

# THE FRONT ROW



**LEAGUE  
UNLIMITED**

**2022 GRAND FINAL EDITION**

**VOLUME 3 · ISSUE 32**



**2022 NRL GRAND FINAL**

**PENRITH PANTHERS v PARRAMATTA EELS**

**2022 NRLW GRAND FINAL**

**NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS v PARRAMATTA EELS**

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# THE EDITOR'S WORD

WELCOME TO GRAND FINAL DAY

League's biggest day is here, and for the first time since before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have a full three-match programme, hosted at "NRL headquarters" (as Rabs would say), Accor Stadium.

It stands to be one of the biggest NRL Grand Finals in living memory, with Penrith and Parramatta facing off for the 107th time - but only their first Grand Final against each other. The stadium is sold out and has been since the start of the week, live sites are at the ready. No matter the result, there's a party in the west of town come 9:30pm Sunday.

The NRLW Grand Final is an intriguing one, pitting a strongly performing Newcastle side against a surprise-packet Parramatta, the latter only coming good late in the season. Whether they can jag one final upset for a likely title, we'll find out Sunday evening!

Early on it all starts with a battle for state supremacy, with NSW Cup premiers Penrith looking to win their second NRL State Championship when they face QLD Cup champs Norths Devils, who are making their first appearance in the annual fixture (albeit last played in 2019).

Whoever you support - even if your team is long out of the race, enjoy the Grand Final - and remember there's still plenty of footy to come with the World Cup just over a fortnight away! Happy reading.

## THE FRONT ROW ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**MANAGERS** Steven Williams & Coby Delaney  
**EDITOR** Tim Costello  
**CONTRIBUTORS** Andrew Ferguson, Shawn Dollin  
Rob Crosby, AJ Lucantonio  
Josh Robertson, Paul Jobber  
Justin Davies, Adam Huxtable  
Andrew Jackson, Sam Bourke  
Lachlan McIntyre, The Biggest Tiger  
Emile El-Azar, Aaron Thomas,  
Rick Edgerton, Lachy MacCorquodale

# HISTORY & RIVALRY: THE BATTLE OF THE WEST

JOSH ROBERTSON REFLECTS ON PENRITH HISTORY and THE DECADES-LONG EELS RIVALRY

Penrith, the town that was never meant to be, has transformed from nothing more than a depot holding much needed supplies for those travelling along the Great Western Road over the Blue Mountains and beyond, with nearby Castlereagh meant to be the big town at the foot of the Nepean River.

Fast forward 200 years and Penrith is now a vibrant bustling city that has grown to well beyond what anyone could imagine, changing into a country town, a growing suburb of Sydney, and, currently, a city that is trying to be put on the global map. One thing that has never changed in Penrith is a passion for Rugby League, a passion that grows in unison each year with the city the Panthers call home.

junior rugby league competition was re-formed after being disbanded at some point in the years prior.

The re-establishment of the Penrith Junior League saw the fledgling competition growing in influence and in 1945 the Western Suburbs President's Cup winning team contained seven players from junior clubs in the Penrith area.

As Penrith grew so did its growing standing in Rugby League and there was a sense around Penrith that admission to the NSWRL competition was something that was achievable and no longer just an aspiration following the

As the Panthers make a rare third successive grand final appearance, it is quite appropriate that two of the biggest rivals in the league meet in the biggest game of the season, given how intrinsically linked Penrith and Parramatta have been in Rugby League's history.

Rugby League was first played in Penrith in 1912 when the Glenbrook Rovers took on a side combined with Penrith and Emu Plains players at the Penrith Showground (Opposite to current Panthers Stadium). The quick growth of Rugby League in Penrith was shown with the Penrith United Football Club joining the Parramatta competition.

In May, 1912 the Penrith United side played their first match in the Parramatta competition when they took on Parramatta North F.C at the Penrith Showground. A notice in the May 11, 1912 edition of the Nepean times read about the match: "The following will represent Penrith United FC against Parramatta North F.C" C. Hamilton, F. Smith, A McNeil, A Jones, W Roveen, M Kellett, A McLennan, J Beddan, V Colless, H Maxwell, A Bailey & B Forrest with L Walker, W Miller and M Taylor listed as "emergencies".

The following weekend's edition of the Nepean Times provided a summary of the contest between the sides which saw North Parramatta score a 16-5 victory. "The game throughout was hotly contested but better condition with better knowledge of the game stuck to Parramatta". The players performance was a mixed one with one description of the backs "one or two were faulty at catching the ball" whilst the passing game "was erratic with some not passing the ball until they were tackled"

Rugby League was growing around Penrith and it was playing an important role in the community as it was seen as something that was able to keep the spirits of the burgeoning town going during the great depression, something that Rugby League did both in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID pandemic. Penrith saw Rugby League growing in popularity and in 1938 the Penrith

admission of Parramatta in 1947. The 1950s was a boom time for the Penrith area when the Penrith, St Marys & Castlereagh councils all merged to become the Municipality of Penrith which boosted the population along with the establishment of the first Penrith Rugby League club.

Penrith had established itself as a Rugby League heartland and in the 1960's the push to create an identity away from Parramatta was fully in swing. Penrith's push to create an identity met many challenges early on both from the external forces to even some inside the Penrith Junior Rugby League. The New South Wales Rugby League's establishment of a new second division competition gave many the hopes of taking the first step to creating an individual Penrith brand. However, the push was met with opposition with many in the Penrith Junior Rugby League questioning what value the new intra-district competition would have for the area and so that it saw Penrith become a divided football town between those who saw the local junior league needing to branch out whilst others thought that nothing was broken, so no need to upset the apple cart so to speak.

The divide in the Penrith Junior Rugby League didn't stop the push for the addition of Penrith to the newly established second division competition with Merv Cartwright continuing his push to grow the area's rugby league presence. In 1962, the Penrith rugby league team was admitted to the inter-district and in 1964, the Penrith Panthers were established.

During the time of the second division competition, the NSWRL established the State Cup which saw Penrith added to the competition and the decision was vindicated to enter the second division competition when Penrith defeated first division side Canterbury. Opposition to Penrith's push quickly fell silent and in fact support to move forward was gaining momentum.

Rumours of expansion were always on the cards for the NSWRL and Penrith were hopeful that when and if expansion did occur that they could take the step up. 1966 saw the announcement that the NSWRL would expand the

competition and it was the opportunity that Penrith saw to take the step up. It became a three-way battle for promotion between Cronulla, Penrith and Wentworthville for the two places that were going to come up.

It was heavily expected that Cronulla and Wentworthville would be the two sides selected for promotion and when Cronulla was the first side voted to be promoted, it became a battle between heavy favourites Wentworthville against Penrith. With everything favouring the Wentworthville admission, it came as a shock that the vote favoured Penrith given the strength of backing that the Wentworthville had from the upper echelons of the NSWRL board.

As the Panthers prepare to fight their local rivals for the 2022 Grand Final, it can be argued that this event may never have happened if it hadn't been for Parramatta President Jack Argent. The then Parramatta president argued that bringing in a Penrith side would bring better value to the competition rather than Wentworthville assumably because of their vicinity to Parramatta.

July 4 1966 is a day of history for Rugby League in Penrith when the club had won the vote to become the New South Wales Rugby League's twelfth team into the competition thanks to a 19-12 result. A number that is synonymous in

centre Michael Jennings was quoted "I don't hate the Parramatta players, just the team they represent. "If you come through the Penrith juniors, you're brought up to hate Parra. That's how I was brought up and I'm sure it's still going on." This didn't come to any surprise for any Penrith fans because performances against the Eels are what a team is judged on and the feeling of losing a game to Parramatta leaves a bitter taste in the mouth of any Panthers fans no matter where the sides sit on the ladder.

The rivalry over time has fired up and the Battle of the West no matter what game it is, trials or competition, the Penrith V Parramatta rivalry is more important than ever for the fans (at least from a Penrith perspective) and this weekend, it will probably take its biggest importance ever with the two sides inside the top 4 and in front of a small but what is set to be a vocal crowd. With the likes of Reagan Campbell-Gillard to Penrith for the first time since his acrimonious departure from the foot of the mountains.

It was the unlikely Queensland city of Mackay where the Panthers-Eels rivalry hit new levels last year when the two sides played in their first finals match in over twenty years in what went down to the final minutes in an old-fashioned battle where only two tries were scored. Parramatta were

history for the Panthers given it was the score Penrith defeated Canberra in the 1991 Grand Final.

The Penrith-Parramatta rivalry isn't just about location but it's a battle between neighbours, friends and family members all sitting on either side of the fanbase. For a long time, Penrith was considered the little brother to Parramatta in a general sense of things where as Parramatta was the growing metropolitan hub (which it still is) to Penrith's burgeoning small town but for Rugby League, Parramatta still had the numbers and quality of players over the Panthers.

Battles between the Panthers and the Eels were always strong contests with the Panthers just falling short of the quality that the Eels possessed during the 1970s and 1980s that saw the Parramatta dominate over their cross-town rivals. Things began to change as the 1980s progressed with Penrith starting to drop their little brother tag as the Panthers were starting to see results go more and more in their favour and a battle for spots became fierce as Penrith was becoming a place where you wanted to play.

The rivalry whilst fading at times in the 90s and early 2000's never lost intensity in the junior competitions because I can count on both hands the times where brawls erupted across games the three Junior grades because of the hate.

Back in 2020 when I wrote this for The Front Row when Penrith took on the Eels, little did anybody know that the rivalry was about to hit the peak over the next two seasons.

Despite the rivalries, the Panthers and Eels contests seemed to be relatively calm affairs and strangely the two sides haven't met in a finals series since 2000 when Parramatta defeated Penrith which was just the second time the two sides have met in a side after the first clash in 1985. The rivalry over recent years has taken a strong turn including in 2011 when now Parramatta

left scorned by a number of controversial decisions that left them smarting including the controversial stopping of the match for Mitch Kenny's injury and a missed shirt tug by Jarome Luai.

This left Parramatta fans angry as the Panthers emerged from the game holding on by the skin of their teeth moving on and eventually winning the clubs third premiership against Souths.

2022 saw the rivalry grow even more as the Eels were able to get a pre-season gloat over the Panthers with a big trial victory before Parramatta were able to end a historic winning streak at home though for the Panthers with their narrow 22-20 win back in Round 9.

The biggest moment of the rivalry though came back in Round 20 when Nathan Cleary was sent off in what could've been a moment that derailed the Panthers season. The Eels dominated the clash with a war of words between fans essentially arguing whether the 34-10 result accurately represented the clash.

With Penrith and Parramatta finishing 1st and 4th respectively, the war for 2022 was set to continue as the war of words continued to be driven and the return of Nathan Cleary from suspension was set to make the game a must watch. The Panthers didn't miss a beat and with both sides qualifying for the Grand Final it's set to be the ultimate bragging rights over who the better side in Western Sydney truly is.

This week is set to be a fierce contest whether it's on the field or in the stands at Accor Stadium on Sunday night, George Street in Parramatta, High Street Penrith or across social media where friends turn to enemies over the teams.

Whatever happens, whether Penrith join Parramatta in the same number of premierships or the Eels get last laugh, the Battle Of The West will never show any signs of dying in the near future.

# SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT

## GRIFFITHS AND BOYLE OPEN UP ON 'THE NEWCASTLE WAY'

**T**here hasn't been a lot that has brought a smile to the face of a Newcastle fan over the last two decades.

The halcyon years of the late-90s to the mid 2000s are fast becoming a fading memory, but in 2022 the club's women have provided a breath of fresh air to a success-starved fanbase.

An impressive 30-6 NRLW semi-final victory over St George Illawarra last Sunday saw the Knights progress to their first appearance on senior grand final day since 2015.

On that day, they were beaten 26-12 by Ipswich Jets in the Intrust State Championship final.

Sunday's clash with Parramatta will wind the clock back to the 2001 when the two clubs battled it out in the National Rugby League grand final.

While it's a far cry from Newcastle's winless inaugural season earlier this year, coach Ron Griffiths said they never focused on what had been.

"The biggest thing from our perspective is that there were some really stellar learnings from [the first year], but we were always looking in the windscreen, not looking behind us in the rear-view," he said.

When the team assembled for pre-season training ahead of the 2022 National Rugby League Women's competition, they were firmly focused on the big picture.

First came the hard work and then the results would hopefully fall into place.

"We didn't speak about semi-finals or a grand final once," Griffiths said. "It was never in our make-up and that's not our DNA. Our DNA is to turn up

and work hard and scrap for each other and we saw that [last Sunday]."

Led by inspirational front-row captain Millie Boyle and superstar fullback Tamika Upton, the Knights finished full of running.

But first came the hard work when they were camped on their own tryline for a five-minute defensive stand. It would have left most Knights fans standing and applauding in their lounge rooms.

Perhaps the "Newcastle way" had been found - for the women's side at least.

"We spoke about making sure that our players knew what the Newcastle way was," Griffiths said.

"We know the joy that our fans get (and) our supporters or our families get when the players turn up and put that sort of performance out there. Real pride in the jersey; the Newcastle way."

Griffiths also said Boyle and Upton had provided some much-needed experience to a youthful side.

Talented 17-year-old halfback Jesse Southwell will become the youngest-ever women's player to play in a grand final.

"Someone asked me earlier in the year do they (Boyle and Upton) show you how to win or do they win games for you. They show you how to win and how to prepare for big games."

And does the Knights skipper have one more big game left in her?

"Bloody oath. Everyone does. Everyone sets out to play in a grand final and to take the competition out," she said.





# THE BENEFIT OF HYNES-IGHT

CRONULLA'S HALF CLAIMS DALLY M - CHECK OUT ALL THE WINNERS FROM THE NIGHT

**2022 Dally M NRL Player of the Year**  
**Nicho Hynes (Sharks)**

**2022 Dally M NRLW Player of the Year**  
**Raecene McGregor (Roosters)**

NRL Rookie of the Year - Jeremiah Nanai (Cowboys)

NRLW Rookie of the Year: Jesse Southwell (Knights)

NRL Captain of the Year - Isaah Yeo (Panthers)

NRLW Captain of the Year: Isabelle Kelly (Roosters)

NRL Coach of the Year - Todd Payten (Cowboys)

NRLW Coach of the Year: John Strange (Roosters)

Provan Summons Medal (Spirit of the Game)  
Nicho Hynes (Sharks, NRL) and Toni Hunt (Broncos, NRLW)

Peter Frilingos Award for Headline Moment  
Queensland's against-the-odds Origin win  
AND Jada Taylor's U19 Women's Origin try

Top Pointscorer - Valentine Holmes (Cowboys) - 224 points

Ken Irvine Award for Top Tryscorer - Alex Johnston (Rabbitohs) - 28 tries

NRL Try of the Year: Murray Taulagi (Cowboys, R10 v Wests Tigers)

NRLW Try of the Year: Tarryn Aiken (Broncos, R2 v Roosters)

NRL Tackle of the Year: Mitch Moses (Eels, R25 v Storm)

NRLW Tackle of the Year: Tarryn Aiken (Broncos, R2 v Roosters)

**NRL Team of the Year**

Fullback: James Tedesco

Wingers: Alex Johnston & Joseph Suaalii

Centres: Valentine Holmes & Joey Manu

Five-Eighth: Cameron Munster

Halfback: Nicho Hynes

Props: Payne Haas & Joe Tapine

Hooker: Api Koroisau

Second Rowers: Viliame Kikau & Jeremiah Nanai

Lock: Isaah Yeo

**NRLW Team of the Year**

Fullback: Sam Bremner

Wingers: Jaime Chapman & Teagan Berry

Centres: Jess Sergis & Isabelle Kelly

Five-Eighth: Tarryn Aiken

Halfback: Raecene McGregor

Props: Mille Boyle & Caitlan Johnston

Hooker: Keeley Davis

Second Rowers: Olivia Kernick & Keilee Joseph

Lock: Simaima Taufua

## CLUB AWARD WINNERS

**WARRIORS** | Simon Mannering Medal: EUAN AITKEN

**SOUTHS** | George Piggins Medal - TEVITA TATOLA

**NORTH QLD** | Paul Bowman Medal: JASON TAUMALOLO

**MANLY** | Roy Bull Best and Fairest Award: LACHLAN CROKER

**WESTS TIGERS** | Kelly-Barnes Medal: JOE OFAHENGAUE

**CANTERBURY** | George Peponis Medal: JEREMY MARSHALL-KING

**NEWCASTLE** | Danny Buderus Medal: TYSON FRIZELL

**PENRITH** | Merv Cartwright Medal: DYLAN EDWARDS

**CANBERRA** | Meninga Medal: JOSEPH TAPINE

## NSWRL

NSW Women's Premiership POTY: Kirra Dibb (North Sydney)

Knock-On Effect NSW Cup POTY: Kayal Iro (Newtown)

NSW Women's State of Origin POTY: Isabelle Kelly (Sydney)

Brad Fittler Medal: James Tedesco (Sydney)

**SYDNEY** | Jack Gibson Medal: JAMES TEDESCO

**BRISBANE** | Paul 'Porky' Morgan Medal: PAYNE HAAS

**CRONULLA** | Porter-Gallen Medal: NICHU HYNES

**GOLD COAST** | Paul Broughton Medal: TINO FA'ASUAMALEAUI

## QRL

Petero Civoniceva Medal (QLD Cup POTY): Taine Tuapiki (Burleigh)

Steph Hancock Medal (QRLW POTY): Mariah Storch (Capras)

Annie Banks Medal (Women's SOO POTM): Ali Briggingshaw

Ron McAuliffe Medal (Men's SOO POTS): Patrick Carrigan

**MELBOURNE** | Cameron Smith Player of the Year: CAMERON MUNSTER

## STILL TO COME

St George Illawarra  
Parramatta  
RLPA Player's Champion



# NRL GRAND FINAL: OUR SAY

One by one, our contributors share their tips for the big one on Sunday night - the winner & margin, Clive Churchill Medal winner and First Tryscorer in the Panthers-Eels clash.

We've also asked each of our team to share a moment that defined 2022 for them - with some interesting responses!

## AJ LUCANTONIO

TIP: Penrith by 4 CCM: Dylan Edwards FTS: Izack Tago  
Moment of 2022: It's hard to focus on a singular moment on the season that has seen many significant moments. But, the New Zealand Warriors finally returning to Mt Smart Stadium was a moment to behold. After a two and a half year tour of duty in Australia, the Auckland based side were able to return home in front of a packed home crowd. Next season with sustained and regular home games they'll be a force with new coach Andrew Webster.

## JOSH ROBERTSON

TIP: Penrith by 10 CCM: Dylan Edwards FTS: Stephen Crichton  
Moment of 2022: Nathan Cleary send off - It brought a sense of weakness to the Panthers and brought them back temporarily to the field but ultimately it helped to show that the Panthers were a class team.

## JUSTIN DAVIES

TIP: Parra by 1 CCM: Mitch Moses FTS: Liam Martin  
Moment of 2022: The Cowboys/Tigers debacle. It seemed to be the zeitgeist for the issues with some of the structures in the game. Also showed how the captain's challenge can be a farce in some cases.

## LACHLAN MCINTYRE

TIP: Penrith by 16 CCM: Apisai Koroisau FTS: Maika Sivo  
Moment of 2022: The opening of the brand new Sydney Football Stadium in Round 25. A sold out crowd witnessed a clash for the ages, one that would be repeated the following week in an elimination final. This venue will undoubtedly host many future classics over the coming NRL seasons.

## ROBERT CROSBY

Tip: Penrith by 16 CCM: Dylan Edwards FTS: Liam Martin  
Moment of 2022: The outpouring of love for Ray Warren demonstrated how his work transcended sport - we should all feel so lucky to have lived in a time where we got to hear his commentary. As for moments on the field, the return of rugby league in New Zealand when the Kiwis faced Tonga, especially the first half, was heartening given the sacrifices of recent years.

## ANDREW JACKSON

TIP: Penrith by 4 CCM: Api Koroisau FTS: Junior Paulo  
Moment of 2022: It looked like Te Maire Martin would be left asking what could have been. But the playmaker made his return to the NRL this year after suffering a bleed on the brain, having spent 1092 days on the sideline.

## LACHY MACCORQUODALE

Tip: Penrith by 8 CCM: Nathan Cleary FTS: Izack Tago  
Moment of 2022: Queensland's incredible win in Game III of State of Origin. As a New South Welshman in attendance, I was absolutely stunned and devastated when Ben Hunt raced away to score to match winning try. More trauma inflicted by the Queenslanders

## SAM BOURKE

TIP: Penrith by 10 CCM: Api Koroisau FTS: Viliame Kikau  
Moment of 2022: An epic origin series decider which had everything (despite the result) with the result in the balance for 78 minutes.

## ADAM HUXTABLE

TIP: Parra by 7 CCM: Mitch Moses FTS: Clint Gutherson  
Moment of 2022: In an otherwise dire year for the Wests Tigers, fans of the joint venture were daring to dream in Round 7 after a Luke Brooks field goal made it two thrilling last minute wins in a row. Their opponents - the Eels and Rabbitohs - each made it to at least week 3 of the finals, making the victories all the more memorable.

## TIM COSTELLO

TIP: Parra by 6 CCM: Mitch Moses FTS: Dylan Edwards  
Moment of 2022: The Manly pride jersey debacle. Like the Dragons' COVID-breach BBQ twelve months earlier, it created a gaping fission in the team's structure and they went on to lose all their remaining matches - and for what?

## BIG T

HEART TIP: Parra by 1 CCM: heart Mahoney; head Koroisau  
HEAD TIP: Penrith by 14 FTS: Shaun Lane  
Moment of 2022: Daine Laurie flattening Gutherson into his in-goal

## RICK EDGERTON

TIP: Penrith by 8 CCM: Dylan Edwards FTS: Izack Tago  
Moment of 2022: Anzac Day Roosters v Dragons. After admiring this day on the rugby league calendar for so long, I finally made the trek with my dad and brother to the hallowed turf of the SCG. Witnessing the last post live amongst a big crowd had the hairs on my neck standing up. Great game of footy and an all round top day.

## EMILE EL-AZAR

TIP: Penrith by 1 CCM: Nathan Cleary FTS: Brian To'o  
Moment of 2022: The inconsistent application of constantly changing rules both on field and off field, all unprofessionally determined and delivered by one man who is meant to be the chairman of a commission independent to the NRL. Excellent governance guys.

## SHAWN DOLLIN

TIP: Parra by 6 (reverse psychology works, right?)  
CCM: Isaah Yeo - becoming first lock to win the medal since 2014  
FTS: Reed Mahoney  
Moment of 2022: Murray Taulagi's Magical Magic Round pass to deliver Scott Drinkwater one of the most memorable tries we'll ever see.

## PAUL JOBBER

TIP: Penrith by 8 CCM: Dylan Edwards FTS: Viliame Kikau  
Moment of 2022: Newcastle's run to the NRLW decider. They've put a little bit of pride back in the Knights' jumper after a trying year.

# OUR TEAM OF THE YEAR

AS CHOSEN BY OUR TEAM OF WRITERS THROUGHOUT 2022

At the conclusion of every game during the NRL season, the dedicated team of live updaters give their votes for the three best players of the match. Based on those votes, here is the leagueunlimited.com team of 2021.

## FULLBACK

**JAMES TEDESCO (SYDNEY)** 25 votes

It's hard to believe that a man can be so consistent over such a sustained period of time. James Tedesco continues to achieve exponential highs as the game's premier full-back. While this year saw challengers like Dylan Edwards and Latrell Mitchell to his crown, nothing was going to stop James Tedesco reaching the highs, carrying his Roosters team off the canvas and into the finals. Tedesco's production continued to increase as the game's premier number 1 in terms of effort plays running for 212 meters on average while breaking 169 tackles and scoring 13 tries. He will cap off his amazing season by leading Australia to defend their World Cup crown.

*Next best: Latrell Mitchell (20 votes)*

## WINGERS

**TAYLAN MAY (PENRITH)** 8 votes

In his first full season on the Penrith wing, Taylan May took full advantage of an injury to Brian To'o by outplaying Charlie Staines to keep his position when To'o returned. May was scoring tries for fun out on the left edge, creating a lethal partnership with fellow newcomer Izack Tago. May's meters after contact have been immense for the Panthers this season as their triple team of Edwards, To'o and May have been almost unstoppable coming out of yardage.

**JOSH ADDO-CARR (CANTERBURY)** 8 votes

On the other edge, the man that trotted his way from a successful set-up in Melbourne to a rebuilding force in Belmore. 2022 has been a successful season for Josh Addo-Carr despite a shaky start. He's had the responsibility of leading a relatively young Bulldogs side off the bottom of the ladder, and overcome the mid-season dismissal of Trent Barrett. Although he didn't make the NSW squad (controversially), The Foxx had a solid season and is in the mix for an Australian call-up at the World Cup.

*Next best: Selwyn Cobbo (8 votes)*

## CENTRES

**JOEY MANU (SYDNEY)** 20 votes

In a year where success was mixed for the boys from Bondi, one man that impressed was Joseph Manu. He was in everything that the Roosters did well in season 2022. Manu was given a licence to roam (very much like Turbo in Origin) by Trent Robinson, and this suited his game to a tee. It allowed Manu's light footwork to create an immense amount of problems for opposing sides this year.

**VALENTINE HOLMES (NORTH QUEENSLAND)** 12 votes  
After a quiet few seasons since his return from his NFL exile, Valentine Holmes excelled as Todd Payten finally settled on a position that worked best, not only for Val but for the Cowboys. In his first full season at the centre position, Holmes was the NRL's leading pointscorer

but a dangerous attacking threat every time he touched the ball in the attacking third. In a Cowboys side that improved exponentially in 2022, Holmes provided much needed experience that helped guide the club to it's best season since 2017.

*Next best: Siosifa Talakai (10 votes)*

## FIVE-EIGHTH

**CAMERON MUNSTER (MELBOURNE)** 29 votes

In a Melbourne side that struggled for consistency in 2022, largely brought about by an unprecedented injury crisis (for a Storm side anyway). Cameron Munster was the shining light that created all sorts of head-aches for the opposition, with a damaging right hand fend and a kicking game to match. With the rumours surrounding his future, Munster's game didn't appear to suffer individually and that's why he was our 5/8 of the year.

*Next best: Jarome Luai and Matt Burton (17 votes)*

## HALFBACK & PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**NICHO HYNES (CRONULLA)** 38 votes

A first year half-back under a first year head coach. On paper, it appeared far from a sure thing. But, Nicho Hynes had a season to remember. Everything that went right for the Sharks resulted off the back of the Hynes' class. Hynes set up 21 tries and 29 line-breaks as well as crossing for 6 tries and nailing 83 goals for a personal tally of 194 points. With the emergence of the Sharks as a top four team for years to come, expect Hynes to soar to greater heights.

*Next best: Ben Hunt (31 votes)*

## PROPS

**JOE TAPINE (CANBERRA)** 23 votes

Although Canberra's start to the season left a lot to be desired, their revival to eventually qualify for the finals was led by Joseph Tapine. The New Zealand international's back half of the season was among the best from a forward in recent memory, especially his performance against Melbourne in the elimination final. Tapine had a super season, averaging 165 meters a game and 69 post contact meters as well as having 47 offloads this season. Fresh of signing a new contract, Tapine is in for a big 2023.

**REUBEN COTTER (NORTH QUEENSLAND)** 12 votes

There were whispers from up north about a young man named Reuben Cotter earlier this season. Those whispers grew louder and louder with every passing game and it wasn't long before he found himself making his Origin debut. He did miss time with a hamstring injury, and his impact was missed by the Cowboys during the Origin period. But, upon from injury, his punch through the middle allowed the Cowboys to have their best finish since 2017.

*Next best: Tino Fa'asuamaleaui (11 votes)*

## HOOKER

**DAMIEN COOK (SOUTH SYDNEY)** 15 votes

It might come as a shock to some, but Damien Cook did have a spectacular season. Although we could've gone with Ben Hunt, Cook played more games at hooker and thus gets the nod. His passing game was consistent at times this season, but his ability to be a brickwall in defence was what gives him the edge over other hookers in the game. The organisation of the front line of defence and putting your body on the line against some of the big forwards of our game is a hard task and to do it over a consistent period of time is an immense effort.

*Next best: Apisai Koraisau (13 votes)*

## SECOND ROW

**VILIAME KIKAU (PENRITH)** 12 votes

In his final season for the Panthers, Villiame Kikau has had his most reliable season for the mighty mountain men. His ability to be as committed in defence and attack is unmatched from a backrower of his frame in the competition. He'll be missed by the Panthers next season, but he looks forward to attempting to go back to back on Sunday night against the Eels.

**JEREMIAH NANAI (NORTH QUEENSLAND)** 11 votes

In his first full-season of first grade. Jeremiah Nanai made a name for himself on the right edge for the Cowboys. Scoring a record number of tries as a forward in the NRL era (beating David Fifita's record of last season), his ability to be an aerial threat and run a great line is a rare one in the modern game. Nanai averaged just under 100 metres a game and got through a massive amount of defence making 30 tackles a game. Nanai is a Maroons rep for years to come and is a good chance of finding himself in Mal Meninga's squad on Monday.

*Next best: Shaun Lane (10 votes)*

## LOCK

**JASON TAUMALOLO (NORTH QUEENSLAND)** 15 votes

After a season that left a lot of unanswered questions on JT's future, the former Dally M medallist bounced back in spectacular fashion, by having one of his best seasons in the navy blue and yellow hoops of North Queensland. Taumalolo broke tackles 80 times, had over 1,600 post contact meters and 22 offloads, on top of running for 156 meters a game. With an impending international suspension, fans won't get to see JT until the final pool game, unless he activates some other NRL loophole around suspension.

*Next best: Cameron Murray (14 votes)*

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

**JEREMIAH NANAI (NORTH QUEENSLAND)** 11 votes

*Next best: Taylan May (8 votes)*

# LU PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## EVERY PLAYER'S TALLY FROM ROUND 1 TO FINALS WEEK 3

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), Dylan Edwards (Panthers)

16 points - Jack Wighton (Raiders/NSW)

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

14 points - Adam Reynolds (Broncos), Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys), Cameron Murray (Rabbitohs)

13 points - Apisai Koroisau (Panthers)

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

11 points - Jeremiah Nanai (Cowboys), Tino Fa'asuamaleaui (Titans), Clinton Gutherson (Eels)

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

9 points - Reed Mahoney (Eels), Josh Papali'i (Raiders), Blayne 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), 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), Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Eels)

5 points - Lachlan Miller (Sharks), Adam Elliott (Raiders), David Klemmer (Knights), Thomas Burgess (Rabbitohs), Patrick Carrigan (Broncos), Wayde 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), Zac Hosking (Broncos), Corey Oates (Broncos), Tesi Niu (Broncos), Luciano Leilua (Wests Tigers/Cowboys), Nat Butcher (Roosters), Luke Brooks (Wests Tigers), David Nofaloaluma (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 Rapanua (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 Marzhev (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)

# UK WATCH

## SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

### SAINTS CONFIRM GREATNESS WITH THEIR FOURTH STRAIGHT GRAND FINAL WIN

St Helens have won their fourth straight Super League title in a 24-12 win against Leeds Rhinos on Saturday night at Old Trafford.

The Saints got off to a perfect start when five-eighth Jonny Lomax linked up with prop forward Matty Lees who streaked away for a 6-0 start.

It was double delight for the Saints when Tommy Makinson dribbled a kick behind the defence and youngster Jon Bennison touched down after it was confirmed by the video referee.

The Rhinos avoided going behind three scores when Rhyse Martin was penalised for a dangerous tackle and the kick was missed by Makinson.

Inspired by a huge run from Zak Hardaker, Leeds got on the board just before half-time. The ball was kept alive well and Kruike Leeming contorted enough to make it 12-6.

St Helens restored their twelve-point advantage just after the break. Konrad Hurrell



blasted into the defence on the inside ball and found the line.

A busy afternoon for the video referee who was invited to participate again after Man of Steel nominee and Young player of the year Jack Welsby kicked for Mark Percival for 24-6.

The game was gone but Leeds did find some late consolation in Martin. He started the move down the right wing before walking in the score then making it 38 straight conversions.

Lifting the trophy for the fourth straight time just adds another jewel to the St Helens crown. They have confirmed themselves as the premier side in the Super League competition.

It also marks the final chapter of a successful three-year coaching reign for Kristian Woolf at the famous club, with Woolf headed to assist Wayne Bennett at new NRL club the Dolphins back in Australia in 2023. He's then tipped to succeed Bennett in 2025.

For Leeds Rhinos, it wasn't the fairytale ending they expected after their wins over Castleford, Huddersfield and Wigan but it was a dream run for Rohan Smith's men to make the decider.

#### St Helens (24)

Tries: Mark Percival, Konrad Hurrell, Matty Lees, Jon Bennison; Goals: Tommy Makinson 4 **def Leeds Rhinos (12)**

Tries: Rhyse Martin, Kruike Leeming; Goals: Rhyse Martin 2

Venue: Old Trafford, Manchester; Attendance: 60783; Date: Saturday 24 September 2022, 6:00pm BST; Referee: Liam MOORE

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

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

## CHAMPIONSHIP

### PLAYOFF SEMI FINAL RESULTS

**Leigh Centurions (70)** Tries: Blake Ferguson 3, Sam Stone, Nene MacDonald 2, Caleb Aekins 2, Edward Chamberlain, Edwin Ipape 2, Kai O'Donnell; Goals: Krisnan Inu 11 **def York City Knights (10)** Tries: Matty Marsh, Marcus Stock; Goals: Liam Harris 1

Venue: Leigh Sports Village Stadium; Attendance: 3329; Date: Sunday 25 September 2022 at 2:00pm; Referee: Marcus GRIFFITHS

LEIGH: Aekins, Inu, Chamberlain, MacDonald, Ferguson, Lam, Mellor, Sidlow, Smith, Amone, Wardle, Stone, Asiata. Int: O'Donnell, Ipape, Reynold, Nakubuwei

YORK: Harrison, Brown, Towse, Glover, Ogden, Harris, Marsh, Thompson, Clarkson, Antrobus, Teanby, Jubb, Dixon. Int: Inman, Michael, Porter, Stock

**Batley Bulldogs (32)** Tries: Johnny Campbell, Luke Hooley, James Meadows, Lucas Walshaw, Dane Manning; Goals: Tom Gilmore 6 **def Featherstone Rovers (28)** Tries: Craig Hall, Josh Hardcastle 2, Connor Jones, Luke Briscoe; Goals: Craig Hall 4

Venue: Millennium Stadium, Featherstone; Date: Sunday 25 September 2022 at 4:00pm; Referee: Rob HICKS

FEATHERSTONE: Hall, Briscoe, Leilua, Broadbent, Lineham, Ford, Jacks, Kopczak, Wildie, Springer, Sene-Lefao, Hardcastle, Moors. Int: Jones, Lockwood, Eseh, Cuthbertson

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

## 2022 BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL - MILLION POUND GAME

SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER

6:30PM BST live on PREMIER SPORTS

4:30AM MONDAY AEDT live on FOX LEAGUE

# LEIGH CENTURIONS v BATLEY BULLDOGS

Leigh Sports Village Stadium



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# THE WRAP

## NRL 2022 PRELIMINARY FINALS

FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER, 7:50PM

SECOND PRELIMINARY FINAL

### PARRAMATTA 24 NORTH QUEENSLAND 20

SCORERS

**PARRAMATTA EELS (24)** Tries: Viliami Penisini, Reagan Campbell-Gillard (2), Maika Sivo; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (4/4); Penalty Goals: Mitchell Moses (0/1) **def** **NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (20)** Tries: Reuben Cotter, Luciano Leilua, Murray Taulagi; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (2/3); Penalty Goals: Valentine Holmes (2/2)

MATCH INFORMATION

**Venue:** Queensland Country Bank Stadium; **Crowd:** 25372; **Halftime Score:** North Queensland 12 Parramatta 12; **LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:** 3 points - Shaun Lane, 2 points - Reagan Campbell-Gillard, 1 point - Reuben Cotter

FINAL TEAMLISTS

**NORTH QLD:** 1. Scott Drinkwater 2. Kyle Feldt 3. Valentine Holmes 4. Peta Hiku 5. Murray Taulagi 6. Tom Dearden 7. Chad Townsend 8. Jordan McLean 9. Reece Robson 10. Reuben Cotter 11. Tom Gilbert 12. Jeremiah Nanai 13. Jason Taumalolo 14. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow 15. Luciano Leilua 16. Coen Hess 17. Griffin Neame 18P 18. Jamayne Taunua-Brown



**PARRAMATTA:** 1. Clinton Gutherson 2. Maika Sivo 3. Viliami Penisini 4. Bailey Simonsson 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 13. Marata Niukore 14. Ryan Matterson 15. Bryce Cartwright 16. Jakob Arthur 17. Oregon Kaufusi 18P 18. Makahesi Makatoa



### EELS INTO THEIR FIRST GRAND FINAL SINCE 2009 WITH A PRELIM FINAL THRILLER

The Parramatta Eels are the first side into the 2022 NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final with a nail-biting four point victory over the North Queensland Cowboys in Townsville tonight.

It was a fast and furious start to the game, which was played in warm and humid conditions in Townsville which was more suited to the home side. But the visitors got the early rub of the green when an almost certain forward pass from Mitch Moses was called by everyone live, except the officials. From there, Parramatta played on and Marata Niukore drew in the fullback and Will Penisini crossed for the first try.

Parramatta's lead was short lived, and it was all their own doing. Off the back of a short dropout, Rueben Cotter went straight between Reed Mahoney and Niukore and crashes over to get the Cowboys back in it. There was more controversy when Jason Taumalolo was dispatched to the sin-bin for direct shoulder contact to the head of Isaiah Papali'i.

Parramatta took full advantage of the extra man when Reagan Campbell-Gillard crashed over after Chad Townsend jammed in to create a yawning gap and the enforcer retook the lead for the visitors. The Eels were once again their own worst enemy when Moses kicked two consecutive bombs out on the full and Waqa Blake went back to his form of two weeks ago dropping bombs for fun.

North Queensland reduced the gap when Luciano Leilua charged over the top of Penisini to reduce the gap to two. A late penalty for ruck interference gave Val Holmes a gift two points to go into the sheds all locked up at 12-12.

The second half started like the first ended, an illegal strip from Papali'i gave Holmes a gift two points from in front and the Cowboys had their first lead of the night. Two minutes later, it was a great Griffin Neame offload to Tom Dearden who was taken short of the line. Off the next play it was a lovely ball to Drinkwater who found Holmes who in turn got it onto Murray Taulagi to cross and more importantly, a two possession lead.

But, then the twists continued to come. Parramatta had limited possession, but they took advantage off a Cowboys mistake. It was an unlikely double for RCG when Jordan McLean and Jason Taumalolo had a horrific defensive relapse and the Eels veteran forward got try number two. Moses converted to give his side every chance as they trailed by just two points. Moses missed a gift penalty goal, but off the set post points, a clever short-side raid by Reed Mahoney allowed Maika Sivo to score and put the Eels back front and with Moses redeeming himself, the Eels had a four point lead.

North Queensland threw everything at the Eels and they were denied a try when Kyle Feldt stepped on the sideline. Parramatta also withstood a large defensive stand in the final ten minutes of play to seal their place in this season's Grand Final. North Queensland are far from disgraced, a season where many pundits had egg on their face predicting them to be competition cellar-dwellers. Todd Payten can build upon this for seasons to come. But, the party is beginning for the Eels as they prepare for their first premiership decider in 13 years. **AJ LUCANTONIO**

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 7:50PM

FIRST PRELIMINARY FINAL

### PENRITH 32 SOUTH SYDNEY 12

SCORERS

**PENRITH PANTHERS (32)** Tries: Apisai Koroisau, Nathan Cleary, Brian To'o, Spencer Leniu, Izack Tago; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (5/5); Penalty Goals: Nathan Cleary (1/1) **def** **SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (12)** Tries: Cody Walker, Richard Kennar; Conversions: Latrell Mitchell (2/2)

MATCH INFORMATION

**Venue:** Accor Stadium; **Crowd:** 50034; **Halftime Score:** Penrith 12 South Sydney 12; **LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:** 3 points - Dylan Edwards, 2 points - Apisai Koroisau, 1 point - Cameron Murray

FINAL TEAMLISTS

**PENRITH:** 1. Dylan Edwards 2. Charlie Staines 3. Izack Tago 4. Stephen Crichton 5. Brian To'o 6. Jarome Lui 7. Nathan Cleary 8. Moses Leota 14. Mitch Kenny 10. James Fisher-Harris 11. Viliame Kikau 12. Liam Martin 13. Isiah Yeo 14. Apisai Koroisau 15. Scott Sorensen 16. Spencer Leniu 17. Jaeman Salmon 18PT 18. Sean O'Sullivan



**SOUTHS:** 1. Latrell Mitchell 21. Richard Kennar 3. Isiah Tass 4. Campbell Graham 5. Taane Milne 6. Cody Walker 7. Lachlan Ilias 8. Tevita Tatola 9. Damien Cook 10. Mark Nicholls 11. Keaton Koloamatangi 12. Jai Arrow 13. Cameron Murray 14. Kodi Nikorima 15. Hame Sele 16. Michael Chee Kam 17. Jed Cartwright 18P 18. Davvy Moale



### PENRITH PREVAIL TO REACH PREMIERSHIP DECIDER

The Penrith Panthers will have a chance to defend their premiership title after defeating the South Sydney Rabbitohs 32-12 to confirm a place in the 2022 NRL Grand Final.

Becoming only the third team alongside the Sydney Roosters (2002-04) and Melbourne Storm (2016-18) to legitimately qualify for three consecutive Grand Finals in the NRL era, the reigning premiers will face a nervous wait with Viliame Kikau placed on report and Spencer Leniu forced from the field after a high tackle resulting in Taane Milne being sent off.

In a fierce opening which saw Izack Tago deny a four-pointer due to an obstruction, the Rabbitohs made the most of ensuing field position with Cody Walker (12th minute) pouncing on an offload from Mark Nicholls close to the goal line.

Taking advantage of another penalty after Kikau was placed on report for a shoulder charge, Latrell Mitchell timed a short pass to perfection allowing Isiah Tass to find space and send Richie Kennar (18th minute), replacing Alex Johnston on the wing, over in the corner.

Facing a 0-12 deficit for the first this season, the Panthers managed to hold their nerve and were unlucky to have a try to Charlie Staines overturned for an obstruction midway through the half.

The Panthers were denied four points once again with Kikau ruled offside from a short line drop out, but the resolve of the reigning premiers eventually paid off with Apisai Koroisau (36th minute) managing to get the ball on the line following a terrific bust from dummy half.

Looking set to head to the sheds trailing by a converted try, Brian To'o (40th minute) produced a Steven Bradbury-esque moment by swooping on an error from Campbell Graham and outpacing the Rabbitohs defence to level the scores at 12-all.

Coming out for the second half without the burden of needing to chase points, the Panthers gained the ascendancy with Kikau charging down a kick from Lachlan Ilias; Nathan Cleary capitalised with an inspired grubber grounded by Leniu (45th minute) to put the hosts in front for the first time.

Dylan Edwards showcased his standing as Penrith's most valuable player this season with an inspirational kick return culminating in Tago (55th minute) running onto a grubber from Jarome Lui to swing the momentum of the match entirely in the Panthers favour.

Securing the result after Taane Milne was sent off for collecting Leniu with a swinging arm around the head, Cleary added a penalty goal to push the victors beyond two converted tries.

Completing a night to remember with a try in the shadows of fulltime, Cleary (78th minute) kicked for himself to the delight of 50,034 supporters in attendance at Accor Stadium.

Aiming to become only the second team in the NRL era to claim back-to-back premierships, the Penrith Panthers will face the Parramatta Eels in the 2022 NRL Grand Final on Sunday evening. **ROB CROSSBY**

# THE WRAP

## NRLW 2022 SEMI FINALS

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER, 2:05PM

### NEWCASTLE 30 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 6

**SCORERS** | **NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (30)** Tries: Tamika Upton (2), Kirra Dibb, Millie Boyle, Kiana Takairangi; Conversions: Kirra Dibb (5/5) **def** **ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (6)** Tries: Teagan Berry; Conversions: Rachael Pearson (1/1)

**MATCH INFORMATION** | Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 3649; Halftime Score: Newcastle 18 St George Illawarra 6; **LeagueUnlimited.com** Players of the Match: 3 points - Tamika Upton, 2 points - Millie Boyle, 1 point - Kirra Dibb

#### FINAL TEAMLISTS

**NEWCASTLE:** 1. Tamika Upton 2. Kiana Takairangi 3. Shanice Parker 4. Bobbi Law 5. Emmanita Paki 6. Kirra Dibb 7. Jesse Southwell 8. Caitlan Johnston 9. Olivia Higgins 10. Millie Boyle 11. Romy Teitzel 12. Yasmin Clydsdale 13. Kayla Romaniuk 14. Emma Manzelmann 15. Tayla Predebon 16. Simone Karpani 18. Caitlin Moran 18P 17. Makenzie Weale

**ST GEO ILLA:** 1. Emma Tonegato 2. Teagan Berry 6. Taliah Fuimaono 4. Page McGregor 5. Andie Robinson 19. Zali Hopkins 7. Rachael Pearson 8. Elsie Albert 9. Keeley Davis 11. Kezie Apps 16. Monalisa Soliola 12. Shaylee Bent 13. Hollie Wheeler 14. Quincy Dodd 15. Talei Holmes 17. Tara McGrath-West 21. Shontelle Stowers 18P 18. Renee Targett



### KNIGHTS DOMINATE DRAGONS TO BOOK PLACE IN DECIDER

The Newcastle Knights have produced a defensive display for the ages against the Dragons to advance to their first ever NRLW Grand Final next Sunday.

The Knights were the first to get on a roll, receiving a penalty in the fourth minute due to high contact from Elsie Albert. Soon after, they were on the board, with Tamika Upton going right down main street to touch down for the first points of the afternoon.

The next time the Dragons touched the ball, they made an error, and the way the Knights were playing you could tell that they were going to take advantage. They did exactly that, with Millie Boyle beating 5 defenders to crash over and extend the lead to two converted tries.

The first 10 or so minutes was undoubtedly all the Knights, however Teagan Berry turned the momentum herself by intercepting Upton's pass and taking it to the house for a four pointer.

7 minutes later it looked as though the Knights early advantage would be wiped off the board when Emma Tonegato crossed over, but the bunker deemed she knocked on before grounding the ball. Still, it very much felt as though the Dragons were in the contest.

In spite of their efforts to keep it close, the Dragons conceded a deflating try right on half time. After defending several consecutive sets close to their line, it all became too much as Kirra Dibb ended up scoring with ease. She converted her own try to make it 18-6 to the Knights at the break.

The Dragons had a mountain of both possession and field position to start the second half and on numerous occasions it looked as if they were guaranteed to go over for a try. However, the Knights defence was elite, and in hindsight it was that 10-15 minute period that won them the match.

If the Dragons spirit hadn't already been crushed by the Knights defence, it would've been after the Knights got a penalty and went upfield to score with their first attacking opportunity of the half, Tamika Upton scoring her second that looked very similar to her first. For good measure, the Knights scored off their next set through a shift to the right, with Kiana Takairangi finishing it off. They were in good ball due to a failed short kickoff attempt from the Dragons.

That was all she wrote, with the final score a blowout; 30-6 in favour of the Knights, who will take on the Parramatta Eels in next week's NRLW Grand Final. **ADAM HUXTABLE**

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER, 3:50PM

### PARRAMATTA 24 SYDNEY 10

**SCORERS** | **PARRAMATTA EELS (24)** Tries: Ash Quinlan, Tayla Preston, Abbi Church, Rikeya Horne; Conversions: Tayla Preston (4/4); Penalty Goals: Tayla Preston (0/1) **def** **SYDNEY ROOSTERS (10)** Tries: Shaniah Power, Sarah Togatuki; Conversions: Jocelyn Kelleher (0/1), Zahara Temara (1/1)

**MATCH INFORMATION** | Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 3689; Halftime Score: Sydney 4 Parramatta 12; **LeagueUnlimited.com** Players of the Match: 3 points - Ash Quinlan, 2 points - Kennedy Cherrington, 1 point - Sarah Togatuki

#### FINAL TEAMLISTS

**SYDNEY:** 1. Sam Bremner 2. Leianne Tufuga 3. Jessica Sergis 4. Isabelle Kelly 5. Jayme Fressard 6. Zahara Temara 7. Raecene McGregor 8. Sarah Togatuki 9. Destiny Brill 10. Mya Hill-Moana 11. Shaniah Power 12. Olivia Kernick 13. Keilee Joseph 14. Jocelyn Kelleher 15. Shawden Burton 16. Kalosipani Hopoate 17. Otesa Pule 18P 18. Joeli Morris

**PARRAMATTA:** 1. Gayle Broughton 2. Zali Fay 21. Abbi Church 4. Rikeya Horne 5. Cassey Tohi-Hiku 6. Ash Quinlan 7. Tayla Preston 14. Kennedy Cherrington 15. Brooke Anderson 10. Ellie Johnston 11. Christian Pio 12. Vanessa Foliaki 13. Simaima Taufa 18P 18. Filomina Hanisi 9. Seli Mailangi 16. Najvada George 22. Rima Butler 18P 18. Ruby-Jean Kennard



### EELS ADVANCE TO THEIR FIRST NRLW GRAND FINAL DOWNING COMPLACENT ROOSTERS

The Parramatta Eels have advanced to their first NRLW grand final by downing a complacent Sydney Roosters side by 14 points in an entertaining NRLW semi final at Suncorp Stadium.

Both sides fought for the right to challenge Newcastle on Grand Final day next Sunday at Accor Stadium. Parramatta came in with a point to prove, to show that they were not making up the numbers by finishing in fourth position. The Eels persistence was rewarded when Ash Quinlan threw the dummy and it caught the Roosters napping and Parramatta hit the scoreboard first to have the early lead.

Four minutes later, Raecene McGregor put in a great kick which Gayle Broughton couldn't get to on the full. That allowed a flying Shaniah Power to pounce on the loose ball to cross for her 6th try in NRLW.

The Roosters were complacent in the first half, with many errors, (with Leianne Tufuga bombing two certain tries) and lapses in defence which gave Parramatta a massive amount of possession and eventually the pressure told. Abbi Church was able to get on the outside of Jess Sergis and slam the football down. Parramatta would hold the Roosters out for the remainder of the first half to have a 12-4 half-time lead.

Sydney left their worst performance of the season for this clash, they simply failed the fundamentals of rugby league, with poor completions and letting every kick bounce. This came back to bite them in spectacular fashion when Tayla Preston won the race to a grubber when Temara was caught ball-watching. The Roosters tried their best, but no matter what they did, nothing was working.

The game was sealed just on the hour mark when the Roosters failed to do the fundamentals of rugby league and take the kick on the full. A great kick from Tayla Preston was allowed to bounce by Leianne Tufuga and centre Rikeya Horne was there to pick it up and seal Parramatta's place in the grand final. Sydney managed to get a late try when Sarah Togatuki charged through the Eels middle to give the Roosters late hope, but it was all in vein. Parramatta advance to their first grand final, while the Roosters bow out at the final hurdle. **AJ LUCANTONIO**

# GRAND FINAL PROGRAMME

NRL GRAND FINAL DAY GAME DAY COMPANION

TEAM LISTS • PREVIEWS  
MATCH DETAILS & STATS

SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER 2022



NRL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP  
**PENRITH PANTHERS**



**v NORTHS DEVILS**

ACCOR STADIUM

1:20PM



NRLW GRAND FINAL

**NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS**



**v PARRAMATTA**

ACCOR STADIUM

3:55PM



NRL GRAND FINAL

**PENRITH PANTHERS**



**v PARRAMATTA EELS**

ACCOR STADIUM

7:30PM

## MATCH REVIEW & JUDICIARY NRL FINALS WEEK 3

| Player          | Club         | Grade | Charge               | Base      | 2022 Offence | Guilty    | Early plea | Plea                | Result           |
|-----------------|--------------|-------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Jason TAUMALOLO | North Qld    | 2     | Dangerous Contact    | 2 matches | 3rd+         | 4 matches | 3 matches  | Guilty - early plea | <b>3 matches</b> |
| Viliame KIKAU   | Penrith      | 1     | Shoulder Charge      | \$2000    | 2nd          | 2 matches | \$3000     | Guilty - early plea | <b>\$3000</b>    |
| Charlie STAINES | Penrith      | 1     | Shoulder Charge      | \$2000    | 1st          | \$2000    | \$1500     | Guilty - early plea | <b>\$1500</b>    |
| Taane MILNE     | South Sydney | 2     | Reckless High Tackle | 5 matches | 3rd+         | 7 matches | 6 matches  | Guilty - early plea | <b>6 matches</b> |

^ denotes 7 year incident free discount



# WHO CLAIMS CLIVE?

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

Winning team or losing team? A half? A fullback? Here's our look at the best-placed players from each side in line to claim the 2022 Clive Churchill Medal. All odds listed are courtesy of Sportsbet and correct at the time of writing. Prices will inevitably change throughout the week.

### Penrith Panthers

#### NATHAN CLEARY (\$3)

His arguably the game's best half-back. Although it's been an interrupted season only playing 16 games (well 15 and a half if you count the send-off). Cleary has a knack of changing the game with one kick, last week proved it even more. That bomb send shivers down Taane Milne's spine and swung momentum back to Penrith. Having already terrorised Waqa Blake three weeks ago, Cleary is the shortest priced favourite for the medal in a long time.

#### ISAAH YEO (\$9)

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

#### DYLAN EDWARDS (\$10)

The game's most improved fullback. There's no denying it anymore. Dylan Edwards has had a breakout season and has well and truly shaken the 'handbrake' tag off his name. Edwards' ability to start Penrith's set right has been the big difference in 2022, the ability to break two-three tackles at once and get a quick play the ball is the momentum that the Panthers thrive on. If he produces the numbers we've seen in 2022. That price tag might be the best value of grand final day.

#### APISAI KOROISAU (\$14)

In his final match for the Panthers before shifting to the Wests Tigers, the impact that Api will bring will shake this grand final up. After starting on the bench throughout the finals with great success, there's a strong chance Ivan Cleary does the same thing on the big stage. If that's the case, he'll take on a Parramatta forward pack that will be fatigued, which is good news for Koroisau as he can expose the middle of the field and gain meters for fun.

#### JAROME LUAI (\$18)

At a bit of an outside price, Jarome Luai might be a big smokey to claim the medal on Grand Final day. Luai has quietly gone about his game this season, much like his halves partner, his season was derailed by a knee injury. Jarome shrugged off any concerns about being underdone with a strong performance in the finals series thus far. Penrith's success depends on Luai linking up with that lethal left-edge.

### Parramatta Eels

#### MITCHELL MOSES (\$7)

The shortest price Eels player, and there's good reason for that. Moses is a genuine game-breaker. His kicking game was able to isolate the Cowboys and force them to work it out of a corner with no avail. Having shrug off the effects of a brutal knockout three weeks ago, Parramatta's chances largely depend on how Moses structures the attack and follows the game plan.

#### CLINT GUTHERSON (\$12)

In what's been a productive season for the self-proclaimed 'Prince of Parramatta'. King Gutho has gotten the Eels to their first grand final since 2009 off the back of a consistent season. Constantly pushing through the middle of the field, Gutherson has the knack of always being in the right place at the right time in defence to save the day for the Eels. Look for King Gutho at a much fancied price to take home the medal if the Eels break the drought.

#### DYLAN BROWN (\$18)

Nothing short of a breakout season for the current New Zealand 5/8. Brown has been electric for the Eels this season, his damaging footwork close to the line and a lethal passing game has caused problems for the Panthers at times this season. Brown's short kicking game is also an underrated asset to this contest, if Brown and Moses can shape momentum towards the Eels and allow Dylan to utilise his footwork, the Eels pivot has every chance to claim the CCM.

#### SHAUN LANE (\$21)

Fresh off a man of the match performance against the Cowboys, Shaun Lane has had an impressive season for the Eels making a home on that left hand side of the field. Big and skillful, Lane has proven to be so effective with second phase play created by the Eels backrower. His intimidating frame has caused all sorts of problems against the Panthers, with Lane able to get an offload away on 38 occasions this season.

#### ISAIAH PAPALI'I (\$34)

One of many playing his last game for the Eels before his departure from the club next season. Isaiah Papali'i has been a man on a mission this season, the mission is simple and that's to win the premiership. It's been a stand out season once again for the Kiwi international, scoring ten tries and creating mountains of second phase play. Papali'i has thrown 33 offloads, including 3 against Penrith in that match at CommBank Stadium. At long odds, if he sees some footy and creates havoc, it's a good that price tag becomes good value.

#### AJ's TIPS

##### TOP PICKS

Panthers Nathan Cleary  
Eels Mitchell Moses

##### BEST VALUE

Panthers Jarome Luai  
Eels Shaun Lane

##### BEST ROUGHIE

Panthers Viliame Kikau  
Eels RCG

##### MY CALL

Panthers Dylan Edwards  
Eels Clint Gutherson

#### PREVIOUS WINNERS BY POSITION

##### Fullback - 6

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

##### Five-Eighth - 4

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

##### Halfback - 11

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

##### Front-row - 3

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

##### Hooker - 2

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

##### Second-row - 4

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

##### Lock - 6

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

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



# PENRITH PANTHERS



# PARRAMATTA EELS

Age P T G FG Pts

|    |    |    |    |   |     |                     |           |
|----|----|----|----|---|-----|---------------------|-----------|
| 26 | 24 | 9  | -  | - | 36  | Dylan EDWARDS       | <b>1</b>  |
| 21 | 15 | 2  | -  | - | 8   | Charlie STAINES     | <b>2</b>  |
| 20 | 25 | 13 | -  | - | 52  | Izack TAGO          | <b>3</b>  |
| 22 | 22 | 12 | 32 | - | 112 | Stephen CRICHTON    | <b>4</b>  |
| 24 | 17 | 11 | -  | - | 44  | Brian TO'O          | <b>5</b>  |
| 25 | 19 | 7  | -  | - | 28  | Jarome LUAI         | <b>6</b>  |
| 24 | 16 | 3  | 72 | 1 | 157 | (c) Nathan CLEARY   | <b>7</b>  |
| 27 | 17 | 1  | -  | - | 4   | Moses LEOTA         | <b>8</b>  |
| 29 | 24 | 5  | -  | - | 20  | Api KOROISAU        | <b>9</b>  |
| 26 | 22 | 3  | -  | - | 12  | James FISHER-HARRIS | <b>10</b> |
| 27 | 24 | 9  | -  | - | 36  | Viliame KIKAU       | <b>11</b> |
| 25 | 21 | 7  | -  | - | 28  | Liam MARTIN         | <b>12</b> |
| 27 | 22 | 4  | -  | - | 16  | (c) Isaaah YEO      | <b>13</b> |
| 24 | 23 | 1  | -  | - | 4   | Mitch KENNY         | <b>14</b> |
| 29 | 23 | 1  | -  | - | 4   | Scott SORENSEN      | <b>15</b> |
| 22 | 24 | 6  | -  | - | 24  | Spencer LENIU       | <b>16</b> |
| 23 | 24 | 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

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

## FULLBACK

## WING

## CENTRE

## CENTRE

## WING

## FIVE-EIGHTH

## HALFBACK

## FRONT ROW

## HOOKER

## FRONT ROW

## SECOND ROW

## SECOND ROW

## LOCK

## INTERCHANGE

## RESERVES

## COACH

## PENALTIES

## SCRUMS

Age P T G FG Pts

|    |    |    |    |   |     |                         |           |
|----|----|----|----|---|-----|-------------------------|-----------|
| 28 | 27 | 14 | 8  | - | 72  | Clinton GUTHERSON (c)   | <b>1</b>  |
| 28 | 15 | 13 | -  | - | 52  | Maika SIVO              | <b>2</b>  |
| 27 | 27 | 10 | -  | - | 40  | Will PENISINI           | <b>3</b>  |
| 24 | 19 | 3  | -  | - | 12  | Bailey SIMONSSON        | <b>4</b>  |
| 27 | 21 | 12 | -  | - | 48  | Waqā BLAKE              | <b>5</b>  |
| 22 | 27 | 11 | -  | - | 44  | Dylan BROWN             | <b>6</b>  |
| 28 | 25 | 7  | 93 | 2 | 216 | Mitchell MOSES          | <b>7</b>  |
| 29 | 27 | 3  | -  | - | 12  | Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD | <b>8</b>  |
| 24 | 27 | 8  | -  | - | 32  | Reed MAHONEY            | <b>9</b>  |
| 28 | 25 | 1  | -  | - | 4   | Junior PAULO (c)        | <b>10</b> |
| 27 | 25 | 2  | -  | - | 8   | Shaun LANE              | <b>11</b> |
| 24 | 27 | 10 | -  | - | 40  | Isaiah PAPALI'I         | <b>12</b> |
| 27 | 20 | 4  | -  | - | 16  | Ryan MATTERSON          | <b>13</b> |
| 29 | 13 | 1  | -  | - | 4   | Nathan BROWN            | <b>14</b> |
| 19 | 13 | -  | -  | - | -   | Jakob ARTHUR            | <b>15</b> |
| 23 | 27 | 1  | -  | - | 4   | Oregon KAUFUSI          | <b>16</b> |
| 26 | 18 | 3  | -  | - | 12  | Marata NIUKORE          | <b>17</b> |
| 27 | 10 | -  | -  | - | -   | Bryce CARTWRIGHT        | <b>18</b> |
| 29 | 24 | -  | -  | - | -   | Makahesi MAKATOA        | <b>19</b> |
| 28 | 19 | 7  | -  | - | 28  | Tom OPACIC              | <b>20</b> |
| 26 | 2  | -  | -  | - | -   | Ofahiki OGDEN           | <b>21</b> |
| 23 | 4  | -  | -  | - | -   | Ky RODWELL              | <b>22</b> |

Brad ARTHUR

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 2 OCTOBER 2022                                |
| KICKOFF   | 7:30PM AEDT  |
| VENUE     | ACCOR STADIUM<br>SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW / WANN-GAL  |
| WATCH     | NINE NETWORK & 9 NOW                                 |
| LISTEN    | ABC SPORT, TRIPLE M,<br>NINE RADIO, SEN, KOORI RADIO |
| LIVE BLOG | LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM                                  |

## MATCH OFFICIALS

|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| REFEREE      | ASHLEY KLEIN                   |
| TOUCH JUDGES | PHIL HENDERSON<br>DREW OULTRAM |
| NRL BUNKER   | GRANT ATKINS                   |

## HEAD TO HEAD

|        |     |  |
|--------|-----|--|
| ALL    | 106 | PENRITH 45    PARRAMATTA 60    DRAWS 1 |
| FINALS | 4   | PENRITH 2    PARRAMATTA 2              |
| ACCOR  | 3   | PENRITH 1    PARRAMATTA 2              |

## LAST TEN MEETINGS

|      |     |                  |                   |
|------|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| 2019 | R1  | PARRAMATTA 20-12 | PANTHERS, 12604   |
|      | R11 | PENRITH 16-10    | BANKWEST, 16228   |
| 2020 | R5  | PARRAMATTA 16-10 | BANKWEST, 507     |
|      | R18 | PENRITH 20-2     | PANTHERS, 3955    |
| 2021 | R16 | PENRITH 13-12    | BLUEBET, NO CROWD |
|      | R25 | PENRITH 12-6     | CBUS SUPER, 8580  |
|      | SF  | PENRITH 8-6      | MACKAY, 6011      |
| 2022 | R9  | PARRAMATTA 22-20 | BLUEBET, 21548    |
|      | R20 | PARRAMATTA 34-10 | COMMBANK, 26912   |
|      | QF  | PENRITH 27-8     | BLUEBET, 21863    |

## BIGGEST WINS

|      |     |                 |               |
|------|-----|-----------------|---------------|
| 2002 | R1  | PARRAMATTA 64-6 | PIRTEK, 13348 |
| 2021 | R25 | PENRITH 40-6    | CBUS, 8580    |

## NOTABLES

**PENRITH:** NATHAN CLEARY HAS 49 NRL TRIES. CHARLIE STAINES TURNS 22 ON OCT 4

**PARRAMATTA:** CLINT GUTHERSON HAS 98 NRL GOALS. MAIKA SIVO TURNS 29 ON OCT 3

## 2022 FORM LINE

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| PENRITH    | W W W W W W W W L W W W W W W W<br>B W W L W L W W L FINALS: W W |
| PARRAMATTA | W L W W W L W L W L W B L W L<br>W W L W W L W W W FINALS: L W W |

## MORE STATS OVER THE PAGE

Match stats courtesy of



# THE GRAND PREVIEW

with AJ Lucantonio

Battle of the West to decide the premiership

So, we're down to the final two and it's fitting that the Battle of the West sets the scene for the 2022 NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final. For the fourth time this season, the minor premiers in the Penrith Panthers go toe to toe with their arch-rivals in the Parramatta Eels.

For the Panthers, this is the first time since the Melbourne sides of 2016, 2017 and 2018 where a side has made three consecutive grand finals. Ivan Cleary and his coaching staff deserve the credit that they are getting with this sustained run of dominance which will see a majority of the Panthers squad participate in the upcoming World Cup. Last Saturday was a tale of two halves. For the first half, it was a case of ironing out the cobwebs with the limited football Penrith's full strength side has played in the last six weeks. But, when this Penrith side gets going, there's no stopping them. The most important thing though, was the ability to keep their cool when South Sydney wanted to get aggressive. They were able to maintain their composure and stick to what they do best, and that's playing enterprising football. Dylan Edwards is the game's most improved player over the last three seasons, Saturday night proved that once more with the monster kick return leading to Izack Tago's game sealing try. Penrith's forwards were able to dominate the middle and the impact of Leniu and Sorenson was immense. To get up against the Eels, they'll have to continue their strong power game. Api Koroisau will be the impact man off the bench that has swung the game in recent weeks. That combined with Cleary and Lui's lethal combination could be enough to swing the pendulum Penrith's way. Charlie Staines will retain his spot on the wing with Taylan May failing to overcome his hamstring injury, while Spencer Leniu will need to pass concussion protocols in order to play, Matt Eisenhuth is on stand-by.

It's been a bizarre season for the Eels as I've written about them almost every second week. Normally, it's a week that comes off a poor performance or a leak from the NewsCorp tabloids that threatens to 'derail their season'. In this instance, this creates an 'us against them' mentality, which gives the Eels added motivation to prove the doubters wrong as well as the ambition to finally end the longest current premiership drought of any NRL side. But this week, they were able to buck the trend that's cursed their entire season. When the going got tough and were down 20-12, it seemed that Parramatta's season would come short, on top of a poor completion rate and some poor miscues in defence. However, the Eels dug deep, and the second stints of Junior Paulo and Reagan Campbell-Gillard were immense and just what the Eels needed to combat the Cowboys forwards who ironically tired out in the warm conditions. To get up against Penrith, they need to correct the wrongs of three weeks ago. That is the following, match the forward aggression for the full 80 minutes. Get pressure on Nathan Cleary, the bombs will be terrorising Waqa Blake all week, so the forwards must get to Cleary out of marker like Souths did. But, unlike Souths they'll need to sustain the pressure for the duration of the evening. Parramatta also need to hold their shape in defence and prevent Penrith running away with the game in the first half. On the team front, Brad Arthur has opted for the aggression of Nathan Brown over utility Bryce Cartwright. Tom Opacic is named in the reserves, but is a long-shot to take his place on Sunday night.

**WHO TO WATCH:** It was quite clear that Apisai Koroisau was the difference maker in the preliminary final against Souths. Api has been given a new role in the back half of the season, coming off the bench in a bid to be the difference maker, and he's done just that in this new role. Koroisau has been as dangerous as ever, outpointing Kangaroo hopeful Damien Cook. Look for Api to find some holes in the Parramatta defence on Sunday night.

In the yellow and blue corner, it's time to focus on Shaun Lane. The rangy back-rower has found a new legion of supporters this season, with the edge forward providing a flare and distinct playing style to this Parramatta side. The ability to create when there's two defenders tackling him is rare, and is what creates a world of problems for opposing defences. Look for Lane to offload for fun in a bid to breakdown the steel defence of the Panthers.

**FAVOURITE:** Penrith start warm favourites for this Battle of the West. The record this season stands at Penrith winning one match, Parramatta winning two.

**MY TIP:** Everyone has an opinion on who wins the grand final. But you've come here for my two cents worth, so here it goes. Penrith have the strengths in the backs coming out of yardage, plus the creativity of the best spine in the competition as well as the energiser bunnies coming off the bench. Parramatta are the underdogs, what they do have is the best offload creators in the competition in Lane and Matterson which can create some dangerous second phase as well as an imposing pack of forwards that has caused some trouble for Penrith. But, for me the experience of Penrith in the big moments is what guides my tip to retain their crown in 2022. Penrith by 4.



**SQUAD UPDATE** SAT 7:30PM  
**LATE MAIL** SUN 6:30PM  
**LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM**

# WESTERN SYDNEY STORY

## THERE'S A PLACE FOR PENRITH OR PARRAMATTA IN PREMIERSHIP HISTORY

Rugby league thrives on rivalry.

For the Penrith Panthers and the Parramatta Eels, theirs is a rivalry forged in close proximity, shared history and set to reach an apex on Sunday evening.

### A PURR-FECT EEL-ECTRIC RIVALRY

#### ROUND 9, 2022 - EELS 22 V PANTHERS 20

In a much-anticipated Western Sydney derby pitting the undefeated premiers against their inconsistent neighbours, the Eels crossed for two tries in quick succession to take an eight-point lead into the final ten minutes.

Despite the best efforts of the Panthers with a late try to Spencer Leniu, the blue and golds held on to become the first team in 21 attempts - dating back to 2019 - to leave the foot of the mountains with two premierships points.

Eels 22 (Gutherson, Mahoney, Matterson, Brown tries. Moses 3/4 goals)  
Panthers 20 (May 2, Edwards, Leniu tries. Cleary 2/4 goals)

#### SEMI FINAL, 2021 - PANTHERS 8 V EELS 6

Facing off in a do-or-die semi final held in Mackay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Nathan Cleary penalty goal on halftime ultimately proved the difference in a fierce contest.

Forced to draw upon third string hooker Ray Stone due to unfortunately-timed injuries leading into September, the Eels pressured the Panthers line relentlessly as the clock wound down but ultimately fell short.

Panthers 8 (Capewell try. Cleary 2/2 goals)  
Eels 6 (Blake try. Moses 1/1 goal)

#### ROUND 11, 2019 - PANTHERS 16 V EELS 10

Determined to make the newly opened Bankwest Stadium an unbeatable fortress, the Eels appeared on track to account for their struggling opponents with rookie winger Maika Sivo scoring early.

The Eels hold overall dominance against the Panthers with 60 wins, 45 losses and a draw from 106 premierships clashes since first meeting in 1967. The Eels additionally boast a significantly superior for-and-against record with 306 more points scored than their opponents (2,016 - 1,710).

Nathan Cleary, playing alongside inexperienced playmaker Jarome Luai with James Maloney out suspended, stood up to hold onto his NSW jersey with a decisive try midway through the second half.

Panthers 16 (Grant, Cleary tries. Cleary 4/4 goals)  
Eels 10 (Sivo try. Moses 3/3 goals)

#### SEMI FINAL, 2000 - EELS 28 V PANTHERS 10

Establishing a 10-2 lead midway through the first half, the Panthers looked to make amends for their qualifying final loss in Canberra a week earlier.

Stunning the Roosters from seventh position to stay in contention for the premierships, the Eels rallied to take the lead with tries either side of halftime before Dennis Moran showed his class with an assist and a try of his own to set up a preliminary final date with the Broncos.

Eels 28 (Kelly, Moodie, I Hindmarsh, Moran tries. Schifcofske 6/6 goals)  
Panthers 10 (Beckett, Cross tries. Girdler 1/2 goals)

#### MINOR PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL, 1985 - EELS 38 V PANTHERS 6

Facing off in a do-or-die finals match at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the Eels established a commanding halftime advantage and continued the damage through Eric Grothe and Brett Kenny to lead 38-0 late in the second half.

Reaching the finals for the first time, 18 years on from being admitted to the New South Wales Rugby League, the Panthers managed a consolation four-pointer through Brad Izzard, who would go on to score in the club's maiden premierships victory.

Eels 38 (Grothe 2, Price, Cronin, Liddiard, Kenny, Moseley tries. Cronin 5 goals)  
Panthers 6 (Izzard try. Alexander 1/1 goal)

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORDS

### PENRITH PANTHERS

MOST TRIES: Rhys Wesser (12)  
MOST GOALS: Nathan Cleary (37)  
MOST POINTS: Ryan Girdler (101)  
MOST FIELD GOALS: Luke Walsh (2)  
BIGGEST WIN: 34 points (Panthers 40 v Eels 6 - Round 25, 2021)  
MOST TRIES IN A MATCH: Bill Ashurst, Graham Mackay, Rhys Wesser, Michael Jennings, Etu Uaisele, Brian To'o (3)  
MOST GOALS IN A MATCH: Preston Campbell (8)  
NRL ERA DEBUTANTS: Matthew Bell (2006), Junior Tia-Kilifi (2009), Sarafu Fatiaki (2011), Mitch Achurch (2012), Matt Moylan (2013), Bryce Cartwright (2014), Mitch Kenny (2019)



### PARRAMATTA EELS

MOST TRIES: Michael Cronin, Brett Kenny (11)  
MOST GOALS: Michael Cronin (73)  
MOST POINTS: Michael Cronin (181)  
MOST FIELD GOALS: Dick Thornett (4)  
BIGGEST WIN: 58 points (Eels 64 v Panthers 6 - Round 1, 2002)  
MOST TRIES IN A MATCH: Mark Levy, Michael Cronin, Steve Ella, Daniel Wagon, David Vaealiki, Daniel Mortimer (3)  
MOST GOALS IN A MATCH: Luke Burt (10)  
NRL ERA DEBUTANTS: Jamie Owens (1998), Casey McGuire (1998), Danny Sullivan (2001), Zeb Taia (2006), Marcus Perenara (2006), Jarryd Hayne (2006), Semi Radradra (2013), Pauli Pauli (2014), Daniel Alvaro (2015), Maika Sivo (2019), Dylan Brown (2019), Sam Louizou (2021), Ky Rodwell (2021)



## Penrith Panthers

TOP POINTSCORER: Nathan Cleary (157)  
 TOP TRYSCORER: Taylan May (16)  
 TOP TRY-ASSISTS: Nathan Cleary (17)  
 TOP TACKLER: Apisai Koroisau (985)  
 TOP OFFLOADS: Viliame Kikau (44)  
 TOP LINEBREAKS: Taylan May (18)  
 TOP TACKLE BREAKS: Dylan Edwards (117)  
 TOP METRES: Dylan Edwards (5,287)  
 TOP POST-CONTACT METRES: Dylan Edwards (1,491)

LONGEST WINNING STREAK: 9 matches (Round 10 v Storm - Round 19 v Sharks)  
 BIGGEST WIN: 36 points (Round 14 v Knights)  
 LONGEST LOSING STREAK: 1 match (4 occasions)  
 PLAYERS USED: 32  
 PLAYERS WHO DEBUTED AT THE CLUB: 26

APPEARED IN EVERY MATCH: None  
 DEBUTANTS: Soni Luke (Round 7), Kurt Falls (Round 13), Sunia Turuva (Round 21), Thomas Jenkins (Round 25), Liam Henry (Round 25), Jack Cole (Round 25).  
 STRONGEST SPINE: Dylan Edwards, Jarome Luai, Nathan Cleary, Apisai Koroisau (15 matches)

MOST EXPERIENCED PLAYER: Isaah Yeo (195 matches)

## Parramatta Eels

TOP POINTSCORER: Mitchell Moses (216)  
 TOP TRYSCORER: Clinton Gutherson (14)  
 TOP TRY-ASSISTS: Mitchell Moses (23)  
 TOP TACKLER: Reed Mahoney (1,151)  
 TOP OFFLOADS: Junior Paulo / Ryan Matterson (45)  
 TOP LINEBREAKS: Maika Sivo (16)  
 TOP TACKLE BREAKS: Isaiah Papali'i (94)  
 TOP METRES: Reagan Campbell-Gillard (4,129)  
 TOP POST-CONTACT METRES: Reagan Campbell-Gillard (1,656)

LONGEST WINNING STREAK: 3 matches (Round 3 v Storm - Round 5 v Titans; Round 23 v Bulldogs - Round 25 v Storm)  
 BIGGEST WIN: 47 points (Round 24 v Broncos)  
 LONGEST LOSING STREAK: 1 match (9 occasions)  
 PLAYERS USED: 27  
 PLAYERS WHO DEBUTED AT THE CLUB: 13

APPEARED IN EVERY MATCH: Clinton Gutherson, Will Penisini, Dylan Brown, Reagan Campbell-Gillard, Reed Mahoney, Isaiah Papali'i  
 DEBUTANTS: None  
 STRONGEST SPINE: Clinton Gutherson, Dylan Brown, Mitchell Moses, Reed Mahoney (23 matches)

MOST EXPERIENCED PLAYER: Junior Paulo (202 matches)\*

\*Mitch Rein has appeared in 210 first grade matches over the course of his career

## BOTH SIDES OF THE WEST

92 players have appeared for both Penrith and Parramatta in first grade

Ern Gillon - 17 games for Parramatta (1966); 63 games for Penrith (1967-1970)  
 Bill McCall - 32 games for Parramatta (1961-1963); 22 games for Penrith (1967)  
 Ron Workman - 10 games for Parramatta (1959, 1961, 1964); 93 games for Penrith (1967-1972)  
 Peter Linde - 14 games for Parramatta (1966-1967); 2 games for Penrith (1968-1969)  
 Paul Gibson - 23 games for Parramatta (1967-1968); 16 games for Penrith (1969-1970)  
 Peter Wright - 1 games for Parramatta (1968); 16 games for Penrith (1970-1971)  
 Ron Lynch - 194 games for Parramatta (1961-1971); 44 games for Penrith (1972-1973)  
 Tony Buckpitt - 3 games for Parramatta (1971); 6 games for Penrith (1972-1973)  
 Mike Jones - 5 games for Parramatta (1966-1969); 4 games for Penrith (1972)  
 Dave Irvine - 42 games for Parramatta (1966, 1968-1970); 20 games for Penrith (1972-1973)  
 Jersey Komorowski - 6 games for Parramatta (1969); 8 games for Penrith (1972, 1974)  
 Mike Leary - 92 games for Penrith (1968-1972); 20 games for Parramatta (1973)  
 Peter Langmack - 32 games for Parramatta (1971-1972, 1977-1978); 56 games for Penrith (1973-1976)  
 Peter Archibald - 10 games for Parramatta (1971-1972); 19 games for Penrith (1973-1974)  
 John Wilson - 11 games for Parramatta (1969-1973, 1975-1976); 22 games for Penrith (1974)  
 Mal McMartin - 63 games for Penrith (1968-1971); 29 games for Parramatta (1974-1975)  
 John Moran - 50 games for Penrith (1969-1973); 34 games for Parramatta (1974-1977)  
 Phil Jelley - 26 games for Parramatta (1971-1973); 11 games for Penrith (1974)  
 Bob O'Reilly - 216 games for Parramatta (1967-1975, 1980-1982); 30 games for Penrith (1976-1977)  
 Graham Ernst - 19 games for Parramatta (1971-1973); 1 games for Penrith (1976)  
 Greg Moore - 18 games for Parramatta (1973-1977); 17 games for Penrith (1978)  
 Gary Pethybridge - 31 games for Parramatta (1970-1972); 33 games for Penrith (1978-1980)  
 Glenn West - 65 games for Penrith (1974-1977, 1981); 21 games for Parramatta (1978-1979)  
 Tim Armitstead - 1 game for Parramatta (1976); 10 games for Penrith (1978-1979)  
 Mark Levy - 87 games for Parramatta (1976-1980); 103 games for Penrith (1981-1985)  
 Richard Quinn - 7 games for Parramatta (1977-1978); 4 games for Penrith (1981)  
 Ken Hey - 13 games for Parramatta (1978, 1984); 11 games for Penrith (1981)  
 Lew Platz - 30 games for Parramatta (1978-1980); 59 games for Penrith (1981-1983)  
 Glen Holton - 5 games for Parramatta (1978); 2 games for Penrith (1981)  
 Paul Hunt - 5 games for Parramatta (1980); 1 game for Penrith (1981)  
 Eddie Flahey - 1 game for Parramatta (1979); 19 games for Penrith (1982-1983)  
 Neville Glover - 120 games for Parramatta (1975-1981); 13 games for Penrith (1982-1983)  
 Paul Younane - 4 games for Parramatta (1981, 1984); 14 games for Penrith (1983)  
 Michael Davis - 8 games for Parramatta (1981-1982); 8 games for Penrith (1984)  
 Chris Houghton - 57 games for Penrith (1983, 1985-1987); 8 games for Parramatta (1984)  
 Gary Howell - 7 games for Parramatta (1981-1982); 41 games for Penrith (1984-1987)  
 Steve Halliwell - 3 games for Parramatta (1982-1983); 3 games for Penrith (1984)  
 Geoff Green - 6 games for Parramatta (1981-1982); 2 games for Penrith (1984-1985)  
 Geoff Gerard - 140 games for Parramatta (1974-1980); 102 games for Penrith (1985-1989)  
 Don Price - 13 games for Penrith (1982-1984); 13 games for Parramatta (1985-1987)  
 Michael Lans - 2 games for Parramatta (1982); 1 games for Penrith (1985)  
 David Liddiard - 69 games for Parramatta (1983-1985, 1988-1989); 32 games for Penrith (1986-1987)  
 Ken Wolfe - 104 games for Penrith (1979-1986); 8 games for Parramatta (1987)  
 Craig Izzard - 54 games for Penrith (1983-1987); 40 games for Parramatta (1988-1990)

Mark Robinson - 25 games for Penrith (1985, 1987); 10 games for Parramatta (1988-1989)  
 Andrew Fitzhenry - 4 games for Penrith (1987); 35 games for Parramatta (1989-1992)  
 Graham Settler - 29 games for Parramatta (1984-1988); 2 games for Penrith (1989)  
 Matt Goodwin - 120 games for Penrith (1983-1989); 27 games for Parramatta (1990-1991)  
 Paul Taylor - 157 games for Parramatta (1981-1989); 3 games for Penrith (1990)  
 Cameron Blair - 1 game for Penrith (1986); 79 games for Parramatta (1992-1995)  
 Andrew Leeds - 44 games for Parramatta (1989-1991); 19 games for Penrith (1992)  
 Glen Liddiard - 46 games for Parramatta (1988-1991); 4 games for Penrith (1992)  
 Matt Adamson - 1 game for Parramatta (1991); 158 games for Penrith (1993-2001)  
 Paul Dunn - 34 games for Penrith (1991-1992); 60 games for Parramatta (1993-1995)  
 Tulsen Tollett - 9 games for Penrith (1992); 39 games for Parramatta (1993-1995)  
 Phil Adamson - 4 games for Parramatta (1991-1992); 97 games for Penrith (1993-1998)  
 Paul Quinn - 11 games for Parramatta (1991-1992); 6 games for Penrith (1993)  
 Phil Howlett - 1 game for Penrith (1993); 25 games for Parramatta (1994-1995)  
 Paul Clarke - 86 games for Penrith (1990-1993); 36 games for Parramatta (1994-1995)  
 David Barrett - 6 games for Parramatta (1991-1992); 1 game for Penrith (1995)  
 Nathan Barnes - 12 games for Penrith (1992-1993); 69 games for Parramatta (1996-1999)  
 Gary Freeman - 44 games for Penrith (1991-1992); 21 games for Parramatta (1996)  
 Garen Casey - 8 games for Parramatta (1994); 23 games for Penrith (1996-1997)  
 David Woods - 97 games for Parramatta (1989-1997); 63 games for Penrith (1998-2001)  
 Brad Drew - 62 games for Penrith (1993, 1996-2000); 45 games for Parramatta (2001-2002)  
 Lee Hopkins - 70 games for Penrith (1997-2002); 37 games for Parramatta (2003-2004)  
 Craig Stapleton - 23 games for Parramatta (2004); 24 games for Penrith (2006)  
 Peter Lewis - 2 games for Penrith (2003); 2 games for Parramatta (2006)  
 Richie Fa'aofo - 10 games for Penrith (2004); 6 games for Parramatta (2007, 2015)  
 Joe Galuvao - 78 games for Penrith (2002-2005); 34 games for Parramatta (2008-2009)  
 Kevin Kingston - 19 games for Parramatta (2009); 105 games for Penrith (2010-2014)  
 Paul Whatuira - 62 games for Penrith (2002-2004); 1 game for Parramatta (2011)  
 Chris Hicks - 101 games for Penrith (1997-2002); 7 games for Parramatta (2011)  
 Timana Taha - 63 games for Parramatta (2005-2007, 2010); 7 games for Penrith (2011)  
 Joseph Paulo - 30 games for Penrith (2008-2011); 86 games for Parramatta (2011-2015)  
 Chris Armit - 15 games for Parramatta (2003-2004); 11 games for Penrith (2012)  
 Etu Uaisele - 16 games for Parramatta (2009, 2011); 14 games for Penrith (2012)  
 Shane Shackleton - 24 games for Parramatta (2010-2011); 4 games for Penrith (2012)  
 Jeremy Latimore - 7 games for Parramatta (2009); 75 games for Penrith (2013-2016)  
 Tom Humble - 6 games for Parramatta (2010); 6 games for Penrith (2013)  
 Michael Gordon - 108 games for Penrith (2006-2012); 24 games for Parramatta (2016)  
 Michael Jennings - 122 games for Penrith (2007-2012); 105 games for Parramatta (2016-2020)  
 Suaia Matagi - 23 games for Penrith (2016); 35 games for Parramatta (2017-2018)  
 Frank Pritchard - 144 games for Penrith (2003-2010); 8 games for Parramatta (2017)  
 Will Smith - 21 games for Penrith (2014-2016); 54 games for Parramatta (2017-2021)  
 George Jennings - 5 games for Penrith (2015); 24 games for Parramatta (2018-2020)  
 Waqa Blake - 88 games for Penrith (2015-2019); 69 games for Parramatta (2019-2022)  
 Reagan Campbell-Gillard - 114 games for Penrith (2015-2019); 68 games for Parramatta (2020-2022)  
 Bryce Cartwright - 69 games for Penrith (2014-2017); 29 games for Parramatta (2021-2022)  
 Jaeman Salmon - 17 games for Parramatta (2018-2019); 26 games for Penrith (2021-2022)  
 Michael Oldfield - 1 game for Penrith (2017); 2 games for Parramatta (2021)  
 Mitch Rein - 5 games for Penrith (2017); 2 games for Parramatta (2022)

# PENRITH PANTHERS

## 2022 GRAND FINALISTS

### 1. DYLAN EDWARDS

Claiming the Merv Cartwright Medal as Penrith's Player of the Year following another stand-out campaign, the unsung fullback heads into his third consecutive decider leading the league for running metres.

NRL appearances: 104

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

### 2. CHARLIE STAINES

Regaining his place in the team after falling down the pecking order over the past 12 months, the diminutive outside-back may lack size but more than makes up for it with blistering pace.

NRL appearances: 37

Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 3. IZACK TAGO

Enjoying a break-out year as a regular first-grader and international with Samoa, the local junior has crossed for 13 tries, including a decisive score to get the side into the Grand Final last week.

NRL appearances: 31

Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 4. STEPHEN CRICHTON

Already holding legendary status with the Panthers following his match-winning intercept in last year's Grand Final, Crichton's versatility has seen him play throughout the backline since coming into grade as a teenager three years ago.

NRL appearances: 75

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

### 5. BRIAN TO'O

Finishing the year in fine form after missing much of the early rounds with a knee injury, To'o produced a game-breaking four-pointer last week showcasing his speed, power and desire to succeed.

NRL appearances: 69

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

### 6. JAROME LUAI

Showing no ill effects of a leg injury that saw him miss a number of games in the run towards September, Luai will be out to showcase his skills as a big game player.

NRL appearances: 84

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

### 7. NATHAN CLEARY (C)

Returning from suspension rejuvenated and intent on backing up his Clive Churchill Medal winning performance last year, the Panthers co-captain will head into the grand final determined to further his standing as a club great.

NRL appearances: 136

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

### 8. MOSES LEOTA

Growing into a formidable front-rower during his time with the Panthers, Leota earned his first New Zealand appearance this season off the back of his reliability and impact.

NRL appearances: 122

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

### 9. APISAI KOROISAU

Lining up with the Panthers for the final time ahead of a move to the Tigers next season, Koroisau is likely to come off the bench following a successful strategy employed by coach Ivan Cleary during the finals.

NRL appearances: 169

Grand Final appearances: 3 (2014, 2020, 2021)

### 10. JAMES FISHER-HARRIS

Regarded among the premier front-rowers in the league due to his fearless approach to the game, Fisher-Harris has proven to be a more than capable captain when called upon over the past two seasons.

NRL appearances: 156

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

### 11. VILIAME KIKAU

Finishing up his time at the Panthers as one of the most destructive forwards in the game, the Fijian second-rower will be eyeing off a second premierships ring ahead of a highly publicised move to the Bulldogs.

NRL appearances: 122

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

### 12. LIAM MARTIN

Appearing in all three Origins for NSW as a starting forward this season, Martin has been known to cause opponents plenty of trouble close to the try line with his bullocking running style.

NRL appearances: 85

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

### 13. ISAAH YEO (C)

Having tasted premierships glory once before as Penrith captain, Yeo will be determined to achieve the feat a second time and cement his status as one of the club's greatest ever players.

NRL appearances: 195

Grand Final appearances: 2 (2020, 2021)

## INTERCHANGE

### 14. MITCH KENNY

Missing last year's decider through injury, Kenny will be out to make the most of his second chance and join in on the spoils of premierships glory.

NRL appearances: 59

Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 15. SCOTT SORENSON

Facing retirement before a lifeline from the Panthers culminated in a premierships last season, Sorenson was included in the extended New Zealand squad earlier this season and is expected to be part of the World Cup squad announced shortly after the decider.

NRL appearances: 81

Grand Final appearances: 1 (2021)

### 16. SPENCER LENIU

Averaging 71 running metres in 24 appearances exclusively off the bench this season, Lenui's impact saw him represent Samoa earlier this year.

NRL appearances: 61

Grand Final appearances: 1 (2021)

### 17. JAEMAN SALMON

Providing solid service as an interchange utility after struggling to secure a regular position as playmaker with the Eels, Salmon will be hoping a premierships ring enhances his chances of securing a new NRL deal.

NRL appearances: 43

Grand Final appearances: N/A

## RESERVES

### 18. SEAN O'SULLIVAN

Developing his craft with regular game time alongside some of the best players in the game, O'Sullivan will head to the Dolphins fresh from leading the Panthers reserve grade side to victory last weekend.

NRL appearances: 32

Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 19. MATTHEW EISENHUTH

Providing reliable service stepping in for injured players throughout the year, Eisenhuth's impact continues to be felt by guiding future first graders in reserve grade.

NRL appearances: 105

Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 20. J'MAINE HOPGOOD

Limited to just four appearances in first grade after signing a deal to join Parramatta next season, Hopgood led the Panthers to a reserve grade title last week and will be hoping to add a State Championship title on Sunday afternoon.

NRL appearances: 10

Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 21. SUNIA TURUVA

Making his debut late in the season off the strength of an impressive showing with Fiji in the mid-year test, Turuva claimed a brace of tries during last weekend's reserve grade premierships victory.

NRL appearances: 3

Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 22. CHRIS SMITH

Coming full circle with the Panthers after shifting to the Roosters and Bulldogs for an opportunity in first grade, Smith has performed admirably when called upon in six matches this season.

NRL appearances: 39

Grand Final appearances: N/A

## COACH

### IVAN CLEARY

Hoping to join rarefied company in coaching a side to back-to-back premierships, Cleary will become only the third coach in NRL history, alongside Ricky Stuart and Craig Bellamy, to oversee three consecutive Grand Final appearances.

# ROAD TO GLORY: PENRITH

## HOW THE PANTHERS MADE THEIR WAY TO ACCOR STADIUM THIS SUNDAY

Where do you go when you reach the mountaintop? If you're the Penrith Panthers - you stay there.

Coming into 2022 carrying the weight of the premiership crown rather than striving for success as underdogs, the standards instilled across the club proved beneficial as a new batch of young guns complemented the stars that tasted Grand Final victory last October.

Dropping a single match during the opening 19 rounds, incidentally at the hands of their Grand Final opponents, injuries and suspensions threatened to halt the side's momentum leading into September, resulting in late season losses against fellow finalists Parramatta, Melbourne and North Queensland.

Claiming a week off following a clinical victory over Parramatta in the first round of the finals, a preliminary final match-up against South Sydney went the same way as last year's decider, leaving the minor premiers to reach their third consecutive Grand Final and the prospect of becoming only the second club in the NRL era to go back-to-back.

The Panthers fell short on Grand Final day in 2020 before using their heartache to go one better the following year. How long can a team remain on top when everyone else is determined to pull them down? Penrith are about to find out...

**GAMES: 26**  
**WINS: 22 // DRAWS: 0 // LOSSES: 4**  
**FOR: 695 // AGAINST: 350**  
**FINISHED: 1ST**

**ROUND 1 - PANTHERS 28 v SEA EAGLES 6**  
Returning home for the first time since mid-2021, the reigning premiers were in complete control as journeyman Sean O'Sullivan directed the side around the park in the absence of Nathan Cleary with distinction. **Panthers 28** (Tago, S. Crichton, Lui, Koroisau, Martin tries. S. Crichton 4/6 goals) def **Sea Eagles 6** (Bullemer try. Garrick 1/1 goal)

**ROUND 2 - PANTHERS 20 v DRAGONS 16**  
Blockbusting second-rower Viliame Kikau capped his 100th appearance in first grade with a try double to give the Panthers back-to-back wins to start a season for the third straight year. **Panthers 20** (Kikau 2, Leniu tries. S. Crichton 4/4 goals) def **Dragons 16** (Sloan, Su'A, Lomax tries. Lomax 2/3 goals)

**ROUND 3 - PANTHERS 38 v KNIGHTS 20**  
Making the annual pilgrimage to Bathurst for a top of the table clash, rookie winger Taylan May bagged a hat-trick in his second NRL appearance, but the biggest story of the afternoon was Newcastle forward Mitchell Barnett being dismissed for an inexplicable elbow to the head of returning junior Chris Smith. **Panthers 38** (May 3, Tago 2, S. Crichton, Staines tries. S. Crichton 5/8 goals) def **Knights 20** (Young, Hoy, Best, Tuala tries. Clifford 2/4 goals)

**ROUND 4 - PANTHERS 26 v RABBITOHS 12**  
Facing off against their grand final opponents for the first time since lifting the Provan-Summons trophy, halfback Nathan Cleary made a successful return to the delight of a vocal Penrith home crowd. **Panthers 26** (May 2, Tago, S. Crichton, Martin tries. Cleary 3/6 goals) def **Rabbitohs 12** (Graham, Walker tries. Mitchell 2/2 goals)

**ROUND 5 - PANTHERS 32 v BULLDOGS 12**  
Accounting for the lowly Bulldogs without breaking into a sweat, underrated utility Mitch Kenny delighted fans by crossing for his maiden try in the top grade. **Panthers 32** (May, Edwards, Martin, Leniu, Kenny tries. Cleary 6/6 goals) def **Bulldogs 12** (Pangai Jr, Stimson tries. Flanagan 2/2 goals)

**ROUND 6 - PANTHERS 40 v BRONCOS 12**  
Getting a great result at home on Good Friday, the Panthers weathered early pressure from the much-improved Broncos, but a late flurry of points failed to reflect the closeness of the contest overall. **Panthers 40** (Lui, Sorenson, Staines, May, Martin, Leniu, Tago tries. Cleary 6/7 goals) def **Broncos 12** (Niu, Staggs tries. Reynolds 2/2 goals)

**ROUND 7 - PANTHERS 36 v RAIDERS 6**  
Proving far too strong for their free-falling opponents, former Under 20s premiership-winning captain Soni Luke capped his belated NRL debut by setting up a try moments after taking the field. **Panthers 36** (S. Crichton 3, Yeo, May, Kikau tries. 6/7 goals) def **Raiders 6** (Tapine try. Schneider 1/1 goal)

**ROUND 8 - PANTHERS 18 v TITANS 4**  
In a low-scoring first half, which saw the premiers trail at the break for the first time in 13 matches, two scores shortly after halftime put the Panthers in prime position to go 8-0 in their premiership defence. **Panthers 18** (Tago, Cleary, Lui tries. Cleary 3/3 goals) def **Titans 4** (Marzhev try. Sexton 0/1 goal)

**ROUND 9 - PANTHERS 20 v EELS 22**  
In a hugely anticipated Battle of the West between the two high-flying rivals, the Panthers fell short to bring a run of 21 consecutive wins at home to an end. **Panthers 20** (May 2, Edwards, Leniu tries. Cleary 2/4 goals) lost to **Eels 22** (Gutherson, Mahoney, Matterson, Brown tries. Moses 3/4 goals)

**ROUND 10 - PANTHERS 32 v STORM 6**  
Billed as the must-see match of Magic Round, the top of the table clash failed to deliver on expectations with the reigning premiers proving far too strong for an out-of-sorts Melbourne outfit. **Panthers 32** (Tago 2, Kikau, Lui, S. Crichton tries. Cleary 6/6 goals) def **Storm 6** (Meaney try. Meaney 1/1 goal)

**ROUND 11 - PANTHERS 32 v ROOSTERS 12**  
As the results of the Federal Election signalled a changing of the government, the Panthers maintained the rugby league status quo with a comprehensive victory at the Sydney Cricket Ground. **Panthers 32** (Lui 2, Koroisau, S. Crichton, Fisher-Harris tries. Cleary 6/6 goals) def **Roosters 12** (Tedesco, Momirovski tries. Walker 2/2 goals)

**ROUND 12 - PANTHERS 22 v COWBOYS 0**  
Putting the much-improved Cowboys in their place with dominant first half on the lands of the Dharug People, the Panthers finished Indigenous Round atop the premiership ladder and with seven players named in the extended NSW squad. **Panthers 22** (Yeo, Edwards, To'o, May tries. Cleary 2/3, S. Crichton 1/1 goals) def **Cowboys 0**

**ROUND 13 - PANTHERS 30 v BULLDOGS 18**  
Mature-aged debutant Kurt Falls enjoyed a night to remember as a host of reserve graders stepped up to heap more misery on the last-placed Bulldogs. **Panthers 30** (Smith, Edwards, May, Kikau, Salmon tries. Falls 5/6 goals) def **Bulldogs 18** (Addo-Carr 2, Burton tries. Burton 3/3 goals)

**ROUND 14 - PANTHERS 42 v KNIGHTS 6**  
Making a mockery of the Knights to continue a six-year run of dominance in Newcastle, the final margin could have been much more had the Panthers maintained their killer instincts. **Panthers 42** (To'o 2, Cleary, Kikau, May, Tago, S. Crichton tries. Cleary 7/8 goals) def **Knights 6** (Lee try. Clifford 1/1 goal)

**ROUND 15 - PANTHERS 40 v WARRIORS 6**  
Handing the Warriors a thumping in their final match before returning to New Zealand, the side's stellar start to the season was rewarded with 17 members of the first grade squad selected in various representative teams. **Panthers 40** (To'o 2, Leota, Edwards, May, Yeo, Martin tries. Cleary 5/6, S. Crichton 1/1 goals) def **Warriors 6** (Curran try. Walsh 1/1 goal)

**ROUND 16 - PANTHERS 26 v ROOSTERS 18**  
Outlasting a gallant effort from a Roosters team in dire need of a win, late tries to Izack Tago and Apisai Koroisau ensured the Panthers remained on top of the ladder. **Panthers 26** (To'o, Kikau, Tago, Koroisau tries. Cleary 5/5 goals) def **Roosters 18** (Walker, Taukeiaho, Verrills tries. Walker 3/3 goals)

**ROUND 17 - BYE**

**ROUND 18 - PANTHERS 18 v TIGERS 16**  
Electing to rest their entire New South Wales contingent days after the epic State of Origin decider, stand-in co-captain James Fisher-Harris capped his 150th appearance for the club with the match-winning try. **Panthers 18** (Tago, Kikau, Fisher-Harris tries. Falls 2/2, O'Sullivan 1/1 goals) def **Tigers 16** (Tupou, Douiehi, Maumalo tries. Douiehi 2/3 goals)

**ROUND 19 - PANTHERS 20 v SHARKS 10**  
Forced to come from behind against a courageous Cronulla outfit that went the distance, the victory came at a cost with Stephen Crichton and Jarome Lui sustaining short-term injuries. **Panthers 20** (Tago, Edwards, Lui tries. Cleary 4/4 goals) def **Sharks 10** (Tracey, Moylan tries. Hynes 1/2 goals)

**ROUND 20 - PANTHERS 10 v EELS 34**  
In a moment that threatened to derail the side's hopes of going back-to-back, Nathan Cleary was sent off for a dangerous tackle, which allowed the Eels to capitalise with an extra man on the field. **Panthers 10** (O'Sullivan, Martin tries. O'Sullivan 1/1, Cleary 0/1 goals) lost to **Eels 34** (Mahoney 2, Sivo 2, Papali'i, Gutherson tries. Moses 5/6 goals)

**ROUND 21 - PANTHERS 26 v RAIDERS 6**  
Dylan Edwards celebrated his 100th game with a try, Sunia Turuva made a debut cameo, but the biggest story to come out of the match was the sensational comments made by Raiders coach Ricky Stuart towards Jaeman Salmon in the post-match press conference. **Panthers 26** (Koroisau, S. Crichton, Edwards, Salmon tries. S. Crichton 5/5 goals) def **Raiders 6** (Papali'i try. Fogarty 1/1 goal)

**ROUND 22 - PANTHERS 0 v STORM 16**  
Failing to score a point for the first time in seven years - incidentally against Melbourne at home as well - the result served as a reminder that the premiership was far from a one-horse race. **Panthers 0** lost **Storm 16** (Meaney, B. Smith, Nofaloama tries. Meaney 2/3 goals)

**ROUND 23 - PANTHERS 26 v RABBITOHS 22**  
Leaving it until late with Liam Martin barging over after Apisai Koroisau elected to run rather than passing back for a field goal, the victory confirmed the Panthers as deserving minor premiers. **Panthers 26** (S. Crichton, Edwards, Leniu, Martin tries. S. Crichton 5/6 goals) def **Rabbitohs 22** (Johnston 2, Walker, Graham tries. Mitchell 3/5 goals)

**ROUND 24 - PANTHERS 46 v WARRIORS 12**  
Enjoying a victory lap in front of their home fans who celebrated the presentation of the JJ. Giltinan Shield post-game, the Panthers were rarely troubled by a dispirited Warriors outfit. **Panthers 46** (To'o 2, May 2, O'Sullivan, S. Crichton, Kikau, Yeo tries. S. Crichton 7/8 goals) def **Warriors 12** (Walsh, Katoa tries. Walsh 2/2 goals)

**ROUND 25 - PANTHERS 8 v COWBOYS 38**  
Mitch Kenny captained what amounted to a reserve grade side, featuring three NRL debutants, a club debutant and a further four players with fewer than four games of experience; nonetheless, the young Panthers put up a committed effort. **Panthers 8** (Jennings, Turuva tries. Falls 0/2 goals) lost to **Cowboys 38** (Holmes 3, Taulagi, Drinkwater, Tabuai-Fidow, Robson tries. Holmes 3/5, Townsend 2/2 goals)

**QUALIFYING FINAL - PANTHERS 27 v EELS 8**  
Welcoming back a well-rested Nathan Cleary who delivered a five star performance in the opening match of the finals, rookie winger Taylan May drew the scorn of supporters after a penalty imposed by the NRL for an assault charge was held over until next season. **Panthers 27** (To'o 2, Edwards, Fisher-Harris tries. Cleary 5/5 goals. Cleary field goal) def **Eels 8** (Kaufusi try. Moses 2/2 goals)

**PRELIMINARY FINAL - PANTHERS 32 v RABBITOHS 12**  
Holding their nerve in the face of adversity during the first half, a game-changing length-of-the-field try to Brian To'o on halftime paved the way for the Panthers to reach their third Grand Final in as many years. **Panthers 32** (Koroisau, To'o, Leniu, Tago, Cleary tries. Cleary 6/6 goals) def **Rabbitohs 12** (Walker, Kennar tries. Mitchell 2/2 goals)

# PARRAMATTA EELS

## 2022 GRAND FINALISTS

### 1. CLINTON GUTHERSON (C)

Going from a Manly junior to captaining Parramatta over the course of a decade, the man known affectionately as 'King Gutho' has enjoyed a strong campaign with 14 tries and more than 4,000 running metres.

NRL appearances: 166 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 2. MAIKA SIVO

Scoring 13 tries in 15 appearances since returning from injury mid-year, the powerhouse winger previously played reserve grade with the Panthers before making the move to Parramatta with remarkable success.

NRL appearances: 82 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 3. WILL PENISINI

Taking the field in a Grand Final in only his second year in first grade, Penisini has made the right centre position his own with 10 tries and a representative debut for Tonga earlier in the season.

NRL appearances: 32 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 4. BAILEY SIMONSSON

Called into the centres after two months out of first grade last weekend, Simonsson will be looking to go one better after making a late cameo in the Raiders heartbreaking Grand Final loss three years ago.

NRL appearances: 64 Grand Final appearances: 1 (2019)

### 5. WAQA BLAKE

Shifting from the centres to the wing late in the year, the former Penrith star has been tested under the high ball at times, but remains an imposing presence with the Steeden in hand.

NRL appearances: 157 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 6. DYLAN BROWN

Coming through the ranks with the Eels and ascending to the international stage with New Zealand earlier this year, Brown has enjoyed a career best campaign with 11 tries and 17 try-assists.

NRL appearances: 81 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 7. MITCHELL MOSES

Moving to Parramatta midway through 2017 for the sole purpose of winning a premiership, the one-time NSW representative will be hoping to stand alongside Peter Sterling by guiding the Eels to premiership glory.

NRL appearances: 197 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 8. REAGAN CAMPBELL-GILLARD

Producing a man of the match performance, featuring a rare brace of tries, to propel the Eels into the decider, Campbell-Gillard has put aside the disappointment of being dropped following Origin 1 to record the most metres by a forward this season.

NRL appearances: 182 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 9. REED MAHONEY

Hoping to end his time with the Eels as a Grand Final winner, the Bulldogs-bound hooker leads the league for tackles while being similarly effective with the ball in hand.

NRL appearances: 100 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 10. JUNIOR PAULO (C)

Beginning his time at Parramatta with a wooden spoon, joining Canberra due to the salary cap scandal before returning to become one of the best props in the game, Paulo may not boast the explosiveness of Fuifui Moimoi but holds an influence similar to his forebear in 2009.

NRL appearances: 202 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 11. SHAUN LANE

Standing close to two metres tall and reaching new heights during the side's late season surge, Lane silenced his critics by delivering the pass that put the Eels in front during last week's preliminary final win in Townsville.

NRL appearances: 146 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 12. ISAIAH PAPALI'I

Going from a discard at the Warriors to one of the most in-demand forwards in the game in the space of two seasons, Papali'i has been an imposing force on the right edge in every game culminating in 10 tries, 94 tackle breaks and 33 offloads.

NRL appearances: 115 Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 13. RYAN MATTERSON

Coming into the final match of the season as the only player to experience the jubilation of winning a premiership, Matterson will likely come off the bench to add plenty of punch to the blue and golds through the middle of the field.

NRL appearances: 142 Grand Final appearances: 1 (2018)

## INTERCHANGE

### 14. NATHAN BROWN

Going from a starting forward with representative experience to languishing in reserve grade for much of 2022, Brown will make his first appearance in 12 weeks in the biggest match of the season.

NRL appearances: 137  
Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 15. JAKE ARTHUR

Sitting on the bench for the duration of last week's preliminary final victory in Townsville, Arthur has been used sparingly for much of the season but provides invaluable cover should a playmaker suffer an injury.

NRL appearances: 18  
Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 16. OREGON KAUFUSI

Announcing his departure from the Eels prior to the start of the season, the underrated prop has provided strong service off the bench with close to 100 running metres on average.

NRL appearances: 70  
Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 17. MARATA NIUKORE

Set to return to the Warriors next season following a successful tenure with the Eels, Niukore's versatility has seen the New Zealand international start up front, cover in the centres and move to an edge as needed this season.

NRL appearances: 95  
Grand Final appearances: N/A

## RESERVES

### 18. BRYCE CARTWRIGHT

Playing more than 20 minutes in first grade only twice this season, the former Penrith wunderkind possesses a unique set of skills which could prove crucial should the Eels opt for a game-breaker.

NRL appearances: 141  
Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 19. MAKAHESI MAKATOA

Making the most of a first grade opportunity many thought had passed by the Cook Islands international, Makatoa has provided solid service off the bench in 24 appearances this season.

NRL appearances: 29  
Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 20. TOM OPACIC

Cruelled in his bid to recover in time from a hamstring injury sustained in the semi final victory over Canberra, the Hull KR-bound centre has been a steady player in two seasons with the blue and golds.

NRL appearances: 82  
Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 21. OFAHIKI OGDEN

Making two appearances off the bench for the Eels late in the year, the former Canterbury-Bankstown forward will be pushing for more game time in 2023 with a number of players leaving at season's end.

NRL appearances: 47  
Grand Final appearances: N/A

### 22. KY RODWELL

Making four appearances off the bench midway through the year, Rodwell remains contracted to the Eels for a further two seasons.

NRL appearances: 5  
Grand Final appearances: N/A

## COACH

### BRAD ARTHUR

After nine-and-a-half seasons at the helm of Parramatta, Arthur will strive to do what so many have fallen short of over the past 36 years - guide the Eels back to premiership glory.



# ROAD TO GLORY: PARRAMATTA

## HOW THE EELS MADE THEIR WAY TO ACCOR STADIUM THIS SUNDAY

If ever the Parramatta Eels were to capitalise on an illusive premiership window, 2022 loomed as their final chance.

Falling short in three consecutive semi finals and with several players signalling their intentions to move on at season's end, coach Brad Arthur managed to weather an early run of injuries, particularly in the outside backs, to sit on the precipice of the top four prior to State of Origin.

Largely unaffected by player availability during the representative season, the biggest challenge for the blue and golds lay in the disparity between their best performances (victories over Melbourne and Penrith away from home) and their worst (a horror Queen's Birthday Monday loss to Canterbury-Bankstown).

Putting together five wins from their last six matches to clinch fourth position courtesy of a final round victory over Melbourne, a loss to Penrith failed to halt the side's momentum with wins over Canberra and North Queensland securing a Grand Final return for the first time since 2009.

Holding the longest current premiership drought in the league dating back to 1986, the Eels have their chance - now it's time to make history.

**GAMES: 27 // WINS: 18 // DRAWS: 0 // LOSSES: 9 // FOR: 680 // AGAINST: 540 // FINISHED: 4TH**

### ROUND 1 - EELS 32 v TITANS 28

Beginning the year on an afternoon where defence was rarely sighted from both teams, young outside-back Sean Russell's early joy with a first half hat-trick soon turned tragic after sustaining fractured ribs and a punctured lung. Eels 32 (Russell 3, Lane, Blake tries. Moses 6/8 goals) def Titans 28 (Kelly 2, Sami 2, Clark tries. Sexton 4/5 goal)

### ROUND 2 - EELS 16 v SHARKS 18

Conceding a last minute try in the first game held in Cronulla for three years, the Eels were left to rue a missed opportunity as Nicho Hynes landed the decisive conversion as the full-time siren sounded. Eels 16 (Moses, Mahoney tries. Gutherson 4/4 goals) lost to Sharks 18 (Mulitalo, Katoa, Tracey, Wilton tries. Hynes 1/4 goals)

### ROUND 3 - EELS 28 v STORM 24

Pulling off a major upset with a golden point victory at AAMI Park, Dolphins-bound forward Ray Stone pounced on a wayward field goal attempt to score while sustaining a season-ending ACL injury in the process. Eels 28 (Stone 2, Gutherson, Blake, Opacic tries. Moses 4/4 goals) def Storm 24 (Meaney 2, B. Smith, Papenhuyzen tries. Papenhuyzen 4/4 goals)

### ROUND 4 - EELS 48 v DRAGONS 14

Producing a dazzling second half performance featuring some of the best attacking football seen all year, halfback Mitchell Moses finished with a 24-point haul from two tries and eight goals. Eels 48 (Blake 2, Moses 2, D. Brown, N. Brown, Mahoney, Gutherson tries. Moses 8/8 goals) def Dragons 14 (Bird, Sims tries. Lomax 3/3 goals)

### ROUND 5 - EELS 26 v TITANS 20

Doing enough to get the job done, despite a spirited comeback from the home side, co-captain Junior Paulo was handed a one-game ban for a high tackle. Eels 26 (Gutherson 2, Simonsson, Matterson, D. Brown tries. Moses 3/5 goals) def Titans 20 (Sami, Clark, Fifta, Marzhev tries. Sexton 2/4 goals.)

### ROUND 6 - EELS 20 v TIGERS 21

Expected to easily account for the winless joint venture in the long-running Easter Monday clash, the Eels rued another missed opportunity with resurrected halfback Jackson Hastings nailing a field goal on full-time. Eels 20 (Gutherson, Papali'i, Mahoney, Niukore tries. Moses 2/4 goals) lost to Tigers 21 (Nofoluma 2, Leilua, Maumalo tries. Brooks 1/3, Hastings 1/1 goals)

### ROUND 7 - EELS 39 v KNIGHTS 2

Producing three straight victories in Newcastle for the first time in history, the shock move to shift Dylan Brown into the centres reaped rewards as the Eels tore the Knights to shreds. Eels 39 (Papali'i 2, Lane, Perham, D. Brown, Penisini tries. Moses 7/8 goals. Moses field goal) def Knights 2 (Clifford 1/1 goal)

### ROUND 8 - COWBOYS 35 v EELS 4

Coming away from the Northern Territory with a humbling reality check, young playmaker Jakob Arthur unfairly bore the brunt of criticism as the much-improved Cowboys ran away with the result in the closing stages. Eels 4 (Perham try. Moses 0/1 goal) lost to Cowboys 35 (Feldt 3, Dearden, Tabuai-Fidow, Drinkwater tries. Holmes 5/7 goals. Holmes field goal)

### ROUND 9 - EELS 22 v PANTHERS 20

Becoming the first team in three seasons to emerge from Penrith with two premiership points, the side's playmakers all stood up to give the Eels bragging rights in the Western Sydney derby. Eels 22 (Gutherson, Mahoney, Matterson, D. Brown tries. Moses 3/4 goals) def Panthers 20 (May 2, Edwards, Leniu tries. Cleary 2/4 goals)

### ROUND 10 - EELS 24 v ROOSTERS 31

Continuing a worrying trend of inconsistency from one week to the next, the Eels were made to pay for a slow start as Roosters young gun Joseph Suaalii announced his credentials with a brace of Magic Round tries. Eels 24 (Papali'i 2, Moses, Matterson tries. Moses 4/4 goals) lost to Roosters 31 (Suaalii 2, Waerea-Hargreaves, Tedesco, Walker tries. Walker 5/7 goals. Walker field goal)

### ROUND 11 - EELS 22 v SEA EAGLES 20

In a rain-soaked grudge match played on the eve of the Federal Election, Mitchell Moses landed a late sideline conversion to get the Eels back on course. Eels 22 (Perham 2, Opacic, Penisini tries. Moses 3/4 goals) def Sea Eagles 20 (Garrick 2, Tuipulotu, Harper tries. Garrick 2/4 goal)

### ROUND 12 - EELS 28 v RAIDERS 20

Emerging from the nation's capital with two premiership points during Indigenous Round, former Canberra outside back Bailey Simonsson marked his return with two tries to give the side consecutive wins for the first time in nearly two months. Eels 28 (Simonsson 2, D. Brown 2, Penisini tries. Moses 4/5 goals) def Raiders 20 (Kris 2, Whitehead tries. Fogarty 4/4 goals)

### ROUND 14 - EELS 4 v BULLDOGS 34

Coming off a bye and welcoming back fan favourite Maika Sivo from injury, the Eels were left embarrassed as the last-placed Bulldogs piled on six tries in a Queen's Birthday Monday massacre. Eels 4 (Penisini try. Moses 0/1 goal) lost to Bulldogs 34 (Addo-Carr 3, Averillo 2, Kiraz tries. Burton 5/6 goals)

### ROUND 15 - EELS 26 v ROOSTERS 16

Using the ball to great effect with five tries during the first half, the Eels managed to keep their opponents at bay after the break in a performance encapsulating the side's disparity of consistency. Eels 26 (D. Brown, Papali'i, Gutherson, Sivo, Mahoney tries. Moses 3/5 goals) def Roosters 16 (Suaalii 2, Tupouniua tries. Walker 2/3 goals)

### ROUND 16 - EELS 12 v RABBITOHS 30

Performing poorly in dreadful weather conditions, Clinton Gutherson bagged a double but it was his opposite number - Latrell Mitchell - who stole the show upon return from injury. Eels 12 (Gutherson 2 tries. Moses 2/2 goals) lost to Rabbitohs 30 (Johnston 2, Arrow, Paulo, Cook tries. Mitchell 5/5 goal)

### ROUND 17 - EELS 28 v TIGERS 20

Overcoming a slow start to emerge victorious in a rare appearance at Leichhardt Oval, former representative forward Nathan Brown earned a late call-up in what proved to be his last appearance during the home-and-away rounds. Eels 28 (Campbell-Gillard, Sivo, Mahoney, Moses, Papali'i tries. Moses 4/5 goals) def Tigers 20 (Nofoluma 2, Brown, Laurie tries. Douiehi 2/4 goal)

### ROUND 18 - EELS 28 v WARRIORS 18

In a game destined to be forgotten by the passage of time, the Sivo chant reverberated around CommBank Stadium after the Fijian flyer crossed to secure the result late in the second half. Eels 28 (Blake 2, Papali'i, Gutherson, Sivo tries. Moses 4/5 goals) def Warriors 18 (Montoya, Kosi, Murchie tries. Johnson 3/3 goals)

### ROUND 19 - EELS 14 v BRONCOS 36

Handed a thumping by a Broncos outfit many predicted in the aftermath to challenge for the top four, the loss gave coach Brad Arthur reason to reconfigure his squad heading towards the finals. Eels 14 (Sivo 2, Blake tries. Moses 1/3 goals) lost to Broncos 36 (Oates 2, Haas, Riki, Capewell, Reynolds tries. Reynolds 6/6 goals)

### ROUND 20 - EELS 34 v PANTHERS 10

Making the reigning premiers pay after Clive Churchill Medal winner Nathan Cleary was sensationally sent off for a dangerous tackle, the Eels gained the distinction as the only club to defeat the Panthers twice in the season. Eels 34 (Mahoney 2, Sivo 2, Papali'i, Gutherson tries. Moses 5/6 goals) def Panthers 10 (O'Sullivan, Martin tries. O'Sullivan 1/1, Cleary 0/1 goals)

### ROUND 21 - EELS 36 v SEA EAGLES 20

Emerging from the northern beaches with two vital premiership points in hand, much-maligned playmaker Jakob Arthur stood up in the absence of Mitchell Moses with a pair of try-assists. Eels 36 (Sivo 2, Opacic, Blake, Gutherson, Penisini, D. Brown tries. Gutherson 4/7 goals) def Sea Eagles 20 (Koula, Saab, Tuipulotu tries. Garrick 4/5 goals)

### ROUND 22 - EELS 0 v RABBITOHS 26

Failing to score a point against the Rabbitohs on home soil for the second time in three years, the loss saw the side staring down the grim prospect of missing the finals entirely should results fail to improve. Eels 0 lost to Rabbitohs 26 (Johnston 2, Walker 2, Thompson tries. Mitchell 3/5 goals)

### ROUND 23 - EELS 42 v BULLDOGS 6

Making the most of Mitchell Moses' return from injury, the Eels lit up their opponents in a dominant second half to effectively confirm a place in September. Eels 42 (D. Brown 2, Blake 2, Penisini, Sivo, Matterson, Opacic tries. Moses 5/8 goals) def Bulldogs 6 (Schoupp try. Burton 1/2 goals)

### ROUND 24 - EELS 53 v BRONCOS 6

Posting a half century for the first time since obliterating the Broncos in the 2019 elimination final, the Eels piled on nine tries against their injury-hit opponents to set up a final round winner-takes-all showdown for a place in the top four. Eels 53 (Gutherson 2, Opacic 2, Sivo, Moses, Papali'i, Penisini, Blake tries. Moses 8/9 goals. Moses field goal) def Broncos 6 (Lee try. Staggs 1/1 goal)

### ROUND 25 - EELS 22 v STORM 14

Producing a finals-esque performance a week early against their long standing rivals, a starring performance from Dylan Brown lifted the Eels into the top four with a guaranteed second chance in the play-offs. Eels 22 (D. Brown, Penisini, Sivo tries. Moses 5/5 goals) def Storm 14 (Grant, Meaney, Nofoluma tries. Meaney 1/2, Munster 0/1 goals)

### QUALIFYING FINAL - EELS 8 v PANTHERS 27

Unable to go the distance with the reigning premiers, who were bolstered by the return of Nathan Cleary from suspension, in the opening match of the finals, the result meant the Eels faced the prospect of bowing out in the semi finals for the fourth year in a row. Eels 8 (Kaufusi try. Moses 2/2 goals) lost to Panthers 27 (To'o 2, Edwards, Fisher-Harris tries. Cleary 5/5 goals. Cleary field goal)

### SEMI FINAL - EELS 40 v RAIDERS 4

Exorcising the demons that had haunted the club throughout Brad Arthur's tenure, Dylan Brown responded to criticisms of needing to run the ball with more than 300 running metres to put the Eels one game away from the decider. Eels 40 (Niukore 2, Penisini, Opacic, Blake, Paulo, Moses tries. Moses 6/8 goals) def Raiders 4 (Savage try. Fogarty 0/1 goal)

### PRELIMINARY FINAL - EELS 24 v COWBOYS 20

Trailing by eight points midway through the second half, the Eels soared to take the lead with tries to Reagan Campbell-Gillard (his second) and Maika Sivo before holding on to become the first side to progress through to the Grand Final. Eels 24 (Campbell-Gillard 2, Penisini, Sivo, Moses 4/5 goals) def Cowboys 20 (Cotter, Leilua, Taulagi tries. Holmes 4/5 goals)

# THE RECORD

The Penrith Panthers and the Parramatta Eels have featured in 106 first grade premiership matches since 1967.

\* DID NOT MEET:  
1997: Eels played ARL, Panthers played Super League

| Meeting | Year | Round                        |         | Score |            | Score | Venue                 |
|---------|------|------------------------------|---------|-------|------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 1       | 1967 | 10                           | Penrith | 2     | Parramatta | 25    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 2       | 1967 | 21                           | Penrith | 9     | Parramatta | 18    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 3       | 1968 | 5                            | Penrith | 6     | Parramatta | 21    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 4       | 1968 | 16                           | Penrith | 14    | Parramatta | 12    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 5       | 1969 | 1                            | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 21    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 6       | 1969 | 12                           | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 8     | Cumberland Oval       |
| 7       | 1970 | 3                            | Penrith | 12    | Parramatta | 9     | Cumberland Oval       |
| 8       | 1970 | 14                           | Penrith | 14    | Parramatta | 12    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 9       | 1971 | 4                            | Penrith | 24    | Parramatta | 12    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 10      | 1971 | 15                           | Penrith | 0     | Parramatta | 11    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 11      | 1972 | 9                            | Penrith | 12    | Parramatta | 19    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 12      | 1972 | 20                           | Penrith | 27    | Parramatta | 15    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 13      | 1973 | 7                            | Penrith | 12    | Parramatta | 21    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 14      | 1973 | 18                           | Penrith | 29    | Parramatta | 15    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 15      | 1974 | 8                            | Penrith | 5     | Parramatta | 21    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 16      | 1974 | 19                           | Penrith | 29    | Parramatta | 21    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 17      | 1975 | 7                            | Penrith | 8     | Parramatta | 13    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 18      | 1975 | 18                           | Penrith | 15    | Parramatta | 30    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 19      | 1976 | 11                           | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 12    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 20      | 1976 | 22                           | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 11    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 21      | 1977 | 7                            | Penrith | 4     | Parramatta | 23    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 22      | 1977 | 18                           | Penrith | 14    | Parramatta | 33    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 23      | 1978 | 9                            | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 19    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 24      | 1978 | 20                           | Penrith | 7     | Parramatta | 31    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 25      | 1979 | 7                            | Penrith | 11    | Parramatta | 20    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 26      | 1979 | 18                           | Penrith | 19    | Parramatta | 22    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 27      | 1980 | 6                            | Penrith | 19    | Parramatta | 19    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 28      | 1980 | 17                           | Penrith | 9     | Parramatta | 19    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 29      | 1981 | 7                            | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 13    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 30      | 1981 | 18                           | Penrith | 5     | Parramatta | 22    | Cumberland Oval       |
| 31      | 1982 | 4                            | Penrith | 9     | Parramatta | 33    | Belmore Sports Ground |
| 32      | 1982 | 18                           | Penrith | 6     | Parramatta | 12    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 33      | 1983 | 3                            | Penrith | 8     | Parramatta | 46    | Belmore Sports Ground |
| 34      | 1983 | 17                           | Penrith | 4     | Parramatta | 16    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 35      | 1984 | 13                           | Penrith | 22    | Parramatta | 10    | Belmore Sports Ground |
| 36      | 1984 | 26                           | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 22    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 37      | 1985 | 6                            | Penrith | 24    | Parramatta | 16    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 38      | 1985 | 19                           | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 21    | Sydney Cricket Ground |
| 39      | 1985 | Minor Preliminary Semi Final | Penrith | 6     | Parramatta | 38    | Sydney Cricket Ground |
| 40      | 1986 | 7                            | Penrith | 16    | Parramatta | 12    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 41      | 1986 | 20                           | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 16    | Parramatta Stadium    |
| 42      | 1987 | 13                           | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 23    | Parramatta Stadium    |
| 43      | 1987 | 26                           | Penrith | 4     | Parramatta | 30    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 44      | 1988 | 4                            | Penrith | 8     | Parramatta | 6     | Penrith Stadium       |
| 45      | 1988 | 19                           | Penrith | 14    | Parramatta | 10    | Parramatta Stadium    |
| 46      | 1989 | 3                            | Penrith | 6     | Parramatta | 8     | Parramatta Stadium    |
| 47      | 1989 | 18                           | Penrith | 11    | Parramatta | 18    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 48      | 1990 | 1                            | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 19    | Parramatta Stadium    |
| 49      | 1990 | 16                           | Penrith | 14    | Parramatta | 2     | Penrith Stadium       |
| 50      | 1991 | 12                           | Penrith | 20    | Parramatta | 14    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 51      | 1992 | 11                           | Penrith | 0     | Parramatta | 20    | Parramatta Stadium    |
| 52      | 1993 | 1                            | Penrith | 10    | Parramatta | 11    | Penrith Stadium       |
| 53      | 1993 | 16                           | Penrith | 22    | Parramatta | 4     | Parramatta Stadium    |

**PENRITH  
PANTHERS**

EST  
**1967**

PREMIERSHIPS  
**3**  
1991, 2003, 2021

HOME VENUE  
**BLUEBET  
STADIUM**

MOST APPEARANCES  
**STEVE  
CARTER  
(248)**

|     |      |                  |         |    |            |    |                                |
|-----|------|------------------|---------|----|------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 54  | 1994 | 7                | Penrith | 34 | Parramatta | 10 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 55  | 1994 | 22               | Penrith | 16 | Parramatta | 23 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 56  | 1995 | 1                | Penrith | 24 | Parramatta | 18 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 57  | 1995 | 22               | Penrith | 18 | Parramatta | 12 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 58  | 1996 | 22               | Penrith | 24 | Parramatta | 16 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 59  | 1998 | 1                | Penrith | 16 | Parramatta | 27 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 60  | 1998 | 22               | Penrith | 14 | Parramatta | 20 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 61  | 1999 | 5                | Penrith | 13 | Parramatta | 0  | Penrith Stadium                |
| 62  | 1999 | 23               | Penrith | 16 | Parramatta | 17 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 63  | 2000 | 10               | Penrith | 12 | Parramatta | 14 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 64  | 2000 | 16               | Penrith | 16 | Parramatta | 14 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 65  | 2000 | Semi Final       | Penrith | 10 | Parramatta | 28 | Sydney Football Stadium (1988) |
| 66  | 2001 | 1                | Penrith | 4  | Parramatta | 40 | Stadium Australia              |
| 67  | 2001 | 14               | Penrith | 28 | Parramatta | 54 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 68  | 2002 | 1                | Penrith | 6  | Parramatta | 64 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 69  | 2003 | 26               | Penrith | 40 | Parramatta | 22 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 70  | 2004 | 16               | Penrith | 26 | Parramatta | 16 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 71  | 2004 | 25               | Penrith | 30 | Parramatta | 20 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 72  | 2005 | 4                | Penrith | 16 | Parramatta | 26 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 73  | 2005 | 13               | Penrith | 22 | Parramatta | 32 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 74  | 2006 | 5                | Penrith | 44 | Parramatta | 18 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 75  | 2006 | 11               | Penrith | 30 | Parramatta | 20 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 76  | 2007 | 5                | Penrith | 14 | Parramatta | 27 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 77  | 2008 | 8                | Penrith | 18 | Parramatta | 26 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 78  | 2008 | 17               | Penrith | 22 | Parramatta | 16 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 79  | 2009 | 17               | Penrith | 38 | Parramatta | 34 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 80  | 2009 | 25               | Penrith | 6  | Parramatta | 48 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 81  | 2010 | 19               | Penrith | 28 | Parramatta | 34 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 82  | 2011 | 2                | Penrith | 20 | Parramatta | 6  | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 83  | 2011 | 19               | Penrith | 23 | Parramatta | 22 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 84  | 2012 | 4                | Penrith | 39 | Parramatta | 6  | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 85  | 2012 | 16               | Penrith | 18 | Parramatta | 19 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 86  | 2013 | 7                | Penrith | 44 | Parramatta | 12 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 87  | 2013 | 18               | Penrith | 17 | Parramatta | 10 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 88  | 2014 | 4                | Penrith | 16 | Parramatta | 32 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 89  | 2014 | 12               | Penrith | 38 | Parramatta | 12 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 90  | 2015 | 12               | Penrith | 20 | Parramatta | 26 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 91  | 2015 | 22               | Penrith | 4  | Parramatta | 10 | Marrara Stadium, Darwin        |
| 92  | 2016 | 5                | Penrith | 20 | Parramatta | 18 | Parramatta Stadium             |
| 93  | 2016 | 19               | Penrith | 22 | Parramatta | 18 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 94  | 2017 | 8                | Penrith | 12 | Parramatta | 18 | ANZ Stadium                    |
| 95  | 2018 | 1                | Penrith | 24 | Parramatta | 14 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 96  | 2018 | 5                | Penrith | 12 | Parramatta | 6  | ANZ Stadium                    |
| 97  | 2019 | 1                | Penrith | 12 | Parramatta | 20 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 98  | 2019 | 11               | Penrith | 16 | Parramatta | 10 | Western Sydney Stadium         |
| 99  | 2020 | 5                | Penrith | 10 | Parramatta | 16 | Western Sydney Stadium         |
| 100 | 2020 | 18               | Penrith | 20 | Parramatta | 2  | Penrith Stadium                |
| 101 | 2021 | 16               | Penrith | 13 | Parramatta | 12 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 102 | 2021 | 25               | Penrith | 40 | Parramatta | 6  | Robina Stadium                 |
| 103 | 2021 | Semi Final       | Penrith | 8  | Parramatta | 6  | Stadium Mackay                 |
| 104 | 2022 | 9                | Penrith | 20 | Parramatta | 22 | Penrith Stadium                |
| 105 | 2022 | 20               | Penrith | 10 | Parramatta | 34 | Western Sydney Stadium         |
| 106 | 2022 | Qualifying Final | Penrith | 27 | Parramatta | 8  | Penrith Stadium                |
| 107 | 2022 | Grand Final      | Penrith | ?  | Parramatta | ?  | Stadium Australia              |

106  
MEETINGS

45  
PENRITH WINS

60  
PARRAMATTA WINS

1  
DRAW

1,710  
POINTS SCORED BY  
PENRITH v PARRAMATTA

2,016  
POINTS SCORED BY  
PARRAMATTA v PENRITH

PARRAMATTA  
EELS

EST  
1947

PREMIERSHIPS

4

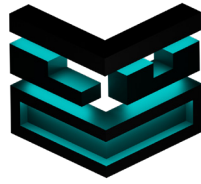
1981, 1982,  
1983, 1986

HOME VENUE  
COMMBANK  
STADIUM

MOST APPEARANCES  
NATHAN  
HINDMARSH  
(330)



# NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS



# PARRAMATTA EELS

Age P T G FG Pts

|    |   |   |    |   |    |                  |           |
|----|---|---|----|---|----|------------------|-----------|
| 25 | 4 | 4 | -  | - | 16 | Tamika UPTON     | <b>1</b>  |
| 30 | 5 | 2 | -  | - | 8  | Kiana TAKAIRANGI | <b>2</b>  |
| 24 | 6 | - | -  | - | -  | Shanice PARKER   | <b>3</b>  |
| 25 | 5 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Bobbi LAW        | <b>4</b>  |
| 19 | 3 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Emmanita PAKI    | <b>5</b>  |
| 25 | 6 | 1 | 14 | - | 32 | Kirra DIBB       | <b>6</b>  |
| 17 | 6 | 1 | 5  | - | 14 | Jesse SOUTHWELL  | <b>7</b>  |
| 21 | 6 | 2 | -  | - | 8  | Caitlan JOHNSTON | <b>8</b>  |
| 30 | 6 | 2 | -  | - | 8  | Olivia HIGGINS   | <b>9</b>  |
| 24 | 6 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Mille BOYLE      | <b>10</b> |
| 23 | 6 | 2 | -  | - | 8  | Romy TEITZEL     | <b>11</b> |
| 28 | 6 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Yasmin CLYDSDALE | <b>12</b> |
| 20 | 2 | - | -  | - | -  | Kayla ROMANIUK   | <b>13</b> |
| 20 | 6 | 2 | -  | - | 8  | Emma MANZELMANN  | <b>14</b> |
| 21 | 6 | 2 | -  | - | 8  | Tayla PREDEBON   | <b>15</b> |
| 25 | 5 | - | -  | - | -  | Simone KARPANI   | <b>16</b> |
| 20 | 4 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Makenzie WEALE   | <b>17</b> |
| 25 | 3 | - | -  | - | -  | Caitlin MORAN    | <b>18</b> |
| 20 | 2 | - | -  | - | -  | Kyra SIMON       | <b>20</b> |
| 21 | 2 | - | -  | - | -  | Tiana DAVISON    | <b>22</b> |
| 26 | 1 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Jessica GENTLE   | <b>23</b> |
| 29 | - | - | -  | - | -  | Tamsin BARBER    | <b>24</b> |

Ronald GRIFFITHS

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

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES  
SCRUMS

Age P T G FG Pts

|    |   |   |    |   |    |                     |           |
|----|---|---|----|---|----|---------------------|-----------|
| 26 | 6 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Gayle BROUGHTON     | <b>1</b>  |
| 21 | 5 | 2 | -  | - | 8  | Zalil FAY           | <b>2</b>  |
| 24 | 2 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Abbi CHURCH         | <b>3</b>  |
| 23 | 6 | 3 | -  | - | 12 | Rikeya HORNE        | <b>4</b>  |
| 18 | 3 | - | -  | - | -  | Cassey TOHI-HIKU    | <b>5</b>  |
| 27 | 5 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Ashleigh QUINLAN    | <b>6</b>  |
| 23 | 5 | 1 | 13 | - | 30 | Tayla PRESTON       | <b>7</b>  |
| 23 | 6 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Kennedy CHERRINGTON | <b>8</b>  |
| 26 | 4 | - | -  | - | -  | Brooke ANDERSON     | <b>9</b>  |
| 21 | 6 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Ellie JOHNSTON      | <b>10</b> |
| 22 | 6 | - | -  | - | -  | Christian PIO       | <b>11</b> |
| 29 | 6 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Vanessa FOLIAKI     | <b>12</b> |
| 28 | 6 | 3 | -  | - | 12 | Simaima TAUFA       | <b>13</b> |
| 21 | 6 | - | -  | - | -  | Filomina HANISI     | <b>14</b> |
| 25 | 6 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Seli MAILANGI       | <b>15</b> |
| 23 | 5 | - | -  | - | -  | Najvada GEORGE      | <b>16</b> |
| 24 | 4 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Rima BUTLER         | <b>17</b> |
| 19 | 3 | - | -  | - | -  | Ruby-Jean KENNARD   | <b>18</b> |
| 27 | 1 | - | 2  | - | 4  | Brooke WALKER       | <b>19</b> |
| 19 | 2 | - | -  | - | -  | Rueben CHERRINTON   | <b>20</b> |
| 26 | 5 | 2 | -  | - | 8  | Tiana PENITANI      | <b>21</b> |
| 20 | 3 | 1 | -  | - | 4  | Tess STAINES        | <b>22</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

## MATCH DETAILS

|           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| DATE      | SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER 2022                |
| KICKOFF   | 3:55PM AEDT                          |
| VENUE     | ACCOR STADIUM                        |
|           | SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW / WANN-GAL   |
| WATCH     | NINE NETWORK & 9NOW                  |
|           | FOX LEAGUE & KAYO                    |
| LISTEN    | ABC SPORT, SEN, TRIPLE M, NINE RADIO |
| LIVE BLOG | LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM                  |

## MATCH OFFICIALS

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| REFEREE      | KASEY BADGER |
| TOUCH JUDGES | JORDAN MOREL |
|              | TORI WILKIE  |
| NRL BUNKER   | ADAM GEE     |

## HEAD TO HEAD

|       |   |                             |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|
| ALL   | 2 | NEWCASTLE 1 // PARRAMATTA 0 |
| ACCOR | 0 | FIRST MEETING AT THIS VENUE |

## MATCH HISTORY

|      |    |                  |            |
|------|----|------------------|------------|
| 2021 | R1 | PARRAMATTA 13-12 | MCD. JONES |
| 2022 | R3 | NEWCASTLE 18-16  | MCD. JONES |

## NRLW GRAND FINALS

**2018** || BRISBANE 34 (K. BREAYLEY-NATI 3, N. ARAKUA, H. BALLINGER, L. GOULD TRIES; C. BAKER 5 GOALS) DEFEATED SYDNEY (W) 12 (T. GRAY, L. O'MEALEY TRIES; Z. TEMARA 2 GOALS) AT ANZ STADIUM. DATE: SUN, 30TH SEPTEMBER. KICKOFF: 1:35 PM. HALFTIME: BRISBANE (W) 28-6. REFEREES: JON STONE, KASEY BADGER. CROWD: 82,688

**2019** || BRISBANE (W) 30 (L. GOULD, C. LENARDUZZI, R. MCGREGOR, A. PILLEY, J. ROBINSON TRIES; M. WARD 5 GOALS) DEFEATED ST GEORGE ILLA (W) 6 (K. APPS TRY; M. STUDDON GOAL) AT ANZ STADIUM. DATE: SUN, 6TH OCTOBER. KICKOFF: 4:05 PM. HALFTIME: BRISBANE (W) 10-0. REFEREES: KASEY BADGER, DANIEL SCHWASS.

**2020** || BRISBANE (W) 20 (T. HARDEN, C. LENARDUZZI, A. PARIS-HALL, T. UPTON TRIES; M. WARD 2 GOALS) DEFEATED SYDNEY (W) 10 (Q. DODD, Y. MEAKES TRIES; Z. TEMARA GOAL) AT ANZ STADIUM. DATE: SUN, 25TH OCTOBER. KICKOFF: 4:05 PM. HALFTIME: BRISBANE (W) 12-10. REFEREE: BELINDA SHARPE. CROWD: 9,071.

**2021** || SYDNEY (W) 16 (O. HIGGINS, I. KELLY, Y. MEAKES TRIES; Z. TEMARA 2 GOALS) DEFEATED ST GEORGE ILLA (W) 4 (M. BARTLETT TRY) AT MORETON DAILY STADIUM. DATE: SUN, 10TH APRIL. KICKOFF: 1:30 PM. HALFTIME: ST GEORGE ILLA (W) 4-0. PENALTIES: SYDNEY (W) 7-6. REFEREE: BELINDA SHARPE.

MATCH STATS COURTESY OF

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
project

# THE GRAND PREVIEW

with Josh Robertson

Finishing last and second last in the previous season are never usually key form guides for an sporting season, but it's been a remarkable second season for both the Newcastle Knights and the Parramatta Eels who finished in those respective seasons at the beginning of the year.

The Newcastle Knights are by far and away the most improved side of the NRLW competition this season having an almost flawless season with four wins from their five regular season matches before a big win last weekend to book their maiden grand final spot.

The improvement for the Novocastrians this season has been phenomenal starting the season with a strong recruitment drive in the off-season with key players such as Millie Boyle and Tamika Upton joining the club helping their growth. The biggest signing though for the Knights this season has been their trust in 17 year-old Jesse Southwell who has just shown a composure and game management skills that some of the best players men's or women's wish they could have.

Despite winning their opening three games, the Knights really stamped their premiership credentials in their 18-16 loss to the minor premiers the Roosters. Missing key players, this was where the Knights showed they weren't going to be easybeats come finals time and their two performances against the Dragons in consecutive weeks made their momentum.

The 30-8 and 30-6 victories were almost flawless for Newcastle who despite having long periods where they couldn't dominate, they certainly left their mark to show why they can go on and win the competition.

Newcastle Coach Ronald Griffiths has made one change to the 17 named last week which is Makenzie Weale has been named on the bench instead of Caitlin Moran, although it's widely expected that Moran will come back onto the bench in place of Weale as she did last weekend.

They say you need everything to go right to make a grand final and for the Parramatta Eels the last fortnight has done just that for them after pulling off two of the biggest upsets in the NRLW's history with wins over the Brisbane Broncos and the Sydney Roosters to book both their semi-final and grand final spots respectively.

Heading into the final round, the Eels were yet to win a game and needed to pick up an unlikely victory against the Brisbane Broncos but also needed to ensure that they did so by at least six points. Things looked both good and bad for the Blue and Gold who had yet to win a game all season and lead by double digits at times and then having the scores levelled by the much-fancied Broncos.

The Eels had luck on their side as they managed to score a 12-point victory over the Broncos and then the Titans defeat ensured their spot in the finals. There was a belief in the Parramatta camp that they could replicate what their Men's team had done and booked a grand final spot but coming up against the undefeated Roosters was a tough task. Whether it was the Eels rising to the occasion or complacency from the Roosters, the Blue and Gold were dominant in their performance and were able to book their grand final spot with a 24-10 victory over the Roosters in what was their biggest victory in the clubs short history.

The Eels are giving star Tiana Penitani every opportunity to overcome a quad injury suffered in the final round naming her on the extended bench after being ruled out last week. Eels coach Dean Widders has put Abbi Church who performed strongly in the centres last week whilst Kennedy Cherrington and Brooke Anderson have been named in the starting side after being named on the bench in the last few weeks before starting.

**WHO TO WATCH:** Despite being just 17, Jesse Southwell has seen the biggest stages already in her career after playing at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games just weeks before her NRLW debut in Round 1. The crafty halfback has the skills that rival some of the best in the Men's game that have played for a lot longer than she has and her game management skills are going to be vital for the Knights to control the grand final.

Parramatta five-eighth Ash Quinlan has been a revelation for the Blue and Gold over the past fortnight on their way to this maiden NRLW grand final. The Eels will be relying desperately on the skills and the calm natured game of their number six to ensure that they are in the contest for the entire 70 minutes because it won't take much for the Knights to find a roll-on if they get the chance.

**FAVOURITE:** Newcastle are backed to get the job done on Sunday.

**MY TIP:** It's hard to go past the Knights, they've been dominant in the competition and their efforts in the semi-finals were just too hard to go past. The Eels aren't go to be easybeats that's for sure and the confidence of being able to beat the Roosters and having their Men's side in the Grand Final will be a boost for sure. The Knights will take their maiden victory but it will be closer than many expect. Knights by 6.  
Karyn Murphy Medal: Jesse Southwell



**SQUAD UPDATE** SAT 3:55PM  
**LATE MAIL** SUN 2:55PM  
[LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM](https://www.leagueunlimited.com)

# ROAD TO GLORY

## 2022 NRLW GRAND FINALISTS

Seven months ago, neither of these clubs had laced a boot in the NRL Women's Premiership. Expansion teams introduced for the ultimately delayed 2021 season which took place earlier this year, Newcastle and Parramatta both struggled - and failed to make the finals in that premiership. Six months since the last Grand Final, now the two expansion clubs face off in a surprising decider this Sunday.

### NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

After going winless in their inaugural season, the Novocastrians went on a considerable spending spree, picking up in particular a number of premiership-winning Roosters between this year's two seasons. Only stumbling once along the way to last year's premiers the Roosters in Round 4, the Knights are hot favourites.

**GAMES: 6 // WINS: 4 // LOSSES: 1**

**FOR: 142 // AGAINST: 74 // FINISHED: 2ND**

#### ROUND 1 - KNIGHTS 32 BRONCOS 14

Stunning the three-time premiers to secure their first win, Newcastle led from siren to siren, with NRLW debutant Jesse Southwell shining in her debut game at the elite level.

Knights 32 (Southwell, Stephens-Daly, Teitzel, Predebon, Johnston, Law tries; Dibb 4/6 goals) def Broncos 14 (Robinson 2, Aiken tries; Brigginslaw 1/3 goals)

#### ROUND 2 - KNIGHTS 16 TITANS 12

A scrappy victory where Newcastle scored all their points before halftime, holding on to win by four.

Knights 16 (Stephens-Daly, Manzelmann, Upton tries; Dibb 2/3 goals) def Titans 12 (Canfield, Hancock tries; L Brown 2/2 goals)

#### ROUND 3 - KNIGHTS 18 EELS 16

Victory from the jaws of defeat for Newcastle in front of their home fans on Sunday afternoon, with the hosts giving up a 10-6 halftime lead to trail 16-12 heading into the final moments before an Olivia Higgins dummy-half move secured the win.

Knights 18 (Upton, Predebon, Higgins tries; Dibb 3/4 goals) def Eels 16 (Horne 2, Staines tries; Preston 2/3 goals)

#### ROUND 4 - KNIGHTS 16 ROOSTERS 18

The Tricolours secured the minor premiership against a Newcastle side that suffered a slow start. A Caitlan Johnston try in the final 10 minutes looked to put the Knights in a match-winning position, but a long-range Isabelle Kelly stunner delivered victory for the Roosters.

Knights 16 (Teitzel, Clydsdale, Johnston tries; Dibb 1/2, J Southwell 1/1 goals) lost to Roosters 18 (Strange, Hopoate, Kelly tries; Temara 3/4, R McGregor 0/1 goals)

#### ROUND 5 - KNIGHTS 30 DRAGONS 8

With the two sides certain to meet again a week later in the semi final, both sides used the match a finals tune-up, the Knights narrowly getting the better of the first half to lead 14-8 before going on with the job after halftime.

Knights 30 (Higgins, Takairangi, Gentle, Paki, Manzelmann, Weale tries; J Southwell 3/6 goals) def Dragons 8 (Fuimaono, Berry tries; Pearson 0/2 goals)

#### SEMI FINAL - KNIGHTS 30 DRAGONS 6

The Dragons kept pace early but it was largely one-way traffic in the semi final, Newcastle breezing to an 18-6 lead at halftime before piling on two more tries after the break, including a double to fullback Tamika Upton.

Knights 30 (Upton 2, Dibb, Boyle, Takairangi tries; Dibb 5/5 goals) def Dragons 6 (Berry try; Pearson 1/1 goal)

### PARRAMATTA EELS

Bizarrely, Parramatta lost their first four games, but have turned the corner at the right time of the short season to find themselves there on the competition's biggest day. A final-round win over Brisbane elevated the Eels into the top four before they knocked out reigning premiers the Roosters in last weekend's semi final.

**GAMES: 6 // WINS: 2 // LOSSES: 4**

**FOR: 110 // AGAINST: 116 // FINISHED: 4TH**

#### ROUND 1 - EELS 16 ROOSTERS 38

Despite having lost a host of premiership stars, the Roosters exerted their dominance with a blistering second half performance to account for Parramatta in the season opener. Eels 16 (Mailangi, Taufa, Foliaki tries; Walker 2/3 goals) lost to Roosters 38 (Fressard 2, Kelly 2, Sergis, Kernick, Power, Tufuga tries; Temara 3/8 goals)

#### ROUND 2 - EELS 10 DRAGONS 16

A scoreless open 20 minutes gave way to three quick tries before halftime, with Parramatta taking a two-point lead into the sheds. The Dragons came out firing after the break, posting two further tries to secure a six-point win. Eels 10 (Penitani, Broughton tries; Preston 1/2 goals) lost to Dragons 16 (P McGregor 2, Browne, Berry tries; Pearson 0/4 goals)

#### ROUND 3 - EELS 16 KNIGHTS 18

After trailing at the break, Parramatta were looking likely late when they led 16-12 in the shadows of fulltime, but Knights dummy-half Olivia Higgins stole the win for her side. Eels 16 (Horne 2, Staines tries; Preston 2/3 goals) lost to Knights 18 (Upton, Predebon, Higgins tries; Dibb 3/4 goals)

#### ROUND 4 - EELS 16 TITANS 18

The Titans recorded their first win of the NRLW campaign after holding out a fast-finishing Eels, a late Rima Butler try not enough for Parramatta. Eels 16 (Fay, Taufa, Butler tries; Preston 2/3 goals) lost to Titans 18 (Hancock, Mato, Elliston tries; L Brown 3/3 goals)

#### ROUND 5 - EELS 28 BRONCOS 16

A surging performance from the blue-and-gold - seemingly out of nowhere - put an end to the Broncos' hopes to reclaim the NRLW title. Parramatta's first win of the season was led admirably by lock Simaima Taufa, who scored a try in the second half. Eels 28 (Penitani, Johnston, Fay, Taufa, K Cherrington tries; Preston 4/6 goals) def Broncos 16 (Ciesiolka, Brigginslaw, Maddick tries; Brigginslaw 2/3 goals)

#### SEMI FINAL - EELS 24 ROOSTERS 10

An error-strewn performance from the reigning premiers allowed the Eels to gain the upper hand, cruising to a 12-4 halftime lead before halves Ash Quinlan and Tayla Preston guided them home to a 14-point win. Eels 24 (Quinlan, Preston, Church, Horne tries; Preston 4/5 goals) def Roosters 10 (Power, Togatuki tries; Temara 1/1, Kelleher 0/1 goals)

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

\* indicates aligned with NRL mens fixture

## 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 |

### 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           | Chus Super Stadium* | 12 - 16 |

### 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 | 30 - 6  |
|     | SF 2 | 15:50 | Sydney Roosters (1ST) | Parramatta (4TH)          | Suncorp Stadium | 10 - 24 |

#### GRAND FINAL

|     |           |       |           |            |                |  |
|-----|-----------|-------|-----------|------------|----------------|--|
| Sun | 02 Oct 22 | 15:55 | Newcastle | Parramatta | Accor Stadium* |  |
|-----|-----------|-------|-----------|------------|----------------|--|

# WHO CLAIMS KARYN?

## JOSH LOOKS AT THE POTENTIAL WINNERS OF NRLW'S PLAYER OF THE GRAND FINAL

Just like the Clive Churchill Medal, the Karyn Murphy medal is one of the biggest honours for any player to set foot on the field during a Grand Final. It could be the efforts of one of the halves like Kimiora Nati back in the first NRLW Grand Final or the go forward and leadership of a front rower like Sarah Togatuki for the Roosters last season.

Here are our 5 predicted contenders for each side:

### Newcastle Knights

#### TAMIKA UPTON

The Knights fullback has been a vital part of the Newcastle success this season and having had grand final experience, Upton knows what is needed to deliver a premier-ship winning performance. The speed, skill and just all round x-factor of the Knights number one could be the thing that breaks the game open.

#### JESSE SOUTHWELL

The NRLW rookie of the year has experience and skills that some of the very best players in the men's game could wish for despite being just 17 years old. Pressure shouldn't be an issue for the youngster having just competed 2022 Commonwealth Games Rugby 7s gold medal.

#### MILLIE BOYLE

Another who has been on the games biggest stage in the past, the Knights captain has been barnstorming this season taking her game to another level leading the Novocastrians around. The forward work of Millie Boyle is absolutely beastly at times and will be a big part of the Knights grand final efforts if they go onto victory.

#### CAITLAN JOHNSTON

Arguably the most dangerous forward the Knights have and after the compliments we put on Millie Boyle that is saying something. The Knights youngster is one of only a handful of players that were retained from the 2021 season and the power running and surprising ball handling skills that Johnston have are something that could change the game.

#### KIRRA DIBB

Another one of the players retained from the 2021 season, Dibb brings experience and was an important player for the Knights. Controlling things in the background, Dibb might not be the first that comes to mind but she plays a big role and whilst probably the most unlikely of the five, Dibb has enough quality to orchestrate the show.

### Parramatta Eels

#### GAYLE BROUGHTON

Another player with big match experience, the former New Zealand Rugby International is a strong contender for Karyn Murphy Medal with her play in the fullback role for the Eels being so strong. Broughton can create attack out of nothing and her running game could be doing enough to put Parramatta in a commanding position.

#### ASH QUINLAN

The Eels youngster was a star in their two victories this season and was so important last weekend against the Roosters. Possessing a calmness in attack, Quinlan could be a surprise contender for the award if she is able to control the show for Parramatta.

#### BROOKE ANDERSON

Another surprise packet of 2022 has been the Eels hooker Brooke Anderson who has shown touches of brilliance. The work from the Eels number 9 was a key factor to their win against the Broncos and her vision out of dummy half is quickly proving to be one of the best in the competition.

#### VANESSA FOLIAKI

The Eels second rower brings plenty of experience including two grand final appearances for the Roosters during her time at the tricolours. The experience will be a big factor for the Blue and Gold and the skills that Foliaki can break a game down.

#### SIMAIMA TAUFA

The most inspirational captain in the NRLW, Taufa has led the Eels for two seasons and been an inspiration on the field. The veteran will be giving it her all for the whole 70 minutes and her tireless efforts could put her well and truly in line for a much-deserved Karyn Murphy medal should the Eels go on and win.

**NOTE:** Tiana Penitani will also be a strong chance, but I haven't added her to the list here given she is still under an injury cloud and outside the main Parramatta squad right now.

#### JOSH'S TIPS:

NEWCASTLE  
Jesse Southwell

PARRAMATTA  
Simaima Taufa

#### PREVIOUS WINNERS

2018  
Kimiora Nati (Broncos)

2019  
Annette Brander (Broncos)

2020  
Amber Hall (Broncos)

2021  
Sarah Togatuki (Roosters)

# PANTHERS DO THE DOUBLE ON NSWRL GRAND FINAL DAY

A stellar show of resilience has seen the Penrith Panthers claim the Knock-On Effect NSW Cup with a 29-22 victory over the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs on Sunday afternoon, while their U21 Jersey Flegg team picked up that title in an 83-minute epic over Newcastle, 19-18.

## PATHWAYS LEAD TO PREMIERSHIPS FOR PENRITH

A stellar show of resilience has seen the Penrith Panthers claim the Knock-On Effect NSW Cup with a 29-22 victory over the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs on Sunday afternoon.

Fielding a squad featuring 13 players with first grade experience, the Panthers, coached by former NRL captain Peter Wallace, claimed their first reserve grade title since 2017.

Opening the scoring through Sunia Turuva (8th minute) following a superb cut-out pass from Sean O'Sullivan, the Fijian international touched down in the left corner to give the hosts a 4-0 lead.

Responding after a bust from Jackson Topine gave the blue and whites good field position, Jayden Okunbor (13th minute) soared above his opposite winger to ground a crossfield bomb from Brandon Wakeham; a sideline conversion from Wakeham put the Bulldogs up 6-4.

The Panthers regained the lead midway through the half after Kurt Falls (18th minute) chased an innocuous kick from Soni Luke to push the score out to 10-6 with a converted try next to post.

Striking a crucial blow in the closing moments of the first half, Jack Cole (37th minute) swooped on a misdirected pass from Wakeham to score untouched with a 40 metre run before O'Sullivan nailed a field goal as the halftime siren sounded to send the Panthers to the sheds up 17-6.

Gaining a fortuitous call early in the second half with Turuva denied a four-pointer due to an obstruction ruling, young Bulldogs five-eighth Khaled Rajab demonstrated poise beyond his years by identifying Penrith defending with their fullback in the front line and executing a chip kick for Declan Casey (47th minute) to reduce the margin to 17-12.

Growing in confidence following a run of penalties, the Bulldogs brought the CommBank Stadium crowd to life as Okunbor (57th minute) collected his second try by finishing off a right side shift to make it a one-point game.

Shaken out of complacency by finding touch from the ensuing kick-off, the Panthers regained the ascendancy with Luke (60th minute) throwing a dummy and crashing over from close range for a 23-16 lead.

The Bulldogs refused to wilt in the face of their more experienced opponents and crossed through Topine (67th minute), who spurned the Panthers defence to restore a one-point deficit.

Securing the premiership off the back of a seven-tackle set, Turuva (74th minute) ran onto a pass from Isaiah Longi to collect his second before Falls nailed the conversion from touch to give the Panthers an unassailable 29-22 lead.

The Bulldogs tried in vain to conjure a miracle with Topine denied a second try due to a knock-on from Okunbor, but it was to no avail as the Panthers ran out deserving victors with Soni Luke claiming official player of the match honours.

Finishing the 2022 season in second position on the ladder, Penrith's Knock-On Effect Cup success followed on from victory in the Jersey Flegg competition earlier in the day; the young Panthers fought back from an 18-6 deficit late in the contest before Dolphins-bound halfback Isaiya Katoa nailed a field goal in the 83rd minute of golden point to prevail 19-18 over Newcastle.

Next Sunday, Penrith will face Norths Devils in the State Championship to be played as a curtain raiser on NRL Grand Final day at 1.20pm.

## KNOCK-ON EFFECT NSW CUP GRAND FINAL

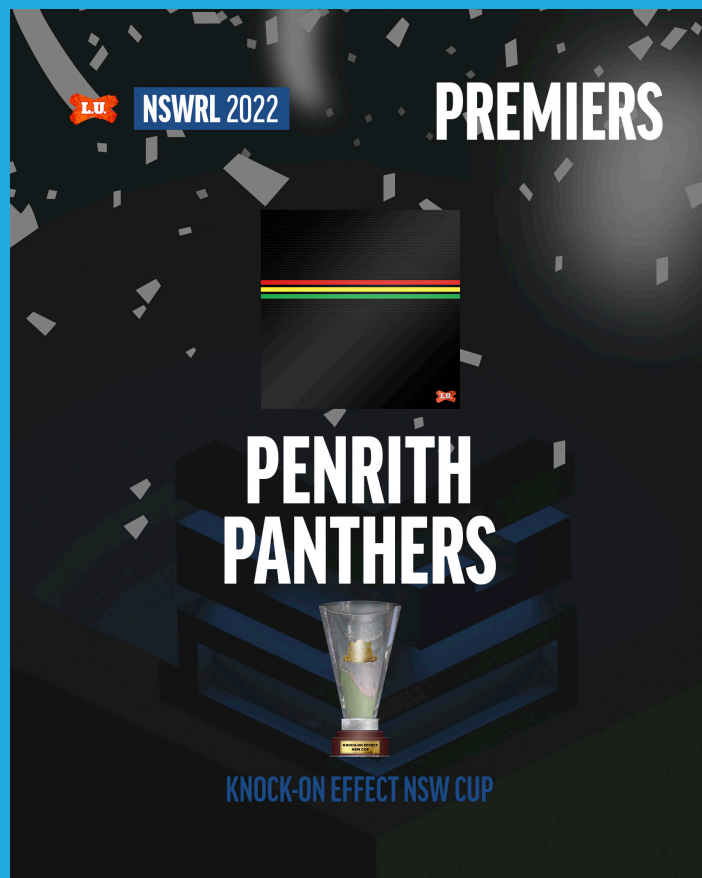
**Penrith Panthers (29)** Tries: Sunia Turuva 2, Kurt Falls, Jack Cole, Soni Luke; Goals: Kurt Falls 4; Field Goals: Sean O'Sullivan 1 **def Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs (22)** Tries: Jayden Okunbor 2, Declan Casey, Jackson Topine; Goals: Brandon Wakeham 3  
Venue: CommBank Stadium, Parramatta  
Date: Sunday 25 September 2022 at 3:00pm  
Player of the Match: Soni Luke (Penrith Panthers)

## UNDER 21 JERSEY FLEGG CUP GRAND FINAL

**Penrith Panthers (19)** Tries: Daeon Amituanai, Mavrik Geyer, Samuel Lane; Goals: Niwhai Puru 3; Field Goals: Isaiya Katoa 1 **def Newcastle Knights (18)** Tries: Thomas Cant, Fletcher Sharpe, Kurt Donoghoe; Goals: Thomas Cant 3  
Venue: CommBank Stadium, Parramatta  
Date: Sunday 25 September 2022 at 1:00pm

## PRESIDENTS CUP GRAND FINAL

**Maitland Pickers 36 Hills Bulls 12**





# NORTHS AND TOWNSVILLE CLAIM QRL TITLES ON EPIC GRAND FINAL DAY

It was a bad day for the Redcliffe Dolphins at Moreton Daily Stadium on Saturday, as the Norths Devils took out the Hostplus Cup premiership and Townsville Blackhawks the U21 Hastings Deering Colts.

## DEVILS CLAIM BACK-TO-BACK TITLES WITH WIN AGAINST DOLPHINS

Colleen Edwards - QRL content producer

Norths Devils are the 2022 Hostplus Cup champions after claiming this year's title in a defence-heavy clash at Moreton Daily Stadium.

It was a tough contest throughout, with both sides displaying plenty of defensive grit in a game that finished in dramatic fashion, with the Redcliffe Dolphins fighting all the way, with result in doubt to the final siren. It is the first time a club has gone back-to-back since Wynnum Manly Seagulls achieved the feat in 2011-2012 under Paul Green.

The Devils didn't have an easy season, losing a number of players and their premiership-winning coach Rohan Smith mid-season, but they didn't stop them from pushing for the title. Duncan Hall Medal winner Jacob Gagan said it was a special feeling to win and that the whole side got behind new co-coaches Ben King and Kev Neighbour to build towards the title.

"It's unreal, we are back-to-back which is something special, being at this club, it is amazing, we deserved that," Gagan said. "That was a tough game, but we knew that if we just grinded it out, we would come away with the win, so credit to all the boys today, everyone really dug deep. Nothing has changed all year, they just slotted in and did the job and the boys just got followed them at training and it was just another week for us and we trained hard and came away with the win. There was excitement (of course this week), it was grand final week, everyone was upbeat so it showed today."

The match itself was a tight one with the Dolphins denied tries on a number of occasions. However, they were the first team to score, with Bryce Donovan slotting a penalty goal mid-way through the first half after try-scoring opportunities proved hard to nail for both sides. Redcliffe denied the opening try four minutes in by video referee Tim Rutherford, before this year's Centre of the Year winner Valynce Te Whare was also denied, dropping the ball over the line. His second row partner Jeremiah Simbiken, who will join him at the NRL Dolphins next season, was the next to miss out, finding out just how strong the goal line defence of the Devils was going to be on grand final day.

The Devils however were the first to cross for a try, with a penalty giving them the chance to set up their try-scoring play, with Tyson Gamble hitting a hard-running Gagan who cut inside and was celebrating the try before he even put the ball down untouched. The Dolphins thought they were in for their try when Norths spilled a Daejarn Asi bomb, but they were again defined by the video referee for a knock on in the contest for the ball. At halftime in a tight contest, the Devils were in front 6-2.

The second half was just as tight, with the Dolphins again denied by the video referee ruling after Edward Burns was found to have had his foot over the sideline after he thought he got his side back in the game after streaking down the sideline. The grand final experience for the Devils then told, and from one side of the field to the other, the Devils were able to score in the opposite corner with Brayden McGrady touching the ball down for the first of his two treis inside the line to extend their lead. Tyrone Roberts lined up the kick from the far right sideline and nailed the conversion for a 12-2 lead. After repeated pressure and a huge defensive play where the Dolphins pushed the Devils back into the in-goal to earn themselves a line drop out, Redcliffe

were finally awarded a try, with an Asi kick hanging high enough for Setu Tu to collect in the air and put the ball down. Donovan's kick hit the far upright for the scores to remain 12-6.

It was then well and truly game on however with just over seven minutes left in the match when a smooth Dolphins backline play found Rocco Berry who passed to Burns who finally got his try after sprinting down the sideline and momentum took him over the line to score. However, Donovan was unable to land the tough sideline kick and the scores remained at 12-10. Dolphins nearly went back-to-back down the same sideline, but Burns was again adjudicated to be just out when desperately trying to fling the ball back inside. The pro-Redcliffe crowd had celebrated having not seen the call of the touch judge. But again, the Devils were able to respond and a Gamble kick found a leaping McGrady who threw over his Go-Go-Gadget arms to seal the deal for the Devils, despite injuring himself in the process.

A dramatic ending ensured, with the match remaining tense until the final minute, with the Dolphins earning a penalty and the Devils getting a player sent to the bin. But Redcliffe could not capitalise, with Norths holding on to claim a 16-12 win.

## HOSTPLUS CUP GRAND FINAL

**Norths Devils (16)** Tries: Brayden McGrady 2, Jacob Gagan; Goals: Tyrone Roberts 2  
**def Redcliffe Dolphins (10)** Tries: Setu Tu, Ed Burns; Goals: Bryce Donovan 1  
Venue: Moreton Daily Stadium, Redcliffe  
Date: Saturday 24 September 2022 at 3:15pm  
Duncan Hall Medal winner: Jacob Gagan (Norths Devils)

## UNDER 21 HASTINGS DEERING COLTS GRAND FINAL

**Townsville Blackhawks (46)** Tries: Dylan White 2, Jacob Mene 3, Ragarive Wavik 2, Zac Laybutt; Goals: Dylan White 7  
**def Redcliffe Dolphins (32)** Tries: Marcus Spence, Jack Aiken, William Dobson, Demitric Sifakula, Bailey Morgan, Taniela Otukolo; Goals: Cody Hunter 4  
Venue: Moreton Daily Stadium, Redcliffe  
Date: Saturday 24 September 2022 at 3:15pm

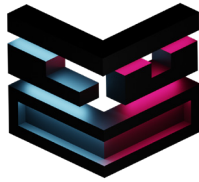
## UNDER 17 CITY V COUNTRY

BOYS COUNTRY 38 CITY 20  
GIRLS CITY 40 COUNTRY 6





# PENRITH PANTHERS



# NORTHS DEVILS

Age P T G FG Pts

|    |    |    |    |   |     |                    |           |
|----|----|----|----|---|-----|--------------------|-----------|
| -  | 11 | 6  | -  | - | 24  | Isaiah IONGI       | <b>1</b>  |
| 26 | 22 | 6  | -  | - | 24  | Christian CRICHTON | <b>2</b>  |
| 26 | 16 | 9  | -  | - | 36  | Robert JENNINGS    | <b>3</b>  |
| 21 | 22 | 20 | -  | - | 80  | Thomas JENKINS     | <b>4</b>  |
| 20 | 20 | 13 | -  | - | 52  | Sunia TURUVA       | <b>5</b>  |
| -  | 12 | 6  | 17 | - | 58  | Jack COLE          | <b>6</b>  |
| 26 | 16 | 3  | 76 | - | 164 | Kurt FALLS         | <b>7</b>  |
| 22 | 23 | 2  | -  | - | 8   | Lindsay SMITH      | <b>8</b>  |
| 26 | 19 | 5  | -  | - | 20  | Soni LUKE          | <b>9</b>  |
| 30 | 5  | -  | -  | - | -   | Matt EISENHUTH     | <b>10</b> |
| 24 | 23 | 7  | -  | - | 28  | Preston RIKI       | <b>11</b> |
| 28 | 16 | 2  | -  | - | 8   | Chris SMITH        | <b>12</b> |
| 23 | 19 | 8  | -  | - | 32  | J'maine HOPGOOD    | <b>13</b> |
| -  | 5  | 2  | -  | - | 8   | Luke SOMMERTON     | <b>14</b> |
| 22 | 17 | 6  | -  | - | 24  | Eddie BLACKER      | <b>15</b> |
| 21 | 23 | 2  | -  | - | 8   | Liam HENRY         | <b>16</b> |
| -  | 25 | 3  | -  | - | 12  | John FAIUMU        | <b>17</b> |
| 21 | 11 | 4  | -  | - | 16  | Mavrik GEYER       | <b>18</b> |
| -  | 11 | 9  | -  | - | 36  | Daeon AMITUANAI    | <b>19</b> |
| -  | 6  | -  | -  | - | -   | Hohepa PURU        | <b>20</b> |
| 21 | 9  | -  | -  | - | -   | Ativalu LISATI     | <b>21</b> |
| 20 | 9  | 1  | 12 | - | 28  | Niwhai PURU        | <b>22</b> |

Peter WALLACE

## FULLBACK

## WING

## CENTRE

## CENTRE

## WING

## FIVE-EIGHTH

## HALFBACK

## FRONT ROW

## HOOKER

## FRONT ROW

## SECOND ROW

## SECOND ROW

## LOCK

## INTERCHANGE

## RESERVES

## COACH(ES)

## PENALTIES

## SCRUMS

Age P T G FG Pts

|           |                      |    |    |   |    |   |    |
|-----------|----------------------|----|----|---|----|---|----|
| <b>1</b>  | Jack AHEARN          | 29 | 21 | 6 | -  | 2 | 26 |
| <b>2</b>  | Jayden CORRIGAN      | 26 | 13 | 8 | -  | - | 32 |
| <b>3</b>  | Jacob GAGAN          | 29 | 21 | 6 | -  | - | 24 |
| <b>4</b>  | Tony TUMUSA          | 27 | 15 | 6 | -  | - | 24 |
| <b>5</b>  | Matthew MILSON       | 24 | 16 | 5 | -  | - | 20 |
| <b>6</b>  | Connor BROADHURST    | 28 | 22 | 3 | 34 | - | 80 |
| <b>7</b>  | Tyson GAMBLE         | 26 | 8  | - | -  | - | -  |
| <b>8</b>  | Viko PULIUVEA        | 25 | 14 | 1 | -  | - | 4  |
| <b>9</b>  | Kierran MOSELEY      | 28 | 15 | 1 | -  | - | 4  |
| <b>10</b> | Jayden STEPHENS      | 24 | 16 | - | -  | - | -  |
| <b>11</b> | Brendan PIAKURA      | 20 | 13 | 6 | -  | - | 24 |
| <b>12</b> | Leivaha PULU         | 32 | 20 | 8 | -  | - | 32 |
| <b>13</b> | Michael SIO          | 29 | 18 | 2 | -  | - | 8  |
| <b>14</b> | Liam HORNE           | 25 | 22 | 5 | -  | - | 20 |
| <b>16</b> | Jerome VEVE          | 25 | 11 | - | -  | - | -  |
| <b>17</b> | Sam LAVEA            | 26 | 16 | 1 | -  | - | 4  |
| <b>20</b> | Lloyd PERRETT        | 27 | 9  | 1 | -  | - | 4  |
| <b>18</b> | Moses NOOVAO-McGREAL | 25 | 13 | 2 | -  | - | 8  |
| <b>15</b> | Tauaalo VAIPULU      | 25 | 1  | - | -  | - | -  |
| <b>19</b> | Rashaun DENNY        | 23 | 11 | 4 | -  | - | 16 |
| <b>21</b> | Jared CHAMBERS       | 22 | 4  | - | -  | - | -  |
| <b>22</b> | Tyrone ROBERTS       | 31 | 16 | - | 35 | 1 | 71 |

Kevin NEIGHBOUR &amp; Ben KING

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

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

# #NRLSTATECHAMPS

## MATCH DETAILS

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| DATE      | SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER 2022                               |
| KICKOFF   | 1:20PM AEDT   |
| VENUE     | ACCOR STADIUM<br>SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW / WANN-GAL |
| WATCH     | NINE NETWORK & 9NOW<br>FOX LEAGUE & KAYO            |
| LISTEN    | ABC SPORT   |
| LIVE BLOG | LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM                                 |

## MATCH OFFICIALS

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| REFEREE      | DARIAN FURNER               |
| TOUCH JUDGES | CAMERON PADDY<br>DAN MUNROE |
| NRL BUNKER   | CHRIS BUTLER                |

## HEAD TO HEAD

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 6 MATCHES | NSW CUP PREMIERS 4 // QLD CUP PREMIERS 2<br>PENRITH PLAYED 2, WON 1, LOST 1<br>NORTHS FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP<br>FIRST MEETING BETWEEN PENRITH & NORTHS |
|-----------|--|

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

|      |                                  |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 2014 | NORTHERN PRIDE 32 DEF PENRITH 28 |
| 2015 | IPSWICH 26 DEF NEWCASTLE 12      |
| 2016 | ST GEO ILLA 54 DEF BURLEIGH 12   |
| 2017 | PENRITH 42 DEF PNG HUNTERS 18    |
| 2018 | CANTERBURY 42 DEF REDCLIFFE 28   |
| 2019 | NEWTOWN 20 DEF BURLEIGH 16       |

NOT HELD 2020, 2021 DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC



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# THE GRAND PREVIEW

with Lachlan McIntyre

The NRL State Championship returns to kick-off Grand Final Day.

NRL Grand Final Day gets underway at 1:20pm, with the Queensland Cup premiers the Norths Devils meeting the NSW Cup victors the Penrith Panthers. The first of three massive games this Sunday at Sydney Olympic Park, the State Championship game has not been staged since 2019 due to the Coronavirus, and will return for its seventh edition.

Against all odds, the Norths Devils have achieved the double, winning back-to-back Queensland Cup titles in the 2021-22 seasons. Despite their coach Rohan Smith leaving at the beginning of the season to take up an opportunity with Leeds, the Devils showed their grit throughout the season, only just squeezing into the top four, and taking a very tough route all the way to the grand final. Their decider against the Redcliffe Dolphins last Saturday was yet another struggle. Played at Redcliffe's home ground, the Devils quieted the crowd early, and led the Dolphins 6-2 at the break. But Redcliffe, a side that had beaten the Devils by nearly 40 points in the regular season, fought back, and they were only two points behind at 12-10 with minutes remaining. It was the experience of Tyson Gamble for the Devils which set up the match-winning try, with a pinpoint kick for Norths winger Brayden McGrady extending the Devils lead to six. With less than a minute on the clock, a successful short kick-off from the Dolphins led to some chaotic final seconds, but Redcliffe couldn't capitalise, and thus the Norths Devils were crowned the 2022 premiers, and booked a date with the NSW Cup victors. With the wealth of NRL experience that is Tyrone Roberts missing from the 17 named on Tuesday, Connor Broadhurst will join Tyson Gamble in a new halves pairing for the Devils. Some reshuffling of North's outside backs has also taken place.

The Penrith Panthers are a force to be reckoned with in every grade. With their NRL side contesting yet another grand final, and their Jersey Flegg team crowned premiers in golden point last weekend, the club is experiencing success everywhere you look. Already with three titles under their belt for the 2022 season, the club could make it five this Sunday. On NSWRL grand final day last Sunday, the Panthers faced the Bulldogs for a spot in the State Championship. Talented Fijian outside back Sunia Turuva went over early, but the Bulldogs were quick to strike back. An O'Sullivan field goal on the stroke of half-time gave Penrith an 11 point lead, and it was Turuva who crossed for his second in the 74th minute which sealed the game and the premiership for the Penrith Panthers, winning 29-22. Penrith have had a tough road to qualify for this game. Finishing second on the ladder behind Newtown, they faced adversity in the first week of finals when first grade coach Ivan Cleary decided he required the services of the majority of his reserve grade side to play NRL. But it was an opportunity to showcase the Panthers' depth, and despite fielding a number of NSW cup debutants, they edged the North Sydney Bears, before upsetting the minor premiers the following week to qualify for the big dance. With key player Sean O'Sullivan not named on Tuesday, Jack Cole and Kurt Falls are the new look halves pairing. Luke Sommerton moves into the 17, named to come off the bench.

The Panthers have appeared twice before in the NRL State Championship, winning once. This will be the Norths Devils' first appearance.

**WHO TO WATCH:** Norths Devils halfback Tyson Gamble will have a lot of responsibility on his shoulders this weekend. Another experienced Devil's half, Tyrone Roberts, has not been named, and so Gamble must carry a lot of weight if his team is going to succeed in beating an impressive Penrith outfit. Gamble has made nine NRL appearances for the Broncos this season, and with Newcastle awaiting for his 2023 campaign, he'll want to end his time at Brisbane on a high, albeit playing for their feeder club.

The opposing halfback, Kurt Falls, is facing a similar prospect to Gamble. With star NRL-experienced half Sean O'Sullivan not named to play, Falls will need to step up and lead his team by example. Falls made his NRL debut with Penrith this season, making a total of three first grade appearances. The 26 year old has played 16 NSW Cup games this season, with Penrith losing just one of those, a sure good sign for the Panthers

**FAVOURITE:** Due to their large contingent of NRL-experienced players, Penrith are the favourites heading into this one.

**MY TIP:** The Devils have been in some red hot form of late, with three upsets on the trot and seven straight wins, they are brimming with confidence. Devils by 1.



SQUAD UPDATE

LATE MAIL

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

SAT 1:20PM

SUN 12:20PM

# 2022 NRL SEASON

## ROUND 1

|     |           |       |                  |                |                |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Thu | 10 Mar 22 | 20:05 | Penrith          | Manly          | BlueBet        | 28 - 6  |
| Fri | 11 Mar 22 | 18:00 | Canberra         | Cronulla       | GIO Stadium    | 24 - 19 |
| Fri | 11 Mar 22 | 20:05 | Brisbane         | South Sydney   | Suncorp        | 11 - 4  |
| Sat | 12 Mar 22 | 15:00 | Sydney           | Newcastle      | SCG            | 6 - 20  |
| Sat | 12 Mar 22 | 17:30 | Warriors         | St George Illa | Sun. Coast     | 16 - 28 |
| Sat | 12 Mar 22 | 19:35 | Wests Tigers     | Melbourne      | CommBank       | 16 - 26 |
| Sun | 13 Mar 22 | 16:05 | Parramatta       | Gold Coast     | CommBank       | 32 - 28 |
| Sun | 13 Mar 22 | 18:15 | North Queensland | Canterbury     | QLD C'try Bank | 4 - 6   |

## ROUND 2

|     |           |       |                  |              |                   |          |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|
| Thu | 17 Mar 22 | 20:05 | Melbourne        | South Sydney | AAMI Park         | 15 - 14* |
| Fri | 18 Mar 22 | 18:00 | St George Illa   | Penrith      | Netstrata Jubilee | 16 - 20  |
| Fri | 18 Mar 22 | 20:05 | Sydney           | Manly        | SCG               | 26 - 12  |
| Sat | 19 Mar 22 | 15:00 | Gold Coast       | Warriors     | Cbus Super        | 20 - 18  |
| Sat | 19 Mar 22 | 17:30 | Cronulla         | Parramatta   | PointsBet         | 18 - 16  |
| Sat | 19 Mar 22 | 19:35 | North Queensland | Canberra     | QLD C'try Bank    | 26 - 6   |
| Sun | 20 Mar 22 | 16:05 | Newcastle        | Wests Tigers | McDonald Jones    | 26 - 4   |
| Sun | 20 Mar 22 | 18:15 | Canterbury       | Brisbane     | Accor Stadium     | 10 - 16  |

## ROUND 3 - MULTICULTURAL ROUND

|     |           |       |                |                  |               |          |
|-----|-----------|-------|----------------|------------------|---------------|----------|
| Thu | 24 Mar 22 | 20:05 | St George Illa | Cronulla         | WIN Stadium   | 12 - 36  |
| Fri | 25 Mar 22 | 18:00 | Wests Tigers   | Warriors         | Campbelltown  | 12 - 16  |
| Fri | 25 Mar 22 | 20:05 | South Sydney   | Sydney           | Accor Stadium | 28 - 16  |
| Sat | 26 Mar 22 | 15:00 | Penrith        | Newcastle        | Bathurst      | 38 - 20  |
| Sat | 26 Mar 22 | 17:30 | Melbourne      | Parramatta       | AAMI Park     | 24 - 28* |
| Sat | 26 Mar 22 | 19:35 | Canberra       | Gold Coast       | GIO Stadium   | 24 - 22  |
| Sun | 27 Mar 22 | 16:05 | Brisbane       | North Queensland | Suncorp       | 12 - 38  |
| Sun | 27 Mar 22 | 18:15 | Manly          | Canterbury       | 4 Pines Park  | 13 - 12  |

## ROUND 4 NOTE: Eastern Daylight Saving Time ended in Australia Sun 03 Apr 2:00am

|     |           |       |                  |                |                |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Thu | 31 Mar 22 | 20:05 | Gold Coast       | Wests Tigers   | Cbus Super     | 8 - 6   |
| Fri | 01 Apr 22 | 18:00 | Cronulla         | Newcastle      | PointsBet      | 18 - 0  |
| Fri | 01 Apr 22 | 20:05 | Penrith          | South Sydney   | BlueBet        | 26 - 12 |
| Sat | 02 Apr 22 | 15:00 | Warriors         | Brisbane       | Moreton Daily  | 20 - 6  |
| Sat | 02 Apr 22 | 17:30 | Manly            | Canberra       | Mudgee         | 25 - 6  |
| Sat | 02 Apr 22 | 19:35 | North Queensland | Sydney         | QLD C'try Bank | 28 - 4  |
| Sun | 03 Apr 22 | 16:05 | Melbourne        | Canterbury     | AAMI Park      | 44 - 0  |
| Sun | 03 Apr 22 | 18:15 | Parramatta       | St George Illa | CommBank       | 48 - 14 |

## ROUND 5

|     |           |       |              |                  |                |          |
|-----|-----------|-------|--------------|------------------|----------------|----------|
| Thu | 07 Apr 22 | 19:50 | Newcastle    | Manly            | McDonald Jones | 6 - 30   |
| Fri | 08 Apr 22 | 18:00 | Warriors     | North Queensland | Moreton Daily  | 25 - 24* |
| Fri | 08 Apr 22 | 19:55 | Brisbane     | Sydney           | Suncorp        | 20 - 24  |
| Sat | 09 Apr 22 | 15:00 | Canberra     | Melbourne        | Wagga Wagga    | 16 - 30  |
| Sat | 09 Apr 22 | 17:30 | South Sydney | St George Illa   | Accor Stadium  | 24 - 12  |
| Sat | 09 Apr 22 | 19:35 | Gold Coast   | Parramatta       | Cbus Super     | 20 - 26  |
| Sun | 10 Apr 22 | 16:05 | Cronulla     | Wests Tigers     | Pointsbet      | 30 - 4   |
| Sun | 10 Apr 22 | 18:15 | Canterbury   | Penrith          | CommBank       | 12 - 32  |

## ROUND 6 - EASTER

|     |           |       |                |                  |              |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|----------------|------------------|--------------|---------|
| Thu | 14 Apr 22 | 19:50 | Canberra       | North Queensland | GIO Stadium  | 12 - 18 |
| Fri | 15 Apr 22 | 18:00 | South Sydney   | Canterbury       | Stadium      | 36 - 16 |
| Fri | 15 Apr 22 | 19:55 | Penrith        | Brisbane         | Bluebet      | 40 - 12 |
| Sat | 16 Apr 22 | 17:30 | Manly          | Gold Coast       | 4 Pines Park | 26 - 18 |
| Sat | 16 Apr 22 | 19:35 | Melbourne      | Cronulla         | AAMI Park    | 34 - 18 |
| Sun | 17 Apr 22 | 14:00 | Sydney         | Warriors         | SCG          | 22 - 14 |
| Sun | 17 Apr 22 | 16:05 | St George Illa | Newcastle        | WIN Stadium  | 21 - 16 |
| Mon | 18 Apr 22 | 16:00 | Parramatta     | Wests Tigers     | CommBank     | 20 - 21 |

## ROUND 7 - ANZAC ROUND

|     |           |       |                  |              |                |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------|
| Thu | 21 Apr 22 | 19:50 | Cronulla         | Manly        | Pointsbet      | 34 - 22 |
| Fri | 22 Apr 22 | 19:55 | Brisbane         | Canterbury   | Suncorp        | 34 - 14 |
| Sat | 23 Apr 22 | 17:30 | North Queensland | Gold Coast   | QLD C'try Bank | 30 - 4  |
| Sat | 23 Apr 22 | 19:35 | Wests Tigers     | South Sydney | CommBank       | 23 - 22 |
| Sun | 24 Apr 22 | 14:00 | Newcastle        | Parramatta   | McDonald Jones | 2 - 39  |
| Sun | 24 Apr 22 | 16:05 | Penrith          | Canberra     | Bluebet        | 36 - 6  |
| Mon | 25 Apr 22 | 16:00 | St George Illa   | Sydney       | SCG            | 14 - 12 |
| Mon | 25 Apr 22 | 19:00 | Melbourne        | Warriors     | AAMI Park      | 70 - 10 |

## ROUND 8

|     |           |       |                |                  |                |          |
|-----|-----------|-------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------|
| Thu | 28 Apr 22 | 19:50 | Brisbane       | Cronulla         | Suncorp        | 16 - 7   |
| Fri | 29 Apr 22 | 18:00 | Gold Coast     | Penrith          | Cbus Super     | 4 - 18   |
| Fri | 29 Apr 22 | 19:55 | South Sydney   | Manly            | Central Coast  | 40 - 22  |
| Sat | 30 Apr 22 | 15:00 | Warriors       | Canberra         | Moreton Daily  | 21 - 20* |
| Sat | 30 Apr 22 | 17:30 | Canterbury     | Sydney           | Accor Stadium  | 16 - 12  |
| Sat | 30 Apr 22 | 19:35 | Parramatta     | North Queensland | Darwin         | 4 - 35   |
| Sun | 01 May 22 | 14:00 | Newcastle      | Melbourne        | McDonald Jones | 2 - 50   |
| Sun | 01 May 22 | 16:05 | St George Illa | Wests Tigers     | WIN Stadium    | 12 - 6   |

## ROUND 9

|     |           |       |                  |                |                |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Thu | 05 May 22 | 19:50 | South Sydney     | Brisbane       | Accor Stadium  | 12 - 32 |
| Fri | 06 May 22 | 18:00 | Canberra         | Canterbury     | GIO Stadium    | 14 - 4  |
| Fri | 06 May 22 | 19:55 | Penrith          | Parramatta     | Bluebet        | 20 - 22 |
| Sat | 07 May 22 | 15:00 | Manly            | Wests Tigers   | 4 Pines Park   | 36 - 22 |
| Sat | 07 May 22 | 17:30 | Sydney           | Gold Coast     | Mackay         | 44 - 16 |
| Sat | 07 May 22 | 19:35 | North Queensland | Newcastle      | QLD C'try Bank | 36 - 16 |
| Sun | 08 May 22 | 14:00 | Melbourne        | St George Illa | AAMI Park      | 42 - 6  |
| Sun | 08 May 22 | 16:05 | Cronulla         | Warriors       | Pointsbet      | 29 - 10 |

## ROUND 10 - MAGIC ROUND BRISBANE

|     |           |       |              |                  |         |          |
|-----|-----------|-------|--------------|------------------|---------|----------|
| Fri | 13 May 22 | 18:00 | Canterbury   | Newcastle        | Suncorp | 6 - 16   |
| Fri | 13 May 22 | 20:05 | Manly        | Brisbane         | Suncorp | 0 - 38   |
| Sat | 14 May 22 | 15:00 | Warriors     | South Sydney     | Suncorp | 30 - 32  |
| Sat | 14 May 22 | 17:30 | Gold Coast   | St George Illa   | Suncorp | 20 - 16* |
| Sat | 14 May 22 | 19:45 | Melbourne    | Penrith          | Suncorp | 6 - 32   |
| Sun | 15 May 22 | 13:50 | Cronulla     | Canberra         | Suncorp | 10 - 30  |
| Sun | 15 May 22 | 16:05 | Sydney       | Parramatta       | Suncorp | 31 - 24  |
| Sun | 15 May 22 | 18:25 | Wests Tigers | North Queensland | Suncorp | 12 - 36  |

## ROUND 11

|     |           |       |                  |            |                   |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|------------|-------------------|---------|
| Thu | 19 May 22 | 19:50 | Newcastle        | Brisbane   | McDonald Jones    | 12 - 36 |
| Fri | 20 May 22 | 18:00 | Wests Tigers     | Canterbury | Leichhardt        | 36 - 22 |
| Fri | 20 May 22 | 19:55 | Parramatta       | Manly      | CommBank          | 22 - 20 |
| Sat | 21 May 22 | 15:00 | St George Illa   | Warriors   | Netstrata Jubilee | 24 - 18 |
| Sat | 21 May 22 | 17:30 | North Queensland | Melbourne  | QLD C'try Bank    | 36 - 6  |
| Sat | 21 May 22 | 19:35 | Sydney           | Penrith    | SCG               | 12 - 32 |
| Sun | 22 May 22 | 14:00 | South Sydney     | Canberra   | Dubbo             | 12 - 32 |
| Sun | 22 May 22 | 16:05 | Gold Coast       | Cronulla   | Cbus Super        | 18 - 25 |

## ROUND 12 - INDIGENOUS ROUND

|     |           |       |              |                  |               |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|--------------|------------------|---------------|---------|
| Thu | 26 May 22 | 19:50 | Melbourne    | Manly            | AAMI Park     | 28 - 8  |
| Fri | 27 May 22 | 18:00 | Penrith      | North Queensland | Bluebet       | 22 - 0  |
| Fri | 27 May 22 | 19:55 | Brisbane     | Gold Coast       | Suncorp       | 35 - 24 |
| Sat | 28 May 22 | 15:00 | Warriors     | Newcastle        | Moreton Daily | 16 - 24 |
| Sat | 28 May 22 | 17:30 | South Sydney | Wests Tigers     | Accor Stadium | 44 - 18 |
| Sat | 28 May 22 | 19:35 | Cronulla     | Sydney           | Pointsbet     | 16 - 36 |
| Sun | 29 May 22 | 14:00 | Canterbury   | St George Illa   | Belmore       | 24 - 34 |
| Sun | 29 May 22 | 16:05 | Canberra     | Parramatta       | GIO Stadium   | 20 - 28 |

## ROUND 13

|     |           |       |            |                  |              |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------|------------------|--------------|---------|
| Thu | 02 Jun 22 | 19:50 | Gold Coast | North Queensland | Cbus Super   | 6 - 32  |
| Fri | 03 Jun 22 | 19:55 | Penrith    | Canterbury       | Bluebet      | 30 - 18 |
| Sat | 04 Jun 22 | 19:35 | Manly      | Warriors         | 4 Pines Park | 44 - 12 |
| Sun | 05 Jun 22 | 16:05 | Canberra   | Sydney           | GIO Stadium  | 22 - 16 |

Byes: Brisbane, Cronulla, Melbourne, Newcastle, Parramatta, St Geo Illa, South Sydney, Wests Tigers

## STATE OF ORIGIN I -- WED 8 JUN (Accor Stadium, Sydney) QLD 16 NSW 10

## ROUND 14

|     |           |       |                  |                |                |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Fri | 10 Jun 22 | 19:55 | North Queensland | St George Illa | QLD C'try Bank | 31 - 12 |
| Sat | 11 Jun 22 | 15:00 | Gold Coast       | South Sydney   | Cbus Super     | 16 - 30 |
| Sat | 11 Jun 22 | 17:30 | Sydney           | Melbourne      | SCG            | 18 - 26 |
| Sat | 11 Jun 22 | 19:35 | Brisbane         | Canberra       | Suncorp        | 24 - 18 |
| Sun | 12 Jun 22 | 14:00 | Wests Tigers     | Manly          | Campbelltown   | 4 - 30  |
| Sun | 12 Jun 22 | 16:05 | Newcastle        | Penrith        | McDonald Jones | 6 - 42  |
| Sun | 12 Jun 22 | 18:15 | Warriors         | Cronulla       | Moreton Daily  | 16 - 38 |
| Mon | 13 Jun 22 | 16:00 | Canterbury       | Parramatta     | Accor Stadium  | 34 - 4  |

**ROUND 15**

|     |           |       |                |                  |               |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------|
| Thu | 16 Jun 22 | 19:50 | St George Illa | South Sydney     | WIN Stadium   | 32 - 12 |
| Fri | 17 Jun 22 | 18:00 | Manly          | North Queensland | 4 Pines Park  | 26 - 28 |
| Fri | 17 Jun 22 | 19:55 | Melbourne      | Brisbane         | AAMI Park     | 32 - 20 |
| Sat | 18 Jun 22 | 15:00 | Cronulla       | Gold Coast       | Coffs Harbour | 18 - 10 |
| Sat | 18 Jun 22 | 17:30 | Warriors       | Penrith          | Moreton Daily | 6 - 40  |
| Sat | 18 Jun 22 | 19:35 | Parramatta     | Sydney           | Commbank      | 26 - 16 |
| Sun | 19 Jun 22 | 14:00 | Canberra       | Newcastle        | GIO Stadium   | 20 - 18 |
| Sun | 19 Jun 22 | 16:05 | Canterbury     | Wests Tigers     | Commbank      | 36 - 12 |

**WOMEN'S ORIGIN: Fri 24 Jun (GIO)****TEST (W): Sat 25 Jun (Mt Smart)****TEST (M): Sat 25 Jun (Mt Smart)****TEST (M): Sat 25 Jun (Campbelltown)****TEST (M): Sat 25 Jun (Campbelltown)****STATE OF ORIGIN II -- Sun 26 Jun (Optus)****NSW 20 QLD 14****NZ 50 TONGA 12****NZ 26 TONGA 6****SAMOA 42 COOK IS. 14****PNG 24 FIJI 14****NSW 44 QLD 12****ROUND 16 - BEANIES ROUND**

|     |           |       |                  |              |                |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------|
| Thu | 30 Jun 22 | 19:50 | Manly            | Melbourne    | 4 Pines Park   | 36 - 30 |
| Fri | 01 Jul 22 | 18:00 | Newcastle        | Gold Coast   | McDonald Jones | 38 - 12 |
| Fri | 01 Jul 22 | 19:55 | Penrith          | Sydney       | Bluebet        | 26 - 18 |
| Sat | 02 Jul 22 | 15:00 | Canterbury       | Cronulla     | Commbank       | 6 - 18  |
| Sat | 02 Jul 22 | 17:30 | North Queensland | Brisbane     | QLD C'try Bank | 40 - 26 |
| Sat | 02 Jul 22 | 19:35 | South Sydney     | Parramatta   | Accor Stadium  | 30 - 12 |
| Sun | 03 Jul 22 | 14:00 | Warriors         | Wests Tigers | Mt Smart       | 22 - 2  |
| Sun | 03 Jul 22 | 16:05 | St George Illa   | Canberra     | WIN Stadium    | 12 - 10 |

**ROUND 17**

|     |           |       |              |                |                |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Thu | 07 Jul 22 | 19:50 | Cronulla     | Melbourne      | Pointsbet      | 28 - 6  |
| Fri | 08 Jul 22 | 19:55 | Newcastle    | South Sydney   | McDonald Jones | 28 - 40 |
| Sat | 09 Jul 22 | 19:35 | Wests Tigers | Parramatta     | Leichhardt     | 20 - 28 |
| Sun | 10 Jul 22 | 16:05 | Brisbane     | St George Illa | Suncorp        | 32 - 18 |

Byes: Canberra, Canterbury, Gold Coast, Manly, North Queensland, Penrith, Sydney, Warriors

**STATE OF ORIGIN II -- WED 13 JUL (Suncorp, Brisbane)****QLD 22 NSW 12****ROUND 18**

|     |           |       |                  |                |                |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| Fri | 15 Jul 22 | 18:00 | North Queensland | Cronulla       | QLD C'try Bank | 12 - 26 |
| Fri | 15 Jul 22 | 19:55 | Parramatta       | Warriors       | Commbank       | 28 - 18 |
| Sat | 16 Jul 22 | 15:00 | Sydney           | St George Illa | Central Coast  | 54 - 26 |
| Sat | 16 Jul 22 | 17:30 | Manly            | Newcastle      | 4 Pines Park   | 42 - 12 |
| Sat | 16 Jul 22 | 19:35 | Gold Coast       | Brisbane       | Cbus Super     | 12 - 16 |
| Sun | 17 Jul 22 | 14:00 | Wests Tigers     | Penrith        | Commbank       | 16 - 18 |
| Sun | 17 Jul 22 | 16:05 | Melbourne        | Canberra       | AAMI Park Park | 16 - 20 |
| Sun | 17 Jul 22 | 18:15 | Canterbury       | South Sydney   | Accor Stadium  | 28 - 36 |

**ROUND 19**

|     |           |       |                  |              |                   |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------|
| Thu | 21 Jul 22 | 19:50 | Parramatta       | Brisbane     | Commbank          | 14 - 36 |
| Fri | 22 Jul 22 | 18:00 | St George Illa   | Manly        | Netstrata Jubilee | 20 - 6  |
| Fri | 22 Jul 22 | 19:55 | Newcastle        | Sydney       | McDonald Jones    | 12 - 42 |
| Sat | 23 Jul 22 | 15:00 | Canberra         | Warriors     | GIO Stadium       | 26 - 14 |
| Sat | 23 Jul 22 | 17:30 | Penrith          | Cronulla     | Bluebet           | 20 - 10 |
| Sat | 23 Jul 22 | 19:35 | South Sydney     | Melbourne    | Accor Stadium     | 24 - 12 |
| Sun | 24 Jul 22 | 14:00 | Canterbury       | Gold Coast   | Commbank          | 36 - 26 |
| Sun | 24 Jul 22 | 16:05 | North Queensland | Wests Tigers | QLD C'try Bank    | 27 - 26 |

**ROUND 20 - WOMEN IN LEAGUE ROUND**

|     |           |       |                |                  |                   |          |
|-----|-----------|-------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Thu | 28 Jul 22 | 19:50 | Manly          | Sydney           | 4 Pines Park      | 10 - 20  |
| Fri | 29 Jul 22 | 18:00 | Warriors       | Melbourne        | Mt Smart          | 12 - 24  |
| Fri | 29 Jul 22 | 19:55 | Parramatta     | Penrith          | Commbank          | 34 - 10  |
| Sat | 30 Jul 22 | 15:00 | Gold Coast     | Canberra         | Cbus Super        | 24 - 36  |
| Sat | 30 Jul 22 | 17:30 | Cronulla       | South Sydney     | Pointsbet         | 21 - 20* |
| Sat | 30 Jul 22 | 19:35 | Brisbane       | Wests Tigers     | Suncorp           | 18 - 32  |
| Sun | 31 Jul 22 | 14:00 | Newcastle      | Canterbury       | McDonald Jones    | 10 - 24  |
| Sun | 31 Jul 22 | 16:05 | St George Illa | North Queensland | Netstrata Jubilee | 8 - 34   |

**ROUND 21**

|     |           |       |              |                  |              |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------|
| Thu | 04 Aug 22 | 19:50 | Sydney       | Brisbane         | SCG          | 34 - 16 |
| Fri | 05 Aug 22 | 18:00 | Melbourne    | Gold Coast       | AAMI Park    | 32 - 14 |
| Fri | 05 Aug 22 | 19:55 | Manly        | Parramatta       | 4 Pines Park | 20 - 36 |
| Sat | 06 Aug 22 | 15:00 | South Sydney | Warriors         | Sun. Coast   | 48 - 10 |
| Sat | 06 Aug 22 | 17:30 | Canberra     | Penrith          | GIO Stadium  | 6 - 26  |
| Sat | 06 Aug 22 | 19:35 | Cronulla     | St George Illa   | Pointsbet    | 24 - 18 |
| Sun | 07 Aug 22 | 14:00 | Canterbury   | North Queensland | Bundaberg    | 14 - 28 |
| Sun | 07 Aug 22 | 16:05 | Wests Tigers | Newcastle        | Campbelltown | 10 - 14 |

**ROUND 22**

|     |           |       |              |                  |             |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|--------------|------------------|-------------|---------|
| Thu | 11 Aug 22 | 19:50 | Penrith      | Melbourne        | Bluebet     | 0 - 16  |
| Fri | 12 Aug 22 | 18:00 | Warriors     | Canterbury       | Mt Smart    | 42 - 18 |
| Fri | 12 Aug 22 | 19:55 | Parramatta   | South Sydney     | Commbank    | 0 - 26  |
| Sat | 13 Aug 22 | 15:00 | Sydney       | North Queensland | SCG         | 32 - 18 |
| Sat | 13 Aug 22 | 17:30 | Wests Tigers | Cronulla         | Tamworth    | 12 - 36 |
| Sat | 13 Aug 22 | 19:35 | Brisbane     | Newcastle        | Suncorp     | 28 - 10 |
| Sun | 14 Aug 22 | 14:00 | Canberra     | St George Illa   | GIO Stadium | 24 - 22 |
| Sun | 14 Aug 22 | 16:05 | Gold Coast   | Manly            | Cbus Super  | 44 - 24 |

**ROUND 23**

|     |           |       |                  |              |                |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------|
| Thu | 18 Aug 22 | 19:50 | South Sydney     | Penrith      | Accor Stadium  | 22 - 26 |
| Fri | 19 Aug 22 | 18:00 | North Queensland | Warriors     | QLD C'try Bank | 48 - 4  |
| Fri | 19 Aug 22 | 19:55 | Brisbane         | Melbourne    | Suncorp        | 12 - 60 |
| Sat | 20 Aug 22 | 15:00 | Parramatta       | Canterbury   | Commbank       | 42 - 6  |
| Sat | 20 Aug 22 | 17:30 | Manly            | Cronulla     | 4 Pines Park   | 6 - 40  |
| Sat | 20 Aug 22 | 19:35 | Sydney           | Wests Tigers | SCG            | 72 - 6  |
| Sun | 21 Aug 22 | 14:00 | St George Illa   | Gold Coast   | WIN Stadium    | 46 - 26 |
| Sun | 21 Aug 22 | 16:05 | Newcastle        | Canberra     | McDonald Jones | 22 - 28 |

**ROUND 24**

|     |           |       |              |                  |               |         |
|-----|-----------|-------|--------------|------------------|---------------|---------|
| Thu | 25 Aug 22 | 19:50 | Brisbane     | Parramatta       | Suncorp       | 6 - 53  |
| Fri | 26 Aug 22 | 18:00 | Penrith      | Warriors         | Bluebet       | 46 - 12 |
| Fri | 26 Aug 22 | 19:55 | Melbourne    | Sydney           | AAMI Park     | 14 - 18 |
| Sat | 27 Aug 22 | 15:00 | Canberra     | Manly            | GIO Stadium   | 48 - 6  |
| Sat | 27 Aug 22 | 17:30 | Cronulla     | Canterbury       | Pointsbet     | 16 - 0  |
| Sat | 27 Aug 22 | 19:35 | South Sydney | North Queensland | Accor Stadium | 20 - 10 |
| Sun | 28 Aug 22 | 14:00 | Wests Tigers | St George Illa   | Commbank      | 22 - 24 |
| Sun | 28 Aug 22 | 16:05 | Gold Coast   | Newcastle        | Cbus Super    | 36 - 26 |

**ROUND 25**

|     |           |       |                  |              |                   |          |
|-----|-----------|-------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|
| Thu | 01 Sep 22 | 19:50 | Parramatta       | Melbourne    | Commbank          | 22 - 14  |
| Fri | 02 Sep 22 | 18:00 | Canterbury       | Manly        | Accor Stadium     | 21 - 20  |
| Fri | 02 Sep 22 | 19:55 | Sydney           | South Sydney | Allianz           | 26 - 16  |
| Sat | 03 Sep 22 | 15:00 | Warriors         | Gold Coast   | Mt Smart          | 26 - 27* |
| Sat | 03 Sep 22 | 17:30 | St George Illa   | Brisbane     | Netstrata Jubilee | 22 - 12  |
| Sat | 03 Sep 22 | 19:35 | North Queensland | Penrith      | QLD C'try Bank    | 38 - 8   |
| Sun | 04 Sep 22 | 14:00 | Newcastle        | Cronulla     | McDonald Jones    | 16 - 38  |
| Sun | 04 Sep 22 | 16:05 | Wests Tigers     | Canberra     | Leichhardt        | 10 - 56  |

**2022 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP FINALS SERIES****WEEK 1 - QUALIFYING & ELIMINATION FINALS - SEPTEMBER 9, 10, 11**

|     |      |       |               |                  |           |          |
|-----|------|-------|---------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| Fri | QF 1 | 19:55 | Penrith (1)   | Parramatta (4)   | Bluebet   | 27 - 8   |
| Sat | EF 1 | 17:40 | Melbourne (5) | Canberra (8)     | AAMI Park | 20 - 28  |
| Sat | QF 2 | 19:50 | Cronulla (2)  | North Qld (3)    | Pointsbet | 30 - 32* |
| Sun | EF 2 | 16:05 | Sydney (6)    | South Sydney (7) | Allianz   | 14 - 30  |

**WEEK 2 - SEMI FINALS - SEPTEMBER 16, 17**

|     |      |       |            |              |          |         |
|-----|------|-------|------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Fri | SF 1 | 19:50 | Parramatta | Canberra     | Commbank | 40 - 4  |
| Sat | SF 2 | 20:00 | Cronulla   | South Sydney | Allianz  | 12 - 38 |

**WEEK 3 - PRELIMINARY FINALS - SEPTEMBER 23, 24**

|     |      |       |                  |              |                |         |
|-----|------|-------|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------|
| Fri | PF 1 | 19:50 | North Queensland | Parramatta   | QLD C'try Bank | 20 - 24 |
| Sat | PF 2 | 19:50 | Penrith          | South Sydney | Accor Stadium  | 32 - 12 |

**GRAND FINAL** NOTE: Eastern Daylight Saving Time starts in Australia Sun 02 Oct 2:00am

|     |           |       |         |            |               |  |
|-----|-----------|-------|---------|------------|---------------|--|
| Sun | 02 Oct 22 | 19:30 | Penrith | Parramatta | Accor Stadium |  |
|-----|-----------|-------|---------|------------|---------------|--|

\* denotes golden point extra time result  
 All fixture times listed in AET (NSW/VIC/ACT local time)  
 All match dates, times and venues are subject to change.



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