to stamp out the revival however, when Melbourne charged up field off a kick which resulted in Hughes scampering over for his hat-trick and this was followed up by Ryan Papenhuyzen scoring his second try off a neat inside ball from Harry Grant close to the line.

Melbourne continued to put the pedal to the floor as fan favourite Cameron Munster put the icing on the cake scoring two more tries in the final five minutes to get the celebrations going in Melbourne.

The convincing 48-18 win gives the Storm a huge confidence boost heading into Grand Final week where they will play the winners of tomorrow's Preliminary Final in Penrith or Cronulla.

MELBOURNE	48	-	18	SYDNEY
Jahrome HUGHES	3	T		Nat BUTCHER
Cameron MUNSTER	2			Terrell MAY
Ryan PAPHUYZEN	2			Daniel TUPOU
Jack HOWARTH				
Nick MEANEY	6/7	G	3/4	Joseph-Aukuso SUA'ALI'I
Harry GRANT	1/1			
Tyran WISHART	1/1			
Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA		BIN		
TEAMSHEETS				
Ryan PAPHUYZEN	1	FB	1	James TEDESCO (c)
Will WARBRICK	2	W	2	Daniel TUPOU
Jack HOWARTH	3	C	3	Joseph-Aukuso SUA'ALI'I
Nick MEANEY	4	C	4	Joseph MANU
Xavier COATES	5	W	5	Dominic YOUNG
Cameron MUNSTER	6	FE	6	Luke KEARY
Jahrome HUGHES	7	HB	7	Sandon SMITH
Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	8	FR	8	Jared WAAREA-HARGREAVES
Harry GRANT (c)	9	HK	9	Connor WATSON
Josh KING	10	FR	10	Lindsay COLLINS
Shawn BLORE	11	2R	11	Angus CRICHTON
Eliesa KATO	12	2R	12	Sitili TUPOUNIUA
Trent LOIERO	13	L	13	Victor RADLEY
Tyran WISHART	14	B	14	Spencer LENIU
Christian WELCH	15	B	15	Naufahu WHYTE
Tui KAMIKAMICA	16	B	16	Nat BUTCHER
Alec MacDONALD	17	B	17	Terrell MAY
		B	18	Zach DOCKAR-CLAY
Craig BELLAMY		HC		Trent ROBINSON

Date: Fri, 27th September. Kickoff: 7:50 PM. Halftime: Melbourne 22-6.
Penalties: Sydney 6-5. Referee: Grant Atkins. Crowd: 29,213.

NRL FINALS WEEK 3 WRAP

PENRITH ON A COLLISION COURSE FOR GREATNESS AFTER GRITTY PRELIM VICTORY

AJ LUCANTONIO

The Penrith Panthers are into their fifth successive grand final after a 26-6 win in the second preliminary final over a brave and gallant Cronulla Sharks at Accor Stadium.

It was a tense start as both sides jostled for field position and momentum in the slippery conditions. The Panthers got on the board first inside the opening ten minutes as Toby Rudolf was pinned for tripping Jarome Luai. Nathan Cleary added the penalty goal to give the undisputed champs a 2-0 lead.

Cronulla wouldn't let that get them down as Braydon Trindall carried on from last week's performance with a great kick to get the Sharks out of trouble. The near 40/20 was saved brilliantly by Dyl Edwards and Sunia Turuva. Penrith weren't themselves in the wet conditions and were making un-Penrith like plays. An out of play penalty saw Cronulla level the scores at 2-2.

Cronulla had the first try-scoring chance but the Bunker ruled Ronaldo Mulitalo had lost the ball forward. From the ensuing set, Nathan Cleary early in the tackle count kicked from inside the 40 and found the mark for his fifteenth 40/20 of his career. In the following set, a crash ball from the Penrith pivot found Paul Alamoti who scored to give the Panthers a six point lead midway through the first half. Just before the half-time break, a late shot from Siosifa Talakai gave Penrith a further two points to make it 10-2 at the break.

The second half was a tense affair as both sides had chances to score but defensively, both sides were up for it. Penrith thought they broke the stalemate as Turuva burrowed his way to the line. However, the Bunker correctly ruled that Talakai was obstructed. Cronulla capitalised as Sione Katoa crossed for a spectacular try in the corner to keep the Sharks in touch.

Penrith however, showed their championship qualities and crossed for two tries in successive sets following a Cronulla error. It looked like the play would be dead and buried. It came to Cleary, he booted it to an unmarked Brian To'o and Penrith wrestled through the chaos to retake the lead. Off the next set, a break up field saw the Panthers in prime field position before a Cleary cutout ball to Alamoti for his second.

As the game came to a close, a scare went through Penrith as Cleary appeared to



Accor Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park / Wanngal

aggravate his shoulder injury, he came from the field late but it doesn't look like an injury that will see him miss next weekend. Lui stood up late to seal the game for the Panthers as a clever grubber saw Liam Martin dive over to seal Penrith's spot in their fifth successive grand final.

PENRITH	26	-	6	CRONULLA
Paul ALAMOTI	2	T		Sione KATOA
Liam MARTIN				
Brian TO'O				
Nathan CLEARY	4/5	G	1/2	Nicho HYNES
Paul ALAMOTI	1/1			
TEAMSHEETS				
Dylan EDWARDS	1	FB	1	William KENNEDY
Sunia TURUVA	2	W	2	Sione KATOA
Izack TAGO	3	C	14	Siosifa TALAKAI
Paul ALAMOTI	4	C	4	Kayal IRO
Brian TO'O	5	W	5	Ronaldo MULTALO
Jarome LUAI	6	FE	6	Braydon TRINDALL
Nathan CLEARY (c)	7	HB	7	Nicho HYNES
Moses LEOTA	8	FR	8	Toby RUDOLF
Mitch KENNY	9	HK	9	Blayne BRAILEY
James FISHER-HARRIS	10	FR	10	Oregon KAUFUSI
Luke GARNER	11	2R	11	Briton NIKORA
Liam MARTIN	12	2R	12	Teig WILTON
Isaah YEO	13	L	13	Cameron McINNES (c)
Brad SCHNEIDER	14	B	15	Jack WILLIAMS
Lindsay SMITH	15	B	16	Royce HUNT
Liam HENRY	16	B	17	Thomas HAZELTON
Matt EISENHUTH	17	B	18	Daniel ATKINSON
Ivan CLEARY		HC		Craig FITZGIBBON

Date: Sat, 28th September. Kickoff: 7:50 PM. Halftime: Penrith 10-2. Penalties: Cronulla 7-3. Referee: Ashley Klein. Crowd: 33,753.

NRL MATCH REVIEW & JUDICIARY FINALS WEEK 3

Player	Club	Grade	Charge	On Who	Base	Offence #	Guilty	Early plea	Plea	RESULT
Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	Melbourne	3	Careless High Tackle	Lindsay Collins	3 matches	3rd +	5 matches	4 matches	Guilty - disputes grading	FAILED. 5 MATCHES
Victor RADLEY	Sydney	1	Dangerous Contact	Nelson Asofa-Solomona	\$1500	3rd +	2 matches	\$3000	Guilty - early plea	\$3000
Eliesa KATOA	Melbourne	1	Dangerous Contact	Dominic Young	\$1500	3rd +	2 matches	\$3000	Guilty - early plea	\$3000
Toby RUDOLF	Cronulla	2	Dangerous Contact (trip)	Isaah Yeo	2 matches	1st	2 matches	1 match	Guilty - early plea	1 MATCH
Siosifa TALAKAI	Cronulla	1	Dangerous Contact	Jarome Luai	\$1500	2nd	\$2500	\$1800	Guilty - early plea	\$1800

Offences are counted in last 10 games for Grade 1 offences, last 20 games for Grade 2 offences, and last 30 games for Grade 3 offences

^ Denotes 3 year incident free discount ~ Development player - is able to opt for a 1 match suspension instead of monetary fine

TEAM OF THE YEAR

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM'S BEST 13 OF 2024

ANALYSIS with
AIDAN EDGECOMB

FULLBACK:

James Tedesco 29 points

With much speculation about his future after a somewhat underwhelming 2023, James Tedesco needed a season nothing short of exceptional in order to silence the critics. Fortunately for the Roosters, he did not disappoint, with 17 tries from 25 games, and a staggering average of 198 run meters per match. His 24 try assists were a testament to his playing ability, as he was instrumental in attack without overplaying his hand.

Next best: Dylan Edwards (26 points)

WINGERS:

Zac Lomax 19 points

A shock move to the wing under new coach Shane Flanagan fed under harsh scrutiny during the preseason, but in what was arguably a genuine breakout year for Lomax, the critics were proven wrong as the Dragons flyer racked up 14 tries in 21 games for this club, along with kicking 63 goals. He also played all three games for the NSW blues, scoring 3 tries including a game two double. It was no doubt a season to be proud of for Lomax.

Ronaldo Mulitalo 11 points

Cronulla were back at their best in 2023, and with them was winger Ronaldo Mulitalo, who had an excellent year with 18 tries from 23 games, along with 24 line breaks. Though he was overshadowed in the spotlight by significant media attention towards some of his teammates, his club will be no doubt thrilled with his year and his contribution in the finals campaign.

Next best: Brian To'o (9 points)

CENTRES:

AJ Brimson 11 points

Although he's played many positions in 2024, AJ started at centre the most in 2024 and cemented himself as a crucial player in the Titans backline, despite a somewhat injury hampered year. In only 13 games he scored five tries, making nine line breaks and 36 tackle breaks to go with it. As the Titans look forward into the future, Brimson will want to find more consistent match fitness and keep up the strong performances.

Herbie Farnworth 10 points

Moving up the road to Redcliffe, Herbie impressed in his first season for the club. His eight tries from 20 games was impressive, as was his seven try assists as he forged a solid connection with outside man Jack Bostock. As the Dolphins press on for a finals spot in 2025, Herbie will be a crucial player in their plans.

Next best: Dane Gagai (10 points)

FIVE-EIGHTH:

Matt Burton 15 points

At the start of 2024, many pundits questioned Burton's role in the halves, as the Bulldogs were tipped to comfortably finish in the bottom eight. It was clearly his best season to date, Burton led from the front, pushing his side into 6th spot, missing only one game all season. His nine tries were the equal most for anyone in his position, with 13 try assists and 12 line break assists showing off his playmaking ability.

Next best: Braydon Trindall (14 points)

HALFBACK AND PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Jahrome Hughes 33 points

In remarkable fashion, both Hughes and Daly Cherry-Evans were tied uptop the player of the year standings, with both halfbacks having outstanding years on the pitch. For me, Hughes takes the edge over DCE, with his running game standing out as Melbourne marched to a Grand Final. His 12 tries from 22 games was the most for any halfback, with 26 try assists adding to his already impressive stats. There's no doubt the Storm number seven was the standout player in 2024.

Next best: Daly Cherry-Evans (33 points)

PROP:

Joseph Tapine 10 points

A poor season by the Canberra Raiders masked the extent to which Tapine led from the front, putting in solid and consistent performances to be one of his clubs best performers. A tackle efficiency of 94.4% shows his defensive discipline, and an average of 166 run meters per game was crucial given Canberra's forward pack was lackluster at times.

Josh Curran 8 points

Despite playing the majority of the year off the interchange bench, key middle forward Josh Curran had an exceptional year after making his move to the Bulldogs. He provided much needed strikepower, and played all 24 games for his club. He ran for an average of 120 meters per game, and bagged three tries along the way. Everyone knows what Curran is capable of, but his 2024 campaign exceeded what was expected by even his strongest supporters.

Next best: Addin Fonua-Blake (7 points)

HOOKER:

Harry Grant 16 points

In his first year as captain of the Melbourne Storm, Grant wasted no time in seizing the moment. He controlled games beautifully and helped Jahrome Hughes call the shots structure wise, but also had his own moments of individual brilliance with 11 tries. Despite Melbourne leading most games from the front, he also averaged 40 tackles per match, further emphasising his well-roundedness.

Next best: Apisai Koroisau (14 points)

SECOND ROW:

Angus Crichton (17 points)

Angus Crichton's 2024 has been nothing short of incredible, after only playing 13 games in 2023 due to mental health struggles. His turnaround this year was inspiring to all, as he played 23 games for the Roosters and all three Origin matches for NSW. Crichton crossed for 11 tries and averaged 28 tackles per game playing on the edge. With a Roosters contract extension under his belt, the future is bright for Angus Crichton.

Eliesa Katoa (15 points)

We've seen glimpses of Katoa's talent in previous years, but 2024 was his most complete season to date. Not only did he play every club game, he scored 12 tries and made 56 tackle breaks across the year. He also tackled well with a 91.5% efficiency, which would please coach Craig Bellamy as his defence has let him down in previous seasons.

Next best: Keaton Koloamatangi (9 points)

LOCK:

Isaah Yeo 20 points

With co-captain Nathan Cleary missing a solid chunk of the season through injury, Yeo had to take the reigns and show off his leadership throughout the year. The representative lock did not disappoint, with multiple 80-minute performances, and an average of 162 run meters per game. His very nice 69 tackle breaks demonstrated an attacking prowess, and a remarkable 98.2% tackle efficiency helped show why he's one of the most reliable players in the NRL.

Next best: Patrick Carrigan (7 points)

ROOKIE:

Lachlan Galvin 11

In his debut season, Lachlan Galvin grabbed his opportunity with both hands and was a shining light in yet another poor Wests Tigers season. Playing 21 games, he scored four tries and set up 16, forming good combinations with a rotating array of halfbacks. As we look forward, Galvin has the chance to cement himself as a top five-eighth in the game.

Next best: Trai Fuller (7 points)

HOW DOES IT COMPARE?

A look back at the 2023 Team of the Year

FULLBACK	Kalyn PONGA (Newcastle)
WINGERS	Jamayne ISAACKO (Dolphins), Brian TO'O (Penrith)
CENTRES	Stephen CRICHTON (Penrith), Izack TAGO (Penrith)
FIVE-EIGHTH	Cameron MUNSTER (Melbourne)

HALFBACK (+POTY)	Shaun JOHNSON (Warriors)
PROPS	Payne HAAS (Brisbane), Addin FONUA-BLAKE (Warriors)
HOOKER	Harry GRANT (Melbourne)
SECOND ROWERS	David FITTA (Gold Coast), Hudson YOUNG (Canberra)
LOCK	Isaah YEO (Penrith)
ROOKIE	Jahreem BULA (Wests Tigers)

NRL PLAYER OF THE YEAR *after Finals W3*

Our writers issue points every game for who they judge as the best player on the field. Includes points accumulated during State of Origin series and the Finals Series.

33 points **Jahrome Hughes (Storm)** **Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles 30, Maroons 3)**

29 points - James Tedesco (Roosters)

26 points - Dylan Edwards (Panthers 23, Blues 3)

20 points - Isaah Yeo (Panthers), Nathan Cleary (Panthers)

19 points - Ben Hunt (Dragons)

18 points - Kalyn Ponga (Knights)

17 points - Jamal Fogarty (Raiders), Reece Walsh (Broncos), Sam Walker (Roosters), Angus Crichton (Roosters 13, Blues 4)

16 points - Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow (Dolphins 14, Maroons 2), Harry Grant (Storm)

15 points - Keano Kini (Titans), Matt Burton (Bulldogs), Eliesa Katoa (Storm)

14 points - Apisai Koroisau (Wests Tigers), Braydon Trindall (Sharks)

13 points - Zac Lomax (Dragons), Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Mitchell Moses (Eels 10, Blues 3)

12 points - Te Maire Martin (Warriors), Tom Dearden (Cowboys), Dylan Brown (Eels), Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs 11, Blues 1)

11 points - Lachlan Galvin (Wests Tigers), Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys), Nicho Hynes (Sharks), Ronaldo Mulitalo (Sharks), AJ Brimson (Titans), Isaiya Katoa (Dolphins)

10 points - Toby Sexton (Bulldogs), Herbie Farnworth (Dolphins), Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Tyrell Sloan (Dragons), Dane Gagai (Knights), Shaun Johnson (Warriors), Joseph Tapine (Raiders), Brian To'o (Panthers), Jarome Luai (Panthers 9, Blues 1)

9 points - Adam Reynolds (Broncos), Tyran Wishart (Storm), Keano Koloamatangi (Rabbitohs), Reece Robson (Cowboys)

8 points - Blayke Brailey (Sharks), Luke Brooks (Sea Eagles), Damien Cook (Rabbitohs), Joseph Manu (Roosters), Kieran Foran (Titans), Connor Tracey (Bulldogs), Reed Mahoney (Bulldogs), Stephen Crichton (Bulldogs), Jacob Liddle (Dragons), Josh Curran (Bulldogs), Jacob Kiraz (Bulldogs), Cody Walker (Rabbitohs), Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Warriors), Connor Watson (Roosters)

7 points - Trai Fuller (Dolphins), Patrick Carrigan (Broncos), Ezra Mam (Broncos), Selwyn Cobbo (Broncos), Terrell May (Roosters), Addin Fonua-Blake (Warriors), Valentine Holmes (Cowboys), Jayden Campbell (Titans), Briton Nikora (Sharks), Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm), Sandon Smith (Roosters)

6 points - Kyle Feldt (Cowboys), Viliame Kikau (Bulldogs), Jacob Preston (Bulldogs), Daejarn Asi (Eels), William Kennedy (Sharks), Max Plath (Dolphins), Hudson Young (Raiders), Xavier Coates (Storm), David Fifita (Titans), Daniel Atkinson (Sharks), Jackson Hastings (Knights), Kaeo Weekes (Raiders), Jaydn Su'A (Dragons 5, Maroons 1), Reuben Cotter (Cowboys)

5 points - William Warbrick (Storm), Mitchell Barnett (Warriors), James Fisher-Harris (Panthers), Jeremiah Nanai (Cowboys), Lehi Hopoate (Sea Eagles), Kotoni Staggs (Broncos), Bradman Best (Knights), Josh King (Storm), Jack Williams (Sharks), Dylan Lucas (Knights), Jack Cogger (Knights), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors), Jahream Bula (Wests Tigers), Haumole Olakau'atu (Sea Eagles), Jordan Rapana (Raiders), Adam Elliott (Knights), Kayal Iro (Sharks), Thomas Hazelton (Sharks)

4 points - Kodi Nikorima (Dolphins), Zac Hosking (Raiders), Teig Wilton (Sharks), Tristan Sailor (Broncos), Heilum Luki (Cowboys), Josh Addo-Carr (Bulldogs), David Armstrong (Knights), Elliott Whitehead (Raiders), Jackson Ford (Warriors), Morgan Smithies (Raiders), Jake Clifford (Cowboys), Ethan Strange (Raiders), Chad Townsend (Cowboys), Victor Radley (Roosters), Dominic Young (Roosters), Lindsay Collins (Roosters), Tyson Frizell (Knights), Cameron Murray (Rabbitohs), Daine Laurie (Panthers), Cameron Munster (Storm), Cameron McInnes (Sharks)

3 points - Zac Laybutt (Cowboys), Euan Aitken (Dolphins), Junior Paulo (Eels), Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Eels), Bryce Cartwright (Eels), Tolutau Koula (Sea Eagles), Jye Gray (Rabbitohs), Sualauvi Faalogo (Storm), Jack de Belin (Dragons), Brodie Jones (Knights), Jason Saab (Sea Eagles), Thomas Flegler (Dolphins), Payne Haas (Broncos), Sione Katoa (Sharks), Maika Sivo (Eels), Fletcher Sharpe (Knights), Harry Hayes (Bulldogs), Stefano Utoikamanu (Wests Tigers), Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad (Warriors), Matthew Timoko (Raiders), Jesse Ramien (Sharks), Murray Taulagi (Cowboys), Jamayne Isaako (Dolphins), Ben Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Nathan Brown (Sea Eagles), Shawn Blore (Storm), Moeaki Fotuauka (Titans), Jesse Marschke (Dragons), Wayde Egan (Warriors), Tyson Gamble (Knights)

2 points - Samuela Fainu (Wests Tigers), Deine Mariner (Broncos), Scott Sorensen (Panthers), Siosifa Talakai (Sharks), Jojo Fifita (Titans), Liam Martin (Panthers), Sitili Tupouniua (Roosters), Taniela Paseka (Sea Eagles), Grant Anderson (Storm), Taane Milne (Rabbitohs), Tanah Boyd (Titans), Tevita Pangai Junior (Dolphins), Phillip Sami (Titans), Toafofoa Siple (Sea Eagles), Chanel Harris-Tavita (Warriors), Izack Tago (Panthers), Jock Madden (Broncos), Billy Walters (Broncos), Jake Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Taine Tuaupiki (Warriors), Jason Taumalolo (Cowboys), Isaiha Papali'i (Wests Tigers), Tommy Talau (Sea Eagles), J'maine Hopgood (Eels), Luke Keary (Roosters), Jack Wighton (Rabbitohs), Corey Waddell (Sea Eagles), Luke Garner (Panthers), Paul Alamoti (Panthers)

1 point - Reuben Garrick (Sea Eagles), Jack Bostock (Dolphins), Charlie Staines (Wests Tigers), Tallyn Da Silva (Wests Tigers), Brad Schneider (Panthers), Nat Butcher (Roosters), Beau Fermor (Titans), Luke Metcalf (Warriors), Heath Mason (Wests Tigers), Asu Kepaoa (Wests Tigers), Thomas Burgess (Rabbitohs), Bronson Xerri (Bulldogs), Casey McLean (Panthers), Aidan Sezer (Wests Tigers), Daniel Saifiti (Knights), Rocco Berry (Warriors), Samuel Stonestreet (Sharks), Josh Kerr (Dolphins), Lindsay Smith (Panthers), Kurtis Morrin (Bulldogs), Jack Cole (Panthers), Brandon Smith (Roosters), Alofiana Khan-Pereira (Titans), Blake Wilson (Bulldogs), Braidon Burns (Cowboys), Sam Verrills (Titans), Jesse Arthurs (Broncos), Nick Meaney (Storm), Luciano Leilua (Dragons), Kulikefu Finefeuiaki (Cowboys), Royce Hunt (Sharks), Jesse McLean (Panthers), Adam Doueihi (Wests Tigers), Justin Olam (Wests Tigers), Max King (Bulldogs), Mikaele Ravalawa (Dragons), Christian Tuipulotu (Dragons), Taylan May (Panthers), Griffin Neame (Cowboys), Charlie Guymner (Eels), Erin Clark (Titans), Greg Marzhev (Knights), Bronson Garlick (Storm), Harrison Edwards (Bulldogs), Jamie Humphreys (Sea Eagles)

NRL GRAND FINAL TRIVIA - ANSWERS

1 - Russell Aitken

2 - Stephen Crichton

3 - Daly Cherry-Evans (2013), Jack Wighton (2019)

4 - Sam Burgess (2014), Ryan Papenhuyzen (2020)

5 - Antonio Kaufusi

6 - Luke Swain

7 - Luke Rooney (2003), Anthony Quinn (2007), Josh Addo-Carr (2017)

8 - 2012 (Justin O'Neill, 39th minute)

9 - Five-Eighth

10 - Tyrone May starting ahead of Brent Naden in the centres

11 - Nicho Hynes (2020)

12 - Joe Galuvao (Penrith, Parramatta, Manly), Krisnan Inu (Parramatta, New Zealand, Canterbury), James Maloney (Warriors, Sydney, Cronulla)

13 - Benji Marshall (16 years, 2005 to 2021)

14 - The only premierships they won in their careers were stripped due to Melbourne breaching the salary cap.

15 - None

16 - Matthew Eisenhuth (64 games)

17 - Scott Hill (2006), Greg Inglis (2007, 2008), Brett Finch (2009), Gareth Widdop (2012), Blake Green (2016), Cameron Munster (2017), Luke Keary (2018, 2019)

18 - Dane Nielsen (2009): 12 games

19 - Jamie Lyon (Cooper Cronk, Cameron Smith, Billy Slater, Anthony Minichiello, Dale Finucane, Michael Crocker, Craig Fitzgibbon, Jamie Lyon, Greg Inglis, Jesse Bromwich, Will Chambers)

20 - Rugby League

THE BIRTH OF RUGBY LEAGUE IN AUSTRALIA

ANDREW FERGUSON

In 1899, Glebe Rugby Union Football Club board member Lewis Abrams was appointed President for the Metropolitan Rugby Union (which governed the Rugby Union competitions in Sydney) for the upcoming 1900 season.

Abrams was a prominent man in Glebe, serving as Secretary of the Glebe Cricket Club, President of the Glebe Bicycle Club and was formerly an Alderman for the Glebe Council. He's also largely responsible for the "electoral cricket" system which would become the 'residential rule' used in both Rugby codes.

In 1900 the MRU announced that clubs from Sydney University, Eastern Suburbs, North Sydney, Glebe, Newtown, Western Suburbs, South Sydney and Balmain would field teams in all three grades. Abrams accepted the role as Glebe's Secretary. The club patron was then Sydney Mayor Sir Matthew Harris. Harris was also president of the Wentworth

Park trust, a ground which had never been used for football, but would become Glebe's home ground in 1900. Harris was also Vice President of the Royal Agricultural Society, which was a marquee venue at the time.

1903

Highly respected historian Sean Fagan revealed in his brilliant book "Pioneers of Rugby League" that by mid-1903 many Rugby Union players were aware that their efforts on the field was producing far more money for the NSW Rugby Union than it needed. Fagan explained:

"This was exacerbated by the behaviour of the Union's officials during the 1903 interstate series. When Easts' player John Maund boarded the train for Brisbane with his fellow NSW state representative players (which included Alex Burdon, Ted Larkin, Dinny Lutge and Peter Moir), they all noticed the tour party included numerous NSWRU officials. "There seemed to be as many officials as players on the trip." Stated Maund. The situation was made worse when "the officials ate oysters and drank whiskey on the train but the players didn't get any."

Players on interstate representative duties were given an allowance of 3 shillings, of which they had to buy a straw boater hat as part of their touring uniform, to which a light blue band that the NSWRU supplied, would be added.

In December James Joynton-Smith, a prominent Sydney businessman and proprietor of the Brighton Racecourse, took out a lease on the Forest Lodge pony course. He would spend 3000 pounds and six months on repairs and refurbishments before opening it in June the following year, renamed Epping Recreation Grounds. It would later become known as Harold Park.

1904

February 12 saw the visiting English cricket side take on the NSW side which contained Test opener Victor Trumper, while one of the umpires was James Giltinan.

March 23, at the opening meeting of the MRU, Lewis Abrams made an attempt to quell some of the discontent amongst players when he suggested the allowance should be increased for representative players travelling interstate. His proposal was rejected.

July 6. The visiting British Lions played the sixth game of their tour against Northern Districts. During this game it was alleged that British player Denys Dobson swore at referee Harry Dolan. Dobson was immediately sent off. England's captain David Bedell-Sivwright was incensed at the decision and ordered his team off the field in protest, before soon returning. Pat Walsh was one of five Northern Districts players that supported the referee's decision at an ensuing investigation into the "Dobson incident" by the NSWRU, who surprisingly sided with the English players, claiming the referee had heard wrong.

July 23. Australia played Great Britain in a Test at Brisbane's Exhibition Ground. Glebe's Alex Burdon playing in his third consecutive test for the Wallabies, scored the opening try that gave the Wallabies a 3-0 lead at halftime. During the second half, he suffered a very heavy knock to his shoulder which forced him from the field. In typical Burdon style, he returned 17 minutes later. Great Britain went on to win the game 17-3.

1905

July 19. After playing a starring role for NSW against Queensland, Pat Walsh is oddly dropped from the state side, confusing everybody. The Referee stated *"Walsh's exclusion is simply a Chinese puzzle."*

August 5. Balmain player Joe Apoloney is sent off for punching the referee. The following week, the MRU held a meeting to discuss the incident, but defer their decision until a further meeting, however the Balmain delegate at the meeting, Pat McQuade, revealed that Apoloney is set to be disqualified, despite him presenting 25 pages of witness statements defending Apoloney. The referee H. Nelson, only produced one sheet of evidence. The committee sided with the referee and it was decided that Apoloney be suspended for a number of years.

August 14. Balmain RU hold an urgent meeting about Apoloney. The committee move a motion that Balmain withdraw from the competition in protest. The resolution was defeated by just 1 vote.

August 16. The MRU have confirmed that Joe Apoloney is to be disqualified for a total of ten years.

A disgruntled Pat Walsh left Australia and travelled to South Africa where he played in an expatriate Australian Rules competition in Johannesburg. He was vice-captain of the Commonwealth Football Team which went on to win the title in November.

1906

In April, cricket umpire turned manager James Giltinan took a Sydney representative side, containing Victor Trumper, on a tour to Goulburn.

After his foray into Aussie Rules, Pat Walsh travels to Auckland to play in their local Rugby Competition and is immediately signed by Parnell. He was so good that he earned selection in an Auckland Province side that toured the South Island.

May 21. Several NSW state representative cricketers are suspended for agreeing to play against England in a team sponsored by the Melbourne Cricket Club, including Test stars Victor Trumper and Monty Noble. Giltinan publicly sided with the suspended cricketers.

July 14. Glebe hosted Auckland City at the SCG. In a close fought match, Glebe trailed 11-8 with 10 minutes remaining when Glebe's George Riddell and Auckland's George Little collided heavily when they both attempted to kick a loose ball. The collision saw both players suffer an horrific broken leg each. The sight of the injuries was so severe that the referee and players agreed to call the game off early and the players were sent to St. Vincent's Hospital. Coincidentally, the same two players collided with each other in a game just 12 months prior which resulted in both players suffering broken collarbones.

The Glebe club decided to hold a benefit concert to raise funds for both players. Glebe officials asked the NSWRU to support their campaign; however the request was declined because the NSWRU would not support any activity that gave players money. Glebe went ahead and managed to raise £45 for each player (3 months wages).

Former Glebe RUFC board member Joe McGraw publicly criticised the NSWRU for not helping Burdon in 1904 or Riddell in 1906. The NSWRU shortly after agreed to provide extra financial assistance to Riddell and Little.

August 10. The NSW Cricket Association lifts its ban on the ten players they suspended.



Messenger folding the Ball. The other New South Wales players shown in the picture are Rossenfeldt, Cann, and Cheadle

April 3. At the Meeting of the MRU, Mr A.W.Green moved "That an accident fund be instituted with the Metropolitan Rugby Union." A lengthy discussion took place before going to a vote, where the motion was defeated by one vote. The next business of the meeting saw the secretary receive an increase of his salary to 250 pounds per year. The lack of accident cover meant the onus of insuring players from injury fell to the clubs and players.

May 1. The Referee reports "the announcement that a syndicate in New Zealand were proposing to bring over a team of players to oppose Northern Union teams next season. It was stated on behalf of the would-be promoters that their team would include many prominent players who were prevented from making the journey with the "All Blacks" and that the side would even include some of those redoubtable men."

May 4. Sydney played South Sydney in a match at the SCG. It was towards the end of this game when Burdon infamously broke his arm. Unable to work or earn money, Burdon's feeling of anger towards the Rugby Union for twice failing to help him peaked.

Two weeks later, All Black George Smith sent a telegram to Wallaby Peter Moir enquiring about organising a team to take on the Professional NZ side. Moir took this to an unofficial meeting at Victor Trumper's Sports store at 108 Market St, Sydney where regular attendees Giltinan, Hoyle, Burdon and a few other players would occasionally attend, notably Arthur Hennessy, Bob Graves and Jim Moir. It was agreed to select a combination and begin forming a professional Rugby code.

May 20. Media outlets in Australia and New Zealand report "It is understood that all arrangements will be completed next month for sending a team of professional Rugby Players to England." 2 days later the New Zealand RU demanded all players sign a statutory declaration to prove they are amateurs in order to be considered for selection in future All Blacks games and tours.

May 27. The NZ RU expelled Albert Baskerville from the membership of any club and it has been decided to prevent him from entering any ground under the control of the RU. The upcoming North Island v South Island game will contain none of the 12 players selected from Auckland as they refused to sign the declaration. They were joined by 2 players from Wellington, 2 from Otago and 1 from Canterbury.

May 31. The 12 Auckland players finally agree to sign statutory declarations confirming their amateur status.

June 1. The English Northern Union completed arrangements to play 27 matches against the NZ professionals, which will tour during the coming season. The NU has banked 3000 pounds as a guarantee towards the visitors expenses. 4 days later it was revealed that the professional players stand to earn 200 pounds (a years wage) after all expenses were paid.

June 8. The first Interstate clash of the Rugby Union season took place at the SCG in front of 30,000 spectators. Queensland won 11-6, but it was the graphic injury to NSW captain Harold Judd that is remembered. His leg got entangled with his team-mate Bede Smith, when his leg broke just below the knee. The Referee reported "The snap was plainly heard by everyone in the vicinity". The Evening News stated "There was a distinct click which seemed to echo across the ground." Judd was taken to St.Vincent's hospital immediately.

June 12. The New Zealand Professional side confirm that they have a squad of players ready to sail to England, with the ship leaving Australia at the end of July. The squad though could not be named due to the statutory declarations they signed.

One player was asked why he initially refused to sign the dec and he replied "For instance, I, like others, pay my subscription to a club to play football with the other members. I also pay a shilling a week to go out to the grounds, and why should I have to sign a declaration? I have been an amateur footballer for the past 14 years or so, and my status has never been questioned. Why should it be questioned now? How could anyone, who played for the love of the game, be asked to go before a justice of the peace and sign something binding him over to a certain body, the penalty being that if at any time he broke it he would be liable to imprisonment. Its just the principle of the thing that I'm fighting for, I wouldn't sign a declaration for either side, the Union or the Professionals."

The counter argument, made by one Union official simply stated "If the Union did not stand firm, the young players would eventually be corrupted by professionalism."

In mid-June the MRU purchased Epping Racecourse from James Joynton-Smith for 12,500 pounds.

June 23. The Sunday Sun reported that the MRU had established an insurance fund, which provides payment of medical fees up to 10 guineas and assures a gratuity of 1 pound per week for a maximum of 21 weeks to injured players.

June 26. The NZ Professional side will set sail for England as soon as the All Blacks return from Australia, as a number of the squad will be selected for the Professionals. The NZ side may consider including Australian players to bolster their backline.

The success of the South African Rugby Union tour of Great Britain has been followed by a proposal that a South African professional team should also visit England.

June 27. George Smith is announced as the captain of the professional side, however Albert Baskerville stated no player has been offered the captaincy and that he has no desire to select any Australian players for his professional side.

July 19. Media reports suggest the NZ Professional tour has been dropped and instead, Australia would be keen to play professional rugby games against New Zealand. It is understood that a Professional RU destined to affiliate with the English Northern Union is being formed in Sydney.

August 1. 160 applications were received for places in the NZ squad. 3 matches are set to be played in Sydney and it's probable that games will be played in Melbourne and Adelaide.

August 2. It's revealed that James Giltinan is organising games to be played in Sydney later in the month between a Sydney combination and the NZ Professionals.

August 4. A widely-circulated rumour suggests that Dally Messenger accepted an invitation to join the NZ professional team. Messenger responded "There is nothing in it as far as I am concerned. I have had no communication with or from the organisers of the team. The rumour that I have joined the team is untrue, and you may contradict it flatly."



August 5. Sydney Morning Herald reports on a concern from several RU officials that a substantial number of players are strongly in favour of professionalism. "Mr J.Giltinan is, it is understood, taking an active part in making the arrangements for the matches, and, if rumour speak truly, some success has been met with in regard to one or two captains of first grade teams."

August 6. The NSWRU are contemplating having players sign a declaration stating that they will not play against the Professional NZ side.

Giltinan told The Sydney Morning Herald "You can take it for certain that next year will see six teams playing under the Rugby League of New South Wales."

Mr H.D.Wood, president of the MRU stated that if clubs were dissatisfied with the administration then they had the remedy in their own hands. Each club elected 3 delegates to the union, one of whom also acted on the committee. The latter elected the various officers, including the secretary and treasurer, so that the administration of the funds rested with them. He went on to say that professionalism in Rugby "its influence is baneful and pernicious."

Mr Lewis Abrams stated "I think by next year there will be seven or eight professional football clubs in Sydney. I see no difference in playing football for payment to playing cricket for money."

August 7. The Sydney Morning Herald labels the professional NZ side as "The All Golds".

A general feeling prevails that, instead of spending 13,000 pounds on the purchase of Lillie Bridge grounds (which was owned at the time by Sir James Joynton-Smith), the Rugby Union should've given funding to clubs solely for upkeep and maintenance of their venues, while also equally distributing the leading games each Saturday over those grounds.

August 8. After a meeting by the council of the NSWRU they were satisfied that no suspicion of professionalism existed amongst the members of the NSW team or the NSW members of the Australian team.

One RU official stated "the real footballers of the state those who were not possessed of this sudden greed for gold, had nothing to fear for the game – they played for the love of it."

"This professionalism speculation will have a cleansing effect. All the 'rag-tags and parasites' of the game will be eliminated."

August 8. A meeting of players and others interested in the professional movement was held at Bateman's Crystal Hotel (pictured below). The chair was occupied by Mr Hoyle. There were about 50 present, including a number of first-grade players; no fewer than 5 captains being amongst them. Eight senior clubs were represented, the remaining three being University, Manly and Western Suburbs – The Manly club couldn't attend as they are away on tour of the Northern Rivers.



Before business was entered upon, all present players had to sign a document agreeing to play against the NZ professional team about to arrive in Sydney. The matches are set for August 17, 21 and 24 at the Agricultural Ground.

It was resolved to form a body called the NSW Football League. Matters in connection with the project were discussed at length, the general tone being that members were not to go in for out and out professionalism, but simply to make good out-of-pocket expenses. A selection committee was appointed, consisting of three, who are captains of first grade clubs.

It is stated on good authority that some leading players and supporters have received intimations from their employers that they must either forego their positions or professionalism.

The question of grounds occupied some attention. There are three grounds mentioned as available for the new league next season; Wentworth Park, Agricultural Ground and Hampden Oval.

The organisers of the movement are Mr J.Giltinan and a prominent cricketer.

August 10. The MRU is understood to disqualify any professional players for life from Rugby Union.

August 12. James Giltinan states that the team to play against the All-Golds will be selected tonight. Meanwhile MRU officials claim that within a month after the NZ Professionals depart Australia, that the movement in Sydney will be "Absolutely dead" and that the rebel players will come crawling back to the amateur game, only to find that they've been banned for life.

On this same day, Alex Burdon resigned from the Glebe RUFC

The NSWRU and MRU in conjunction, released their rules pertaining to professionalism (image of article)

That night at a meeting of the professionals it was announced that the New South Wales Rugby Football League had been formed. Henry Hoyle was announced as president, James Giltinan as secretary, and for the first time in the media, Victor Trumper was named as being present along with around 30 players, including Dally Messenger, Bob Graves (Balmain captain), Arthur Hennessey, Harry Hamill (Newtown captain), Jim Abercrombie (North Sydney captain) and Alex Burdon (Sydney captain). All up it was revealed that some 100 players had thrown their lot in with the Professionals.

Giltinan explained that all players wouldn't be professionals in the strictest sense, rather, players would be financially covered for all their travel and loss of work wages. It was also suggested that footballers could be further assisted financially by having them manning gates or serve as line umpires, paying them for their services in both instances. One of Giltinan's ideas was to have former Rugby players who were out of work, hired to work, for pay, as gatekeepers. If the League became strong enough, they hoped to also establish pensions for players. All players would be fully insured and the League would not give an injured man one guinea a week but much closer to double that.

Trumper added that he had written to England to arrange for a team to leave Australia in 1908. The men would get a certain percentage of the gate.

Bob Graves revealed that he was threatened by his employer that if he continued pursuing professionalism, they would sack him. Giltinan replied "Let him come to me and I'll give him one!" and was met with great applause and cheers.

Hoyle added that any employer who acted upon their threats to sack players who aligned themselves with the professionals, then the League would supply the necessary funds to take the employer to court.

Hoyle revealed that Mr J.Finlay had donated 1 pound and 1 shilling which would be given as a prize to whoever scored the first try as a professional.

Then, a squad of 20 men were named to play against the NZ side.

It was revealed that Dally Messenger was to receive 50 pounds for playing in the three games against NZ and that this drew the ire of one player who abandoned his interest in the professional movement.

Alf Dobbs, named in the 20-man NSWRL squad was on tour with the Balmain RUFC at the time. Upon learning he had been selected, he asked for his return train ticket so as to return to Sydney to commence training. The Balmain club official contacted the MRU about the matter.

August 13. On the same day that the NZ Professionals arrive in Sydney, the MRU hold a meeting where, according to one official "The names of all the players connected with the professional movement will be expunged from the books of the union."

(To the Editor of the "Australian Star.")
Sir,—Our league does not aim to encourage professional footballers, but only to secure fair treatment for the players. It was, therefore, a great surprise when I saw the "Star" announce that Messenger was to get £50 for the matches against the "All Black" team, because no such arrangement has been made, and Messenger himself is started by the information. We enclose a statement from Messenger.—Yours, &c.,
JAMES J. GILTINAN,
158 Clarence-street, August 14.

(To the Editor of the "Australian Star.")
Sir,—I was very sorry, and much surprised, to read in your paper of to-day's issue that I have been offered £50 to play in the three matches against the New Zealand team. I must give this statement an emphatic denial. I have not been promised £50, nor anything at all, and I do not know of any player that has been promised any sum whatever. Hoping you will insert this statement in your paper.—Yours, &c.,
H. H. MESSENGER,
Double Bay, August 14.

August 14. Giltinan denies that Messenger was to receive 50 pounds for playing against NZ and that as far as he was aware, Messenger hadn't been offered any fee to play. Peter Moir also resigns as a member of the Glebe RU club.

August 16. Balmain RU Club, on tour to Mudgee, received a telegram from the MRU that Alf Dobbs was to have his ticket blocked and he was to be sent home at his own expense.

August 17. NSW plays against New Zealand in the first professional Rugby game in Australia. The match was played under Rugby Union rules and was won by NZ 12-8 in front of 20,000 people.

On the same day, Balmain club officials call upon their team to immediately abandon their tour over the Dobbs incident and return home with him, in protest.

August 19. George Smith, William Wynyard and Charles Dunning left Auckland to join the professional NZ side in Australia. The Auckland RU has disqualified all Auckland members of the team for life.

August 21. The Second game between NSW and NZ was played before 4000 spectators. NZ won 19-5. It was also revealed that Messenger has been added to the NZ Professional squad to tour the UK.

August 22. The NZ RU has expelled all the Kiwi professionals from Rugby Union in NZ.

August 23. Giltinan is interviewed by The Evening News where he revealed that clubs will be formed and they will take part in competition matches next season. The clubs are to be established on the district basis, the same system used in Rugby Union. He also revealed "we intend to play 13 men-a-side, and not 15, as at present. I might add that we are now in communication with the Northern Union regarding a visit of a NSW team to England in 1908-09."

August 24. The third game between NSW and NZ was won by NZ 5-3 in front of 8000 spectators. Arthur Hennessy was one of the touch judges and Dan Gilchrist from NZ was the other.

August 28. Lewis Abrams suggested to the MRU that they take on board some of the concepts that the NSWRL was offering players to switch codes. He made it clear that his

idea was ensuring that players still earned no profit or gain from playing, but rather that they do not play at a loss. His ideas were declared out of order and denied consideration in what became an increasingly heated meeting. Abrams then said "I told you four years ago that it would have to be done. Had anyone else brought the matter forward it would have been all right."

Former Rugby Union player-turn-referee Edward Hooper is appointed the inaugural NSWRL Referees Association President. The NSWRL intended to pay the match officials, however Hooper stated that they would refuse payment in the first year; furthermore, their payments should be donated back into the League's coffers to help ensure its survival. Additionally, the referees agreed to donate extra funds out of their own pockets to the NSWRL.

September 2. The MRU began an inquiry into acts of professionalism by all players who opposed the New Zealand professionals and anyone who played for Marrickville, the second grade club, who met McClrath's in the early match of the 3rd NSW v NZ game. All players were requested to front the committee, however most players saw the futility in this exercise and didn't bother attending.

September 11. The MRU disqualifies all members who appeared for NSW and for Marrickville in the recent professional fixtures. The players are disqualified from playing with any club at any level that is affiliated with the MRU. They are not disqualified for life or for any team. The

removal of these disqualifications can only be done via the English Rugby Union.

September 12. The NZ tour stops over in Sri Lanka and plays against a Ceylon XIII at Colombo, winning 33-6. Messenger scored 2 tries and 6 goals in a game played under Rugby Union rules.

September 22. Arthur Hennessy convenes a small gathering of South Sydney locals who were supportive or directly involved in the creation of the new professional rugby game in Sydney. The meeting was held in Hennessy's home.

September 30. The NZ side arrive in London.

October 9. NZ play their first official game of Rugby League against Bramley and win 25-6 at Barley Mow in Leeds.

December 19. The media reports that a letter received from the NZ tour manager claims that the tour is set to record a profit of 10,000 pounds.

December 21. Giltinan receives a message from Mr Platt, president of the English Northern Union, inviting an Australian based side to tour England the following season. The team is expected to depart Australia in August 1908. They will be touring England at a similar time that the Wallabies will be.

1908

January 2. The Daily Telegraph reports "The people responsible for professional Rugby football in Sydney are trying to complete arrangements for a visit next season of a team of Maori footballers, who will also give displays of Maori hakas."

January 9. A meeting to form a new district football club, under the NSW Rugby Football League, takes place at the Glebe Town Hall.

January 14. A public meeting is held at the Newtown Town Hall whereby it was decided to form a Newtown District Football Club to play under the Rugby League.

January 15. At the NSWRU meeting, officials decided "that steps be taken to insert in the bylaws of the union a bylaw providing for the granting of an allowance to players representing the state who may be incapacitated by being injured on the field of play."

"It has also been decided by the union that admission tickets be issued to players who have represented the Union in representative games played locally by the union."

January 17. A meeting at the Redfern Town Hall sees the formation of a third Rugby League club – South Sydney.

January 23. The Balmain Rugby Club hold a meeting at the Balmain Town Hall and the club became the only one to vote unanimously (almost, there was one vote opposed out of the approximate 600 people present) in favour of abandoning the Rugby Union and joining the Rugby League.

January 24. The NSWRL has secured the use of Wentworth Park for 1908, which means that the Glebe Rugby Union side will not be able to use the ground.

January 24. The Eastern Suburbs RLFC is formed at a meeting held at Paddington Town Hall.

February 4. The Western Suburbs RLFC is formed at a meeting held at Ashfield Town Hall. Unlike the other clubs which were motivated by a player revolt against Union officials, Wests was formed out of a more internal dispute - a conflict between the Western Suburbs club and second division side Ashfield. Ashfield players routinely found ways to make themselves unavailable to play for Wests top grade side whenever they were called upon. The arrival of Rugby League gave the Ashfield players an opportunity to break away from the Wests Rugby Union side, so they formed their own Western Suburbs team in the NSWRL. The disgruntled members of the Wests side broke away from Rugby Union and formed the Cumberland Rugby League club.

February 7. The North Sydney RLFC is formed at the North Sydney School of Arts.

February 10. A lengthy meeting at Pikes Rooms on Bolton St in Newcastle was held with the hopes of forming a Rugby League team there to participate in the upcoming season. After a lengthy speech where Giltinan allayed all concerns, a decision to form a Rugby League team was put to a vote and it failed to get up.

February 28. At the Rockdale Town Hall, a meeting was held to form a team in the St George district. The attempts to form a team failed as the young playing group opted to stick together and remain playing Union.

April 10. A small group of Newcastle rebel players gathered outside the Central Hotel in Newcastle in a rather impromptu yet vitally important meeting. 15 players had agreed to form a team to compete in the NSWRL but had no paper to write their declarations on. 'Jerry' Bailey saved the day when he produced the back of a cigarette packet which they wrote their names on and presented to Giltinan and with that, Newcastle became the 8th club.

April 20. Rugby League's first official premiership games are played. It's also decided, rather hastily, that a 9th team be admitted under the name Cumberland, however the side is comprised of the disgruntled members of the Wests side broken away from Rugby Union and formed the Cumberland Rugby League club in a meeting held at the Horse & Jockey Hotel in Homebush. The side is required to play a trial match to confirm their suitability for the first grade competition.

May 2. Cumberland play Easts in a trial game and go down 18-4. This was deemed satisfactory and they were admitted into the competition in time for Round 2 the following week.



**SYDNEY
ROOSTERS**



**CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND
SHARKS**



VENUE	ACCOR STADIUM (STADIUM AUSTRALIA)	ZIGGY PRZEKLASA-ADAMSKI	REFEREE
LOCATION	WANNGAL COUNTRY SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK, NSW	ROCHELLE TAMARUA, KARRA-LEE NOLAN	TOUCH JUDGES
DAY & TIME	SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2024 3:55PM AEDT	KASEY BADGER	NRL BUNKER

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts							Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts
32	9	6	-	-	24	Sam BREMNER	1	FULLBACK	1	Emma TONEGATO		29	8	-	-	-	-
27	8	5	-	-	20	Jayne FRESSARD	2	WING	2	Cassie STAPLES		31	10	4	-	-	16
27	4	4	-	-	16	Jessica SERGIS	3	CENTRE	3	Tiana PENITANI		28	10	7	-	-	28
28	10	3	-	-	12	Isabelle KELLY	4	CENTRE	4	Annessa BIDDLE		-	10	4	-	-	16
24	4	2	-	-	8	Brydie PARKER	5	WING	5	Georgia RAVICS		-	10	5	-	-	20
24	10	1	33	-	70	Jocelyn KELLEHER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Georgia HANNAWAY		-	6	-	-	-	-
25	8	3	-	1	13	Tarryn AIKEN	7	HALFBACK	7	Tayla PRESTON		25	10	-	18	-	36
26	9	-	-	-	-	Millie ELLIOTT	8	FRONT ROW	8	Ellie JOHNSTON		23	10	3	-	-	12
24	10	1	-	-	4	Keeley DAVIS	9	HOOKER	9	Quincy DODD		24	10	2	-	-	8
21	10	2	-	-	8	Otesa PULE	10	FRONT ROW	10	Holli WHEELER		34	9	1	-	-	4
29	9	5	-	-	20	Amber HALL	11	SECOND ROW	11	Talei HOLMES		24	9	-	-	-	-
23	10	4	-	-	16	Olivia KERNICK	12	SECOND ROW	12	Rhiannon BYERS		-	9	1	-	-	4
23	7	1	-	-	4	Tiana DAVISON	13	LOCK	13	Brooke ANDERSON		28	10	-	-	-	-
19	7	-	-	-	-	Tavarna PAPALII	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Filomina HANISI		23	3	-	-	-	-
21	10	1	-	-	4	Jasmin STRANGE	15		15	Manilita TAKAPAUTOLO		-	6	-	-	-	-
30	6	-	-	-	-	Samantha ECONOMOS	16		16	Vanessa FOLIAKI		31	10	-	-	-	-
20	10	-	-	-	-	Kalosipani HOPOATE	17		17	Tegan DYMOCK		22	10	1	-	-	4
25	9	5	-	-	20	Mia WOOD	18	RESERVES	19	Nakia DAVIS-WELSH		-	4	2	-	-	8
22	6	-	-	-	-	Mya HILL-MOANA	19		20	Chloe SAUNDERS		-	9	-	-	-	-
23	6	1	-	-	4	Taina NAIVIDI	20		21	Dominique DU TOIT		-	1	-	-	-	-
19	4	1	-	-	4	Eliza LOPAMAUA	21		22	Sharni SMALE		-	4	-	-	-	-
27	-	-	-	-	-	Shannon ROSE	22		23	Leki LEILUA		-	-	-	-	-	-
49	33	-	-	-	-	John STRANGE		COACHES		Tony HERMAN		57	19	-	-	-	-

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 and KAYO SPORTS
LISTEN	ABC SPORT
READ	LIVE BLOG - LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

HEAD TO HEAD since 2023

	TOTAL	SYDNEY	CRONULLA	DRAWN
ALL MATCHES	2	2	0	0
ACCOR	0	0	0	0

MATCH HISTORY

YEAR	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2023	Round 4	SYDNEY (W) 36-12	Pointsbet	1920
2024	Round 7	SYDNEY (W) 40-0	Pointsbet	1901

THINGS TO KNOW

- Roosters have dominated Sharks in their 2 clashes thus far: 36-12 last year and 40-0 this year.
- Isabelle Kelly will join Ali Briginshaw for most games played in the NRL in the GF. Both will have played 43 games

Match stats courtesy of



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

NRLW TEAM OF THE YEAR

with Beth NICHOLLS

FULLBACK AND PLAYER OF THE YEAR TAMIKA UPTON - KNIGHTS (16 POINTS)

Reigning Dally M medallist, Tamika Upton, has had another outstanding year, scoring seven tries (equal with her record of seven last year), and made twelve try assists, 22 tackle breaks and six-line breaks.

WINGERS JULIA ROBINSON - BRONCOS (7 POINTS)

Having one of her best seasons so far at the Broncos this year, Julia Robinson topped four categories with nine tries, 14 line breaks, 67 tackle breaks and 2236 total run metres. The speedy winger scored in 7/10 matches this season, which included a double in Round 4 and Round 9.

SHERIDAN GALLAGHER - KNIGHTS (5 POINTS)

Playing in her first NRLW season last year with the Knights, Sheridan Gallagher improved on her efforts of last year, scoring a total of nine tries, including a hat trick and two doubles, as well as making 23 tackle breaks and 13 line breaks.

CENTRES TIANA PENITANI - SHARKS (13 POINTS)

A smoky for POTY, Tiana Penitani had another one of her best seasons yet, scoring seven tries in equal third for the NRLW comp, whilst also making three try assists, 30 tackle breaks and nine line breaks.

ISABELLE KELLY - ROOSTERS (7 POINTS)

Set to play her third Grand Final with the Roosters, Isabelle Kelly is one of the Roosters inaugural players and continues to captain and lead her side with a plethora of experience. This season saw her score three tries, three try assists, 54 tackle breaks (fourth in comp) and nine line breaks, where she came up in second in the comp for run metres (1986) and post contact metres (745).

FIVE-EIGHTH ZAHARA TEMARA - RAIDERS (6 POINTS)

Joining the Raiders in their inaugural year in 2023 and having the privilege to co-captain in both 2023 and 2024, Zahara Temara is a versatile, experienced player in the Raiders spine. This year Temara scored two tries, whilst making six try assists and seven line break assists.

HALFBACK RACHAEL PEARSON - EELS (7 POINTS)

Veteran halfback, Rachael Pearson, continued to impress at the Eels, scoring one try and 22 of 31 goals, whilst also making eight try assists (the most for the Eels) and five linebreak assists.

THE GRAND PREVIEW

Beth NICHOLLS

The Sharks are looking for their first Grand Final win, whilst the Roosters are looking to win their second premiership in their fourth Grand Final appearance since 2018.

Cronulla had a flying start to their season, winning six in a row, and the only team by Round 6 to have not had a loss yet, comfortably sitting in first place on the ladder. Round 6 saw the Sharks be defeated by the Roosters, 40-0, their worst efforts both in defence and attack. They never won a game in the rest of the regular season, losing to both the Broncos and Tigers, but they made finals sitting on fourth position. Semi-finals saw them face the Broncos, and they got their revenge, beating the Brisbane side as well as keeping them to nil, with a final score of 14-0. Tony Herman has named an almost unchanged line-up to the side that tasted victory against the Broncos last week, with the only change being the return of Holli Wheeler after serving her one-match suspension. Her return sees Tegan Dymock to revert to the bench, and Chloe Saunders drop out of the side.

The Roosters started their season with a loss, unable to beat the reigning premiers, the Newcastle Knights, but after that they got on a role winning three in a row. Round 5 saw them be defeated by the Titans, before winning the remaining four matches of the regular season. They were close to winning Minor Premiership; however, their points differential was not enough to beat out the Broncos. They then met the Knights in the semi-finals, and retribution was made, with the Roosters coming out on top 25-16. Returning to the team via the bench last week after suffering a knee injury in Round 3, Jess Sergis has been named in the starting line up at centre, which sees Jasmin Strange revert to the bench. Jocelyn Kelleher and Tarryn Aiken remain the starting halves line up, with Aiken returning last week after injuring her AC joint in Round 7.

Already convincingly beaten the Sharks earlier this year, the Roosters have the upper hand also beating the Sharks in their inaugural year.

WHO TO WATCH: Joining the Roosters in 2023 after spending four years at the Broncos, Tarryn Aiken is a versatile five-eighth and halfback. In her eight appearances this year she has scored three tries, made six try assists, eleven line break assists and seven offloads.

Opposite Aiken for the Sharks at halfback, Tayla Preston has been an important player for the Cronulla side. In ten games she has made three try assists and one break assist, but she is yet to score her first try of the season.

MY TIP: The Sharks have had an unbelievable second year in the NRLW competition, and deserve their place in the Grand Final, however I do not think they will be able to beat the experienced Roosters side. The Roosters can score more points in a game compared to the Sharks, with the Roosters scoring 20+ seven times and the Sharks only three times, and I think it will be a close one right down to the wire. **Roosters by 6.**

PROP ELSIE ALBERT - EELS (7 POINTS)

After only playing one game in 2023, Elsie Albert had a strong season in 2024, leading the Eels with dummy runs with a total of 50, whilst also making 49 tackle breaks and scoring two tries.

CHELSEA LENARDUZZI - BRONCOS (5 POINTS)

One of the few remaining players from the inaugural 2018 Broncos squad, Chelsea Lenarduzzi can do it all in defence and attack, playing this year from both starting prop and interchange prop. This season she scored four tries, 22 tackle breaks and tackled at 94% efficiency with a total of 134.

HOOKER QUINCY DODD - SHARKS (5 POINTS)

Previously playing for the Dragons and Roosters before joining the Sharks last year, Quincy Dodd will have her eyes on the clubs' first NRLW Grand Final win. This season she had scored two of her own tries, whilst making two try assists and leading the comp for dummy half runs with a total of 53.

SECOND-ROW OLIVIA KERNICK - ROOSTERS (8 POINTS)

Previously playing in lock, Olivia Kernick played in the 2nd row for the entirety of 2024, and has had one of best seasons to date. Kernick came a close second for number of runs (171), whilst leading the Roosters for run metres (1632), whilst also scoring four tries and making six line breaks and six line break assists.

ROMY TEITZEL - BRONCOS (3 POINTS)

Consistently playing the full 70-minutes, Romy Teitzel is a force to be reckoned with, scoring four tries, whilst making four line breaks, three offloads and running for 715 metres.

LOCK KENNEDY CHERRINGTON - EELS (9 POINTS)

Despite only playing six matches this year due to an ACL injury cutting her season short, Kennedy Cherrington had one of her best seasons, scoring three tries, making 21 tackle breaks and three offloads.

NRLW ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL

SYDNEY ROOSTERS

The Sydney Roosters kicked off their 2024 NRLW season with a tough opening-round loss to the reigning premiers, the Newcastle Knights. Despite being down 10-0 at halftime, they showed resilience in their second-half comeback, though they fell just short. However, the Roosters bounced back in Round 2, securing a dominant win over the Brisbane Broncos, with star players such as Jessica Sergis and Tarryn Aiken showcasing their attacking brilliance.

As the season progressed, the Roosters continued to build momentum, recording impressive victories over the Wests Tigers and Dragons. They hit a roadblock in Round 5 with a heavy defeat to the Gold Coast Titans, but this loss seemed to refocus the team. In the following rounds, they returned to form, with a string of wins, including a commanding 40-0 shutout of the undefeated Cronulla Sharks, solidifying their status as title contenders.

The Roosters finished the regular season in second place after a crucial win over the Parramatta Eels in the final round. Their consistent performances were driven by their ability to execute game plans and maintain high completion rates. In the semi-final against the Knights, they took control early and held off a late surge, securing a spot in the Grand Final. With leaders like Aiken and Isabelle Kelly stepping up, the Roosters head into the decider with a strong sense of purpose and belief in their squad.

Now facing the Sharks, the Roosters are ready to cap off an outstanding season and reclaim the NRLW title. With a mix of experienced players and emerging talent, they are poised to rise to the occasion and deliver on the big stage.

FINISHED 2ND

GAMES: 10; WINS: 8; LOSSES: 1
POINTS SCORED: 247; POINTS CONCEDED: 128



ROUND 1 – ROOSTERS 10 v KNIGHTS 12

After being down 0-10 at half-time to the reigning premiers, the Roosters fought back in the second half to score 10 points, just missing out on the W due to a missed conversion from Kelleher. An unexpected loss for the Roosters to begin the season.

Roosters 10 (Kelleher, Sergis tries. Kelleher 1/2 goals)
Knights 12 (Higgins, Roache tries. J. Southwell 2/3 goals)

ROUND 2 – ROOSTERS 28 v BRONCOS 12

Round 2 saw the return of NRLW veteran, Samantha Bremner and the return to the Roosters form that everyone expected from them in the 2024 season. Taking down the Brisbane Broncos with style, Roosters powerhouses Sergis and Aitken both bagged themselves a double.

Roosters 28 (Sergis 2, Aitken 2, Fressnard tries. Kelleher 4/4, Davis 0/1 goals)
Broncos 12 (Teitzel, Ferguson tries. Clark 2/2 goals)

ROUND 3 – ROOSTERS 20 v WESTS TIGERS 4

After the Wests Tigers girls got off to a quick start and took everyone by surprise, the class of the Roosters came back with a highly polished second half to take the win in Gosford. Sergis added to her tally by scoring her 4th try in 3 games to open the season.

Roosters 20 (Fressnard 2, Kernick, Sergis tries. Kelleher 2/4 goals)
Wests Tigers 4 (Staines try. Piliae-Rasabale 0/1 goal)

ROUND 4 – ROOSTERS 28 v DRAGONS 8

The Roosters continued their surge in the NRLW competition by beating the Dragons by 20 points. A positional shift for Isabelle Kelly from the halves, where she started the season, to her favoured centre to replace Sergis paid off and she, along with teammate Amber Hall, scored a double.

Roosters 28 (Hall 2, Kelly 2, Fressnard tries. Kelleher 4/5 goals)
Dragons 8 (Hunt, Berry tries. McGregor 0/1, King 0/1 goals)

ROUND 5 – ROOSTERS 6 v TITANS 26

The 2023 NRLW runners up, the Gold Coast Titans, put a stop to the Roosters winning streak with a dominant display on a hot Sunday afternoon at Cbus Super Stadium. Running in 5 tries to the Roosters 1, the Titans ran away with the win in what could have been the turning point in the Roosters season. Dubbed 'tough to watch' from Coach Strange, he called out his side lack of focus and inability to 'turn up' after the match.

Roosters 6 (Bremner try. Kelleher 1/1 goal)
Titans 26 (Pelite 2, Brown 2, Bass tries. Brown 3/5 goals)

ROUND 6 – ROOSTERS 34 v RAIDERS 20

Although the Raiders got out to an early 10-0 lead, the Roosters hit back in Round 6 when they met at Allianz Stadium. The home side ran in six tries to the Raiders 4 and Kelleher had a stellar game with the boot, missing just one conversion. Tarryn Aiken had a stand out game, running over 250 metres to get her side into great attacking position.

Roosters 34 (Wood 2, Hall, Lopamaua, Davison, Aiken tries. Kelleher 5/6 goals)
Raiders 20 (Taufa, Bartlett, Wiki, Dodd tries. Temara 2/4 goal)

ROUND 7 – ROOSTERS 40 v SHARKS 0

The Round 7 clash between the Roosters and the Sharks was the game all NRLW fans were waiting for! The Sharks entered this game with a 6-0 scoresheet and while the Roosters had dropped two games in the opening 6 rounds. The Roosters were definitely out to prove a point, scoring 40 points and holding their opponent to 0.

Roosters 40 (Wood 2, Pule, Kernick, Bremner, Parker, Kelly, Naividi tries. Kelleher 4/8 goals)
Sharks 0

ROUND 8 – ROOSTERS 24 v COWBOYS 12

Round 8 saw Isabelle Kelly and Keely Davis run out in their 40th NRLW games and put on another incredible display. Kelly, in particular, ran for over 350 metres with 28 carries. The win pushed the Roosters to the top of the table with a strong points differential of the back of their huge win over the Sharks. Although it wasn't their most polished performance of the season, they stuck with their game plan and focused on execution, completing at 81%.

Roosters 24 (Kernick, Hall, Strange, Pule tries. Kelleher 4/4 goals)
Cowboys 12 (Dibb, Whitfeld tries. Dibb 2/2 goal)

ROUND 9 – ROOSTERS 32 v EELS 18

In the last round of the season, the Roosters took on the fast finishing Parramatta Eels in a double-header at Combank Stadium. In a game that the Eels needed to win to potentially earn a spot in the finals and a game the Roosters needed to win to try to claim the minor premiership, both sides were desperate to finish on top. In true Roosters style though, they came out with clear game plan and stuck to the basics, again completing well over 80%. Their convincing win secured their place in the final series, but wasn't enough to take the minor premiership off the Brisbane Broncos

Roosters 32 (Bremner 2, Wood, Kernick, Hall, Fressnard tries. Kelleher 4/6 goals)
Eels 18 (Murphy, Fay, Beckett tries. Pearson 3/3 goals)

SEMI FINAL – ROOSTERS 25 v KNIGHTS 16

This game was set to be a cracker, with both teams with everything to play for – the Knights aiming for the threepart, while the Roosters were wanting to get themselves back to the big dance after missing out for a number of years. The Roosters got out to an early lead that the Knights tried to claw back, but they left it a little too late. Tarryn Aiken rubbed salt in the wounds with a field goal in the last 5 minutes to secure their place in the Grand Final and ruin the Knights hope of making more history

Roosters 25 (Bremner 2, Parker, Davis tries. Kelleher 4/5 goals. Aitken FG)
Knights 16 (Roche, McEwen, Higgins tries. J. Southwell 2/3 goals)

ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL
courtesy of KELLY HOLLIS

NRLW ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

The Cronulla Sharks started their 2024 NRLW campaign with a bang, winning their first six games in impressive fashion. They opened the season with a shutout victory against the Cowboys, followed by narrow wins over the Eels and Raiders. Led by the leadership of captain Tiana Penitani and the attacking prowess of Annessa Biddle, the Sharks established themselves as one of the top teams in the competition. A notable win came in Round 4, when they defeated reigning premiers, the Newcastle Knights, by just two points.

As their winning streak continued, the Sharks' confidence grew, and they secured another impressive victory over the Dragons. However, their run was brought to a halt in Round 7 when they suffered a heavy 40-0 defeat to the Roosters. This loss was followed by a couple of tough games, including a narrow

defeat to the Broncos in the dying seconds and a shock loss to the Wests Tigers in the final round, which left their finals hopes hanging in the balance.

Despite the late-season stumbles, the Sharks held their nerve and qualified for the finals. In their semi-final clash, they produced one of their best performances of the year, holding the minor premiers, the Brisbane Broncos, scoreless in a stunning 14-0 victory. Penitani once again led from the front, running for over 165 metres and inspiring her team to secure their first-ever Grand Final berth.

Heading into the Grand Final, the Sharks will be looking to recapture the form that saw them dominate the early part of the season. With a squad full of belief and resilience, they are determined to finish their fairytale run with a historic premiership victory.

FINISHED 4TH

GAMES: 10; WINS: 7; LOSSES: 3

POINTS SCORED: 160; POINTS CONCEDED: 122

ROUND 1 – SHARKS 14 v COWBOYS 0

The Sharks entered the 2024 NRLW season fast and made everyone stand up and take notice by successfully holding out the Cowboys for the whole 70 minutes. Five-eighth, Emma Tonagato, guided her side around the field with class and had a hand in all 3 of the Sharks first half tries.

Sharks 14 (Staples 2, Penitani tries. Preston 1/3 goals)

Cowboys 0

ROUND 2 – SHARKS 18 v EELS 16

The start of the Shark's Round 2 game against the Parramatta Eels saw them dominated through the middle, with the Eels getting out to a 10-6 lead going into the break. The Sharks goal line defence was what kept them in the game and second-half tries to Jada Taylor and Annessa Biddle and the perfect boot of Tayla Preston is what got them home again. The win was overshadowed by a series injury to fullback, Jada Taylor, which will see her miss the remainder of the season.

Sharks 18 (Johnston, Taylor, Biddle tries. Preston 3/3 goals)

Eels 16 (Cherrington, Donovan, Owen tries. Pearson 2/3 goals)

ROUND 3 – SHARKS 24 v RAIDERS 12

The Sharks travelled to the Nation's Capital to take on the Canberra Raiders in the hopes of keeping their winning streak going. In a similar fashion to the Eels game, the Sharks went into the sheds at half-time trailing 8-0, unable to find the try line in the first 35 minutes. The second half saw the Sharks dominate, being led by their captain, Tiana Penitani, who crossed for the first of 5 Sharks tries in the second half.

Sharks 24 (Penitani, Biddle, Wheeler, Davis-Welsh, Johnston tries. Preston 2/5 goals)

Raiders 12 (Bartlett 2 tries. Tungai 2/2, Temara 0/1 goal)

ROUND 4 – SHARKS 14 v KNIGHTS 12

Coming off three straight wins to start the season, the noise around this game was that it was going to be a true test for the Sharks, meeting the reigning premiers, the Newcastle Knights. The Knights had just suffered their first loss of the season, so they were expected to bounce back. Although they scored 1 less try than the Knights, the perfect boot of Tayla Preston from the Sharks was the deciding factor in the end, getting the girls home by 2 points.

Sharks 14 (Dodd, Dymock tries. Preston 3/3 goals)

Knights 12 (Albert-Jones 2, Willison tries. J. Southwell 0/3 goals)

ROUND 5 – SHARKS 28 v DRAGONS 4

After taking down the reigning premiers, the Sharks were definitely on a roll winning their first 4 games and taking their winning tally to one more game than their whole 2023 season. The side travelled to WIN Stadium to take on the Dragons in the first game of a Sunday afternoon NRLW-NRL double-header. The Sharks came out of the blocks fast, with Penitani scoring within the first minute of the game and they maintained their dominance from there, running in 6 tries to the Dragons 1. Yet another convincing win and their fifth in a row!

Sharks 28 (Penitani 2, Ravics 2, Davis-Welsh, Byers tries. Preston 2/6 goal)

Dragons 4 (Koster try. McGregor 0/1 goals)

ROUND 6 – SHARKS 22 v TITANS 6

The Sharks extended their winning streak to start the 2024 NRLW season by taking down the 2023 runners up, the Gold Coast Titans at Cbus Super Stadium. In similar fashion to their Round 5 game, Tiana Penitani opened the scoring within the first few minutes and the side went into the sheds with a 10-6 lead at half-time. They continued their dominance in the second half, scoring 12 unanswered points to comfortably win and assert their premiership credentials by beating both the reigning premiers and the runners up!

Sharks 22 (Ravics 2, Penitani, Biddle tries. Preston 3/4 goals)

Titans 6 (Bass try. Browne 1/1 goal)

ROUND 7 – SHARKS 0 v ROOSTERS 40

Round 7 was a tough one for the Sharks, facing a building Sydney Roosters. The game got off to a disastrous start, with the Sharks losing the ball in the first few minutes and it continued in that fashion for the remainder of the game. Defence was a huge issue for the side, missing over 45 tackles, which simply handed the Roosters attacking position that they were able to turn into points. The Sharks first loss of the season was a big one, eventually going down by 40.

Sharks 0

Roosters 40 (Wood 2, Pule, Kernick, Bremner, Parker, Kelly, Naividi tries. Kelleher 4/8 goals)

ROUND 8 – SHARKS 16 v BRONCOS 20

After starting the season strongly, the Sharks were looking to fight back against the Broncos in order to keep their finals hopes alive with such a short season. This game came right down to the wire, with the Sharks in front with literally a minute on the clock, until Broncos Gayle Broughton scored next to the posts to give the Broncos the win. Centre, Annessa Biddle, was once again immense for the side running over 170 metres.

Sharks 16 (Johnston, Staples, Ravics tries. Preston 2/3 goals)

Broncos 20 (Waaka, Broughton, Robinson, Lenarduzzi tries. Teitzel 2/4 goal)

ROUND 9 – SHARKS 10 v WESTS TIGERS 12

In the last round of the regular season, the Sharks welcomed the 10th placed Wests Tigers to PointsBet Stadium. The Sharks needed to win the game to ensure their place in the final 4, however, the Tigers were coming off their first win in 410 days from Round 8. In a game that saw two Sharks sent to the bin and Preston having an missing an important conversion, the Tigers held on to take the win. As a result, the Sharks had to wait until the end of the round to find out if they were going to be playing finals football or not.

Sharks 10 (Dodd, Penitani tries. Preston 1/2 goals)

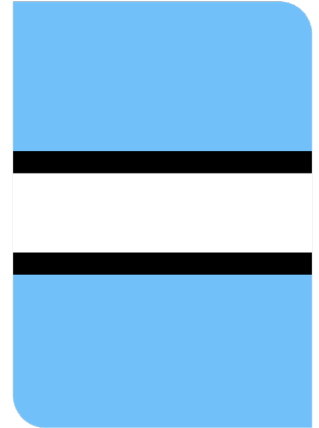
Wests Tigers 12 (Nielsen, Talataina tries. Lutu 1/1, Piliae-Rasabale 1/1 goals)

SEMI FINAL – SHARKS 14 v BRONCOS 0

In the first game of the finals, the Sharks travelled to Totally Workwear Stadium in Brisbane to take on the Broncos – the side that had beat them in the dying seconds just two rounds ago. Everything just fell into place for the Sharks with the last three losses the potential catalyst they needed to bring out the performance they did when it mattered the most. Holding the minor premiers to zero and running in three tries was no mean feat and one that was led by their captain, Penitani, who ran for over 165 metres once again.

Sharks 14 (Penitani, Biddle, Staples tries. Preston 1/3 goals)

Broncos 0



NRLW SEMI FINALS WRAP

CRONULLA INTO DECIDER *BETH NICHOLLS*

The Sharks advance towards their first Grand Final since entering the NRLW competition in 2023. Cronulla came out and impressed against the Brisbane Broncos, 2024 Minor Premiers, to get their first win against the Broncos and play in Grand Final in their second year of the competition. Their stunning performance in both attack and defence saw the Broncos unable to come up with an answer, being held scoreless for the first time in the Brisbane club's history. Coming off the back of four losses the Sharks came out a desperate side, and struggled at the start, blowing two try scoring opportunities within ten minutes, with Georgia Hannaway ruled to have knocked on as she was attempting to ground the ball. They finally found their footing in the 13th minute with captain Tiana Penitani grabbing a late offload from Talei Holmes, to ground the ball out wide, and a successful conversion putting the Sharks up 6-0. Momentum then turned with Broncos having the ball for most of the final 10 minutes of the match on Cronulla's line, but they were just unable to turn the possession into much needed points, with the Sharks defence too hard to crack. Heading into halftime the Sharks were up by six points, but the Broncos have a well-known reputation for playing a strong second half, with the next 35 minutes a crucial period for the Cronulla side.

The opening few minutes of the half proved the strength of the Sharks, with Annessa Biddle crashing over in the 37th minute of the match, pushing their lead out to ten points. The clock was slowly ticking down, and the Broncos were running out of time whilst the Sharks just hoped it was enough. To seal the deal for Cronulla, Cassie Staples scored a try with 12 minutes to go, pushing their advantage out even further, making a comeback for the Brisbane side virtually impossible. After a strong performance in the regular season the Broncos struggled in both defence and attack, unable to put a single point on the board, despite averaging 30 points per game during 2024. This is now the second time they have won the minor premiership and gone on to lose during week one of the finals and miss out on making the coveted Grand Final match, with it previously happening in 2021. Taking a dip in the regular season and unable to string together a win, the Sharks made a comeback to win their first game in over a month, booking in their ticket to the Grand Final and finally having beaten the Broncos, having previously not been able to beat them in 2023 or 2024.

BRISBANE	0	-	14	CRONULLA
		T		Annessa BIDDLE
				Tiana PENITANI
				Cassie STAPLES
		G	1/3	Tayla PRESTON
TEAMSHEETS				
Hayley MADDICK	1	FB	1	Emma TONEGATO
Julia ROBINSON	2	W	2	Cassie STAPLES
Mele HUFANGA	3	C	3	Tiana PENITANI (c)
Shenae CIESIOLKA	4	C	4	Annessa BIDDLE
Lauren DAM	5	W	5	Georgia RAVICS
Gayle BROUGHTON	6	FE	6	Georgia HANNAWAY
Ali BRIGGINSHAW (c)	7	HB	7	Tayla PRESTON
Brianna CLARK	8	FR	8	Ellie JOHNSTON
Jada FERGUSON	9	HK	9	Quincy DODD
Annetta NU'UAUSALA	10	FR	10	Tegan DYMOCK
Mariah DENMAN	11	2R	11	Talei HOLMES
Tazmin GRAY	19	2R	12	Rhiannon BYERS
Keilee JOSEPH	13	L	13	Brooke ANDERSON
Destiny BRILL	14	B	14	Filomina HANISI
Chelsea LENARDUZZI	15	B	15	Chloe SAUNDERS
Lavinia GOULD	16	B	16	Vanessa FOLIAKI
Tafito LAFAELE	17	B	17	Manilita TAKAPAUTOLO
Scott PRINCE		HC		Tony HERMAN

Date: Sun, 29th September. Kickoff: 2:05 PM. Halftime: Cronulla (W) 6-0.
Penalties: Cronulla (W) 5-3. Referee: Belinda Sharpe. Crowd: 2,327.

ROOSTERS ROLL ON *JOSH ROBERTSON*

The Sydney Roosters booked their Grand Final spot ending the reign of the Newcastle Knights with a 25-16 win at Allianz Stadium.

Opening the scoring in the seventh minute, Brydie Parker put the Roosters ahead after scoring in the corner off a pass that could have been ruled forward. The Knights hit back just under ten minutes later when Georgia Roache looked to spread the ball right but went at the line herself spinning out of a tackle to score. The scores remained level after the miss from Jesse Southwell.

The tricolours then put on three converted tries in the space of nine minutes when Keeley Davis went over from dummy half before a three minute double to Sam Bremner extended the lead for the Roosters out to 22-4 which the tricolours took into half time.

A penalty goal not long after the resumption of play pushed the lead for the Bondi based side out to 20 points. The game turned into an arm-wrestle for the most part during the second half though a nervous final ten minutes came for the Roosters as the Knights scored on the hour mark when Evah McEwen went over.

Experience helped the Roosters when Tarryn Aiken put over a field goal inside the final five minutes before the Knights scored a late try through Olivia Higgins. Jesse Southwell converted and the Knights season ended with a 25-16 defeat.

SYDNEY	25	-	16	NEWCASTLE
Sam BREMNER	2	T		Olivia HIGGINS
Keeley DAVIS				Evah McEWEN
Brydie PARKER				Georgia ROCHE
Jocelyn KELLEHER	4/5	G	2/3	Jesse SOUTHWELL
Tarryn AIKEN		FG		
TEAMSHEETS				
Sam BREMNER	1	FB	1	Tamika UPTON
Jayne FRESSARD	2	W	2	Sheridan GALLAGHER
Jasmin STRANGE	3	C	3	Shanice PARKER
Isabelle KELLY (c)	4	C	4	Abigail ROACHE
Brydie PARKER	6	W	5	Tenika WILLISON
Jocelyn KELLEHER	7	FE	6	Georgia ROCHE
Tarryn AIKEN	20	HB	7	Jesse SOUTHWELL
Millie ELLIOTT	8	FR	16	Tayla PREDEBON
Keeley DAVIS	9	HK	9	Olivia HIGGINS
Otesa PULE	10	FR	10	Simone KARPANI
Amber HALL	11	2R	11	Laishon ALBERT-JONES
Olivia KERNICK	12	2R	12	Yasmin CLYDSDALE
Tiana DAVISON	13	L	13	Hannah SOUTHWELL (c)
Tavarna PAPALII	14	B	14	Nita MAYNARD
Kalosipani HOPOATE	15	B	15	Kayla ROMANIUK
Samantha ECONOMOS	16	B	17	Viena TINAO
Jessica SERGIS	19	B	19	Evah McEWEN
John STRANGE		HC		Ben JEFFRIES

Date: Sun, 29th September. Kickoff: 4:15 PM. Halftime: Sydney (W) 22-4.
Penalties: Newcastle (W) 7-6. Referee: Zbigniew Przeklasa-Adamski. Crowd: 2,271.

NRLW 2024 FIXTURES

ROUND 1

JUL 25	Thu 7:45pm	NEWCASTLE	SYDNEY	12 - 10	McDonald Jones	3,921
JUL 27	Sat 11:05am	CRONULLA	NORTH QLD	14 - 0	Pointsbet Stadium	1,257
JUL 27	Sat 12:45pm	BRISBANE	PARRAMATTA	10 - 22	Suncorp Stadium	10,382
JUL 28	Sun 12:00pm	ST GEO ILLA	GOLD COAST	10 - 18	WIN Stadium	10,728
JUL 28	Sun 1:45pm	WESTS TIGERS	CANBERRA	12 - 32	Campbelltown	1,506

ROUND 2

AUG 3	Sat 11:05am	CANBERRA	NEWCASTLE	20 - 26	GIO Stadium	1,791
AUG 3	Sat 12:45pm	GOLD COAST	WESTS TIGERS	28 - 12	Cbus Super Stadium	11,105
AUG 4	Sun 12:00pm	PARRAMATTA	CRONULLA	16 - 18	Allianz Stadium	1,166
AUG 4	Sun 1:45pm	SYDNEY	BRISBANE	28 - 12	Allianz Stadium	2,899
AUG 4	Sun 6:10pm	NORTH QLD	ST GEO ILLA	38 - 34	QLD Country Bank	2,427

ROUND 3

AUG 10	Sat 11:05am	SYDNEY	WESTS TIGERS	20 - 4	Industree Group	1,898
AUG 10	Sat 12:45pm	CANBERRA	CRONULLA	12 - 24	GIO Stadium	5,831
AUG 11	Sun 12:00pm	NORTH QLD	PARRAMATTA	6 - 20	Totally Workwear	1,393
AUG 11	Sun 1:45pm	BRISBANE	GOLD COAST	44 - 4	Totally Workwear	1,788
AUG 11	Sun 6:10pm	NEWCASTLE	ST GEO ILLA	10 - 18	McDonald Jones	9,479

ROUND 4

AUG 17	Sat 11:05am	BRISBANE	CANBERRA	28 - 22	Totally Workwear	N/S
AUG 17	Sat 12:45pm	NORTH QLD	GOLD COAST	11 - 10	QLD Country Bank	1,458
AUG 18	Sun 12:00pm	ST GEO ILLA	SYDNEY	8 - 28	WIN Stadium	N/S
AUG 18	Sun 1:45pm	CRONULLA	NEWCASTLE	14 - 12	Pointsbet Stadium	N/S
AUG 18	Sun 6:10pm	WESTS TIGERS	PARRAMATTA	10 - 12	Campbelltown	N/S

ROUND 5

AUG 24	Sat 11:05am	PARRAMATTA	NEWCASTLE	16 - 36	Eric Tweedale	N/S
AUG 24	Sat 12:45pm	CANBERRA	NORTH QLD	18 - 28	GIO Stadium	4,177
AUG 25	Sun 12:00pm	GOLD COAST	SYDNEY	26 - 6	Cbus Super	N/S
AUG 25	Sun 1:45pm	WESTS TIGERS	BRISBANE	14 - 44	Leichhardt Oval	1,022
AUG 25	Sun 6:10pm	ST GEO ILLA	CRONULLA	4 - 28	WIN Stadium	3,741

ROUND 6

AUG 31	Sat 11:05am	GOLD COAST	CRONULLA	6 - 22	Cbus Super Stadium	N/S
AUG 31	Sat 12:45pm	PARRAMATTA	ST GEO ILLA	14 - 42	CommBank Stadium	N/S
SEP 1	Sun 12:00pm	NEWCASTLE	WESTS TIGERS	34 - 6	McDonald Jones	N/S
SEP 1	Sun 1:45pm	BRISBANE	NORTH QLD	38 - 12	Totally Workwear	N/S
SEP 1	Sun 6:10pm	SYDNEY	CANBERRA	34 - 20	Allianz Stadium	N/S

ROUND 7

SEP 7	Sat 11:05am	NORTH QLD	WESTS TIGERS	24 - 22	QLD Country Bank	1,314
SEP 7	Sat 12:45pm	ST GEO ILLA	CANBERRA	34 - 38	Netstrata	5,570
SEP 8	Sun 12:00pm	CRONULLA	SYDNEY	0 - 40	Pointsbet Stadium	1,901
SEP 8	Sun 1:45pm	PARRAMATTA	GOLD COAST	24 - 14	Eric Tweedale	734
SEP 8	Sun 6:10pm	NEWCASTLE	BRISBANE	24 - 32	McDonald Jones	N/S

ROUND 8

SEP 12	Thu 7:45pm	WESTS TIGERS	ST GEO ILLA	16 - 14	Leichhardt Oval	506
SEP 14	Sat 12:00pm	BRISBANE	CRONULLA	20 - 16	Cbus Super Stadium	N/S
SEP 14	Sat 1:45pm	GOLD COAST	NEWCASTLE	10 - 46	Cbus Super Stadium	2,219
SEP 15	Sun 12:00pm	SYDNEY	NORTH QLD	24 - 12	Industree Group	2,927
SEP 15	Sun 1:45pm	CANBERRA	PARRAMATTA	16 - 18	GIO Stadium	1,928

ROUND 9

SEP 19	Thu 7:45pm	CRONULLA	WESTS TIGERS	10 - 12	Pointsbet Stadium	
SEP 21	Sat 1:30pm	ST GEO ILLA	BRISBANE	14 - 44	QLD Country Bank	1,224
SEP 21	Sat 3:15pm	NORTH QLD	NEWCASTLE	6 - 38	QLD Country Bank	
SEP 22	Sun 1:30pm	CANBERRA	GOLD COAST	16 - 12	CommBank Stadium	
SEP 22	Sun 3:15pm	PARRAMATTA	SYDNEY	18 - 32	CommBank Stadium	1,425

SEMI FINALS

SEP 29	Sun 2:05pm	BRISBANE (1)	CRONULLA (4)	0 - 14	Totally Workwear	2,327
SEP 29	Sun 4:05pm	SYDNEY (2)	NEWCASTLE (3)	25 - 16	Allianz Stadium	2,271

GRAND FINAL

OCT 6	Sun 3:55pm	SYDNEY	CRONULLA		Accor Stadium	
-------	------------	--------	----------	--	---------------	--

N/S = not supplied

NRLW JUDICIARY

Player	Annessa BIDDLE
Club	Cronulla
Grade & Charge	Grade 1 Careless High Tackle
On Who	Hayley Maddick
Base	1 match
Offence	1st
Guilty	1 match
Early plea	Warning
Plea	Guilty - early plea
Result	WARNING

Offences counted for the previous twelve months.

^ Denotes 3 year incident free discount

~ Can opt for \$400 fine instead of suspension with early plea under Rule 39A

NRLW 2024 TELSTRA WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP FINALS SERIES

SF 1 SUN 29 SEP 2:05PM
TOTALLY WORKWEAR

1 **BRI**

4 **CRO**

GF SUN 6 OCT 3:55PM
ACCOR STADIUM

2 **SYD**

3 **NEW**

SF 2 SUN 29 SEP 4:05PM
ALLIANZ

LU
FOLLOW THE NRL FINALS AT
LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

NRLW PLAYER OF THE YEAR *after Semi Finals*

Our writers issue points every game for who they judge as the best player on the field.

16 points - Tamika Upton (Knights)

- 13 points - Tiana Penitani (Sharks)
- 9 points - Kennedy Cherrington (Eels)
- 8 points - Teagan Berry (Dragons), Olivia Kernick (Roosters)
- 7 points - Isabelle Kelly (Roosters), Julia Robinson (Broncos), Elsie Albert (Eels), Simaima Taufa (Raiders), Evania Pelite (Titans), Hayley Maddick (Broncos), Rachael Pearson (Eels)
- 6 points - Jocelyn Kelleher (Roosters), Tarryn Aiken (Roosters), Alexis Tauaneai (Dragons), Sam Bremner (Roosters), Kirra Dibb (Cowboys), Zahara Temara (Raiders), Annessa Biddle (Sharks)
- 5 points - Jakiya Whitfeld (Cowboys), Jessica Sergis (Roosters), Chelsea Lenarduzzi (Broncos), Sheridan Gallagher (Knights), Lauren Brown (Titans), Ellie Johnston (Sharks), Georgia Hale (Titans), Quincy Dodd (Sharks)

- 4 points - Stacey Waaka (Broncos)
- 3 points - Brooke Talatana (Wests Tigers), Hannah Southwell (Knights), Jada Ferguson (Broncos), Talei Holmes (Sharks), Romy Teitzel (Broncos), Emma Tonegato (Sharks), Tiana Raftstrand-Smith (Cowboys), Rebecca Pollard (Wests Tigers), Lilly-Ann White (Knights), Mele Hufanga (Broncos), Grace Kemp (Raiders), Tahlulah Tillett (Cowboys), Ali Briggingshaw (Broncos), Millie Elliott (Roosters), Shenae Ciesiolka (Broncos)
- 2 points - Otesa Pule (Roosters), Angelina Teakaraanga Katoa (Dragons), Tafito Lafaele (Broncos), Lavinia Tauhalaliku (Cowboys), Brooke Anderson (Sharks), Rory Owen (Eels), Abigail Roache (Knights), Yasmin Clydsdale (Knights), Madison Bartlett (Raiders), Amber Hall (Roosters), Abbi Church (Eels), Keilee Joseph (Broncos), Christian Pio (Wests Tigers)
- 1 point - Apii Nicholls (Raiders), Tayla Predebon (Knights), Sarina Masaga (Titans), Sarah Togatuki (Wests Tigers), Olivia Higgins (Knights), Lily Peacock (Cowboys), Mahalia Murphy (Eels), Shanice Parker (Knights), Laishon Albert-Jones (Knights), Tess Staines (Wests Tigers), Shannon Mato (Titans), Kezie Apps (Wests Tigers), Rosemarie Beckett (Eels), Jesse Southwell (Knights), Jasmine Peters (Cowboys), Emily Bass (Titans), Sophie Holyman (Raiders), Rikeya Horne (Wests Tigers), Tazmin Rapana (Broncos), Mackenzie Wiki (Raiders), Raecene McGregor (Dragons), Ash Quinlan (Raiders)



**NEWTOWN
JETS**



**NORTHS
DEVILS**



VENUE	ACCOR STADIUM (STADIUM AUSTRALIA)	LIAM KENNEDY	REFEREE
LOCATION	WANNGAL COUNTRY SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK, NSW	JARROD COLE, KIEREN IRONS	TOUCH JUDGES
DAY & TIME	SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2024 1:20PM AEDT	PETER GOUGH	NRL BUNKER

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

Age					Age	
19	Liam ISON	1	FULLBACK	1	Jordan LIPP	23
-	Tom RODWELL	2	WING	2	Blake PASKINS	24
21	Chris VEA'ILA	3	CENTRE	3	Tesi NIU	23
25	Mawene HIROTI	4	CENTRE	4	Jacob GAGAN	31
22	Samuel STONESTREET	5	WING	5	Manase KAHO	-
22	Khaled RAJAB	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Jack WRIGHT	25
22	Niwhai PURU	7	HALFBACK	7	Jack AHEARN	31
29	Braden HAMLIN-UELE	8	FRONT ROW	8	Cooper JENKINS	-
29	Jayden BERRELL	9	HOKKER	9	Kierran MOSELEY	30
22	Tuku HAU TAPUHA	10	FRONT ROW	21	Tukimihia SIMPKINS	22
-	Kyle PICKERING	11	SECOND ROW	11	Oryn KEELEY	21
25	Billy BURNS	12	SECOND ROW	12	Jeremiah SIMBIKEN	24
-	Blake HOSKING	13	LOCK	13	Mason TEAGUE	21
-	Jordin LEIU	15	INTERCHANGE	16	Sam ELLIOTT	27
27	Billy MAGOULIAS	17		17	Julian CHRISTIAN	26
-	Samuel HEALEY	18		18	Campbell DUFFY	25
-	Bradley FEARNLEY	19		20	George FAI	27
-	Rhys DAKIN	14	RESERVES	15	James FLACK	-
25	Josh COOK	21		10	Wyatt REYNOLDS	25
-	Jordan SWANN	22		14	Zakaria MCGUIRE	-
26	Jackson FERRIS	25		19	Zac BROOKS	-
-	Tyla TAMOU	26				
39	George NDAIRA		COACHES		David ELLIOTT	53

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

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH HISTORY

YEAR	WINNING TEAM	LOSING TEAM	VENUE
2014	NORTHERN PRIDE 32	PENRITH PANTHERS 28	ANZ
2015	IPSWICH JETS 26	NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS 12	ANZ
2016	ILLAWARRA CUTTERS 54	BURLEIGH BEARS 12	ANZ
2017	PENRITH PANTHERS 42	PNG HUNTERS 18	ANZ

2018	CANTERBURY BULLDOGS 42	REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS 18	ANZ
2019	NEWTOWN JETS 20	BURLEIGH BEARS 16	ANZ
2022	PENRITH PANTHERS 44	NORTHS DEVILS 10	Accor
2024	SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS 42	BRISBANE TIGERS 22	Accor

- COLOURED TEXT DENOTES PREMIERS OF NSW CUP AND QLD CUP
- STATE CHAMPIONSHIP NOT HELD 2020, 2021 DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

PREVIEW AJ LUCANTONIO

Jets look to soar above gritty Devils

To kickoff NRL Grand Final Day, we will have an epic State Championship game as the Norths Devils look to be the first QLD Cup side to win the game since Ipswich in 2015 when they take on the Newtown Jets.

Kicking off with the Jets, after finishing in the top three, they were ruthless and determined to win the grand final. After a dominating week 1 win over the Raiders, Newtown went and did battle with the North Sydney Bears and went down narrowly. Newtown had a second clash with Canberra and won with a strong second half to play the Bears in the big dance. The grand final was a back and forth affair but was saved due to a great kicking performance from Niwhai Puru and an individual try from Braden Hamlin-Uele.

To beat the Devils, they need to avoid making silly errors out of their own end. Norths punished most mistakes Newtown made on the weekend. So expect a push from George Ndaira this week to focus on ball security. Defensively, their left edge is the weak spot with

three tries conceded down that edge last week as well as Puru who despite his great attack has missed the most tackles in the NSW Cup this season. Liam Ison will be a handful at the back after an extraordinary breakout season along with winger Sam Stonestreet who is looking to press his claims for regular NRL next season. Onto team news and Khaled Rajab has been named to play despite coming off last week with a shoulder injury.

The Devils had a strong overall season despite a slight collapse towards the end of the season. Onto the finals and the Devils easily accounted for the Dolphins in the qualifying final and had a perfect opening half to account for the PNG Hunters in the prelim final. The grand final saw a rematch with the Dolphins and after a tight portion of the game, the class of Tesi Niu shone through as the Devils atoned for last year's disappointment.

For the State Challenge, the Devils have been here before, they were ruthlessly slaughtered by the emerging Panthers juggernaut in 2022. Survivors include Jacob Gagan and Kierran Moseley who are experienced. The "phin-headed beast" of a backrow core of Oryn Keeley, Jeremiah Simbiken and Mason Teague also shone this season and will be putting themselves in the shop window for Kristian Woolf next season. They will have the edge up front and in

the forwards while their back five is a vastly underrated core. Onto team news and the side is unchanged from their grand final win.

WHO TO WATCH: For Newtown, the focus is going to be on Jayden Berrell. With Sam Healey departing the club, Berrell is entrenched as the club's number two hooker. After a strong season where he was NSW Cup Hooker of the Year which saw him earn an NRL debut, Berrell will look to cap off a dream season with a state challenge success.

For the Devils I am going with Cooper Jenkins. The former Knights forward has been courted by a few NRL clubs after a strong season with the Devils, averaging just under 100 metres a game and defensively stout in the middle third. A strong showing on rugby league's biggest stage will have NRL sides circling with contract offers.

FAVOURITE: Newtown are favourites in this one as the KOE NSW Cup sides have been the dominant sides in this clash.

MY TIP: I fancy the upset in this one. Norths have been a more consistent unit as far as squad depth and the potential loss of Rajab through injury mixes up continuity on that right edge and Niu could have a field day. **Norths by 7.**

KNOCK ON EFFECT NSW CUP 2024 GRAND FINAL

NEWTOWN GO TRY FOR TRY TO CLAIM GRAND FINAL GLORY

ROB CROSBY

A new chapter in a rivalry dating back to 1908 has been written with Newtown claiming the 2024 Knock-On Effect NSW Cup title with a 28-22 victory over North Sydney.

Claiming a ninth reserve grade title to condemn the Bears to back-to-back defeats on NSWRL Grand Final day, the Jets went try for try with their foundation rivals before New Zealand and Samoan international Braden Hamlin-Uele scored to seal a famous victory. The two foundation clubs, serving as feeder teams for Melbourne (North Sydney) and Cronulla (Newtown), finished the regular season in first and second and met a fortnight ago with the Bears prevailing in the Major Semi Final.



In an error-riddled opening from both teams, the Jets steadied to force a repeat set and were rewarded with Tom Rodwell (17th minute) finishing off a left side shift to open the scoring. Responding straight away after coming up with possession from the kick-off, the Bears levelled the scores at 6-all with Bronson Garlick (21st minute) supporting an offload from Matt Stimson close to the line. Going close to scoring through Sam Stonestreet, only for the video referee to rule in favour of the Bears determined defence, the Jets continued to attack down the right and reaped rewards with Chris Ve'a'ila (27th minute) using footwork and power to crash over for his tenth try of the year. In a sliding doors moment for the respective fullbacks, Liam Ison was denied for illegally promoting the ball in a double movement only for late inclusion Su'a Fa'alogo (34th minute) to slide over for an equalising score minutes later after a superb offload by fellow Melbourne NRL player Joe Chan.

A powerful run from Mawene Hiroti (39th minute) with seconds remaining put Newtown ahead 16-10 at the break, however the Bears waited little time in hitting back with a barnstorming run from Allan Fitzgibbon (44th minute) allowing Kieran Hayman to draw the scores level with a sideline conversion. Having starred with an iconic play when the Jets last won the Grand Final back in 2019, Billy Magoulias stepped up with a well-placed pass that saw Jordan Leiu (53rd minute) use brute force to crash over next to the posts. North Sydney refused to wilt with Harradyn Wilson (59th minute) scoring with a show-and-go close to the line, but his opposite number Niwhai Puru stood tall with an intercept that gave Newtown the ascendancy to create history with a determined run from Hamlin-Uele (65th minute). The Bears were unable to capitalise on opportunities as the clock wound down and had their fate sealed with an error from a scrum.

The victory was a deserved result for Newtown after finishing the regular season in second position, while North Sydney were left to lament the disappointment of their premiership drought extending to 31 years. With both teams featuring nine players apiece boasting NRL experience, the class of Puru shone through

with the Newtown halfback named Player of the Match. Next week, Newtown will face Queensland Cup premiers Norths Devils in the State Championship played as the opening curtain raiser on NRL Grand Final day.

2024 KNOCK ON EFFECT NSW CUP GRAND FINAL: Date: Sun, 29th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: Newtown (R) 16-10. Penalties: Norths (R) 6-2. Referee: Kieren Irons. Crowd: 10,386.

	NORTHS	22	-	28	NEWTOWN
	Sualauvi FA'ALOGO		T		Braden HAMLIN-UELE
	Allan FITZGIBBON				Mawene HIROTI
	Bronson GARLICK				Jordin LEIU
	Harradyn WILSON				Tom RODWELL
					Chris VEA'ILA
	Kieran HAYMAN	3/4	G	4/5	Niwhai PURU
TEAMSHEETS					
	Sualauvi FA'ALOGO	20	FB	1	Liam ISON
	Allan FITZGIBBON	2	W	2	Tom RODWELL
	Israel OGDEN	3	C	3	Chris VEA'ILA
	Dean IEREMIA	4	C	4	Mawene HIROTI
	Tuipulotu KATO	5	W	5	Samuel STONESTREET
	Kieran HAYMAN	1	FE	6	Khaled RAJAB
	Harradyn WILSON	7	HB	7	Niwhai PURU
	Kurt DE LUIS (c)	8	FR	14	Braden HAMLIN-UELE
	Bronson GARLICK	9	HK	9	Jayden BERRELL
	Tepai MOEROA	10	FR	10	Tuku HAU TAPUHA
	Joe CHAN	11	2R	11	Kyle PICKERING
	Matt STIMSON	12	2R	12	Billy MAGOULIAS (c)
	Aivalu LISATI	13	L	13	Blake HOSKING
	Nathaniel ROACHE	14	B	15	Jordin LEIU
	Regan HUGHES	15	B	17	Billy MAGOULIAS
	Phillip MAKATO	16	B	18	Samuel HEALEY
	Ben TALTY	17	B	19	Bradley FEARNLEY
	Kieran DEMPSEY		HC		George NDAIRA



U21 JERSEY FLEGG CUP GRAND FINAL RESULT

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (14) Tries: Cassius Tia, William Afualo, Ratu Rinakama; Goals: Cassius Tia 1/3 **DEF CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (6)** Tries: Taj Ford; Goals: Riley Pollard 1/1 at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta / Burramattagal



HARVEY NORMAN WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL RESULT

ILLAWARRA STEELERS (10) Tries: Shae Muhleisen, Bronte Wilson; Goals: Tayleah Handcock 1/2 **DEF NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (6)** Tries: Leah Ollerton; Goals: Jessica Gentle 1/1 at CommBank Stadium, Parramatta / Burramattagal

SUPER LEAGUE PLAYOFFS - ELIMINATORS WRAP

LEIGH ELIMINATE SALFORD, SET UP BOROUGH BATTLE SEMI FINAL

AJ LUCANTONIO - SALFORD STADIUM

The Leigh Leopards have continued their Super League Cinderella story with a 14-6 win over the Salford Red Devils in a tightly contested semi-final in Salford.

The first half was a back and forth affair with little to report on. Salford dominated territory in the first half, however every single chance was kept out by Leigh. Twenty eight minutes past before the game's first scoring play, Nene MacDonald was chasing through a Marc Sneyd bomb, but was escorted off the ball by Gareth O'Brien. Sneyd duly converted the penalty goal and it was 2-0 at the break in a tightly contested game.

Leigh started the more aggressive side in the second half and got their reward off a well worked move out to the right side. Some nice interchange of passes saw Josh Charnley sprint away to plant the ball down in the corner to make it a 4-2 ball game. Six minutes later, Edwin Ipape charged through some poor Salford defence to break the game open, he found O'Brien in support and Leigh had two tries in six minutes to lead 10-2 on the hour mark.

Ipape charged over six minutes later to make it 14-2 and Salford were in miracle territory. The game took a bad turn with just over ten to play as Charnley was taken off on a special neck stretcher and taken straight to hospital. The winger took to social media post game to declare he was okay and given the "all clear". It was a tense finish as Leigh backrower Jack Hughes went to the sin-bin as Leigh continued to test referee Jack Smith's patience. A late cross-field kick by Sneyd ended in the arms of Ethan Ryan and it was back to an eight point game, the critical conversion was missed and Salford would be eliminated from the finals in a dramatic eliminator.

SALFORD	6	-	14	LEIGH
Ethan RYAN		T		Josh CHARNLEY
				Edwin IPAPE
				Gareth O'BRIEN
Marc SNEYD	1/1	G	1/3	Matt MOYLAN
		BIN		Jack HUGHES
TEAMSHEETS				
Chris HANKINSON	23	FB	6	Matt MOYLAN
Ethan RYAN	2	W	34	Darnell McINTOSH
Nene MACDONALD	3	C	24	Umyla HANLEY
Tim LAFAI	4	C	4	Ricky LEUTELE
Deon CROSS	5	W	5	Josh CHARNLEY
Jayden NIKORIMA	33	FE	1	Gareth O'BRIEN
Marc SNEYD	7	HB	7	Lachlan LAM
Brad SINGLETON	8	FR	8	Tom AMONE
Joe MELLOR	24	HK	9	Edwin IPAPE
Gil DUDSON	27	FR	10	Robbie MULHERN
Sam STONE	11	2R	12	Jack HUGHES
Kallum WATKINS (c)	12	2R	16	Frankie HALTON
Oliver PARTINGTON	13	L	13	John ASIATA (c)
Ryan BRIERLEY	1	B	33	Brad DWYER
Shane WRIGHT	15	B	3	Zak HARDAKER
Joe SHORROCKS	16	B	35	Aaron PENE
Loghan LEWIS	31	B	17	Owen TROUT
Paul ROWLEY		HC		Adrian LAM

Date: Fri, 27th September. Kickoff: 8:00 PM. Halftime: Salford 2-0.
Penalties: Leigh 10-7. Referee: Jack Smith. Crowd: 10,867.

ALL TIMES BST

SEMI FINALS

4-5 OCTOBER

TIME	MATCH	VENUE	REFEREE
Fri 8:00pm	HULL KR v WARRINGTON	Sewell Group Craven Park	Liam MOORE
Sat 5:30pm	WIGAN v LEIGH	The Brick Community Stadium	Chris KENDALL

WOLVES BREAK SAINTS HEARTS IN GOLDEN POINT

JUSTIN DAVIES - HALLIWELL JONES STADIUM

Warrington Wolves won 23-22 against St Helens in their game at Halliwell Jones Stadium on Saturday night.

They shook off conceding a late leveler which sent it to Golden Point before George Williams field goal sent them into a game against Hull KR.

It was an inauspicious start for the Saints who dropped the kick-off then Toby King sliced through for the opener. Tommy Makinson made up for dropping the kick-off with a superb finish in the corner to make it 6-4. The Saints showed off their defensive steel. Matt Dufty weaved through before he was brought down then they scrambled well to deny the Wolves a chance. St Helens used their left side for their second score. Jonny Lomax gave Mark Percival a short pass to go over for 12-4. Makinson made it a double before the break. Another swift pass found him steaming onto the ball and after a review, it was awarded. Warrington reduced the deficit just before half-time. George Williams poked through then flicked it out to Matty Ashton to touch down for 16-10 at the break.

Williams was the fulcrum for the Wolves attack. He produced another stunning pass to send King away for his second. Next, the Wolves profited from a loose Saints pass. It was scooped up and sent across to Ashton to give them back the lead, 22-16. Saints threw up one final hail mary, swinging it left then Jonanthan Bennison dived over the score which brought huge roars from the traveling faithful when awarded. The game headed into Golden Point. Williams had the first shot which was charged down but his second one flew over and gave Warrington the 23-22 win.

WARRINGTON	23	-	22	ST HELENS
Matthew ASHTON	2	T	2	Thomas MAKINSON
Toby KING	2			Jon BENNISON
				Mark PERCIVAL
Josh THEWLIS	3/4	G	3/4	Mark PERCIVAL
George WILLIAMS		FG		
TEAMSHEETS				
Matt DUFTY	1	FB	1	Jack WELSBY
Josh THEWLIS	2	W	2	Thomas MAKINSON
Rodrick TAI	14	C	11	Sione MATA'UTIA
Toby KING	3	C	4	Mark PERCIVAL
Matthew ASHTON	5	W	5	Jon BENNISON
George WILLIAMS (c)	6	FE	6	Jonny LOMAX (c)
Josh DRINKWATER	7	HB	7	Lewis DODD
Luke YATES	41	FR	8	Alex WALMSLEY
Danny WALKER	9	HK	9	Daryl CLARK
Zane MUSGROVE	16	FR	10	Matty LEES
John BATEMAN	42	2R	19	Matt WHITLEY
Matthew NICHOLSON	13	2R	12	Joe BATCHELOR
Ben CURRIE	11	L	13	Morgan KNOWLES
Sam POWELL	32	B	15	James BELL
James HARRISON	8	B	17	Agnatius PAASI
Paul VAUGHAN	10	B	20	George DELANEY
Joe PHILBIN	15	B	24	Jake BURNS
Sam BURGESS		HC		Paul WELLENS

Date: Sat, 28th September. Kickoff: 5:30 PM. Halftime: St Helens 16-10.
Penalties: Warrington 5-2. Referee: Liam Moore. Crowd: 12,111.

GRAND FINAL

12 OCTOBER

TIME	MATCH	VENUE
Sat 6:00pm	Winner SF 1 v Winner SF 2	Old Trafford

Head to [LeagueUnlimited.com](https://www.leagueunlimited.com) for 21-man squads and full match official appointments each week.

WOMEN'S BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE 2024 GRAND FINAL

DATE & TIME	MATCH	VENUE
Sun 6 Oct 5:00pm	ST HELENS v YORK VALKYRIE	Totally Wicked Stadium

Head to [LeagueUnlimited.com](https://www.leagueunlimited.com) for 21-man squads and full match official appointments each week.

MEN'S BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 26 RESULTS

TOULOUSE 64 (O. Ashall-Bott 2, M. Stefani 2, P. Ulberg 2, G. Armitage, B. Laguerre, É. Pélissier, R. Rennie, R. Rivett tries; J. Shorrocks 9, É. Pélissier goals) **DEFEATED BATLEY 16** (J. Burton 2, J. Mitsias tries; B. White 2 goals) at **Stade Ernest Wallon**. Date: Sat, 28th September. Kickoff: 6:00 PM. Halftime: Toulouse 24-6. Penalties: 2-all. Referee: Geoffrey Pomes. Crowd: 3,361. Toulouse: Ashall-Bott, Laguerre, Armitage, Rennie, Ulberg; Rivett, Shorrocks; Belmas, Gahan, Hansen, Lima, Stefani, Marion. Int: Pélissier, Bretherton, Akauola, Biscarro. Batley: Butterworth, Morton, Mitsias, Buchanan, Burton; White, Woods; Gledhill, Moore, Ward, Manning, Walshaw, Brown. Int: Cooper, Chitakunye, Kear.

WIDNES 26 (J. Owens 2, M. Butt, R. Lannon, R. Lloyd tries; T. Gilmore 3 goals) **DEFEATED BARROW 24** (L. Broadbent, M. Clarke, L. Cresswell, R. Shaw tries; R. Shaw 4 goals) at **Northern Competitions Stadium**. Date: Sun, 29th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: Widnes 16-8. Penalties: Barrow 8-5. Referee: Liam Rush. Crowd: 2,953. Barrow: Cresswell, Bulman, Broadbent, Toal, Shaw; Walker, Johnston; Gillam, Wood, Brown, Clarke, Stack, Emslie. Int: Smith, Wilkinson, Walker, Gittens-Bedward. Widnes: Owens, Butt, Bardsley-Rowe, Fleming, Ince; Lyons, Gilmore; Kirk, Fozard, Brooks, Lloyd, Roberts, Lannon. Int: Field, Reilly, Murray, Grady.

BRADFORD 50 (F. Pele 3, M. Lehmann 2, L. Bayliss-Brow, K. Gill, T. Holmes, J. Myers tries; J. Lilley 6, J. Sammut goals) **DEFEATED SWINTON 0** at **Bartercard Odsal Stadium**. Date: Sun, 29th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: Bradford 28-0. Penalties: Bradford 8-5. Referee: Michael Smail. Bradford: Holmes, Myers, Franco, Gill, Lehmann; Sammut, Lilley; Smith, Souter, Bayliss-Brow, Davies, Fulton, Makin. Int: Scurr; Ott, Mason, Pele. Swinton: Abram, Ritson, Spedding, Hatton, Williams; Stevens, Gibson; Wood, Eaves, Bennion, Vaughan, Cox, Hall. Int: Case, Walker, Cowen, Cooper.

DEWSBURY 28 (O. Greensmith 2, R. Butterworth, L. Carr, K. Tomlinson tries; C. Turner 4 goals) **DEFEATED SHEFFIELD 8** (B. Jones-Bishop, M. Marsh tries) at **FLAIR Stadium**. Date: Sun, 29th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: Dewsbury 16-4. Penalties: Dewsbury 7-6. Referee: Kevin Moore. Dewsbury: O'Connor, Carr, Walker, Greensmith, Tomlinson; Turner, Butterworth; Morris, Mearns, Field, Ferguson, Silk, Collinson. Int: Russell, Briggs, Summers. Sheffield: Marsh, Jones-Bishop, Welham, Glover, Dawson-Jones; Aston, Thackeray; Battye, Wood, Dickinson, Murphy, Farrell, Hodgson. Int: Hansen, Clark, Liu, Roberts.

WAKEFIELD 72 (M. Jowitt 4, J. McGillvary 2, I. Thornley 2, R. Atoni, M. Lino, D. Olpherts, C. Uele, I. Vagana tries; M. Jowitt 10 goals) **DEFEATED DONCASTER 6** (J. Tali try; C. Hall goal) at **DIY Kitchens Stadium**. Date: Sun, 29th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: Wakefield 24-6. Penalties: Wakefield 5-3. Referee: Ben Thaler. Crowd: 5,233. Wakefield: Jowitt, McGillvary, Thornley, Pratt, Olpherts; Gale, Lino; Bowden, Smith, Rodwell, Ashurst, Griffin, Pitts. Int: Atoni, Kay, Uele, Vagana. Doncaster: Guzdek, Briscoe, Lyne, Tali, Halliday, Hall, Boas; Baxter, McConnell, Matagi, Sutcliffe, Smeaton, Wallace. Int: Hey, Holdstock, Mafi, Faraimo.

WHITEHAVEN 23 (J. Carter, R. Corkill, W. Evans, E. Gebbie tries; J. Carter 3 goals; L. Hanneghan field goal) **DEFEATED HALIFAX 20** (J. Woodburn-Hall 3, C. Graham tries; L. Jouffret 2 goals) at **The Ortus REC**. Date: Sun, 29th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: 16-all. Penalties: Whitehaven 7-3. Referee: James Vella. Crowd: 876. Whitehaven: Romeo, Shaw, Evans, Smart, Gebbie; Carter, Hanneghan; Castle, Newton, Hartley, Teare, Corkill, King. Int: Ackroyd, Kellett, Buckley. Halifax: Woodburn-Hall, Saltonstall, McComb, Barber, Graham; Jouffret, Keyes; Tangata, O'Brien, Larroyer, Davies, Hurse-Hord, Gee. Int: Hird, Foster, Kavanagh, Tibbs.

YORK 16 (L. Harris 2, J. Brown tries; N. Williams 2 goals) **DEFEATED FEATHERSTONE 6** (J. Hardcastle try; B. Reynolds goal) at **LNER Community Stadium**. Date: Sun, 29th September. Kickoff: 3:00 PM. Halftime: York 10-6. Penalties: Featherstone 5-4. Referee: Aaron Moore. Crowd: 2,450. York: Williams, Brown, Field, Law, Lineham; Hingano, Harris; Martin, Jubb, Ta'ai, Bailey, Dee, Thompson. Int: Santi, Michael, Daley, Cunningham. Featherstone: Aekins, Gale, Hardcastle, Minikin, Wynne; Reynolds, Lacans; Lockwood, Jones, Nakubuwai, Day, Bussey, Beckett. Int: Springer, Albert, Arnold, Eden.

PLAYOFFS FIXTURES

ELIMINATORS

ALL TIMES BST

5-6 OCTOBER

TIME	MATCH	VENUE	REFEREE
Sat 3:00pm	YORK v WIDNES	LNER Community Stadium	James VELLA
Sun 3:00pm	BRADFORD v FEATHERSTONE	Bartercard Odsal Stadium	Aaron MOORE

SEMI FINALS

12-13 OCTOBER

TIME	MATCH	VENUE
TBC	WAKEFIELD v lower winner	DIY Kitchens Stadium
TBC	TOULOUSE v higher winner	Stade Ernest Wallon

GRAND FINAL

19 OCTOBER

TIME	MATCH	VENUE
TBC	Winner SF 1 v Winner SF 2	TBC

FINAL TABLE	P	W	L	D	B	F	A	Diff	Pts
1. WAKEFIELD TRINITY	26	25	1	0	0	1010	262	748	50
2. TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE	26	18	7	1	0	782	384	398	37
3. BRADFORD BULLS	26	16	8	2	0	682	387	295	34
4. YORK KNIGHTS	26	15	11	0	0	655	473	182	30
5. WIDNES VIKINGS	26	14	11	1	0	551	475	76	29
6. FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	26	14	12	0	0	622	500	122	28
7. SHEFFIELD EAGLES	26	14	12	0	0	626	526	100	28
8. DONCASTER RLFC	26	12	13	1	0	498	619	-121	25
9. HALIFAX PANTHERS	26	11	15	0	0	509	650	-141	22
10. BATLEY BULLDOGS	26	11	15	0	0	422	591	-169	22
11. BARROW RAIDERS	26	9	16	1	0	458	758	-300	19
12. SWINTON LIONS	26	9	17	0	0	466	678	-212	18
13. WHITEHAVEN RLFC	26	8	16	2	0	451	854	-403	18
14. DEWSBURY RAMS	26	2	24	0	0	344	919	-575	4

MOST TRIES

Rank	Player	Team	P	T
1	Derrell Olpherts	Wakefield	25	23
2	Max Jowitt	Wakefield	25	22
3	Lachlan Walmsley	Wakefield	23	20
	Paul Ulberg	Toulouse	25	20
5	Connor Wynne	Featherstone	21	19
6	Joe Burton	Batley	26	18
7	Joe Brown	York	26	17
8	Matty Dawson-Jones	Sheffield	24	16
	Maxime Stefani	Toulouse	26	16
10	Ryan Ince	Widnes	19	15
	Jayden Hatton	Swinton	24	15

MOST GOALS

Rank	Player	Team	P	G	%
1	Max Jowitt	Wakefield	25	140 / 175	80%
2	Jordan Lilley	Bradford	26	100 / 133	75%
3	Cory Aston	Sheffield	25	88 / 111	79%
4	Jake Shorrocks	Toulouse	20	81 / 98	83%
	Tom Gilmore	Widnes	26	81 / 110	74%
6	Louis Jouffret	Halifax	26	66 / 89	74%
7	Connor Robinson	Doncaster	24	65 / 90	72%
8	Ryan Shaw	Barrow	22	55 / 72	76%
9	Josh Woods	Batley	23	54 / 72	75%
10	Ben Reynolds	Featherstone	12	46 / 49	94%
10	Jake Carter	Whitehaven	21	46 / 58	79%

MOST POINTS

Rank	Player	Team	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	Max Jowitt	Wakefield	25	22	140	-	368
2	Jordan Lilley	Bradford	26	4	100	4	220
3	Cory Aston	Sheffield	25	4	88	-	192
4	Tom Gilmore	Widnes	26	5	81	5	187
5	Jake Shorrocks	Toulouse	20	3	81	-	174
6	Louis Jouffret	Halifax	26	8	66	-	164
7	Connor Robinson	Doncaster	24	5	65	1	151
8	Ryan Shaw	Barrow	22	7	55	-	138
9	Ben Reynolds	Featherstone	12	7	46	-	120
10	Josh Woods	Batley	23	1	54	3	115

NRL 2024 FIXTURES

Click here for updated results throughout the season!

ROUND 1

MAR 3RD	Sun 6:30pm	MANLY	SOUTHS	36 - 24	Allegiant	40,746
MAR 3RD	Sun 8:30pm	SYDNEY	BRISBANE	20 - 10	Allegiant	40,746
MAR 7TH	Thu 8:00pm	NEWCASTLE	CANBERRA	12 - 28	McDonald Jones	22,378
MAR 8TH	Fri 8:00pm	WARRIORS	CRONULLA	12 - 16	Go Media Stadium	24,076
MAR 8TH	Fri 8:05pm	MELBOURNE	PENRITH	8 - 0	AAMI Park	20,169
MAR 9TH	Sat 5:30pm	PARRAMATTA	CANTERBURY	26 - 8	CommBank	29,171
MAR 9TH	Sat 6:35pm	GOLD COAST	ST GEO ILLA	4 - 28	Cbus Super	14,537
MAR 10TH	Sun 3:05pm	DOLPHINS	NORTH QLD	18 - 43	Suncorp Stadium	23,477

BYE: WESTS TIGERS

ROUND 2

MAR 14TH	Thu 7:00pm	BRISBANE	SOUTHS	28 - 18	Suncorp Stadium	35,507
MAR 15TH	Fri 6:00pm	CRONULLA	CANTERBURY	25 - 6	Pointsbet Stadium	12,928
MAR 15TH	Fri 8:05pm	PENRITH	PARRAMATTA	26 - 18	Bluebet Stadium	21,522
MAR 16TH	Sat 3:00pm	CANBERRA	WESTS TIGERS	32 - 12	GIO Stadium Canb.	16,968
MAR 16TH	Sat 4:30pm	NORTH QLD	NEWCASTLE	21 - 20	QLD Country Bank	18,986
MAR 16TH	Sat 7:35pm	MELBOURNE	WARRIORS	30 - 26	AAMI Park	21,927
MAR 17TH	Sun 4:05pm	MANLY	SYDNEY	21 - 14	4 Pines Park	17,284
MAR 17TH	Sun 5:15pm	DOLPHINS	ST GEO ILLA	38 - 0	Kayo Stadium	10,011

BYE: GOLD COAST

ROUND 3

MULTICULTURAL ROUND

MAR 21ST	Thu 8:00pm	PENRITH	BRISBANE	34 - 12	Bluebet Stadium	20,089
MAR 22ND	Fri 8:00pm	WARRIORS	CANBERRA	18 - 10	Apollo Projects	17,249
MAR 22ND	Fri 8:05pm	SYDNEY	SOUTHS	48 - 6	Allianz Stadium	37,594
MAR 23RD	Sat 3:00pm	CANTERBURY	GOLD COAST	32 - 0	Belmore	12,037
MAR 23RD	Sat 5:30pm	ST GEO ILLA	NORTH QLD	24 - 46	Netstrata Jubilee	9,252
MAR 23RD	Sat 7:35pm	WESTS TIGERS	CRONULLA	32 - 6	Leichhardt Oval	15,990
MAR 24TH	Sun 4:05pm	PARRAMATTA	MANLY	28 - 24	CommBank	20,354
MAR 24TH	Sun 6:15pm	NEWCASTLE	MELBOURNE	14 - 12	McDonald Jones	21,889

BYE: DOLPHINS

ROUND 4

EASTER

MAR 28TH	Thu 8:00pm	SYDNEY	PENRITH	16 - 22	Allianz Stadium	25,898
MAR 29TH	Fri 4:05pm	SOUTHS	CANTERBURY	20 - 16	Accor Stadium	35,275
MAR 29TH	Fri 7:05pm	BRISBANE	NORTH QLD	38 - 12	Suncorp Stadium	45,793
MAR 30TH	Sat 5:30pm	ST GEO ILLA	MANLY	20 - 12	WIN Stadium	16,215
MAR 30TH	Sat 6:35pm	GOLD COAST	DOLPHINS	14 - 30	Cbus Super	13,898
MAR 31ST	Sun 6:05pm	WARRIORS	NEWCASTLE	20 - 12	Go Media Stadium	24,112
MAR 31ST	Sun 6:15pm	CRONULLA	CANBERRA	36 - 22	Pointsbet Stadium	12,692
APR 1ST	Mon 4pm	PARRAMATTA	WESTS TIGERS	16 - 17	CommBank	28,608

BYE: MELBOURNE

ROUND 5

APR 4TH	Thu 8:00pm	MELBOURNE	BRISBANE	34 - 32	AAMI Park	20,698
APR 5TH	Fri 6:00pm	CANTERBURY	SYDNEY	30 - 26	Accor Stadium	7,169
APR 5TH	Fri 8:05pm	NEWCASTLE	ST GEO ILLA	30 - 10	McDonald Jones	9,448
APR 6TH	Sat 3:00pm	SOUTHS	WARRIORS	4 - 34	Accor Stadium	13,181
APR 6TH	Sat 5:30pm	MANLY	PENRITH	32 - 18	4 Pines Park	17,381
APR 6TH	Sat 6:35pm	DOLPHINS	WESTS TIGERS	26 - 16	Suncorp Stadium	22,051
APR 7TH	Sun 4:05pm	NORTH QLD	GOLD COAST	35 - 22	QLD Country Bank	18,870
APR 7TH	Sun 6:15pm	CANBERRA	PARRAMATTA	41 - 8	GIO Stadium Canb.	13,907

BYE: CRONULLA

ROUND 6

APR 11TH	Thu 7:50pm	NEWCASTLE	SYDNEY	20 - 22	McDonald Jones	21,940
APR 12TH	Fri 6:00pm	MELBOURNE	CANTERBURY	16 - 14	AAMI Park	16,065
APR 12TH	Fri 8:00pm	BRISBANE	DOLPHINS	28 - 14	Suncorp Stadium	46,224
APR 13TH	Sat 5:00pm	WARRIORS	MANLY	22 - 22	Go Media Stadium	23,076
APR 13TH	Sat 5:30pm	PARRAMATTA	NORTH QLD	27 - 20	CommBank	14,433
APR 13TH	Sat 7:35pm	SOUTHS	CRONULLA	22 - 34	Accor Stadium	12,207
APR 14TH	Sun 4:05pm	WESTS TIGERS	ST GEO ILLA	12 - 24	Campbelltown	17,141
APR 14TH	Sun 6:15pm	CANBERRA	GOLD COAST	21 - 20	GIO Stadium Canb.	11,738

BYE: PENRITH

ROUND 7

APR 18TH	Thu 7:50pm	SYDNEY	MELBOURNE	12 - 18	Allianz Stadium	17,714
APR 19TH	Fri 6:00pm	ST GEO ILLA	WARRIORS	30 - 12	WIN Stadium	13,111
APR 19TH	Fri 7:30pm	PARRAMATTA	DOLPHINS	16 - 44	TIO (Darwin)	11,094
APR 20TH	Sat 3:00pm	PENRITH	WESTS TIGERS	22 - 6	Carrington	12,000
APR 20TH	Sat 5:30pm	GOLD COAST	MANLY	30 - 34	Cbus Super	13,336
APR 20TH	Sat 7:35pm	BRISBANE	CANBERRA	34 - 10	Suncorp Stadium	37,286
APR 21ST	Sun 2:00pm	CANTERBURY	NEWCASTLE	36 - 12	Accor Stadium	17,784
APR 21ST	Sun 4:05pm	CRONULLA	NORTH QLD	42 - 6	Pointsbet Stadium	12,415

BYE: SOUTHS

ROUND 8

ANZAC ROUND

APR 25TH	Thu 4:00pm	WARRIORS	GOLD COAST	24 - 27	Go Media Stadium	23,912
APR 25TH	Thu 4:00pm	ST GEO ILLA	SYDNEY	18 - 60	Allianz Stadium	40,727
APR 25TH	Thu 7:50pm	MELBOURNE	SOUTHS	54 - 20	AAMI Park	25,149
APR 26TH	Fri 8:00pm	MANLY	PARRAMATTA	32 - 18	4 Pines Park	17,385
APR 27TH	Sat 5:30pm	WESTS TIGERS	BRISBANE	10 - 34	Campbelltown	17,351
APR 27TH	Sat 7:35pm	NORTH QLD	PENRITH	20 - 26	QLD Country Bank	20,960
APR 28TH	Sun 2:00pm	DOLPHINS	NEWCASTLE	14 - 18	Suncorp Stadium	18,033
APR 28TH	Sun 4:05pm	CANBERRA	CRONULLA	0 - 40	GIO Stadium Canb.	15,820

BYE: CANTERBURY

ROUND 9

MAY 2ND	Thu 7:50pm	SOUTHS	PENRITH	12 - 42	Accor Stadium	8,155
MAY 3RD	Fri 6:00pm	MANLY	CANBERRA	24 - 26	4 Pines Park	10,215
MAY 3RD	Fri 8:00pm	BRISBANE	SYDNEY	18 - 40	Suncorp Stadium	40,190
MAY 4TH	Sat 3:00pm	CANTERBURY	WESTS TIGERS	22 - 14	Accor Stadium	17,068
MAY 4TH	Sat 5:30pm	GOLD COAST	MELBOURNE	20 - 22	Cbus Super	13,096
MAY 4TH	Sat 7:35pm	NORTH QLD	DOLPHINS	26 - 28	QLD Country Bank	20,967
MAY 5TH	Sun 2:00pm	NEWCASTLE	WARRIORS	14 - 8	McDonald Jones	16,094
MAY 5TH	Sun 4:05pm	CRONULLA	ST GEO ILLA	20 - 10	Pointsbet Stadium	9,731

BYE: PARRAMATTA

ROUND 10

MAY 9TH	Thu 7:50pm	DOLPHINS	MANLY	30 - 24	Suncorp Stadium	14,059
MAY 10TH	Fri 6:00pm	PENRITH	CANTERBURY	16 - 10	Bluebet Stadium	21,525
MAY 10TH	Fri 8:00pm	PARRAMATTA	BRISBANE	14 - 30	CommBank	17,393
MAY 11TH	Sat 3:00pm	WESTS TIGERS	NEWCASTLE	14 - 20	Scully	10,107
MAY 11TH	Sat 5:30pm	ST GEO ILLA	SOUTHS	28 - 14	Netstrata Jubilee	7,517
MAY 11TH	Sat 7:35pm	MELBOURNE	CRONULLA	18 - 25	AAMI Park	18,670
MAY 12TH	Sun 2:00pm	SYDNEY	WARRIORS	38 - 18	Allianz Stadium	16,517
MAY 12TH	Sun 4:05pm	GOLD COAST	NORTH QLD	20 - 18	Cbus Super	12,125

BYE: CANBERRA

WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN I - BRISBANE - THURSDAY 16 MAY: NSW won 22-12 at Suncorp Stadium (25,472)

ROUND 11

MAGIC ROUND

MAY 17TH	Fri 6:00pm	CANBERRA	CANTERBURY	24 - 20	Suncorp Stadium	DAY 1
MAY 17TH	Fri 8:05pm	MANLY	BRISBANE	12 - 13	Suncorp Stadium	50,971
MAY 18TH	Sat 3:00pm	GOLD COAST	NEWCASTLE	24 - 28	Suncorp Stadium	DAY 2
MAY 18TH	Sat 5:30pm	CRONULLA	SYDNEY	38 - 30	Suncorp Stadium	50,708
MAY 18TH	Sat 7:45pm	SOUTHS	NORTH QLD	22 - 28	Suncorp Stadium	DAY 3
MAY 19TH	Sun 1:50pm	WARRIORS	PENRITH	22 - 20	Suncorp Stadium	47,517
MAY 19TH	Sun 4:05pm	MELBOURNE	PARRAMATTA	48 - 16	Suncorp Stadium	DAY 3
MAY 19TH	Sun 6:25pm	WESTS TIGERS	DOLPHINS	12 - 24	Suncorp Stadium	47,517

BYE: ST GEO ILLA

ROUND 12

INDIGENOUS ROUND

MAY 23RD	Thu 7:50pm	CANTERBURY	ST GEO ILLA	44 - 12	Accor Stadium	15,442
MAY 24TH	Fri 6:00pm	NORTH QLD	WESTS TIGERS	42 - 28	QLD Country Bank	15,957
MAY 24TH	Fri 8:00pm	MANLY	MELBOURNE	26 - 20	4 Pines Park	17,211
MAY 25TH	Sat 3:00pm	CANBERRA	SYDNEY	16 - 44	GIO Stadium Canb.	18,049
MAY 25TH	Sat 5:30pm	CRONULLA	PENRITH	0 - 42	Pointsbet Stadium	13,500
MAY 25TH	Sat 7:35pm	SOUTHS	PARRAMATTA	42 - 26	Accor Stadium	15,202
MAY 26TH	Sun 2:00pm	BRISBANE	GOLD COAST	34 - 36	Suncorp Stadium	42,221
MAY 26TH	Sun 6:05pm	WARRIORS	DOLPHINS	24 - 20	Go Media Stadium	23,116

BYE: NEWCASTLE

ROUND 13

MAY 30TH	Thu 7:50pm	PARRAMATTA	CRONULLA	34 - 22	CommBank	11,665
MAY 31ST	Fri 8:00pm	NEWCASTLE	CANTERBURY	2 - 32	McDonald Jones	21,204
JUN 1ST	Sat 5:30pm	PENRITH	ST GEO ILLA	10 - 22	Bluebet Stadium	12,025
JUN 1ST	Sat 7:35pm	DOLPHINS	CANBERRA	25 - 26	Kayo Stadium	10,024
JUN 2ND	Sun 4:05pm	SYDNEY	NORTH QLD	16 - 18	Allianz Stadium	13,811

BYE: WARRIORS, BRISBANE, GOLD COAST, MELBOURNE, MANLY, SOUTHS, WESTS TIGERS

STATE OF ORIGIN I - SYDNEY - WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE QLD won 38-10 at Accor Stadium (77,214)

WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN II - NEWCASTLE - THURSDAY 6 JUNE QLD won 11-10 at McDonald Jones Stadium (25,872)

ROUND 14

JUN 7TH	Fri 8:00pm	ST GEO ILLA	WESTS TIGERS	56 - 14	WIN Stadium	9,969
JUN 8TH	Sat 3:00pm	GOLD COAST	SOUTHS	12 - 46	Cbus Super	14,434
JUN 8TH	Sat 5:30pm	NORTH QLD	WARRIORS	12 - 22	QLD Country Bank	19,623
JUN 8TH	Sat 7:35pm	BRISBANE	CRONULLA	36 - 28	Suncorp Stadium	41,004
JUN 9TH	Sun 2:00pm	MELBOURNE	NEWCASTLE	36 - 28	AAMI Park	20,269
JUN 9TH	Sun 4:05pm	PENRITH	MANLY	32 - 22	Bluebet Stadium	20,101
JUN 10TH	Mon 4pm	CANTERBURY	PARRAMATTA	22 - 18	Accor Stadium	45,496

BYE: DOLPHINS, SYDNEY, CANBERRA

All times are local to the venue in which the match is played.

ROUND 15		BEANIES FOR BRAIN CANCER ROUND				
JUN 13TH	Thu 7:50pm	CRONULLA	DOLPHINS	28 - 30	Pointsbet Stadium	8,035
JUN 14TH	Fri 6:00pm	CANBERRA	NORTH QLD	16 - 34	GIO Stadium Canb.	9,671
JUN 14TH	Fri 8:00pm	SOUTHS	BRISBANE	22 - 12	Accor Stadium	12,207
JUN 15TH	Sat 3:00pm	WESTS TIGERS	GOLD COAST	18 - 10	Leichhardt Oval	8,147
JUN 15TH	Sat 7:30pm	WARRIORS	MELBOURNE	24 - 38	Go Media Stadium	24,495
JUN 15TH	Sat 7:35pm	PARRAMATTA	SYDNEY	18 - 28	CommBank	20,072
JUN 16TH	Sun 2:00pm	MANLY	ST GEO ILLA	30 - 14	4 Pines Park	17,187
JUN 16TH	Sun 4:05pm	NEWCASTLE	PENRITH	18 - 26	McDonald Jones	27,966

BYE: CANTERBURY

ROUND 16						
JUN 21ST	Fri 8:00pm	DOLPHINS	MELBOURNE	24 - 30	Suncorp Stadium	25,167
JUN 22ND	Sat 3:00pm	GOLD COAST	WARRIORS	66 - 6	Cbus Super	22,702
JUN 22ND	Sat 5:30pm	SYDNEY	CANTERBURY	26 - 8	Industree	16,868
JUN 22ND	Sat 7:35pm	SOUTHS	MANLY	14 - 0	Accor Stadium	10,576
JUN 23RD	Sun 4:05pm	WESTS TIGERS	CANBERRA	48 - 24	Campbelltown	10,106

BYE: NORTH QLD, PARRAMATTA, CRONULLA, BRISBANE, ST GEO ILLA, PENRITH, NEWCASTLE

STATE OF ORIGIN II - MELBOURNE - WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE: NSW won 38-18 at the MCG (90,084)

WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN III - TOWNSVILLE - THURSDAY 27 JUNE: QLD won 22-6 at QLD Country Bank (22,819)

ROUND 17						
JUN 28TH	Fri 8:00pm	CANTERBURY	CRONULLA	15 - 14	Accor Stadium	15,765
JUN 29TH	Sat 5:00pm	WARRIORS	BRISBANE	32 - 16	Go Media Stadium	22,711
JUN 29TH	Sat 5:30pm	NEWCASTLE	PARRAMATTA	34 - 26	McDonald Jones	27,424
JUN 29TH	Sat 7:35pm	MELBOURNE	CANBERRA	16 - 6	AAMI Park	14,127
JUN 30TH	Sun 2:00pm	ST GEO ILLA	DOLPHINS	26 - 6	Netstrata Jubilee	8,052
JUN 30TH	Sun 4:05pm	PENRITH	NORTH QLD	6 - 16	Bluebet Stadium	15,777
JUN 30TH	Sun 6:15pm	SYDNEY	WESTS TIGERS	40 - 6	Allianz Stadium	14,711

BYE: GOLD COAST, MANLY, SOUTHS

ROUND 18						
JUL 4TH	Thu 7:50pm	PARRAMATTA	SOUTHS	16 - 32	CommBank	13,941
JUL 5TH	Fri 6:00pm	CRONULLA	GOLD COAST	16 - 20	C.ex Coffs	8,673
JUL 5TH	Fri 8:00pm	BRISBANE	PENRITH	6 - 14	Suncorp Stadium	42,433
JUL 6TH	Sat 3:00pm	CANTERBURY	WARRIORS	13 - 12	Accor Stadium	27,223
JUL 6TH	Sat 5:30pm	WESTS TIGERS	MELBOURNE	28 - 40	Leichhardt Oval	10,311
JUL 6TH	Sat 7:35pm	NORTH QLD	MANLY	20 - 21	QLD Country Bank	18,787
JUL 7TH	Sun 2:00pm	SYDNEY	ST GEO ILLA	42 - 12	Allianz Stadium	23,388
JUL 7TH	Sun 4:05pm	CANBERRA	NEWCASTLE	12 - 16	GIO Stadium Canb.	12,553

BYE: DOLPHINS

ROUND 19						
JUL 11TH	Thu 7:50pm	DOLPHINS	SOUTHS	36 - 28	Kayo Stadium	10,023
JUL 12TH	Fri 8:00pm	CRONULLA	WESTS TIGERS	58 - 6	Pointsbet Stadium	10,912
JUL 13TH	Sat 5:30pm	GOLD COAST	PARRAMATTA	24 - 16	Cbus Super	16,670
JUL 13TH	Sat 7:35pm	BRISBANE	ST GEO ILLA	26 - 30	Suncorp Stadium	34,224
JUL 14TH	Sun 4:05pm	MANLY	NEWCASTLE	44 - 6	4 Pines Park	17,298

BYE: NORTH QLD, CANTERBURY, WARRIORS, SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, PENRITH, CANBERRA

STATE OF ORIGIN III - BRISBANE - WEDNESDAY 17 JULY: NSW WON 14-4 AT SUNCORP (52,457)

ROUND 20						
JUL 19TH	Fri 8:00pm	CANBERRA	WARRIORS	20 - 18	GIO Stadium Canb.	8,509
JUL 20TH	Sat 3:00pm	SOUTHS	WESTS TIGERS	42 - 28	Industree	16,284
JUL 20TH	Sat 5:30pm	NEWCASTLE	BRISBANE	14 - 30	McDonald Jones	26,952
JUL 20TH	Sat 7:35pm	MELBOURNE	SYDNEY	24 - 8	AAMI Park	17,055
JUL 21ST	Sun 2:00pm	PENRITH	DOLPHINS	28 - 26	Bluebet Stadium	20,955
JUL 21ST	Sun 4:05pm	MANLY	GOLD COAST	38 - 8	4 Pines Park	16,050
JUL 21ST	Sun 6:15pm	NORTH QLD	CANTERBURY	20 - 18	QLD Country Bank	16,376

BYE: PARRAMATTA, CRONULLA, ST GEO ILLA

ROUND 21		NRLW KICKOFF WEKEEND				
JUL 26TH	Fri 8:00pm	WARRIORS	WESTS TIGERS	28 - 16	Go Media Stadium	23,976
JUL 26TH	Fri 8:00pm	PARRAMATTA	MELBOURNE	14 - 32	CommBank	11,082
JUL 27TH	Sat 3:00pm	BRISBANE	CANTERBURY	16 - 41	Suncorp Stadium	42,213
JUL 27TH	Sat 5:30pm	NORTH QLD	CRONULLA	30 - 22	QLD Country Bank	17,907
JUL 27TH	Sat 7:35pm	SYDNEY	MANLY	34 - 30	Allianz Stadium	25,155
JUL 28TH	Sun 2:00pm	ST GEO ILLA	PENRITH	10 - 46	WIN Stadium	18,988
JUL 28TH	Sun 4:05pm	DOLPHINS	GOLD COAST	14 - 21	Suncorp Stadium	19,533
JUL 28TH	Sun 6:15pm	CANBERRA	SOUTHS	32 - 12	GIO Stadium Canb.	12,114

BYE: NEWCASTLE

ROUND 22						
AUG 1ST	Thu 7:50pm	WESTS TIGERS	NORTH QLD	30 - 48	Leichhardt Oval	7,231
AUG 2ND	Fri 8:00pm	WARRIORS	PARRAMATTA	20 - 30	Go Media Stadium	23,812
AUG 2ND	Fri 6:00pm	DOLPHINS	SYDNEY	34 - 40	HBF	20,027
AUG 3RD	Sat 3:00pm	GOLD COAST	BRISBANE	46 - 18	Cbus Super	25,278
AUG 3RD	Sat 5:30pm	MELBOURNE	ST GEO ILLA	16 - 18	AAMI Park	18,103
AUG 3RD	Sat 7:35pm	CRONULLA	SOUTHS	20 - 6	Pointsbet Stadium	12,763
AUG 4TH	Sun 2:00pm	PENRITH	NEWCASTLE	22 - 14	Bluebet Stadium	20,261
AUG 4TH	Sun 4:05pm	CANTERBURY	CANBERRA	22 - 18	Belmore	18,110

BYE: MANLY

ROUND 23						
AUG 8TH	Thu 7:50pm	SOUTHS	MELBOURNE	16 - 28	Accor Stadium	8,973
AUG 9TH	Fri 6:00pm	GOLD COAST	CRONULLA	0 - 44	Cbus Super	13,287
AUG 9TH	Fri 8:00pm	PARRAMATTA	PENRITH	34 - 36	CommBank	18,852
AUG 10TH	Sat 3:00pm	CANBERRA	MANLY	24 - 46	GIO Stadium Canb.	16,690
AUG 10TH	Sat 5:30pm	NORTH QLD	BRISBANE	18 - 42	QLD Country Bank	24,230
AUG 10TH	Sat 7:35pm	ST GEO ILLA	CANTERBURY	10 - 28	Netstrata Jubilee	18,416
AUG 11TH	Sun 2:00pm	DOLPHINS	WARRIORS	34 - 32	Suncorp Stadium	28,056
AUG 11TH	Sun 4:05pm	NEWCASTLE	WESTS TIGERS	34 - 18	McDonald Jones	22,183

BYE: SYDNEY

ROUND 24						
AUG 15TH	Thu 7:50pm	PENRITH	MELBOURNE	22 - 24	Bluebet Stadium	20,516
AUG 16TH	Fri 6:00pm	MANLY	WARRIORS	24 - 10	4 Pines Park	17,333
AUG 16TH	Fri 8:00pm	SYDNEY	PARRAMATTA	38 - 14	Allianz Stadium	20,724
AUG 17TH	Sat 3:00pm	CANTERBURY	DOLPHINS	30 - 10	Salter	6,146
AUG 17TH	Sat 5:30pm	NORTH QLD	CANBERRA	42 - 4	QLD Country Bank	17,920
AUG 17TH	Sat 7:35pm	WESTS TIGERS	SOUTHS	18 - 16	Campbelltown	11,420
AUG 18TH	Sun 2:00pm	ST GEO ILLA	GOLD COAST	32 - 16	WIN Stadium	9,240
AUG 18TH	Sun 4:05pm	CRONULLA	NEWCASTLE	19 - 18	Pointsbet Stadium	11,503

BYE: BRISBANE

ROUND 25						
AUG 22ND	Thu 7:50pm	WESTS TIGERS	MANLY	34 - 26	Leichhardt Oval	11,520
AUG 23RD	Fri 8:00pm	WARRIORS	CANTERBURY	18 - 34	Shaun Johnson Stad.	24,295
AUG 23RD	Fri 8:00pm	BRISBANE	PARRAMATTA	30 - 24	Suncorp Stadium	36,289
AUG 24TH	Sat 3:00pm	CANBERRA	PENRITH	22 - 18	GIO Stadium Canb.	17,523
AUG 24TH	Sat 5:30pm	MELBOURNE	DOLPHINS	48 - 6	AAMI Park	26,106
AUG 24TH	Sat 7:35pm	SOUTHS	NEWCASTLE	16 - 36	Accor Stadium	9,659
AUG 25TH	Sun 2:00pm	GOLD COAST	SYDNEY	22 - 48	Cbus Super	19,286
AUG 25TH	Sun 4:05pm	ST GEO ILLA	CRONULLA	10 - 38	WIN Stadium	17,754

BYE: NORTH QLD

ROUND 26						
AUG 29TH	Thu 7:50pm	NORTH QLD	MELBOURNE	38 - 30	QLD Country Bank	20,787
AUG 30TH	Fri 6:00pm	CANTERBURY	MANLY	22 - 34	Accor Stadium	35,502
AUG 30TH	Fri 8:00pm	PENRITH	SOUTHS	34 - 12	Bluebet Stadium	20,176
AUG 31ST	Sat 3:00pm	PARRAMATTA	ST GEO ILLA	44 - 40	CommBank	21,623
AUG 31ST	Sat 5:30pm	DOLPHINS	BRISBANE	40 - 6	Suncorp Stadium	50,049
AUG 31ST	Sat 7:35pm	WARRIORS	CRONULLA	28 - 30	Pointsbet Stadium	12,637
SEP 1ST	Sun 2:00pm	NEWCASTLE	GOLD COAST	36 - 14	McDonald Jones	24,712
SEP 1ST	Sun 4:05pm	SYDNEY	CANBERRA	12 - 14	Allianz Stadium	27,239

BYE: WESTS TIGERS

ROUND 27						
SEP 5TH	Thu 7:50pm	BRISBANE	MELBOURNE	12 - 50	Suncorp Stadium	35,086
SEP 6TH	Fri 6:00pm	WESTS TIGERS	PARRAMATTA	26 - 60	Campbelltown	17,311
SEP 6TH	Fri 8:00pm	SOUTHS	SYDNEY	28 - 36	Accor Stadium	19,576
SEP 7TH	Sat 3:00pm	ST GEO ILLA	CANBERRA	24 - 26	Netstrata Jubilee	11,189
SEP 7TH	Sat 5:30pm	CANTERBURY	NORTH QLD	6 - 44	Accor Stadium	32,437
SEP 7TH	Sat 7:35pm	PENRITH	GOLD COAST	18 - 12	Penrith Park	21,525
SEP 8TH	Sun 2:00pm	MANLY	CRONULLA	20 - 40	4 Pines Park	17,384
SEP 8TH	Sun 4:05pm	NEWCASTLE	DOLPHINS	14 - 6	McDonald Jones	29,433

BYE: WARRIORS

FINALS WEEK 1 - SEP 13-15						
QF 2	Fri 7:50pm	PENRITH (2)	SYDNEY (3)	30 - 10	Bluebet Stadium	21,483
QF 1	Sat 4:05pm	MELBOURNE (1)	CRONULLA (4)	37 - 10	AAMI Park	26,326
EF 1	Sat 7:50pm	NORTH QLD (5)	NEWCASTLE (8)	28 - 16	QLD Country Bank	24,861
EF 2	Sun 4:05pm	CANTERBURY (6)	MANLY (7)	22 - 24	Accor Stadium	50,714

FINALS WEEK 2 - SEP 20-21						
SF 1	Fri 7:50pm	CRONULLA	NORTH QLD	26 - 18	Allianz Stadium	19,124
SF 2	Sat 7:50pm	SYDNEY	MANLY	40 - 16	Allianz Stadium	40,818

FINALS WEEK 3 - SEP 27-28						
PF 1	Fri 7:50pm	MELBOURNE	SYDNEY	48 - 18	AAMI Park	29,213
PF 2	Sat 7:50pm	PENRITH	CRONULLA	26 - 6	Accor Stadium	33,753

2024 NRL GRAND FINAL - OCT 6

GF	Sun 7:30pm	MELBOURNE	PENRITH	Accor Stadium
----	------------	-----------	---------	---------------

Any information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and is subject to change without notice owing to the operations of the relevant governing bodies for each competition. We recommend confirming any information with such governing bodies where in doubt.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION
@LEAGUEUNLIMITED



THE FRONT ROW FORUMS

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST RUGBY
LEAGUE DISCUSSION BOARDS

forums.leagueunlimited.com

THERE IS NO OFF-SEASON