

# THE FRONT ROW



LEAGUE  
UNLIMITED

2022 NRL PRELIMINARY FINALS  
2022 NRLW SEMI FINALS

VOLUME 3 · ISSUE 31



## STATE CUPS RUNNETH OVER

IT'S GRAND FINAL WEEKEND IN NSWRL *and* QRL!



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# IN THE MAG

WHAT'S INSIDE

THE FRONT ROW VOLUME 3 ISSUE 31

THE EDITOR'S WORD	3
NSW CUP GRAND FINAL PREVIEW	4
NSWRL GRAND FINAL TEAMLISTS & RESULTS	5
QRL GRAND FINAL TEAMLISTS & RESULTS	6
QLD CUP GRAND FINAL PREVIEW	7
UK WATCH	8
PM XIII v PNG	9
NRL FINALS WEEK 2 WRAP	10
THE BIG PICTURE	11
RLWC 2021 SQUADS	11
NRL PROGRAMME: PRELIMINARY FINALS	12-17
LU'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS	13
FRIDAY PF: NORTH QUEENSLAND v PARRAMATTA	14-15
SATURDAY PF: PENRITH v SOUTH SYDNEY	16-17
NRLW PROGRAMME: SEMI FINALS	18-23
FINAL LADDER & STATS LEADERS	18
ROUND 5 WRAP	19
SUNDAY SF: NEWCASTLE v ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA	20-21
SF: SYDNEY v PARRAMATTA	22-23
2022 NRLW DRAW	24
NRL 2022 DRAW	25

# THE EDITOR'S WORD

WELCOME

Spots are on the line for the NRL's biggest day this weekend!

In the NRL, the Panthers and Rabbitohs clash to decide who gets another consecutive Grand Final berth, while the Cowboys and Eels clash in the other exciting preliminary final.

The NRLW sees the reigning champs the Roosters face fourth-placed Parramatta for one berth, the other contest pitting Newcastle against St George Illawarra.

Grand Final Day in two states - on Saturday the QRL deciders are on at Redcliffe, with the Dolphins and Devils in the Hostplus Cup decider; Sunday's NSWRL triple header headlines by the Panthers-Bulldogs KOE NSW Cup big dance. The two cup winners will journey to Accor Stadium on October 2 themselves to play off for the NRL State Championship.

Throw in the Prime Minister's XIII double header after Sunday's NRLW semi finals, and it's one exciting weekend of footy. Enjoy it. Happy reading.

## THE FRONT ROW

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**LEAGUE  
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# NSW CUP GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

ROBERT CROSBY

## The house Gus built v the one he's building

The next generation of first grade stars will be showcased on Sunday afternoon as the Penrith Panthers and Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs face off in the Knock-On Effect Cup Grand Final.

Coming together for the first reserve grade decider contested since 2019, both sides can credit the influence of rugby league icon Phil Gould for prioritising junior development pathways during his time at both clubs, resulting in 23 of the players selected boasting first grade experience.

Finishing the home-and-away season in second position one point shy of the minor premiership, the Penrith Panthers secured their place in the decider with an inspiring victory over North Sydney (22-14) before downing minor premiers Newtown (28-18) to earn passage straight through to the Grand Final.

Fielding a side comprised largely of Jersey Flegg players in the win over North Sydney due to most of the NRL side being resting during the final round of the regular season, coach Peter Wallace has been able to name 13 men with first grade experience, with Isaiah Longi, Preston Riki, John Faiumu, Alec Susino and Luke Sommerton the only members of the side yet to feature in the top grade.

Winning both matches against the Bulldogs in Round 5 (30-16) and Round 17 (22-12) during the season, the Panthers last triumphed in the NSW reserve grade competition in 2017 with a team featuring 15 players who would go on to play first grade.

Earning their way through to the final match of the season off the back of three do-or-die contests in succession, the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs have come from fourth with wins over Parramatta (18-6), North Sydney (22-10) and Newtown (28-26).

Benefitting from a host of players making their first grade debuts in 2022, coach David Tangata-Toa will be able to draw upon 10 players with first grade experience, along with highly rated teenager Paul Alamoti, who earned selection in the NSW Under 19s clash earlier this year.



Last tasting the spoils of a reserve grade premiership in 2018, the Bulldogs previously defeated the Windsor Wolves, a feeder team for the Panthers, in the 2010 NSW Cup decider, a match which saw future first-grader Josh Reynolds produce a starring performance.

**Last Meeting:** Round 17, 2022 - Penrith Panthers 22 Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 12

**Who to watch:** At most clubs in the league, Penrith lock forward J'maine Hopgood would be a fixture in first grade. Coming through the ranks alongside the likes of Matt Burton, Charlie Staines and Daine Laurie, the 23-year-old Queenslanders has been left to hone his trade in reserve grade due to the depth of talent within the ranks of the reigning NRL premiers. Making the move to Parramatta next season in a bid to get more game time, Hopgood will be determined to end his time at the foot of the mountains on a winning note by hoisting the Knock On Effect Cup aloft at the end of 80 minutes.

Facing an uncertain future as one of several players off-contract at season's end, playmaker Brandon Wakeham will be looking to secure his future with a starring performance on Sunday afternoon. Making 25 appearances in first grade over the past four seasons, primarily as a half and interchange utility, the 23-year-old has performed admirably in the lower grades with 14 try-assists and 11 line-break assists this season. Set to play a prominent role with Fiji at the World Cup next month, Wakeham's experience should prove decisive as the Bulldogs chase their first reserve grade title since 2018.

**The favourite:** Coming into the final match of the season, the Panthers are heavily favoured to claim the reserve grade title for the first time in five years.

**My tip:** Even with players on stand-by for the first grade team, the experience filtered throughout the Panthers ranks should be too much for the Bulldogs to overcome.

**Panthers by 12.**

*The winner of the Knock-On Effect Cup will face the winner of the Hostplus Cup in the State Championship to be played as a curtain raiser on NRL Grand Final day next Sunday.*

# NSWRL GRAND FINAL DAY

**PLEASE NOTE:** Teamlists are subject to change, along with match details. Visit [nswrl.com.au](http://nswrl.com.au) for more information and to follow along on match day.

## KNOCK-ON EFFECT NSW CUP 2022 GRAND FINAL

Sunday 25 September 2022, 3:10pm (NSWRL TV)

COMMBANK STADIUM, PARRAMATTA / BURRAMATTAGAL

Referee: Darian FURNER; Sideline Officials: Liam NICHOLLS, Nick BEASHEL;  
In-goal Judges: Paul EDEN, Thomas CAMBOURN; Video Referee: Matt NOYEN

## PENRITH PANTHERS

## CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

Isaiah IONGI	1	1	Creedence TOIA
Christian CRICHTON	2	2	Jayden OKUNBOR
Robert JENNINGS	3	3	Paul ALAMOTI
Jack COLE	4	4	Declan CASEY
Sunia TURUVA	5	5	Isaac LUMELUME
Kurt FALLS	6	6	Khaled RAJAB
Sean O'SULLIVAN	7	7	Brandon WAKEHAM
Lindsay SMITH	8	8	Jayden TANNER
Soni LUKE	9	9	Ryan GRAY
Matt EISENHUTH	10	10	Joshua STUCKEY
Preston RIKI	11	11	Reece HOFFMAN
Chris SMITH	12	12	Jackson TOPINE
J'maine HOPGOOD	13	13	Harrison EDWARDS
John FAIUMU	14	14	Bailey HAYWARD
Eddie BLACKER	15	15	Matt DOOREY
Liam HENRY	16	16	Kurtis MORRIN
Alec SUSINO	17	17	Phillip MAKATOA
Luke SOMMERTON	18	19	Brandon CLARKE
		20	Jeral SKELTON
		21	Joshua KALATI
		22	Lipoi HOPOI
Peter WALLACE	COACH	COACH	David TANGATA-TOA

### KOE NSW CUP PRELIMINARY FINAL RESULT

**Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (28)** Tries: Jayden Okunbor 2, Jayden Tanner, Declan Casey, Paul Alamoti; Goals: Brandon Wakeham 4 **def Newtown Jets (26)** Tries: Reubenn Rennie 2, Kayal Iro, Tom Rodwell, Jayden Berrell; Goals: Braydon Trindall 3 at **Leichhardt Oval**

## U21 JERSEY FLEGG CUP 2022 GRAND FINAL

Sunday 25 September 2022, 1:00pm (NSWRL TV)

COMMBANK STADIUM, PARRAMATTA / BURRAMATTAGAL

Referee: Kieren IRONS; Sideline Officials: Patrick MACKEY, Cameron MITCHELL; In-goal judges: Michael FORD, Louis MATHESON

## NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

## PENRITH PANTHERS

Fletcher SHARPE	1	1	Liam ISON
Luke PIETZNER	2	2	Cody LAWSON
Krystian MAPAPALANGI	3	3	Samuel LANE
Jamen JOHNSON	4	4	William FAKATOUMAFI
Ethan FERGUSON	5	5	Daeon AMITUANAI
Kurt DONOGHOE	6	6	Niwhai PURU
Mitch HENDERSON	7	7	Isaiya KATOA
Max BRADBURY	8	8	Mavrik GEYER
Riley JONES	9	9	Ryley SMITH
Callan BURGESS	10	10	Bradley FEARNLEY
Brock GREACEN	11	11	Ativalu LISATI
Thomas CANT	12	12	Sunita LOTOANIU
Jaron PURCELL	13	13	Hohepa PURU
Noah NAILAGOLIVA	14	14	Billy SCOTT
Paul BRYAN	15	15	Ilai TUIA
Lachlan WILLIAMS	16	16	John SAGAGA
Tevita TOLOI	17	17	Aston WARWICK
Lachlan O'BRIEN	18	18	Keagan RUSSELL-SMITH
Myles MARTIN	19	19	Jack GARROD
Jyris GLAMUZINA	20	20	Mason TEAGUE
Keanu WAINOHU-KEMP	21	21	Tyrecee TONGA
Harry CROKER	22		
Tony GLEESON	COACH	COACH	Jono ROLFE

### U21 JERSEY FLEGG CUP PRELIMINARY FINAL RESULT

**Penrith Panthers (27)** Tries: Cody Lawson, Daeon Amituanai, Liam Ison, Sunita Lotoaniu; Goals: Niwhai Puru 5; Field Goals: Isaiya Katoa 1 **def Sydney Roosters (22)** Tries: Corey Ross, Ethan King, Riley Meyn, Vaiala Tamati; Goals: Vaiala Tamati 3 at **Leichhardt Oval**

## PRESIDENTS CUP 2022 FINAL: MAITLAND PICKERS v HILLS BULLS

Sunday 25 September 2022, 11:00am // COMMBANK STADIUM, PARRAMATTA / BURRAMATTAGAL

Referee: Cameron PADDY; Sideline Officials: John WOODS, Rickey McFARLANE; In-goal Judges: Adam REID, Tom STINDL

# QLD CUP GRAND FINAL PREVIEW

LACHLAN MCINTYRE

It's all up for grabs as the Devils and the Dolphins fight for ultimate glory.

After 20 regular season rounds and three weeks of finals footy, a thrilling 2022 season of the Queensland Cup culminates in the grand final this Saturday. The Redcliffe Dolphins and the Norths Devils will battle it out to be crowned premiers on what will be an enthralling day of footy at Moreton Daily Stadium. Prior to the big dance kick-off at 3:15pm, the QRL will stage two U17s City vs Country games, and the final of their U21 Hastings Deerings Colts competition.

Last season, the Norths Devils won their first premiership in 20 years, defeating Wynnum Manly. Now, they'll get the chance to win back-to-back premierships, a rare opportunity in any sport. With their star coach Rohan Smith linking up with Leeds at the beginning of the year, Kevin Neighbour & Ben King stepped up to co-coach the side for the 2022 season, getting their team all the way to the grand final.

Despite sitting outside the top six with just a handful of rounds to go, the Devils rallied to finish fourth and give themselves a second chance card in the finals series. However, they didn't need it, pulling off a stunning one point victory over minor premiers Burleigh Bears in the first week of finals. It was a 79th minute successful conversion that proved the difference, and sent the Devils directly to the preliminary finals.

Last weekend, Norths travelled down to Brisbane to meet the second placed Sunshine Coast Falcons, with a spot in the grand final on the line. Behind by just one point at the break, the Devils were too strong in the second half, finishing seven point victors and securing their spot in the grand final.

The Norths Devils have named the same 17 that took down the Falcons last weekend, with Tyson Gamble and Tyrone Roberts highlighting the side in a halves pair which has 183 NRL appearances between them.

It's been a very big couple of years for the Redcliffe Dolphins. With preparations to enter the NRL for the 2023 season in full swing (albeit without the 'Redcliffe' part), the Dolphins would love to win a major title on the eve of their national first grade debut. A premiership brings with it good press, and with good press comes fans, so a win this Saturday could have a big impact on the NRL brand going forward. Furthermore, if the Dolphins were to be victorious this weekend, they would travel to Sydney to play in the National State Championship on NRL GF day, a prestigious event that further exposes the brand to potential fans.

They've taken a similar route to the Devils to reach the big dance. Finishing the regular season in third, they took on the second placed Falcons in the first week of finals, and put on an impressive performance to qualify comfortably for the Preliminary Final last weekend. Despite



winning by just a six point margin, the Dolphins never trailed throughout the match.

With just 80 minutes standing between them and the grand final, the Dolphins had to get through the minor premiers, Burleigh Bears. They got off to a slow start, trailing by ten in the first half, but they showed plenty of fight to keep their season alive, downing the Bears 28-16, and setting a date with Norths.

With the Dolphins entering the NRL next season, the Redcliffe QLD Cup side will end their partnership with the NZ Warriors. Currently, Redcliffe fields the Warriors reserve grade side, with the likes of Rocco Berry and Daejarn Asi starring for the team throughout the 2022 campaign. The Redcliffe Dolphins have named the same 17 that toppled the Bears last weekend.

An unusual indicator about which way this game is going to go is available to us, as both of these sides have played the Falcons and the Bears in their past two matches. The Dolphins have won by an average of nine points, while the Devils only four. This could also show that Norths have had to fight harder to get here, and may be struggling more with player fatigue than their opponents.

It will be the first time that Norths Devils and Redcliffe Dolphins meet in any grand final, despite both of the clubs' long and illustrious histories.

**Last meeting:** Round 15, 2022 - Redcliffe Dolphins 54 Norths Devils 16

**Players to watch:** With 141 career Queensland Cup appearances under his belt, Norths fullback and captain Jack Ahearn will play a big role in his team's performance this weekend. The 29 year old has switched between halfback and fullback this season, and scored a try to help his side get over the line in their preliminary final. In his fifth year as a Devil, the former Dolphin will be up against his old side with premiership glory on the line.

Dunamis Lui will line up at prop for the Redcliffe Dolphins this weekend. The experienced 32 year old has made 173 NRL appearances with five separate clubs over the course of his career, including four this season with the NZ Warriors. His leadership qualities will be crucial for the Dolphins forward pack this weekend.

**The favourite:** The Dolphins are the strong favourites to win their second Queensland Cup title in five years.

**My tip:** Judging by their meeting just a couple of months ago, Redcliffe will be too strong this Saturday afternoon at their home ground. But the Devils will show plenty of fight as they aim to be the first club since the 2013-14 Northern Pride to win back-to-back QLD Cup premierships. **Dolphins by 6.**

# QRL GRAND FINAL DAY

**PLEASE NOTE:** Teamlists are subject to change, along with match details. Visit [qrl.com.au](http://qrl.com.au) for more information.

## HOSTPLUS CUP 2022 GRAND FINAL

Saturday 24 September 2022, 3:15pm (CH 9, FOX, KAYO)  
MORETON DAILY STADIUM, REDCLIFFE / KABI KABI

Referee: Jarrod COLE; Sideline Officials: Dan MUNROE, Steve KANOWSKI;  
Video Referee: Tim RUTHERFORD, Nick MOREL

## NORTHS DEVILS

## REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS

Jack AHEARN	1	1	Trai FULLER
Brayden McGRADY	2	2	Setu TU
Jacob GAGAN	3	3	Rocco BERRY
Connor BROADHURST	4	19	Valynce TE WHARE
Tony TUMUSA	5	5	Edward BURNS
Tyson GAMBLE	6	6	Bryce DONOVAN
Tyrone ROBERTS	7	23	Daejarn ASI
Viko PULIUVEA	8	8	Dunamis LUI
Kierran MOSELEY	9	20	Sheldon PITAMA
Jayden STEPHENS	10	10	Lachlan TIMM
Brendan PIAKURA	11	11	Sam ELLIOTT
Leivaha PULU	12	12	Jeremiah SIMBIKEN
Michael SIO	13	13	Pride PETERSON-ROBATI
Matthew MILSON	14	9	Liam HAMPSON
Jerome VEVE	16	14	Jackson FREI
Liam HORNE	19	15	Nathan WATTS
Lloyd PERRETT	20	16	Benjamin KING
Jayden CORRIGAN	18	18	Garrett SMITH
Moses NOOVAO-McGREAL	15	7	Cameron CULLEN
Rashaun DENNY	21		

Kevin NEIGHBOUR **COACHES**  
Ben KING

**COACH** Scott MURRAY

## U21 HASTINGS DEERING COLTS 2022 GRAND FINAL

Saturday 24 September 2022, 1:15pm (QPLUS, KAYO)  
MORETON DAILY STADIUM, REDCLIFFE / KABI KABI

Referee: Lachlan SUTTON  
Sideline Officials: Isaac FREEMAN, Cody KWIK

## TOWNSVILLE BLACKHAWKS

## REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS

Dylan WHITE	1	25	Will CAHILL
Jacob MENE	2	2	William DOBSON
Zac LAYBUTT	3	3	Jack AIKEN
Jordan LIPP	4	4	Ali LEIATAUA
Ragarive WAVIK	5	5	Marcus SPENCE
Jake BOURKE	6	6	Connor WILLIAMS
Thomas DUFFY	7	7	Cody HUNTER
Zachery McMINN	8	8	Kina KEPU
Jai HANSEN	9	9	Taniela OTUKOLO
Tyreice BAIRA-GELA	10	10	Demetric SIFAKULA
Kulikefu FINEFEUIAKI	11	11	Levi WILSON
Edward HAMPSON	12	12	Jacob LABAN
Aaron MOORE	13	13	Chayse CAVANAGH
Luke JACK	14	14	Rhys TIMMS
William LATU	15	15	Bailey MORGAN
Adam MITCHELL	16	17	Izaak JACKSON
Marly BITUNGANE	17	18	Lingi KEPU
Joel BALDWIN	18	16	Lleyton FINAU
		19	Logan COX
		20	Blake DAWES
		21	Zyon MAIU'U

Steve SHEPPARD **COACH**

**COACH** Ben TE'O

## HOSTPLUS CUP PRELIMINARY FINALS RESULTS

**FIRST PRELIMINARY FINAL: Norths Devils (20)** Tries: Jack Ahearn, Viko Puliueva, Tony Tumusa, Brayden McGrady; Goals: Tyrone Roberts 2 **def Sunshine Coast Falcons (13)** Tries: Lazarus Vaalepu, Tyson Smoothy; Goals: Tyson Smoothy 2; Field Goals: Tyson Smoothy 1 **at Bishop Park**

**SECOND PRELIMINARY FINAL: Redcliffe Dolphins (28)** Tries: Valynce Te Whare, Sam Elliott, Liam Hampson, Jackson Frei, Setu Tu; Goals: Bryce Donovan 4 **def Burleigh Bears (16)** Tries: Taine Tuapiki, Guy Hamilton, Nathaniel Peteru; Goals: Josh Rogers 2 **at Moreton Daily Stadium**

## U21 HASTINGS DEERING COLTS PRELIMINARY FINALS RESULTS

**FIRST PRELIMINARY FINAL: Townsville Blackhawks (42)** Tries: Jordan Lipp 3, Ragarive Wavik 2, Zac Laybutt 2, Jacob Mene; Goals: Dylan White 5 **def Wynnum Manly Seagulls (22)** Tries: Max Plath 2, Sefa Roache-Faimalo, Shaun Packer; Goals: Luke Philp 2, Nathan Ward 1 **at Bishop Park**

**SECOND PRELIMINARY FINAL: Redcliffe Dolphins (50)** Tries: Cody Hunter 2, Jacob Laban 2, Will Cahill, William Dobson, Taniela Otukolo, Levi Wilson, Otukinekina Kepu; Goals: Cody Hunter 7 **def Central Qld Capras (30)** Tries: Jeremy McLachlan, Marcus Tanner, Thallon Peters, Owen Pattie, Ilami Bull; Goals: Peyton Jenkins 3, Jye Marriott 2 **at Moreton Daily Stadium**

# UK WATCH

## SUPER LEAGUE SEMI FINALS Match wraps by JUSTIN DAVIES

### Rhinos turn over Warriors to make Grand Final

Leeds Rhinos have made the Super League Grand Final from fifth after their 20-8 win over Wigan Warriors on Friday night.

Both sides worked their way into the contest. Wigan had an early chance from Bevan French which was knocked on while a Leeds raid on the left ended with them being bundled into touch. The Warriors were the first to get on the board through Liam Marshall. The winger dived over with an athletic finish which was confirmed by the video referee for 4-0. Wigan had a chance to extend the lead to six through Harry Smith but his penalty goal went wide then a break from Jai Field was cut short in a tense first half.

Leeds did get something from the first half when Blake Austin was hit high. It allowed Zak Hardaker to pilot home a penalty goal to make it 4-2 at the break. The Rhinos built on their penalty goal with their first four-pointer when Jarrod O'Connor spied a gap in the defence and snuck over for his maiden try for the club.

Their traveling support was in full throat and dreaming of Old Trafford which inched closer to reality after Aidan Sezer's kick is gobbled up by James Bentley for 14-4.

Chances of a comeback were quelled for Wigan when John Bateman was sent off for a shoulder charge to the head of Sezer leaving the Warriors with 12 men.

James Bentley confirmed the Rhinos Grand Final booking when he completed his double after he sliced through the Warriors defence for 20-4. There was late consolation for Wigan through Sam Powell. He managed to find room in the stubborn Rhinos defence to touch down on a tough night for the hosts.

Now the Rhinos face the tough task to deny St Helens a fourth straight Super League crown in their first Grand Final appearance in five years.

**Leeds Rhinos (20)** Tries: James Bentley 2, Jarrod O'Connor; Goals: Zak Hardaker 4 **def Wigan Warriors (8)** Tries: Sam Powell, Liam Marshall

**Venue:** DW Stadium; **Attendance:** 12777; **Date:** Friday 16 September 2022 at 8:00pm; **Referee:** Liam MOORE

**WIGAN:** Field, French, Pearce-Paul, Bibby, Smith, Leuluai, Singleton, Powell, Byrne, Isa, Bateman, Smithies, Marshall. **Int:** Mago, Ellis, Havard, Cooper

**LEEDS:** Oledzki, O'Connor, Prior, Bentley, Tetevano, Smith, Sezer, Austin, Tindall, Sutcliffe, Hardaker, Briscoe, Myler. **Int:** Thompson, Walters, Leeming, Donaldson

### Saints march towards another decider after downing Red Devils

St Helens have become a fixture in the Super League Grand Final and will be there again after their 19-12 win against Salford Red Devils on Saturday night.

The Red Devils headed into this game without one of their main weapons with Brodie Croft ruled out due to a concussion suffered in their win over Huddersfield. Saints looked to have opened the scoring through James Batchelor from a Jonny Lomax but the video referee saw the ball hit the line to chalk it off. It was a repeat performance which was given the green light this time. Lomax found Batchelor again from the boot and he touched down inside the in-goal for 6-0.

The Lomax-Batchelor combination struck once again to make the Saints advantage a dozen. The five-eighth absorbed a hit before he slipped the pass to the rampaging forward to dive over. Salford have shown they can score in bunches this season and were gifted a man advantage when Morgan Knowles was binned for dangerous contact. The visitors struck immediately when Kallum Watkins ran the perfect line to slice through make it 12-6 and give the Red Devils some hope. Lomax capped off a stellar first half for the Saints with a field goal in the final minute which stretched their advantage to seven points.

The Red Devils moved within one point after a long range four-pointer. The quick hands on the left side opened up the field for Joe Burgess who found a trailing Ryan Brierley to make it 13-12. Ultimately St Helens booted their way to the Grand Final. Lomax again put it on the boot and teenager Jon Bennison touched down to make it 19-12. There was late drama when Saints winger Tommy Makinson was sent to the bin for a professional foul on Tim Lafai as the centre chased a kick and possibly lucky to avoid a penalty try.

The Saints are looking to win a fourth straight Grand Final when they face Leeds Rhinos next weekend and add to their already overflowing trophy cabinet.

**St Helens (19)** Tries: Joe Batchelor 2, Jon Bennison; Goals: Tommy Makinson 3; Field Goal: Jonny Lomax 1 **def Salford Red Devils (12)** Tries: Ryan Brierley, Kallum Watkins; Goals: Marc Sneyd 2

**Venue:** Totally Wicked Stadium; **Attendance:** 12357; **Date:** Saturday 17 September 2022 at 8:00pm; **Referee:** Chris KENDALL

**ST HELENS:** Bennison, Makinson, Hurrell, Mata'utia, Percival, Welsby, Lomax, Paasi, Roby, Lees, Batchelor, Sironen, Knowles. **Int:** Lussick, McCarthy-Scarsbrook, Wingfield, Bell

**SALFORD:** Brierley, Sio, Cross, Lafai, Burgess, Atkin, Sneyd, Ormondroyd, Ackers, Vuniyayawa, Wright, Watkins, Taylor. **Int:** Luckley, Bourouh, Gerrard, Dupree



## 2022 BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

6:00PM BST live on SKY SPORTS

3:00AM AEST live on FOX LEAGUE

# ST HELENS v LEEDS RHINOS

Old Trafford, Manchester



## CHAMPIONSHIP

### ROUND 27 RESULT (DEFERRED MATCH)

**Sheffield Eagles (34)** Tries: Kris Welham 2, Ryan Johnson, Evan Hodgson, Joel Farrell, Bayley Liu; Goals: Tom Holmes 5 **def Dewsbury Rams (24)** Tries: Dale Ferguson, Jordan Schofield, Michael Knowles, Robson Stevens; Goals: Calum Turner 4 **Venue:** Olympic Legacy Park Community Stadium; **Date:** Wednesday 14 September 2022 at 7:30pm; **Referee:** Matt ROSSLEIGH

**SHEFFIELD:** Jones-Bishop, Sheils, Welham, Oakes, Johnson, Bower, Holmes, Douglas, Halafih, Broadbent, Wood, J Farrell, Hodgson. **Int:** Kirk, Chrimes, Liu, Williams

**DEWSBURY:** McGowan, Ryder, Tomlinson, Graham, Greensmith, Sweeting, Turner, Schofield, Butterworth, Ferguson, Davies, Knowles, Stevens. **Int:** Walker, Blagbrough, Kirby

### ELIMINATOR RESULTS

**Batley Bulldogs (18)** Tries: Alistair Leak 2, Johnny Campbell; Goals: Tom Gilmore 3 **def Barrow Raiders (8)** Tries: Ellis Gillam; Goals: Ryan Shaw 2

**Venue:** Matt Johnson Prestige Stadium; **Attendance:** 3595; **Date:** Sunday 18 September 2022 at 3:00pm; **Referee:** Marcus GRIFFITHS

**BARROW:** Cresswell, Ritson, Miloudi, Shaw, S Toal, Sammut, Johnston, Iaria, Wood, Gillam, Hopkins, Emslie, Crellin. **Int:** Mossop, J Carter, Brooks, B Carter

**BATLEY:** Hooley, Morton, Hodson, Buchanan, Campbell, White, Gilmore, Gledhill, Blake, Brown, Manning, Walshaw, Reilly. **Int:** Meadows, Leak, Ward, Flynn

**York City Knights (26)** Tries: Joe Brown, Will Jubb, Liam Harris, Levi Edwards; Goals: James Glover 5 **def Halifax Panthers (24)** Tries: Lachlan Walmsley 3, Ben Kavanagh; Goals: Joe Keyes 4

**Venue:** The Shay Stadium; **Attendance:** 1850; **Date:** Sunday 18 September 2022 at 5:30pm; **Referee:** Jack SMITH

**HALIFAX:** Woodburn-Hall, Saltonstall, McComb, Worthington, Walmsley, Keyes, Joffret, Tangata, Barber, Kavanagh, Murray, Moore, Calcott. **Int:** Wood, Gee, Gwaze, Fairbank

**YORK:** Marsh, Brown, Glover, Edwards, Towse, Harris, Clarkson, Ellis, Kirmond, Antrobus, Teanby, Jubb, Thompson. **Int:** Inman, Michael, Porter, Barnard

### SEMI FINAL FIXTURES ALL TIMES BST (UK)

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2PM

FIRST SEMI FINAL

LEIGH CENTURIANS v YORK CITY KNIGHTS

Leigh Sports Village Stadium, Leigh

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 4PM

SECOND SEMI FINAL

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS v BATLEY BULLDOGS

Millennium Stadium, Featherstone



# PRIME MINISTER'S XIII DOUBLE HEADER

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL: AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER'S XIII V PAPUA NEW GUINEA PRIME MINISTER'S XIII

Suncorp Stadium, Milton (Yuggera-Turrbal lands)  
Sunday 25 September 5:50pm AEST (9Gem, Fox, Kayo)

Referee: Karra-Lee NOLAN  
Sideline Officials: Ziggy PRZEKLASA-ADAMSKI, Rochelle TAMARUA  
Video Referee: Dave MUNRO

**AUSTRALIA:** 1. Karina Brown 2. Emily Bass 3. Jaime Chapman 4. Shenae Ciesiolka 5. Baylee Davies 6. Jada Ferguson 7. Lauren Brown 8. Ahlivia Ingram 9. Jetaya Faifua 10. Steph Hancock (c) 11. Zara Canfield 12. Tallisha Harden 13. Sareka Mooka  
Interchange: 14. Sophie Holyman 15. Jessika Elliston 16. Laikha Clarke 17. Tiana Raftstrand-Smith 18. Dannii Perese 19. Shakiah Tungai 20. Tawana Sullivan-Togo

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** 1. Joanne Lagona 2. Anika Butler 3. Belinda Gwasamun 4. Sera Koroi 5. Shae Yvonne De La Cruz 6. Shirley Joe 7. Lilah Malabag 8. Gloria Kaupa 9. Roswita Kapo 10. Talitha Kunjil 11. Carol Humeu 12. Veronica Waula 13. Essay Banu  
Interchange: 14. Martha Molowia 15. Jessikah Reeves 16. Michelle John 17. Shellie Long 18. Therese Aiton 19. Bertshiba Awoi 20. Emily Veivers

## MEN'S INTERNATIONAL: AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER'S XIII V PAPUA NEW GUINEA PRIME MINISTER'S XIII

Suncorp Stadium, Milton (Yuggera-Turrbal lands)  
Sunday 25 September 7:35pm AEST (9Gem, Fox, Kayo)

Referee: Todd SMITH  
Sideline Officials: Liam KENNEDY, Wyatt RAYMOND  
Video Referee: Chris BUTLER

**AUSTRALIA:** 1. Daine Laurie 2. Josh Addo-Carr 3. Selwyn Cobbo 4. Zac Lomax 5. Sosefo Fifita 6. Matt Burton 7. Daly Cherry-Evans 8. Tino Fa'asuaumaleau 9. Ben Hunt 10. Tom Flegler 11. Nat Butcher 12. Angus Crichton 13. Josh King  
Interchange: 14. Max King 15. Beau Fermor 16. Jake Simpkin 17. Luke Garner 18. Joshua Curran 19. Jake Averillo 20. Sam Walker

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** 1. Edene Gebbie 2. Jimmy Ngutlik 3. Brandon Nima 4. Rodrick Tai 5. Leon Undupia 6. Judah Rimbu 7. Kyle Laybutt 8. McKenzie Yei 9. Wartovo Puaa 10. Sylvester Namu 11. Nixon Putt 12. Dan Russell 13. Keven Appo  
Interchange: 14. Wesser Tenza 15. Emmanuel Waine 16. Zev John 17. Francis Kembis 18. Cruise Ten 19. Sherwin Tanabi 20. Epel Kapinias

## RLWC 2021

### SQUAD ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GREECE:** Jordan Meads (Captain) (Sunshine Coast), Lachlan Ilias (South Sydney Rabbitohs), Stefanos Bastas (Coventry Bears), Nikolaos Bosmos (Rhodes Knights), Terry Constantinou (Sunbury Tigers), Aris Dardamanis (Aris Eagles), Nick Flocas (Ipswich Jets), Myles Gal (TBC), Jake Kambos (Wests Magpies), Kosta Katsidonis (Rhodes Knights), Greg Koutsimporgiorgos (Aris Eagles), Billy Magoulias (Newtown Jets), Peter Mamouzelos (South Sydney Rabbitohs), John Mitsias (Wests Magpies), Nick Mougios (South Sydney Rabbitohs), Thodoris Nianiakas (Woolston Rovers), Ionnis Nake (TBC), Chaise Robinson (South Sydney Rabbitohs), Ionnis Rousoglou (Aris Eagles), Sebastian Sell (Mittagong Lions), Liam Sui Tin (TBC), Vasili Tsikrikas (Canterbury Bulldogs), Robert Tuliatu (London Broncos), Adam Vrahnos (London Broncos), Mitchell Zampetides (Wests Magpies)

**FIJI:** Waqa Blake (Parramatta Eels), Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Parramatta Eels), Tui Kamikamica (Melbourne Storm), Vuate Karawalevu (Sydney Roosters), Viliame Kikau (Penrith Panthers), Apisai Koroisau (Penrith Panthers), Lamar Manuel Liolevave (Tweed Seagulls), Joe Lovodua (Hull FC), Isaac Lumelume (Canterbury Bulldogs), Netane Masima (Wests Magpies), Laitia Moceidreke (NQ Cowboys), Sitiveni Moceidreke (London Broncos), Taane Milne (South Sydney Rabbitohs), Marcelo Montoya (NZ Warriors), Kevin Naiqama (Sydney

Roosters), Ben Nakubuwei (Leigh Centurions), Jason Qareqare (Castleford Tigers), Mikaele Ravalawa (St George Illawarra Dragons), Taniela Sadruvu (NQ Cowboys), Daniel Saifiti (Newcastle Knights), Jacob Saifiti (Newcastle Knights), Pio Seci (Manly Sea Eagles), Korbin Sims (Hull KR), Tariq Sims (St George Illawarra Dragons), Maika Sivo (Parramatta Eels), Penioni Tagituimua (Canterbury Bulldogs), Sunia Turuva (Penrith Panthers), Joseph Vakacereivalu (Redcliffe Dolphins), Semi Valemei (Canberra Raiders), King Vuniyayawa (Salford Reds), Ratu Inoke Vasuturaga (Kinoya Eagles), Brandon Wakeham (Canterbury Bulldogs), Siua Wong (Sydney Roosters)

**NEW ZEALAND:** Nelson Asofa-Solomona (Melbourne Storm), Jesse Bromwich (Melbourne Storm), Kenny Bromwich (Melbourne Storm), Dylan Brown (Parramatta Eels), James Fisher-Harris (Penrith Panthers), Kieran Foran (Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles), Braden Hamlin-Uele (Cronulla Sharks), Corey Harawira-Naera (Canberra Raiders), Peta Hiku (North Queensland Cowboys), Jahrome Hughes (Melbourne Storm), Shaun Johnson (Warriors), Sebastian Kris (Canberra Raiders), Moses Leota (Penrith Panthers), Isaac Liu (Gold Coast Titans), Joseph Manu (Sydney Roosters), Jeremy Marshall-King (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs), Te Maire Martin (Brisbane Broncos), Ken Maumalo (Wests Tigers), Ronaldo Mulitalo (Cronulla Sharks), Griffin Neame (North Queensland Cowboys), Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad (Canberra Raiders), Briton Nikora (Cronulla Sharks), Kodi Nikorima (South Sydney Rabbitohs), Marata Niukore (Parramatta Eels), Isaiah Papali'i (Parramatta Eels), Jordan Rapana (Canberra Raiders), Jordan Riki (Brisbane Broncos),

Bailey Simonsson (Parramatta Eels), Brandon Smith (Melbourne Storm), Scott Sorensen (Penrith Panthers), Joseph Tapine (Canberra Raiders), Matthew Timoko (Canberra Raiders), Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Sydney Roosters), Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Warriors)

**TONGA:** Talatau Amone (St George Illawarra Dragons), Andrew Fifita (Cronulla Sharks), David Fifita (Gold Coast Titans), Addin Fonua Blake (Warriors), Moeaki Fotuauka (Gold Coast Titans), David Fusitu'a (Leeds Rhinos), Siliva Havili (South Sydney Rabbitohs), William Hopoate (St Helens Saints), Konrad Hurrell (St Helens Saints), Eliesa Katoa (Warriors), Isaiya Katoa (Penrith Panthers), Sione Katoa (Cronulla Sharks), Felise Kaufusi (Melbourne Storm), Oregon Kaufusi (Parramatta Eels), Keaon Koloamatangi (South Sydney Rabbitohs), Toluta'u Koula (Manly Sea Eagles), Tuimoala Lolohea (Huddersfield Giants), Soni Luke (Penrith Panthers), Ben Murdoch-Masila (Warriors), Tesi Niu (Brisbane Broncos), Joe Ofahengau (Wests Tigers), Haumole Olakau'atu (Manly Sea Eagles), Taniela Otukolo (Warriors), Agnati Paasi (St Helens Saints), Tevita Pangai Jr (Canterbury Bulldogs), Taniela Paseka (Manly Sea Eagles), Will Penisini (Parramatta Eels), Kotoni Staggs (Brisbane Broncos), Daniel Suluka-Fifita (South Sydney Rabbitohs), Moses Suli (St George Illawarra Dragons), Siosifa Talakai (Cronulla Sharks), Tevita Tatola (South Sydney Rabbitohs), Siosia Taukeiaho (Sydney Roosters), Jason Taumalolo (North Queensland Cowboys), Starford To'a (Wests Tigers), Christian Tu'ipulotu (Manly Sea Eagles), Daniel Tupou (Sydney Roosters), Stefano Utoikamanu (Wests Tigers).

# THE WRAP

## NRL 2022 FINALS

FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER, 7:50PM

FIRST SEMI FINAL

### PARRAMATTA 40 CANBERRA 4

SCORERS

**PARRAMATTA EELS (40)** Tries: Viliami Penisini, Mitchell Moses, Tom Opacic, Waqa Blake, Junior Paulo, Marata Niukore (2); Conversions: Mitchell Moses (5/7); Penalty Goals: Mitchell Moses (1/1) **def** **CANBERRA RAIDERS (4)** Tries: Xavier Savage; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (0/1)

MATCH INFORMATION

**Venue:** CommBank Stadium; **Crowd:** 29134; **Halftime Score:** Parramatta 22 Canberra 4; **LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:** 3 points - Mitchell Moses, 2 points - Clinton Gutherson, 1 points - Junior Paulo

FINAL TEAMLISTS

**PARRAMATTA:** 1. Clinton Gutherson 2. Maika Sivo 3. Viliami Penisini 4. Tom Opacic 5. Waqa Blake 6. Dylan Brown 7. Mitchell Moses 8. Reagan Campbell-Gillard 9. Reed Mahoney 10. Junior Paulo 11. Shaun Lane 12. Isaiah Papali'i 17. Marata Niukore

**INT** 13. Ryan Matterson 14. Makahesi Makatoa 15. Jakob Arthur 16. Oregon Kaufusi **18P** 19. Bailey Simonsson

**CANBERRA:** 1. Xavier Savage 2. Nick Cotric 3. Matthew Timoko 4. Sebastian Kris 5. Jordan Rapana 6. Jack Wighton 7. Jamal Fogarty 8. Josh Papali'i 9. Zac Woolford 10. Joseph Tapine 11. Hudson Young 12. Elliott Whitehead 16. Corey Horsburgh

**INT** 13. Corey Harawira-Naera 14. Tom Starling 15. Emre Guler 17. Ryan Sutton **18P** 18. Albert Hopoate



### ELECTRIC EELS THRASH THE GREEN MACHINE TO MOVE INTO PRELIMINARY FINAL

Parramatta are one game away from their first Grand Final since 2009, after the Eels thrashed the Raiders by 40-4 at CommBank Stadium tonight.

The Eels were relentless in front of their home fans, racing in seven tries to one to book a date in Townsville next week where they will face the Cowboys to decide who will make the 2022 NRL Grand Final.

Parramatta half Mitch Moses was terrific for the home side, scoring a memorable try on his birthday and silencing the doubters who questioned his and coach Brad Arthur's poor finals record. Moses did give his side a late injury scare when he left the field in the Second Half with a potential concussion, but the Eels number seven passed his Head Injury Assessment to return to the field and played a pivotal role in the victory. It was a hugely disappointing performance from Canberra, who simply missed the bus as the home side raced in four early tries before the Raiders finally came to the party through a Xavier Savage solo try.

With their poor finals record the topic of conversation in the build up, Parramatta came into the game under serious pressure and it was relieved early when skipper Clint Gutherson put his centre Viliami Penisini in some space down the right-hand side. The rookie centre then muscled his way over to score the first try of the night. Moses converted and it was 6-0 after just 8 minutes.

The Eels continued to dominate possession and were rewarded when Raiders fullback Xavier Savage failed to collect a grubber from Dylan Brown, with the ball taking a wicked bounce for Eels centre Tom Opacic to score the Eels second try. Parramatta then ran riot, with two more tries through winger Waqa Blake and then through NSW prop Junior Paulo who charged through a huge hole close to the line allowing the Eels to race out to a 22-0 lead.

Canberra were shell shocked after 30 minutes and needed something special to get back into the match. Xavier Savage then got some redemption following his earlier error, when the lightning quick fullback raced 80 metres to score a superb solo try and keep the Green Machine within touching distance before the break. The Eels could have easily had two more in the first half with both Gutherson and Maika Sivo disallowed tries but in a dominant display it was the Eels leading 22-4 at halftime.

Parramatta continued their dominance early in the Second Half when Junior Paulo produced a superb offload to Moses, who used his speed to race to the corner to score an electric try for the Eels. Departing backrower Marata Niukore, then had a farewell to remember in front of his home fans when he collected a late double, the first thanks to a superb pass from Gutherson and then at the death he scored off a nice offload from winger Maika Sivo to end the route, with Parramatta running off winners by 40-4.

Parramatta now travel to Townsville next week, where they face the Cowboys for the right to play in this year's Grand Final. **SAM BOURKE**

SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER, 8:00PM

SECOND SEMI FINAL

### SOUTH SYDNEY 38 CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND 12

SCORERS

**SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (38)** Tries: Mark Nicholls, Taane Milne (2), Cameron Murray, Lachlan Ilias, Cody Walker; Conversions: Latrell Mitchell (6/6); Penalty Goals: Latrell Mitchell (1/1) **def** **CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (12)** Tries: Briton Nikora, Ronaldo Mulitalo; Conversions: Nicho Hynes (2/2)

MATCH INFORMATION

**Venue:** Allianz Stadium; **Crowd:** 39733; **Halftime Score:** Cronulla 0 South Sydney 18; **LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:** 3 points - Lachlan Ilias, 2 points - Damien Cook, 1 points - Cameron Murray

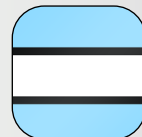
FINAL TEAMLISTS

**CRONULLA:** 1. Will Kennedy 18. Lachlan Miller 3. Jesse Ramien 2. Connor Tracey 5. Ronaldo Mulitalo 6. Matt Moylan 7. Nicho Hynes 8. Toby Rudolf 9. Blayke Brailey 16. Braden Hamlin-Uele 11. Briton Nikora 12. Wade Graham 13. Dale Finucane

**INT** 14. Teig Wilton 15. Cameron McInnes 17. Andrew Fifita 19. Aiden Tolman **18P** 22. Mawene Hiroti

**SOUTHS:** 1. Latrell Mitchell 2. Alex Johnston 3. Isaiah Tass 4. Campbell Graham 5. Taane Milne 6. Cody Walker 7. Lachlan Ilias 8. Tevita Tatola 9. Damien Cook 10. Mark Nicholls 11. Keaon Koloamatangi 12. Jai Arrow 13. Cameron Murray

**INT** 14. Kodi Nikorima 15. Hame Sele 16. Michael Chee Kam 17. Siliva Havili **18P** 18. Davvy Moale



### SOUTH SYDNEY MARCHES ON BY CULLING THE SHARKS FROM THE FINALS

South Sydney have shown that they will be this season's dark horse, eliminating the Cronulla Sharks in straight sets by 38-12 in front of a monster crowd at the neutral venue of Allianz Stadium.

The game had a frantic feel to it in the opening stages as both sides tried to feel each-other out. A lazy high shot from Briton Nikora gave Souths the opening chance of the evening. The Rabbitohs didn't have to wait too long when a simple crash ball from Damien Cook allowed Mark Nicholls to charge over to score the first try inside the opening 3 minutes.

From there, the Sharks had majority of the footy through Rabbitohs mistakes. But at every turn, the Rabbitohs were hanging in deep and defending for their finals lives. Up the other end of the field, Souths were showing promising signs to extend their margin. But, the Sharks hung deep and saved certain tries from happening, including holding up Latrell Mitchell in the twenty-second minute.

Eventually, the defensive workload took its toll and with ten to go before half-time it was the quick hands from Lachlan Ilias, Keaon Koloamatangi and Mitchell who got a great cut out pass to allow to Taane Milne to cross in the right corner and Mitchell converted from the sideline to give the Rabbits an early 12-0 cushion. Right on half-time, the Rabbitohs landed a crucial blow when Cam Murray charged past two poor attempts of tackle from the Sharks and Souths led 18-0 at the break.

Cronulla got the dream start to the second half when they crossed off a Cam Murray error inside the first five minutes on the second half. A clever kick from Hynes was batted back by Ronaldo Mulitalo and Nikora crashed over in the corner to reduce the margin to 12. Off the ensuing set, Hynes kicked the footy dead and off the extra tackle set, the Rabbitohs right hand side showcased some silky skill and Lachlan Ilias crossed to give the Bunnies an 18 point lead.

Cronulla thought they answered back immediately when Jesse Ramien finished off a wonderfully worked play which saw Nikora perform a spectacular flick pass. But, the video ref spotted Ramien as being offside and the try was revoked. Fortunately, the 'home' side didn't have to wait long when Mitchell's pass was intercepted by Mulitalo and the winger raced 100 meters to reduce the gap to two possessions.

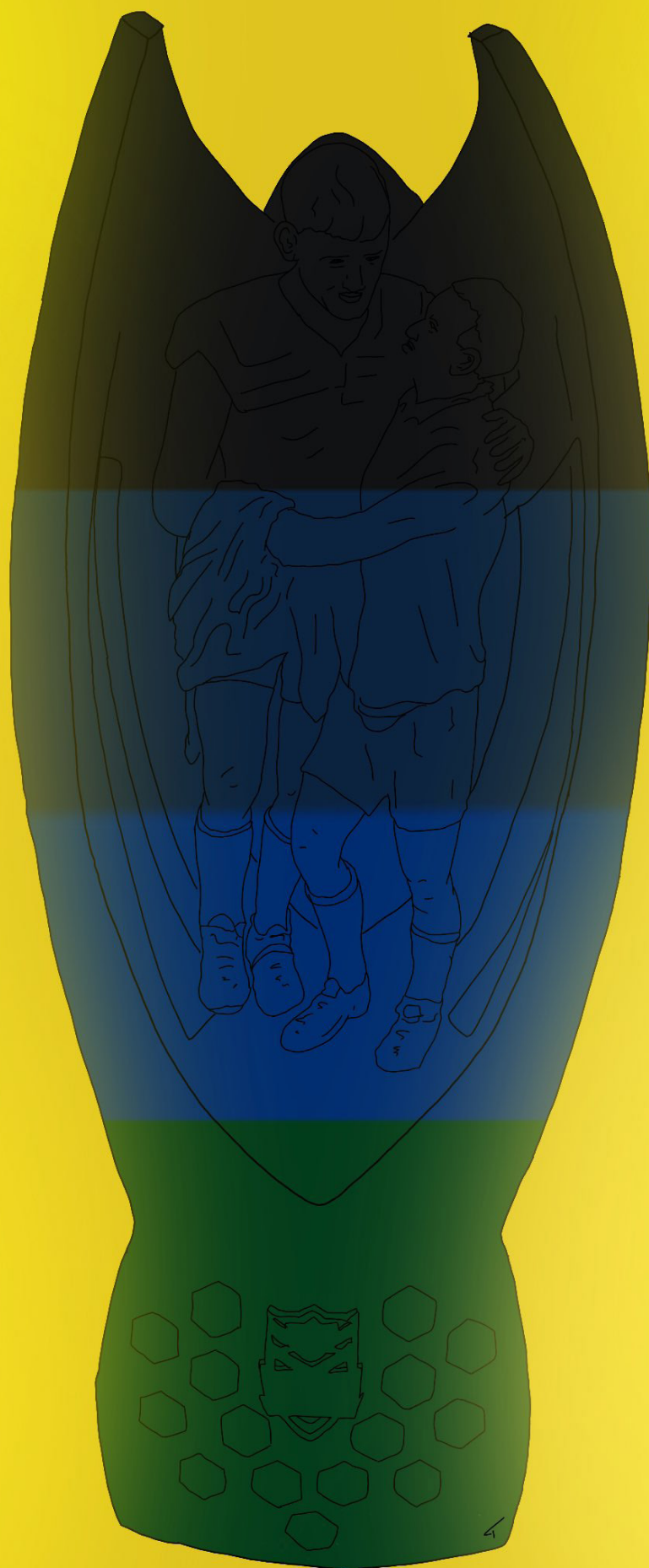
As the Sharks worked their way back into the game, their inability to ice key situations would bring their downfall, key mistakes in the attacking third allowed the Rabbitohs to grab a critical try. Cody Walker timed his impact perfectly when he stepped back on his lethal left boot and regained a critical three converted try lead. From there, another good pass from Ilias saw Milne outmuscle the Sharks left edge to get the Rabbitohs an unassailable 24 point advantage.

The Rabbitohs have a number of injury concerns, Jai Arrow felt a twinge in his groin and failed to finish the game, Alex Johnston left with a hip flexor issue midway through the second half while Siliva Havili failed to last 20 minutes succumbing to a cork injury. Tevita Tatola is in for a nervous wait from the MRC after being placed on report for a chicken wing. On a positive front, they'll be at their home ground in Accor Stadium next week when they take on the Panthers. For the Sharks, it's a disappointing end to a season that promised so much, but there are promising signs moving forward that will give Sharks fans a lot to look forward to. **AJ LUCANTONIO**

# THE BIG PICTURE

THE FINAL FOUR

ILLUSTRATION  
BY THE  
BIGGEST TIGER



# THE PROGRAMME

NRL FINALS WEEK 3 GAME DAY COMPANION

TEAM LISTS • PREVIEWS  
MATCH DETAILS & STATS

FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2022



SECOND PRELIMINARY FINAL  
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS



v PARRAMATTA EELS

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY BANK STADIUM  
7:50PM

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2022



FIRST PRELIMINARY FINAL  
PENRITH PANTHERS



v SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

ACCOR STADIUM  
7:50PM

## MATCH REVIEW & JUDICIARY NRL FINALS WEEK 2

Player	Club	Grade	Charge	Base	2022 Offence	Guilty	Early plea	Plea	Result
Elliott WHITEHEAD	Canberra	1	Dangerous Contact	\$1500	2nd	\$2500	\$1800	Guilty - early plea	\$1800
Elliott WHITEHEAD	Canberra	1	Dangerous Contact	\$1500	2nd	\$2500	\$1800	Guilty - early plea	\$1800
Tevita TATOLA	South Sydney	1	Dangerous Contact	\$1500	2nd	\$2500	\$1800	Guilty - early plea	\$1800

^ denotes 7 year incident free discount

[www.rugbyleagueproject.org](http://www.rugbyleagueproject.org)

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
**project**

# LU PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## AFTER NRL FINALS WEEK 2

Following each NRL and representative match, our team of writers choose their best three players on the field. Here's the latest leaderboard.

### 38 points - Nicho Hynes (Sharks)

31 points - Ben Hunt (Dragons/QLD)

29 points - Cameron Munster (Storm/QLD), Mitchell Moses (Eels)

25 points - Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles), James Tedesco (Roosters/NSW)

23 points - Jahrome Hughes (Storm/NZ), Joseph Tapine (Raiders)

20 points - Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs), Joseph Manu (Roosters/NZ), Nathan Cleary (Panthers/NSW)

18 points - AJ Brimson (Titans)

17 points - Jarome Luai (Panthers/NSW), Matt Burton (Bulldogs/NSW)

16 points - Jack Wighton (Raiders/NSW)

15 points - Isaah Yeo (Panthers), Jason Taumalolo (Cowboys), Damien Cook (Rabbitohs)

14 points - Adam Reynolds (Broncos), Dylan Edwards (Panthers), Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys)

13 points - Cameron Murray (Rabbitohs)

12 points - Viliame Kikau (Panthers), Harry Grant (Storm), Jackson Hastings (Wests Tigers), Valentine Holmes (Cowboys/QLD)

11 points - Jeremiah Nanai (Cowboys), Apisai Koroisau (Panthers), Tino Fa'asuamaleaui (Titans), Reuben Cotter (Cowboys), Clinton Gutherson (Eels)

10 points - Dylan Brown (Eels), Sam Walker (Roosters), Siosifa Talakai (Sharks), Kalyn Ponga (Knights/QLD), Junior Paulo (Eels)

9 points - Reed Mahoney (Eels), Josh Papali'i (Raiders), Blayke Brailey (Sharks), Luke Keary (Roosters), Keaton Koloamatangi (Rabbitohs), Shaun Johnson (Warriors), Jeremy Marshall-King (Bulldogs), Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm), Haumole Olakau'atu (Sea Eagles), Reece Robson (Cowboys), Payne Haas (Broncos)

8 points - Matt Moylan (Sharks), Talatau Amone (Dragons), Jake Clifford (Knights), Selwyn Cobbo (Broncos), Josh Addo-Carr (Bulldogs), Isaiah Papali'i (Eels), Addin Fonua-Blake (Warriors), Hudson Young (Raiders), Taylan May (Panthers/Samoa), Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)

7 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks), Josh Curran (Warriors), Zac Lomax (Dragons), Reece Walsh (Warriors), Ronaldo Mulitalo (Sharks), Shaun Lane (Eels), Chad Townsend (Cowboys), Tom Dearden (Cowboys), James Fisher-Harris (Panthers/NZ), Lachlan Ilias (Rabbitohs)

6 points - Kieran Foran (Sea Eagles), Dane Gagai (Knights), Kotoni Staggs (Broncos), Justin Olam (Storm/PNG), Alex Johnston (Rabbitohs)

5 points - Lachlan Miller (Sharks), Adam Elliott (Raiders), David Klemmer (Knights), Thomas Burgess (Rabbitohs), Patrick Carrigan (Broncos), Wayne Egan (Warriors), Adam Doueihi (Wests Tigers), Jock Madden (Wests Tigers), Peta Hiku (Cowboys), Liam Martin (Panthers), Josh Aloiai (Sea Eagles), Siosiaua Taukeiaho (Roosters), Reuben Garrick (Sea Eagles)

4 points - Cameron McInnes (Sharks), Herbie Farnworth (Broncos), Royce Hunt (Sharks), Tex Hoy (Knights), Kurt Capewell (Broncos), Briton Nikora (Sharks), Ryan Matterson (Eels), Beau Fermor (Titans), Cody Ramsey (Dragons), Nelson Asofa-Solomona (Storm), Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Eels), Zac Hosking (Broncos), Corey Oates (Broncos), Tesi Niu (Broncos), Luciano Leilua (Wests Tigers/Cowboys), Nat Butcher (Roosters), Luke Brooks (Wests Tigers), David Nofaluma (Wests Tigers, Samoa, Storm)

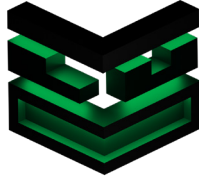
3 points - Dale Finucane (Sharks), Lachlan Croker (Sea Eagles), Mikaele Ravalawa (Dragons), Toby Sexton (Titans), Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Roosters), Brad Schneider (Raiders), Ezra Mam (Broncos), Braidon Burns (Bulldogs), Campbell Graham (Rabbitohs), Ryan Sutton (Raiders), Te Maire Martin (Broncos), Marion Seve (Storm), Albert Kelly (Broncos), Sean O'Sullivan (Panthers), Erin Clark (Titans), Tom Gilbert (Cowboys), Anthony Milford (Knights), Tohu Harris (Warriors), Luke Thompson (Bulldogs), Daejarn Asi (Cowboys), Tyson Frizell (Knights), Stephen Crichton (Panthers), Xavier Savage (Raiders), Jesse Ramien (Sharks), Matthew Lodge (Warriors/Roosters), Joseph Suaalii (Roosters), Kelma Tuilagi (Wests Tigers), Moses Suli (Dragons), Matt Frawley (Raiders), Angus Crichton (Roosters), Daine Laurie (Wests Tigers), Lachlan Lam (PNG/Roosters), Brian To'o (Panthers)

2 points - Corey Harawira-Naera (Raiders), Felise Kaufusi (Storm), Tanah Boyd (Titans), Morgan Harper (Sea Eagles), Edrick Lee (Knights), Jordan Rapana (Raiders), Tevita Pangai Junior (Bulldogs), Jamal Fogarty (Raiders), Mathew Feagai (Dragons), Toby Rudolf (Sharks), Jaydn Su'A (Dragons), Dylan Walker (Sea Eagles), Izack Tago (Panthers), Martin Taupau (Sea Eagles), Liam Knight (Rabbitohs), Nick Meaney (Storm), Luke Garner (Wests Tigers), Jai Arrow (Rabbitohs), Kodi Nikorima (Warriors/Rabbitohs), Ken Maumalo (Wests Tigers), Tyrell Sloan (Dragons), Phillip Sami (Titans), Greg Marzhew (Titans), Kyle Feldt (Cowboys), Teig Wilton (Sharks), Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Hame Sele (Rabbitohs), Murray Taulagi (Cowboys), Sebastian Kris (Raiders), Sunia Turuva (Fiji/Panthers), Elliott Whitehead (Raiders)

1 point - Kade Dykes (Sharks), Corey Waddell (Bulldogs), Jack Murchie (Warriors), Braydon Trindall (Sharks), Nathan Brown (Eels), Isaac Thompson (Rabbitohs), Jaeman Salmon (Panthers), Corey Horsburgh (Raiders), Jake Averillo (Bulldogs), Jordan McLean (Cowboys), Siliva Havili (Rabbitohs), Jayden Campbell (Titans), Jack Bird (Dragons), Dominic Young (Knights), Thomas Freebairn (Wests Tigers), Tevita Tatola (Rabbitohs), Jacob Kiraz (Bulldogs), Max King (Bulldogs), Adam Pompey (Warriors), Kenny Bromwich (Storm), Matthew Timoko (Raiders), Joe Ofahengaue (Wests Tigers), Tyrone Roberts (Broncos), Matt Eisenhuth (Panthers), Josh Mcguire (Dragons), Ben Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Brandon Smith (Storm), Lindsay Collins (Roosters), Adam Clune (Knights), Blake Taaffe (Rabbitohs), Victor Radley (Roosters), Xavier Coates (Storm), Blake Lawrie (Dragons), Matt Dufty (Bulldogs), Connor Tracey (Sharks), Mitchell Barnett (Knights), Aiden Tolman (Sharks), Marcelo Montoya (Warriors), Toafofoa Siple (Sea Eagles), James Schiller (Raiders), Declan Casey (Bulldogs), Jake Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Josh Schuster (Sea Eagles/Samoa)

2ND PRELIMINARY FINAL

NORTH QUEENSLAND  
**COWBOYS**



**PARRAMATTA**  
**EELS**

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
25	21	11	4	-	52	Scott DRINKWATER	<b>1</b>
30	19	11	-	-	44	Kyle FELDT	<b>2</b>
27	23	10	96	3*	236	Valentine HOLMES	<b>3</b>
29	25	5	-	-	20	Peta HIKU	<b>4</b>
23	24	16	-	-	64	Murray TAULAGI	<b>5</b>
21	22	9	-	-	36	Tom DEARDEN	<b>6</b>
31	25	2	4	1	17	Chad TOWNSEND	<b>7</b>
30	21	-	-	-	-	Jordan McLEAN	<b>8</b>
24	25	7	-	-	28	Reece ROBSON	<b>9</b>
23	17	1	-	-	4	Reuben COTTER	<b>10</b>
22	23	3	-	-	12	Tom GILBERT	<b>11</b>
19	22	17	-	-	68	Jeremiah NANAI	<b>12</b>
29	24	1	-	-	4	Jason TAUMALOLO	<b>13</b>
+ includes 1 two-point field goal							
21	22	7	-	-	28	Hamiso TABUAI-FIDOW	<b>14</b>
26	22^	3	-	-	12	Luciano LEILUA	<b>15</b>
26	22	1	-	-	4	Coen HESS	<b>16</b>
21	22	4	-	-	16	Griffin NEAME	<b>17</b>
^ played 12 games for Wests Tigers							
25	16	-	-	-	-	Jamayne TAUNOA-BROWN	<b>18</b>
21	1	-	-	-	-	Tom CHESTER	<b>19</b>
33	14	-	-	-	-	Jake GRANVILLE	<b>20</b>
28	3	-	-	-	-	Brendan ELLIOT	<b>21</b>
30	2	-	-	-	-	Ben HAMPTON	<b>22</b>
Todd PAYTEN							

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

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

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

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
27	26	14	8	-	72	Clinton GUTHERSON	<b>1</b>
28	14	12	-	-	48	Maika SIVO	<b>2</b>
20	26	9	-	-	36	Will PENISINI	<b>3</b>
27	19	7	-	-	28	Tom OPACIC	<b>4</b>
27	20	12	-	-	48	Waqā BLAKE	<b>5</b>
22	26	11	-	-	44	Dylan BROWN	<b>6</b>
27	24	7	89	2	208	Mitchell MOSES	<b>7</b>
29	26	1	-	-	4	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD	<b>8</b>
24	26	8	-	-	32	Reed MAHONEY	<b>9</b>
28	24	1	-	-	4	Junior PAULO	<b>10</b>
27	24	2	-	-	8	Shaun LANE	<b>11</b>
23	26	10	-	-	40	Isaiah PAPALI'I	<b>12</b>
27	21	4	-	-	16	Ryan MATTERSON	<b>13</b>

27	9	-	-	-	-	Bryce CARTWRIGHT	<b>14</b>
19	12	-	-	-	-	Jakob ARTHUR	<b>15</b>
23	26	1	-	-	4	Oregon KAUFUSI	<b>16</b>
26	17	1	-	-	4	Marata NIUKORE	<b>17</b>
29	23	-	-	-	-	Makahesi MAKATOA	<b>18</b>
24	18	3	-	-	12	Bailey SIMONSSON	<b>19</b>
29	13	1	-	-	4	Nathan BROWN	<b>20</b>
26	2	-	-	-	-	Ofahiki OGDEN	<b>21</b>
23	4	-	-	-	-	Ky RODWELL	<b>22</b>

Brad ARTHUR

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2022
KICKOFF	7:50PM AEST
VENUE	QUEENSLAND COUNTRY BANK STADIUM TOWNSVILLE QLD / WULGURUKABA
WATCH	NINE NETWORK & 9 NOW FOX LEAGUE & KAYO
LISTEN	ABC SPORT, CHECK GUIDES FOR OTHERS
LIVE BLOG	LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	GRANT ATKINS
TOUCH JUDGES	MICHAEL WISE DAVE MUNRO
NRL BUNKER	ADAM GEE

## HEAD TO HEAD

ALL	44	NORTH QLD 21 // PARRAMATTA 22 // DRAWS 1
FINALS	2	NORTH QLD 2 // PARRAMATTA 0
QLD C.B.	0	FIRST MEETING AT THIS VENUE

## LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2018	R24	NORTH QLD 44-6	1300SMILES, 25095
2019	R10	NORTH QLD 17-10	1300SMILES, 12493
2020	R8	PARRAMATTA 42-4	BANKWEST, 6730
2021	R23	PARRAMATTA 32-16	CBUS, 3013
2022	R8	NORTH QLD 35-4	TIO, 10017

## BIGGEST WINS

2001	R21	PARRAMATTA 62-0	PIRTEK, 13192
2015	R20	NORTH QLD 46-4	1300SMILES, 13767

## NOTABLES

**NORTH QLD:** HAMISO TABUAI FIDOW HAS PLAYED 49 NRL GAMES  
**PARRAMATTA:** JAKOB ARTHUR TURNS 20 ON SEP 27, CLINT GUTHERSON HAS 98 NRL GOALS, REED MAHONEY HAS 99 NRL GAMES

## FORM

NORTH QLD	L W L W W
PARRAMATTA	W W W L W

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

WINNER	GRAND FINAL, SUN 2 OCT 7:30PM, ACCOR STADIUM
LOSER	ELIMINATED

Match stats courtesy of

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
project

# THE PREVIEW

with AJ Lucantonio

The North Queensland Cowboys and the Parramatta Eels will play for the first spot in this season's grand final when they go head to head at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

It's been a successful year for the boys from the North with the Cowboys proving all experts wrong in season 2022. Todd Payten has proven his worth as an NRL head coach successfully guiding his troops to week three of the finals for the first time since the retirement of Johnathan Thurston. Much has been put down to the emergence of an energetic pack of forwards that can turn the game with one blockbusting run or a big hit in defence.

Last start was a nail-biting 93 minute epic against Cronulla when they won on the back of a two point field goal from Val Holmes. Whilst their attack was incredible, the defensive aspects would've made Todd Payten ballistic in the coaches box. The return of Tom Dearden has made this attack shine, his call-up to the QLD squad has made Dearden a much better player. Their back five has been immense coming out of yardage, Peta Hiku had 314 running meters last start while Feldt and Taulagi are reliable coming out of yardage. The Cowboys are as per program for their first home preliminary final in franchise history.

Parramatta's season has been marred by inconsistency, and it's safe to say that trend has continued in the finals. But, it's not the prior form that counts coming into the finals. It's how you play on the day. The conditions could work against the Eels in this one, just like they did in Darwin earlier in the season. The big plus, is Dylan Brown playing in career best form with Mitch Moses recovering from his concussion against Penrith a fortnight ago. From the 17 that ran out for both sides that day, the Eels will have 10 of the same players in the same position on Friday, while the Cowboys will have 16.

Parramatta come into this one on the back of a big victory over Canberra winning by 36 points, ignoring all the outside noise in the wake of a damaging report into their pathways. Their attack was world class with Canberra having real difficulty wrapping up the ball. With the way North Queensland like to wrap up the footy in defence, it'll be a big test for the likes of Paulo, Lane and Campbell-Gillard to get the Eels on the front foot and take the ascendancy against the Cowboys in this one. On the team front, Brad Arthur has opted for Bryce Cartwright ahead of Makahesi Makatoa with Jake Arthur preferred in the side. Tom Opacic is in doubt with a hamstring injury sustained last week.

**WHO TO WATCH:** It's been a quiet week for the Cowboys while everyone has focused on the Sydney sides and that's the best thing for young Tom Dearden. In his maiden finals campaign, Dearden has defied all expectations guiding the Cowboys to an unlikely final four berth. Dearden's kicking game, particularly around the red-zone will be key if the Cowboys are to get home in this one.

He's been in the headlines following his KO against Penrith, but there's no denying Mitch Moses has emerged as one of the game's dominant playmakers in 2022. The ability to create something out of nothing and turn the game on the back of one kick is a rare trait for playmakers. Moses has that in spades, watch for Moses to spark the Eels to their first grand final since 2009.

**FAVOURITE:** North Queensland are slight favourites for this clash. In finals footy, they've met twice with the Cowboys winning both clashes. As far as preliminary finals are concerned, they last met in 2005 with the Cowboys defeating Parramatta 29-0.

**MY TIP:** I like the Eels' chances in this one and it's a game that'll go right down to the wire. But I think the difference is going to be the engine room of the Cowboys. It's been an underrated part of their game and Jason Taumalolo will be looking to deliver the Cowboys first grand final appearance since 2017. Cowboys by 6.



**SQUAD UPDATE**

THU 7:50PM

**LATE MAIL**

FRI 6:50PM

[LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM](http://LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM)

1ST PRELIMINARY FINAL

**PENRITH**  
**PANTHERS**



**SOUTH SYDNEY**  
**RABBITOHS**

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
26	23	9	-	-	36	Dylan EDWARDS	<b>1</b>
21	14	2	-	-	8	Charlie STAINES	<b>2</b>
20	24	12	-	-	48	Izack TAGO	<b>3</b>
21	21	12	32	-	112	Stephen CRICHTON	<b>4</b>
24	16	10	-	-	40	Brian TO'O	<b>5</b>
25	18	7	-	-	28	Jarome LUAI	<b>6</b>
24	15	2	66	1	141	Nathan CLEARY	<b>7</b>
22	23	5	-	-	20	Moses LEOTA	<b>8</b>
29	23	4	-	-	16	Api KOROISAU	<b>9</b>
26	21	3	-	-	12	James FISHER-HARRIS	<b>10</b>
27	23	9	-	-	36	Viliame KIKAU	<b>11</b>
25	20	7	-	-	28	Liam MARTIN	<b>12</b>
27	21	4	-	-	16	Isaah YEO	<b>13</b>
24	22	1	-	-	4	Mitch KENNY	<b>14</b>
29	22	1	-	-	4	Scott SORENSEN	<b>15</b>
22	23	5	-	-	20	Spencer LENIU	<b>16</b>
23	23	2	-	-	8	Jaeman SALMON	<b>17</b>
24	11	2	2	-	12	Sean O'SULLIVAN	<b>18</b>
30	16	-	-	-	-	Matt EISENHUTH	<b>19</b>
23	4	-	-	-	-	J'maine HOPGOOD	<b>20</b>
20	3	1	-	-	4	Sunia TURUVA	<b>21</b>
28	6	1	-	-	4	Chris SMITH	<b>22</b>
Ivan CLEARY							

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

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

PENALTIES  
SCRUMS

Age P T G FG Pts

<b>1</b>	Latrell MITCHELL	25	16	7	59	1*	148
<b>2</b>	Alex JOHNSTON	27	25	30	-	-	120
<b>3</b>	Isaiah TASS	23	15	3	-	-	12
<b>4</b>	Campbell GRAHAM	23	19	5	-	-	20
<b>5</b>	Taane MILNE	27	21	10	-	-	40
<b>6</b>	Cody WALKER	32	26	13	-	-	52
<b>7</b>	Lachlan ILIAS	22	25	5	-	-	20
<b>8</b>	Tevita TATOLA	25	25	4	-	-	16
<b>9</b>	Damien COOK	31	22	8	-	-	32
<b>10</b>	Mark NICHOLLS	32	17	1	-	-	4
<b>11</b>	Keaon KOLOAMATANGI	24	26	7	-	-	28
<b>12</b>	Jai ARROW	27	25	2	-	-	8
<b>13</b>	Cameron MURRAY	24	22	4	-	-	16
+ includes 1 two-point field goal							
<b>14</b>	Kodi NIKORIMA	28	19^	1	10	-	24
<b>15</b>	Hame SELE	25	13	-	-	-	-
<b>16</b>	Michael CHEE-KAM	30	5	-	-	-	-
<b>17</b>	Siliva HAVILI	29	23	1	-	-	4
^ played 5 games for Warriors							
<b>18</b>	Davy MOALE	19	12	-	-	-	-
<b>19</b>	Blake TAAFFE	23	10	2	30	-	68
<b>20</b>	Jaxson PAULO	22	18	6	-	-	24
<b>21</b>	Richard KENNAR	27	1	3	-	-	12
<b>22</b>	Peter MAMOUELOS	21	2	1	-	-	4
Jason DEMETRIOU							

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



## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2022
KICKOFF	7:50PM AEST
VENUE	ACCOR STADIUM
	SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW / WANN-GAL
WATCH	NINE NETWORK & 9NOW
	FOX LEAGUE & KAYO
LISTEN	ABC SPORT, CHECK GUIDES FOR OTHERS
LIVE BLOG	LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	ASHLEY KLEIN
TOUCH JUDGES	PHIL HENDERSON
	DREW OULTRAM
NRL BUNKER	GERARD SUTTON

## HEAD TO HEAD

ALL	91	PENRITH 43 // SOUTHS 47 // DRAWS 1
FINALS	3	PENRITH 2 // SOUTHS 1
ACCOR	10	PENRITH 3 // SOUTHS 7

## LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2021	R23	PENRITH 25-12	SUNCORP, 8848
2021	QF	SOUTHS 16-10	QLD C.B., 18244
2021	GF	PENRITH 14-12	SUNCORP, 39322
2022	R4	PENRITH 26-12	BLUEBET, 20521
2022	R23	PENRITH 26-22	ACCOR, 15208

## BIGGEST WINS

2021	R11	PENRITH 56-12	DUBBO, 10824
1980	R7	SOUTHS 59-5	REDFERN, 4752

## NOTABLES

**PENRITH:** STEPHEN CRICHTON TURNS 22 ON SEP 22, NATHAN CLEARY HAS 48 NRL TRIES

**SOUTHS:** CAMPBELL GRAHAM HAS 48 NRL TRIES, MICHAEL CHEE KAM HAS PLAYED 99 NRL GAMES, MARK NICHOLLS HAS PLAYED 99 CLUB GAMES

## FORM

PENRITH	L W W L W
SOUTHS	L W L W W

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

WINNER	GRAND FINAL, SUN 2 OCT 7:30PM, ACCOR STADIUM
LOSER	ELIMINATED

Match stats courtesy of



# THE PREVIEW

## with Andrew Jackson

Rabbitohs eye shot at redemption against defending premiers

That was supposed to be it for the Rabbitohs.

When Adam Reynolds sent his sideline conversion wide, there was an overwhelming sense that South Sydney would not be this close again, at least for a couple of years. Lachlan Ilias needed time to develop and without the master coach Wayne Bennett at the helm, a fall down the ladder seemed almost inevitable.

And South Sydney did fall, well outside of finals contention midway through the season before recovering, still only finishing seventh. But with Latrell Mitchell available this time around, the Rabbitohs surged past the Roosters and easily accounted for the Sharks to book a shot at revenge against the Panthers. Sure, Penrith has taken care of South Sydney twice this season with Mitchell at the back, although it is still fair to say the Rabbitohs are a much better chance of winning last year's decider with their first-choice fullback.

Let's not get bogged down on debating that point though. The frightening prospect for the Panthers is that Mitchell still seems to have so much more left in him, like he has been waiting for this moment. The Rabbitohs will need him to be that guy against a Penrith side that can seemingly not put a foot wrong when at full-strength.

The Eels were tipped to give the Panthers a real shake in their qualifying final but were made to look second-rate, going down 27-8. Yes, losing Mitchell Moses to a head knock did not help Parramatta, although Penrith were still on top at the point he went off, leading 13-8. You still have to give them credit too for the way they shut down the Eels' big men too, with the likes of Isaiah Papali'i, Shaun Lane and Ryan Matternson having no say on the contest. Junior Paulo and Reagan Campbell-Gillard did their best to try halt Penrith's momentum with strong running up front, although South Sydney will be without one of its most in-form forwards this week in Tom Burgess.

Fortunately for them Tevita Tatola will be available to play despite being charged for a chicken wing tackle last week, escaping with a fine. Taylan May is not so fortunate, with the Penrith winger suspended for a high shot in the win over the Eels, although he would have likely been ruled out anyway with a hamstring injury. He is replaced by Charlie Staines, who has been unable to live up to the hype that came with his four-try debut against Cronulla. Obviously it was completely unfair to expect Staines to be scoring tries at that rate in his career, although he will need to lift his game as a whole to replace May, a crucial metre-eater for Penrith. May has also proven himself an adept finisher closer to the line, something Staines may also struggle to replicate given his size disadvantage against several other wingers in the league. Staines though knows the Penrith system and makes strong reads in defence, plus he will also be able to cover any early kicks for South Sydney speedster Alex Johnston.

Penrith is otherwise 1-17 for Saturday's preliminary final. As for South Sydney, Siliva Havili (calf) is out and replaced on the bench by Jed Cartwright. Alex Johnston (hip flexor) and Jai Arrow (groin) have been named, with the former said to be a 50-50 chance of playing on Saturday according to reports. If Johnston is not fit to play, look for Josh Mansour or Richie Kennar to join the side on the wing.

**WHO TO WATCH:** Jaxson Paulo had an absolute nightmare the last time these two sides met, targeted in a brutal aerial raid from the Panthers. Sean O'Sullivan was Penrith's halfback that night though and while Paulo may not be in the 17 this time around, Nathan Cleary is for the Panthers. That means South Sydney's outside backs can expect plenty of attention. Cleary cast aside any concerns over his return from suspension when he masterminded Penrith's win over Parramatta in the qualifying finals. The 24-year-old got his running game going, taking the line on and dictating the tempo of Penrith's attack. Like O'Sullivan did the last time these two teams faced off, look for Cleary to kick to corners early and using his boot to take Mitchell out of the game.

If the Rabbitohs are any hope of causing an upset on Saturday, it starts with hooker Damien Cook. The Panthers can be vulnerable in defence through the ruck and of course, lock forward Cameron Murray is the catalyst for South Sydney with quick play-the-balls. But it is on Cook to take advantage of them and use his running game early to put Penrith's defence in two minds. Be it rolling up the field himself out of dummy-half or shifting the ball long and early to test the edges, Cook needs to draw on all his tricks to best the defending premiers.

**FAVOURITE:** You just can't write off the Panthers at this point, who are favourites to make yet another grand final.

**MY TIP:** Honestly, this is based on more of a gut feeling than anything else. It has seemed inevitable that the Panthers would cruise to this year's decider but you get the sense there may be one final twist on Saturday. The Rabbitohs will not be short of motivation to cause a boilover and if Lachlan Ilias and Cody Walker can get their long-range kicking right, an upset could be on the cards. Although, just quietly, if Johnston is ruled out and Mansour comes in, that would actually tip the scales heavily in Penrith's favour. Cleary would have a field day targeting his former teammate. South Sydney by 4.



**SQUAD UPDATE**

FRI 7:50PM

**LATE MAIL**

SAT 6:50PM

**LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM**

# THE W PROGRAMME

NRLW SEMI FINALS GAME DAY COMPANION  
TEAM LISTS • PREVIEWS  
MATCH DETAILS & STATS

## SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2022



SECOND SEMI FINAL  
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (2)



v ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (3)  
SUNCORP STADIUM, 2:05PM



FIRST SEMI FINAL  
SYDNEY ROOSTERS (1)



v PARRAMATTA EELS (4)  
SUNCORP STADIUM, 3:50PM

# NRLW 2022 FINAL LADDER & STATS

## PREMIERSHIP LADDER

Pos	Team	Home							Away							Total							
		P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	PD
1.	<b>Sydney Roosters</b>	2	2	-	-	52	22	30	3	3	-	-	104	36	68	5	5	-	-	156	58	10	98
2.	<b>Newcastle Knights</b>	2	2	-	-	50	30	20	3	2	1	-	62	38	24	5	4	1	-	112	68	8	44
3.	<b>St George Illawarra Dragons</b>	2	1	1	-	34	42	-8	3	2	1	-	41	62	-21	5	3	2	-	75	104	6	-29
4.	<b>Parramatta Eels</b>	2	-	2	-	26	54	-28	3	1	2	-	60	52	8	5	1	4	-	86	106	2	-20
5.	Brisbane Broncos	4	1	3	-	64	79	-15	1	-	1	-	14	32	-18	5	1	4	-	78	111	2	-33
6.	Gold Coast Titans	3	1	2	-	42	70	-28	2	-	2	-	16	48	-32	5	1	4	-	58	118	2	-60

## TOP TRYSCORERS

Rank	Player	Team	P	T
1	<b>Jayme FRESSARD</b>	Sydney	4	5
2	Teagan BERRY	St Geo Illa	5	4
	Jaime CHAPMAN	Brisbane	5	4
	Steph HANCOCK	Gold Coast	5	4
5	Tarryn AIKEN	Brisbane	5	3
	Madison BARTLETT	Gold Coast	5	3
	Destiny BRILL	Sydney	5	3
	Shenae CIESIOLKA	Brisbane	5	3
	Isabelle KELLY	Sydney	5	3
	Olivia KERNICK	Sydney	5	3
	Page McGREGOR	St Geo Illa	4	3
	Julia ROBINSON	Brisbane	5	3
	Simaima TAUFA	Parramatta	5	3

## TOP POINTSCORERS

Rank	Player	Team	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	<b>Zehara TEMARA</b>	St Geo Illa	5	1	20	-	44
2	Jayme FRESSARD	Sydney	4	5	-	-	20
3	Kirra DIBB	Newcastle	5	-	9	-	18
	Tayla PRESTON	Parramatta	4	-	9	-	18
5	Teagan BERRY	St Geo Illa	5	4	-	-	16
	Jaime CHAPMAN	Brisbane	5	4	-	-	16
	Steph HANCOCK	Gold Coast	5	4	-	-	16
8	Rachael PEARSON	St Geo Illa	5	-	7	1	15
9	Tarryn AIKEN	Brisbane	5	3	1	-	14
	Lauren BROWN	Gold Coast	5	-	7	-	14
	Ali BRIGGINSHAW	Brisbane	5	2	3	-	14
	Jesse SOUTHWELL	Newcastle	5	1	5	-	14

Statistics provided by **RUGBY LEAGUE**  
project

# THE WRAP

## NRLW 2022 ROUND 5

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 12:05PM

### PARRAMATTA 28 BRISBANE 16

SCORERS | PARRAMATTA EELS (28) Tries:

Tiana Penitani, Ellie Johnston, Zali Fay, Simaima Taufa, Kennedy Cherrington; Conversions: Tayla Preston (3/5); Penalty Goals: Tayla Preston (1/1) **def BRISBANE BRONCOS (16)** Tries: Shenae Ciesiolka, Ali Briginshaw, Hayley Maddick; Conversions: Ali Briginshaw (2/3) **MATCH INFORMATION** | Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Crowd: 3066; Halftime Score: Brisbane 6 Parramatta 14; LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:



3 points - Simaima Taufa, 2 points - Brooke Anderson, 1 points - Ash Quinlan **FINAL TEAMLISTS** | **BRISBANE:** 1. Hayley Maddick 2. Julia Robinson 3. Jaime Chapman 4. Shenae Ciesiolka 5. Emily Bass 6. Tarryn Aiken 7. Ali Briginshaw 8. Annetta Nuuausala 9. Jada Ferguson 12. Amber Hall 11. Jasmine Fogavini 15. Hannah Larsson 16. Sophie Holyman **INT** 14. Amy Turner 10. Chelsea Lenarduzzi 17. Brianna Clark 19. Nita Maynard **18P** 18. Paige Parker **PARRAMATTA:** 1. Gayle Broughton 2. Zali Fay 3. Tiana Penitani 4. Rikeya Horne 5. Cassey Tohi-Hiku 6. Ash Quinlan 7. Tayla Preston 14. Kennedy Cherrington 21. Brooke Anderson 10. Ellie Johnston 11. Christian Pio 12. Vanessa Foliaki 13. Simaima Taufa **INT** 8. Filomina Hanisi 9. Seli Mailangi 19. Najvada George 22. Rima Butler **18P** 18. Abbi Church

### EELS PUT ONE-HAND ON FINALS SPOT ENDING THE BRONCOS SEASON

The Parramatta Eels have done what no other side in the NRLW has been able to and end the Brisbane Broncos season before the finals following their 28-16 victory at Gosford.

Starting fast, the Blue and Gold looked switched on as Tiana Penitani was able to get over in the corner after a strong run through the middle set up the Eels in attack. The Eels then pushed their way over again inside ten minutes when Ellie Johnston was able to get over the line with a charging run. Off the back of errors and ill-discipline from the Eels, the Broncos were able to score through Shenae Ciesiolka after a good long pass from Ali Briginshaw was able to put the centre through. Just shy of half time, the Eels were able to get their lead to beyond the required six when not long after just being denied, Ash Quinlan threw a beautiful long pass out to Zali Fay who scored in the corner. Tayla Preston couldn't convert and the Eels held a 14-6 lead at the half-time break.

Despite dominating possession, the Eels couldn't take advantage but were able to extend their lead out to 10 when slotting a penalty goal after the Broncos were penalised for ruck interference. The Broncos were able to hit back not long after the penalty goal when the Broncos took advantage of some loose Eels defence and Hayley Maddick put the speed on to score for Brisbane to keep the gap close. A controversial non-call from Kasey Badger came back to hurt the Eels when a short dropout from Ali Briginshaw was taken by Jaime Chapman despite it looking like it hadn't gone ten metres. The ensuing set saw Briginshaw score after a deflected kick bounced nicely for her to pick it up and score. A shank from close range saw the scores stay locked up at 16-16.

It might've been the football gods smiling on the Eels as they were able to hit back when Simaima Taufa charged at the line and with a gap closing, she was able to score next to the uprights and after the conversion the Eels lead by six. The Eels then confirmed their top 4 spot with Kennedy Cherrington fighting her way to the line after an important offload from Vanessa Foliaki gave Parramatta some attacking space and a ball to score close to the posts. The twelve point victory gives Parramatta one hand on the top 4 spot depending on results later today, meanwhile the Broncos will miss the finals for the first time and look to see what went wrong in 2022. **JOSH ROBERTSON**

### SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 1:55PM SYDNEY 38 GOLD COAST 12

SCORERS | SYDNEY ROOSTERS (38) Tries:

Destiny Brill (2), Jada Taylor, Shaniah Power, Jayme Fressard (2), Jessica Sergis; Conversions: Zahara Temara (5/7) **def GOLD COAST TITANS (12)** Tries: Madison Bartlett (2), Jetaya Faiua; Conversions: Lauren Brown (0/2), Karina Brown (0/1) **MATCH INFORMATION** | Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Crowd: 4776; Halftime Score: Gold Coast 4 Sydney 28; LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match: 3 points - Destiny Brill, 2 points - Jocelyn Kelleher, 1 points - Evania Pelite



**FINAL TEAMLISTS** | **GOLD COAST:** 1. Evania Pelite 2. Karina Brown 3. Api Nicholls 4. Jasmine Peters 5. Madison Bartlett 6. Kimiora Breayley-Nati 7. Lauren Brown 8. Shannon Mato 9. Brittany Breayley-Nati 10. Stephanie Hancock 11. Zara Canfield 12. Tiana Raftstrand-Smith 13. Georgia Hale **INT** 14. Jetaya Faiua 15. Jessica Elliston 17. Laikha Clarke 18. Roxy Murdoch **18P** 21. Hagiga Mosby **SYDNEY:** 1. Jada Taylor 2. Shannon Rose 3. Jessica Sergis 4. Isabelle Kelly 5. Jayme Fressard 6. Zahara Temara 14. Jocelyn Kelleher 8. Kalosipani Hopoate 9. Destiny Brill 10. Sarah Togatuki 11. Shaniah Power 12. Olivia Kernick 13. Keilee Joseph **INT** 15. Shawden Burton 16. Otesa Pule 17. Angelina Teakaraanga 18. Samantha Economos **18P** 19. Joeli Morris

### ROOSTERS CLOSE OUT THE REGULAR SEASON WITH THUMPING WIN OVER SORRY TITANS

The Sydney Roosters are minor premiers in the 2022 NRLW season with a commanding 38-12 victory over the Gold Coast Titans at Central Coast Stadium.

It was a simple equation for the Titans today, win and the Titans were qualifying for the finals. They thought they were off to a good start when Kimiora Breayley-Nati crossed for the first try. But, the bunker was bizarrely unable to overturn the decision when the camera angles couldn't determine if she was on or offside.

The Roosters wasted no time getting up the other end and it was a former Titan who crossed for the first try. Destiny Brill ran out of the dummy half and scored the first try against her former club. Similar issues that plagued the Titans this season were their undoing early. Another cheap penalty for a high tackle on former teammate Brill gave the Roosters prime field position. A brilliant pass from Olivia Kernick saw Jada Taylor score on her debut.

Off the ensuing kickoff, the Roosters couldn't handle it and it allowed the Titans to hit back with immediate effect. It was a brilliant ball from Evania Pelite which allowed Madison Bartlett to cross in the left corner and reduce the margin to eight. Unfortunately, the Titans also failed to handle the kickoff and the Roosters restored their order when Jocelyn Kelleher provided a lovely pass to the backrower Shaniah Power who crashed over against her old club.

Five minutes later, Power turned provider when she found Isabelle Kelly who unselfishly found Jayme Fressard who crossed in the right-hand corner and the Roosters had a 22-4 lead. After stemming the run of points for a short period, the Titans' poor completions saw the Roosters strike when Kelleher provided another wonder ball to Jess Sergis to race 50 meters to score and give the Roosters a 24-point lead at half-time.

The second half was filled with errors from both sides with either team failing to gain the ascendancy after coming out of the dressing sheds. Gold Coast had their chances but once again, their poor completions were their undoing. Eventually, the weight of possession for the Titans saw them cross when Bartlett crossed for her second. Gold Coast grabbed their second of the second half when Lauren Brown created the overlap and youngster Jetaya Faiua crossed to reduce the gap to 16. Brill and Fressard crossed for their doubles respectively to increase the margin, which gave the Roosters a comprehensive 38-12 victory. **AJ LUCANTONIO**

### SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 3:45PM NEWCASTLE 30 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 8

SCORERS | NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (30) Tries:

Olivia Higgins, Kiana Takairangi, Jessica Gentle, Emmanita Paki, Emma Manzelmann, Makenzie Weale; Conversions: Jesse Southwell (3/6) **def ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (8)** Tries: Taliah Fuimaono, Teagan Berry; Conversions: Rachael Pearson (0/2) **MATCH INFORMATION** | Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Crowd: 6214; Halftime Score: St George Illawarra 8 Newcastle 18; LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match: 3 points - Caitlan Johnston, 2 points - Jesse Southwell, 1 points - Elsie Albert



**FINAL TEAMLISTS** | **ST GEO ILLA:** 1. Emma Tonegato 2. Teagan Berry 6. Taliah Fuimaono 21. Shontelle Stowers 5. Andie Robinson 19. Zali Hopkins 7. Rachael Pearson 8. Elsie Albert 14. Quincy Dodd 10. Tara McGrath-West 12. Shaylee Bent 17. Chantel Tugaga 13. Holli Wheeler **INT** 3. Keele Browne 9. Keeley Davis 18. Renee Targett 20. Aliti Nameo **18P** 22. Salma Nour **NEWCASTLE:** 3. Shanice Parker 4. Emmanita Paki 1. Bobbi Law 5. Kiana Takairangi 20. Jessica Gentle 6. Kirra Dibb 7. Jesse Southwell 8. Caitlan Johnston 9. Olivia Higgins 10. Millie Boyle 11. Romy Teitzel 12. Yasmin Clydsdale 16. Kayla Romaniuk **INT** 13. Simone Karpani 14. Emma Manzelmann 15. Tayla Predebon 17. Makenzie Weale **18P** 19. Kyra Simon

### KNIGHTS WARM-UP FOR FINALS BATTLE WITH BIG WIN OVER THE DRAGONS

Both sides made plenty of changes before the contest with both sides just feeling each other out and testing depth ahead of their finals clash next weekend against each other.

The Dragons were able to score in the right hand corner when some good work from the Red 'V' saw Taliah Fuimaono score the opener. A tough conversion attempt from Rachael Pearson was waved away. Some ill-discipline from Holli Wheeler helped Newcastle into good attacking position which the Novocastrians were able to take advantage of when Olivia Higgins got over from dummy half after the Dragons defence went in two directions.

An error at the back from the Knights gave the Dragons strong attacking position which they took advantage of straight from the scrum when Teagan Berry was able to get on the outside of the defence and scored in the corner. Another tough conversion was missed from Rachael Pearson. The tit-for-tat nature of the game continued as Kiana Takairangi was able to show that she had plenty of strength as she was able to keep her arm off the ground from close range to the line and score. Southwell missed the conversion which kept the scores level at 8-8.

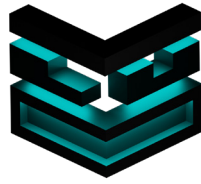
On the stroke of half-time it was an amazing pass from Jesse Southwell and then some strong footwork from debutant Jessica Gentle to combine for the Knights third try when a harbour bridge pass from Southwell found Gentle. Gentle's footwork then was able to beat the defence and score. Southwell converted to give the Knights a 14-8 lead on the break.

The momentum was all with Newcastle at the end of the first half and then they took advantage to start the second half when Emma Paki was able to score out wide when the Knights were able to create an overlap for the centre to get her first NRLW try. Southwell's conversion was waved away and the Knights held an 18-8 lead. Mounting possession for the Knights became too much for the Dragons as their energy levels dropped and Emma Manzelmann was able to take advantage when she sprinted out of dummy half and got over. Jesse Southwell was able to convert to push the lead out to 24-8. The Knights sealed the deal late in the contest when the Dragons defence were on different pages as Makenzie Weale took advantage and the tired defence couldn't stop her from getting over next to the posts. Jesse Southwell converted from close range to seal the 30-8 victory.

Next weekend, these two sides meet again in the first week of the finals and there will be no doubt that the teams won't look anything like they did today with key players rested from both sides. **JOSH ROBERTSON**

SECOND SEMI FINAL

2ND **NEWCASTLE**  
**KNIGHTS**



**ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA** 3RD  
**DRAGONS**

Age P T G FG Pts

25	3	2	-	-	8	Tamika UPTON	<b>1</b>
30	4	1	-	-	4	Kiana TAKAIRANGI	<b>2</b>
24	5	-	-	-	-	Shanice PARKER	<b>3</b>
25	4	1	-	-	4	Bobbi LAW	<b>4</b>
19	2	1	-	-	4	Emmanita PAKI	<b>5</b>
25	5	-	9	-	18	Kirra DIBB	<b>6</b>
17	5	1	5	-	14	Jesse SOUTHWELL	<b>7</b>
21	5	2	-	-	8	Caitlan JOHNSTON	<b>8</b>
30	5	2	-	-	8	Olivia HIGGINS	<b>9</b>
24	5	-	-	-	-	Mille BOYLE	<b>10</b>
23	5	2	-	-	8	Romy TEITZEL	<b>11</b>
28	5	1	-	-	4	Yasmin CLYDSDALE	<b>12</b>
20	1	-	-	-	-	Kayla ROMANIUK	<b>13</b>

20	5	2	-	-	8	Emma MANZELMANN	<b>14</b>
21	5	2	-	-	8	Tayla PREDEBON	<b>15</b>
25	4	-	-	-	-	Simone KARPANI	<b>16</b>
20	4	1	-	-	4	Makenzie WEALE	<b>17</b>

25	2	-	-	-	-	Caitlin MORAN	<b>18</b>
20	2	-	-	-	-	Kyra SIMON	<b>19</b>
21	2	-	-	-	-	Tiana DAVISON	<b>20</b>
26	1	1	-	-	4	Jessica GENTLE	<b>21</b>
29	-	-	-	-	-	Tamsin BARBER	<b>22</b>

Ronald GRIFFITHS

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

Age P T G FG Pts

27	5	1	-	-	4	Emma TONEGATO	<b>1</b>
20	5	4	-	-	16	Teagan BERRY	<b>2</b>
20	5	1	-	-	4	Keele BROWNE	<b>3</b>
23	4	3	-	-	12	Page McGREGOR	<b>4</b>
20	4	1	-	-	4	Andie ROBINSON	<b>5</b>
23	5	1	-	-	4	Taliah FUIMAONO	<b>6</b>
29	5	-	7	1	15	Rachael PEARSON	<b>7</b>
26	4	1	-	-	4	Elsie ALBERT	<b>8</b>
22	5	-	-	-	-	Keeley DAVIS	<b>9</b>
20	3	-	-	-	-	Tegan DYMOCK	<b>10</b>
31	4	1	-	-	4	Kezie APPS	<b>11</b>
22	5	-	-	-	-	Shaylee BENT	<b>12</b>
32	5	-	-	-	-	Holli WHEELER	<b>13</b>

22	5	1	-	-	4	Quincy DODD	<b>14</b>
22	2	-	-	-	-	Talei HOLMES	<b>15</b>
18	4	1	-	-	4	Monalisa SOLIOLA	<b>16</b>
21	5	-	-	-	-	Tara McGRATH-WEST	<b>17</b>

27	3	-	-	-	-	Renee TARGETT	<b>18</b>
20	2	-	-	-	-	Zali HOPKINS	<b>19</b>
24	1	-	-	-	-	Aliti NAMOCE	<b>20</b>
35	1	-	-	-	-	Shontelle STOWERS	<b>21</b>
20	2	-	-	-	-	Chantel TUGAGA	<b>24</b>

Jamie SOWARD

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

PENALTIES

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

## MATCH DETAILS

**DATE** SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2022  
**KICKOFF** 2:05PM AEST  
**VENUE** SUNCORP STADIUM  
MILTON QLD / YUGGERA-TURRBAL  
**WATCH** NINE NETWORK & 9NOW  
FOX LEAGUE & KAYO  
**LISTEN** ABC SPORT, CHECK GUIDES FOR OTHERS  
**LIVE BLOG** LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

## MATCH OFFICIALS

**REFEREE** KASEY BADGER  
**TOUCH JUDGES** ROCHELLE TAMARUA  
MITCHELL CURRIE  
**NRL BUNKER** ALAN SHORTALL

## HEAD TO HEAD

**ALL** 2 NEWCASTLE 1 // ST GEO ILLA 1  
**SUNCORP** 0 NEVER MET AT THIS VENUE

## MATCH HISTORY

2021 R4 ST GEO ILLA 40-4 MCDONALD JONES  
2022 R5 NEWCASTLE 30-8 CENTRAL COAST, 6214

## WHAT NEXT?

**WINNER** GRAND FINAL, SUN 2 OCT, ACCOR STADIUM  
**LOSER** ELIMINATED

MATCH STATS COURTESY OF

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
project

# THE PREVIEW

with Josh Robertson

A second battle in as many weeks between the Newcastle Knights and the St George-Illawarra Dragons opens up the NRLW finals series at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

The Newcastle Knights have had a strong season to this point only losing the one game on their way to the second place finishing they achieved this season. Confidence has been something that hasn't been lacking in the Hunter this season and the Knights will be brimming with confidence following their 30-8 victory over the Dragons last weekend in the final game of the NRLW season in a performance that could only be described as pure dominance.

Starting slowly, the Knights were able to put themselves into a dominant position on either side of the halftime break with tries that took the game quickly away from the Dragons. The Novocastrians were able to dominate possession and territory during the second half which gave their opposition no chance and set up a framework for the performance this week that the Knights can use despite no doubt the Dragons fielding a different looking side to last weekend.

The Knights welcome back Tamika Upton who has missed the last two matches in a massive boost for Newcastle to have their star fullback in the team again. The return of Upton means that Shanice Parker moves back to the centres with Jessica Gentle dropping back to the reserves in the only change for the Knights. Caitlin Moran could be a late inclusion returning to the reserves after her one game suspension.

With either a second or third position booked for the finals, Dragons coach Jamie Soward took the chance to experiment with his team and the make-up of the squad and it was a decision that hurt the Dragons last week as they were comprehensively outplayed in the loss to the Knights. The Red 'V' started quickly but with possession heavily against them they began to struggle under the pressure with the relentless attack of the Knights.

The Dragons mixed season has raised a few questions marks about their performances this season and heading into the finals off a big loss isn't ideal for the Dragons although confidence levels won't be an issue for the Saints because they have a big turnover in players from last weekend given the large number of players that were rested by Jamie Soward last weekend. The result will probably be an outlier given that the Dragons side will look totally different to the one from last week.

As mentioned, there are a host of changes for the Dragons with Kezie Apps and Page McGregor are both returning after being rested whilst Tegan Dymock and Talei Holmes return from injury. These returns see Shontelle Stowers, Zali Hopkins, Chantel Tugaga, Renee Targett and Aliti Namoce all drop back to the reserves.

**WHO TO WATCH:** Returning from a 2-week layoff, Tamika Upton has made a big difference to the Knights line up and their performances over the past two weeks have shown that they don't need to rely on her but her return adds another weapon to the Newcastle side. The ability to pop up in any part of the field will be something that the Dragons need to watch out for.

Taliah Fuimaono has been a star for the Dragons this season and has been a key part of the game and arguably been the better of the 2 halves for the Red 'V' this season. Playing in the centres last weekend, Fuimaono had a strong game but her ability to make play out of nothing in the middle of the park will be a big weapon again for the Dragons. Her play in the halves is going to be vitally important if the Dragons want to win.

**FAVOURITE:** After their domination last week, Newcastle are better backed for this contest.

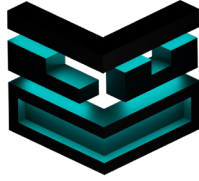
**MY TIP:** This is a game that will go down to the wire, last weeks result was a total anomaly and I think the Knights will still have enough to beat the Dragons but it's not going to be a contest that is anything like it was last weekend. A more solid base for the Dragons to start from is going to help them but a couple of little x-factor moments could help Newcastle significantly. Knights by 6.

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**1ST SYDNEY  
ROOSTERS**



**PARRAMATTA 4TH  
EELS**

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
30	4	2	-	-	8	Sam BREMNER	<b>1</b>
-	4	2	-	-	8	Leianne TUFUGA	<b>2</b>
24	5	2	-	-	8	Jessica SERGIS	<b>3</b>
25	5	3	-	-	12	Isabelle KELLY	<b>4</b>
25	4	5	-	-	20	Jayme FRESSARD	<b>5</b>
25	5	1	20	-	44	Zahara TEMARA	<b>6</b>
24	4	-	-	-	-	Raecene MCGREGOR	<b>7</b>
24	4	-	-	-	-	Sarah TOGATUKI	<b>8</b>
19	5	3	-	-	12	Destiny BRILL	<b>9</b>
20	4	-	-	-	-	Mya HILL-MOANA	<b>10</b>
25	4	2	-	-	8	Shaniah POWER	<b>11</b>
21	5	3	-	-	12	Olivia KERNICK	<b>12</b>
20	5	-	-	-	-	Keilee JOSEPH	<b>13</b>
22	5	2	-	-	8	Jocelyn KELLEHER	<b>14</b>
22	4	-	-	-	-	Shawden BURTON	<b>15</b>
18	5	1	-	-	4	Kalosipani HOPOATE	<b>16</b>
19	5	1	-	-	4	Otesa PULE	<b>17</b>
20	1	-	-	-	-	Joeli MORRIS	<b>18</b>
28	2	-	-	-	-	Samantha ECONOMOS	<b>19</b>
19	1	1	-	-	4	Jasmine STRANGE	<b>20</b>
21	1	-	-	-	-	Chante TEMARA	<b>21</b>
19	1	1	-	-	4	Jada TAYLOR	<b>22</b>
John STRANGE							

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

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
26	5	1	-	-	4	Gayle BROUGHTON	<b>1</b>
21	4	2	-	-	8	Zali FAY	<b>2</b>
26	5	2	-	-	8	Tiana PENITANI	<b>3</b>
23	5	2	-	-	8	Rikeya HORNE	<b>4</b>
18	2	-	-	-	-	Cassey TOHI-HIKU	<b>5</b>
27	4	-	-	-	-	Ash QUINLAN	<b>6</b>
22	4	-	9	-	18	Tayla PRESTON	<b>7</b>
21	5	-	-	-	-	Filomina HANISI	<b>8</b>
25	5	1	-	-	4	Seli MAILANGI	<b>9</b>
21	5	1	-	-	4	Ellie JOHNSTON	<b>10</b>
22	5	-	-	-	-	Christian PIO	<b>11</b>
29	5	1	-	-	4	Vanessa FOLIAKI	<b>12</b>
28	5	3	-	-	12	Simaima TAUFA	<b>13</b>
23	5	1	-	-	4	Kennedy CHERRINGTON	<b>14</b>
26	3	-	-	-	-	Brooke ANDERSON	<b>15</b>
23	4	-	-	-	-	Najvada GEORGE	<b>16</b>
24	3	1	-	-	4	Rima BUTLER	<b>22</b>
24	1	-	-	-	-	Abbi CHURCH	<b>18</b>
19	3	-	-	-	-	Ruby-Jean KENNARD	<b>19</b>
19	2	-	-	-	-	Rueben CHERRINGTON	<b>20</b>
20	3	1	-	-	4	Tess STAINES	<b>21</b>
27	1	-	2	-	4	Brooke WALKER	<b>23</b>
Dean WIDDERS							

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

PENALTIES  
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

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2022
KICKOFF	3:50PM AEST
VENUE	SUNCORP STADIUM MILTON QLD / YUGGERA-TURRBAL
WATCH	NINE NETWORK & 9NOW FOX LEAGUE & KAYO
LISTEN	ABC SPORT, CHECK GUIDES FOR OTHERS
LIVE BLOG	LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	BELINDA SHARPE
TOUCH JUDGES	TORI WILKIE JORDAN MOREL
NRL BUNKER	CHRIS BUTLER

## HEAD TO HEAD

ALL	2	SYDNEY 1 // PARRAMATTA 0
SUNCORP	0	NEVER MET AT THIS VENUE

## MATCH HISTORY

2021	R4	SYDNEY 19-18	MCDONALD JONES
2022	R1	SYDNEY 38-16	COMMBANK

## WHAT NEXT?

WINNER	GRAND FINAL, SUN 2 OCT, ACCOR STADIUM
LOSER	ELIMINATED

MATCH STATS COURTESY OF **RUGBY LEAGUE** project

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# THE PREVIEW

with Josh Robertson

Miracles can happen, and it will need to be a miracle if the Parramatta Eels are able to snatch a grand final spot when they take on the undefeated minor premiers the Sydney Roosters in the second of Sunday's NRLW Semi Finals at Suncorp Stadium.

The Roosters convincingly put their stamp on the minor premiership last weekend with a 38-12 victory over the Gold Coast Titans in a game where the Roosters rested a number of key players and the Titans were full strength. Coming up against a side that need a victory to make the finals, the Roosters were in total control of the game from the first minute and looked to be their usual side despite the number of players out.

Despite having moments where they've been convincing, the Roosters have shown at times they are vulnerable of taking their foot off the pedal which they did back in Round 1 when they opened up a lead against the Eels before their opponents managed a short comeback before the tricolours managed to take victory. The consistency was also an issue when they again gave up a lead to the Knights back in Round 4 only to score a late matchwinner. Consistency is going to need to be on song against the Eels who have a knack of putting their opponents off their game.

After having a number of key players rested, there are a number of changes for the Roosters including the key returns of Sam Bremner and Raecene McGregor to the fullback and halfback roles respectively. This sees Jada Taylor dropping to the reserves and Jocelyn Kelleher reverting to the bench. The return of Leianne Tufuga who was also rested sees Shannon Rose drop out of the squad altogether.

The Parramatta Eels left it to the last round to seal their only victory of the NRLW season and it was the most valuable in the team's short history when they had to put up a late rally not only to ensure that they won a match but to do so by the required six-point margin to book their finals spot. The Blue and Gold achieved just that taking a 28-16 victory over the Brisbane Broncos in a game where the Eels had to fight for the victory.

Fighting for a victory like that will give confidence to the Blue and Gold that they can go on a winning streak and take down another highly prized contender in the Roosters. The Eels were able to push the Roosters in their match-up early on in the season and that was before they had found a side that was able to gel together. Despite only winning the one game, the Eels though were in every contest and finding some good discipline and control was a big part of their game last week and they will need to find that again to get past the Roosters here.

The Eels have named the same 1-17 as they did last week although injury concerns for their captains Tiana Penitani and Simaima Taufa will have fans and staff on edge waiting for whether they are full fit to play. There is also an opportunity for a switch on the bench for Parramatta as they did last week with Filomina Hanisi and Seli Mailangi named to start here though being benched for Kennedy Cherrington and Brooke Anderson to start respectively last week.

**WHO TO WATCH:** The impact of Roosters fullback Sam Bremner has been there for all to see at the moment as the veteran has wound back the clock and showed why she has been one of the games top players for a long time. Having missed the 2021 season earlier in the year, Bremner has not looked like a player that had missed so much Rugby League and her connections in the Roosters side have been the most impressive part of her game.

Eels co-captain Tiana Penitani has made herself an important figure both on and off the field in both Rugby League and Rugby Union but her impact for the Eels this season has been a key factor for the Blue and Gold. The experience that Penitani brings has done wonders for the Eels and her partnership with fullback Gayle Broughton has unleashed an attacking machine for Parramatta that will need to be shut down quickly. The quad injury concern will be something to watch if Penitani plays with how much impact that has for Parra in both attack and defence.

**FAVOURITE:** The Roosters are hot favourites for Sunday's semi final.

**MY TIP:** So much of me wants Parramatta to win this game and go onto win the comp, but on paper the Roosters look too strong for the Eels. The control of Raecene McGregor and Zahara Temara for the Tricolours is just the steady hand that they need whilst the explosive backline can create something out of nothing. The game definitely won't be a blowout, but the Roosters probably have enough to win with class. Roosters by 12.

# 2022 NRLW DRAW

## ROUND 1

Sat	20 Aug 22	13:00	Parramatta	Sydney Roosters	CommBank Stadium*	16 - 38
Sun	21 Aug 22	12:00	St George Illawarra	Gold Coast	WIN Stadium*	26 - 12
		18:10	Newcastle	Brisbane	McDonald Jones Stadium*	32 - 14

All fixture times listed in AET  
(NSW/VIC/ACT local time)

## ROUND 2

Sat	27 Aug 22	13:10	Brisbane	Sydney Roosters	Suncorp Stadium	8 - 28
Sun	28 Aug 22	12:00	Parramatta	St George Illawarra	CommBank Stadium*	10 - 16
		18:10	Gold Coast	Newcastle	Cbus Super Stadium*	12 - 16

\* indicates aligned with NRL mens fixture

All match dates, times and venues  
are subject to change.

## ROUND 3

Fri	2 Sep 22	17:40	Sydney Roosters	St George Illawarra	Allianz Stadium*	34 - 6
Sat	3 Sep 22	13:10	Brisbane	Gold Coast	Moreton Daily Stadium	22 - 4
Sun	4 Sep 22	12:00	Newcastle	Parramatta	McDonald Jones Stadium*	18 - 16

## ROUND 4

Sat	10 Sep 22	13:05	Gold Coast	Parramatta	AAMI Park, Melbourne*	18 - 16
		14:50	Brisbane	St George Illawarra	AAMI Park, Melbourne*	18 - 19*
Sun	11 Sep 22	13:10	Newcastle	Sydney Roosters	Allianz Stadium*	16 - 18

## ROUND 5

Sun	18 Sep 22	12:05	Brisbane	Parramatta	Central Coast Stadium	16 - 28
		13:55	Gold Coast	Sydney Roosters	Central Coast Stadium	12 - 38
		15:45	St George Illawarra	Newcastle	Central Coast Stadium	8 - 30

## 2022 NRLW TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP FINALS SERIES

### SEMI FINALS - 25 Sep 22

Sun	SF 1	14:05	Newcastle (2ND)	St George Illawarra (3RD)	Suncorp Stadium
	SF 2	15:50	Sydney Roosters (1ST)	Parramatta (4TH)	Suncorp Stadium

### GRAND FINAL

Sun	02 Oct 22	15:45	W SF 1	W SF 2	Accor Stadium*
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## MONDAY'S EXPERT

The key info in one spot

At the end of each NRL round, get all the match info, judiciary news, our POTY standings, crowd data and ratings info as it comes to hand - all in one place on [LeagueUnlimited.com](http://LeagueUnlimited.com)



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