

THE FRONT ROW



**LEAGUE
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**NRL 2022 ROUND 1
NRLW 2021 ROUND 3**

VOLUME 3 · ISSUE 3

INSIDE:

2022 PREDICTIONS

ALL 16 NRL CLUB PREVIEWS

THE BIG PICTURE

NRL ROUND 1 PROGRAMME

NRLW ROUND 3 PROGRAMME

NRLW ROUND 2 WRAP

NSWRL & QRL TEAMLISTS & RESULTS

UK WATCH

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IN THE MAG

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THE EDITOR'S WORD

TIM COSTELLO

Never a dull moment in rugby league.

Even as we hit publish on this bumper edition of our magazine, the weather that's lashed Eastern Australia lately shows no sign of kindness to the people of NSW and QLD. If you've been affected by the weather emergencies right up and down the coast, we're thinking of you - hopefully the NRL's flood relief efforts go some way to helping in what's an awful situation for so many.

On with the show - and what a show we've got coming this weekend. Nothing will get in the way of the 11 bumper contests ahead, starting with Penrith and Manly opening the men's NRL season on Thursday night. Eight NRL and three NRLW clashes fill a packed schedule - and within these pages you can get the unofficial match programme for each of these games, together with match stats thanks to the legends at Rugby League Project.

We've also got TheBiggestTiger's fantastic weekly illustration and a full set of predictions with one of our veteran writers Rob Crosby as he gazes into his 2022 crystal ball. And - all sixteen NRL clubs previews in full. How good. Enjoy this bumper 72-page edition of The Front Row!

THE FRONT ROW

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We'd like to thank RugbyLeagueProject.org for their support and use of various statistics throughout this publication. Interested in advertising with The Front Row or LeagueUnlimited.com, or just want to provide feedback? Contact us by email - media@leagueunlimited.com

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Cover image: Get to the game! Seats sat empty across NSW, Victoria and ACT in the back half of 2021, so the message is simple - if there's a game of footy at a ground near you - buy a ticket!

Image Markus Spiske via Unsplash.

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**LEAGUE
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A SEASON SO LONG

Robert Crosby gazes into his trusty crystal ball to preview the 2022 NRL season.

A new rugby league season approaches and with it renewed optimism among all 16 NRL clubs that this will be their year.

2022 shapes as one of the most unpredictable seasons in recent memory with the on-going effects of the pandemic set to upend teams and put depth to the test like never before.

Can Penrith retain their crown? Which team will undergo the greatest transformation? Will an active recruitment drive save Canterbury-Bankstown from another wooden spoon?

The routine of rugby league plays a vital role in the lives of thousands of people every year. For all the highs, lows and life milestones that lay ahead, be sure to turn up each week and support your team!

BOTTOM EIGHT

16. North Queensland

There are individual stars within the Cowboys ranks that rate among the brightest in the league, yet as a team there is an imbalance that cannot be overlooked. Coach Todd Payten has staked his reputation on ensuring Jason Taumalolo lasts the duration of his contract, but if results don't improve the former Warriors caretaker may be out of a job before the season's end.



Crystal Ball: Valentine Holmes becomes a casualty of the side's poor start to the year by being overlooked for State of Origin selection.

15. St George Illawarra

The Dragons have been depressingly predictable over the past decade and for all the moneyball signings made under Anthony Griffin's watch, it's hard to see anything other than more of the same playing out. Having knocked back an offer to join the Red V previously, Moses Suli could develop into a powerhouse if given the chance to cement a place in the centres.



Crystal Ball: Jack Bird goes from Origin contention to reserve grade after signing with a rival club for 2023.

14. Canterbury-Bankstown

On paper, the Bulldogs have more than enough talent to avoid the wooden spoon, but without a recognised halfback the side can aspire to little more. Handing several players one-year lifelines to prove their worth, look for little-known prop Max King to build on strong trial form and earn an extended deal.



Crystal Ball: Josh Addo-Carr struggles to find the try line with fewer than ten tries all year.

13. Warriors

The Warriors undoubtedly have the personnel to challenge for the top four, but after three straight years playing away from home their resolve to compete for 80 minutes may be waning. Cruelled by the barest of margins on a number of occasions last season, Shaun Johnson's return will make a difference in turning narrow losses into wins.



Crystal Ball: Jesse Arthurs enjoys a career-best season and remains with the club beyond his loan deal.

12. Wests Tigers

Beginning 2022 in a much better position than their ignominious finish to 2021, the Wests Tigers will need a strong start for their own confidence and to keep the decriers sharpening the knives for Michael Maguire at bay. Welcoming back Jackson Hastings from a successful stint in the English Super League, look for the matured playmaker to shine in his second coming down under.



Crystal Ball: Adam Doueih's return from injury forces the club to make a big call on Luke Brooks.

11. Gold Coast

Set to field one of the greenest spines seen in first grade for some time, the Titans will need their marquee men to deliver to have any chance of featuring in back-to-back finals series. Finishing last season ahead of David Fifita in the starting side, don't be surprised to hear Beau Fermor's name touted as a dark horse come Origin time.



Crystal Ball: The Titans win just three matches all year by eight points or less.

10. Brisbane

While their form during the pre-season has presented more questions than answers, the arrival of Adam Reynolds should give the Broncos a sorely-needed injection of experience, leadership and direction on-and-off the field. Using more players in first grade than any other club last year, coach Kevin Walters will need to pick and stick to have a serious chance of challenging for the finals.



Crystal Ball: Kotoni Staggs earns a place in Australia's World Cup squad after being overlooked by NSW selectors.

9. Canberra

Starting last year as heavyweights only to miss the finals in a season that required fewer wins than losses to make the eight, the Raiders will need to thread the selection balance between stars of the future and club legends. Having spent most of last season sidelined with a neck injury, the return of Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad will be a massive boon for a side that struggled for consistency at fullback in 2021.



Crystal Ball: Nick Cotric bounces back in familiar surroundings with 15 tries.

TOPEIGHT

8. Newcastle

A top eight finish may be overly ambitious given the calibre of players lost over the off-season, yet it is hard to write off any side with a forward pack as formidable and a fullback as captivating - as is the case with the Knights. Joining the club with little fanfare after rising through the grades at St George Illawarra, Adam Clune could be one of the buys of the year if his form in the number seven jersey during the trials is an indication of things to come.



Crystal Ball: David Klemmer cements his place back in the starting side with 150 running metres on average.

7. Cronulla

Every year there are one or two teams that move in and out of the top eight as part of the NRL shuffle - plenty of pundits are backing the Cronulla Sharks to meet that description in 2022. Making big moves in the player market and elevating highly sought assistant Craig Fitzgibbon to the top job, the boys in the black, white and blue should get a massive lift from returning to their true home ground.



Crystal Ball: Matt Moylan elects to end his NRL career midway through the year due to declining performances.

6. South Sydney

The Rabbitohs have the class to compete without Adam Reynolds, but without an established replacement in the number seven jersey it's hard to see the side getting anywhere close to a grand final appearance. Latrell Mitchell and Cody Walker will continue to thrive in conditions that play to their attacking strengths, however it remains to be seen how the side fares in defence-oriented contests.



Crystal Ball: Jason Demetriou struggles to settle on a consistent playmaker with Lachlan Ilias, Dean Hawkins, Blake Taaffe and a mid-season signing all spending time at halfback.

5. Manly

It seems reductive to pin the hopes of a team on a single player, but much like his forebears in Andrew Johns and Johnathan Thurston, the Sea Eagles chances will live or die on Tom Trbojevic remaining injury-free. Managing to retain the bulk of their squad while adding promising Queenslander Ethan Bullemor up front, coach Des Hasler will be hoping to dispel the notion of Manly as flat-track bullies by instilling a tougher defensive edge.



Crystal Ball: The Sea Eagles attract a home crowd nearing 20,000 late in the season against one of their former grand final foes.

4. Sydney

Welcoming back a host of stars while reaping the benefits of youngsters newly versed in the rigours of first grade, the league's oldest club will be raring to go under the watch of newly re-signed coach Trent Robinson. Buoyed by the return of star half Luke Keary from an ACL injury, the three-time premiership winner could add a fourth title to his name should the injury gods show mercy on the Roosters ranks.



Crystal Ball: Lachlan Lam seeks a mid-season release following limited opportunities in the top grade.

3. Parramatta

If the Parramatta Eels are to ever win a grand final under Brad Arthur, 2022 shapes as the last chance to make good on that promise. Promising plenty only to bow out in the semi finals three years running, the blue and golds will be banking on early season scalps to establish their credentials as heavyweights of the league.



Crystal Ball: Sean Russell becomes a regular fixture in the backline with ten tries in as many rounds.

2. Penrith

Any team boasting the likes of Cleary, Yeo and Fisher-Harris has far too much class to be anything less than premiership contenders. In saying that, the biggest challenge for the Panthers will be accounting for the depth lost by a number of underrated players moving on in the wake of last year's grand final success.



Crystal Ball: Mitch Kenny finishes the year as the reigning premier's starting hooker.

1. Melbourne

The Melbourne Storm under Craig Bellamy are not merely the best team of the NRL era, but among the greatest to ever grace a rugby league field. Having achieved so much in 2021 only to come up short one week out from the decider, you can rest assured that the men from Melbourne will make amends by sending the Bromwich brothers, Felise Kaufusi and Brandon Smith out with a grand final victory.



Crystal Ball: Xavier Coates justifies his move south as the league's leading try-scorer.

HOW IT ALL FINISHES ROB'S PICKS

2022 NRL Premiers

MELBOURNE STORM

2021 Rugby League World Cup

AUSTRALIA

NRL Top Point Scorer

RYAN PAPHUYZEN

Most Improved Players

JOSH KING / ADAM CLUNE

NRL Top Try Scorer

XAVIER COATES

Best Signing

MOSES SULI

2022 State of Origin

NEW SOUTH WALES (2-1)

Rookie of the Year

XAVIER SAVAGE
/ JACK HOWARTH

BRISBANE BRONCOS

Lachy MacCorquodale

After an improved season in 2021, can the Brisbane Broncos sneak into the top eight in 2022?

Despite winning only seven matches last year, Brisbane did show some improvement upon their awful 2020 season. Again, it was their young players who gave the fans something to cheer about as they watched a young and inexperienced side miss out on finals for the second year straight.

The Broncos have only won 10 games over the course of the past two seasons, and they'll be aiming to at least hit that mark in 2022 with the addition of quality players like Adam Reynolds and Kurt Capewell.

Why They'll Win It

It's hard to picture the Broncos lifting the premiership trophy in October, but that doesn't mean that it's out of the question. They've added two premiership winners to their list which will prove invaluable to the young core of the squad. This young group has generated excitement over the past few seasons and features the likes of Payne Haas and Kotoni Staggs, two players who have already proven their quality on the field and will no doubt benefit playing alongside two players who have accomplished the most sought-after feat in the game.

2014 premiership winner, Reynolds, becomes the Broncos' best halfback since the departure of Ben Hunt at the end of 2017. Behind a young and exciting forward pack, he will bring both excellent game management and an even better kicking game to Red Hill. If any player is going to help the Broncos win the title, it'll be the little halfback who has featured in the finals in eight of his 10 seasons to date. After being bounced out of the Grand Final by Penrith last year, can the number seven go one better this season with Brisbane?

Why They Won't

The Broncos haven't won a premiership since 2006 and while they've fielded some great teams since, they've continuously fallen short of hoisting the Provan-Summons Trophy in those 15 seasons since. The 2015 Grand Final was the closest this club has been to glory, but were denied the pleasure by a heartbreaking Johnathan Thurston golden point field goal. That 2015 side won 17 games throughout the regular season - ten more than they won in 2021.

It's incredibly difficult to see a side that finished in 14th place with seven wins, go on to win the premiership in the following season. Despite the addition of Reynolds and Capewell, the Broncos still field a young and inexperienced side that has struggled to compete for the full 80 minutes over the past two seasons. The addition of Reynolds will help with the game management side of things, but we don't yet know who will partner him in the halves - all we know is that the options for the number six jersey don't jump off the page. In fact, Reynolds is arguably the only experienced player in the spine with 20-year-old Tesi Niu at Fullback and 45-gamer Jake Turpin at dummy-half. It helps to have an experienced and settled spine, as we've seen with the last three title winners in the Melbourne Storm, Sydney Roosters and the Penrith Panthers.

There is still plenty to like about this young side and the 2022 season could set the club up for a big future, however, a premiership this year is extremely unlikely.

Key Players

It goes without saying Adam Reynolds and Kurt Capewell are bona fide stars being added to the squad.

Reynolds, at 31 years of age is in the back half of his career but still has plenty of valuable football to play. The former Rabbitoh compiled seven try assists and scored five himself throughout the 2021 season, by no means incredible, but something in which the Broncos have lacked over the past few seasons. His greatest attributes can't be measured by basic counting

of stats though. The halfback's game management and kicking game will be his biggest addition to the Broncos gameplan and as a result, expect to see the team compete in closer contests than they have in the past two seasons. His ball movement will be crucial in 2022 and he'll know when it's time to give his young players the ball, especially Kotoni Staggs, who will be Reynolds' most dangerous weapon on the edge.

The 23-year-old centre has had an injury riddled two seasons but is without a doubt one of the most exciting centres in the game today. In just 18 games since the start of 2020, Staggs has scored 13 tries and made 16 line breaks, incredible numbers. He's proven to be a handful for opposition defenders since his debut in 2018 and hopefully Kotoni can complete his season, injury-free for the first time since 2019.

Another young Bronco who will benefit from playing with a star number seven is 22-year-old Payne Haas. Despite his young age, Haas' has already represented New South Wales on seven occasions and has roughly nine NRL appearances for each Origin appearance he has made. Already regarded as one of the best front rowers in the game, Haas' has averaged 169 run metres per game in his 61-game career and completes an impressive 36 tackles per game.

Reynolds will love having Haas run off him in the middle of the park and with his impressive footwork and tackle breaking ability (3.4 tackle breaks per game in 2021), could see his already impressive game continue to improve. Haas' will also benefit from spending time with and picking the brain of Capewell throughout the season.

Despite debuting as a 23-year-old, Capewell has already accomplished plenty since his debut in 2016. The now 28-year-old has a premiership ring and a State of Origin title to his name. Capewell brings a wealth of experience to the Broncos having been coached by both Wayne Bennett and Ivan Cleary in the past two seasons and will no doubt pass this knowledge onto his younger teammates. Capewell will also be invaluable on the park after a career-best season with the Panthers, averaging 81 run metres per game and making an incredible 32 tackles per game on the edge.

Any club would be lucky to field these four players and if any success comes the Broncos' way in 2022, expect these four to be apart of it.

Breakthrough player to watch

The Broncos boast one of the most exciting young talents in the game today, 19-year-old, Selwyn Cobbo.

The young outside back can play anywhere from one to five, filling in mostly at centre in his seven games last season. The rookie showed glimpses during the season and saved arguably his best performance for last. In a 35-22 win against Newcastle to finish off the season Cobbo scored a try, set up another, ran for 186 metres and broke six tackles. A great performance for just his seventh appearance in first grade. However, his best performance of the season came in the Queensland Cup Grand Final. Despite going on to lose the game by six points, Cobbo nabbed a try himself, ran for an incredible 274 metres and broke an insane 18 tackles.

Cobbo finished the reserve grade season with six tries, 70 tackle breaks and 184 run metres per game in just 10 appearances. The youngster has already drawn comparisons with the likes of Greg Inglis and Latrell Mitchell, which speaks volumes about the talent the kid possess.

Another youngster to keep an eye out for is 19-year-old half Ezra Mam. Not expected to feature as much as Cobbo, but Mam is very much one for the future. Playing for Souths Logan Magpies in the Queensland Cup last season, Mam scored 13 tries and assisted a further eight in just 11 appearances. Just shy of two try involvements a game. If Mam can continue these performances into the 2022 season, he could feature in the halves alongside Reynolds much sooner than expected.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Adam Reynolds (South Sydney), Kurt Capewell (Penrith), Brenko Lee (Melbourne), Corey Jensen (North Qld), Jordan Pereira (St Geo Illa), Billy Walters (Wests Tigers), Ryan James (Canberra)

OUTBOUND: John Asiata (Canterbury then Leigh), Xavier Coates (Melbourne), Anthony Milford*, Isaiah Tass (South Sydney), Brodie Croft (Salford (SL)), Danny Levi (Huddersfield (SL)), Ethan Bullemor (Manly), Alex Glenn, Ben Te'o (retired), Richie Kennar (released)

CONTRACTED LIST: Jesse Arthars* (released to Warriors on loan for 2022 only), Kurt Capewell, Patrick Carrigan, Selwyn Cobbo, Herbie Farnworth, Thomas Flegler, Tyson Gamble, Payne Haas, Kobe Hetherington, Jamayne Isaako, Ryan James, Corey Jensen, Albert Kelly, Rhys Kennedy, Brenko Lee, Ezra Mam, David Mead, Tesi Niu, Corey Oates, Cory Paix, Keenan Palasia, Jordan Pereira, Brendan Piakura, Adam Reynolds, Jordan Riki, TC Robati, Kotoni Staggs, Jake Turpin, Billy Walters

Predicted / best 17

- 1 Tesi Niu
- 2 Corey Oates
- 3 Herbie Farnworth
- 4 Kotoni Staggs
- 5 Selwyn Cobbo
- 6 Albert Kelly
- 7 Adam Reynolds
- 8 Thomas Flegler*
- 9 Jake Turpin
- 10 Payne Haas
- 11 Jordan Riki
- 12 Kurt Capewell
- 13 Patrick Carrigan
- 14 Kobe Hetherington
- 15 Rhys Kennedy
- 16 TC Robati
- 17 Ryan James

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Fri	11 Mar 22	20:05	Brisbane	Souths	Suncorp Stadium
2	Sun	20 Mar 22	18:15	Canterbury	Brisbane	Accor Stadium
3	Sun	27 Mar 22	16:05	Brisbane	North Qld	Suncorp Stadium
4	Sat	02 Apr 22	15:00	Warriors	Brisbane	Moreton Daily
5	Fri	08 Apr 22	19:55	Brisbane	Sydney	Suncorp Stadium
6	Fri	15 Apr 22	19:55	Penrith	Brisbane	BlueBet Stadium
7	Fri	22 Apr 22	19:55	Brisbane	Canterbury	Suncorp Stadium
8	Thu	28 Apr 22	19:50	Brisbane	Cronulla	Suncorp Stadium
9	Thu	05 May 22	19:50	Souths	Brisbane	Accor Stadium
10	Fri	13 May 22	20:05	Manly	Brisbane	Suncorp Stadium
11	Thu	19 May 22	19:50	Newcastle	Brisbane	McDonald Jones
12	Fri	27 May 22	19:55	Brisbane	Gold Coast	Suncorp Stadium
13	BYE	2-5 Jun 22				
14	Sat	11 Jun 22	19:35	Brisbane	Canberra	Suncorp Stadium
15	Fri	17 Jun 22	19:55	Melbourne	Brisbane	AAMI Park
16	Sat	02 Jul 22	17:30	North Qld	Brisbane	QLD Country Bank
17	Sun	10 Jul 22	16:05	Brisbane	St Geo Illa	Suncorp Stadium
18	Sat	16 Jul 22	19:35	Gold Coast	Brisbane	Cbus Super Stadium
19	Thu	21 Jul 22	19:50	Parramatta	Brisbane	CommBank Stadium
20	Sat	30 Jul 22	19:35	Brisbane	Wests Tigers	Suncorp Stadium
21	Thu	04 Aug 22	19:50	Sydney	Brisbane	SCG
22	Sat	13 Aug 22	19:35	Brisbane	Newcastle	Suncorp Stadium
23	Fri	19 Aug 22	19:55	Brisbane	Melbourne	Suncorp Stadium
24	Thu	25 Aug 22	19:50	Brisbane	Parramatta	Suncorp Stadium
25	Sat	03 Sep 22	17:30	St Geo Illa	Brisbane	Netstrata Jubilee

BRISBANE BRONCOS

INAUGURAL SEASON NSWRL 1988
2022 COACH Kevin WALTERS
2022 CAPTAIN Adam REYNOLDS
HOME GROUNDS Suncorp Stadium (1988-1993, 2003-2021)
 QEII Stadium (1993-2003)
HONOURS NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1992, 1993, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2006
 National Panasonic Cup 1989
 Tooheys Challenge Cup 1991, 1995
 World Club Challenge 1992

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1988-2021
 Matches Played 852
 Won 504
 Lost 334
 Drawn 14
 Points For 19,228
 Points Against 15,555
 Biggest win 71-6 (65 pts) - May 27th, 2007 - vs. Newcastle
 Biggest loss 0-59 (59 pts) - Jun 4th, 2020 - vs. Sydney
 Most points scored 71-6 (71 pts) - May 27th, 2007 - vs. Newcastle
 Most points conceded 22-68 (68 pts) - Sep 2nd, 2007 - vs. Parramatta

CANBERRA RAIDERS

Robert Crosby

Renew or rebuild.

The Canberra Raiders will head into the 2022 NRL season in search of an identity.

Having risen above a reputation as perennial under-achievers for much of the NRL era, only to fracture in spectacular fashion last year, Ricky Stuart's men will be out to pursue one of two viable options for success - a return to the form which culminated in a grand final appearance or a rebuild tailored around players untainted by the disappointment of last season.

It may seem simplistic to reduce a club's fortunes to such a binary, but when you consider that the Raiders finished outside the top eight in a year where a team could qualify for the finals with more losses than wins, it becomes clear that a repeat of last year will only result in further disappointment.

Making a number of shrewd recruitment moves headlined by Jamal Fogarty, Adam Elliott and returning junior Nick Cotric, veteran forward Iosia Soliola, one of the major drivers of cultural change at the club during Stuart's reign, will remain with the team in a welfare role after hanging up the boots following 17 seasons competing at the highest level.

Kicking off the new year with a Friday twilight clash against Cronulla at home, the Raiders will face five top eight sides twice during the home-and-away season, including fixtures in regional NSW against Manly (Mudgee), Melbourne (Wagga Wagga) and South Sydney (Dubbo).

Why They'll Win It

Fielding a squad stacked with representative experience and 11 members of the 2019 grand final team, the Raiders remain one of the most formidable rosters in the league - on paper.

The return of fullback Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad will benefit the side considerably, not least in his in-game involvement, but also offering stability to one of the most important positions on the field.

Having announced a move to Parramatta for next season, former co-captain Josh Hodgson will be aiming to end his time in the nation's capital on a high, while talented forward Adam Elliott will be determined to repay the club's show of faith after grabbing a one-year lifeline.

On paper, there is plenty to like about the Green Machine. However, it remains to be seen whether last year was an anomaly or indicative of further disappointment to come.

Why They Won't

The term "premiership window" regularly gets thrown around when discussing a team's chances of lifting the Provan-Summons trophy aloft on Grand Final day. Prior to last season, supporters and rivals alike had little reason to think the Raiders were anything less than premiers at best and top eight certainties at worst.

However, in light of the disappointment of last year, the Raiders will need to address a number of areas of concern to have any chance of recapturing the success of recent bygones.

Most damningly, the Raiders capitulated on more than half a dozen occasions last year after establishing healthy leads, resulting in the disparaging, yet uncomfortably apt, tag of "Faders". While it would be unfair to single the side out as the only team to suffer the misfortune of

allowing match-winning leads to fade into losses, the tale of the tape shows the Raiders would have played final football with just one more win in 2021.

Additionally, the future of Jarrod Croker shapes as a potential nightmare for the club to navigate. Having built a legacy as one of Canberra's all-time greats, the point-scoring centre performed well below his best during an injury-interrupted season which resulted in a single try from 12 appearances. With a host of young guns pushing for game time, coach Stuart could be faced with an unenviable choice should his captain struggle to justify his place in first grade.

The draw - how Canberra's schedule stacks up

After starting the season at GIO Stadium for the third year in succession, the Raiders will play just a further three times on home soil prior to the Origin period.

Unlikely to be impacted by the representative season to any great extent, the middle third of the campaign could prove telling with matches against the Roosters, Broncos, Knights and Dragons providing the Green Machine with a chance to assert a place in the top eight.

Rounding out the year with three matches in the ACT during August, the Raiders will close out the regular season with a trip to Leichhardt Oval in a potentially crucial fixture.

Key Players

The transformations of Jack Wighton and Josh Papalii undoubtedly played a monumental role in the Raiders ascendance from also-rans to premiership contenders, however, in his absence for much of last season, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad proved to be a figure of similar impact.

Initially signed from the Warriors as a largely anonymous outside back, the triple barrel threat cemented a place among the finest fullbacks in the league with a 66% success rate during the 2019-20 seasons.

Succumbing to a serious neck injury during the early rounds of 2021, the New Zealand international spent four months on the sidelines as a host of replacements struggled to find footing in the number one jersey.

Eyeing off a fulltime return to the custodian role after returning for the final rounds predominantly off the bench, a fit and firing Nicoll-Klokstad will give the Raiders a much needed injection of consistency from the back of the field.

Rookie to watch

Regarded among the best young outside backs coming through the ranks at Canberra, Xavier Savage will be hoping to lock down a regular place in first grade after a promising introduction last season. Gaining a bizarre initiation to the NRL, subsequently expunged from official records, as an illegitimate 18th man in Wollongong, the Cairns native garnered plenty of plaudits for his efforts at fullback against Manly and Cronulla. Capable of playing across the backline as required, Savage will have no shortage of competition from the likes of Seb Kris and Matt Timoko, but will rate his chances of making a mark when an opportunity arises in first grade.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Nick Cotric, Adam Elliott (Canterbury), Jamal Fogarty (Gold Coast), Peter Hola (North Queensland)

OUTBOUND: Siliva Havili (South Sydney), Ryan James (Brisbane), Bailey Simonsson (Parramatta), Caleb Aekins (Leigh (UK)), Dunamis Lui (Redcliffe (QRL)), Iosia Soliola (retired)

CONTRACTED LIST: Nick Cotric, Jarrod Croker, Adam Elliott, Jamal Fogarty, Matt Frawley, Emre Guler, Corey Harawira-Naera, Josh Hodgson, Albert Hupoate, Peter Hola, Corey Horsburgh, Sebastian Kris, Trey Mooney, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Josh Papalii, Jordan Rapana, Harry Rushton, Xavier Savage, Brad Schneider, Harley Smith-Shields, Tom Starling, Ryan Sutton, Joe Tapine, Matt Timoko, Semi Valemei, Elliott Whitehead, Jack Wighton, Sam Williams, Hudson Young

Predicted / best 17

1. Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad
2. Nick Cotric
3. Jarrod Croker (C)
4. Xavier Savage
5. Jordan Rapana
6. Jack Wighton
7. Jamal Fogarty
8. Josh Papalii
9. Josh Hodgson
10. Emre Guler
11. Corey Harawira-Naera
12. Elliott Whitehead
13. Joe Tapine
14. Tom Starling
15. Ryan Sutton
16. Corey Horsburgh
17. Adam Elliott

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Fri	11 Mar 22	18:00	Canberra	Cronulla	GIO Stadium
2	Sat	19 Mar 22	19:35	North Qld	Canberra	Qld Country Bank
3	Sat	26 Mar 22	19:35	Canberra	Gold Coast	GIO Stadium
4	Sat	02 Apr 22	17:30	Manly	Canberra	Glen Willow Mudgee
5	Sat	09 Apr 22	15:00	Canberra	Melbourne	Wagga Wagga
6	Thu	14 Apr 22	19:50	Canberra	North Qld	GIO Stadium
7	Sun	24 Apr 22	16:05	Penrith	Canberra	BlueBet Stadium
8	Sat	30 Apr 22	15:00	Warriors	Canberra	Moreton Daily
9	Fri	6 May 22	18:00	Canberra	Canterbury	GIO Stadium
10	Sun	15 May 22	13:50	Cronulla	Canberra	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sun	22 May 22	14:00	Souths	Canberra	Apex Oval Dubbo
12	Sun	29 May 22	16:05	Canberra	Parramatta	GIO Stadium
13	Sun	05 Jun 22	16:05	Canberra	Sydney	GIO Stadium
14	Sat	11 Jun 22	19:35	Brisbane	Canberra	Suncorp Stadium
15	Sun	19 Jun 22	14:00	Canberra	Newcastle	GIO Stadium
16	Sun	03 Jul 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	Canberra	WIN Stadium
17		7-10 Jul 22		BYE		
18	Sun	17 Jul 22	16:05	Melbourne	Canberra	AAMI Park
19	Sat	23 Jul 22	15:00	Canberra	Warriors	GIO Stadium
20	Sat	30 Jul 22	15:00	Gold Coast	Canberra	Cbus Super Stadium
21	Sat	06 Aug 22	17:30	Canberra	Penrith	GIO Stadium
22	Sun	14 Aug 22	14:00	Canberra	St Geo Illa	GIO Stadium
23	Sun	21 Aug 22	16:05	Newcastle	Canberra	McDonald Jones
24	Sat	27 Aug 22	15:00	Canberra	Manly	GIO Stadium
25	Sun	04 Sep 22	16:05	West's Tigers	Canberra	Leichhardt Oval

CANBERRA RAIDERS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NSWRL 1982
2022 COACH	Ricky STUART
2022 CAPTAIN	Jarrod CROKER & Elliott WHITEHEAD
HOME GROUNDS	GIO Stadium Canberra (1990-2021) Seiffert Oval (1982-1989)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1989, 1990, 1994 Tooheys Challenge Cup 1990, 1993

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1982-2021	
Matches Played	992
Won	507
Lost	475
Drawn	10
Points For	21,544
Points Against	20,126
Biggest win	68-0 (68 pts) - Aug 22nd, 1993 - vs. Parramatta
Biggest loss	4-68 (64 pts) - Aug 4th, 2013 - vs. Melbourne
Most points scored	74-12 (74 pts) - Aug 10th, 2008 - vs. Penrith
Most points conceded	32-70 (70 pts) - Mar 19th, 2006 - vs. Newcastle

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

Sam Bourke

After collecting their first Wooden Spoon since 2008, the Canterbury Bulldogs come into the new season with the pressure to perform for coach Trent Barrett.

While the past few seasons have been some of the leanest in the club's history, the old line of there just isn't enough talent is now out the window following an aggressive recruitment drive which saw 13 players depart from the 2021 squad. The diehard fans are starved of success and will be demanding the side transform from cellar dwellers to Top 8 contenders in 2022.

2021 was a complete write off, for the second straight season it was a dismal total of 3 wins. The season started with optimism with some key signings in Nick Cotric, Jack Hetherington, Corey Allan and Kyle Flanagan which looked to be a step in the right direction. However, the Bulldogs were far from a finished product as they stumbled through the first half of the season with a solitary win over Cronulla in Round 7, as Trent Barrett's side struggled to adapt to the faster style of football being played. In the most offence heavy season of the modern era, Canterbury were the least effective team with the ball in hand by a considerable distance. The Dogs did however show heart in their defeats and also managed to unearth some talented youngsters in Jake Averillo, Aaron Schoupp and Jackson Topine. The enthusiasm and fight was rewarded with two big wins in the second half of the season over the Dragons and a last round 38-0 thrashing of the hapless Tigers which gave fans some deserved joy to end the season.

2022 sees the most impressive offseason recruitment drive in the NRL, headlined by Panthers premiership winner and Dally M Centre of the Year Matt Burton, who will wear the famous number 6 jersey. Australian and NSW winger Josh Addo-Carr joins the club off the back of a 23 try season with Melbourne, as well as former Kangaroos and Blues prop Paul Vaughan. Rounding out the new talent is one of the competition's most explosive and dynamic forwards in Tevita Pangai Junior, who joins the club via Brisbane and off a successful finals campaign cameo with the premiers Penrith.

Perhaps the jewel in the crown however, is the return to the club of 1988 premiership winning coach Phil Gould as the Bulldogs Football Manager. After years in the wilderness the Bulldogs are on the rise.

Why They'll Win It

The Bulldogs are a completely different outfit to past seasons and their new look roster has solved some of the major issues. Can't score tries? The arrival of Josh Addo-Carr and former Dragon Matt Dufty bring an element you can't coach, speed. The new found left edge is lethal in Burton, Pangai Jr, Brent Naden and Addo-Carr and provided they gel quickly, then they will score points. The other shining attribute the Bulldogs already do well is that they led the competition in 2021 in completions at 80%. If they continue to hold onto to possession in their attacking zone then this new look combination get the scoreboard ticking over.

While Matt Burton was unbelievable at centre last season with his lethal running game, he now returns to his favoured five-eighth position. Following his breakout season, most will have forgotten what a superb boot he has in general play. The Bulldogs last tackle options have been abysmal in recent years, but Burton will change this, and with the combination of Vaughan, Luke Thompson and Josh Jackson getting the Dogs on the front foot through the middle, this will allow Burton plenty of time to put the exclamation point on the end of sets.

Why They Won't

Canterbury won't go from last place to premiers in 12 months, it is just not possible. They have won 6 games in two years and it will take time for the new recruits to gel, perhaps mid-season at best.

While Canterbury have considerably more talent in their roster than previous seasons, their all-important spine is still a lot to be desired. Fullback Dufty is off the back of a poor season with the Dragons, hooker Jeremy Marshall-King is not an elite number nine, while the number 7 jersey has been a revolving door since Trent Hodkinson exited the club. The only saving grace is the recruitment of Burton, but he alone can't carry them to a premiership in his first season in the blue and white.

The draw - how Canterbury's schedule stacks up

With only 3 wins since taking over the clipboard at Belmore, the fate of Trent Barrett may well be decided following their opening two matches of the season, where the Dogs host North Queensland and then Brisbane. If they don't win their opening games, then it will be hard to see where their next win comes from where they literally face the 2021 Top 4 in back to back games. If the Dogs are 0-6 then it is hard to see Barrett survive the season.

Canterbury's draw eases throughout the Origin period with a string of winnable games against the likes of Tigers, Sharks, Knights, Cowboys and Warriors leaving them with a decent chance of making a shock finals run. The season ends with a run of Sydney matches, culminating some big rivalry matches against the Eels and Sea Eagles to finish.

Key Players

The obvious is of course Matt Burton, as he is coming from the premiers who are surrounded by the upper echelon of young talent in the NRL, to the cellar dwellers who fans expect will lead the club towards the finals. Having signed for the club 12 months in advance, which led to a bitter tug of war between the two clubs last year, this has only increased the expectation that Burton is the saviour and will solve the issue of winning matches.

Another high profile signing is that of Tevita Pangai Jr, who like Burton will also have to burden heavy expectation. Pangai has at times looked destined to be one of the best forwards in the game in his time at the Broncos, but the firebrand forward has yet to hit his peak. On his day Pangai Jr is a match winner and an intimidating force to join the likes of Jackson, Thompson, Hetherington and Vaughan in the engine room. After being shown the door at Brisbane, the Tongan international more than has a point to prove in 2022.

If both Burton and Pangai are at the very least in the conversation for a NSW Blues debut mid-year, then Canterbury will be on the right track in 2022.

Rookie to watch

Paul Alamoti is the young gun being touted as the next big thing out Belmore way, with the 18 year old recently having been elevated to the Top 30 squad in a sign that he could be a good chance of making his debut in 2022. The blockbusting centre has dominated in the junior grades with his speed, size and strength, however has yet to play NSW Cup. Alamoti is one to keep an eye on in the upcoming trials to see how he handles playing first grade, despite only just being old enough to buy a beer.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Josh Addo-Carr, Max King (Melbourne), Matt Burton, Brent Naden (Penrith), Matt Dufty, Paul Vaughan (St Geo Illa), Tevita Pangai Junior (Brisbane via Penrith), Josh Cook, Braidon Burns (South Sydney), Reece Hoffman (Wests Tigers)

OUTBOUND: Nick Meaney (Melbourne), Will Hopoate (St Helens (SL)), Renouf Atoni (Sydney), Adam Elliott, Nick Cotric (Canberra), Christian Crichton, Chris Smith (Penrith), Dylan Napa (Catalans (SL)), John Asiata (Leigh (SL)) Ofahiki Ogden, James Roumanos, Sione Katoa, Watson Heleta, Lachlan Lewis, Dean Britt, Bradley Deitz (released), Falakiko Manu (Brisbane)

CONTRACTED LIST: Josh Addo-Carr, Paul Alamoti, Corey Allan, Jake Averillo, Bailey Biondi-Odo, Braidon Burns, Matt Burton, Josh Cook, Matt Doorey, Matt Dufty, Raymond Faitala-Mariner, Kyle Flanagan, Jack Hetherington, Josh Jackson, Tuipulotu Katoa, Max King, Jeremy Marshall-King, Brent Naden, Jayden Okunbor, Tevita Pangai Junior, Chris Patolo, Aaron Schoupp, Ava Seumanufagai, Joe Stimson, Luke Thompson, Jackson Topine, Paul Vaughan, Corey Waddell, Brandon Wakeham

Predicted / best 17

1. Matt Dufty
2. Corey Allan
3. Brent Naden
4. Aaron Schoupp
5. Josh Addo-Carr
6. Matt Burton
7. Jake Averillo
8. Paul Vaughan
9. Jeremy Marshall-King
10. Luke Thompson
11. Raymond Faitala-Mariner
12. Tevita Pangai Jr
13. Josh Jackson (c)
14. Bailey Biondi-Odo
15. Ava Seumanufagai
16. Jack Hetherington
17. Jackson Topine

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sun	13 Mar 22	18:15	North Qld	Canterbury	QLD Country Bank
2	Sun	20 Mar 22	18:15	Canterbury	Brisbane	Accor Stadium
3	Sun	27 Mar 22	18:15	Manly	Canterbury	4 Pines Park
4	Sun	03 Apr 22	16:05	Melbourne	Canterbury	AAMI Park
5	Sun	10 Apr 22	18:15	Canterbury	Penrith	CommBank Stadium
6	Fri	15 Apr 22	18:00	Souths	Canterbury	Accor Stadium
7	Fri	22 Apr 22	19:55	Brisbane	Canterbury	Suncorp Stadium
8	Sat	30 Apr 22	17:30	Canterbury	Sydney	Accor Stadium
9	Fri	06 May 22	18:00	Canberra	Canterbury	GIO Stadium
10	Fri	13 May 22	18:00	Canterbury	Newcastle	Suncorp Stadium
11	Fri	20 May 22	18:00	Wests Tigers	Canterbury	Leichhardt Oval
12	Sun	29 May 22	14:00	Canterbury	St Geo Illa	Belmore S.G.
13	Fri	03 Jun 22	19:55	Penrith	Canterbury	BlueBet Stadium
14	Mon	13 Jun 22	16:00	Canterbury	Parramatta	Accor Stadium
15	Sun	19 Jun 22	16:05	Canterbury	Wests Tigers	CommBank Stadium
16	Sat	02 Jul 22	15:00	Canterbury	Cronulla	CommBank Stadium
17		7-10 Jul 22			BYE	
18	Sun	17 Jul 22	18:15	Canterbury	Souths	Accor Stadium
19	Sun	24 Jul 22	14:00	Canterbury	Gold Coast	CommBank Stadium
20	Sun	31 Jul 22	14:00	Newcastle	Canterbury	McDonald Jones
21	Sun	07 Aug 22	14:00	Canterbury	North Qld	Bundaberg
22	Fri	12 Aug 22	18:00	Warriors	Canterbury	Mt Smart Stadium
23	Sat	20 Aug 22	15:00	Parramatta	Canterbury	CommBank Stadium
24	Sat	27 Aug 22	17:30	Cronulla	Canterbury	PointsBet Stadium
25	Fri	02 Sep 22	18:00	Canterbury	Manly	Accor Stadium

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NSWRFL 1935
2022 COACH	Trent BARRETT
2022 CAPTAIN	Josh JACKSON
HOME GROUNDS	Accor Stadium (1999-2000, 2003-2021) Belmore Sports Ground (1936-1998, 2015-2019) CommBank Stadium (2019-2021) Sydney Showground (2001-2005)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1938, 1942, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1995, 2004 Craven Mild Cup 1962, 1970

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1935-2021	
Matches Played	1,890
Won	958
Lost	879
Drawn	53
Points For	32,601
Points Against	32,869
Biggest win	66-4 (62 pts) - Aug 27th, 1995 - vs. North Queensland
Biggest loss	6-91 (85 pts) - May 11th, 1935 - vs. St George
Most points scored	66-4 (66 pts) - Aug 27th, 1995 - vs. North Queensland
Most points conceded	6-91 (91 pts) - May 11th, 1935 - vs. St George

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

Andrew Ferguson

New-look Sharks on a new mission

For many many years now there had been an element of familiarity in the Sharks roster - a solid core group of players who the team was built around, which ultimately resulted in them winning their maiden Premiership in 2016. This structure remained in place for the ensuing seasons, but in 2022, just 2 players from that 2016 squad remain - captain Wade Graham and prop Andrew Fifita.

The spine is made up of players who have all made their debut after 2016. The reliance upon veterans in the forwards is also gone, with the side boasting a well-balanced and youthful squad across the park. And they will be coached by a rookie in Craig Fitzgibbon, who has served a solid apprenticeship under Trent Robinson at the Roosters.

The Sharks biggest hurdle this year then is set to be cohesion, mixed in with their recent trend of starting seasons slowly (2018 they won 2 of their opening 6 games; 2019 won half of their opening 8; 2020 won 1 of 5 and 2021 they won just 2 of their first 10).

A slow start is something they can ill-afford in 2022 as 7 of their last 13 games this year are against teams that finished in the top 8 in 2021.

The Sharks have been the big movers in the player market picking up two all-star signings from the Storm in young utility back Nicho Hynes and the rock solid Origin lock Dale Finucane, while moving on a number of highly paid players such as Chad Townsend, Aaron Woods, Shaun Johnson and Josh Dugan, laying a platform for a new direction and freeing up cap space for more quality signings.

Why They'll Win It

Varied attack from the spine. Be it the superb line running, kick returns and link play by the ever-improving fullback William Kennedy, the snappy service and passing game from dummy half by Blayke Brailey, the offensively-focussed halfback Brayden Trindall and the all-round excellence of Nicho Hynes - the Sharks playmakers will ensure that they will always be bringing the game to the opposition defences, always probing and not relying on a small few pet plays.

The Sharks attack will be further enhanced by a number of powerful ball running forwards, the excellent ball skills of Connor Tracey at centre, the passing and short kicking game of back rower Wade Graham, the speed of Sione Katoa and the leap of Ronaldo Mulitalo - the Sharks are a side oozing in attacking prowess.

Why They Won't

Cohesion. It's difficult to explain as it's not ultimately something you can see, but it is so vitally important. Brailey and Kennedy have started in 40 games together, Brailey and Trindall in 14 and Trindall and Kennedy in 13, while none of those 3 have played any games alongside Hynes. That lack of cohesion between the spine and moreso, between the halves, will mean a lot of the attack will need time to form combinations.

And given it's a young halves combination, they may have moments where form drops, which means they will fall back to Matt Moylan to assist, however the utility back has failed to nail down any position as his primary one, so he's a makeshift fix at best.

Throw in a first year coach to the mix and very few thoroughly experienced players and the Sharks could be in for a season with dramatic form swings.

The draw - how Canterbury's schedule stacks up

The Sharks have a very tricky start, against teams they should win against, but given the somewhat erratic nature of all clubs involved and the Sharks penchant for starting slowly, they could lose a few of them. The start with a trip to Canberra against the Raiders before taking on the Eels and Dragons before getting to play at home, with back-to-back games against Knights and the Tigers before a trip to Melbourne to take on recent rivals Melbourne, followed by a clash against long-term rivals Manly.

They then travel to Brisbane for back-to-back games at Suncorp against the Broncos and Raiders, before travelling to the Gold Coast to play the Titans in what is a very tricky Origin period and run home for the Sharks.

They play the Roosters before the bye, then a basically full-strength Warriors side, the Titans, a revamped Bulldogs outfit, Melbourne again, the Cowboys and then back-to-back games against the 2021 Grand Finalists, Penrith, then Souths.

Their run home sees them take on the Dragons, Tigers, Manly, Bulldogs and Knights in what should see them net more wins than losses.

They need to get on the same page quickly and bag some early wins, hang on through the mid-season and snare more wins than losses in the run home, which should be enough to see them claim a place in the 8.

Key Players

Captain Wade Graham has had his first full, injury-free off-season in what seems like an eternity. His ability to shut opposition playmakers with brutal defence, while also providing great ball-playing and a deft short kicking game on the left edge makes him a brilliant option to help in playmaking duties whenever the Sharks need it.

Graham suffered a series of heavy head-knocks in his last 2 seasons, which saw him evaluate whether he should carry on or not, ultimately deciding that he will be fine to continue and is keen to lead his side around for the foreseeable future.

He will be able to provide that vital link between halves, edge forwards and outside backs, while also providing a strong running game of his own. His versatility and utility value on that side is a rare commodity and one which the Sharks are blessed to have.

Rookie to watch

Young halfback Luke Metcalf made his debut last season and could well get much more game time in 2022. He has explosive speed, making him an immediate threat through the middle of the field and allows him to get opposition defences on the back foot. Not afraid to take on the line either, while also possessing a good kicking game close to the line and has a clean passing game.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Cameron McInnes (St. George-Illawarra), Nicho Hynes (Melbourne), Dale Finucane (Melbourne), Matt Ikuvalu (Sydney), Lachlan Miller (Rugby Union), Jayden Berrell (Wynumn-Manly)

OUTBOUND: Chad Townsend (Warriors/North Queensland), Shaun Johnson (Warriors), Aaron Woods (St. George-Illawarra), Josh Dugan (retired), Will Chambers (Rugby Union), Billy Magoulias (Warrington), Nene Macdonald (Leigh)

CONTRACTED LIST: Jayden Berrell, Blayke Brailey, Andrew Fifita, Dale Finucane, Wade Graham, Braden Hamlin-Uele, Mawene Hiroti, Royce Hunt, Nicho Hynes, Matt Ikuvalu, Sione Katoa, Will Kennedy, Cameron McInnes, Luke Metcalf, Lachlan Miller, Matt Moylan, Ronaldo Mulitalo, Briton Nikora, Franklin Pele, Jesse Ramien, Toby Rudolf, Siosifa Talakai, Jensen Taumoepeau, Aiden Tolman, Connor Tracey, Braydon Trindall, Jack Williams, Teig Wilton

Predicted / best 17

1. William Kennedy
2. Sione Katoa
3. Jesse Ramien
4. Connor Tracey
5. Ronaldo Mulitalo
6. Nicho Hynes
7. Brayden Trindall
8. Braden Hamlin-Uele
9. Blayke Brailey
10. Toby Rudolf
11. Wade Graham
12. Briton Nikora
13. Dale Finucane
14. Cameron McInnes
15. Siosifa Talakai
16. Royce Hunt
17. Aiden Tolman

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Fri	11 Mar 22	18:00	Canberra	Cronulla	GIO Stadium
2	Sat	19 Mar 22	17:30	Cronulla	Parramatta	PointsBet Stadium
3	Thu	24 Mar 22	20:05	St Geo Illa	Cronulla	WIN Stadium
4	Fri	01 Apr 22	18:00	Cronulla	Newcastle	PointsBet Stadium
5	Sun	10 Apr 22	16:05	Cronulla	Wests Tigers	PointsBet Stadium
6	Sat	16 Apr 22	19:35	Melbourne	Cronulla	AAMI Park
7	Thu	21 Apr 22	19:50	Cronulla	Manly	PointsBet Stadium
8	Thu	28 Apr 22	19:50	Brisbane	Cronulla	Suncorp Stadium
9	Sun	08 May 22	16:05	Cronulla	Warriors	PointsBet Stadium
10	Sun	15 May 22	13:50	Cronulla	Canberra	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sun	22 May 22	16:05	Gold Coast	Cronulla	Cbus Super Stadium
12	Sat	28 May 22	19:35	Cronulla	Sydney	PointsBet Stadium
13		2-5 Jun 22		BYE		
14	Sun	12 Jun 22	18:15	Warriors	Cronulla	Moreton Daily
15	Sat	18 Jun 22	15:00	Cronulla	Gold Coast	Coffs Harbour
16	Sat	02 Jul 22	15:00	Canterbury	Cronulla	CommBank Stadium
17	Thu	07 Jul 22	19:50	Cronulla	Melbourne	PointsBet Stadium
18	Fri	15 Jul 22	18:00	North Qld	Cronulla	Qld Country Bank
19	Sat	23 Jul 22	17:30	Penrith	Cronulla	BlueBet Stadium
20	Sat	30 Jul 22	17:30	Cronulla	Souths	PointsBet Stadium
21	Sat	06 Aug 22	19:35	Cronulla	St Geo Illa	PointsBet Stadium
22	Sat	13 Aug 22	17:30	Wests Tigers	Cronulla	Tamworth
23	Sat	20 Aug 22	17:30	Manly	Cronulla	4 Pines Park
24	Sat	27 Aug 22	17:30	Cronulla	Canterbury	PointsBet Stadium
25	Sun	04 Sep 22	14:00	Newcastle	Cronulla	McDonald Jones

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NSWRFL 1967
2022 COACH	Craig FITZGIBBON
2022 CAPTAIN	Wade GRAHAM
HOME GROUNDS	PointsBet Stadium (1967-2019, 2022-) Netstrata Jubilee Stadium (2020-2021) Sutherland Oval (1967-1968)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 2016 Endeavour Cup 1971 National Panasonic Cup 1979

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1967-2021

Matches Played	1,319
Won	638
Lost	657
Drawn	24
Points For	24,162
Points Against	24,302
Biggest win	68-6 (62 pts) - Aug 21st, 2005 - vs. Manly 62-0 (62 pts) - May 15th, 2016 - vs. Newcastle
Biggest loss	4-74 (70 pts) - Aug 23rd, 2003 - vs. Parramatta
Most points scored	68-6 (68 pts) - Aug 21st, 2005 - vs. Manly
Most points conceded	4-74 (74 pts) - Aug 23rd, 2003 - vs. Parramatta

GOLD COAST TITANS

Hamish Parker

Golden young contingent set to decide fate of Titans' 2022 season

2021 saw the Gold Coast Titans return to finals footy for the first time since 2016, despite a mixed season in which they finished with a losing 10-14 record. The fact that they were able to sneak into eighth position was perhaps a reflection of the stretch between the best and worst teams last year. The most telling shortcoming of their game would have to have been their inconsistency over 80 minutes, with glimpses of scintillating attacking play followed by poor defence. Coach Justin Holbrook will be looking patch this up going into 2022.

Still, there were plenty of positives to come out of last season. In conjunction with their quality attacking play, they were certainly given a return on their investment for the likes of David Fifita and Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, both of whom had good first seasons for the club. They also unearthed young guns like Jayden Campbell and Toby Sexton, which should hold them in good stead going into the future - both having gained valuable NRL experience.

Gold Coast are heading into a new era in 2022, led largely by young players with little time spent in first grade. The club will be looking to 22-year-old captain Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, as well as a host of other young stars to take the team forward after the departure of halfback and former captain Jamal Fogarty to the Canberra Raiders.

It's a big gamble to take on such young and inexperienced players, but the Titans have put their faith behind them and will be hoping their youthfulness can give them a point of difference over other teams to give them the edge.

Why They'll Win It

The Titans' forward pack is up there with one of the better packs in the competition. There is so much strike with the likes of Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, David Fifita and Moeaki Fotuauka. Then, there's the experience of Kevin Proctor, Jarrod Wallace and new recruit Isaac Liu who will be a tremendous addition to the squad after previously winning two premierships at the Roosters. This forward pack can definitely get over the top of most other packs in the NRL and lay a platform for young halves in Sexton and AJ Brimson, which will be crucial if the Titans are to succeed this year.

Why They Won't

There is a glaring lack of experience in key positions for the Gold Coast.

Five-eighth AJ Brimson is the most capped NRL player in the spine with just 63 games to his name. All other members of the spine including Jayden Campbell, Toby Sexton and Erin Clark have only 41 games of experience between the three of them.

Further, their captain Tino Fa'asuamaleaui is only 22 years of age and is just short of 50 NRL games. There's no doubt Fa'asuamaleaui proved himself as a leader of this side last season, but it is a big ask of someone so young and inexperienced to captain a club, especially when many of his teammates are also so new when it comes playing first grade.

Key Players

David Fifita will be instrumental if the Titans are to shake up the competition this year. An incredibly damaging ball-runner, he also has speed and skill to back it up that not many his size possess. Fifita needs to go to another level this year and really cement himself as someone the young squad can look to when the going gets tough. If he can do that and go looking for opportunities with the ball when his teams need it most, the Titans may just be able to exceed expectations on the back of this.

Five-eighth AJ Brimson will also need to lift his game in 2022 as he will be the most established member of a very young spine. Brimson will move from fullback to accommodate rising star Jayden Campbell and will have to adapt quickly to the positional change, or that spine may find themselves lost. As a member of the squad who has already played State of Origin, Brimson will be looked to by players like Campbell and Sexton to help lead them around the paddock.

Breakthrough player to watch

The Titans moving rep fullback Brimson out of position to make room for Jayden Campbell clearly shows the club hold a very high opinion of the son of Preston.

Campbell only has seven NRL games to his name but has been very impressive in all of his outings in first grade, with 5 tries and 3 try assists already to his credit. The speed and athleticism Jayden possesses is certainly going to cause headaches for opposition teams throughout 2022, which will be very exciting to watch.

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Player Movements

INBOUND: Isaac Liu (Sydney), Paul Turner (Warriors), Aaron Booth (Melbourne), Will Smith (Parramatta)

OUTBOUND: Jai Whitbread, Sam Stone (Leigh (UK)), Jonus Pearson (CQ Capras (QRL)), Tyrone Peachey (Wests Tigers), Jamal Fogarty (Canberra), Ash Taylor (Warriors), Mitch Rein (Parramatta), Anthony Don (retired)

CONTRACTED LIST: Tanah Boyd, AJ Brimson, Jayden Campbell, Erin Clark, Herman Ese'ese, Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Beau Fermor, David Fifita, Sosefo Fifita, Moeaki Fotuauka, Patrick Herbert, Jaimin Jolliffe, Brian Kelly, Alofi-ana Khan-Pereira, Sam Lisone, Isaac Liu, Esan Marsters, Greg Marzhew, Sam McIntyre, Kevin Proctor, Phillip Sami, Toby Sexton, Will Smith, Corey Thompson, Paul Turner, Joseph Vuna, Jarrod Wallace

Predicted / best 17

- Jayden Campbell
- Phillip Sami
- Brian Kelly
- Patrick Herbert
- Corey Thompson
- AJ Brimson
- Toby Sexton
- Moeaki Fotuauka
- Erin Clark
- Tino Fa'asuamaleaui
- Kevin Proctor
- David Fifita
- Isaac Liu
- Tanah Boyd
- Jarrod Wallace
- Jaimin Jolliffe
- Beau Fermor

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sun	13 Mar 22	16:05	Parramatta	Gold Coast	CommBank Stadium
2	Sat	19 Mar 22	15:00	Gold Coast	Warriors	Cbus Super Stadium
3	Sat	26 Mar 22	19:35	Canberra	Gold Coast	GIO Stadium
4	Thu	31 Mar 22	20:05	Gold Coast	Wests Tigers	Cbus Super Stadium
5	Sat	09 Apr 22	19:35	Gold Coast	Parramatta	Cbus Super Stadium
6	Sat	16 Apr 22	17:30	Manly	Gold Coast	4 Pines Park
7	Sat	23 Apr 22	17:30	North Qld	Gold Coast	Qld Country Bank
8	Fri	29 Apr 22	18:00	Gold Coast	Penrith	Cbus Super Stadium
9	Sat	07 May 22	17:30	Sydney	Gold Coast	BB Print Mackay
10	Sat	14 May 22	17:30	Gold Coast	St Geo Illa	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sun	22 May 22	16:05	Gold Coast	Cronulla	Cbus Super Stadium
12	Fri	27 May 22	19:55	Brisbane	Gold Coast	Suncorp Stadium
13	Thu	02 Jun 22	19:50	Gold Coast	North Qld	Cbus Super Stadium
14	Sat	11 Jun 22	15:00	Gold Coast	Souths	Cbus Super Stadium
15	Sat	18 Jun 22	15:00	Cronulla	Gold Coast	Coffs Harbour
16	Fri	01 Jul 22	18:00	Newcastle	Gold Coast	McDonald Jones
17		7-10 Jul 22		BYE		
18	Sat	16 Jul 22	19:35	Gold Coast	Brisbane	Cbus Super Stadium
19	Sun	24 Jul 22	14:00	Canterbury	Gold Coast	CommBank Stadium
20	Sat	30 Jul 22	15:00	Gold Coast	Canberra	Cbus Super Stadium
21	Fri	05 Aug 22	18:00	Melbourne	Gold Coast	AAMI Park
22	Sun	14 Aug 22	16:05	Gold Coast	Manly	Cbus Super Stadium
23	Sun	21 Aug 22	14:00	St Geo Illa	Gold Coast	WIN Stadium
24	Sun	28 Aug 22	16:05	Gold Coast	Newcastle	Cbus Super Stadium
25	Sat	03 Sep 22	15:00	Warriors	Gold Coast	Mt Smart Stadium

GOLD COAST TITANS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NRL 2007
2022 COACH	Justin HOLBROOK
2022 CAPTAIN	Tino FA'ASUAMEALAU
HOME GROUNDS	Cbus Super Stadium (2008-2021) Carrara Stadium (2007)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) None

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 2007-2021	
Matches Played	362
Won	146
Lost	215
Drawn	1
Points For	6,886
Points Against	8,506
Biggest win	44-0 (44 pts) - Sep 5th, 2021 - vs. Warriors
Biggest loss	0-54 (54 pts) - Aug 5th, 2017 - vs. Brisbane
Most points scored	44-8 (44 pts) - Mar 28th, 2021 - vs. North Queensland 44-6 (44 pts) - Jul 3rd, 2021 - vs. Canberra 44-0 (44 pts) - Sep 5th, 2021 - vs. Warriors
Most points conceded	6-58 (58 pts) - Aug 4th, 2019 - vs. Sydney

MANLY WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES

Jason Hosken

The Turbocharged Sea Eagles roll into 2022 with essentially the same line-up that rocketed up the charts last season. For Des Hasler the message is simple, go one better and challenge for the grand final.

After last season's kamikaze Corso escapade, Tom Trbojevic rectified Manly's awful start on the way to scooping the club's fourth Dally M Medal. Virtually untouchable, the fullback piloted a Sea Eagles recovery that yielded 17 wins from their last 23 starts at an eye watering 34 points per match.

Souths would go on to spoil the party in the preliminary final. But with lessons learned, the Sea Eagles front for next month's season opener with just the Dragon bound Moses Suli missing from the 17 that were bundled out by the Rabbitohs.

21-year-old Bronco back-rower Ethan Bullemor represents the only new off-season recruit. For the Sea Eagles hierarchy, it's testament to the success of a strong junior succession plan.

The strategy unearthed edge forwards Haumole Olakau'atu and Josh Schuster with devastating effect. Both went on to finish their first full season under Hasler destined for higher honours.

Morgan Harper and Jason Saab also relished their golden opportunities. The former Bulldog and Dragon discards quickly combined to form one of the most potent centre/wing combinations in the competition.

Upfront, and hulking young prop Taniela Paseka now commands centre stage. His growth under the watchful eye of fellow bookends Marty Taupau and Josh Aloiai is symptomatic of the Manly mix.

While Turbo, Saab and Reuben Garrick broke all the records in a memorable 2021, the at times harshly maligned Daly Cherry-Evans was the one constant that steadied the ship. Now 33, the skipper's fitness has never wavered in an 11-year 261-game career. And alongside a rejuvenated Kieran Foran, their tenacity combined with abundant youth and brawn could prove the perfect mix.

Why They'll Win It

Chat to any diehard fan and their belief in the footy gods is always a matter of convenience. So for long term followers of Manly, that means they are destined to shine on Tom Trbojevic until he plays in the club's ninth premiership.

Blessed with international custodians stretching back more than 50 years including multiple title winners like Graham 'Wombat' Eadie and Brett "Snake" Stewart, it's almost a foregone conclusion that by the time the Mona Vale junior hangs up his boots it will be alongside at least one premiership medallion. And 2022 could be the year.

With a delicate balance of hard-heads, experience and youthful exuberance, Manly flew under Dessie's famed radar for the majority of 2021. Now with the scars of a preliminary final exit and an ingrained knowledge of what separates the pretenders from the winners, there's little doubt Manly have what it takes to go all the way.

Why They Won't

Tommy Turbo smashed the lights out of 2021 with arguably the best individual season in the game's history, and yet, the Sea Eagles still came up empty handed. To repeat the same theatrics with such regularity is a frightening thought, but if the Manly wiz slips a notch or two then his side's prospects should too.

The last time the Sea Eagles played back-to-back finals was in 2014. It rounded out a golden

period of 10 consecutive end of season campaigns that delivered the club its seventh and eighth premiership titles. Since then, good and bad seasons have alternated like day and night. And with more than a handful of young bucks hoping to replicate breakout seasons, Hasler would be well advised to source a vaccine to fight second-season syndrome.

Last year Manly were the flat track bullies. They lacked the grind of the top sides and couldn't get close to the Panthers, Melbourne and the Rabbitohs, who all knocked them off their perch on multiple occasions. There's no doubt Manly are building nicely, but they are probably still a year or two shy of the ultimate prize.

Manly's schedule - how it stacks up

Memories of last season's diabolical opening will be fresh in the minds of Manly fans given a tough opening fortnight that has them on the road against the premiers at Penrith and the Roosters at the SCG. In round 3 they return home to host the Bulldogs in what will be the first of 10 matches at their revamped Brookvale facility. The joint government funded 4 Pines Park upgrade costing \$33.1M houses a Centre of Excellence and sees the old northern hill topped with a sleek 3,000-seat grandstand.

Once again the Sea Eagles will play two home games outside of Sydney. In round 4 they return to Mudgee for the second consecutive season when they tackle the Raiders, while round 10 sees a continuation of their traditional Magic Round clash against Brisbane at Suncorp Stadium.

During the Origin period, Hasler will have to make do without his stars for the round 13 home clash against the Warriors.

In terms of the competition heavyweights, the Sea Eagles line-up twice against the Storm, Roosters and Eels but have the good fortune of only having to face each of the 2021 grand finalists on one occasion.

Overall, it's a draw Manly supporters should feel comfortable with. And with a run to the finals that includes the Titans, Sharks, Raiders and Bulldogs, all going well, the boys from the Northern Beaches could hit September riding the crest of a wave.

Key Players

Trbojevic and Trbojevic - the two older ones, Cherry-Evans too. The trio have been the face of Manly on and off the field for a while now.

But when it comes to variety on the park, don't discount the value of Dylan Walker off the bench. Now in his seventh season in the maroon and white, the former Rabbitoh has finally found his niche in a link role where his skills and pace can prove decisive as games unfold.

But it's not as individuals where the Sea Eagles need improvement. It's as a collective in defense, and until they learn to defend their own errors, they will always be a rung or two below the top sides.

Rookies to watch

Manly showcased its vast array of junior talent in the club's opening trial against the Tigers at Leichhardt Oval. Playmaker Kaeo Weekes joined halfback Jamie Humphreys, hooker Gordon Chan Kum Tong and hat-trick hero Ray Vaega in a group of former SG Ball stars who are on track for an NRL call up in the foreseeable future.

Of the top squad, Tolutau Koula is the most likely to make the top grade at some point this season. With speed to burn, the 19-year-old who covers 100m in almost even time is worthy cover for any of the outside backs.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Ethan Bullemor (Brisbane)

OUTBOUND: Curtis Sironen (St Helens (UK)), Cade Cust (Wigan (UK)), Moses Suli, Jack Gosiewski (St Geo Illa), Tevita Funa (Rugby Union), Zac Saddler (released)

CONTRACTED LIST: Josh Aloiai, Morgan Boyle, Ethan Bullemor, Daly Cherry-Evans, Lachlan Croker, Andrew Davey, Sione Fainu, Kieran Foran, Reuben Garrick, Morgan Harper, Sean Keppie, Tolutau Koula, Karl Lawton, Haumole Olakau'atu, Brad Parker, Taniela Paseka, Jason Saab, Josh Schuster, Toafofoa Siple, Jorge Taufua, Martin Taupau, Ben Trbojevic, Jake Trbojevic, Tom Trbojevic, Christian Tuipulotu, Alec Tu'itavake, Dylan Walker

Predicted / best 17

1. Tom Trbojevic
2. Jason Saab
3. Brad Parker
4. Morgan Harper
5. Reuben Garrick
6. Kieran Foran
7. Daly Cherry-Evans
8. Martin Taupau
9. Lachlan Croker
10. Taniela Paseka
11. Haumole Olakau'atu
12. Josh Schuster
13. Jake Trbojevic
14. Josh Aloiai
15. Dylan Walker
16. Ethan Bullemor
17. Toafofoa Siple

2022 Fixture List

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2	Fri	18 Mar 22	20:05	Sydney	Manly	Central Coast Stadium
3	Sun	27 Mar 22	18:15	Manly	Canterbury	4 Pines Park
4	Sat	02 Apr 22	17:30	Manly	Canberra	Glen Willow, Mudgee
5	Thu	07 Apr 22	19:50	Newcastle	Manly	McDonald Jones
6	Sat	16 Apr 22	17:30	Manly	Gold Coast	4 Pines Park
7	Thu	21 Apr 22	19:50	Cronulla	Manly	PointsBet Stadium
8	Fri	29 Apr 22	19:55	Souths	Manly	Central Coast
9	Sat	07 May 22	15:00	Manly	Wests Tigers	4 Pines Park
10	Fri	13 May 22	20:05	Manly	Brisbane	Suncorp Stadium
11	Fri	20 May 22	19:55	Parramatta	Manly	CommBank Stadium
12	Thu	26 May 22	19:50	Melbourne	Manly	AAMI Park
13	Sat	04 Jun 22	19:35	Manly	Warriors	4 Pines Park
14	Sun	12 Jun 22	14:00	Wests Tigers	Manly	Campbelltown
15	Fri	17 Jun 22	18:00	Manly	North Qld	4 Pines Park
16	Thu	30 Jun 22	19:50	Manly	Melbourne	4 Pines Park
17		7-10 Jul 22		BYE		
18	Sat	16 Jul 22	17:30	Manly	Newcastle	4 Pines Park
19	Fri	22 Jul 22	18:00	St Geo Illa	Manly	Netstrata Jubilee
20	Thu	28 Jul 22	19:50	Manly	Sydney	4 Pines Park
21	Fri	05 Aug 22	19:55	Manly	Parramatta	4 Pines Park
22	Sun	14 Aug 22	16:05	Gold Coast	Manly	Cbus Super Stadium
23	Sat	20 Aug 22	17:30	Manly	Cronulla	4 Pines Park
24	Sat	27 Aug 22	15:00	Canberra	Manly	GIO Stadium
25	Fri	02 Sep 22	18:00	Canterbury	Manly	Accor Stadium

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES

INAUGURAL SEASON NSWRL 1947
2022 COACH Des HASLER
2022 CAPTAIN Daly CHERRY-EVANS
HOME GROUNDS 4 Pines Park (1947-2021)
HONOURS NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1972, 1973, 1976, 1978, 1987, 1996, 2008, 2011
 Craven Mild Cup 1980
 National Panasonic Cup 1982, 1983
 World Club Challenge 2009

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1947-2021 (excludes Northern Eagles '00-'02)
 Matches Played 1,659
 Won 944
 Lost 679
 Drawn 36
 Points For 32,681
 Points Against 27,232
 Biggest win 66-0 (66 pts) - Jul 3rd, 2021 - vs. Canterbury
 Biggest loss 6-68 (62 pts) - Aug 21st, 2005 - vs. Cronulla
 Most points scored 70-7 (70 pts) - Jul 29th, 1973 - vs. Penrith
 Most points conceded 12-72 (72 pts) - Aug 7th, 2004 - vs. Penrith

MELBOURNE STORM

Lachy MacCorquodale

Can the Melbourne Storm return to the peak of their powers in 2022?

It was a disappointing end to the Melbourne Storm's impressive 2021 season, bowing out in the Preliminary Finals to the eventual premiers, the Penrith Panthers.

It wasn't a shock result, but it was startling to see the Storm restricted to just one try after scoring 815 points over the course of the home and away season, the second most of all time.

Why They'll Win It

It's the Melbourne Storm. The powerhouse club has finished in the top two in each of the past six seasons and have participated in the Grand Final in four of those seasons. They have easily been the best club in the NRL over the past 20 years and with Craig Bellamy still at the helm, you could expect a similar result. The Storm still boast one of the best spines in the game and I'm sure no team in the competition is looking forward to seeing Ryan Papenhuyzen, Cameron Munster, Jahrome Hughes and Harry Grant line up against them. Unfortunately, over the course of last season, injuries affected all but Hughes' season as he was the only member of this Storm spine to appear in over 20 matches. If they can remain unaffected by injuries over the course of this season, they'll be a bloody hard team to stop based on their spine alone.

The Storm boasted the best attack (33.96 points/g) and the second best defence (11.9 points/g) during the 2021 season. It'd be hard to imagine that the Storm could replicate those 34 points scored a game, but they've got plenty of wiggle room as they conceded on average 20 less points than they scored per game. Even if their attack and defence were to slightly deteriorate in 2022, they'd still be one of the best teams in the competition.

A few will say that the loss of Josh Addo-Carr, Nicho Hynes and Dale Finucane will hamper the Storm this season, but this club has historically succeeded with their 'next man up' philosophy. There haven't been many instances where the Storm have 'missed' a player after their departure from Melbourne. Combine this with a determination to ensure that 2021 doesn't repeat itself, and you're looking at a dangerous team.

Why They Won't

The main reason for the Melbourne Storm not winning in 2022 lies in their Preliminary Final exit last season. After wiping the floor with the competition over the course of 25 rounds, the Storm struggled to conjure up points against the Penrith Panthers, despite averaging just shy of 34 points scored per game. The Panthers were the best defensive side in the competition last year, and they proved this in the Preliminary Final, holding the Storm to just six points even with just 46% of the possession. The Panthers frustrated the Storm with their strong defence, which saw Melbourne make a total of 16 errors in the match, six more than their season average.

The Panthers also prevailed against the Storm by two points earlier in the season, signifying that the Penrith defence may just be too good for the Storm to crack. The Storm only managed to score three tries in their two matches against the Panthers and this will no doubt be the focus of the Melbourne Storm off-season. If they can't figure out how to breakdown the Panthers' defence, then it could be a second straight season without a premiership trophy for the Storm.

Key Players

The stellar spine features the key players to any success that the Storm have throughout the 2022 season. Firstly, Cameron Munster, entering his ninth season with the Storm starts to enter the 'prime' age for players in his position. The 151-gamer scored seven tries and assisted 13 in his 20 appearances last year, whilst running for a career-high (at five-eighths) 113 metres per game. The 27-year-old will be disappointed with the end to his season and after getting himself into some off-season trouble, the Queenslander will no doubt be ready to fire. If fit,

the former Wally Lewis Medallist could be a chance to pick up the Dally M Player of the Year award if all goes well.

Munster's partnership has blossomed with Jahrome Hughes ever since the former fullback pulled on the number seven jersey for the Storm. Hughes, also 27, had the best season of his career in 2021, scoring nine tries and assisting 19 in his 24 appearances. No one could've seen this transformation coming as the Kiwi turned himself into one of the best number sevens in the game. Hughes also ran for 109 metres per game, and last year we saw how dangerous these two running halves can be when they're able to take advantage of opposition defences. Incredibly, the halfback has won 66 of his 82 appearances for the Storm at a baffling 80%-win rate. Playing for the Storm has its perks.

To think that these two star halves will be receiving passes from one of the best number nines in the game today is a scary thought, and this player arguably has the most room for growth this season. 24-year-old Harry Grant has only played 32 matches in the NRL thus far, after injuries saw him feature in 15 of his sides 26 games last season. This didn't stop the dummy-half from making an impact. Grant scored five tries and assisted a further nine over the course of last season, despite only starting in three matches' last season. Grant split time at the number nine with Brandon Smith last season, who had a magnificent season in his own right, but with Smith heading to the Roosters for the 2023 season, you'd expect Grant will be wearing the number nine jersey for the course of the season.

Playing a mix of dummy-half and lock in 2021, Smith had an incredible season scoring 11 tries in his 24 outings, whilst running for 96 metres. Smith will most likely be running out in the 13 jersey this season and as always will be a handful for opposition defences, particularly when they're defending their own line, where Smith is at his most dangerous.

Finally - credit to the Storm for having so many good players - Ryan Papenhuyzen will be ready to rip and tear in their round 1 clash against his junior club, the Wests Tigers. A breakout 2020, followed by an injury plagued 2021 which saw him miss out on an Origin debut gives the 23-year-old every reason to come out firing. Despite appearing in only 15 matches, the fullback still managed to score 14 tries and assist a further six as he helped take the Storm to yet another minor premiership. You could take about this group of players for days, but it's even better to watch these stars play. With these players at Craig Bellamy's disposal, it makes Melbourne one of the favourites to lift the Provan-Summons Trophy come October.

Rookies to watch

Earlier this year, Jack Howarth reportedly signed a deal worth \$2.5 million, keeping him at the club till 2027. This is an extraordinary contract for a 19-year-old who is yet to make his NRL debut. The back rower/centre made five appearances for the Sunshine Coast Falcons in the Queensland Cup last season. He averaged 87 metres per game and broke on average two tackles a game. There's not a great deal we know about Howarth but given that he was awarded with this contract by the Melbourne Storm, we can assume that the kid can play. I wouldn't imagine he'd break into the starting side this year but look out for Howarth to appear on the bench throughout the season.

Another player to watch at Melbourne in 2022 is Xavier Coates. Still just 20 years of age, Coates has played 32 games for the Brisbane Broncos, scoring 17 times and has incredibly represented Queensland on five occasions. He's by no means a rookie, but he could be in for a breakout season turning into one of the better wingers in the comp. It's a story we've seen with the likes of Suliasi Vunivalu and Josh Addo-Carr in the past and I wouldn't be surprised if it happens again for Coates. The 194cm winger, averaged 107 run metres, scoring 11 times in his 17 appearances. Solid numbers, but you can expect these to rise with his time in Melbourne.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Xavier Coates (Brisbane), Nick Meaney (Canterbury), Josh King (Newcastle), Jayden Nikorima (Redcliffe), William Warbrick (rugby union)

OUTBOUND: Josh Addo-Carr, Max King (Canterbury), Dale Finucane, Nicho Hynes (Cronulla), Aaron Pene (Warriors), Brenko Lee (Broncos), Aaron Booth (Gold Coast), Ryley Jacks (Bne Tigers (QRL)), Isaac Lumelume, Daniel Atkinson, Judda Turahui, Tyson Smoothy (released)

CONTRACTED LIST: Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Jesse Bromwich, Kenny Bromwich, Xavier Coates, Tom Eisenhuth, Jordan Grant, Harry Grant, Jack Howarth, Jahrome Hughes, Dean Ileremia, George Jennings, Cooper Johns, Tui Kamikamica, Felise Kaufusi, Josh King, Chris Lewis, Trent Loiero, Nick Meaney, Tepai Moeroa, Cameron Munster, Jayden Nikorima, Justin Olam, Ryan Papenhuyzen, Jonah Pezet, Brandon Smith, Reimis Smith, William Warbrick, Tyran Wishart, Christian Welch

Predicted / best 17

1. Ryan Papenhuyzen
2. Xavier Coates
3. Justin Olam
4. Reimis Smith
5. George Jennings
6. Cameron Munster
7. Jahrome Hughes
8. Christian Welch
9. Harry Grant
10. Jesse Bromwich
11. Felise Kaufusi
12. Kenny Bromwich
13. Brandon Smith

14. Nelson Asofa-Solomona
15. Tui Kamikamica
16. Josh King
17. Tom Eisenhuth

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2	Thu	17 Mar 22	20:05	Melbourne	Souths	AAMI Park
3	Sat	26 Mar 22	17:30	Melbourne	Parramatta	AAMI Park
4	Sun	03 Apr 22	16:05	Melbourne	Canterbury	AAMI Park
5	Sat	09 Apr 22	15:00	Canberra	Melbourne	Wagga Wagga
6	Sat	16 Apr 22	19:35	Melbourne	Cronulla	AAMI Park
7	Mon	25 Apr 22	19:00	Melbourne	Warriors	AAMI Park
8	Sun	01 May 22	14:00	Newcastle	Melbourne	McDonald Jones
9	Sun	08 May 22	14:00	Melbourne	St Geo Illa	AAMI Park
10	Sat	14 May 22	19:45	Melbourne	Penrith	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sat	21 May 22	17:30	North Qld	Melbourne	Qld Country Bank
12	Thu	26 May 22	19:50	Melbourne	Manly	AAMI Park
13		2-5 Jun 22		BYE		
14	Sat	11 Jun 22	17:30	Sydney	Melbourne	SCG
15	Fri	17 Jun 22	19:55	Melbourne	Brisbane	AAMI Park
16	Thu	30 Jun 22	19:50	Manly	Melbourne	4 Pines Park
17	Thu	07 Jul 22	19:50	Cronulla	Melbourne	PointsBet Stadium
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19	Sat	23 Jul 22	19:35	Souths	Melbourne	Accor Stadium
20	Fri	29 Jul 22	18:00	Warriors	Melbourne	Mt Smart Stadium
21	Fri	05 Aug 22	18:00	Melbourne	Gold Coast	AAMI Park
22	Thu	11 Aug 22	19:50	Penrith	Melbourne	BlueBet Stadium
23	Fri	19 Aug 22	19:55	Brisbane	Melbourne	Suncorp Stadium
24	Fri	26 Aug 22	19:55	Melbourne	Sydney	AAMI Park
25	Thu	01 Sep 22	19:50	Parramatta	Melbourne	CommBank Stadium

MELBOURNE STORM

INAUGURAL SEASON	NRL 1998
2022 COACH	Craig BELLAMY
2022 CAPTAIN	Jesse BROMWICH & Christian WELCH
HOME GROUNDS	AAMI Park (2010-2021) Marvel Stadium (2001, 2008, 2010) Olympic Park Stadium (1998-2000, 2002-2009) Sunshine Coast Stadium (2020-2021)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1999, 2012, 2017, 2020 World Club Challenge 2000, 2010, 2013, 2018

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1998-2021	
Matches Played	630
Won	420
Lost	204
Drawn	6
Points For	15,311
Points Against	10,359
Biggest win	64-0 (64 pts) - Jul 5th, 2001 - vs. Wests Tigers 68-4 (64 pts) - Aug 4th, 2013 - vs. Canberra
Biggest loss	4-50 (46 pts) - Jun 4th, 2000 - vs. St George Illawarra 4-50 (46 pts) - Aug 10th, 2003 - vs. Canterbury
Most points scored	70-10 (70 pts) - Mar 3rd, 2000 - vs. St George Illawarra
Most points conceded	10-54 (54 pts) - Jul 20th, 2001 - vs. Parramatta

NEWCASTLE **KNIGHTS**

Lachy MacCorquodale

Can Newcastle Knights finish in the top eight for the third season running? Or will a Pearce-less Knights sink?

The Knights once again finished in seventh spot in 2021 before bowing out to the Parramatta Eels in the opening week of the finals series. Newcastle charged into the eight by winning five of their last six to qualify for the finals after a poor start to the season, winning just five of their first 14 matches. Mitchell Pearce's departure to Catalans can't be understated and it wouldn't be a surprise to see them lack direction over the course of the season. Not only are the Knights fighting to stay in the eight for a third straight season, but they'll be battling for Kalyn Ponga's signature, who has a player option in his favour for both the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

Why They'll Win It

The Newcastle Knights were formidable at home in 2021, winning eight of their 12 fixtures at McDonald Jones Stadium. If they can maintain this home record and improve their away record (4-8 in 2021), they could well and truly see themselves finishing the season with 14-15 wins, which should give you a home qualifying final. During the past two seasons the Knights have finished in seventh place and therefore haven't been awarded a home final and seeing how they performed away last season, it's no surprise they've bowed out in the first round in successive seasons.

The Knights still boast a solid forward pack featuring the likes of Tyson Frizell, David Klemmer and the Saifiti twins. Three of the four have represented New South Wales and are decorated footballers. A return to their top form will not only help the Knights chances of winning the competition, but it'll provide Kalyn Ponga with a steady base to play his best football from. Imagine the young lad behind a barnstorming pack.

Ponga is really the key to the Knights season, if he can stay fit and healthy, his impact will be no doubt felt throughout the competition. At 23 years of age, he is entering the age where it is expected of this calibre of player to cement himself as one of the best in the game. We've seen what Ponga can do, the key is doing that over the course of the full season and if he can figure that out, watch out for the Knights.

Why They Won't

Despite qualifying for the finals, the Knights were still a long way off the teams that finished above them. Newcastle played against the top six sides on seven occasions in 2021 and only managed to win once, defeating the Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles in Round 12. Finishing 1-6 against the top six won't help you win the competition when you are bound to run into these teams at the pointy end of the season. All six of the losses saw the Knights lose by 14 points or more, not only were they just losing, but they were getting pumped by the top six sides. They'll require serious improvement if they are to turn this record around and with departures for both Mitchell Pearce and Connor Watson, it's hard to see the Knights improving.

Defence was a key issue for the Knights over the course of the 2021 season, conceding 23.8 points per game. It's almost impossible to win the premiership when leaking points each week, considering that they only scored 17.8 points per game. It's hard to expect the Knights to turn both these numbers around and with the lack of squad improvement, don't expect them to finish near the top of the ladder.

Key Players

Their star fullback, Kalyn Ponga, will be pivotal to the Newcastle Knights season, increasingly so with the departure of Mitchell Pearce to the Super League. The 23-year-old has struggled with injury last season, only playing in 15 of the Knights 25 matches throughout the year. However, Ponga made his impact felt in those matches. The Queensland Origin star scored eight tries and assisted 14 during his time on the park last season, whilst also averaging 145 run metres per game. He's been a dangerous player ever since his debut back in 2016 and if he manages to stay fit for the duration of the 2022 season, expect to see some fireworks. A new attacking weapon that Ponga will have at his disposal is 31-year-old centre, Dane Gagai. Gagai returns to Newcastle after having played 128 games with them before his time in South Sydney. The Origin centre had a stellar 2021 as he helped guide the Rabbitohs to the Grand Final. Gagai scored 10 tries, assisted 14 and ran for 131 run metres per game in his 23 appearances. If that's not enough for you, he made 15 Line breaks to go with it. It'll no doubt be tougher for Gagai to find himself in attacking positions compared to his time with the Rabbitohs, but the new signing brings a new dynamic to the Knights side.

Front row duo, Daniel Saifiti and David Klemmer will no doubt be important for the Knights in the upcoming season as they'll need to provide the Knights with momentum going forward, allowing Ponga and co the room to do what they do best. Both capped at Origin level, Saifiti and Klemmer both ran for 150 or more metres per game last season, 150 and 164 respectively. Combine this with the 28 tackles per game that they both make, you've got a proficient front row.

Rookies to watch

The Knights enter 2022 with plenty of familiar faces, not leaving much room for any rookies to come through. Although the Knights boast several players that are at the beginning of the career, for some, looking for that chance to cement a spot in the starting 13. One of those players, Adam Clune, will get a good shot at the number seven jersey after 25 games for the St. George Illawarra Dragons over the past two seasons.

Clune had been in and out of the Dragons line up but showed glimpses with his nine try assists and 10 forced drop outs at his time at the club. He'll partner Jake Clifford, who joined the club halfway through last season after 42 games with the North Queensland Cowboys. Ideally, these two will be the halves for the season and with both dying for a regular spot in first grade, you'd expect them to be ready to fire.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Dane Gagai (South Sydney), Adam Clune (St Geo Illa)

OUTBOUND: Blake Green (retired), Connor Watson (Sydney), Josh King (Melbourne), Starford To'a (Wests Tigers), Gehamat Shibusaki (rugby union), Mitchell Pearce (Catalans (SL)), Tex Hoy (unsigned)

CONTRACTED LIST: Mitch Barnett, Bradman Best, Jayden Brailey, Jake Clifford, Adam Clune, Phoenix Crossland, Lachlan Fitzgibbon, Tyson Frizell, Dane Gagai, Bailey Hodgson, Hymel Hunt, Jack Johns, Brodie Jones, Jacob Kiraz, David Klemmer, Kurt Mann, Jirah Momoisea, Brayden Musgrove, Kalyn Ponga, Chris Randall, Daniel Saifiti, Jacob Saifiti, Simi Sasagi, Pasami Saulo, Sauaso Sue, Enari Tuala, Dominic Young

Predicted / best 17

1. Kalyn Ponga
2. Enari Tuala
3. Dane Gagai
4. Bradman Best
5. Hymel Hunt
6. Jake Clifford
7. Adam Clune
8. Daniel Saifiti
9. Chris Randall
10. David Klemmer
11. Tyson Frizell
12. Lachlan Fitzgibbon
13. Mitchell Barnett
14. Kurt Mann
15. Jacob Saifiti
16. Brodie Jones
17. Pasami Saulo

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	12 Mar 22	15:00	Sydney	Newcastle	SCG
2	Sun	20 Mar 22	16:05	Newcastle	Wests Tigers	McDonald Jones
3	Sat	26 Mar 22	15:00	Penrith	Newcastle	Carrington Park
4	Fri	01 Apr 22	18:00	Cronulla	Newcastle	PointsBet Stadium
5	Thu	07 Apr 22	19:50	Newcastle	Manly	McDonald Jones
6	Sun	17 Apr 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	Newcastle	WIN Stadium
7	Sun	24 Apr 22	14:00	Newcastle	Parramatta	McDonald Jones
8	Sun	01 May 22	14:00	Newcastle	Melbourne	McDonald Jones
9	Sat	07 May 22	19:35	North Qld	Newcastle	Qld Country Bank
10	Fri	13 May 22	18:00	Canterbury	Newcastle	Suncorp Stadium
11	Thu	19 May 22	19:50	Newcastle	Brisbane	McDonald Jones
12	Sat	28 May 22	15:00	Warriors	Newcastle	Moreton Daily
13		2-5 Jun 22		BYE		
14	Sun	12 Jun 22	16:05	Newcastle	Penrith	McDonald Jones
15	Sun	19 Jun 22	14:00	Canberra	Newcastle	GIO Stadium
16	Fri	01 Jul 22	18:00	Newcastle	Gold Coast	McDonald Jones
17	Fri	08 Jul 22	19:55	Newcastle	Souths	McDonald Jones
18	Sat	16 Jul 22	17:30	Manly	Newcastle	4 Pines Park
19	Fri	22 Jul 22	19:55	Newcastle	Sydney	McDonald Jones
20	Sun	31 Jul 22	14:00	Newcastle	Canterbury	McDonald Jones
21	Sun	07 Aug 22	16:05	Wests Tigers	Newcastle	Campbelltown
22	Sat	13 Aug 22	19:35	Brisbane	Newcastle	Suncorp Stadium
23	Sun	21 Aug 22	16:05	Newcastle	Canberra	McDonald Jones
24	Sun	28 Aug 22	16:05	Gold Coast	Newcastle	Cbus Super Stadium
25	Sun	04 Sep 22	14:00	Newcastle	Cronulla	McDonald Jones

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

INAUGURAL SEASON NSWRL 1988
 2022 COACH Adam O'BRIEN
 2022 CAPTAIN Jayden BRAILEY, Kalyn PONGA
 HOME GROUNDS McDonald Jones Stadium (1988-2021)
 HONOURS NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL)
 1997, 2001

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1988-2021
 Matches Played 825
 Won 388
 Lost 420
 Drawn 17
 Points For 16,677
 Points Against 17,629
 Biggest win 60-0 (60 pts) - Aug 8th, 1999 - vs. South Sydney
 Biggest loss 6-71 (65 pts) - May 27th, 2007 - vs. Brisbane
 Most points scored 70-32 (70 pts) - Mar 19th, 2006 - vs. Canberra
 Most points conceded 6-71 (71 pts) - May 27th, 2007 - vs. Brisbane

NORTHQUEENSLAND COWBOYS

Andrew Jackson

When Todd Payten took over North Queensland, the incoming coach had a bold plan - one the Cowboys seemingly should have embraced a long time ago.

It had been six years since North Queensland lifted the premiership trophy and still the Cowboys were stuck in the past, trying to find success with a method that was stale and in need of change. Insert Payten, who came in promising a completely new set-up and approach, all with the aim of getting North Queensland back up to speed with the faster pace of the modern game.

Payten was the breath of fresh air the Cowboys so desperately needed but when it failed to equate to results on the field, there were doubts that maybe he was trying to do too much, too soon. The Jason Taumalolo experiment on the edge failed to fire while finding the right position for North Queensland's other million-dollar man - Valentine Holmes - proved a challenge. As did the lack of certainty in the halves and so Payten went to the market and lured premiership-winning halfback Chad Townsend up north. The price tag raised eyebrows given Townsend's form at Cronulla but his experience and leadership should, even in the short-term, pay dividends.

Should the halves picture become clearer, the Cowboys have the ingredients for a spine capable of contending for the finals with spark from Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow and Reece Robson. There are also promising youngsters coming through the system in the middles. Whether Payten is willing to embrace their potential ahead of safer options up front will determine how far the Cowboys go in 2022.

Why They'll Win It

They won't. But, if there was anything that worked for the Cowboys last year and could help them in 2022, it was capitalising on the pace Robson and Tabuai-Fidow played with when on the field. Robson has proven quite the astute pick-up, getting through the hard work in defence but still having enough energy to pose a threat out of dummy-half. His ability to spot tired defenders is underrated and will continue to prove an ace up North Queensland's sleeve with Tabuai-Fidow trailing in support from the back.

While it necessarily did not work this season, another positive for Payten's men is the sheer number of players they used in the 2021 season. Obviously injuries and inconsistent form is not conducive to immediate success, but the fact that the Cowboys had to use 35 players last year (third-most in NRL) will also set them up well for what shapes as another disrupted season. Payten also blooded six debutants last season, another positive to take out of an otherwise disappointing season that could lead to better results this time around.

Why They Won't

Defence and simple errors.

Fixing the defence remains the biggest priority for Payten after the Cowboys conceded on average over 31 points a game last season. Also, even when the Cowboys were near full-strength last year, errors and simple mistakes continued to prove an obstacle and left Payten increasingly frustrated.

"Every time we gained some momentum we made a pretty basic error, drop our heads and we haven't got the resilience to fight our way out of it," he said after a tight loss to the Dragons.

Payten was not afraid to be brutally honest in post-match press conferences and while there is a balance to strike between constant criticism and encouragement, it was refreshing to see. He clearly is not hiding from the enormity of the task ahead and that can only be positive considering too often coaches seem hesitant to publicly admit what everyone else is thinking.

Payten though was also criticised last season for being too stubborn, with his insistence

on continuing the Taumalolo edge experiment one example. That was not Payten's only questionable decision, also coming under scrutiny for persisting with Coen Hess on the edge and the underperforming Jordan McLean and Josh McGuire up front. Hess had played Origin on the edge before so it is understandable to think his best footy is in the second row but the 25-year-old looked at his best when his game was simplified - namely just running hard and fast in the middle.

As for McLean, the Cowboys have plenty of young front rowers who offer more dynamics better suited for the faster-paced game.

This is a young North Queensland squad and sometimes McLean's experience alone is important enough to justify his spot but form ultimately has to be the deciding factor. Should Payten continue to make the wrong decisions on key personnel, the Cowboys will struggle to lift themselves from the bottom of the ladder.

North Queensland's schedule - how it stacks up

With the Bulldogs, Broncos, Roosters (twice), Warriors, Raiders, Tigers and Knights in the opening rounds of the season, the Cowboys have a serious chance to make a strong start to the 2022 season. There are games against the Roosters and Eels that you can pretty much put down as losses already but those other matches are certainly winnable for Payten's men.

The only problem is that North Queensland made a strong start last season and look where it got them - nowhere. So, should the Cowboys capitalise on a relatively soft draw early on, the key will be to not have the same mid-season wobbles that saw them plummet to the bottom of the ladder. Fortunately for Payten though, the rest of the draw really is not that bad for the Cowboys.

The Panthers, Roosters and Titans are the only top-eight teams from last season that North Queensland play twice. Although, having two matches against the Bulldogs and Broncos, for example, is hardly a boost this season given both are tipped to be big improvers.

Key players

How Payten uses Holmes and Taumalolo will obviously be key given the fact both take up in excess of \$2 million on the Cowboys' roster every season. But it is the halves picture that will decide how the Cowboys go this year.

In Scott Drinkwater, North Queensland have a promising five-eighth to partner alongside Townsend. Defence is still a concern for Drinkwater but will come with time for the 24-year-old, who finished last season with 17 try assists. While Dearden could be a long-term option in the halves, he will benefit from spending time under Townsend's guidance and developing his game away from the spotlight. Regardless, Drinkwater is the better foil for Townsend given his creativity and threatening running game. Dearden has shown himself capable to take the line on but stylistically is too similar to Townsend.

Rookies to watch

Look for Helium Luki to make a big jump in 2022 after a breakout rookie season. The home-grown product recently re-signed with the Cowboys until the end of the 2025 season in a clear sign he is part of their future. It is not hard to see why he would be as one of North Queensland's greatest weaknesses has been the lack of firepower in the second row and Luki will be a key part of solving it.

Speaking of explosive second rowers with potential, Jeremiah Nanai is another one to continue to look out for. The 19-year-old managed just four games last year but again should be at the centre of North Queensland's plans for the future. In the middle, Griffin Neame is another one who showed glimpses last year and will push for a bench spot.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Peta Hiku, Jamayne Taunua-Brown (Warriors), Chad Townsend (Sharks via Warriors), Brendan Elliot (Leigh (UK))

OUTBOUND: Michael Morgan, Justin O'Neill, Javid Bowen, Lachlan Burr (retired), Francis Molo (St Geo Illa), Corey Jensen (Brisbane), Peter Hola (Canberra), Shane Wright (Salford (UK)), Michael Bell (released)

CONTRACTED LIST: Daejarn Asi, Kane Bradley, Ben Condon, Reuben Cotter, Tom Dearden, Scott Drinkwater, Mitchell Dunn, Kyle Feldt, Tom Gilbert, Jake Granville, Ben Hampton, Coen Hess, Peta Hiku, Valentine Holmes, Connelly Lemuelu, Heilum Luki, Jordan McLean, Laitia Moceidreke, Jeremiah Nanai, Griffin Neame, Emry Pere, Reece Robson, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Murray Tualagi, Jason Taumalolo, Jamayne Taunua-Brown, Chad Townsend

Predicted / best 17

1. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow
2. Kyle Feldt
3. Valentine Holmes
4. Peta Hiku
5. Murray Tualagi
6. Scott Drinkwater
7. Chad Townsend
8. Jordan McLean
9. Reece Robson
10. Jason Taumalolo
11. Jeremiah Nanai
12. Heilum Luki
13. Reuben Cotter
14. Jake Granville
15. Coen Hess
16. Tom Gilbert
17. Griffin Neame

2022 Fixture List

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1	Sun	13 Mar 22	18:15	North Qld	Canterbury	QLD Country Bank
2	Sat	19 Mar 22	19:35	North Qld	Canberra	QLD Country Bank
3	Sun	27 Mar 22	16:05	Brisbane	North Qld	Suncorp Stadium
4	Sat	02 Apr 22	19:35	North Qld	Sydney	QLD Country Bank
5	Fri	08 Apr 22	18:00	Warriors	North Qld	Moreton Daily
6	Thu	14 Apr 22	19:50	Canberra	North Qld	GIO Stadium
7	Sat	23 Apr 22	17:30	North Qld	Gold Coast	QLD Country Bank
8	Sat	30 Apr 22	19:35	Parramatta	North Qld	TIO Stadium, Darwin
9	Sat	07 May 22	19:35	North Qld	Newcastle	QLD Country Bank
10	Sun	15 May 22	18:25	Wests Tigers	North Qld	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sat	21 May 22	17:30	North Qld	Melbourne	QLD Country Bank
12	Fri	27 May 22	18:00	Penrith	North Qld	BlueBet Stadium
13	Thu	02 Jun 22	19:50	Gold Coast	North Qld	Cbus Super Stadium
14	Fri	10 Jun 22	19:55	North Qld	St Geo Illa	QLD Country Bank
15	Fri	17 Jun 22	18:00	Manly	North Qld	4 Pines Park
16	Sat	02 Jul 22	17:30	North Qld	Brisbane	QLD Country Bank
17		7-10 Jul 22		BYE		
18	Fri	15 Jul 22	18:00	North Qld	Cronulla	QLD Country Bank
19	Sun	24 Jul 22	16:05	North Qld	Wests Tigers	QLD Country Bank
20	Sun	31 Jul 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	North Qld	Netstrata Jubilee
21	Sun	07 Aug 22	14:00	Canterbury	North Qld	Bundaberg
22	Sat	13 Aug 22	15:00	Sydney	North Qld	SCG
23	Fri	19 Aug 22	18:00	North Qld	Warriors	QLD Country Bank
24	Sat	27 Aug 22	19:35	Souths	North Qld	Accor Stadium
25	Sat	03 Sep 22	19:35	North Qld	Penrith	QLD Country Bank

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS

INAUGURAL SEASON	ARL 1995
2022 COACH	Todd PAYTEN
2022 CAPTAIN	Chad TOWNSEND & Jason TAUMALOLO
HOME GROUNDS	Queensland Country Bank Stadium (2020-2021) Willows Sports Complex (1995-2019)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 2015

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1995-2021

Matches Played	664
Won	274
Lost	384
Drawn	6
Points For	13,409
Points Against	15,492
Biggest win	64-6 (58 pts) - Aug 9th, 2014 - vs. Wests Tigers
Biggest loss	4-66 (62 pts) - Aug 27th, 1995 - vs. Canterbury
	0-62 (62 pts) - Aug 23rd, 1998 - vs. North Sydney
	0-62 (62 pts) - Jul 29th, 2001 - vs. Parramatta
Most points scored	64-6 (64 pts) - Aug 9th, 2014 - vs. Wests Tigers
Most points conceded	4-66 (66 pts) - Aug 27th, 1995 - vs. Canterbury
	10-66 (66 pts) - Apr 14th, 1996 - vs. Canberra

PARRAMATTA EELS

Elementary

The term "Premiership window" is used in just about every professional team sport to describe any given team's statistical chances of securing a championship, and cliched as it may be, it often stands to the scrutiny of the public.

It has often been declared over the last two seasons that the Parramatta Eels' Premiership window is open - but that it is rapidly closing, and currently remains just barely ajar.

But the general consensus should be that there is no need to hit the panic button yet; despite a gradual (and, at times, worrying) slip down the ladder in 2021, the Eels finished the regular season in sixth place - primed, and ready, to give the NRL a real shake. And through their campaign to win their elusive fifth Premiership, they were once again eliminated in the second round of the Finals.

The Eels of 2021 finished the regular season with the fourth best defence in the NRL, but the seventh best attack (for a net result of the sixth best points differential in the league after 25 rounds). The Eels leaked fewer points than Premiership heavyweights Manly, and the Sydney Roosters; however, they scored more points than only the teams below them on the ladder.

So, is the Premiership window closing? Is it a case of "panic now"? Is there a reason to remain optimistic? There are some clear question marks hanging over Parramatta, but there should also be undertones of genuine excitement for Eels fans for season 2022.

Why They'll Win It

Parramatta are able to boast a forward pack which - at least on paper - stands out as one of the most robust, and varied, in the NRL. Bolstered by NSW Origin prop Junior Paulo, the variety of body shapes, play styles, and skills, adds a little point of difference to the Eels' forward pack that should be the envy of many other teams.

Shaun Lane - despite some weaknesses surrounding his motor - is tall, skilful, and very quick for a forward; Reagan Campbell-Gillard is a defensive anchor, and provides serious punch up the middle with his powerful runs; Ryan Matterson (despite his form being slightly down in 2021) is an elite defensive edge forward, with skills to add some flair to his attacking repertoire; Nathan Brown is a terrier, who never stops, and provides some energy, and aggression, to the pack; Isaiah Papali'i had a breakout 2021, and seemingly breaks tackles just for fun; Junior Paulo can just as easily trample over the top of someone, as he can pop an offload to a support runner, or throw a cut-out pass to his playmakers; and Reed Mahoney is a defensive terrier, with intelligence, and skill.

Parramatta's gameplan for many seasons now has been to play simple football, to focus on controlling the ball, and dominating the ruck - and with a forward pack as powerful, mobile, and skilful, as Parramatta's, it is no wonder that the gameplans have been designed this way. Mitchell Moses continues his impressive maturation as a footballer - Moses is now a more than reliable defensive halfback, but also boasts quite a few exciting tricks in his bag of skills, that can create opportunities for himself, or his teammates. His partner in crime, Dylan Brown, is the best defensive half in the NRL; his attacking skill set is still developing, but he possesses great footwork, acceleration, and strength, and his short kicking game is improving every year.

Parramatta's outside backs are big, powerful bodies, who can ruck the ball out early in the count, and find the try line in the red zone, and they are ably led by the "The King", Clint Gutherson - a veritable perpetual motion machine that has no off switch.

Why They Won't

There are three key questions that will need to be addressed by Parramatta, in order to see how they fare in 2022.

Firstly, can they work on their attack? While it is true that Parramatta's defence has consistently been a feature among the NRL's top 4 sides over the last four seasons, the Eels' inability to score points at times has been rather perplexing - and, to some degree, worrying. A side that boasts Waqa Blake, Maika Sivo (when fit), Mitchell Moses, Dylan Brown, Will Penisi, and Clint Gutherson, should be able to find the stripe a little more consistently.

Panic football has been a hallmark of this side for a few seasons, and Parramatta's ability to dial it back, and play patient football, will play a crucial role in determining their fate in 2022.

Secondly, the Eels are among the least experienced sides when it comes to Finals football - especially among those in the top 4. This factor has been mitigated somewhat by the fact the Eels have been a consistent presence in the post-season for some time now, as well as the fact that several key Eels were able to make their representative debuts for senior representative teams in recent years. However, when the pressure is on, and the clock is ticking, skill will only get you so far; experience, and the ability to make the right decisions under pressure, become an invaluable commodity during the post-season campaign, and the Eels are somewhat of an unknown quantity in this department.

Finally, the last issue that threatens to potentially wreak havoc on Parramatta's 2022 Premiership assault is that of their roster - specifically, the fact that several key members of the squad will be leaving after 2022, and there are questions as to how the team's chemistry will be affected. Reed Mahoney, Oregon Kaufusi, Isaiah Papali'i, and Marata Niukore headline the exodus of talent heading to other clubs in 2023. Of those players, the only genuinely established player in the Eels' line-up is Reed Mahoney; Kaufusi is yet to break into the team as a full-time member; Papali'i - despite a huge effort in 2021 - has yet to prove that he can back this performance up for another season; and Niukore (despite being a mainstay in the Eels side for several years) has mostly been a bench player.

However, they all have their parts to play, and they have all been instrumental in helping to get Parramatta to where they are now; it remains to be seen how their departures will affect team chemistry.

Key Players

Mitchell Moses holds the keys to the kingdom of Parramatta, and essentially has the Eels' fate in his hands. It is Moses who will determine how patient, and intelligently, the Eels will play in attack; it is Moses who will direct the side around the paddock, to exploit defensive weaknesses.

It is fair to say that Moses' game has improved since he joined the Eels; he is now a solid defensive halfback, and he has become more reliable with his general play, relying less on highlight reel plays, and more on percentage plays. But this maturation needs to continue, to give the Eels any chance.

Rookies to watch

Jayden Yates ins an exciting prospect at hooker for Parramatta, and with Mahoney departing at the end of 2022, Yates may find himself getting some game time in 2022. Yates is a bigger body than Mahoney, but also possesses an ability to read the game that rivals Mahoney's; while his general skill level may not be up to Mahoney's yet, Yates is able to see what is in front of him, and sum it up in the blink of an eye, and generally makes the right moves.

Solomone Naiduki is your prototypical Fijian flyer - tall, quick, powerful, and with a knack of scoring tries, he is certainly one to watch for 2022. David Hollis has been a project at the Eels for many years; tall, agile, mobile, and with an incessant motor, Hollis would be a handy player to have come off the bench at times throughout 2022.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Bailey Simonsson (Canberra), Mitch Rein (Gold Coast)

OUTBOUND: Joey Lussick (St Helens (UK)), Will Smith (Gold Coast), Blake Ferguson (Rugby Union), Michael Oldfield, Sam Hughes, Jordan Rankin (released), Keegan Hipgrave (retired)

CONTRACTED LIST: Jakob Arthur, Waqa Blake, Dylan Brown, Nathan Brown, Reagan Campbell-Gillard, Bryce Cartwright, Haze Dunster, Clint Gutherson, Wiremu Greig, David Hollis, Oregon Kaufusi, Shaun Lane, Reed Mahoney, Makahesi Makatoa, Ryan Matterson, Mitchell Moses, Solomon Naiduki, Marata Niukore, Tom Opacic, Isaiah Papali'i, Junior Paulo, Will Penisini, Hayze Perham, Sean Russell, Bailey Simonsson, Maika Sivo, Ray Stone

Predicted / best 17

1. Clint Gutherson (C)
2. Bailey Simonsson
3. Will Penisini
4. Waqa Blake
5. Haze Dunster
6. Dylan Brown
7. Mitchell Moses
8. Junior Paulo (C)
9. Reed Mahoney
10. Reagan Campbell-Gillard
11. Isaiah Papali'i
12. Ryan Matterson
13. Nathan Brown
14. Mitch Rein
15. Oregon Kaufusi
16. Marata Niukore
17. Shaun Lane

2022 Fixture List

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2	Sat	19 Mar 22	17:30	Cronulla	Parramatta	PointsBet Stadium
3	Sat	26 Mar 22	17:30	Melbourne	Parramatta	AAMI Park
4	Sun	03 Apr 22	18:15	Parramatta	St Geo Illa	CommBank Stadium
5	Sat	09 Apr 22	19:35	Gold Coast	Parramatta	Cbus Super Stadium
6	Mon	18 Apr 22	16:00	Parramatta	Wests Tigers	CommBank Stadium
7	Sun	24 Apr 22	14:00	Newcastle	Parramatta	McDonald Jones
8	Sat	30 Apr 22	19:35	Parramatta	North Qld	TIO Stadium Darwin
9	Fri	06 May 22	19:55	Penrith	Parramatta	BlueBet Stadium
10	Sun	15 May 22	16:05	Sydney	Parramatta	Suncorp Stadium
11	Fri	20 May 22	19:55	Parramatta	Manly	CommBank Stadium
12	Sun	29 May 22	16:05	Canberra	Parramatta	GIO Stadium
13		2-5 Jun 22		BYE		
14	Mon	13 Jun 22	16:00	Canterbury	Parramatta	Accor Stadium
15	Sat	18 Jun 22	19:35	Parramatta	Sydney	CommBank Stadium
16	Sat	02 Jul 22	19:35	Souths	Parramatta	Accor Stadium
17	Sat	09 Jul 22	19:35	Wests Tigers	Parramatta	Leichhardt Oval
18	Fri	15 Jul 22	19:55	Parramatta	Warriors	CommBank Stadium
19	Thu	21 Jul 22	19:50	Parramatta	Brisbane	CommBank Stadium
20	Fri	29 Jul 22	19:55	Parramatta	Penrith	CommBank Stadium
21	Fri	05 Aug 22	19:55	Manly	Parramatta	4 Pines Park
22	Fri	12 Aug 22	19:55	Parramatta	Souths	CommBank Stadium
23	Sat	20 Aug 22	15:00	Parramatta	Canterbury	CommBank Stadium
24	Thu	25 Aug 22	19:50	Brisbane	Parramatta	Suncorp Stadium
25	Thu	01 Sep 22	19:50	Parramatta	Melbourne	CommBank Stadium

PARRAMATTA EELS

INAUGURAL SEASON NSWRL 1947
2022 COACH Brad ARTHUR
2022 CAPTAIN Clint GUTHERSON & Junior PAULO
HOME GROUNDS CommBank Stadium (2019-2021)
 Accor Stadium (2016-2019)
 Parramatta Stadium (1986-2016)
 Belmore Sports Ground (1982-1985)
 Cumberland Oval (1947-1981)
HONOURS NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL)
 1981, 1982, 1983, 1986
 Craven Mild Cup
 1975
 National Panasonic Cup
 1980, 1986

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1947-2021
 Matches Played 1,708
 Won 788
 Lost 880
 Drawn 40
 Points For 29,796
 Points Against 31,400
 Biggest win 74-4 (70 pts) - Aug 23rd, 2003 - vs. Cronulla
 Biggest loss 0-68 (68 pts) - Aug 22nd, 1993 - vs. Canberra
 Most points scored 74-4 (74 pts) - Aug 23rd, 2003 - vs. Cronulla
 Most points conceded 0-68 (68 pts) - Aug 22nd, 1993 - vs. Canberra

PENRITH PANTHERS



Josh Robertson

In the last few years when penning these yearly columns, I've talked about Penrith 'promising the world, but delivering an atlas' - coming so close to doing so in 2020 made way for the incredible year that was 2021 - where they just about delivered the whole universe for the club and its fans.

The question for 2022, is can the Panthers put aside the emotion of winning the 2021 premiership and become one of the rare teams to go back-to-back, in what will be the final season at the club's long-time home stadium in Penrith before it's knocked down and rebuilt.

There were (and will always be) people who claim Penrith were "lucky" in 2020 and 2021, but in Rugby League, you need to create your own luck and opportunities - that is exactly what the Panthers can do again in 2022. The Panthers finished second on the NRL ladder, and what is forgotten by many is that it was only on for-and-against that Penrith finished behind the Storm, and that they were a better defensive side - conceding 30 fewer points than the side that was considered "far and away the best" of the year.

Managing to have a season like this yet again will be tough for Penrith, with a number of key losses. The other 15 clubs will be gunning for Penrith, who showed that despite being the star team of the past two seasons, they are not infallible and there are plenty of chinks in the armour.

Why They'll Win It

Desire - within. This isn't a squad of players or a club that is looking for five minutes of success, they are looking to create a dynasty. Whilst the mainframe of the squad is still there, there will never be a drop in intent, or of pride in the jersey and they will continue to look for multiple premierships. With the likes of Dylan Edwards, Jarome Luai, Nathan Cleary, Brian To'o, Stephen Crichton in the squad for a long time to come, these are players that always looking to go to the next level and seek continued success.

The Panthers' squad is still very strong despite the key losses, and stability in key positions is what is going to help them in 2022, with a wide variety of players. Penrith is blessed with talent, with the speed of players like Charlie Staines, intercept king Crichton as well the power of To'o at the back and then having the likes of James Fisher-Harris, Isaah Yeo and Viliame Kikau who all bring their own unique qualities to the outfit.

Why They Won't

Desire - everywhere else. The rest of the competition will be nipping at the heels of the Panthers. With the likes of Parramatta developing strongly and the result of last year's semi-final, the Eels, in particular, will want to try and get revenge on the Panthers and as defending premiers, they will have a target on their back.

A number of key departures are going to hurt too, with the likes of Kurt Capewell and Matt Burton in particular, their leaving creating a gap in squad depth. This is especially true with Burton, who was only selected in the Panthers side as a makeshift centre but became one of the form players of the competition, as well moving into the halves when needed by Ivan Cleary.

Capewell's impact with the ball will be missed, his impact to create opportunities for the Panthers leaving a significant gap. His ball-playing skill and his hole running ability is going to be missed.

Key Players

It would be pretty obvious to see Nathan Cleary as Penrith's key player, especially after returning from his shoulder injury. But looking away from the obvious, the performances of players such as James Fisher-Harris and Isaah Yeo are going to be the most important.

Fisher-Harris is the forward leader for the Panthers and the impact that he can have going forward is going to be vital for the mountain men. He also possesses very good ball-playing skills that can make things difficult for the opposition.

Yeo meanwhile is a calm head that makes the right move when the Panthers are looking frantic in attack, settling things down. A strong ball runner and ball player, his ability to take the settling run is what makes him a key figure.

Much maligned by fans of other clubs (God knows why), Dylan Edwards is a fan favourite at the Panthers and his efforts in the finals series and in particular the Grand Final win - where he had a broken foot - were impressive and showed why he is an important player. He possesses good strength and his work at the back will anchor Penrith's attack.

Rookies to watch

Having made his debut in 2021, J'maine Hopgood has been a star for the Panthers, coming through the grades from SG Ball up, following his move down from Queensland. Playing either second row or up front, Hopgood is a solid player who brings a lot to the team with hard running, good speed and footwork as well as the ball-playing ability that can cause issues to all sorts of teams.

Elsewhere, the letters 'MG' are synonymous with Penrith, and now not just in the past. 'MG' now has a big future at the foot of the mountains, through the big force that is Mark's Geyer's son Mavrik. A star in the lower grades, the Panthers have signed Mav on a development contract after beating out the Storm. Their faith was shown in the opening trial weekend when Penrith dominated at Commbank Stadium against the Sharks. The new Geyer possesses the strength to burst through any sort of defence but also has good speed of which - once he gets into open space - he is hard to catch.

Moving away from the forwards, to a player still eligible for the Jersey Flegg competition for another three seasons. Izack Tago is looking likely to take a starting spot for the Panthers in 2022. The youngster is another member of a potent backline development out in Penrith and has impressed in six matches in 2021. Tago can produce magic at the drop of the hat so he will be a player to watch this season.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Sean O'Sullivan (Warriors), Chris Smith, Christian Crichton (Canterbury)

OUTBOUND: Matt Burton, Brent Naden, Tevita Pangai Junior (Canterbury), Kurt Capewell (Brisbane), Paul Momirovski (Sydney), Tyrone May (Catalans (SL))

CONTRACTED LIST: Eddie Blacker, Nathan Cleary, Christian Crichton, Stephen Crichton, Dylan Edwards, Matt Eisenhuth, Kurt Falls, James Fisher-Harris, J'maine Hopgood, Robert Jennings, Mitch Kenny, Viliame Kikau, Api Koroisau, Spencer Leniu, Moses Leota, Jarome Luai, Liam Martin, Taylan May, Sean O'Sullivan, Jaeman Salmon, Lindsay Smith, Scott Sorensen, Charlie Staines, Izack Tago, Brian To'o, Isaah Yeo

Predicted / best 17

1. Dylan Edwards
2. Charlie Staines
3. Izack Tago
4. Stephen Crichton
5. Brian To'o
6. Jarome Luai
7. Nathan Cleary
8. Moses Leota
9. Api Koroisau
10. James Fisher-Harris
11. Viliame Kikau
12. Liam Martin
13. Isaah Yeo

14. Mitch Kenny
15. Scott Sorensen
16. Spencer Lenin
17. J'maine Hopgood

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Thu	10 Mar 22	20:05	Penrith	Manly	BlueBet Stadium
2	Fri	18 Mar 22	18:00	St Geo Illa	Penrith	Netstrata Jubilee
3	Sat	26 Mar 22	15:00	Penrith	Newcastle	Carrington Park
4	Fri	01 Apr 22	20:05	Penrith	Souths	BlueBet Stadium
5	Sun	10 Apr 22	18:15	Canterbury	Penrith	CommBank Stadium
6	Fri	15 Apr 22	19:55	Penrith	Brisbane	BlueBet Stadium
7	Sun	24 Apr 22	16:05	Penrith	Canberra	BlueBet Stadium
8	Fri	29 Apr 22	18:00	Gold Coast	Penrith	Cbus Super Stadium
9	Fri	06 May 22	19:55	Penrith	Parramatta	BlueBet Stadium
10	Sat	14 May 22	19:45	Melbourne	Penrith	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sat	21 May 22	19:35	Sydney	Penrith	SCG
12	Fri	27 May 22	18:00	Penrith	North Qld	BlueBet Stadium
13	Fri	03 Jun 22	19:55	Penrith	Canterbury	BlueBet Stadium
14	Sun	12 Jun 22	16:05	Newcastle	Penrith	McDonald Jones
15	Sat	18 Jun 22	17:30	Warriors	Penrith	Mt Smart Stadium
16	Fri	01 Jul 22	19:55	Penrith	Sydney	BlueBet Stadium
17		7-10 Jul 22		BYE		
18	Sun	17 Jul 22	14:00	Wests Tigers	Penrith	CommBank Stadium
19	Sat	23 Jul 22	17:30	Penrith	Cronulla	BlueBet Stadium
20	Fri	29 Jul 22	19:55	Parramatta	Penrith	CommBank Stadium
21	Sat	06 Aug 22	17:30	Canberra	Penrith	GIO Stadium
22	Thu	11 Aug 22	19:50	Penrith	Melbourne	BlueBet Stadium
23	Thu	18 Aug 22	19:50	Souths	Penrith	Accor Stadium
24	Fri	26 Aug 22	18:00	Penrith	Warriors	BlueBet Stadium
25	Sat	03 Sep 22	19:35	North Qld	Penrith	Qld Country Bank

PENRITH PANTHERS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NSWRL 1967
2022 COACH	Ivan CLEARY
2022 CAPTAIN	Isaah YEO & Nathan CLEARY
HOME GROUNDS	Bluebet Stadium (1967-2021)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1991, 2003, 2021 Craven Mild Cup 1968

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1967-2021	
Matches Played	1,305
Won	582
Lost	694
Drawn	29
Points For	24,152
Points Against	25,898
Biggest win	72-12 (60 pts) - Aug 7th, 2004 - vs. Manly
Biggest loss	7-70 (63 pts) - Jul 29th, 1973 - vs. Manly
Most points scored	72-12 (72 pts) - Aug 7th, 2004 - vs. Manly
Most points conceded	12-74 (74 pts) - Aug 10th, 2008 - vs. Canberra

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

Justin Davies

Year two of the Anthony Griffin experience gets underway as St George Illawarra hope to turn back into contenders instead of pretenders like late 2021.

2021 left a bad taste in a lot of Dragons fans' mouths after the disappointing back-end to the year - the now infamous 'BBQ scandal' which saw them lose every game after Round 16.

It also spelt the end for some more divisive characters in the side. Before that, the Dragons were breathing fire, highlighted by a four-game win streak including a bruising victory over Parramatta.

Now, Griffin has got the broom out and remodeled the team to - hopefully - become a side that sparks joy for the Red V faithful in 2022.

Moses Suli, Francis Molo, Jaydn Su'A and Moses Mbye are the four names that will see the most action this season. Adding them to some exciting talent coming through the ranks might see them get out of the bottom rung.

The first six weeks of the season is tough for the Dragons with five of their games against teams who made the top eight in 2021, including both Grand Finalists in Penrith and Souths.

If they can find at least two or three wins in that passage of the season, it might set them up for a solid year. If not, it might be a long, long season for the Red V.

One positive for the joint venture is the youth that will see extended time in 2022. Tyrell Sloan and Talatau Amone will likely start in Round 1 and bring fans some joy.

Combine them with Ben Hunt hopefully having a full season, and the Dragons should be competitive in every game - but still have a while to go before they are contenders for both the top eight and the Provan-Summons Trophy.

Why They'll Win It

I mean they won the Charity Shield - which is like a Grand Final in recent seasons for the Dragons - after their decade long drought.

Oh, you meant the regular season? I guess if they can replicate the form before 'BBQ-gate'.

A good kicking game from Ben Hunt, some spark from their backline including the fabulous

Mikaele Ravalawa and Zac Lomax connection and a workman forward pack could see them march back into that number ('that number' being the top eight!).

Why They Won't

There are still a ways to go before the Dragons are a contender again. There are some good pieces in place already in the backline and spine to create attack. The problem is being consistent and getting it all together at one time.

A lot of the signings from coach Anthony Griffin can be considered boom-or-bust and if they are the latter, it might be another long year for the Saints.

Key Players

Every year seems to be a referendum on Ben Hunt. The halfback is under constant pressure due to usually either his form or his contract.

Last year, he showed tremendous leadership as Dragons captain but again, he'll be key to them going anywhere with the youngsters around him.

Dragons coach Anthony Griffin went bargain shopping in the off-season, finishing with a much changed forward pack for his troubles.

If the likes of Francis Molo, George Burgess and Aaron Woods can supplement the big signing of Jaydn Su'A, the Dragons pack might be able to take over some games much like they did in early 2021.

Rookies to watch

It might be considered cheating to choose three people here, but I think it is warranted to give Dragons fans some hope going forward.

The triumvirate of spine players who should get plenty of game time this season in Tyrell Sloan, Talatau Amone and Jayden Sullivan all had cameos in 2021. Now they will be thrust into the spotlight and hopefully help turn the fortunes around.

Amone should get first crack at the halves alongside Ben Hunt, while Sloan will take the fullback role and has already shown his exciting talent in scoring half a dozen tries in his late season cameo. Sullivan has been this writer's 'pick of the bunch' since his first appearance. He will come off the bench as a utility but has the spark to turn a game on its head quickly.

ST GEORGE DRAGONS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NSWRFL 1921
HOME GROUNDS	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium (1950-1985, 1989-1998) Earl Park (1925-1939) Pratten Park (1922-1924) Hurstville Oval (1921-1923, 1940-1949)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1941, 1949, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1977, 1979 City Cup 1959 Craven Mild Cup 1963, 1964, 1965, 1971 National Panasonic Cup 1988

ILLAWARRA STEELERS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NSWRFL 1982
HOME GROUNDS	WIN Stadium (1982-1998)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) None Tooheys Challenge Cup 1992



Player Movements

INBOUND: Jaydn Su'A, Tautau Moga (South Sydney), Francis Molo (North Qld), George Burgess (Wigan), Moses Mbye (Wests Tigers), Moses Suli, Jack Gosiewski (Manly), Aaron Woods (Cronulla)

OUTBOUND: Eddie Blacker (Penrith), Tyran Wishart (Melbourne), Cameron McInnes (Cronulla), Matt Dufty, Paul Vaughan (Canterbury), Adam Clune (Newcastle), Jordan Pereira (Brisbane), Kaide Ellis (Wigan (UK)), Brayden Wiliame (Rugby Union), Hayden Lomax (Temora (Group 9)), Corey Norman (retired), Gerard Beale, Billy Brittain (released)

CONTRACTED LIST: Daniel Alvaro, Talatau Amone, Jack Bird, George Burgess, Billy Burns, Jack de Belin, Mat Feagai, Max Feagai, Poasa Faamausili, Jackson Ford, Tyrell Fuimaono, Jack Gosiewski, Ben Hunt, Josh Kerr, Blake Lawrie, Zac Lomax, Moses Mbye, Andrew McCullough, Josh McGuire, Tautau Moga, Francis Molo, Cody Ramsey, Mikaele Ravalawa, Tariq Sims, Tyrell Sloan, Jaydn Su'A, Moses Suli, Jayden Sullivan, Aaron Woods

Predicted / best 17

1. Tyrell Sloan
2. Cody Ramsay
3. Moses Suli
4. Zac Lomax
5. Mikaele Ravalawa
6. Talatau Amone
7. Ben Hunt
8. Francis Molo
9. Andrew McCullough
10. Blake Lawrie
11. Jaydn Su'A
12. Jack Bird
13. Jack De Belin
14. Moses Mbye
15. Tariq Sims
16. George Burgess
17. Aaron Woods

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	12 Mar 22	17:30	Warriors	St Geo Illa	Sunshine Coast
2	Fri	18 Mar 22	18:00	St Geo Illa	Penrith	Netstrata Jubilee
3	Thu	24 Mar 22	20:05	St Geo Illa	Cronulla	WIN Stadium
4	Sun	03 Apr 22	18:15	Parramatta	St Geo Illa	CommBank Stadium
5	Sat	09 Apr 22	17:30	Souths	St Geo Illa	Accor Stadium
6	Sun	17 Apr 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	Newcastle	WIN Stadium
7	Mon	25 Apr 22	16:00	St Geo Illa	Sydney	SCG
8	Sun	01 May 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	Wests Tigers	WIN Stadium
9	Sun	08 May 22	14:00	Melbourne	St Geo Illa	AAMI Park
10	Sat	14 May 22	17:30	Gold Coast	St Geo Illa	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sat	21 May 22	15:00	St Geo Illa	Warriors	Netstrata Jubilee
12	Sun	29 May 22	14:00	Canterbury	St Geo Illa	Belmore S.G.
13		2-5 Jun 22		BYE		
14	Fri	10 Jun 22	19:55	North Qld	St Geo Illa	Qld Country Bank
15	Thu	16 Jun 22	19:50	St Geo Illa	Souths	WIN Stadium
16	Sun	03 Jul 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	Canberra	WIN Stadium
17	Sun	10 Jul 22	16:05	Brisbane	St Geo Illa	Suncorp Stadium
18	Sat	16 Jul 22	15:00	Sydney	St Geo Illa	Central Coast
19	Fri	22 Jul 22	18:00	St Geo Illa	Manly	Netstrata Jubilee
20	Sun	31 Jul 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	North Qld	Netstrata Jubilee
21	Sat	06 Aug 22	19:35	Cronulla	St Geo Illa	PointsBet Stadium
22	Sun	14 Aug 22	14:00	Canberra	St Geo Illa	GIO Stadium
23	Sun	21 Aug 22	14:00	St Geo Illa	Gold Coast	WIN Stadium
24	Sun	28 Aug 22	14:00	Wests Tigers	St Geo Illa	CommBank Stadium
25	Sat	03 Sep 22	17:30	St Geo Illa	Brisbane	Netstrata Jubilee

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NRL 1999
2022 COACH	Anthony GRIFFIN
2022 CAPTAIN	Ben HUNT
HOME GROUNDS	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium (1999, 2003-2007, 2009-2021) WIN Stadium (1999-2021) Allianz Stadium (2000-2002, 2014-2016)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 2010 World Club Challenge 2011

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1999-2021	
Matches Played	577
Won	286
Lost	285
Drawn	6
Points For	12,160
Points Against	11,521
Biggest win	54-0 (54 pts) - May 6th, 2000 - vs. Warriors
Biggest loss	10-70 (60 pts) - Mar 3rd, 2000 - vs. Melbourne
Most points scored	58-16 (58 pts) - Aug 18th, 2002 - vs. South Sydney 58-16 (58 pts) - Jul 8th, 2007 - vs. Canberra
Most points conceded	10-70 (70 pts) - Mar 3rd, 2000 - vs. Melbourne

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

Jason Hosken

With a rookie coach and juniors ripe for the picking, South Sydney's season hinges on how quickly they integrate with the established stars.

As they brace for the post Wayne Bennett era, the rise of Cameron Murray looks set to continue with new coach Jason Demetriou crowning the Blues regular with the Rabbitohs captaincy.

Yet for the untested coach and 24-year-old skipper, it's the void left by Brisbane bound talisman Adam Reynolds that will threaten their sleep the most.

Falling just one game shy of the grand final for three consecutive seasons, Souths finally broke the shackles in 2021 and with a touch of luck in a tense decider could have easily edged past the Panthers for the club's 22nd title. Still blessed with a core of experienced big names, Souths' season rests on the ability of Bennett's former right-hand man to elevate a host of fresh faced talent. With the likes of Blake Taaffe and new playmaker Lachlan Ilias, Demetriou's reputation at harvesting junior talent will be crucial in the Rabbitohs' push for a fifth consecutive top-four finish.

Anthony Milford's on-again, off-again signing has evaporated, leaving Isaiah Tass (Brisbane), Michael Chee-Kam (Wests Tigers) and Siliva Havili (Canberra) as the new faces of an underwhelming recruitment campaign. But if the red and green need anyone, it's Latrell Mitchell. In a competition dominated by teams fielding elite fullbacks, injuries and suspension have prevented the dual premierships winner from firing a finals shot in each of his two seasons at Redfern.

With Damien Cook and Cody Walker still central to a potent spine, the addition of Mitchell at the pointy end of the season is a must if Souths fans are to repeat the premierships celebrations of 2014.

Why They'll Win It

The Rabbitohs are no strangers to defying the odds. Mitchell's brain explosion and season ending suspension saw them widely written off before last year's finals. But on grand final night there they were, just a split hair away from hoisting the first trophy awarded outside of Sydney.

Reynolds and Dane Gagai are the big name departures but apart from the loss of Jaydn Su'A to the Dragons, the grand final pack remains the same. And with the likes of Tom Burgess and Jai Arrow coming off the bench, the Rabbitohs' upfront clout still ranks among the best in the competition.

In the halves, Cody Walker's legs should be screaming. But like a modern day Cliff Lyons, the 32-year-old back-to-back George Piggins Medal winner is aging better than a Barossa Valley Shiraz. And with a bag of tricks complemented by an ever growing maturity, look for Walker to guide his young halves partner to the same lofty heights.

Then there's that lethal left edge. Where the hypnotic combination of Walker and Alex Johnston should see the winger continue to strike at better than a try a game.

And don't discount the at times conservative Damien Cook. If anything, Reynolds' sea change may just free up the Origin hooker to dazzle on a more regular basis.

But in the end, the evolution of Souths' local talent could be about to pay dividends. Generation Next might be stealing the latest headlines but the team's point of difference could lie in the unassuming Campbell Graham and the power of Keaon Koloamatangi. Now on the cusp of higher honors, their next step in an already formidable lineup may just be enough to take the Redfern boys all the way.

Why They Won't

Adam Reynolds and Benji Marshall departed Redfern with plenty of kilometres under the hood, but with over 500 games between them that's a vault load of smarts out the door.

Then there's the small matter of Wayne Bennett's return to Queensland. You only have to look at Anthony Seibold and Danny Buderus to understand just how tough it is to slot into the masters' well worn boots. Jason Demetriou could well have the goods, but betting on a premierships in his first year is definitely one for the irresponsible.

South Sydney's schedule - how it stacks up

Souths kick-off their campaign with road trips to Brisbane and Melbourne. While round 3 won't be any easier against a Roosters side desperate to square up with Latrell Mitchell.

And with Demetriou sweating on the transition of untried combinations, a grand final rematch at Penrith could prove telling in what rounds out a brutal opening month to the Rabbitohs' season. Rounds 5 to 15 appear much friendlier, with Manly and the Gold Coast the only two sides from last season's finals.

The Origin period scrubs up well too, where selected stars will only miss the round 17 away clash to the Knights.

On the flipside, Demetriou's initiation is riddled with traps. The Sea Eagles aside, Souths meet each of last season's top six teams on two occasions. And just like the opening month, the closing rounds present just as many headaches. But if the Rabbitohs aren't chasing their tail, then the Eels, Penrith and Roosters inside the final four weeks may yet prove to be the perfect build-up for another tilt at the title.

In terms of travel, home games against Canberra and the Warriors have been relocated to Dubbo and the Sunshine Coast. Overall, a total of five games will be played interstate.

Key Players

It's an argument for a rainy day, but Souths fans have every right to believe Latrell Mitchell's absence at the business end of the past two seasons has cost them two premierships.

Entering his third season in the red and green, Mitchell's strength and leadership in the absence of Reynolds and to a lesser extent Marshall is a non-negotiable if Demetriou's side is to repeat the club's mad dash to last season's grand final. With Cook and Walker still at the helm guiding a relatively young and energetic group, the Rabbitohs are shoe-ins for a fifth successive finals campaign. Though come September, it will be the imposing Taree junior who they will want on board more than any other.

Rookies to watch

Blake Taaffe and Lachlan Ilias are the rookies on everyone's lips but they're just two of seven in the top squad who share a combined tally of just 14 NRL appearances between them. Taaffe is set to retain the No.1 jumper until Mitchell's round 3 return while Ilias, a former junior rugby union representative, is poised to partner Walker in the halves. Out wide, veteran winger Josh Mansour has a fight on his hands with a stack of speedy talent also eyeing a spot in Demetriou's top 17.

Journeyman Taane Milne and top-grade regular Jaxson Paulo lead the charge for the vacant wing and centre positions, but don't be surprised if at least one of Isaiah Tass, Terrell Kalo Kalo and Zane Bijorac crack a spot as the season unfolds. Upfront, prop Davvy Moale will be keen to build on his two appearances in 2021, while there's big wraps on Peter Mamouzelos to cover the dummy-half duties.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Isaiah Tass (Brisbane), Michael Chee-Kam (Wests Tigers), Siliva Havili (Canberra)

OUTBOUND: Adam Reynolds (Brisbane), Jaydn Su'A, Tautau Moga (St Geo Illa), Dane Gagai (Newcastle), Josh Cook, Braidon Burns (Canterbury), Patrick Mago (Wigan - UK), Troy Dargan, Brock Gardner, Steven Marsters, Dean Hawkins (released), Benji Marshall (retirement)

CONTRACTED LIST: Jai Arrow, Zane Bijorac, Thomas Burgess, Jed Cartwright, Michael Chee Kam, Damien Cook, Campbell Graham, Siliva Havili, Jacob Host, Lachlan Ilias, Alex Johnston, Terrell Kalo Kalo, Liam Knight, Keaon Koloamatangi, Peter Mamouzelos, Josh Mansour, Anthony Milford, Taane Milne, Latrell Mitchell, Davvy Moale, Cameron Murray, Mark Nicholls, Jaxson Paulo, Hame Sele, Blake Taaffe, Isaiah Tass, Tevita Tatola, Cody Walker

Predicted / best 17

1. Latrell Mitchell
2. Alex Johnston
3. Campbell Graham
4. Jaxson Paulo
5. Taane Milne
6. Cody Walker
7. Lachlan Ilias
8. Tom Burgess
9. Damien Cook
10. Tevita Tatola
11. Jacob Host
12. Keaon Koloamatangi
13. Cameron Murray
14. Jai Arrow
15. Mark Nicholls
16. Liam Knight
17. Blake Taaffe

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Fri	11 Mar 22	20:05	Brisbane	Souths	Suncorp Stadium
2	Thu	17 Mar 22	20:05	Melbourne	Souths	AAMI Park
3	Fri	25 Mar 22	20:05	Souths	Sydney	Accor Stadium
4	Fri	01 Apr 22	20:05	Penrith	Souths	BlueBet Stadium
5	Sat	09 Apr 22	17:30	Souths	St Geo Illa	Accor Stadium
6	Fri	15 Apr 22	18:00	Souths	Canterbury	Stadium
7	Sat	23 Apr 22	19:35	Wests Tigers	Souths	CommBank Stadium
8	Fri	29 Apr 22	19:55	Souths	Manly	Central Coast
9	Thu	05 May 22	19:50	Souths	Brisbane	Accor Stadium
10	Sat	14 May 22	15:00	Warriors	Souths	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sun	22 May 22	14:00	Souths	Canberra	Apex Oval Dubbo
12	Sat	28 May 22	17:30	Souths	Wests Tigers	Accor Stadium
13		2-5 Jun 22		BYE		
14	Sat	11 Jun 22	15:00	Gold Coast	Souths	Cbus Super Stadium
15	Thu	16 Jun 22	19:50	St Geo Illa	Souths	WIN Stadium
16	Sat	02 Jul 22	19:35	Souths	Parramatta	Accor Stadium
17	Fri	08 Jul 22	19:55	Newcastle	Souths	McDonald Jones
18	Sun	17 Jul 22	18:15	Canterbury	Souths	Accor Stadium
19	Sat	23 Jul 22	19:35	Souths	Melbourne	Accor Stadium
20	Sat	30 Jul 22	17:30	Cronulla	Souths	PointsBet Stadium
21	Sat	06 Aug 22	15:00	Souths	Warriors	Sunshine Coast
22	Fri	12 Aug 22	19:55	Parramatta	Souths	CommBank Stadium
23	Thu	18 Aug 22	19:50	Souths	Penrith	Accor Stadium
24	Sat	27 Aug 22	19:35	Souths	North Qld	Accor Stadium
25	Fri	02 Sep 22	19:55	Sydney	Souths	TBC

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

INAUGURAL SEASON

NSWRFL 1908

2022 COACH

Jason DEMETRIOU

2022 CAPTAIN

Cameron MURRAY

HOME GROUNDS

Accor Stadium (2006-2021), Allianz Stadium (1988-2017), Redfern Oval (1948-1996), Sydney Sports Ground (1911-1952), RAS Showground (1908-1920)

HONOURS

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL)

1908, 1909, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1931,

1932, 1950, 1951, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 2014

City Cup 1912, 1921, 1924, 1925

Craven Mild Cup 1966, 1969, 1972, 1978

National Panasonic Cup 1981

Tooheys Challenge Cup 1994

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1908-2021

Matches Played 2,206

Won 1,151

Lost 1,009

Drawn 46

Points For 38,485

Points Against 37,946

Biggest win 67-0 (67 pts) - Jul 23rd, 1910 - vs. Western Suburbs

Biggest loss 0-66 (66 pts) - Jun 25th, 2006 - vs. Warriors

Most points scored 67-0 (67 pts) - Jul 23rd, 1910 - vs. Western Suburbs

Most points conceded 0-66 (66 pts) - Jun 25th, 2006 - vs. Warriors

SYDNEY ROOSTERS

Adam Huxtable

Roosters look to prove that the best ability truly is availability

The Roosters have long been considered one of the benchmark teams of the NRL, having missed the top 4 only twice in the last nine seasons. 2021 was one of those "down" years for the chooks, finishing fifth and bowing out of the finals in week two for the second time in a row.

While many clubs would look at the overall season the Roosters had last year and deem it a success, those involved with the club would certainly see it as falling short of the ultimate goal - winning a premiership. While the tri-colours 16 wins and 8 losses in 2021 looks great on paper, they finished a dismal 1-7 against opponents higher than them on the ladder (incl. finals), a trend which Trent Robinson will be keen to address in 2022.

However, it may be unfair to judge the Roosters season based solely on those facts. Injuries were a huge hurdle all season for the Red, White and Blue, using an NRL equal-high number of players (33) throughout the season and key players such as Brett Morris, Luke Keary, Lindsay Collins, Victor Radley and Billy Smith all missing significant time on the field due to injury or suspension. They also lost club stalwarts Jake Friend and Boyd Cordner to retirement early in the year.

For the Roosters, 2022 is set to be another year of premiership contention. Not only are the injured players set to make a return and hopefully stay on the field, but the absences of 2021 gave first grade experience to those who otherwise wouldn't have sniffed an NRL jumper until much later, star rookie half Sam Walker being a prime example.

Why They'll Win It

Come finals time, do you trust anyone more than James Tedesco and Luke Keary to deliver the play for the match winning try? Anyone more than Jared Waerea-Hargreaves or Victor Radley to come up with the big hit and jar the ball free from the opposition? Anyone more than Joseph Manu to create something out of nothing in the last 5 minutes when the whips are cracking.

There's a reason I used those players; they were all there in 2018 and 2019 when the Roosters went back-to-back. The Roosters have perhaps the most big-game experience of any team in the competition, they know what it takes not only to make it to those games, but to win them. I didn't even mention Trent Robinson, the man who many credit for the Roosters still being competitive last year despite the historic injury toll. Imagine what he could do with a fully healthy team loaded with talent. Oh wait, we don't need to, we've already seen it. Multiple times.

Why They Won't

Sure, the triumphs of 2018/19 were great. They really were. But it simply isn't the same game anymore, and the Roosters haven't truly looked like the same team since then. The Roosters of

yesteryear don't concede 42 points in a win or go home finals match. Hell, they were lucky to even be in that position, if Patrick Herbert had passed the ball the week prior, they would've been knocked out by a 10-14 Titans team.

It's easy to simply say that with the return of key players, everything will be fixed, and the Roosters will win the premiership. That scenario could play out, but it is far from a guarantee. Defence is and always has been the most important part of Rugby League. The Panthers averaged just 10.5 points per game in last year's finals series, but were still able to emerge as premiers due solely to their elite defence that always kept them in the game. The Roosters conceded an average of 25 points per game against top 8 teams last year, and it is hard to say with any confidence that the famed "Bondi Wall" will be returning. There are still question marks around Sam Verrills' ability to fill the defensive void left by Jake Friend, and Sio-Siua Taukeiaho took a noticeable step backwards last year. The Roosters backline is also fairly inexperienced, having to replace the ever-reliable Morris twins.

Key Players

Luke Keary is by far the most significant inclusion for the Roosters in 2022. The two games he did play in 2021 were superb and gave every indication he was going to continue to play his best footy. An ACL tear in Round 3 ended his season prematurely and was the first in a long line of "what if" events for the club. Now, Keary is set to return alongside rookie sensation Sam Walker, and how successful their combination proves will be a critical factor in determining how the Roosters fare.

Victor Radley would be the first to admit that the last two years of his career haven't gone exactly to plan. He spent parts of 2020 and 2021 sidelined with an ACL injury, and when he did eventually return, he got himself suspended for a further 9 games for various incidents against the Broncos. It was a huge blow for Radley, but an even bigger one for his team, who sorely missed the star lock's ability to create through his ball playing. When Radley is playing well, there are few better, but he simply must stay on the field this season if he wants to get his respect as well as contribute like we know he can to this Roosters team.

Breakthrough player to watch

I touched on him briefly earlier; Sam Walker has the potentially to truly go to the next level this season. While we saw flashes of his brilliance last year, there were times when the lights were simply too bright, which is not unexpected of an 18-year-old who's been thrust into first grade ahead of schedule. This year, he's had a full offseason to bulk up and further ready himself for the brutal week in week out contact of an NRL player, while the re-addition of Keary will only create more opportunities for the 19-year old as he looks to cement not only his status as the Roosters starting halfback going forward, but as one of Rugby League's elite number 7's.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Connor Watson (Newcastle), Renouf Atoni (Canterbury), Paul Momirovski (Penrith), Kevin Naiqama (St Helens (SL))

OUTBOUND: Jake Friend, Boyd Cordner, Brett Morris, Josh Morris, Dale Copley (retired), Isaac Liu (Gold Coast), Matt Ikuvalu (Cronulla)

CONTRACTED LIST: Renouf Atoni, Fletcher Baker, Egan Butcher, Nat Butcher, Lindsay Collins, Angus Crichton, Moala Graham-Taufa, Drew Hutchison, Luke Keary, Adam Keighran, Lachlan Lam, Freddy Lussick, Joey Manu, Paul Momirovski, Victor Radley, Billy Smith, Joseph Suaalii, Daniel Suluka-Fifita, Siosiaua Taukeiaho, James Tedesco, Daniel Tupou, Sitili Tupouniua, Sam Verrills, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Sam Walker, Connor Watson, Naufahu Whyte

Predicted / best 17

1. James Tedesco (c)
2. Daniel Tupou
3. Paul Momirovski
4. Joseph Manu
5. Billy Smith
6. Luke Keary
7. Sam Walker
8. Jared Waerea-Hargreaves
9. Sam Verrills
10. Lindsay Collins
11. Angus Crichton
12. Sitili Tupouniua
13. Victor Radley
14. Connor Watson
15. Sio Siva Taukeiaho
16. Egan Butcher
17. Nat Butcher

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	12 Mar 22	15:00	Sydney	Newcastle	SCG
2	Fri	18 Mar 22	20:05	Sydney	Manly	Central Coast
3	Fri	25 Mar 22	20:05	Souths	Sydney	Accor Stadium
4	Sat	02 Apr 22	19:35	North Qld	Sydney	QLD Country Bank
5	Fri	08 Apr 22	19:55	Brisbane	Sydney	Suncorp Stadium
6	Sun	17 Apr 22	14:00	Sydney	Warriors	SCG
7	Mon	25 Apr 22	16:00	St Geo Illa	Sydney	SCG
8	Sat	30 Apr 22	17:30	Canterbury	Sydney	Accor Stadium
9	Sat	07 May 22	17:30	Sydney	Gold Coast	BB Print Mackay
10	Sun	15 May 22	16:05	Sydney	Parramatta	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sat	21 May 22	19:35	Sydney	Penrith	SCG
12	Sat	28 May 22	19:35	Cronulla	Sydney	PointsBet Stadium
13	Sun	05 Jun 22	16:05	Canberra	Sydney	GIO Stadium
14	Sat	11 Jun 22	17:30	Sydney	Melbourne	SCG
15	Sat	18 Jun 22	19:35	Parramatta	Sydney	CommBank Stadium
16	Fri	01 Jul 22	19:55	Penrith	Sydney	BlueBet Stadium
17		7-10 Jul 22		BYE		
18	Sat	16 Jul 22	15:00	Sydney	St Geo Illa	SCG
19	Fri	22 Jul 22	19:55	Newcastle	Sydney	McDonald Jones
20	Thu	28 Jul 22	19:50	Manly	Sydney	4 Pines Park
21	Thu	04 Aug 22	19:50	Sydney	Brisbane	SCG
22	Sat	13 Aug 22	15:00	Sydney	North Qld	SCG
23	Sat	20 Aug 22	19:35	Sydney	Wests Tigers	SCG
24	Fri	26 Aug 22	19:55	Melbourne	Sydney	AAMI Park
25	Fri	02 Sep 22	19:55	Sydney	Souths	TBC

SYDNEY ROOSTERS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NSWRL 1908
2022 COACH	Trent ROBINSON
2022 CAPTAIN	James TEDESCO
HOME GROUNDS	Sydney Cricket Ground (1928-2021), Allianz Stadium (1988-2018) Sydney Sports Ground (1911-1986), RAS Showground (1908-1930)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1911, 1912, 1913, 1923, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1940, 1945, 1974, 1975, 2002, 2013, 2018, 2019 City Cup 1914, 1915, 1916 Craven Mild Cup 1974, 1977, 1979, 1981 National Panasonic Cup 1975, 1978 World Club Challenge 1976, 2003, 2014, 2019, 2020

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1908-2021	
Matches Played	2,278
Won	1,215
Lost	994
Drawn	69
Points For	40,949
Points Against	36,064
Biggest win	87-7 (80 pts) - May 18th, 1935 - vs. Canterbury
Biggest loss	4-66 (62 pts) - Apr 15th, 1990 - vs. Canberra
Most points scored	87-7 (87 pts) - May 18th, 1935 - vs. Canterbury
Most points conceded	4-66 (66 pts) - Apr 15th, 1990 - vs. Canberra

WARRIORS

Robert Crosby

Nomads hope for a return to the promised land

Few teams have faced a level of sustained adversity quite like the New Zealand Warriors during the era of COVID.

Heading into their third straight year based in a foreign land, the Warriors will be eyeing off two grand returns in 2022 - a top eight finish and, more importantly, a homecoming across the Tasman.

Setting up camp in Redcliffe following two seasons on the Central Coast and in the Queensland bubble, coach Nathan Brown will be hoping to reverse a trend of close losses after watching his side fall agonisingly short by six points or less on seven occasions throughout last season, including a trio of one-point defeats that saw the side finish the year in 12th position.

Bidding farewell to captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck following an influential six season stint, the return of Shaun Johnson shapes as a monumental move for the club in turning closely-fought contests into wins and nurturing the likes of Reece Walsh and Chanel Harris-Tavita through the rigours of first grade rugby league. Additional signings include emerging prop Aaron Pene, on-loan outside-back Jesse Arthurs and recently upgraded half Ashley Taylor.

Opening the new campaign with a Saturday evening clash against the Dragons on the Sunshine Coast, the Warriors are tentatively scheduled for a long overdue homecoming in July opposite the Tigers.

Why They'll Win It

When Shaun Johnson was shown the door at the end of the 2018 season, few would have envisioned the superstar half ever returning to the land of the long white cloud. Fast forward three years and Johnson's homecoming looms as one of the most significant signings made by the club over the past decade. Returning from Cronulla as a more mature player, the 31-year-old has been able to refine his skills as a game manager rather than relying upon the flamboyance that made him a New Zealand icon as a younger man. With the side losing a host of matches by narrow margins last year, the addition of Johnson may provide the polish needed to reverse those results into wins.

Why They Won't

For as gallant as the Warriors have been since the onset of the pandemic, the toll of perpetually playing away from home has unquestionably seen the resolve of the playing group waver at times.

Wilting in the face of adversity against Melbourne and South Sydney last year, the most damning performance came in the final round encounter with the Titans where the build up of frustrations spilled over into ugly scenes during the closing stages.

While the pressures of the nomadic lifestyle has resulted in some inspired displays of resilience over the past two years, it is hard to see the Warriors continuing to play with tenacity three years into the pandemic should results prove hard to come by and another variant of the virus emerge.

Warriors' draw - how their schedule stacks up

Opening the year with four matches against bottom eight teams over the opening five rounds, the Warriors will face a difficult fortnight towards the end of April with clashes against the Roosters and Storm on the road.

Scheduled to play their first match in New Zealand in three years following the second State of Origin fixture, the side will relish the home crowd support in fixtures against the Tigers, Storm, Bulldogs and Titans during the race to September.

Key Players

Few players have risen to such heights as quickly as Reece Walsh in 2021.

Beginning the year unable to crack the top 17 at the battling Broncos before ascending to State of Origin selection mere months after debuting in first grade, the teenage talent will be a marked man in his second season.

Having been able to dazzle opposition players unfamiliar with his natural flair last year, the star fullback will need to evolve his game or risk becoming the latest in a long line of players to struggle in the transition from rookie to regular first-grader.

Set to benefit immensely from the presence, on and off the field, of Shaun Johnson - a player similarly familiar with the pressures of instant stardom - the Warriors will be banking on Walsh's brilliance to break back into finals football for the first time in four years.

Rookies to watch

With several positions in the backline up for grabs, Mangere East junior Edward Kosi will be pressing his case for regular game time on the wing. Averaging 100 running metres across five appearances during his rookie season, the 23-year-old generated praise for possessing the physique fans have come to expect from wingers in Warriors colours.

Following the departures of Ken Maumalo and David Fusitua over the past twelve months, Kosi will have his sights set on cementing a place in the top grade come round one and never yielding his jersey for the ensuing 25 rounds.



Player Movements

INBOUND: Jesse Arthurs (Broncos - on-loan), Shaun Johnson (Sharks), Aaron Pene (Storm), Ashley Taylor (Titans)

OUTBOUND: Peta Hiku (Cowboys), Sean O'Sullivan (Panthers), Jamayne Taunoa-Brown (Cowboys), Chad Townsend (Cowboys), Paul Turner (Titans), Kane Evans (Hull FC), David Fusitua (Leeds), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (NZ Rugby Union), Leeson Ah Mau (retired)

CONTRACTED LIST: Bunty Afoa, Euan Aitken, Rocco Berry, Josh Curran, Wayde Egan, Addin Fonua-Blake, Tohu Harris, Chanel Harris-Tavita, Shaun Johnson, Temple Kalepo, Eliesa Katoa, Edward Kosi, Matt Lodge, Marcelo Montoya, Jack Murchie, Ben Murdoch-Masila, Kodi Nikorima, Taniela Otukolo, Aaron Pene, Iliesa Ratuva, Pride Petterson-Robati, Adam Pompey, Bayley Sironen, Ash Taylor, Jazz Tevaga, Viliani Vailea, Reece Walsh, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak

Predicted / best 17

1. Reece Walsh
2. Dallin Watene-Zelezniak
3. Euan Aitken
4. Rocco Berry
5. Edward Kosi
6. Chanel Harris-Tavita
7. Shaun Johnson
8. Addin Fonua-Blake
9. Wayde Egan
10. Matt Lodge
11. Eliesa Katoa
12. Josh Curran
13. Tohu Harris (C)
14. Kodi Nikorima
15. Ben Murdoch-Masila
16. Aaron Pene
17. Jazz Tevaga

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	12 Mar 22	17:30	Warriors	St Geo Illa	Sunshine Coast
2	Sat	19 Mar 22	15:00	Gold Coast	Warriors	Chus Super Stadium
3	Fri	25 Mar 22	18:00	Wests Tigers	Warriors	Campbelltown
4	Sat	02 Apr 22	15:00	Warriors	Brisbane	Moreton Daily
5	Fri	08 Apr 22	18:00	Warriors	North Qld	Moreton Daily
6	Sun	17 Apr 22	14:00	Sydney	Warriors	SCG
7	Mon	25 Apr 22	19:00	Melbourne	Warriors	AAMI Park
8	Sat	30 Apr 22	15:00	Warriors	Canberra	Moreton Daily
9	Sun	08 May 22	16:05	Cronulla	Warriors	PointsBet Stadium
10	Sat	14 May 22	15:00	Warriors	Souths	Suncorp Stadium
11	Sat	21 May 22	15:00	St Geo Illa	Warriors	Netstrata Jubilee
12	Sat	28 May 22	15:00	Warriors	Newcastle	Moreton Daily
13	Sat	04 Jun 22	19:35	Manly	Warriors	4 Pines Park
14	Sun	12 Jun 22	18:15	Warriors	Cronulla	Moreton Daily
15	Sat	18 Jun 22	17:30	Warriors	Penrith	Mt Smart Stadium
16	Sun	03 Jul 22	14:00	Warriors	Wests Tigers	Mt Smart Stadium
17		7-10 Jul 22		BYE		
18	Fri	15 Jul 22	19:55	Parramatta	Warriors	CommBank Stadium
19	Sat	23 Jul 22	15:00	Canberra	Warriors	GIO Stadium
20	Fri	29 Jul 22	18:00	Warriors	Melbourne	Mt Smart Stadium
21	Sat	06 Aug 22	15:00	Souths	Warriors	Sunshine Coast
22	Fri	12 Aug 22	18:00	Warriors	Canterbury	Mt Smart Stadium
23	Fri	19 Aug 22	18:00	North Qld	Warriors	QLD Country Bank
24	Fri	26 Aug 22	18:00	Penrith	Warriors	BlueBet Stadium
25	Sat	03 Sep 22	15:00	Warriors	Gold Coast	Mt Smart Stadium

WARRIORS

INAUGURAL SEASON

ARL 1995

2022 COACH

Nathan BROWN

2022 CAPTAIN

Tohu HARRIS

HOME GROUNDS

Mt Smart Stadium (1995-2021)
Moreton Daily Stadium (2021)
Central Coast Stadium (2020-2021)
Eden Park (2014)

HONOURS

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL)
None

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1995-2021

Matches Played

655

Won

295

Lost

352

Drawn

8

Points For

13,538

Points Against

14,701

Biggest win

66-0 (66 pts) - Jun 25th, 2006 - vs. South Sydney

Biggest loss

6-62 (56 pts) - May 18th, 2013 - vs. Penrith

Most points scored

68-10 (68 pts) - Apr 14th, 2002 - vs. Northern Eagles

Most points conceded

6-62 (62 pts) - May 18th, 2013 - vs. Penrith

WESTSTIGERS

Andrew Ferguson

After yet another season in the finals wilderness the Wests Tigers have decided to embark on a self-proclaimed 'new era' in order to try and turn around their woeful recent history.

They have thus decided that in order to move forward into a bold new era, they need to start by going back to a former coach, bringing back Tim Sheens as director of football.

The club has also seemingly recognised that they have an issue with the creativity coming from their half Luke Brooks, hence the acquisition of English Test half Jackson Hastings. However, the Tigers have also publicly stated that they have zero intention of relinquishing Brooks.

The club's most creative player and best attacking weapon, Adam Doueihi, is then forced out of the halves, where he produced some of his best performances at the club. So it appeared that he will be moved to centre, a position that the Tigers had freed up when they released Joey Leilua, before they went and secured the services of British Test centre Oliver Gildart and talented Knights outside back Starford To'a.

The club's biggest concern since they stopped appearing in the finals has been defence and it remains to be seen if the club has made any progress in this department, but is vitally important to their success on the field that they do.

It's not all gloom for the Tigers, they have a reasonable squad and a solid enough forward pack. Their fullback Daine Laurie is one of the best custodians in the game and still has time and further improvement to come, while young prop Stefano Utoikamanu is an immense wrecking ball in the middle.

The club has cleared out a lot of the highly paid, under-performing members in their roster, giving them hope moving forward.

Why They'll Win It

The element of surprise. The Tigers are on nobody's radar. They do have a relatively young yet still experienced enough squad. A number of solid attacking options across the park, in the middle and on both edges. No one is expecting the side that hasn't played finals football in a decade, to all of a sudden appear in the top 8 - much like 2005.

If the spine can get settled and stay intact for the bulk of the season, then anything truly is possible for the Tigers. Brooks does have plenty of skill, but he lacks the ability to call plays and direct his team around the field, an issue that Hastings and Doueihi both rectify. With Leilua on the same edge as Laurie and Doueihi on the other side with options around him (assuming he plays at centre), the Tigers have pointscoring potential on both sides of the park.

Why They Won't

Defence. 7 of the last 10 seasons has seen the Tigers rank in the bottom 5 for defence and in all but one year from the last decade, the Tigers have been ranked in the bottom 8 for defence. They've ranked worst once and second worst 3 times.

The club's defensive structure is designed to be as basic as possible, but it makes the same mistakes time and again, essentially getting picked apart by opposition sides running what should be stock plays that are easy enough to deny.

The Tigers recruitment has largely focussed on improving their attack, so the defence issues of past seasons may well still exist in 2022.

Wests Tigers draw - how their schedule stacks up

The Tigers have the hardest start to the season of any club, as they will take on the Melbourne Storm, a side who have not lost their opening game since 2004 and not lost a Round 1 game since 2001. They then take on the Knights, Warriors, Titans and Sharks before a run of games against sides they have struggled against in recent times: Parramatta, Souths, Dragons, Manly.

In Round 10 the Tigers come up against the Cowboys, followed by a clash with the Bulldogs, before a return game against Souths and then they have a bye.

Their run home after the bye is a mixture of games against sides they should be competitive against and teams that are expected to be finalists, making it hard for them to build momentum and form.

Given the Tigers are tipped to be one of the struggling sides in 2022, their draw is naturally tough. They do only come up against Melbourne, Penrith and the Roosters once each, which works in their favour.

Key Players

Jackson Hastings will have the responsibility of running the Tigers attacking plays and essentially steering the side around the field. His form and health are paramount to the Tigers chances of onfield success.

Adam Doueihi will miss a large chunk of the first half of the season as he recovers from an injury, but he will be one of the chief attacking weapons once he returns to the field.

Stefano Utoikamanu played well last year, earning a call up to the Blues squad as 18th man for the third Origin. After that experience, he returned to the Tigers and played out his skin. If he can build on that form in 2022, he will be an absolute beast through the middle and will be the Tigers spearhead in the forward pack.

Rookies to watch

Jake Simpkin is a very talented young hooker and now the back-up rake for Jacob Liddle. If Liddle's injury woes return in 2022, Simpkin will get a chance to try and take ownership of the role and he has the capability to do just that.

Starford To'a has now had 3 seasons in the NRL yet is still just 21 years old. He's a powerfully built centre with plenty of pace and a strong line running game. He will get game time in 2022 with the injury to Doueihi and could be very hard to drop from the side.

BALMAIN TIGERS

INAUGURAL SEASON	NSWRFL 1908
HOME GROUNDS	Leichhardt Oval (1934-1999) Birchgrove Oval (1908-1942)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1915, 1916, 1917, 1919, 1920, 1924, 1939, 1944, 1946, 1947, 1969 City Cup 1917, 1923 Craven Mild Cup 1967, 1976 National Panasonic Cup 1976, 1985, 1987

WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES

INAUGURAL SEASON	NSWRFL 1908
HOME GROUNDS	Campbelltown Stadium (1987-1999) Lidcombe Oval (1941-1986) Pratten Park (1912-1985)
HONOURS	NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 1930, 1934, 1948, 1952 City Cup 1918, 1919 National Panasonic Cup 1977



Player Movements

INBOUND: Jackson Hastings, Oliver Gildart (Wigan), Tyrone Peachey (Gold Coast), Junior Tupou (Rugby Union), Starford To'a (Newcastle)

OUTBOUND: Moses Mbye (St.George-Illawarra), Billy Walters (Brisbane), Joey Leilua (released), Michael Chee Kam (South Sydney), Russell Packer (retired), Tom Amone, Zac Cini (released)

CONTRACTED LIST: Shawn Blore, Luke Brooks, Adam Doueihi, Luke Garner, Oliver Gildart, Jackson Hastings, William Kei, Asu Kepaoa, Daine Laurie, Luciano Leilua, Jacob Liddle, Jock Madden, Ken Maumalo, Thomas Mikaele, Zane Musgrove, David Nofoaluma, Joe Ofahengaue, Tyrone Peachey, Alex Seyfarth, Jake Simpkin, Tukimihia Simpkins, Tommy Talau, James Tamou, Kelma Tuilagi, Alex Twal, Stefano Utoikamanu

Predicted / best 17

1. Daine Laurie
2. David Nofoaluma
3. Oliver Gildart
4. Adam Doueihi
5. Ken Maumalo
6. Jackson Hastings
7. Luke Brooks
8. James Tamou
9. Jacob Liddle
10. Stefano Utoikamanu
11. Tyrone Peachey
12. Luciano Leilua
13. Alex Twal
14. Luke Garner
15. Joe Ofahengaue
16. Thomas Mikaele
17. Starford To'a

2022 Fixture List

Round	Day	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	12 Mar 22	19:35	Wests Tigers	Melbourne	CommBank Stadium
2	Sun	20 Mar 22	16:05	Newcastle	Wests Tigers	McDonald Jones
3	Fri	25 Mar 22	18:00	Wests Tigers	Warriors	Campbelltown
4	Thu	31 Mar 22	20:05	Gold Coast	Wests Tigers	Cbus Super Stadium
5	Sun	10 Apr 22	16:05	Cronulla	Wests Tigers	PointsBet Stadium
6	Mon	18 Apr 22	16:00	Parramatta	Wests Tigers	CommBank Stadium
7	Sat	23 Apr 22	19:35	Wests Tigers	Souths	CommBank Stadium
8	Sun	01 May 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	Wests Tigers	WIN Stadium
9	Sat	07 May 22	15:00	Manly	Wests Tigers	4 Pines Park
10	Sun	15 May 22	18:25	Wests Tigers	North Qld	Suncorp Stadium
11	Fri	20 May 22	18:00	Wests Tigers	Canterbury	Leichhardt Oval
12	Sat	28 May 22	17:30	Souths	Wests Tigers	Accor Stadium
13		2-5 Jun 22		BYE		
14	Sun	12 Jun 22	14:00	Wests Tigers	Manly	Campbelltown
15	Sun	19 Jun 22	16:05	Canterbury	Wests Tigers	CommBank Stadium
16	Sun	03 Jul 22	14:00	Warriors	Wests Tigers	Mt Smart Stadium
17	Sat	09 Jul 22	19:35	Wests Tigers	Parramatta	Leichhardt Oval
18	Sun	17 Jul 22	14:00	Wests Tigers	Penrith	CommBank Stadium
19	Sun	24 Jul 22	16:05	North Qld	Wests Tigers	QLD Country Bank
20	Sat	30 Jul 22	19:35	Brisbane	Wests Tigers	Suncorp Stadium
21	Sun	07 Aug 22	16:05	Wests Tigers	Newcastle	Campbelltown
22	Sat	13 Aug 22	17:30	Wests Tigers	Cronulla	Tamworth
23	Sat	20 Aug 22	19:35	Sydney	Wests Tigers	SCG
24	Sun	28 Aug 22	14:00	Wests Tigers	St Geo Illa	CommBank Stadium
25	Sun	04 Sep 22	16:05	Wests Tigers	Canberra	Leichhardt Oval

WESTS TIGERS

INAUGURAL SEASON NRL 2000
2022 COACH Michael MAGUIRE
2022 LEADERSHIP Luke BROOKS, Adam DOUEIHI, Ken MAUMALO, Tyrone PEACHEY, James TAMOU
HOME GROUNDS Campbelltown Stadium (2000-2021)
 Leichhardt Oval (2000-2021)
 CommBank Stadium (2019-2021)
 Accor Stadium (2005-2008, 2014-2018)
 Allianz Stadium (2009-2013)
HONOURS NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 2005

NRL (inc NSWRL, ARL, SL) 2000-2021

Matches Played 537
 Won 230
 Lost 304
 Drawn 3
 Points For 11,050
 Points Against 12,743
 Biggest win 54-2 (52 pts) - Aug 19th, 2005 - vs. Canterbury
 56-4 (52 pts) - Aug 3rd, 2008 - vs. Canterbury
 Biggest loss 0-64 (64 pts) - Jul 5th, 2001 - vs. Melbourne
 Most points scored 56-6 (56 pts) - Aug 8th, 2004 - vs. South Sydney
 56-4 (56 pts) - Aug 3rd, 2008 - vs. Canterbury
 56-10 (56 pts) - Aug 16th, 2009 - vs. Cronulla
 Most points conceded 12-66 (66 pts) - Apr 29th, 2001 - vs. Parramatta
 16-66 (66 pts) - Jun 19th, 2021 - vs. Melbourne

THE WRAP

NRLW 2021 ROUND 2

Sunday | BRISBANE 28 NEWCASTLE 10



BRISBANE BRONCOS (28) Tries: Millie Boyle, Tamika Upton, Shenae Ciesiolka, Hagiga Mosby, Amy Turner; Conversions: Lauren Brown (4/5)
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (10) Tries: Maitua Feterika, Jayme Fressard; Conversions: Charntay Poko (1/2)
Venue: WIN Stadium
Crowd: 1036

Halftime Score: Newcastle Knights 0 Brisbane Broncos 12
LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:
3 points - Millie Boyle
2 points - Tamika Upton
1 points - Jayme Fressard

OUR REPORT with JOSH ROBERTSON

BRONCOS FIRE OVER ERROR RIDDEN KNIGHTS

The Brisbane Broncos have continued their dominance in the NRLW with a 28-10 victory over the Newcastle Knights at a wet and windy WIN Stadium in Wollongong.

Momentum was with Newcastle early on although the Broncos were the first team to cross the stripe with Emily Bass going over in the corner though the officials both onfield and in the bunker were forced to knock back Bass' efforts with the Broncos winger clearly going into touch. The Knights then were able to go over for what everybody thought was the first four pointer through Katelyn Vaha'akolo who was able to go over in the corner after some good work from the Knights drawing defenders in. However, despite what looked to be some good attack was ruled to have been caused by an obstruction in the middle of the park.

Momentum then began to flow for the Broncos and they opened the scoring just a matter of minutes later when Millie Boyle charged through the middle of the park and scored under the posts. The Broncos added a second in quick succession when Tamika Upton combined with Shenae Ciesiolka to put the centre into space before Upton got the ball back to score.

The Knights second half started as their first half went with errors and the Broncos were able to add a third try early in the half when Upton and Ciesiolka combined yet again this time with Ciesiolka creating the space and linking with Upton who linked with Ciesiolka to score. Errors continued to hurt the Knights and the Broncos took advantage with Hagiga Mosby scoring on her NRLW debut as the Broncos created the opportunity off the back of a scrum.

The Knights got their first of the afternoon when after building some good pressure, Maitua Feterika was able to charge her way to the line off a great run to get over and give the Knights a fleeting hope. An amazing solo effort from the Jayme Fressard gave the Knights some momentum as she was able to run 85m solo beating some covering defence as well as some of the quickest players in the NRLW to get over to score. The much-needed conversion from Charntay Poko from close range was waved away. The last laugh went with the Broncos who took advantage of another error from the Knights when Amy Turner was able to go through off yet another scrum play and following Brown's conversion, the Broncos took victory 28-10.

Next weekend, the Knights take on the Roosters at the SCG on Saturday afternoon as part of an NRL double header involving the same two sides in the Men's; Whilst the Broncos take on the Dragons at Commbank Stadium on Sunday.

Sunday | GOLD COAST 26 SYDNEY ROOSTERS 16



GOLD COAST TITANS (26) Tries: Jasmine Peters, Karina Brown, Tazmin Gray, Brittany Breayley-Nati (2); Conversions: Zara Canfield (2/3), Kimiora Breayley-Nati (1/1), Shaniah Power (0/1)
SYDNEY ROOSTERS (16) Tries: Leianne Tufuga, Sarah Togatuki, Olivia Kernick; Conversions: Hannah Southwell (2/3)
Venue: WIN Stadium; Crowd: 1278

Halftime Score: Sydney Roosters 6 Gold Coast Titans 16
LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:
3 points - Brittany Breayley-Nati
2 points - Destiny Brill
1 points - Sarah Togatuki

OUR REPORT with TIM COSTELLO and JOSH ROBERTSON

TITANS HOLD OUT RESURGENT ROOSTERS

A classy performance from the Gold Coast Titans has seen them notch their maiden victory today, holding out a late comeback from the Roosters to win 26-16 in Wollongong.

It was a fast start from the Titans - Jasmine Peters fighting her way to the line after six minutes, the experienced Karina Brown following suit after 12 minutes. Zara Canfield converted the first - but not the second - for a 10-0 lead inside fifteen minutes.

Not to be counted out, the Roosters hit back after 22 minutes

with Leianne Tufuga crossing after Jess Sergis helped create an overlap. Southwell kicked a superb touchline conversion to narrow the gap to four, but only two minutes later the Gold Coast pushed the margin back out to ten with Tazmin Gray pushing her way over.

Neither side troubled the scorers again until 15 minutes after halftime, when player of the match Brittany Breayley-Nati ducked through some poor Roosters defence to get out to a game-high 16-point lead with 20 minutes on the clock after her wife Kimiora converted the try.

From there, the Roosters slowly clawed their way back into the contest. Sarah Togatuki used her strength to get the

Tricolours' second try not long after Breayley-Nati's effort, and then inside the final five minutes Olivia Kernick scoring after a good line run.

It would be Brittany Breayley-Nati who would snuff out any hopes for the two-time Grand Finalists however, scoring on fulltime to bring the final scoreline to 26-16.

The Titans are off to Commbank Stadium next Sunday afternoon as part of a triple header which sees them face the Eels in both NRLW and NRLM, with the Dragons-Broncos match being played before both. For the Roosters it's a home game, being played against Newcastle as an NRLW-NRLM double header.

Sunday | ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 10 PARRAMATTA 0



ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (10) Tries: Rachael Pearson
Conversions: Rachael Pearson (1/1)
Penalty Goals: Rachael Pearson (2/2)
PARRAMATTA EELS (0)
Venue: WIN Stadium; Crowd: 2079

Halftime Score: St George Illawarra Dragons 6 Parramatta Eels 0
LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:
3 points - Rachael Pearson
2 points - Simaima Taufa
1 points - Keeley Davis

OUR REPORT with JOSH ROBERTSON

DRAGONS STAY UNBEATEN IN WILD WET WOLLONGONG

In a match where both sides and match officials deserve a medal for playing through almost cyclonic conditions, the St George Illawarra Dragons have continued their unbeaten start to the season with a 10-0 victory over the Parramatta Eels.

The game started in pretty good conditions and the Dragons were able to dominate possession and field position although they were only able to cross for the one try, and even then despite all the ball that the Red 'V' had, it came through luck

when a poor pass from Eels hooker Quincy Dodd should've been intercepted by Botille Vette-Welsh, but was knocked on and Pearson picked it up to score. She then converted her own try.

Words cannot do justice to the conditions of the second half, as conditions deteriorated significantly with torrential rain and gale force winds coming in off the coast, with almost 40mm of rain being dumped on WIN Stadium during the second half. The conditions didn't lend themselves to attacking Rugby League and despite some strong opportunities the conditions in Wollongong didn't lend themselves to attack. The only points in the second half came off the boot of Rachael Pearson, who

kicked two penalty goals late in the half when the conditions were at their worst extending the lead to 8-0 after the Eels were called offside by Belinda Sharpe and then after a slow ruck to make it 10-0. The Dragons did look as if they had crossed once more though it was knocked back by the officials for a knock-on.

Next weekend both sides head to Parramatta, with the Dragons taking on the Broncos on Sunday morning whilst it will be a historic moment for the Eels as they take on the Gold Coast Titans in their first game - on the same day as the two men's sides play in front of what will be a big crowd at Commbank.

THE BIG PICTURE

Brisbane's dominance of the NRLW has been long standing, and doesn't seem to be ending anytime soon.



ILLUSTRATION BY THEBIGGESTTIGER

NRLW 2021 DRAW

ROUND 1

Sun	27 Feb 22	12:00	St George Illawarra	Gold Coast	McDonald Jones Stadium	20 - 12
		13:50	Sydney	Brisbane	McDonald Jones Stadium	4 - 20
		15:40	Newcastle	Parramatta	McDonald Jones Stadium	12 - 13

ROUND 2

Sun	6 Mar 22	12:00	Newcastle	Brisbane	WIN Stadium	10 - 28
		13:50	Sydney	Gold Coast	WIN Stadium	16 - 26
		15:40	St George Illawarra	Parramatta	WIN Stadium	10 - 0

ROUND 3

Sat	12 Mar 22	12:50	Sydney	Newcastle	Sydney Cricket Ground
Sun	13 Mar 22	12:00	Brisbane	St George Illawarra	CommBank Stadium
		13:45	Parramatta	Gold Coast	CommBank Stadium

ROUND 4

Sat	19 Mar 22	13:00	Gold Coast	Brisbane	Cbus Super Stadium
Sun	20 Mar 22	12:00	Parramatta	Sydney	McDonald Jones Stadium
		13:45	Newcastle	St George Illawarra	McDonald Jones Stadium

ROUND 5

Sat	26 Mar 22	13:00	St George Illawarra	Sydney	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
Sun	27 Mar 22	12:00	Gold Coast	Newcastle	Suncorp Stadium
		13:45	Brisbane	Parramatta	Suncorp Stadium

SEMI FINALS

	2/3 Apr 22	1st	4th	Venue TBC
	2/3 Apr 22	2nd	3rd	Venue TBC

GRAND FINAL

Sun	10 Apr 22	14:00	Winner SF1	Winner SF2	Moreton Daily Stadium
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NRLW 2021 LADDER & STATS AFTER ROUND 2

Team	Home							Away							Total							
	P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	PD
1. Brisbane Broncos	-	-	-	-	-	-	+0	2	2	-	-	48	14	+34	2	2	-	-	48	14	4	+34
2. St George Illawarra Dragons	2	2	-	-	30	12	+18	-	-	-	-	-	-	+0	2	2	-	-	30	12	4	+18
3. Gold Coast Titans	-	-	-	-	-	-	+0	2	1	1	-	38	36	+2	2	1	1	-	38	36	2	+2
4. Parramatta Eels	-	-	-	-	-	-	+0	2	1	1	-	13	22	-9	2	1	1	-	13	22	2	-9
5. Newcastle Knights	2	-	2	-	22	41	-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	+0	2	-	2	-	22	41	0	-19
6. Sydney Roosters	2	-	2	-	20	46	-26	-	-	-	-	-	-	+0	2	-	2	-	20	46	0	-26

TOP TRYSCORERS

Rank	Player	Team	P	T
1	Emily BASS	Brisbane	2	2
	Teagan BERRY	St Geo Illa	2	2
	Mille BOYLE	Brisbane	2	2
	Brittany BREAYLEY-NATI	Gold Coast	2	2
	Olivia KERNICK	Sydney	2	2

TOP POINTSCORERS

Rank	Player	Team	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	Rachael PEARSON	St Geo Illa	2	1	5	-	14
2	Lauren BROWN	Brisbane	2	-	6	-	12
3	Emily BASS	Brisbane	2	2	-	-	8
	Teagan BERRY	St Geo Illa	2	2	-	-	8
	Mille BOYLE	Brisbane	2	2	-	-	8
	Brittany BREAYLEY-NATI	Gold Coast	2	2	-	-	8
	Olivia KERNICK	Sydney	2	2	-	-	8

THE PROGRAMME

NRLW ROUND 3 GAME DAY COMPANION TEAM LISTS • MATCH DETAILS & STATS • PREVIEWS

SATURDAY 12 MARCH 2022



**SYDNEY ROOSTERS
v NEWCASTLE**
SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND, 12:50PM



SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2022



**ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS
v BRISBANE BRONCOS**
COMMBANK STADIUM, 12:00PM



**PARRAMATTA EELS
v GOLD COAST TITANS**
COMMBANK STADIUM, 1:45PM



PLAYER OF THE YEAR

AFTER NRLW ROUND 2

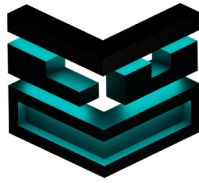
6 points - Rachael Pearson (Dragons), Millie Boyle (Broncos)
3 points - Maddie Studdon (Eels), Brittany Breayley-Nati (Titans)
2 points - Tamika Upton (Broncos), Simaima Taufa (Eels), Destiny Brill (Titans), Botille Vette-Welsh (Eels), Amber Hall (Broncos), Elsie Albert (Dragons)
1 point - Olivia Kernick (Roosters), Keeley Davis (Dragons), Sarah Togatuki (Roosters), Jayme Fressard (Knights), Romy Teitzel (Knights), Emma Tonegato (Dragons)

MATCH REVIEW

NRLW ROUND 2

Player	Club	Grade / Charge	Outcome / penalty
Madison BARTLETT	St George Illawarra	Referred - Dangerous contact (biting)	1 week
Sereana NAITOKATOKA	Parramatta	Grade 1 Dangerous contact (head/neck)	Warning
Kody HOUSE	St George Illawarra	Grade 1 Dangerous contact (shoulder charge)	1 week

SYDNEY ROOSTERS



NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

P	T	G	FG	Pts		
-	-	-	-	-	Corban BAXTER	1
2	1	-	-	4	Leianne TUFUGA	2
2	-	-	-	-	Jessica SERGIS	3
2	-	-	-	-	Isabelle KELLY	4
2	-	-	-	-	Brydie PARKER	5
2	-	-	-	-	Jocelyn KELLEHER	6
2	-	-	-	-	Raecene McGREGOR	7
2	1	-	-	4	Sarah TOGATUKI	8
2	-	-	-	-	Olivia HIGGINS	9
2	-	-	-	-	Tayla PREDEBON	10
2	-	-	-	-	Yasmine MEAKES	11
2	2	-	-	8	Olivia KERNICK	12
2	-	2	-	4	Hannah SOUTHWELL	13
2	-	-	-	-	Zahara TEMARA	14
2	-	-	-	-	Keilee JOSEPH	15
1	-	-	-	-	Mya HILL-MOANA	16
2	-	-	-	-	Simone KARPANI	17
2	-	-	-	-	Shawden BURTON	18
-	-	-	-	-	Samantha ECONOMOS	19
-	-	-	-	-	Lauretta LEAO-SEVE	20
-	-	-	-	-	Otesa PULE	21
-	-	-	-	-	Claire REED	22
-	-	-	-	-	Joeli MORRIS	23
1	-	-	-	-	Taylor-Adeline MAPUSUA	24

John STRANGE

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

	P	T	G	FG	Pts	
1	Romy TEITZEL	2	1	-	-	4
2	Katelyn VAHA'AKOLO	2	-	-	-	-
3	Jayne FRESSARD	2	1	-	-	4
4	Bobbi LAW	2	-	-	-	-
5	Katie GREEN	2	-	-	-	-
6	Autumn-Rain STEPHENS-DALY	2	-	-	-	-
7	Tahlulah TILLET	2	-	-	-	-
8	Maitua FETERIKA	1	1	-	-	4
9	Krystal ROTA	2	-	-	-	-
10	Annetta NUUAUSALA	2	-	-	-	-
11	Rangimarie EDWARDS-BRUCE	2	-	-	-	-
12	Georgia PAGE	2	-	-	-	-
13	Charntay POKO	2	-	2	-	4
14	Emma MANZELMANN	2	-	-	-	-
15	Charlotte SCANLAN	2	-	-	-	-
16	Ngatokotoru ARAKUA	1	-	-	-	-
17	Kirra DIBB	2	-	1	-	2
18	Phoebe DESMOND	1	1	-	-	4
19	Kyra SIMON	-	-	-	-	-
20	Kayla ROMANIUK	-	-	-	-	-
21	Chantelle GRAHAM	-	-	-	-	-
22	Kararaina WIRA-KOHU	-	-	-	-	-
23	Paige PARKER	-	-	-	-	-
24	Shannon EVANS	-	-	-	-	-

Casey BROMILOW

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

#NRLWROOSTERSKNIGHTS

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 12 March 2022
KICKOFF	12:50pm AEDT
VENUE	Sydney Cricket Ground Moore Park NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now, Fox League & Kayo Sports
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Karra-Lee NOLAN
TOUCH JUDGES	Jake SUTHERLAND Clayton WILLS
NRL BUNKER	Matt NOYEN

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (0)	FIRST MEETING
AT SCG (0)	FIRST MEETING

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

NEVER MET

BIGGEST WINS

NEVER MET

NEXT WEEK

PARRAMATTA v SYDNEY, SUNDAY 12PM (MCD. JONES)
NEWCASTLE v ST GEO ILLA, SUNDAY 1:45PM (MCD. JONES)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

THE PREVIEW

with Tim Costello

Baxter's back, alright!

After two false starts, the Sydney Roosters will be keen to get COVID-hit fullback and captain Corban Baxter onto the field and revving up the troops. Missing for the opening rounds of the NRLW season, she returns to lineup as the Tricolours look to turn around a miserable 0-2 record, with losses to both Queensland clubs in the first fortnight.

A third loss could spell disaster for the Roosters, so it's imperative they get their season back on track - or they'll be just about out of finals contention with two rounds left to play.

Newcastle meanwhile, also 0-2 after two rounds, have a job to do as well. Their opening fortnight, while producing no competition points, has been confidence-building for the new club that was largely expected to be an also-ran in their inaugural campaign.

In Round 1, the Knights pushed a more-fancied Eels outfit to the final minute before losing by a solitary point, while they managed to stop the Brisbane juggernaut running away with the game last weekend in a soggy Wollongong, eventually losing 28-10.

The key for both sides in this one will be mastering ball control, with both sides completing less than 65% of sets through the season to date.

In team news - the Roosters of course welcome Baxter's return in the custodian role. Parker moves back to the wing as a result with Meakes shifting back into her preferred second row role. Togatuki shifts to prop while Hill-Moana is benched. Burton makes way on the bench but could be a late inclusion as she remains in the reserves list.

Newcastle are unchanged from Round 2, although Phoebe Desmond - who missed last week's contest due to COVID protocols - is named on the reserves list and could return to the side.

Who to watch: It's the battle of the fullbacks, really. Baxter's input will be huge after a fortnight where the Roosters have lacked direction from the back.

Newcastle's #1 Romy Teitzel has been one of the stars of the competition to date. If her halves can give her plenty of space the Roosters will need to watch out.

Favourite: With Baxter's return and the general depth of experience, the Tricolours are better backed to reverse their horrid start to the season and get a W.

My tip: In front of a home crowd at the SCG, the Roosters will be hoping to put on a show for the locals. Like the first two rounds, Newcastle will give a good account of themselves, but the Roosters should be too strong. Roosters by 2.



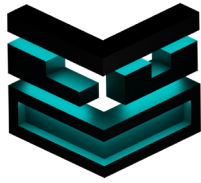
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RUGBY LEAGUE
project

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS



BRISBANE BRONCOS

P	T	G	FG	Pts	
2	-	-	-	-	Emma TONEGATO 1
2	2	-	-	8	Teagan BERRY 2
1	-	-	-	-	Jaime CHAPMAN 3
2	-	-	-	-	Page McGREGOR 4
2	1	-	-	4	Madison BARTLETT 5
2	-	-	-	-	Taliah FUIMAONO 6
2	1	5	-	14	Rachael PEARSON 7
2	-	-	-	-	Elsie ALBERT 8
2	-	-	-	-	Keeley DAVIS 9
1	-	-	-	-	Kezie APPS 10
1	-	-	-	-	Talei HOLMES 11
2	-	-	-	-	Shaylee BENT 12
2	-	-	-	-	Holli WHEELER 13
2	1	-	-	4	Quincy DODD 14
1	-	-	-	-	Renee TARGETT 15
2	-	-	-	-	Tegan DYMOCK 16
2	-	-	-	-	Janelle WILLIAMS 17
-	-	-	-	-	Shellie LONG 18
1	-	-	-	-	Keele BROWNE 19
-	-	-	-	-	Chantel TUGAGA 20
1	-	-	-	-	Aliti NAMOCE-SAGANO 21
-	-	-	-	-	Alexandra SULUSI 22
-	-	-	-	-	Matilda POWER 23
Jamie SOWARD					

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

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

P	T	G	FG	Pts	
2	1	-	-	4	Tamika UPTON
1	1	-	-	4	Hagiga MOSBY
2	1	-	-	4	Amy TURNER
2	1	-	-	4	Shenae CIESIOLKA
2	-	-	-	-	Tarryn AIKEN
2	2	-	-	8	Emily BASS
2	-	-	-	-	Ali BRIGGINSHAW
2	2	-	-	8	Millie BOYLE
2	-	6	-	12	Lauren BROWN
2	-	-	-	-	Chelsea LENARDUZZI
2	-	-	-	-	Tallisha HARDEN
2	-	-	-	-	Amber HALL
2	-	-	-	-	Sara SAUTIA
1	-	-	-	-	Hayley MADDICK
2	-	-	-	-	Kaitlyn PHILLIPS
2	1	-	-	4	Roxette MURDOCH
-	-	-	-	-	Toni HUNT
1	-	-	-	-	Jada FERGUSON
1	-	-	-	-	Lavinia GOULD
-	-	-	-	-	China POLATA
-	-	-	-	-	Lesa Kaleti MATA'AFA
-	-	-	-	-	Jessikah REEVES
1	-	-	-	-	Julia ROBINSON
1	-	-	-	-	Nakita SAO
Kelvin WRIGHT					

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

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

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

#NRLWDRAGONSBRONCOS

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 13 March 2022
KICKOFF	12:00pm AEDT
VENUE	Commbank Stadium, Parramatta NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now, Fox League & Kayo Sports
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Belinda SHARPE
TOUCH JUDGES	Kailey BEATTIE Jake SUTHERLAND
NRL BUNKER	Alan SHORTALL

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (4)	ST GEO ILLA 0, BRISBANE 4
AT COMMBANK (2)	ST GEO ILLA 0, BRISBANE 2

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2018	R1	BRI 30-4	Suncorp, 47296
2019	R1	BRI 14-4	Bankwest, 6609
2019	GF	BRI 30-6	ANZ, None
2020	R2	BRI 18-4	Bankwest, None

BIGGEST WINS

2018	R1	BRI 30-4	Suncorp, 47296
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NEXT WEEK

NEWCASTLE v ST GEO ILLA, SUNDAY 1:45PM (MCD. JONES)
GOLD COAST v BRISBANE, SATURDAY 12:50PM (CBUS SUPER)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

THE PREVIEW

with Josh Robertson

The NRLW heads to Commbank Stadium on Sunday as the competition front runners battle it out to see who can remain undefeated as the St George Illawarra Dragons take on the Brisbane Broncos in the first of Sunday's double header.

A week of drying out, was probably what was required for the St George Illawarra Dragons following their 10-0 victory over the Parramatta Eels in conditions where torrential doesn't describe the force and amount of velocity of the rain that came down.

It's not fair to judge the Dragons on their performance last week given the atrocious conditions in the second half, although there is some concern around their attack given the Red 'V's dominance of possession and territory early on in the contest. The concern for coach Jamie Soward will be the fact that the Dragons only managed one try during that dominance (in much much better conditions to the second half) and that came off a Parramatta error.

The Dragons have been forced into two changes with suspensions to Kody House for a shoulder charge and winger Madison Bartlett for biting, with both players missing this contest. Though those losses are counter-balanced by the returns of Kezie Apps and Jaime Chapman for injury which forces a rejig to the side with Apps returning to the second row and Chapman into the centres. A replacement for Bartlett will be known later in the week.

Dominance was order of the day for Brisbane yet again as they scored a comfortable 28-10 victory over the Knights who challenged the Broncos from start to finish in dryish conditions compared to the rest of the day at WIN Stadium.

The Broncos were given a fight early on by the Knights who managed to break the Brisbane goalline defence first only to have it denied by the bunker. The Broncos managed to show their class and experience from that point on as they grew a healthy but not fully comfortable lead as the Knights looked to come back late in the contest as the Brisbane started to get fatigued. Thankfully for the Broncos they saw off the Knights to score another big win.

Star back Julia Robinson could make her return from injury having been named in the extended squad whilst the only definite change made by coach Kelvin Wright at this stage is veteran Lavinia Gould has lost her spot on the bench, with Toni Hunt likely to debut as a replacement. Some questions remain over Kaitlyn Phillips who left the field injured last week but is named in the 17.

Who to watch: Dragons halfback Rachael Pearson starred last week for the Red 'V' after a very solid and controlled game in tough conditions last week. Scoring all 10 of the Dragons points, the number 7's control of the game will be important coming up against the number one team of the competition.

Broncos centre Shenae Ciesiolka has been a star for Brisbane this season with her combination play with both winger Emily Bass and fullback Tamika Upton causing issues for her opponents. A former Australian Rugby 7s player, Ciesiolka has the ability to cause her own issues and the Dragons will need to keep an eye on her to shut down what could be some very dangerous combination play

Favourite: As with any NRLW game they're in, Brisbane are better backed.

My tip: The Broncos will be hard to beat as per normal and think that they have enough class to beat the Dragons. The Red 'V' can match it with the Broncos for the most part and if they hold their ground early then it could be a very tight contest. Broncos by 8.

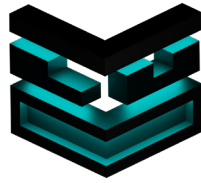
LIVE BLOGS Every game, every week.

LeagueUnlimited.com offers a live blog of every NRL and NRLW match every week.

Simply head to LeagueUnlimited.com during any match and look for the pop up in the bottom corner of the screen!



PARRAMATTA EELS



GOLD COAST TITANS

P	T	G	FG	Pts		
2	-	-	-	-	Botille VETTE-WELSH	1
2	-	-	-	-	Taina NAVIDI	2
2	1	-	-	4	Tiana PENITANI	3
2	-	-	-	-	Jocephy DANIELS	4
2	-	-	-	-	Rikeya HORNE	5
2	-	-	-	-	Sereana NAITOKATOKA	6
2	-	2	1	5	Maddie STUDDON	7
2	-	-	-	-	Kennedy CHERRINGTON	8
2	-	-	-	-	Nita MAYNARD	9
2	-	-	-	-	Tommaya KELLY-SINES	10
1	-	-	-	-	Christian PIO	11
1	-	-	-	-	Jamie-Ann WRIGHT	12
2	1	-	-	4	Simaima TAUFA	13
<hr/>						
2	-	-	-	-	Shirley MAILANGI	14
2	-	-	-	-	Abbi CHURCH	15
2	-	-	-	-	Filomina HANISI	17
2	-	-	-	-	Ellie JOHNSTON	20
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1	-	-	-	-	Jade ETHERDEN	18
-	-	-	-	-	Christine PAULI	21
-	-	-	-	-	Tess STAINES	22
-	-	-	-	-	Mareva SWANN	23
1	-	-	-	-	Therese AITON	24
-	-	-	-	-	Emily CURTAIN	25
-	-	-	-	-	Katrina PHIPPEN	26

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

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES
SCRUMS

P	T	G	FG	Pts		
1	-	-	-	-	Evania PELITE	
2	1	-	-	4	Karina BROWN	
3	1	1	-	4	Jasmine PETERS	
4	2	1	-	4	Tiana RAFTSTRAND-SMITH	
5	-	-	-	-	Hailee-Jay MAUNSELL	
6	2	-	-	-	Grace GRIFFIN	
7	2	-	1	2	Kimiora BREAYLEY-NATI	
8	2	-	-	-	Jessika ELLISTON	
9	2	2	-	8	Brittany BREAYLEY-NATI	
10	2	-	-	-	Steph HANCOCK	
11	2	-	2	4	Zara CANFIELD	
12	2	1	-	4	Tazmin GRAY	
13	2	-	-	-	Destiny BRILL	
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14	2	-	-	-	Georgia HALE	
16	-	-	-	-	Laikha CLARKE	
17	2	-	-	-	Shaniah POWER	
19	1	-	-	-	April NGATUPUNA	
<hr/>						
15	-	-	-	-	Karli HANSEN	
18	-	-	-	-	Cobie-Jane MORGAN	
20	1	-	-	-	Jetaya FAIFUA	
21	-	-	-	-	Lauren MOSS	
22	2	-	-	-	Lauren DAM	
23	1	-	2	4	Brianna CLARK	
24	-	-	-	-	Brooke SADDLER	

Jamie FEENEY

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

#NRLWHEELSTITANS

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 13 March 2022
KICKOFF	1:45pm AEDT
VENUE	Commbank Stadium, Parramatta NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now, Fox League & Kayo Sports
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Kasey BADGER
TOUCH JUDGES	Tori WILKIE Clayton WILLS
NRL BUNKER	Alan SHORTALL

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (0)	FIRST MEETING
AT COMMBANK (0)	FIRST MEETING

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

NEVER MET

BIGGEST WINS

NEVER MET

NEXT WEEK

GOLD COAST v BRISBANE, SATURDAY 12:50PM (CBUS SUPER)
PARRAMATTA v SYDNEY, SUNDAY 12PM (MCD.JONES)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

THE PREVIEW

with Josh Robertson

History will be made in Sunday's second NRLW match as the Parramatta Eels will play their first home game at Commbank Stadium when they take on the Titans in what will be a double header with their respective men's sides.

The Eels fell to their first defeat of the competition following their 10-0 loss to the St George Illawarra Dragons in horrendous conditions at Wollongong's WIN Stadium. The Eels had very few attacking opportunities during the second half with the conditions take their toll.

Parramatta though did have a few attacking opportunities and errors cost them dearly as they were not able to mount any strong challenge on the Dragons line for the most part during the first half and then barely got a chance in the second half in the torrential rain. The concerning factor for the Eels during the first half was the amount of errors that came when they were looking to mount pressure which was a worry in round 1 as well for the Blue and Gold.

The Eels have named an unchanged line up although injury concerns may affect their line up on Sunday with Jocephy Daniels and Rikaya Horne both suffering injuries last weekend that may hamper their chances of playing on Sunday.

History was made for the Titans in their match, following their 26-16 victory over the Sydney Roosters which gave the Gold Coast their first ever NRLW victory.

The Titans arguably could have had an easier victory last weekend, with errors costing them even more points than they scored. Errors cost the Titans in Round 1 against the Dragons but they were able to cut the rate down and produce a solid hit out against the Roosters. The Gold Coast though will be hoping that they cut the error rate down again.

Coach Jamie Feeny has swung the axe despite last weeks victory with centre Lauren Dam dropped after struggling last weekend to catch a ball despite the conditions being the best of the day. The Titans have also lost Shannon Mato to injury with Jessikah Elliston coming into the squad to replace Mato and debutant Hailee-Jay Maunsell coming into the squad for Dam.

Who to watch: Despite the atrocious conditions, lock Simaima Taufa was a stand-out for the Blue and golds last week. The Eels captain was strong with the ball causing issues for the Dragons last weekend and her defence was arguably more important than what her attack was as the Red 'V' continued to pepper the Blue and Gold line.

Gold Coast lock Destiny Brill has set the women's game on fire since coming into the competition following her Queensland debut at the end of 2021. The spark and brilliance that Brill brings to the side is shown by the fact that despite being a number 9, coach Jamie Feeny has had to find a spot for her in his best 13. Brill can make a play out of nothing and be strong in defence which makes her a nightmare for any opposition.

Favourite: The Titans' win last week has them better supported despite Parramatta's home ground advantage.

My tip: It's a really tough one to go with, so many things in my head say Eels but then balancing it out, there are so many positives for the Titans. I am going to go for the Titans just on the back of their performance last week but it won't be an easy contest for either side going down to the wire. Titans by 2.

TEAMLIST TUESDAY

All the grades - one place



Each Tuesday afternoon and evening, check in to LeagueUnlimited.com to get all the teamlists and match official appointments for the coming round. Whether it's NRL or NRLW, NSWRL or QRL competitions, we've got it all in one location. And throughout the week, keep an eye out for the latest from the UK's Super League and Championship too.

UK WATCH

SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 4 RESULTS

Leeds Rhinos (34) Tries: Morgan Gannon, Ash Handley 3, David Fusitu'a, Harry Newman; Goals: Rhyse Martin 5 def Wakefield Trinity (18) Tries: Tom Johnstone, Max Jowitt, Matty Ashurst; Goals: Max Jowitt 3 Venue: Be Well Support Stadium; Crowd: 5040; Thursday 3 March 8pm; Referee: Chris Kendall

Catalans Dragons (24) Tries: Arthur Romano, Mitchell Pearce, Mickael Goudemand, Matt Whitley; Goals: Josh Drinkwater 4 def Warrington Wolves (18) Tries: Josh Charnley 2, Matty Ashton; Goals: Stefan Ratchford 3 Venue: Halliwell Jones Stadium; Crowd: 9295; Friday 4 March 8pm; Referee: Liam Moore

St Helens (42) Tries: Alex Walmsley, Tommy Makinson 2, Sione Mata'utia 2, Lewis Dodd 2; Goals: Tommy Makinson 5 def Hull Kingston Rovers (8) Tries: Frankie Halton, Ryan Hall Venue: Sewell Group Craven Park; Crowd: 7256; Friday 4 March 8pm; Referee: James Child

Wigan Warriors (29) Tries: Jai Field 2, Zak Hardaker, Liam Marshall, Cade Cust; Goals: Zak Hardaker 4; Field Goals: Harry Smith 1 def Toulouse Olympique XIII (28) Tries: Guy Armitage 2, Matty Russell, Tony Gigot, Maxime Stefani; Goals: Chris Hankinson 3; Field Goals: Eloi Pelissier 1, Tony Gigot 1 Venue: Stade Ernest-Wallon; Crowd: 5466; Saturday 5 March 5pm; Referee: Aaron Moore

Huddersfield Giants (34) Tries: Innes Senior 2, Jermaine McGilvary, Chris Hill, Chris McQueen, Will Pryce; Goals: Will Pryce 5 def Salford Red Devils (2) Goals: Marc Sneyd 1 Venue: John Smith's Stadium; Crowd: 5702; Sunday 6 March 3pm; Referee: Tom Grant

CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 5 RESULTS

Leigh Centurions (34) Tries: Nene MacDonald, Ben Reynolds, Caleb Aekins 2, Aaron Smith, Keanan Brand; Goals: Ben Reynolds 5 def Newcastle Thunder (18) Tries: Sam Halsall, Jesse Dee, Isaac Nokes; Goals: Jake Shorrocks 3 Venue: Leigh Sports Village; Crowd: 3009; Sunday 6 March 1:45pm; Referee: Marcus Griffiths

Sheffield Eagles (54) Tries: Joel Farrell, Jason Bass, Anthony Thackeray, Ross Oakes, Izaak Farrell, Ben Jones-Bishop, Mikey Wood, Matty Chrimes, Vila Halafih; Goals: Izaak Farrell 9 def Workington Town (4) Tries: Curtis Teare Venue: Derwent Park; Sunday 6 March 2:00pm; Referee: James Vella

Bradford Bulls (21) Tries: Aaron Murphy, Jordan Lilley, Liam Tindall; Goals: Declan Patton 3; Field Goals: Jordan Lilley 1 def Batley Bulldogs (20) Tries: Josh Hodson, Lucas Walshaw, Alistair Leak; Goals: Declan Patton 3 Venue: Odsal Stadium; Sunday 6 March 3:00pm; Referee: Ben Thaler

Featherstone Rovers (22) Tries: Gareth Gale, Morgan Smith, Craig Hall 2; Goals: Craig Hall 2 def Halifax Panthers (12) Tries: Louis Joffret, Cory Aston; Goals: Joe Keyes 2 Venue: Millennium Stadium; Crowd: 3728; Sunday 6 March 3:00pm; Referee: Jack Smith

York City Knights (26) Tries: Will Oakes, Ronan Michael, Liam Harris, Chris Clarkson, James Glover; Goals: Jamie Ellis 3 def London Broncos (24) Tries: Jordan Williams, Dean Parata 2, Paul Ulberg; Goals: Stiveni Moceidreke 4 Venue: Cherry Red Records Stadium; Crowd: 903; Sunday 6 March 3:00pm; Referee: Mike Smail

THIS WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

IN SUPER LEAGUE and CHALLENGE CUP

SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 5

THURSDAY 10 MARCH

8pm+ Leeds Rhinos v Hull FC

All times BST, + denotes TV game

Headingley Stadium, Leeds

FRIDAY 11 MARCH

7:30pm Wakefield Trinity v Toulouse Olympique

Be Well Support Stadium, Wakefield

7:45pm Salford Red Devils v Hull KR

AJ Bell Stadium, Salford

8pm+ St Helens v Warrington Wolves

Totally Wicked Stadium, St Helens

SATURDAY 12 MARCH

3:15pm+ Huddersfield Giants v Castleford Tigers

John Smith's Stadium, Huddersfield

6:30pm+ Catalans Dragons v Wigan Warriors

Stade Gilbert Brutus, Perpignan

Castleford Tigers (33) Tries: Greg Eden 3, Gareth O'Brien, Cheyse Blair, Daniel Smith; Goals: Gareth O'Brien 4; Field Goals: Gareth O'Brien 1 def Hull FC (26) Tries: Jamie Shaul, Connor Wynne, Adam Swift, Josh Griffin, Danny Houghton; Goals: Ben McNamara 3 Venue: Mend-A-Hose Jungle; Crowd: 10072; Sunday 6 March 3:30pm; Referee: Rob Hicks

LADDER AFTER ROUND 4

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	St Helens	4	4	0	0	128	26	102	8
2	Wigan Warriors	4	4	0	0	109	62	47	8
3	Huddersfield Giants	4	3	1	0	114	50	64	6
4	Warrington Wolves	4	3	1	0	106	72	34	6
5	Catalans Dragons	4	3	1	0	66	72	-6	6
6	Hull FC	4	2	2	0	96	99	-3	4
7	Salford Red Devils	4	2	2	0	82	110	-28	4
8	Leeds Rhinos	4	1	3	0	70	84	-14	2
9	Castleford Tigers	4	1	3	0	69	112	-43	2
10	Hull Kingston Rovers	4	1	3	0	56	102	-46	2
11	Wakefield Trinity	4	0	4	0	56	94	-38	0
12	Toulouse Olympique	4	0	4	0	72	141	-69	0

Whitehaven RLFC (40) Tries: Tom Wilkinson, Jake Bradley, Guy Graham, Alex Bishop, Callum Phillips, Karl Dixon; Goals: Alex Bishop 6 def Dewsbury Rams (12) Tries: Davey Dixon, Rowan Milnes; Goals: Matty Beharrell 2 Venue: LEL Arena; Sunday 6 March 3:00pm; Referee: Scott Mikalauskas

Barrow Raiders (34) Tries: Tee Ritson 2, Jarrod Sammut, Hakim Miloudi, Luke Cresswell, Carl Forster; Goals: Ryan Shaw 4, Jake Carter 1 def Widnes Vikings (24) Tries: Sam Wilde, Ste Tyrer, Lloyd Roby, Matty Fozard; Goals: Ste Tyrer 4 Venue: Halton Stadium; Monday 7 March 7:45pm; Referee: Cameron Worsley

LADDER AFTER ROUND 5

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	Featherstone Rovers	5	5	0	0	136	52	84	10
2	Leigh Centurions	5	4	1	0	168	58	110	8
3	Widnes Vikings	5	4	1	0	173	82	91	8
4	Barrow Raiders	4	4	0	0	88	44	44	8
5	York City Knights	5	3	2	0	82	100	-18	6
6	Sheffield Eagles	4	2	2	0	102	52	50	4
7	Batley Bulldogs	4	2	2	0	86	63	23	4
8	Newcastle Thunder	5	2	3	0	98	110	-12	4
9	Bradford Bulls	4	2	2	0	85	102	-17	4
10	Whitehaven RLFC	5	2	3	0	80	120	-40	4
11	Halifax Panthers	4	1	3	0	66	61	5	2
12	Dewsbury Rams	5	1	4	0	52	162	-110	2
13	London Broncos	5	0	5	0	48	126	-78	0
14	Workington Town	4	0	4	0	38	170	-132	0

CHALLENGE CUP: FIFTH ROUND

SATURDAY 12 MARCH

1:30pm North Wales Crusaders v Sheffield Eagles Stadium Zip World, Colwyn Bay

SUNDAY 6 MARCH

1pm Barrow Raiders v Workington Town Matt Johnson Prestige Stadium, Barrow

3pm Whitehaven RLFC v York City Knights LEL Arena, Whitehaven

Batley Bulldogs v Featherstone Rovers Fox's Biscuits Stadium, Batley

MONDAY 7 MARCH

7:45pm+ Bradford Bulls v Leigh Centurions

Odsal Stadium, Bradford

THE PROGRAMME

NRL ROUND 1 GAME DAY COMPANION TEAM LISTS • MATCH DETAILS & STATS • PREVIEWS

THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2022



**PENRITH PANTHERS v
MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES**
BLUEBET STADIUM, 8:05PM



FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2022



**CANBERRA RAIDERS v
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS**
GIO STADIUM, 6:00PM



**BRISBANE BRONCOS v
SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS**
SUNCORP STADIUM, 8:05PM (7:05PM QLD)



SATURDAY 12 MARCH 2022



**SYDNEY ROOSTERS v
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS**
SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND, 3:00PM



**WARRIORS v
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS**
SUNSHINE COAST STADIUM, 5:30PM (4:30PM QLD)



**WESTS TIGERS v
MELBOURNE STORM**
COMMBANK STADIUM, 7:35PM



SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2022



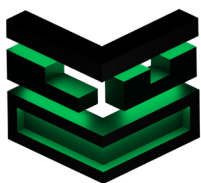
**PARRAMATTA EELS v
GOLD COAST TITANS**
COMMBANK STADIUM, 4:05PM



**NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS v
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS**
QLD COUNTRY BANK STADIUM, 6:15PM (5:15PM QLD)



PENRITH PANTHERS



MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
25	21	5	-	1	22	Dylan EDWARDS	1
20	21	14	-	-	56	Charlie STAINES	2
19	6	1	-	-	4	Izack TAGO	3
21	27	11	14	-	72	Stephen CRICHTON	4
23	21	15	-	-	60	Brian TO'O	5
24	25	2	-	-	8	Jarome LUAI	6
23	12	2	-	-	8	Sean O'SULLIVAN	7
26	24	3	-	-	12	Moses LEOTA	8
28	18	3	-	-	12	Apisai KOROISAU	9
25	24	2	-	-	8	James FISHER-HARRIS	10
26	27	9	-	-	36	Viliame KIKAU	11
24	27	3	-	-	12	Liam MARTIN	12
26	25	2	-	-	8	Isaah YEO	13
23	18	-	-	-	-	Mitch KENNY	14
28	19	1	-	-	4	Scott SORENSEN	15
21	19	1	-	-	4	Spencer LENIU	16
29	19	1	-	-	4	Matt EISENHUTH	17
27	6	1	-	-	4	Chris SMITH	18
22	6	-	-	-	-	J'maine HOPGOOD	19
22	2	-	-	-	-	Jaeman SALMON	20
20	1	-	-	-	-	Taylan MAY	21
25	-	-	-	-	-	Kurt FALLS	22
26	-	-	-	-	-	Soni LUKE	23
25	3	-	-	-	-	Robert JENNINGS	24

Ivan CLEARY

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

**PENALTIES
SCRUMS**

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

Age P T G FG Pts

1	Tom TRBOJEVIC	25	18	28	-	-	112
2	Jason SAAB	20	27	26	-	-	104
3	Brad PARKER	24	25	8	-	-	32
4	Morgan HARPER	23	23	8	-	-	32
5	Reuben GARRICK	24	27	23	121	-	334
6	Kieran FORAN	31	25	4	-	-	16
7	Daly CHERRY-EVANS	32	25	9	1	2	40
8	Toafofoa SIPLEY	26	20	2	-	-	8
9	Lachlan CROKER	24	26	4	-	-	16
10	Martin TAUPAU	31	26	2	-	-	8
11	Haumole OLAKAU'ATU	23	21	8	-	-	32
12	Ethan BULLEMOR	21	17	3	-	-	12
13	Jake TRBOJEVIC	27	23	3	-	-	12
14	Tolutau KOULA	19	-	-	-	-	-
15	Karl LAWTON	25	16	3	-	-	12
16	Sean KEPPIE	23	20	1	-	-	4
17	Taniela PASEKA	23	24	-	-	-	-
18	Morgan BOYLE	25	2	-	-	-	-
19	Andrew DAVEY	29	2	-	-	-	-
20	Christian TUIPULOTU	20	1	-	-	-	-
21	Jorge TAUFUA	30	-	-	-	-	-
22	Alec TUITAVAKE	20	-	-	-	-	-
23	Kaeo WEEKES	20	-	-	-	-	-
24	James ROUMANOS	22	-	-	-	-	-

Des HASLER

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

#NRLPANTHERSMANLY

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Thursday 10 March 2022
KICKOFF	8:05PM AEDT
VENUE	Bluebet Stadium, Penrith NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now, Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport, NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Adam GEE
TOUCH JUDGES	Kasey BADGER Dave MUNRO
NRL BUNKER	Ashley KLEIN

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (92)	PENRITH 39 MANLY 52
AT BLUEBET (44)	PENRITH 21 MANLY 22 DRAWN 1

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2018	R20	PEN 28-24	Lottoland, 6134
2019	R12	PEN 15-12	Panthers, 7981
2020	R12	PEN 42-12	Lottoland, 2729
2021	R4	PEN 46-6	Lottoland, 6076
2021	R8	PEN 28-16	Carrington, 5798

BIGGEST WINS

2004	R22	PEN 72-12	Penrith, 13573
1973	R19	MAN 70-7	Penrith, 6750

MILESTONES

Brad PARKER (MAN): needs 8 points for 100 NRL & Club Points

NEXT WEEK

ST GEO ILLA v PENRITH, FRI 6PM (NETSTRATA)
SYDNEY v MANLY, FRI 8:05PM (SCG)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE project



THE PREVIEW

with Andrew Jackson

Clery-less Panthers look to make early statement in title defence

They were the two best players in rugby league heading into 2022 and it looked like we would be treated to having them face off in the opening round of the new season. But with Nathan Cleary still not 100 per cent ready to return from shoulder surgery, Tom Trbojevic will instead be the headline act as the Manly Sea Eagles play the Penrith Panthers on Thursday night.

It is actually not much of a setback for Penrith given it will need to learn to survive without Cleary during the troublesome Origin period. While Jarome Luai will also likely be missing at that point later in the season, these early rounds will still be valuable for fill-in halfback Sean O'Sullivan as he acclimatises in new surroundings.

New surroundings though may not be completely accurate for O'Sullivan, with his switch to Penrith representing somewhat of a homecoming for the 23-year-old. O'Sullivan came through the Panthers system as a junior and played alongside several of the current first-graders.

While Cleary's absence will be felt, five-eighth Luai has full confidence in O'Sullivan.

"It doesn't change much at all - Sully has come in and done a great job, he's really bought into our culture and systems. He's really fitted into Nath's shoes really well," Luai told reporters.

"He was a year younger than me coming through the system - I got the opportunity to play with Sully at school footy.

"I've played touch footy with Sully back when we were 12, so I've known him for a while and he's always been around in the system."

It will be just as much of a challenge for Luai, who lost his way without Cleary last year and admitted to as much.

Manly are not without its own injury concerns, with Josh Schuster and Dylan Walker sidelined. Haumole Olakau'atu though has surprisingly been named to make an early return from an elbow injury with new recruit Ethan Bullemor also slotting in the second-row.

The Sea Eagles were the biggest improvers of 2021, going all the way to the preliminary final before falling short against the Rabbitohs.

The challenge will be replicating that same form with higher expectations and the off-season providing rival teams with more time to study Trbojevic and work out the best way to shut him down.

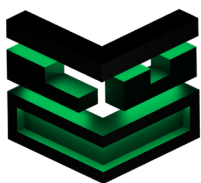
WHO TO WATCH: For Penrith, it will be interesting to see how the situation in the centres plays out. Matt Burton was a revelation in the new role last year, offering a short kicking game close to the line and ball-playing skills alongside his ability to bend the line. Stephen Crichton moves back to the centres after being largely underutilised and underwhelming at times last year. Izack Tago, meanwhile, is one to watch with high hopes he will be the perfect replacement. Young Tago is already well-built and has NRL experience from the Origin period last year. He impressed on those occasions and although defending in the top grade may be a concern early, patience is needed.

Meanwhile, for Manly, as much as Penrith being without Cleary is a boost it will mean little if it does not win the forward battle. The Panthers still boast one of the best forward packs in the league and the Sea Eagles will need the most out of their big men, who were relatively unheralded and underrated last year. Toafofoa Siple in particular is one to watch after missing out on the finals side last year. Siple recent revealed he sat down with coach Des Hasler to understand why he was left out and if anything it sounds like he is ready to prove himself and take his game to another level.

FAVOURITE: Penrith were favourites but the absence of Cleary sees Manly backed in here.

MY TIP: The Panthers should be lifted by the energy of playing in front of a strong home crowd but Cleary's absence will be telling. Penrith has looked disorganised without its general leading the way at halfback and that is particularly true in the red zone. Manly, on the other hand, is clinical with Trbojevic playing out the back. Sea Eagles by 8.

CANBERRA RAIDERS



CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
26	8	3	-	-	12	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	1
22	14	3	-	-	12	Nick COTRIC	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	James SCHILLER	3
21	9	-	-	-	-	Matthew TIMOKO	4
22	11	2	-	-	8	Semi VALEMEI	5
28	21	5	-	-	20	Jack WIGHTON	6
20	1	-	-	-	-	Brad SCHNEIDER	7
29	20	4	-	-	16	Josh PAPALII	8
31	20	1	-	-	4	Josh HODGSON	9
27	19	2	-	-	8	Joseph TAPINE	10
23	19	5	-	-	20	Hudson YOUNG	11
26	15	4	-	-	16	Corey HARAWIRA-NAERA	12
32	21	4	-	-	16	Elliott WHITEHEAD	13
23	19	2	-	-	8	Tom STARLING	14
23	19	4	-	-	16	Emre GULER	15
26	18	2	-	-	8	Adam ELLIOTT	16
23	10	1	-	-	4	Corey HORSBURGH	17
26	22	2	-	-	8	Ryan SUTTON	18
26	5	-	-	-	-	Matt FRAWLEY	19
19	-	-	-	-	-	Trey MOONEY	20
21	-	-	-	-	-	Harry RUSHTON	21
31	12	1	38	-	80	Jarrold CROKER	22
19	2	1	-	-	4	Xavier SAVAGE	23
30	12	4	15	-	46	Sam WILLIAMS	24

Ricky STUART

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

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

PENALTIES
SCRUMS

	Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts	
1	24	24	14	-	-	56	Will KENNEDY
2	24	13	9	-	-	36	Sione KATOA
3	24	17	5	-	-	20	Jesse RAMIEN
4	21	16	10	-	-	40	Ronaldo MULITALO
5	27	15	14	-	-	56	Matt IKUVALU
6	30	15	2	-	-	8	Matt MOYLAN
7	25	24	7	58	-	144	Nicho HYNES
8	25	24	1	-	-	4	Toby RUDOLF
9	23	24	2	-	-	8	Blayne BRAILEY
10	26	19	1	-	-	4	Braden HAMLIN-UELE
11	23	22	4	-	-	16	Briton NIKORA
12	22	15	2	-	-	8	Teig WILTON
13	30	17	2	-	-	8	Dale FINUCANE
14	32	21	1	-	-	4	Aiden TOLMAN
15	24	15	1	-	-	4	Siosifa TALAKAI
16	26	2	-	-	-	-	Royce HUNT
17	32	6	-	-	-	-	Andrew FIFITA
18	22	6	2	-	-	8	Luke METCALF
19	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jesse COLQUOHOUN
20	27	-	-	-	-	-	Lachlan MILLER
21	22	-	-	-	-	-	Jenson TAUMOEPEAU
22	26	-	-	-	-	-	Jayden BERRELL
23	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jonaiah LUALUA
24	23	-	-	-	-	-	Tom HAZELTON

Craig FITZGIBBON

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

#NRLRAIDERSSHARKS

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 11 March 2022
KICKOFF	6:00PM AEDT
VENUE	GIO Stadium Canberra, Bruce ACT
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport, NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ben CUMMINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Darian FURNER Matt NOYEN
NRL BUNKER	Chris BUTLER

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (77)	CANBERRA 38 CRONULLA 39
AT GIO (30)	CANBERRA 16 CRONULLA 14

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2019	R24	CAN 15 - 14	Pointsbet, 18985
2020	R20	CAN 38 - 28	Netstrata, 2783
2020	QF	CAN 32 - 20	GIO, 9602
2021	R2	CAN 12 - 10	Netstrata, 3145
2021	R18	CAN 34 - 18	Cbus, 3874

BIGGEST WINS

1994	R16	CAN 56-12	Bruce, 11901
1982	R10	CRO 44-5	Seiffert, 11955

MILESTONES

Nick COTRIC (CAN): needs 4 points for 200 NRL Points
Jack WIGHTON (CAN): 200th NRL & Club Game
Hudson YOUNG (CAN): 50th NRL & Club Game
Matt MOYLAN (CRO): needs 6 points for 200 NRL Points
Jesse RAMIEN (CRO): needs 4 points for 100 Club Points

NEXT WEEK

NORTH QLD v CANBERRA, SAT 7:35PM (QLD COUNTRY BANK)
CRONULLA v PARRAMATTA, SAT 5:30PM (POINTS BET)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE

project



THE PREVIEW

with Rob Crosby

Rejuvenated rivals eye better days in 2022

Much was promised - yet little delivered - for the Canberra Raiders and Cronulla Sharks in 2021.

Fast-forward to a new season and the two sides are primed to bounce back into finals contention if pre-season performances are indicative of things to come.

Falling one win short of the top eight during a tumultuous campaign last season, the Canberra Raiders have been dealt a major blow on the eve of the opening round with key off-season signing Jamal Fogarty sustaining a knee injury expected to sideline the halfback for four months.

Responding to the setback by elevating Brad Schneider to the number seven jersey ahead of more experienced options, coach Ricky Stuart will be hoping the rookie playmaker can maintain the pre-season form which saw the side defeat an understrength Sydney (32-18) and fight back from a healthy deficit to surprise Manly (18-16).

Handing Adam Elliott a club debut while welcoming back local junior Nick Cotric in the backline, one of the biggest selection shocks of the weekend sees James Schiller named to make his first grade debut ahead of captain Jarrod Croker in the centres.

In addition to being the side's first appearance at GIO Stadium since Round 16 last year, Friday night will mark Jack Wighton's 200th NRL appearance for the club.

Dominating Cronulla in recent times with six straight wins dating back to 2019, the Raiders have performed solidly in opening round fixtures during Stuart's tenure with five wins over the past eight seasons. Coming off a ninth-placed finish in a year where a side could qualify for the finals with more losses than wins, the Cronulla Sharks will be hoping the arrival of coach Craig Fitzgibbon heralds the start of a successful new era for the men from the Shire.

Producing a poor first-up effort against Penrith (6-34) before bouncing back with a much stronger squad opposite Canterbury-Bankstown (30-12), Fitzgibbon has opted to name Matt Moylan in the halves alongside marquee recruit Nicho Hynes, despite the former representative star sitting out both trial matches. Other notable selections include Ronaldo Mulitalo moving to centre with former Rooster Matt Ikuvalu coming onto the wing, while Andrew Fifita will play his first NRL match after suffering a serious throat injury late last season.

Holding one of the poorest opening round records since 2010 with just two wins during that time, the Sharks last started a season with a win away from home in 2008.

Friday evening marks the third time the Raiders and Sharks have clashed in the opening round of the season; the Raiders triumphed on both occasions in 2011 and 2015.

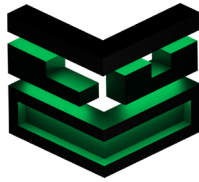
WHO TO WATCH: Handed the task of guiding the Raiders around the field with little more than 10 minutes of NRL action to his name, rookie playmaker Brad Schneider will be out to make the most of his unexpected opportunity in the top grade. Coming into the side after key off-season signing Jamal Fogarty suffered a long-term knee injury in the trial win over Manly, the 21-year-old will be out to back up his strong pre-season form in the season proper. Beating out Sam Williams and Matt Frawley for the first shot at the number seven jersey, look for Schneider to offer a new point of attack as the Raiders chase a club record four consecutive Round 1 wins.

Touted as a future representative player following a breakout campaign four years ago, Cronulla supporters will be hoping 2022 is the year talented centre Jesse Ramien delivers on his potential. Capable of dazzling opposition players with footwork and speed at his best, the 24-year-old has managed 13 tries and line-breaks in his two seasons since returning from a misplaced year with Newcastle, leading pundits to temper their expectations with the passage of time. Contracted to the club until the end of next season, expect Ramien to come out with renewed focus as the Sharks eye back-to-back Round 1 wins for the first time in over a decade.

FAVOURITE: With key players missing through injury and suspension for both sides, the bookmakers have responded by announcing joint \$1.90 favourites.

MY TIP: Friday night shapes as arguably the hardest fixture to pick of the opening round. With the Raiders preparing all off-season for a game plan predicated upon Jamal Fogarty at halfback, the sudden upheaval may give the more settled Sharks the edge needed to clinch victory. Sharks by 6.

BRISBANE BRONCOS



SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
25	18	6	50	-	124	Jamayne ISAAKO	1
26	14	4	-	-	16	Corey OATES	2
22	4	3	-	-	12	Kotoni STAGGS	3
21	20	3	11	-	34	Herbert FARNWORTH	4
19	7	2	2	-	12	Selwyn COBBO	5
27	2	-	-	-	-	Billy WALTERS	6
30	8	2	-	-	8	Albert KELLY	7
24	9	1	-	-	4	Keenan PALASIA	8
24	22	-	-	-	-	Jake TURPIN	9
21	20	1	-	-	4	Payne HAAS	10
28	23	6	-	-	24	Kurt CAPEWELL	11
21	18	3	-	-	12	Jordan RIKI	12
23	8	-	-	-	-	Patrick CARRIGAN	13
<hr/>							
30	14	3	-	-	12	Ryan JAMES	14
26	16	1	-	-	4	Rhys KENNEDY	15
19	10	2	-	-	8	TC ROBATI	16
30	-	-	-	-	-	Tyrone ROBERTS	17
<hr/>							
27	9	-	-	-	-	Corey JENSEN	18
26	-	-	-	-	-	Brenko LEE	19
28	4	1	-	-	4	Jordan PEREIRA	20
26	-	-	-	-	-	Te Maire MARTIN	21
19	-	-	-	-	-	Ezra MAM	22
22	-	-	-	-	-	Logan BAYLISS	23
22	-	-	-	-	-	Ethan QUAI-WARD	24

Kevin WALTERS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
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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	
1	22	8	1	6	-	16	Blake TAAFFE
2	26	22	30	-	-	120	Alex JOHNSTON
3	22	12	9	-	-	36	Jaxson PAULO
4	22	21	9	-	-	36	Campbell GRAHAM
5	26	12	8	-	-	32	Taane MILNE
6	31	25	16	-	-	64	Cody WALKER
7	21	1	1	-	-	4	Lachlan ILIAS
8	24	21	-	-	-	-	Tevita TATOLA
9	30	24	2	-	-	8	Damien COOK
10	31	27	3	-	-	12	Mark NICHOLLS
11	23	23	3	-	-	12	Keaon KOLOAMATANGI
12	26	23	2	-	-	8	Jai ARROW
13	23	20	5	-	-	20	Cameron MURRAY
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14	25	21	1	-	-	4	Jacob HOST
15	28	11	-	-	-	-	Siliva HAVILI
16	29	26	4	-	-	16	Thomas BURGESS
17	29	9	1	-	-	4	Michael CHEE-KAM
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18	18	2	-	-	-	-	Davvy MOALE
19	31	11	10	-	-	40	Josh MANSOUR
20	26	11	-	-	-	-	Liam KNIGHT
21	27	2	-	-	-	-	Richie KENRAR
22	20	3	-	-	-	-	Peter MAMOUELOS
23	22	-	-	-	-	-	Isaiah TASS
24	23	3	-	-	-	-	Dean HAWKINS

Jason DEMETRIOU

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

#NRLBRONCOSSOUTHS

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 11 March 2022
KICKOFF	8:05PM AEDT, 7:05PM AEST
VENUE	Suncorp Stadium, Milton QLD
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ashley KLEIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Wyatt RAYMOND Todd SMITH
NRL BUNKER	Alan SHORTALL

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (44)	BRISBANE 29 SOUTHS 14 DRAW 1
AT SUNCORP (20)	BRISBANE 13 SOUTHS 7

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2019	R23	SOU 22 - 20	Suncorp, 33225
2020	R2	BRI 22 - 18	Suncorp, None
2020	R13	SOU 28 - 10	ANZ, 2919
2021	R5	SOU 35 - 6	Stad Aust, 9142
2021	R15	SOU 46 - 0	Suncorp, 19176

BIGGEST WINS

1995	R20	BRI 56 - 6	QEII, 24801
2021	R15	SOU 46 - 0	Suncorp, 19176

MILESTONES

Corey OATES (BRI): needs 2 tries / 8 points for 100 NRL & Club Tries / 400 NRL & Club Points

Damien COOK (SOU): needs 6 points for 100 NRL Points

Cody WALKER (SOU): needs 8 points for 300 NRL & Club Points

NEXT WEEK

CANTERBURY v BRISBANE, SUN 6:15PM (ACCOR)

MELBOURNE v SOUTHS, THU 8:05PM (AAMI)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE project



THE PREVIEW

with Emile El-Azar

New season. New hopes and dreams. Fresh Start. For some players, new clubs.

For fans, hopefully an uninterrupted season of attending games. One thing remains the same as we head into the 2022 NRL kickoff, the Brisbane Broncos playing on a Friday Night.

The Broncos kick things off against the South Sydney Rabbitohs at Suncorp Stadium, but sadly we've been robbed of the biggest storyline, Adam Reynolds, who would have made his debut against his former side. Thanks COVID. Haven't you done enough over the last two years?

Coach Kevin Walters has gone with son Billy and Albert Kelly as his halves.

Kurt Capewell, Ryan James and Tyrone Roberts will make their club debuts for the Broncos. The impressive Jamayne Issako starts at fullback.

For the Rabbitohs, a strong lineup, as they look to go one better in 2022. Blake Taaffe starts at fullback as Lattrell Mitchell is still suspended.

Lachlan Illias gets the nod at halfback to replace the aforementioned departed Adam Reynolds.

Michael Chee Kam will make his first appearance for Souths, coming off the bench. Look at those outside backs - Johnston, Paulo, Graham, Milne. Not bad at all.

Brisbane come into the new season having won two of their final 5 games of 2021, with defending being their biggest issue - leaking an average of 24 points per game. They can score points, but they need to improve their defence if they are to lift themselves out of the bottom 4.

South Sydney come into 2022 on the back of a heartbreaking Grand Final loss at the very same venue.

New coach Jason Demetriou has a talented playing list at his disposal and they will surely be one of the top teams yet again this season.

Last time they met was in Round 15 of 2021, and South Sydney absolutely cleaned the Broncos up, in a 46-0 win.

I'm very much looking forward to this one. Whilst I do think Souths will ultimately run out comfortable winners, I think the Broncos will be competitive for the first 20-30 minutes.

Interesting to see how their Walters/Kelly halves combination fares. South Sydney have class all over the park.

FAVOURITE: At the time of writing, Souths were 1.28 favourites and rightly so.

MY TIP: Close at half time, no so close at 80 minutes. Rabbitohs by 20.

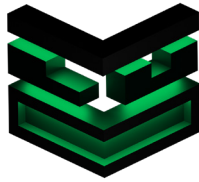
LIVE BLOGS

Every game, every week.

LeagueUnlimited.com offers a live blog of every NRL and NRLW match every week.

Simply head to LeagueUnlimited.com during any match and look for the pop up in the bottom corner of the screen!

SYDNEY ROOSTERS



NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts	
28	22	9	5	-	46	James TEDESCO 1
30	26	15	-	-	60	Daniel TUPOU 2
21	3	2	-	-	8	Billy SMITH 3
25	23	10	-	-	40	Joseph MANU 4
25	19	6	-	-	24	Paul MOMIROVSKI 5
19	21	8	23	3	81	Sam WALKER 6
29	3	-	-	-	-	Luke KEARY 7
32	23	-	-	-	-	Jared WAEREA-HARGREAVES 8
25	25	2	-	-	8	Connor WATSON 9
25	6	1	-	-	4	Lindsay COLLINS 10
25	20	9	-	-	36	Angus CRICHTON 11
24	24	12	-	-	48	Sitili TUPOUNIUA 12
23	16	1	-	-	4	Victor RADLEY 13
26	20	3	-	-	12	Drew HUTCHISON 14
21	16	2	-	-	8	Fletcher BAKER 15
24	19	2	-	-	8	Nat BUTCHER 16
29	21	-	22	-	44	Sio Siuma TAUKEIAHO 17
33	-	-	-	-	-	Kevin NAIQAMA 18
22	9	-	-	-	-	Daniel SULUKA-FIFITA 19
23	20	3	-	-	12	Lachlan LAM 20
19	3	-	-	-	-	Naufahu WHYTE 21
24	15	4	35	-	86	Adam KEIGHRAN 22
19	3	-	-	-	-	Tukupu-Ke HAU TAPUHA 23
24	13	1	-	-	4	Ben MARSCHKE 24

Trent ROBINSON

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	
23	15	8	10	-	52	Kalyn PONGA 1
20	6	4	-	-	16	Dominic YOUNG 2
30	23	10	-	-	40	Dane GAGAI 3
20	17	3	-	-	12	Bradman BEST 4
22	25	13	-	-	52	Enari TUALA 5
23	20	3	33	-	78	Jake CLIFFORD 6
26	10	1	-	-	4	Adam CLUNE 7
27	21	-	-	-	-	David KLEMMER 8
25	5	2	-	-	8	Chris RANDALL 9
25	23	3	-	-	12	Jacob SAIFITI 10
29	19	3	-	-	12	Tyson FRIZELL 11
27	10	3	-	-	12	Lachlan FITZGIBBON 12
28	22	3	-	1	13	Kurt MANN 13
21	9	1	1	-	6	Phoenix CROSSLAND 14
27	24	4	13	-	42	Mitchell BARNETT 15
21	-	-	-	-	-	Leo THOMPSON 16
23	3	-	-	-	-	Jirah MOMOISEA 17
21	8	1	6	-	16	Tex HOY 18
23	3	-	-	-	-	Pasami SAULO 19
20	3	-	-	-	-	Simi SASAGI 20
23	7	1	-	-	4	Brayden MUSGROVE 21
22	2	-	-	-	-	Matt CROKER 22
-	-	-	-	-	-	Dylan LUCAS 23
-	-	-	-	-	-	Jaron PURCELL 24

Adam O'BRIEN

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

#NRLROOSTERSKNIGHTS

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 12 March 2022
KICKOFF	3:00PM AEDT
VENUE	Sydney Cricket Ground, Moore Park NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport, NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Gerard SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Jon STONE Phil HENDERSON
NRL BUNKER	Alan SHORTALL

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (57)	SYDNEY 35 NEWCASTLE 20 DRAW 2
AT SCG (2)	SYDNEY 2 NEWCASTLE 0

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2019	R11	NEW 38 - 12	McD Jones, 25929
2019	R18	SYD 48 - 10	SCG, 14053
2020	R18	SYD 42 - 12	SCG, 6375
2021	R8	SYD 38 - 4	McD Jones, 22172
2021	R19	SYD 28 - 8	Suncorp, 2868

BIGGEST WINS

2004	R15	SYD 48 - 4	Aussie, 11678
2000	R22	NEW 46 - 12	Marathon, 15394
2001	QF	NEW 40 - 6	Marathon, 22061

MILESTONES

Lindsay COLLINS (SYD): 50th NRL & Club Game
James TEDESCO (SYD): needs 2 points for 200 Club Points, 2 more points for 400 NRL points
Connor WATSON (SYD): needs 8 points for 100 NRL Points
Dane Gagai (NEW): needs 6 points for 300 NRL Points
Kurt MANN (NEW): 150th NRL Game
Enari TUALA (NEW): needs 4 points for 100 Club Points

NEXT WEEK

SYDNEY v MANLY, FRI 8:05PM (SCG)
NEWCASTLE v WESTS TIGERS, SUN 4:05PM (MCD JONES)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE project



THE PREVIEW

with Lachlan McIntyre

Roosters aim high after injury-riddled 2021 with their first challenge a determined Knights side

Both teams will be looking to start their 2022 campaign with a victory when the Sydney Roosters and the Newcastle Knights clash at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday afternoon.

After a disappointing end to their 2021 season at the hands of Manly, the Sydney Roosters will be raring to go this year with a side that coach Trent Robinson will hope can turn the club back into serious premiership contenders. Robinson, who recently re-signed with the Roosters until 2028, will be at the helm of the Roosters for his 10th season in 2022, and is the longest-serving Head Coach in the club's history.

The Sydney Roosters will be hoping to bounce back from some lacklustre trial performances - going down to Canberra (32-18) and the Wests Tigers (8-16) - and will be aided by the return of experienced playmaker Luke Keary. Talented young centre Billy Smith has been chosen over new recruit Kevin Naiqama in place of injured up and comer Joseph Suaalii. 22 year old Smith will play in only his 6th NRL game after an ankle injury ended his 2021 campaign prematurely. The Roosters won all three of the matches Billy Smith played in last year.

Connor Watson will make his return to the Roosters after a 4 year stint with Newcastle, and will start at hooker against his old club in place of Sam Verrills who is out through suspension. Maroons prop Lindsay Collins makes his return from a knee injury sustained against the Knights last year in their comfortable round 8 victory.

The Newcastle Knights will be looking to make their third consecutive finals appearance this year, a task that has been made considerably tougher after hooker and co-captain Jayden Brailey injured his achilles in training. This opens the door for Chris Randall to show his worth through the opening rounds of the season after being promoted into the top 30 for the first time.

Star forward Daniel Saifiti is out with a fractured tibia, and is replaced by his brother Jacob in the starting side. Rugby convert Leo Thompson has been named to make his NRL debut off the bench. The prop, who was described by Newcastle coach Adam O'Brien as 'explosive', joined the Knights on a development contract at the start of 2022, before being granted a spot in the top 30 after impressing in the pre-season. New signing Dane Gagai will get his first start in Newcastle colours since 2017, and former Dragons halfback Adam Clune has big shoes to fill, starting in place of Mitchell Pearce after his move to the South of France. He would have gained some confidence after playing a commanding role in his side's trial draw with Canterbury (16-16) just 3 weeks ago.

The Newcastle side are coming off a trial loss against Melbourne (24-10), in which some defensive issues were exposed. They will be severely tested by a Roosters side who will throw everything at them at the line, and it may also take some time to adjust to life without Mitchell Pearce.

The Knights are winless from two attempts on the hallowed turf of the SCG, and will be desperate to change that this Saturday.

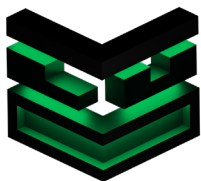
WHO TO WATCH: After playing only two games last year, the return of Luke Keary from an ACL injury will be a massive boost for a Roosters side that lacked experience last year. His role this season as a senior head in the squad means that the success of the side will rely significantly on his performance. His partner in the halves, Sam Walker, will benefit from a mentor on the field, and a good game from Keary could lift the whole team to a resounding victory.

Newcastle fullback Kalyn Ponga has a lot of weight on his shoulders this year. No longer the young and exciting prospect, he has been around the Knights set up for 4 years now and expectations to deliver are high. Named as co-captain along with the injured Jayden Brailey, the 23 year old is signed with Newcastle until the end of 2024, showing that the club has complete faith in his talent. 2022 should be another massive year for him, and getting off on the right foot this weekend against the Roosters is crucial to both the clubs and his own future.

FAVOURITE: The Sydney Roosters are favoured to start the season with a comfortable win at home this Saturday.

MY TIP: In what will be a very entertaining match-up, the Roosters should out class the inexperienced Newcastle spine. Roosters by 10.

NEW ZEALAND WARRIORS



ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
22	11	2	-	1	9	Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA	1
26	18	9	-	-	36	Dallin WATENE-ZELEZNIAK	2
18	2	-	-	-	-	Viliami VAILEA	3
20	8	3	-	-	12	Rocco BERRY	4
25	18	5	-	-	20	Marcelo MONTOYA	5
27	21	4	42	-	100	Kodi NIKORIMA	6
31	10	1	18	1	41	Shaun JOHNSON	7
25	15	1	-	-	4	Addin FONUA-BLAKE	8
24	20	3	-	-	12	Wayde EGAN	9
25	20	2	-	-	8	Bunty AFOA	10
26	14	7	-	-	28	Euan AITKEN	11
21	18	1	-	-	4	Eliesa KATOA	12
22	14	4	-	-	16	Josh CURRAN	13
26	22	1	-	-	4	Jazz TEVAGA	14
30	16	6	-	-	24	Ben MURDOCH-MASILA	15
26	9	-	-	-	-	Aaron PENE	16
24	19	2	-	-	8	Bayley SIRONEN	17
24	10	1	-	-	4	Jack MURCHIE	18
26	16	2	-	-	8	Ashley TAYLOR	20
23	16	4	-	-	16	Adam POMPEY	21
26	-	-	-	-	-	Pride PETTERSON-ROBATI	22
19	3	-	-	-	-	Taniela OTUKOLO	23
23	11	5	2	-	24	Jesse ARTHARS	24
22	5	1	-	-	4	Edward KOSI	25

Nathan BROWN

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
1	19	5	6	-	-	24
2	21	18	6	-	-	24
3	23	13	3	-	-	12
4	22	12	4	35	-	86
5	23	16	14	-	-	56
6	19	11	3	-	-	12
7	31	15	5	-	-	20
8	24	21	-	-	-	-
9	31	21	-	-	-	-
10	30	24	3	-	-	12
11	26	22	4	6	-	28
12	23	23	5	-	-	20
13	30	11	-	-	-	-
14	28	22	1	-	-	4
15	27	19	1	-	-	4
16	25	20	2	-	-	8
17	27	6	-	-	-	-
18	23	11	-	-	-	-
19	20	8	3	-	-	12
20	28	19	-	-	-	-
21	25	11	-	-	-	-
22	27	1	-	-	-	-
23	23	4	-	-	-	-
24	25	-	-	-	-	-

Anthony GRIFFIN

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

#NRLWARRIORSDRAGONS

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 12 March 2022
KICKOFF	5:30PM AEDT, 4:30PM AEST
VENUE	Sunshine Coast Stadium, Kawana Waters QLD
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport, NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Peter GOUGH
TOUCH JUDGES	Ziggy PRZEKLASA-ADAMSKI Nick PELGRAVE
NRL BUNKER	Ashley KLEIN

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (32)	WARRIORS 10 ST GEO ILLA 22
AT SUN. COAST (0)	FIRST MATCH AT VENUE

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2018	R21	WAR 18 - 12	WIN, 13924
2019	R9	WAR 26 - 18	Suncorp, 35122
2020	R3	WAR 18 - 0	Cen. Coast, None
2021	R6	WAR 20 - 14	Netstrata, 11222
2021	R16	SGI 19 - 18	Cen. Coast, None

BIGGEST WINS

2001	R4	WAR 34 - 6	Mt Smart, 8730
2007	R18	WAR 44 - 16	Mt Smart, 10037
2000	R14	SGI 54 - 0	WIN, 7039

MILESTONES

Marcelo MONTROYA (WAR): needs 4 points for 100 NRL Points

Zac LOMAX (SGI): 50th NRL & Club Game

Tautau MOGA (SOU): needs 8 points for 100 NRL Points

NEXT WEEK

GOLD COAST v WARRIORS, SAT 3PM (CBUS)

ST GEO ILLA v PENRITH, FRI 6PM (NETSTRATA)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE project



THE PREVIEW

with AJ Lucantonio

NEW AND RETURNING FACES KEEN TO MAKE THEIR MARK

The New Zealand Warriors return to their home away from home to kick start their 2022 campaign against the St George Illawarra Dragons at Sunshine Coast Stadium. Both sides would consider 2021 a disappointing year considering the promising signs they showed at various stages throughout last season.

The Warriors are coming into 2022 following a 12th place finish after a season marred by inconsistent play and a lack of identity in the way they played. The departure of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck to rugby union is a massive blow not just for the Warriors, but for the game as well.

They did however manage to a return of the prodigal son Shaun Johnson. He returns to the club after 3 years in exile down in the shire. Warriors fans will be hoping SJ's arrival can net much-needed improvement and consistency in attack. They had a strong trial performance against the Storm (30-18) however their last trial against the Titans was abandoned due to the QLD flood crisis which has engulfed the east coast of Australia.

As a result, expect to see a little bit of rust in attack to start especially from the spine who will be without Reece Walsh due to suspension for an off-field incident. Up-front they'll have no problems with Addin Fonua-Blake, fresh off a new contract extension leading the pack primed for another strong season. Aaron Pene could be a game breaker through the middle arriving from Melbourne as well as the emergence of Bunty Afoa sees the Warriors with much-needed starch upfront. Chanel Harris-Tavita warms the fullback jumper for Reece Walsh while teen centre Viliami Vailea is preferred at centre over Adam Pompey and Jesse Arthars.

St George Illawarra has had a strong pre-season under newly re-signed coach Anthony Griffin with wins against Parramatta (28-24) and upset win in the Charity Shield over Souths (16-10). They were on track for a top 8 spot last season until an infamous BBQ saw their season collapse and would go on to lose their remaining 8 matches to finish outside the 8 in 11th spot.

They've recruited efficiently by adding QLD representative Francis Molo and exciting centre Moses Suli to provide some spark to the backline which was lacking last season. There's a lot of excitement around the Red V this season especially the young core of Tyrell Sloan, Cody Ramsey and Talatau Amone after their late-season cameos last season, a full offseason under their belts will only see their potential grow throughout the season.

A real surprise in the Dragons team list with Anthony Griffin choosing to leave Tariq Sims and new buy George Burgess out for this clash as the same starting side who were dominant in the Charity Shield have been retained by the coach to start the season. New signing Francis Molo is left on the bench along with fellow new recruits Moses Mbye and Jack Gosiewski.

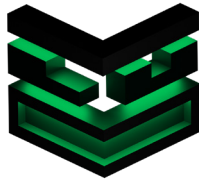
WHO TO WATCH: Guess who's back, back again. Shaun Johnson is back with a point to prove. After a disgruntled exit from the Warriors following the 2018 season. SJ will be keen to prove to Warriors fans that he can recapture some of the form that saw him win the Golden Boot in 2014. His leadership will be vital in supporting the spine around him. His experience will certainly add a spark to a Warriors side desperate for a dominant playmaker to steer them to a top 8 finish.

With the Dragons moving Matt Dufty on during the offseason, you knew that they had the upmost faith in Tyrell Sloan. The young rookie burst on the scene in the middle of last season scoring 6 tries in 5 appearances. He was incredibly dangerous and heavily involved in both club trial matches. His energy and talent will provide a big spark to a Dragons side aiming for the finals.

FAVOURITE: The Dragons are slight favourites in the toughest game of the round to tip. However, the Warriors have a good recent record against the Dragons only losing 1 of the past 6 outings between the two sides.

MY TIP: It's common to say "trials don't matter" but I'm going to go against this for my tip in this one. St George Illawarra were mightily impressive in the Charity Shield downing a much stronger South Sydney outfit with the excitement machines of Sloan, Ramsey and Amone proving the difference. The Warriors will provide tough resilience and it will go right down to the wire as both sides try and kickstart their seasons with a bang. Dragons by 4.

WESTS TIGERS



MELBOURNE STORM

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts	
22	19	7	-	-	28	Daine LAURIE 1
27	24	13	-	-	52	David NOFOALUMA 2
29	11	3	-	-	12	James ROBERTS 3
25	-	-	-	-	-	Oliver GILDART 4
27	21	15	-	-	60	Ken MAUMALO 5
26	-	-	-	-	-	Jackson HASTINGS 6
26	24	1	7	-	18	Luke BROOKS 7
25	23	-	-	-	-	Alex TWAL 8
20	9	2	-	-	8	Jake SIMPKIN 9
21	21	6	-	-	24	Stefano UTOIKAMANU 10
22	5	2	-	-	8	Kelma TUILAGI 11
25	24	5	-	-	20	Luciano LEILUA 12
26	23	1	-	-	4	Joseph OFAHENGAUE 13
30	22	5	-	-	20	Tyrone PEACHEY 14
26	18	5	-	-	20	Luke GARNER 15
25	5	-	-	-	-	Zane MUSGROVE 16
22	12	1	-	-	4	Alex SEYFARTH 17
23	19	-	-	-	-	Thomas MIKAELE 18
21	12	6	-	-	24	Starford TO'A 19
21	3	-	-	-	-	Jock MADDEN 20
19	5	-	-	-	-	Tukimihia SIMPKINS 21
-	-	-	-	-	-	Rua NGATIKAURA 22
23	-	-	-	-	-	Austin DIAS 23
21	-	-	-	-	-	William KEI 24

Michael MAGUIRE

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

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

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

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts	
23	15	14	49	2	157	Ryan PAPHUYZEN 1
28	18	11	-	-	44	George JENNINGS 2
24	25	14	-	-	56	Reimis SMITH 3
27	25	12	-	-	48	Justin OLAM 4
20	17	11	-	-	44	Xavier COATES 5
24	22	10	5	-	50	Nick MEANEY 6
26	24	9	-	-	36	Jahrome HUGHES 7
32	24	1	-	-	4	Jesse BROMWICH 8
25	24	11	-	-	44	Brandon SMITH 9
27	21	2	-	-	8	Christian WELCH 10
29	20	3	-	-	12	Felise KAUFUSI 11
30	21	4	-	-	16	Kenneath BROMWICH 12
26	18	1	-	-	4	Josh KING 13
-	-	-	-	-	-	Tyran WISHART 14
25	-	-	-	-	-	Jayden NIKORIMA 15
20	6	2	-	-	8	Trent LOIERO 16
25	17	4	-	-	16	Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA 17
20	10	6	-	-	24	Dean IEREMIA 18
-	-	-	-	-	-	Alec MACDONALD 19
19	-	-	-	-	-	Jack HOWARTH 20
19	-	-	-	-	-	Sualauvi FAALOGO 21
26	-	-	-	-	-	Bronson GARLICK 22
19	-	-	-	-	-	Jonah PEZET 23
24	-	-	-	-	-	William WARBRICK 24

Craig BELLAMY

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

#NRLTIGERSSTORM

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 12 March 2022
KICKOFF	7:35PM AEDT
VENUE	CommBank Stadium, Parramatta NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Chris SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Drew OULTRAM Nick BEASHEL
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (34)	WESTS TIGERS 12 MELBOURNE 22
AT COMMBANK (0)	FIRST MEETING AT VENUE

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2018	R2	WST 10 - 8	AAMI, 18189
2018	R5	WST 11 - 10	Mt Smart, 25600
2019	R10	MEL 24 - 22	AAMI, 11402
2020	R19	MEL 50 - 22	Sun. Coast, 4121
2021	R15	MEL 66 - 16	Sun. Coast, 5328

BIGGEST WINS

2001	R5	WST 40 - 10	Leichhardt, 11206
2001	R18	MEL 64 - 0	Colonial, 10683

MILESTONES

Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA (MEL): needs 8 points for 100 NRL & Club Points

NEXT WEEK

NEWCASTLE v WESTS TIGERS, SUN 4:05PM (MCD JONES)
MELBOURNE v SOUTHS, THU 8:05PM (AAMI PARK)

Match stats courtesy of



THE PREVIEW

with Lachy MacCorquodale

Having won their last 17 opening round match ups, the Melbourne Storm travel to CommBank Stadium to take on the Wests Tigers. The streak of 17 wins includes this very same season opener, only 15 years ago, which saw the Storm prevail by two points. The Storm will be aiming for a similar result and given their 50-point thrashing of the Tigers last year, you'd expect that to happen.

The Storm were brilliant throughout the 2021 regular season, scoring 815 points, the second most in NRL history. They dropped 66 on the Tigers last year and routinely put on 40-odd points to defeat that week's opponent. However, this wasn't enough to get the Melbourne Storm over the line, losing in the Preliminary Final to the eventual premiers, the Penrith Panthers.

Since then, the Storm have lost several key members from the 2021 squad, in particular, Nicho Hynes, Josh Addo-Carr and Dale Finucane. All three were excellent in the Storm's record-breaking season and they surely will be missed, but as we know, the Storm still possess some of the best players in the game, with the likes of Ryan Papenhuyzen, Jahrome Hughes, Brandon Smith and Christian Welch lining up for Melbourne this week. At full fitness the Storm can still name one of the best teams on paper but luckily for the Tigers, the defending minor premiers will be without both Cameron Munster and Harry Grant as the serve one-match suspensions. New recruit, Nick Meaney will make his club debut at five-eighth, covering for the suspended Cameron Munster. Tyran Wishart, Jayden Nikorima, Josh King and Xavier Coates will also make their debuts for Melbourne on Saturday night.

It was a poor finish to the 2021 season for the Tigers, losing 20-50, 16-30 and 0-38 to round out a disappointing season. Wins were scarce in 2021 for the Tigers, only winning eight of their 24 matches and just one win in the opening seven weeks. If Wests start in a similar fashion, you can write another season off for the merger club who haven't played finals since 2011.

Jackson Hastings, Oliver Gildart and Tyrone Peachey, the club's three new signings will run out for their club debuts on Saturday night and many Tigers fan will be waiting in anticipation to see how their new men perform. Hastings will partner 172-gamer Luke Brooks in the halves and much has been said about the current halves' situation at the Tigers. With Adam Doueihi out for the first few months, both Hastings and Brooks will get a fair shot at claiming their halves positions. Eyes will be on Hastings, who returns to the NRL for the first time since 2018 but we all know the pressure is on Luke Brooks. It's going to be a crucial year for Luke Brooks and his future at the Tigers. If he struggles to perform for the club, that could be it. Alongside the club debutants, the Tigers bring Jake Simpkin and Alex Twal into the starting line-up for Jacob Liddle (injury) and James Tamou (suspension).

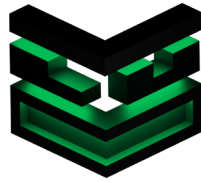
WHO TO WATCH: Fans of the Wests Tigers will be pleased to see the return of Daine Laurie in the number one jersey. Laurie's 2021 season ended earlier than expected, suffering a broken leg in their Round 20 match against the Warriors. Joining the Tigers at the start of last season, the 'Great Daine' scored seven tries, assisted eight tries, broke the line on nine occasions and averaged just over 134 run metres per game. Very solid output for a rookie fullback playing for a side at the wrong end of the ladder. His return will be welcomed by Tigers fan as they get to see their young fullback in action again who will be looking to strike up combinations with Hastings and Brooks as they settle into the season.

Laurie's opposing player is a former Tiger junior in Ryan Papenhuyzen. The 23-year-old fullback is now 57 NRL Games into his career and will be rearing to go this season after missing a decent amount of time last season with concussion troubles. Nonetheless, Papenhuyzen still dominated in his 15 appearances last season, scoring 14 tries, assisting six and averaging just over 145 run metres per game. A very good year for Papenhuyzen despite his run metres being down 50 metres per game on his 2020 season. Everyone would love to see the Storm fullback get back to the very top of his game and if he does, himself and Laurie could provide plenty of highlights.

FAVOURITE: It's no surprise to any NRL fan that the Melbourne Storm are the favourites to win their Round One clash with the Wests Tigers. The Storm's 21 regular season win compared to the Tigers eight should be enough to convince you to lean the Storm's way. They still possess some of the best players in the game and we've seen no signs from last season that the Tigers will be able to limit their point scoring.

MY TIP: I'm tipping Melbourne to win this one, pretty much for everything that was said in the preview. The Storm are an exceptional attacking side, and the Tigers are a poor defensive team, so I'll expect the Storm to put a few tries past the Tigers. I just can't see the Tigers scoring the 24-30 points that they'll need if they were to perform well and pull off a victory. Storm by 16.

PARRAMATTA EELS



GOLD COAST TITANS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
27	25	13	18	-	88	Clinton GUTHERSON	1
19	2	2	-	-	8	Sean RUSSELL	2
19	5	2	-	-	8	Will PENISINI	3
26	17	7	-	-	28	Waqā BLAKE	4
23	17	6	-	-	24	Bailey SIMONSSON	5
21	21	4	-	-	16	Dylan BROWN	6
27	22	3	66	2	146	Mitchell MOSES	7
28	20	4	-	-	16	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD	8
23	17	3	-	-	12	Reed MAHONEY	9
27	23	2	-	-	8	Junior PAULO	10
26	26	5	-	-	20	Shaun LANE	11
23	25	7	-	-	28	Isaiah PAPALII	12
26	17	4	-	-	16	Ryan MATTERSON	13
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28	5	-	-	-	-	Makahesi MAKATOĀ	14
22	21	1	-	-	4	Oregon KAUFUSI	15
24	9	1	-	-	4	Ray STONE	16
19	7	2	-	-	8	Jakob ARTHUR	17
<hr/>							
28	24	1	-	-	4	Nathan BROWN	18
26	19	4	-	-	16	Bryce CARTWRIGHT	19
31	20	2	-	-	8	Mitch REIN	20
27	21	7	-	-	28	Tom OPACIC	21
22	1	-	-	-	-	Hayze PERHAM	22
21	2	-	-	-	-	Wiremu GREIG	23
22	1	-	-	-	-	Ky RODWELL	24

Brad ARTHUR

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

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

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

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

	Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	Jayden CAMPBELL	21	7	5	-	20
2	Phillip SAMI	24	18	6	-	24
3	Brian KELLY	25	22	12	-	48
4	Patrick HERBERT	24	20	6	-	24
5	Corey THOMPSON	31	18	8	-	32
6	AJ BRIMSON	23	18	7	-	28
7	Toby SEXTON	20	4	1	16	36
8	Moeaki FOTUAIKA	21	22	3	-	12
9	Erin CLARK	24	19	1	-	4
10	Isaac LIU	30	26	1	-	4
11	David FIFITA	21	22	17	-	68
12	Beau FERMOR	23	15	4	-	16
13	Tino FA'ASUAMALEAUI	21	22	4	-	16
<hr/>						
14	Will SMITH	29	17	1	-	4
15	Sam LISONE	27	16	-	-	-
16	Jaimin JOLLIFFE	24	25	1	-	4
17	Kevin PROCTOR	32	23	6	-	24
<hr/>						
18	Jarrold WALLACE	30	25	6	-	24
19	Tanah BOYD	21	6	1	-	4
20	Herman ESE'ESE	27	3	-	-	-
21	Esan MARSTERS	25	8	1	-	4
22	Sam McINTYRE	23	10	-	-	-
23	Paul TURNER	21	2	1	-	4
24	Greg MARZHEW	24	8	6	-	24

Justin HOLBROOK

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

#NRLEELSTITANS

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 13 March 2022
KICKOFF	4:05PM AEDT
VENUE	CommBank Stadium, Parramatta NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport, NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Grant ATKINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Dave MUNRO Wyatt RAYMOND
NRL BUNKER	Matt NOYEN

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (21)	PARRAMATTA 10 GOLD COAST 11
AT COMMBANK (0)	FIRST MEETING AT VENUE

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2017	R24	PAR 30 - 8	ANZ, 6826
2018	R21	PAR 28 - 12	ANZ, 6158
2019	R22	PAR 36 - 12	Cbus, 10780
2020	R2	PAR 46 - 6	Cbus, None
2021	R18	PAR 26 - 8	Cbus, 15038

BIGGEST WINS

2020	R2	PAR 46 - 6	Cbus, None
2013	R11	GLD 42 - 4	Mudgee, 9132

MILESTONES

Bryce CARTWRIGHT (PAR): needs 4 points for 100 NRL Points
Clinton GUTHERSON (PAR): needs 7 points for 400 Club Points
Tino FAASUAMALEAUI (GLD): 50th NRL Game

NEXT WEEK

CRONULLA v PARRAMATTA, SAT 5:30PM (POINTS BET)
GOLD COAST v WARRIORS, SAT 3:00PM (CBUS SUPER)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE

project



THE PREVIEW

with Adam Huxtable

Titans look to build off a promising last season, Eels look to build off a promising last 5 seasons

Yes, I know the Eels got the wooden spoon in 2018 and that headline isn't technically correct. That doesn't change the fact that in the other four seasons since 2017, they've made the top four twice and hosted two Week 1 elimination finals. Every single one of these finals appearances has ended in the same way: a second-round exit. It's a hugely alarming trend that Parramatta and Brad Arthur simply have to buck this year.

They start out their campaign against Justin Holbrook and the Titans who, despite making their first finals appearance since 2016 last season, will want to improve on their respective totals of 10 wins and 14 losses. They were also unable to defeat any team that finished 6th or higher on the table.

That being said, Rugby League's newest club (for 1 more season at least) have made enormous strides in recent years, emerging from the depths of a wooden spoon in 2019 to being a Patrick Herbert pass away from the second week of the finals.

This week's matchup between the two sides is set to be an intriguing one; the Eels have only two members of last year's starting backline returning, while for the Titans, no 2021 spine player is returning to play in the same position in 2022.

To go into specifics, Sean Russell will be making his 3rd career NRL start while Bailey Simonsson is in line to make his Eels debut, both on either wing. Interestingly, neither were the clubs first choice wingers heading into this season, but long-term injuries to Sivo and Dunster have them both looking to lock down the positions as their own.

Brad Arthur has thrown an early selection curveball, naming his son Jakob on the bench ahead of more experienced campaigners such as Bryce Cartwright and Mitch Rein, the latter of whom has been denied a first up revenge game against his former club.

Despite breaking their finals drought last year, the Titans have shaken their spine up. 2021 halves Ash Taylor and Jamal Fogarty have moved on. They are replaced by AJ Brimson and Toby Sexton, the former shifting from fullback to accommodate young star Jayden Campbell. Erin Clark is in at hooker to cover the loss of the aforementioned Rein. Isaac Liu will start in the front row on his Titans debut, while Will Smith will have a revenge game but off the bench.

Historically, the Titans have actually given the Eels a bit of trouble, the 1986 premiers being one of only three clubs the Gold Coast have an all-time winning record against. The Eels will tie it up at 11 apiece should they get the job done on Sunday however.

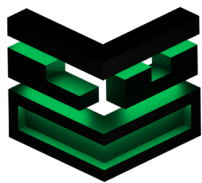
WHO TO WATCH: With Nathan Brown and Marata Niukore set to make their return in Round 2, you have to think that this is Shaun Lane's time to show that he is deserving of a place in the Eels strongest 17. Lane enjoyed a breakout season in his first year with the Eels in 2019, however since then has been a beacon of inconsistency, with his strong runs often being overshadowed by his unforced errors or ill-advised offloads. There's no doubt that Lane has the ability to be an elite second rower in this league, however potential will only get you so far, especially when you're going into your fifth full season of first grade and have talented youngsters breathing down your neck.

The Titans have placed a sizeable figurative bet on Toby Sexton being their long-term solution at halfback. He's the reason they allowed their skipper Jamal Fogarty to walk during the offseason, a move which, in my eyes, shows refreshing commitment to constantly improving; there are too many clubs who would remain satisfied with an 8th placed finish after spending years in the wilderness. As a prospect, Sexton is raw, having only four games worth of first grade experience at 21 years of age. He has looked promising during his limited opportunities however, and Titans' decision makers will be hoping he continues to develop throughout the 2022 season. A strong showing against a top contender in Round 1 would do plenty to induce confidence within the organisation.

FAVOURITE: The Eels are 6.5-point favourites over the Titans in this one.

MY TIP: I like the Titans chances of returning to the finals this season, but there are simply too many unknowns to say with any confidence they'll beat an Eels side which traditionally comes bursting out of the gates to start the year. Eels by 14.

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS



CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
20	13	8	-	-	32	Hamiso TABUAI-FIDOW	1
29	20	12	-	-	48	Kyle FELDT	2
26	20	4	54	2	126	Valentine HOLMES	3
28	10	1	-	-	4	Peta HIKU	4
22	20	10	-	-	40	Murray TAULAGI	5
20	17	7	-	-	28	Tom DEARDEN	6
30	16	-	34	1	69	Chad TOWNSEND	7
24	15	-	-	-	-	Jamayne TAUNOA-BROWN	8
23	24	6	-	-	24	Reece ROBSON	9
25	22	2	-	-	8	Coen HESS	10
20	11	3	-	-	12	Heilum LUKI	11
18	4	1	-	-	4	Jeremiah NANAI	12
28	15	1	-	-	4	Jason TAUMALOLO	13
22	6	-	-	-	-	Reuben COTTER	14
29	24	1	-	-	4	Jordan McLEAN	15
24	20	2	-	-	8	Mitchell DUNN	16
21	11	-	-	-	-	Tom GILBERT	17
32	24	4	-	-	16	Jake GRANVILLE	18
24	24	5	11	-	42	Scott DRINKWATER	19
20	3	-	-	-	-	Griffin NEAME	20
28	-	-	-	-	-	Brendan ELLIOT	21
21	11	4	-	-	16	Ben CONDON	22
23	13	1	-	-	4	Connelly LEMUELU	23
21	5	-	-	-	-	Daejarn ASI	24

Todd PAYTEN

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	
1	Matt DUFTY	25	15	10	-	-	40
2	Jayden OKUNBOR	24	7	5	-	-	20
3	Braidon BURNS	25	8	2	-	-	8
4	Brent NADEN	25	7	4	-	-	16
5	Josh ADDO-CARR	26	22	23	1	-	94
6	Matt BURTON	21	26	17	6	1	81
7	Jake AVERILLO	21	21	7	27	-	82
8	Luke THOMPSON	26	15	3	-	-	12
9	Jeremy MARSHALL-KING	25	9	1	-	-	4
10	Paul VAUGHAN	30	16	1	-	-	4
11	Jack HETHERINGTON	25	17	1	-	-	4
12	Tevita PANGAI JUNIOR	25	21	5	-	-	20
13	Josh JACKSON	30	17	-	-	-	-
14	Bailey BIONDI-ODO	19	9	2	-	-	8
15	Corey WADDELL	25	20	1	-	-	4
16	Max KING	24	-	-	-	-	-
17	Chris PATOLO	20	6	-	-	-	-
19	Brandon WAKEHAM	22	8	-	-	-	-
20	Aaron SCHOUPE	20	13	3	-	-	12
21	Joe STIMSON	25	11	-	-	-	-
22	Josh COOK	22	-	-	-	-	-
23	Ava SEUMANUFAGAI	30	16	-	-	-	-
24	Kyle FLANAGAN	23	13	1	17	-	38
25	Reece HOFFMAN	20	-	-	-	-	-

Trent BARRETT

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

#NRLCOWBOYSBULLDOGS

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 13 March 2022
KICKOFF	6:15PM AEDT
VENUE	Queensland Country Bank Stadium, Townsville QLD
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Chris BUTLER
TOUCH JUDGES	Liam KENNEDY Nick MOREL
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL (41)	NORTH QLD 18 CANTERBURY 23
AT QLD C.B. (1)	NORTH QLD 1 CANTERBURY 0

LAST FIVE MEETINGS

2018	R6	CBY 27 - 10	1300Smiles, 14434
2019	R7	CBY 24 - 12	ANZ, 6711
2019	R24	NQL 15 - 8	1300Smiles, 15141
2020	R2	NQL 24 - 16	ANZ, None
2021	R6	NQL 30 - 18	QLD C.B., 11965

BIGGEST WINS

2016	R20	NQL 36 - 0	1300Smiles, 11630
1995	R22	CBY 66 - 4	Belmore, 18818

MILESTONES

Jake GRANVILLE (NQL): needs 4 points for 100 NRL Points
Valentine HOLMES (NQL): needs 9 points for 200 Club Points
Matt BURTON (CBY): needs 7 points for 100 NRL Points
Josh JACKSON (CBY): needs 4 points for 100 NRL & Club Points
Brent NADEN (CBY): needs 4 points for 100 NRL Points

NEXT WEEK

NORTH QLD v CANBERRA, SAT 7:35PM / 6:35PM QLD (QLD C.B.)
CANTERBURY v BRISBANE, SUN 6:15PM (ACCOR)

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE

project



THE PREVIEW

with Jason Hosken

A perfect start to the season awaits one of last year's cellar dwellers

The final match of the opening round sees the bottom two sides from last season clash in Townsville on Sunday evening.

With the disappointment of 2021 now in the rear view mirror, either Todd Payten or Trent Barrett will celebrate a perfect start to their second season in charge.

Stymied by a lack of composure in recent seasons, Payten has enlisted experienced newcomers Chad Townsend and Peta Hiku to make an immediate impact as the Cowboys look to break a disastrous five match losing streak on home turf.

Thankfully for the Cowboys it won't be a battle of the cheque book.

Just like a MAFS reject, Canterbury have undergone a full makeover. Now fielding seven high profile recruits, the Bulldogs will trot onto Queensland Country Bank Stadium bearing little resemblance to last year's wooden spoon evictee.

Paul Vaughan and Tevita Pangai Junior bring power to an already competitive pack. But it's in the halves where the blue and white have struggled since Trent Hodgkinson's departure seven seasons ago.

Matt Burton's head-to-head with Townsend will be crucial to the outcome. The premiership winning Panther showed glimpses in his only trial, but if the Bulldogs' big loss to Cronulla proved anything, it's that Barrett still has plenty of work in front of him to unleash Josh Addo-Carr and Matt Dufty.

But with a difficult draw, there's little time to waste. Next week Canterbury host Brisbane before facing Manly, Melbourne and then Penrith. It means a sixth consecutive opening round loss could be the start of another ugly tailspin.

Not without challenges of his own, Payten found enough in the Cowboys' trial win over Brisbane to persist with Valentine Holmes at centre, while the energetic Tom Deaden has won the battle with Josh Drinkwater to partner Townsend in the halves.

How the coach uses Jason Taumalolo is sure to fire debate. But after the controversy of last season, Canterbury can expect more than usual from the marquee battering ram.

And with an opening draw far more palatable than Canterbury's, the Cowboys shouldn't lack inspiration. With another home game against Canberra next week followed by the Broncos, a win this weekend could quickly snowball into several.

WHO TO WATCH: Never take your eyes off Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow. Last year the elusive Cowboy made a seamless transition from wing to fullback and stepped up for the Maroons at centre, all before his 20th birthday.

In a contest where both sides are sure to fight early season rust, don't be surprised if an opportunistic swoop and dash by the Hammer swings the result.

Tevita Pangai Junior's debut for the Bulldogs this weekend sees him suit up for his third club in just eight NRL appearances. A careless attitude in the Sharks trial upset the coach and should bring out the devil in the Cowboys' middle.

But if the former Panther arrives as the good cop, then his forward punch and off-load may just be the key to unlock Barrett's under siege halves.

FAVOURITE: Canterbury are yet to taste success at North Queensland's new home. But the Cowboys' victory song hasn't been heard there since round 12 last season. So it's no surprise the bookies can't split them either.

MY TIP: Banking on trial form is usually the mistake of the mug punter. But in the absence of more meaningful data, how best to separate the dregs of 2021? North Queensland conceded one try in their final warm-up game, the Dogs a sloppy five. Cowboys by 14.

NSWRL TEAMLISTS

PLEASE NOTE: Teamlists may be incomplete or unavailable and are subject to change, along with match details. Visit nswrl.com.au for more information.

KNOCK-ON EFFECT NSW CUP - ROUND 1

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS v PARRAMATTA EELS Saturday 12 March 1:00pm, Kellyville Park, Kellyville; Referee: Daniel Luttringer; Sideline Officials: Tom Cambourn, John Woods; **ST GEO ILLA:** 1. Treigh Stewart 2. Jonathon Reuben 3. Ethan Clark-Wood 4. Leonard Skelton 19. Sam McCann 6. Max Batty 7. Dean Blore 24. George Burgess 9. Brad Dietz 10. Tariq Sims 11. Jackson Shereb 12. Josh Carr 13. Joshua Coric 14. Jack Boyling 15. Lucas Castle 16. Shalom O'Ofou 17. Tristian Alvarado 20. Nathan Leatigaga **PARRAMATTA:** 1. Hayze Perham 2. Solomon Naiduki 3. Tom Opacic 4. Samuel Loizou 6. Jordan Rankin 8. Ofahiki Ogden 9. Mitch Rein 10. Ky Rodwell 11. Elie El Zakhem 12. Bryce Cartwright 13. Nathan Brown 15. Wiremu Greig

NEWTOWN JETS v CANBERRA RAIDERS Saturday 12 March 3:00pm, Henson Park, Marrickville; Referee: Cameron Paddy; Sideline Officials: Nathan Loveday, Liam Nicholls; **NEWTOWN:** 1. Lachlan Miller 2. Tyla Tamou 3. Jenson Taumoepeau 4. Kayal Iro 5. Jonah Lualua 6. Angus Ernst 7. Rhys Davies 8. Kurt Dillon 9. Jayden Berrell 10. Thomas Hazelton 12. Reubenn Rennie 13. Tyler Slade 14. Charbel Tasipale 15. Zac Woolford 16. Jonah Ngaronoa 17. Vincent Rennie **CANBERRA:** 1. Xavier Savage 2. Utuloa Asouma 3. Jarrod Croker 4. Brad Morkos 5. Josh Smith 6. Sam Williams 7. Matt Frawley 8. Ata Mariota 9. Adrian Trevilyan 10. Ryan Sutton 11. Clay Webb 12. Trey Mooney 13. Harry Rushton 14. Toby Thorburn 15. Jordan Martin 16. Caleb Esera 17. Caleb Tohi 18. Rayden Burns

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS v CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS Saturday 12 March 3:00pm, Belmore Sports Ground; Referee: Damian Brady; Sideline Officials: Cameron Mitchell, Mitchell Stone; **SOUTHS:** 1. Jacob Gagai 2. Josh Mansour 3. Isaiah Tass 4. Richard Kennar 5. Izaac Thompson 6. Jack Campagnolo 7. Dean Hawkins 8. Shaq Mitchell 9. Peter Mamouzelos 10. Davvy Moale 11. Trent Peoples 12. Maila Chan-Foon 13. James Hasson 14. Shannon Gardiner 15. Hugo Patterson 16. Tyson Hodge 17. Jake Tago 18. Darcy Hardman 19. Yileen Gordon **CANTERBURY:** 1. Creedence Toia 2. Jacob Kiraz 3. Aaron Schoupp 4. Declan Casey 5. Isaac Lumelumel 6. Brandon Wakeham 7. Kyle Flanagan 8. Jayden Tanner 9. Josh Cook 10. Phillip Makatoa 11. Joshua Stuckey 12. Jackson Topine 13. Joe Stimson 14. Zach Dockar-Clay 15. Harrison Edwards 16. Billy Tsirikas 17. Kurtis Morrin 19. Zac Hetherington

JERSEY FLEGG CUP (U21) - ROUND 1

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS v PARRAMATTA EELS Saturday 12 March 11:15am, Kellyville Park, Kellyville; Referee: Cameron Turner; Sideline Officials: Tom Cambourn, Jack Bird; **ST GEO ILLA:** 1. Callum Gromek 2. John Vunga 3. Tate Roberts 4. Ben Johnson 5. Alexander Lobb 6. Zach Herring 7. Braxton Wallace 8. Bryce Magnone 9. Sam Hooper 10. Aaron Johnson 11. Hayden Budd 12. Duke Grant 13. Dallas Collins 14. Declan Purcell 15. Phoenix Vetenibua-Finnerty 16. Thomas Phillips 17. Clive Brett 18. Isaac Morris 21. Harley Sanchez 23. Cooper Roberts **PARRAMATTA:** 1. Corey Fenning 2. Turoa Williams 3. Joshua Tuipulotu 4. Lachlan Blackburn 5. Matthew Komolafe 6. Dantoray Lui 8. Peter Taateo 9. Kruz Niutili-Schmidt 10. David Hollis 11. Nikau Wrathall 13. David Tui 14. Brock Parker 15. Ryan Jones 16. Tevita Taumoepeu 17. Jayden Skinner 18. Jack Colovatic

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS v CANBERRA RAIDERS Saturday 12 March 12:30pm, Henson Park, Marrickville; Referee: Tom Stindl; Sideline Officials: Liam Nicholls, Brandon Mani; **CRONULLA:** 1. Kade Dykes 2. Thomas Rodwell 3. Noah Lester 4. Jordan Samrani 5. Samuel Stonestreet 6. Manaia Waitere 7. Ryan Rivett 8. Jack Martin 9. Samuel Healey 10. Joshua Finau 11. Kai Parker 12. Kyle Pickering 13. Blake Hosking 14. Rhys Dakin 15. Alec Brennan 16. Trentham Petersen 17. Thomas De Meio 18. Ryan Dodson 19. Cody Fuz 20. Kane Ball 21. Tully Wilton **CANBERRA:** 1. Rayden Burns 2. Jack Sandford 3. Joshua Billing 4. Steven Numambo 5. Temple Beauchamp 6. Sione Vuki 7. Sione Moala 9. Mitchel Souter 10. Loghan Lewis 12. Mitchell Spencer 13. Mitchell Prest 14. Campbell Woolnough 15. Eneseli Kamuta 16. Sam Wentworth 18. Aiden Kawiri

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS v CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS Saturday 12 March 1:15pm, Belmore Sports Ground; Referee: Charlie Suters; Sideline Officials: Luke Heckendorf, Mitchell Stone; **SOUTHS:** 1. Jake Tobin 2. Maile Haumono 3. Zane Bijorac 4. Josiah Karapani 5. Evan Manning 6. Dion Teaupa 7. Keahlan Bray 8. Thomas Giles 9. Romano Cook 10. Lachlan Gale 11. Cruise Tweedie 12. Penioni Tohi 13. Tallis Duncan 14. Joshua Rizk 15. Trent Griffiths 16. Marco Moretti 17. Jacob Karam 18. Ryan Garner 19. Deijion Leugaimafa 20. Etuate Laui **CANTERBURY:** 1. Cameron Lawrence 2. Samuel Kanaan 3. Eli Clark 4. Harry Hayes 5. Larson Doyle 6. Khaled Rajab 7. Bailey Hayward 8. Jack Todd 9. Ediq Ambrosyev 10. Samuel Hughes 11. Lipoi Hopoi 12. Judda Turahui 13. Joshua Kalati 14. Danny Ghantous 19. Compton Fuatimau 20. Louie Yehia 21. Lleyton Borg

BLACKTOWN WORKERS SEA EAGLES v PENRITH PANTHERS Saturday 12 March 3:15pm, Bluebet Stadium, Penrith; Referee: Martin Jones; Sideline Officials: Mitchell Currie, Patrick Mackey; **BWSE:** 1. Jake Toby 2. Alfred Smalley 3. John Paul Nohra 4. Adam Fearnley 5. Ray Tuaimalo-Vaega 6. Dylan White 7. Eiden Ackland 8. William Swann 9. Tyrann Ott 10. Jacob Sykes 11. Luke Hodge 12. Tom Eveleigh 13. Joe Roberts 14. James Segeyaro 15. Robbie Graham 16. Sione Tuipolotu 17. Lewis Afeaki 18. Bailey Cantrill 19. Lopeti Mafi **PENRITH:** 1. Sunia Turuva 2. Taylan May 3. Robert Jennings 4. Matt Stimson 5. Thomas Jenkins 6. Niwhai Puru 7. Kurt Falls 8. Eddie Blacker 9. Soni Luke 10. Lindsay Smith 11. Chris Smith 12. John Faiumu 13. Alec Susino 14. Trent Toelau 15. Liam Henry 16. Toni Tupouniua

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS v NORTH SYDNEY BEARS Sunday 13 March 2:00pm, Cessnock Sports Ground, Cessnock; Referee: Keiren Irons; Sideline Officials: Ben Teague, Rickey McFarlane; **NEWCASTLE:** 1. McKenzie Baker 2. Nicholas O'Meley 3. Heath Gibbs 4. Dylan Lucas 5. Brayden Musgrove 6. Tex Hoy 7. Dylan Phythian 8. Mathew Croker 9. Liam Wilkinson 10. Pasami Saulo 11. Ben Talty 12. Wyatt Shaw 13. Elih Jackson 14. Luke Huth 15. Daniel Ticehurst 16. Billy Gilbert 17. Liam Wiscombe 18. Floyd Tighe 19. Honeti Tuha **NORTHS:** 1. Ethan King 2. Vuate Karawalevu 3. Adam Keighran 4. Kevin Naiqama 5. Tom Carr 6. Lachlan Lam 7. Sandon Smith 8. Terrell May 9. Ben Marschke 10. Daniel Sulka-fifta 11. Jordyn Leiu 12. Naufahu Whyte 13. Renouf Atoni 14. Fa'amanu Brown 15. Tukupa Hau Tapuha 16. Jerry Key 17. Kieran Hayman 18. Michael Fenn

WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES v MOUNTIES Sunday 13 March 3:30pm, Waminda Oval, Campbelltown; Referee: Darian Furner; Sideline Officials: Nathan Loveday, Adam Reid; **WESTS:** 1. Logan Dillon 2. Will Kei 3. Starford Toa 4. Junior Pauga 5. Iverson Fuatimau 6. Joseph Taipari 7. Jock Madden 8. Austin Dias 9. Ruatapu Ngatikaura 10. Thomas Mikaele 11. Billy Stapleton 12. Thomas Freebairn 13. Tukimihia Simpkins 14. Aistasi James 15. Fonua Pole 16. Aden Perry 17. Israel Ogden 18. Ben Stevanovic 19. Ray Jankovic **MOUNTIES:** 1. Brad Abbey 2. Watson Heleta 3. Semisi Kioa 4. Jarrett Subloo 5. Noah King 6. Josh Ralph 7. Coby Thomas 8. Jack Quinn 9. Josh Daley 10. Haimona Hiroti 11. Dean Matterson 12. Dane Aukafolau 13. Ben Seufale 14. Penioni Tagituumua 15. Stuart Mason 16. Chase Chapman 17. Matthew French 18. James Tuitahi 19. Jack Miller 20. Shondre Lee-Silva 22. Justin Filo 23. Mitchell Butfield

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES v PENRITH PANTHERS Saturday 12 March 1:30pm, Bluebet Stadium, Penrith; Referee: Dillian Wells; Sideline Officials: Bradley Kiehne, Patrick Mackey; **MANLY:** 1. Flynn Angles-Corke 2. Sanele Aukusitino 3. Ned Hicks 4. Jason Smyth 5. Cameron Brown 6. Donovan Boney 7. Jamie Humphreys 8. James Uesele 9. Gordon Chan Kum Tong 10. Viliani Fifta 11. Zane Dunford 12. Zac Fulton 13. Oliver Clements 14. Sia Fotu 15. Toroa Rapana 16. Feao Tongia 17. Ajay Iosefa 18. Soakimi Fakaua 20. Tom Jarrett 21. Seturi Iakopo 23. Aufaga Autagavaia **PENRITH:** 1. William Fakatoumahi 2. Kristian-Li Mai 3. Tyrone Sa'u 4. Simon Tito 5. Daeon Amituanai 6. Isaiah longi 7. Connor Mason 8. Tyreece Tonga 9. Ryley Smith 10. Bradley Fearnley 11. Sunita Lotoaniu 12. Ativalu Lisati 13. Hohepa Puru 14. Braith Alexander 15. Ilai Tuia 16. Daniel Sykes 17. Jack Garrod 18. Elone Taufa

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS v SYDNEY ROOSTERS Sunday 13 March 12:30pm, Cessnock Sports Ground, Cessnock; Referee: Louis Matheson; Sideline Officials: Ben Teague, Rickey McFarlane; **NEWCASTLE:** 1. Logan Radziewicz 2. Patrick Achurch 3. Chris Veaila 4. Krystian Mapapalangi 5. Keanu Wainohu-Kemp 6. Kurt Donoghoe 7. Zane Camroux 8. Jyriss Glamuzina 9. Mitch Black 10. Tim Johannssen 11. Jaron Purcell 12. Cooper Jenkins 13. Kobe Rugless 14. Nathanael Sasagi 15. Riley Jones 16. Brock Greacen 17. Ethan Campbell 18. Jamen Johnson 19. Max Buderus 20. Harry Neville **SYDNEY:** TBC

WESTS TIGERS v VICTORIA Sunday 13 March 2:00pm, Waminda Oval, Campbelltown; Referee: Luke Saldern; Sideline Officials: Ethan Murray, Robert Morey; **WESTS TIGERS:** 1. CJ Mundine 2. Livai Saukuru 3. Junior Tupou 4. Trey Peni 5. Marlie Townsand 6. James Valevatu 7. Jamie Lawler 8. Christian Ma'anaima 9. Trent Borthwick 10. Tray Lolesio 11. Zayn Wilkins 12. Henry O'kane 13. Braydon Guyan 14. Cayne Nicholas 15. Justin Matamua 16. Logan Muir 17. Jackson Owen 18. Sam Kamu 19. Elifasa Leilua **VICTORIA:** 1. Sualauvi Faalogo 2. Michael Vitale 3. Ron Tooola 4. Jack Howarth 5. Tiraa Ua 6. Sione Nau 7. Jonah Pezet 8. Addis Karora 9. Aidan Connell 10. Tahj Amone 11. Jayden Weir 12. Jared Nauma 13. Braith Lawrence-foye 14. Kade Roberts 15. Pacey McGregor 16. Anthony Bucca 17. Ramond Po Ching 18. Nat Latu 19. Xaviour Taufa 20. Bowan Foreshew

NSWRL TEAMLISTS

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SG BALL CUP (U19) - ROUND 4 - CATCH UP MATCHES

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS v NORTH SYDNEY BEARS Saturday 12 March 11:30am, Ironmark High Performance Centre, Redfern; Referee: Blake Williams; Sideline Officials: Jabri Daizli, Jack Gerrie; **SOUTHS:** 1. Terrell Kalokalo 2. Tyrone Munro 3. Aaron Macey 4. Emmanuel Kandidakis 5. Carson Kaho 6. Naati Teauga 7. Aaron Kurnoth 8. Daniel Matakaiongo 10. Jaxson Rahme 11. Thomas Fletcher 12. Dranza Hawe-De-Thierry 13. Louis Grossemy 14. Tj Herring 15. Ashton Cini 16. Connor Puru 17. Keanu Wright-Dunrobin 19. Joshua Mocevakaca **NORTHS:** 1. Owen Flaherty 2. Joseph Jaber 3. Benet Ma'alo 4. Michael Whitton 5. Kobe Lepua 6. Darcy Brettle 7. Cooper Maytom 8. Lachlan Mears-Crabbe 9. Christian Abal 10. Jakob Biet 11. Max Sedgman 12. Jordan Dickson 13. Deon Iro 14. Flynn Sharman 15. Samuel Squire 16. Christian Loleni 19. Matthew Newlyn 20. Bostyn Ligaliga

SYDNEY ROOSTERS v WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES Saturday 12 March 11:30am, Henson Park, Marrickville; Referee: Mitchell Pitscheider; Sideline Officials: Harrison Baysarri, Matthew Gomes; **SYDNEY:** 1. Benjamin Dufficy 2. Siaoisi Kaliti 3. Kyrone Fekitoa 4. Robert Toia 5. Xavier Chatfield-Mooka 6. Ethan Strange 7. Cassius Tia 8. Xavier Va'a 9. Tyler Moriarty 10. Venasiotangifetaua Patuki Case 11. Max Mccathie 12. Michael Abdow 13. Joshua Wong 14. Kenny Saad 15. Salesi Foketi 16. Darcy Clifton 17. Lafi Tuinauvai **WESTS:** 1. Dudley Dotoi 2. Mataiasia Lomu 4. Kieran Tempest 5. Brandon Hamilton 6. Riley Pascoe 7. Christian Jardim 8. Metuisela Taungatua 9. Tevita Petelo 10. Tristyn Ball 11. Zakauri Clarke 12. Isaiah Anamani 13. Justin Matamua 14. Bailey Hodgson 15. Ropeti

TARSHA GALE CUP (U19) - ROUND 4 - CATCH UP MATCHES

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS v CANBERRA RAIDERS Saturday 12 March 1:00pm, Ironmark High Performance Centre, Redfern; Referee: Lukas Durant; Sideline Officials: Alex Le Geyt, Salvatore Marigliano; **SOUTHS:** 1. Avalon Pallier 2. Danni-Elle Carnovale 3. Lillah Hoffman 4. Indiana Killick 5. Kiara Green 6. Parker Stanton 7. Siniva Sa'anga 8. Alyna Anitelea 9. Kasey Taaffe 10. Paige Bush 11. Yilara Widders 12. Shyla Mundine 13. Luti Maile 15. Eliza Kelly 16. Jamie-lee Rooke 17. Janine Widders-Lockwood 18. Jasmine Fokes 19. Ma'ata Manukia 20. Mackenzie Oxenbridge **CANBERRA:** 1. Georgia Willey 2. Hunter Ings 3. Tikirah-Ann Douglas 4. Roxy Horne 5. April Downey 6. Alanna Dummett 7. Makayla Morris 8. Hayley Liddle 9. Carly Heyman 10. Amelia Kirui 11. Kayla Fleming 12. Maata Alai-Lokeni 13. Jaxan Blackhall 14. Lila Brewer 15. Ruby Morrisey 16. Cassius Delamere 17. Donelle O'Donnell 18. Calissa Badullovich

HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP (U17) - ROUND 4 - CATCH UP MATCHES

SYDNEY ROOSTERS v WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES Saturday 12 March 10:00am, Henson Park, Marrickville; Referee: Mitchell Robinson; Sideline Officials: William Flint, Logan Nielsen; **SYDNEY:** 1. Cooper Toy 2. Baxter Warner 3. Zac Sarfati 4. Lachlan Dooner 5. Kade Maguire 6. Caleb Sinclair-Harris 7. Toby Rodwell 8. Alexandra Leapai 9. Jaxson Allen 10. Delasalle Vaa 11. Ethan Roberts 12. Zach Fittler 13. Blake Steep 14. Jules Walker 15. Brynne Siltala 16. Lachlan Doheny 17. Jacob Veiru **WESTS:** 1. Luke Laulilii 2. Nathaniel Gallagher 3. William Craig 4. Daniel Waqa 5. Tajh Colquhoun 6. Heath Mason 7. Luke Keppie 8. Jordan Miller 9. Tallyn Da Silva 10. James Folaumoetui 11. Jeremiah Leatigaga 12. Lachlan Galvin 13. Kit Laulilii 14. Heith Pritchard 15. Ewan Xeureb 16. Kohan Adler 17. Denzel Schaafhausen-Mino 18. Harry Delaney 19. Thomas Pati 20. Bowen Roper 21. Lawdez Taurerewa-Yuce 22. Sosefo Finau

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS v NORTH SYDNEY BEARS Saturday 12 March 10:00am, Ironmark High Performance Centre, Redfern; Referee: Tobi Holder; Sideline Officials: Kye Stoneham, Kieren Casey; **SOUTHS:** 1. Braethan Bilich 2. Yasin Kuscu 3. Daniel Wright 4. Lancelot Tovia 5. Max Laing 6. Zane Rugless 7. Joseph Teauga 8. Setefano Sele 9. Bailey Smith 10. Lennox Risati 11. Mateus Heslin 12. Ryan Casey 14. Mitchell Owen 15. Jerome Joseph-Riogi 16. Cyril Mundine 17. Jack Tucker 18. Leon Bunton 19. Tane Wilson **NORTHS:** 1. Riley Barglik 2. Apianga Manu 3. Mitchell Heather 4. Cooper Magann 5. Hayden Stevens 6. Cameron Robertson 7. Joseph Dillon 8. Nash Hillier 9. Malakye Enasio 10. Thomas Eperu 11. Brooklyn Malietoa 12. Alex Fonoti 13. Blake Graham 14. Marshall Le Maitre 15. Nicholas Ashdown 16. Hoseah Neli 17. Chad Daniels 19. Peter Tafaese 20. Kye Stewart 21. Jack O'Connor 22. Kobi Walsh

ILLAWARRA STEELERS v PENRITH PANTHERS Saturday 12 March 10:30am, Bluebet Stadium, Penrith; Referee: William Damato; Sideline Officials: Mitchell Lothian, Luke Mulligan; **ILLAWARRA:** 1. Clay Baldock 2. Tom Kirk 3. James Walsh 4. Hayden Buchanan 5. Samson McAllister-Wood 6. Jackson Rieck

Lole 16. Jude Gomez 17. Lachlan Bush 19. Jibiril Elrich 20. Tevita Alatini 21. Elijah Pettit Young 22. Leiukamea Schaaaf 23. Joe Duggan

ILLAWARRA STEELERS v PENRITH PANTHERS Saturday 12 March 12:00pm, Bluebet Stadium, Penrith; Referee: Ethan Klein; Sideline Officials: Aidan Richardson, Corey Fisher; **ILLAWARRA:** 1. Benjamin Rumble 2. Te Umuariki Heremia-Tukere 3. Campbell Watchirs 4. Jack Bostock 5. Ethan Cliff 6. Ryan Hodgson 7. Ashton Ward 8. Jacob Webster 9. Navajo Doyle 11. Callum Leikvoll 12. Dylan Egan 13. Travis Barrett-Hancock 14. Viliami Mahe 15. Dilan Asanoski 16. Hamish Stewart 18. Kane Graham 24. Jahream Lole-Ngarima **PENRITH:** 1. Liam Ison 2. Samuel Lane 3. Angelis Hotere-Papalii 4. Jesse Mclean 5. Jimmy Donnelly 6. Luke Hanson 7. Keagan Russell-Smith 8. John Sagaga 9. Billy Scott 10. Kyson Kingi 11. Aston Warwick 12. Harrison Hasset 13. Riley Wake 14. Fletcher Haycock 15. Bayden Moran 16. Luron Patea 17. Joshua Belfanti 18. Jakeb Vailalo 20. Moustafa Dirani 21. Ethan Hutchings 23. Siotame Hansen 24. Billy Phillips

RESULTS FROM MATCHES PLAYED 26-27 FEBRUARY

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES 12 def ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS 0; BALMAIN TIGERS 18 def NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS 16; CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS 30 def VICTORIA THUNDERBOLTS 22; **BYES:** Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Parramatta Eels

ILLAWARRA STEELERS v NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS Tuesday 15 March, Ron Costello Oval, Shellharbour; Referee: Liam Richardson; Sideline Officials: Aidan Richardson, Corey Fisher; **ILLAWARRA:** 1. Annabel McDonald 2. Lilli O'Dea 3. Maddison D Ombrain 4. Jordyn Preston 5. Suliasi Aho 6. Lily Rogan 7. Sian Allen 9. Salma Nour 10. Tiana Kore 11. Mackenzie Lear 12. Taimani Kolomaka 13. April Stevens 14. Brody Preston 15. Sienna Morgan 16. Tully Phillips 19. Taleisha Love 20. Lily Gibson 22. Alivia Brown **NEWCASTLE:** 1. Kyah Watters 2. Alyssa Shoulders 3. Shanti Evans 4. Mia Middleton 5. Kasey Gaukroger 6. Jesse Southwell 7. Matilda Jones 8. Ebony Woodcock 9. Sophie Clancy 10. Kayla Waldron 11. Lilly Davies 12. Tori Brazier 13. Jules Kirkpatrick 14. Alex Holliday 15. Lucy Plowman 16. Georgia Chapple 17. Lexi Beagan 18. Lucy Green

RESULTS FROM MATCHES PLAYED 26-27 FEBRUARY

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS 16 def NORTH SYDNEY BEARS 0; ST GEORGE DRAGONS 28 def CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS 6; SYDNEY ROOSTERS INDIGENOUS ACADEMY 24 def WESTS TIGERS 0; **BYES:** Parramatta Eels, Penrith Panthers

7. Kade Reed 8. Viliami Amone 9. Seth Pearman 10. Ramses Munro 11. Daniel Meafou 12. Isaac Laughton 14. Isaiah Hegeudus 15. Kaide Pratt 16. Jai Duncan 17. Beau Devlin 18. Letham Manago 19. Darnell Te Ahuru 20. Toby Rumble 21. Tristan Dawson 22. Daniel Brady 23. Caleb Hall **PENRITH:** 1. Jaxen Edgar 2. John-Paul Donevski 3. Casey McLean 4. Wilson De Courcy 5. Joseph Partch 6. Jett Cleary 7. Riley Pollard 8. Judah Galuvao 9. Jenson Tuaoi 10. Connor Autagavaia 11. Grayson Tukaki 12. Braith Boyd 13. Connor Vardanega 14. Billy Thompson 15. Malakai Folau 16. Tana Papu 17. Hokafonu Lemoto 18. Jack Ewer 19. Hunt Leavai 20. Kaydden Hoad 22. Riley Allen

CENTRAL COAST ROOSTERS v CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS Saturday 12 March 12:00pm, Morry Breen Oval, Kanwal; Referee: Joel Pitscheider; Sideline Officials: Jake Walsh, Brett Eyb; **CENTRAL COAST:** 1. Riley Burke 2. Jackson Pennell 3. Tyreece Arama 4. Tyrone Dorrell 5. Aymn Hamilton 6. Matthew Humphries 7. Jake Elliott 8. Atticus Fotofili 9. Malachi Smith 10. Brodie Moore 11. Will Hartley 12. Dylan Coyte 13. James Miller 14. Zac Gillett 15. Layton Hillman-Hohua 16. Noah Hill 17. Travis Northey 19. Zack Visconti 20. Riley Watson-Miletic **CRONULLA:** 1. Chevy Stewart 2. Nicholas Pantelis 3. Albert Litisoni 4. Jayze Tuigamala 5. Will Stewart 6. Ashton Simmonds 7. Bryce Sait 8. Lachlan Araullo 9. Blake Woodger 10. Jai Davies 11. Joshua Sidoti 12. Jasper Catton 13. Alex Challenor 14. Lochi McMartin-Catlett 15. Lama Afu 16. Chris Christodoulou 17. Max Mccarthy 18. Kurt Montgomery 19. Viliami Hikila 20. Ngarotata Enoka

RESULTS FROM MATCHES PLAYED 26-27 FEBRUARY

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS 12 drew with MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES 12; BALMAIN TIGERS 18 def NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS 8; **BYES:** Canberra Raiders, Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, Parramatta Eels

QRL TEAMLISTS

PLEASE NOTE: Teamlists & match info subject to change. Check QRL.com.au for updates.

AUSWIDE BANK MAL MENINGA CUP (U18) - ROUND 3

SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS v IPSWICH JETS Kawana Sports Precinct; Saturday 12 March 11:30am AEST; Referee: Dylan Lawrence; Sideline Officials: Aidan Maxwell, Joshua Boddington; **FALCONS:** 1. Ethan Bainbridge 2. Siosifa Kava 3. Ethan Pohlnr 4. Mitchell Jennings 5. Brooklenn Mundryby-grogan 6. Jett Elich 7. Tulloch McLellan 8. Saxon Day 9. Dyllan Cousens 10. Jack Underhill 11. Mason Kira 12. Jayden Smith 13. Chase Paterson 14. Finn Lawson 16. Ruben Broome 18. Harry Dwyer 19. Kahn Sutherland-Chan 20. Kaedyn Philemon 21. Brock Thomas **IPSWICH:** 1. Tyler Peckham-harris 2. Alton Naiyep 3. Hayden Molkentien 4. Caleb Jackson 5. Elijah Masame 6. Brandon Tikinau 7. Jake Self 8. Jack Laing 9. Gabriel Sattrick 10. David Su'a 11. Larry Siala 12. Lj Nonu 13. Peniata Poutasi 14. James Frazier 15. Regan Payne 17. Zane Kaatz 19. Tyler Cuthbert 20. Lachlan Togia 21. Thomas Yarrow 22. Jakob Srpak 23. Nicholas Torrens

TOWNSVILLE BLACKHAWKS v MACKAY CUTTERS Denison Park Bowen; Saturday 12 March 2:30pm AEST; Referee: Conor Wilson; Sideline Officials: Kobey Owens, Kaden Tindal; **TOWNSVILLE:** 1. Elijah Joe 2. Tekelu Mene 3. Elekana Suavai 4. Max Hayley 5. Tremaine Body 6. Sean Bourke 7. Zack Lamont 8. Jeremiah Matautia 9. Tajshon Santo-messa 10. Henry Teutau 11. Terell Anderson 12. Wade Jonsson 13. Damon Marshall 14. Lachlan Lerch 15. Wil Sullivan 16. Sione Afu 17. Jamal Shibasaki 18. Joseph Currie **MACKAY:** 1. Will Shears 2. Joshua Wyatt 3. Kai Simon 4. Bray Tait 5. Balin Burnett 6. Jaxon Purdue 7. Harry Thorpe 8. Bailey Jeffs 9. Xavier Kerrisk 10. Elliott McLeod 11. Baden Robinson 12. Mason Simpson 13. Jacob Cruickshank 14. Matthew Watts 15. Decy Jones 16. Brady Hazledine 17. William Gething 18. Tenzin Contor 19. Bailey Venz 20. Oscar Warden 21. Caleb Bradford

WIDE BAY BULLS v WESTERN CLYDESDALES Eskdale Park Maryborough; Saturday 12 March 3:30pm AEST; Referee: Trey Hubert; Sideline Officials: Ryan Littleford, Jacob Funk; **WIDE BAY:** 1. Connor Yeats 2. Ryan Bugeja 3. Lucas Kemble 4. Liam Doolan 5. Zander Evans 6. Bryden Blair 7. Ezekiel Monckton 8. Kyle Macdonald 9. Lachlan Zelinski 10. Coen Searl 11. Tyrell Hopkins 12. Junior Tuitoma 13. Kyle Knight 14. Harrison Brough 15. Zander Kerr 16. Iamia Cattell 17. Eden Hess 18. Fletch Prendergast 19. Mitchell Sly 20. Brayden Sander 21. Robert Borsborough 22. Ryan Smith **CLYDESDALES:** 1. Riley Wockner 2. Mason Bloom 3. Bailey Nash 4. Harry Evers 5. Brayden Falvey 6. Lythaniel King-togia 7. Wil Brady 8. Toby Evans 9. Mason Potter 10. Darcy Carswell 11. Domenic Whittingham 12. Bud Smith 13. Declan Ryan 14. Kaden Bushe 15. Kobby Timms 16. Bailey Rathmell 17. Jacob Robinson 18. Kooper Diment 19. Joshua Truscott 20. Clayton Andrew 21. Harrison Schwenke 22. Mitchel Clem

BURLEIGH BEARS v NORTHS DEVILS Pizzev Park Miami; Saturday 12 March 4:30pm AEST; Referee: Nick McEwan; Sideline Officials: Ben Holt, Taylor Ball; **BURLEIGH:** 1. Karauria Stokes-Mahara 2. Taniela Mapusua Lotaki 3. Xavier Asi 4. Kci Whare 5. Jeremiaha Tamepo 6. Keahn Skipp 7. Bailey Mcconnell 8. Vaa Semu 9. Taj Harris 10. Joseph Shannon 11. Seth Nikotemo 12. Edward Finau 13. Arama Hau 14. Philip Hakaraia-ngamotu 15. Immanuel Kalekale 16. Josiah Pahulu 17. Dorian Lotaki 18. Jack Kelly 19. Isaiah Fagalilo **NORTHS:** 1. Tory Bath 2. Kallum Weatherall-stacey 3. Shannon Subritzky Stewart 4. Poutoa Hotere-Papalii 5. Tyreece Tait 6. Karl Oloapu 7. Jalen Afamasaga 8. Tahrell Feaveai 9. Bristowe Murray 10. Lebron Tuala 11. Benjamin Te Kura 12. Angus Hinchey 13. Liam Le Blanc 14. Lauloto Salei 15. Damascus Neemia 16. Darcy Turner 17. Ethan Jones

CENTRAL QLD CAPRAS v NORTHERN PRIDE Browne Park Rockhampton; Saturday 12 March 5:00pm AEST; Referee: Luke Quinn; Sideline Officials: Chris Henderson, Mitchell Howard; **CAPRAS:** 1. Matthew Hill 2. Iziah Broome 3. Mutua Brown 4. Liam Nebauer 5. Mack Nixon 6. Callan Campbell 7. Jackson Miller 8. Jaiden Green 9. Carter Wight 10. Tomas Powell 11. William

Lewis 12. Kurt Fisher 13. Bailey Cavanaugh 15. Mitchell Baker 16. Selemaia Taungahihifo 17. Jesuah Wini 20. Luke Callanan **PRIDE:** 1. Kyan Sheppard 2. James Minniecon 3. Makgii Deemal-Neal 4. Braithan Ketchell 5. Joseph Pearson 6. Kaleb Eaton 7. Jhidan Dikes 9. Tait Coghlan 10. Jason Hallie 11. Michael Lallemand 12. Cain Hastie 13. Cameron Nelson 14. Billy Vincent 15. Brock Salecich 16. Marcellus Luki 17. Tyrone Williams 18. Liam O'brien 19. Keron Thompson 20. Zaimen Gilbert 22. Beau Stevens

REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS v BRISBANE TIGERS Jim Lawrie Oval Brighton; Saturday 12 March 6pm AEST; Referee: Cody Kwik; Sideline Officials: Byron Cook, Jack Morris; **REDCLIFFE:** 1. Will McCulloch 2. Guireh Brooks 3. Ulisesse Nati 4. Jacob Taulani 5. Jayden Alefaio 6. Naytan Iselin-Jansen 7. Leroy Murray 8. Jak Goulding 9. Mitchell Rogers 10. Aholoka Toia 11. Tamakaimoana Wharearere 12. Jacob Laban 13. Drew Timms 14. Michael Waqa 15. Amos Tuailii 16. Nazareth Taa 17. Jack Cameron 18. D'metrius lose **BRISBANE:** 1. Zyroam Tarawa-herlihy 2. Julian Drinnan 3. Teapo Stoltman 4. Rickson Aliva 5. Maika Poese 6. Hayden Miller 7. Maddox Maclean 8. Trent Veukiso 9. Thomas Lührman 10. Te Anau Graham-Papalii 11. Joe Nadenic 12. Jack Mccosker 13. Mikael Ibrahim 14. Gary Herlihy 15. Alecbie Mene Leota 16. Tyrone Fanueli 20. Jack Condon 21. Kristian Tornatore

SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES v WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS Davies Park; Sunday 13 March 12:30pm AEST; Referee: Adam Rossiter; Sideline Officials: Scott Whelan, Sam Kalpakidis; **SOUTHS LOGAN:** 1. Timothy Sielaff-Burns 2. Israel Leota 3. Braden Teuila 4. Devonte Vaivela 5. Xavier Atoa 6. Jye Gray 7. Stanley Huen 8. Ahmani Leilua 9. Blake Mozer 10. Louruce Brown 11. Lokea Motufoua 12. Jieye Mauai 13. Christopher Faagutu 14. Mou Taumaletila-Maulolo 15. Levi Kereopa 16. Brave Taulai 17. Harry Durbin 18. Jacob Tinsley **WYNNUM:** 1. Jeremy Trappett 2. Sully Hoad 3. Tuvaqa Palu 4. Ayden Hoad 5. Haizyn Mellars 6. William Herbert 7. Calum Pereira 8. Felix Faatili 9. Cameron Bukowski 10. Hamuera Kingi 11. Cayleb Johnson 12. Beni Allen 13. Brock Hinds 14. William Lane 15. Elijah Mikaio 16. Brendon Taylor 17. Ryan Jackson 18. Malakai Rhind 19. Cooper Hersom 20. Zane Ford 21. Karlin Henry

BYE: TWEED SEAGULLS

HARVEY NORMAN WOMEN'S UNDER 19's - ROUND 3

TOWNSVILLE BLACKHAWKS v MACKAY CUTTERS Denison Park Bowen; Saturday 12 March 12:55pm AEST; OFFICIALS **TOWNSVILLE:** 1. Michelle Abai 2. Logan Roncato 3. Stella Abbott 4. Remi Bishop 5. Carolyn Morgan 6. Jairel-ellen Martin-savage 7. Meg O'brien 8. Theophelia Mosby-Nona 9. Kaitlin Daley 10. Hannah De Daunton 11. Prue Peters 12. Anna-mina Bin Awel 13. Jacinta Maurangi 14. Niquita Peters 15. Cecelia Brown Chinfat Hawkins 16. Seraseini Sadrata 17. Jahntae Mara 18. April Major 19. Shilah Caulton **MACKAY:** 1. Leila Murphy 2. Isabelle Bartolo 3. Paityne Johns 4. Takiah-lani Buchanan 5. Clarissa Baira 6. Kayla Shepherd 7. Emily Bella 8. Page Brodel 9. Lara Hutchinson 10. Lily Peacock 11. India Macphee 12. Libby Surha 13. Ataliah Love 14. Abby-rose Bowman 15. Gracie Watt 16. Tannah Comiskey 17. Jalen Pauling 18. Eve Doull 19. Montana Schmidtko 20. Ciara Thomson 21. Leila Dunne

WIDE BAY BULLS v WESTERN CLYDESDALES Eskdale Park Maryborough; Saturday 12 March 1:00pm AEST; Referee: Ryan Littleford; Sideline Officials: Trent Mehler, Ethan Brown; **WIDE BAY:** 1. Rashida Scott 2. Tanina Bradley 3. Jarrah Cave 4. Chelsey Lerner 5. Taryn Knight 6. Kasey Stone 7. Chaylee Howarth 8. Violet Whitby 9. Hanahlin Whittard 10. Phoebe Millar 11. Samantha Cobbo 12. Mikala Lobegeier 13. Hannah Mountford 14. Makenzie Cavanagh 15. Summer Knight 16. Ebony-rose Doherty 17. Sinead Turner 19. Tasma Davies 20. Charli Beazley 21. Ron-keyah Bond **CLYDESDALES:** 1. Anna Dingley 2. Sarah Moran 3. Reyna Core 4. Caitlin Steel 5. Maddison Riley 6. Kylie Janes 7.

Sienna Norris 8. Katelyn Anderson 9. Gemma Gray 10. Katelyn Collie 11. Imagele Tuesley 12. Mackenzie Zeller 13. Ally Ramsay 14. Elly Close 15. Bonnie Zappa 16. Charlotte Morcom 18. Rachael Evans 19. Mariah Bladen 20. Tailah Page

SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS v IPSWICH JETS Kawana Sports Precinct; Saturday 12 March 2:30pm AEST; Referee: Chaz Avery-Dancey; Sideline Officials: Brenna Prendergast, Bridie Prendergast; **FALCONS:** 1. Tia McLellan 2. Taya Chippendale 3. Shae Holliday 4. Shannyn Harm 5. Ruojzharna Richardson 6. Makayla Everding 7. Malia Ting 8. Emmogen Taumafai 9. Trinity-Maree Jackson 10. Tamzin Taumafai 11. Grace Giannino 12. Dakota Friske 13. Nancy Sullivan 15. Jordan Jackson 16. Ella Miller 17. Taylor Fitzgerald 18. Tianna Fry 19. Mikayla Sweeney 20. Sharrayah Tonia 22. Tarnee Evans **IPSWICH:** 1. Tia Chapman 2. Taya Beckers 5. Naima Ekeroma 6. Imogene Davidson 7. Lynn Nielsen 8. Ma'ata Halatofa 9. Brailey Howgego 10. Pauleeja Mau 11. Bonnie Ryder 12. Armarie Heron-jia 13. Zebadiah Latu Mulumulu 14. Heina Navosa 16. Kim Lama Fetu 17. Hannah Nugent 19. Alira Gyemore 20. Courtney Sirrell

BURLEIGH BEARS v NORTHS DEVILS Pizzev Park, Miami; Saturday 12 March 3:15pm AEST; Referee: Bailey Sheppard; Sideline Officials: Ben Holt, Taylor Ball; **BURLEIGH:** 1. Ebony Raftstrand-smith 3. Jayda Lole 4. Kori Mavin 5. Natalia Larsen-tai 6. Matisse Bettridge 7. Tavarna Papalii 8. Sunny Gerrard 9. Lily-rose Kolc 10. Danni Perse 11. Grace Granville 12. Waimaaria Ngati 13. Rilee Jorgensen 14. Layne Northey 15. Makia Lehrersimon 16. Liantre Simon-anderson 17. Latesha Elliott 18. Aleyas Manapori 19. Azariah Wallace **NORTHS:** 1. Hunter Davis 2. Kiana Baker 3. Kaati Taimani 4. Kaea Daniels-harris 5. Ava Walters 6. Isabella Satui 7. Aliya Hura 8. Matiana Tongia 9. Skylahparadise Heke 10. Melelifo Sikimeti 11. Natasha Thomas 12. Fiona Jahneke 13. Hannah Larsson 15. Reshaei Chaseling 16. Eve Genders 17. Georgia Midson 18. Shona Misi

CENTRAL QLD CAPRAS v NORTHERN PRIDE Browne Park Rockhampton; Saturday 12 March 3:15pm AEST; Referee: Dan Larose; Sideline Officials: Nic Jones, Corey Liaropoulos; **CAPRAS:** 1. Luca Howarth 2. Tamika Little 3. Kyah Szezanowski 4. Summer Nicholls 6. Miah Powell 7. Jessica Olsson 8. Brianna Mauger 9. Sophie Wright 10. Teearna Cora 11. Sophie Davison 12. Antonia Hendry-Ratima 13. Alenna Whipp 14. Laynie Sweet 15. Olivia Cave 16. Chloe Tipman 17. Lalekqua Songoro 18. Mykenzie Rowley 19. Taylor Hook 20. Pania Tane 21. Aaliyah Gyemore 22. Nataliah Backo 23. Nikki Clarke **PRIDE:** 1. Krystal Waters 2. Margaret Dau 3. Halia Pua 4. Chantelle Trnka 5. Melissa Hosea 6. Shantelle Ale 7. Etuina Suavai 8. Audrey Thompson 9. Kimberley Bryant 10. Elizabeth Hosea 11. Noretta Sipi 12. Montana Mook 13. Tehel Hayman-rubach 14. Tanaya Blanco-burns 15. Aerielle Hobbler 16. Alicia Bowie 17. Nakisha Lee-powell 18. Chyler Kohler 19. Brooke Tongalea

REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS v BRISBANE TIGERS Jim Lawrie Oval Brighton; Saturday 12 March 4pm AEST; Referee: Bayden Sawyers; Sideline Officials: Henry Goddard, Riley Anderson; **REDCLIFFE:** 1. Tanisha Tryhorn 2. Lilly Petty 3. Amy Bird 4. Georgina Tuitaaili 5. Emilia Burns 6. Charmayne Pakura 7. Kaieisha Afoa 8. Brodi Conroy 9. Lenniece Wright 11. Keola Green 12. Zyaarne Kane-kare Kare 13. Eden Utatao 14. Diantae Savage 15. Matyniah Fullagar 16. Jayde Crossland 20. Anahera Simpkins 25. Brooklyn Pasee **BRISBANE:** 1. Tahlia Marshall 2. Teatahia Kawana 3. Sheyteika Deighton 4. Tarleah Fisher-Pearson 5. Breez Haronga 6. Chanelle Tauhara 7. Florence Edwards 8. Shaylee Joseph 9. Tahliya Tavita 12. Usee Delilah Eliu 13. Rhythm Tauti Epa 14. Lena Faavae 15. Estanoa Faitala 17. Cienna Talima 18. Lei-jada Simpson 19. Athena Vili 20. Charysma Talima

SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES v WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS Davies Park; Sunday 13 March 2:00pm AEST; Referee: Emma Maguire; Sideline Officials: Kirra Bowman-levers, Harry Kalpakidis; **SOUTHS LOGAN:** 1. Kiarah Siauane 2. Petra Greenwood 3. Rialely Baty 4. Kiana Thihore-tetauri 5. Lillian Kolb 6. Mackenzie Baty 7. Sophie Cameron 8. Bronte Wills 9. Oshani Whakatau 10. Karen Pritchard 11. Jaedynn Leger 12. Patricia Wani 13. Dilyza Leugaimafa 14. Lyric Winitana 15. Adriane Cracknell 16. Jade Toleafoa 17. Azalea-rose Peters **WYNNUM:** 1. Abigail Hills 2. Ngiri Green 3. Destiny Mino-sinapati 4. Helen Uitalagi 5. Jemikah Chow 6. Ellie Williamson 7. Jayde Herdegen 8. Eliza Lopamaua 9. Emma Barnes 10. Jacinta Carter 11. Jaydah Tofae 12. Felila Kia 13. Sienna Lofipo 14. Imogen Noon 15. Trinity Veetutu 16. Raven Tihema-Mako 17. Dakota Taputoa 18. Courtney-Lee Whittaker 19. Alana-lee Grace 20. Tahlia Smith

BYE: TWEED SEAGULLS

QRL ROUND 2 RESULTS

U18 MAL MENINGA CUP

Souths Logan Magpies (30) Tries: Jye Gray 2, Chris Faagutu 2, Devonte Vaivela, Blake Mozer; Goals: Tim Sielaff-Burns 3 **def Tweed Seagulls (18)** Tries: Matt Barrow, Kyen Murphy, Nicholas Hilton, Taelon Te Whiu-Hopa; Goals: Michael Roberts 1 **at Tugun RLFC**

Tweed Seagulls (32) Tries: Jared Johnson 2, Michael Roberts, Jackson Le Pou, Haysley Macdonald, Jett Forbes; Goals: Josh Lynn 4 **def Redcliffe Dolphins (10)** Tries: Jacob Taulani, Drew Timms; Goals: Naytan Iselin-Jansen 1 **at Tugun RLFC**

Souths Logan Magpies (34) Tries: Israel Leota 2, Braden Teuila, Xavier Atoa, Blake Mozer, Devonte Vaivela, Jieye Mauai; Goals: Tim Sielaff-Burns 3 **def Burleigh Bears (24)** Tries: Xavier Asi, Dorian Lotaki 2, Karauria Stokes-Mahara; Goals: Kehan Skippis 4 **at Pizzey Park**

Townsville Blackhawks (30) Tries: Elekana Suavai 2, Tekelu Mene 3, Elijah Joe; Goals: Zack Lamont 3 **def Northern Pride (0)** **at Barlow Park**

Sunshine Coast Falcons (28) Tries: Mitch Jennings 2, Tullock McLellan, Jayden Smith, Brooklen Mundraby-Grogan; Goals: Finn Lawson 2, Ethan Bainbridge 2 **def Wide Bay Bulls (2)** Goals: Ryan Bugeja **at Kingaroy Rugby League Grounds**

Central Qld Capras (30) Tries: Matt Hill 2, Jackson Miller, Carter Wight, Kurt Fisher, Mutua Brown; Goals: Jackson Miller 3 **def Mackay Cutters (16)** Tries: Kai Simon, Baden Robinson, William Gething; Goals: Josh Wyatt 1, Kai Simon 1 **at BB Print Stadium Mackay**

Western Clydesdales (32) Tries: Declan Ryan 2, Harry Eyers, Mason Bloom, Matt York, Bailey Nash; Goals: Brayden Falvey 4 **def Ipswich Jets (22)** Tries: Caleb Jackson, Hayden Molkentien, Larry Siala, Elijah Masame, Regan Payne; Goals: Jake Self 1 **at Clive Berghofer Stadium**

Norths Devils (60) Tries: Shannon Subritzky-Stewart 3, Karl Oloapu 2, Bristowe Murray 2, Tory Bath 2, Kallum Weatherall-Stacey, Ben Te Kura; Goals: Tory Bath 7, Kallum Weatherall-Stacey 1 **def Brisbane Tigers (6)** Tries: Trent Veukiso; Goals: Maddox Maclean 1 **at Leo Williams Oval**

BYE: Wynnum Manly Seagulls

U19 HARVEY NORMAN GIRLS

Tweed Seagulls (52) Tries: Patepaeru Kiria-Ratu 2, Kalani Paulo, Jelena Betham, Atlanta Peters, Faith Tutauha, Chantay Kiria-Ratu, Angel Sipeli-Muriwai, Shannon Symon, Tamika Smith; Goals: Patepaeru Kiria-Ratu 5, Zara Colless 1 **def Redcliffe Dolphins (0)** **at Tugun RLFC**

Burleigh Bears (26) Tries: Natalia Larsen-Tai, Tavarna Papalii, Ebony Raftstrand-Smith, Lily-Rose Kolc, Danniil Perese; Goals: Rilee Jorgensen 3 **def Souths Logan Magpies (14)** Tries: Lillian Kolb, Kiarah Siauane, Rialely Baty; Goals: Sophie Cameron 1 **at Pizzey Park**

Mackay Cutters (22) Tries: Ataliah Love 2, Tannah Comiskey, Jalen Pauling; Goals: Emily Bella 3 **def Central Qld Capras (8)** Tries: Summer Nicholls, Luca Howarth **at BB Print Stadium Mackay**

Sunshine Coast Falcons (26) Tries: Nancy Sullivan, Kirra Smith, Shannyn Harm, Jordan Jackson, Tamzin Taumafai; Goals: Malia Ting 2, Kirra Smith 1 **def Wide Bay Bulls (0)** **at Kingaroy Rugby League Grounds**

Townsville Blackhawks (14) Tries: Theophelia Mosby-Nona, Niquita Peters, Remi Bishop; Goals: Prue Peters 1 **def Northern Pride (0)** **at Barlow Park**

Western Clydesdales (38) Tries: Reyna Core 2, Kylie Janes 2, Anna Dingley, Sienna Norris, Mackenzie Zeller; Goals: Sienna Norris 5 **def Ipswich Jets (4)** Tries: Imogene Davidson 1 **at Clive Berghofer Stadium**

Brisbane Tigers (24) Tries: Uese Delilah Eliu 2, Tarleah Fisher-Pearson, Malaela Sua 2; Goals: Uese Delilah Eliu 1, Lei-Jada Simpson 1 **def Norths Devils (4)** Tries: Aliya Hura 1 **at Leo Williams Oval**

BYE: Wynnum Manly Seagulls

WOMEN'S ORIGIN HEADED TO CANBERRA

NRL Media Release, 9 March 2022

The 2022 Ampol Women's State of Origin will be played on neutral territory for the first time, heading to Canberra's GIO Stadium.

The National Rugby League (NRL), alongside the Canberra Raiders and the ACT Government, today announced that GIO Stadium would host the fixture on Friday, June 24.

NRL CEO Andrew Abdo said the neutral venue highlighted the growth of the event, with regions outside of the home states seeking to host the match.

"Ampl Women's State of Origin is rapidly becoming one of the most exciting events on our calendar and we are delighted to be taking the Game to a neutral venue for the very first time," he said.

"When Women's State of Origin was launched at North Sydney Oval in 2018 we all knew it would build to something special and Canberra becoming the first neutral venue to host the event is another step in the evolution and growth of the women's game.

"Both states have won two Origin matches each, so it's fitting the fifth game is played at a neutral venue."

Mr Abdo said he was pleased that Canberra would host another major NRL event.

"Canberrans are passionate rugby league fans and we're looking forward to giving fans the opportunity to witness the elite women's game for the very first time. It's a great city and we're delighted to take new content to the region."

Canberra Raiders CEO Don Furner said having Ampol Women's State of Origin at GIO Stadium was

a boost to the club and local supporters.

"The Raiders are very excited with the news that the 2022 Women's State of Origin is coming to Canberra for the first time and we know the local community will support the match at GIO Stadium," he said.

"The Raiders are working hard on our bid to secure an NRLW team for 2023 and high-profile women's matches in Canberra will go a long way to showing our commitment and passion for the women's game."

ACT Minister for Sport and Recreation Yvette Berry says this is an important milestone for the territory.

"The ACT Government has been a long-time advocate of growing awareness and support for elite female teams and athletes and I'm so excited to see this great event come to Canberra. The ACT is a leading destination for women's sport in Australia and I can't wait to see the game."

Tickets are on sale today for Maroon and Blatchys Members. Supporters can watch the historic match from just \$20 for adults and \$40 for families. Juniors aged 15 years and under can enter free with a Category C paying adult.

Tickets will be on sale for the General Public next Wednesday, March 16, via nrl.com/tickets.

Series partner Ampol will once again showcase the game's up-and-coming junior female players through the Ampol Little Origin program. The next generation of female players will have the opportunity to take to the field at half time, continuing the strong focus on aligning the elite game with grassroots programs.

2022 NRL DRAW

ROUND 1

Thu	10 Mar 22	20:05	Penrith	Manly	BlueBet Stadium
Fri	11 Mar 22	18:00	Canberra	Cronulla	GIO Stadium
Fri	11 Mar 22	20:05	Brisbane	Souths	Suncorp Stadium
Sat	12 Mar 22	15:00	Sydney	Newcastle	Sydney Cricket Ground
Sat	12 Mar 22	17:30	Warriors	St Geo Illa	Sunshine Coast Stadium
Sat	12 Mar 22	19:35	Wests Tigers	Melbourne	CommBank Stadium
Sun	13 Mar 22	16:05	Parramatta	Gold Coast	CommBank Stadium
Sun	13 Mar 22	18:15	North Qld	Canterbury	Qld Country Bank Stadium

ROUND 2

Thu	17 Mar 22	20:05	Melbourne	Souths	AAMI Park
Fri	18 Mar 22	18:00	St Geo Illa	Penrith	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
Fri	18 Mar 22	20:05	Sydney	Manly	Sydney Cricket Ground
Sat	19 Mar 22	15:00	Gold Coast	Warriors	Cbus Super Stadium
Sat	19 Mar 22	17:30	Cronulla	Parramatta	PointsBet Stadium
Sat	19 Mar 22	19:35	North Qld	Canberra	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Sun	20 Mar 22	16:05	Newcastle	Wests Tigers	McDonald Jones Stadium
Sun	20 Mar 22	18:15	Canterbury	Brisbane	Accor Stadium

ROUND 3

Thu	24 Mar 22	20:05	St Geo Illa	Cronulla	WIN Stadium
Fri	25 Mar 22	18:00	Wests Tigers	Warriors	Campbelltown Stadium
Fri	25 Mar 22	20:05	Souths	Sydney	Accor Stadium
Sat	26 Mar 22	15:00	Penrith	Newcastle	Carrington Park
Sat	26 Mar 22	17:30	Melbourne	Parramatta	AAMI Park
Sat	26 Mar 22	19:35	Canberra	Gold Coast	GIO Stadium
Sun	27 Mar 22	16:05	Brisbane	North Qld	Suncorp Stadium
Sun	27 Mar 22	18:15	Manly	Canterbury	4 Pines Park

ROUND 4

Thu	31 Mar 22	20:05	Gold Coast	Wests Tigers	Cbus Super Stadium
Fri	01 Apr 22	18:00	Cronulla	Newcastle	PointsBet Stadium
Fri	01 Apr 22	20:05	Penrith	Souths	BlueBet Stadium
Sat	02 Apr 22	15:00	Warriors	Brisbane	Moreton Daily Stadium
Sat	02 Apr 22	17:30	Manly	Canberra	Glen Willow Stadium Mudgee
Sat	02 Apr 22	19:35	North Qld	Sydney	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Sun	03 Apr 22	16:05	Melbourne	Canterbury	AAMI Park
Sun	03 Apr 22	18:15	Parramatta	St Geo Illa	CommBank Stadium

ROUND 5

Thu	07 Apr 22	19:50	Newcastle	Manly	McDonald Jones Stadium
Fri	08 Apr 22	18:00	Warriors	North Qld	Moreton Daily Stadium
Fri	08 Apr 22	19:55	Brisbane	Sydney	Suncorp Stadium
Sat	09 Apr 22	15:00	Canberra	Melbourne	McDonalds Park
Sat	09 Apr 22	17:30	Souths	St Geo Illa	Accor Stadium
Sat	09 Apr 22	19:35	Gold Coast	Parramatta	Cbus Super Stadium
Sun	10 Apr 22	16:05	Cronulla	Wests Tigers	PointsBet Stadium
Sun	10 Apr 22	18:15	Canterbury	Penrith	CommBank Stadium

ROUND 6 - EASTER

Thu	14 Apr 22	19:50	Canberra	North Qld	GIO Stadium
Fri	15 Apr 22	18:00	Souths	Canterbury	Stadium
Fri	15 Apr 22	19:55	Penrith	Brisbane	BlueBet Stadium
Sat	16 Apr 22	17:30	Manly	Gold Coast	4 Pines Park
Sat	16 Apr 22	19:35	Melbourne	Cronulla	AAMI Park
Sun	17 Apr 22	14:00	Sydney	Warriors	Sydney Cricket Ground
Sun	17 Apr 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	Newcastle	WIN Stadium
Mon	18 Apr 22	16:00	Parramatta	Wests Tigers	CommBank Stadium

ROUND 7 - ANZAC ROUND

Thu	21 Apr 22	19:50	Cronulla	Manly	PointsBet Stadium
Fri	22 Apr 22	19:55	Brisbane	Canterbury	Suncorp Stadium
Sat	23 Apr 22	17:30	North Qld	Gold Coast	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Sat	23 Apr 22	19:35	Wests Tigers	Souths	CommBank Stadium
Sun	24 Apr 22	14:00	Newcastle	Parramatta	McDonald Jones Stadium
Sun	24 Apr 22	16:05	Penrith	Canberra	BlueBet Stadium
Mon	25 Apr 22	16:00	St Geo Illa	Sydney	Sydney Cricket Ground
Mon	25 Apr 22	19:00	Melbourne	Warriors	AAMI Park

ROUND 8

Thu	28 Apr 22	19:50	Brisbane	Cronulla	Suncorp Stadium
Fri	29 Apr 22	18:00	Gold Coast	Penrith	Cbus Super Stadium
Fri	29 Apr 22	19:55	Souths	Manly	Central Coast Stadium
Sat	30 Apr 22	15:00	Warriors	Canberra	Moreton Daily Stadium
Sat	30 Apr 22	17:30	Canterbury	Sydney	Accor Stadium
Sat	30 Apr 22	19:35	Parramatta	North Qld	TIO Stadium Darwin
Sun	01 May 22	14:00	Newcastle	Melbourne	McDonald Jones Stadium
Sun	01 May 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	Wests Tigers	WIN Stadium

ROUND 9

Thu	05 May 22	19:50	Souths	Brisbane	Accor Stadium
Fri	06 May 22	18:00	Canberra	Canterbury	GIO Stadium
Fri	06 May 22	19:55	Penrith	Parramatta	BlueBet Stadium
Sat	07 May 22	15:00	Manly	Wests Tigers	4 Pines Park
Sat	07 May 22	17:30	Sydney	Gold Coast	BB Print Stadium Mackay
Sat	07 May 22	19:35	North Qld	Newcastle	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Sun	08 May 22	14:00	Melbourne	St Geo Illa	AAMI Park
Sun	08 May 22	16:05	Cronulla	Warriors	PointsBet Stadium

ROUND 10 - MAGIC ROUND BRISBANE

Fri	13 May 22	18:00	Canterbury	Newcastle	Suncorp Stadium
Fri	13 May 22	20:05	Manly	Brisbane	Suncorp Stadium
Sat	14 May 22	15:00	Warriors	Souths	Suncorp Stadium
Sat	14 May 22	17:30	Gold Coast	St Geo Illa	Suncorp Stadium
Sat	14 May 22	19:45	Melbourne	Penrith	Suncorp Stadium
Sun	15 May 22	13:50	Cronulla	Canberra	Suncorp Stadium
Sun	15 May 22	16:05	Sydney	Parramatta	Suncorp Stadium
Sun	15 May 22	18:25	Wests Tigers	North Qld	Suncorp Stadium

ROUND 11

Thu	19 May 22	19:50	Newcastle	Brisbane	McDonald Jones Stadium
Fri	20 May 22	18:00	Wests Tigers	Canterbury	Leichhardt Oval
Fri	20 May 22	19:55	Parramatta	Manly	CommBank Stadium
Sat	21 May 22	15:00	St Geo Illa	Warriors	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
Sat	21 May 22	17:30	North Qld	Melbourne	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Sat	21 May 22	19:35	Sydney	Penrith	Sydney Cricket Ground
Sun	22 May 22	14:00	Souths	Canberra	Apex Oval, Dubbo
Sun	22 May 22	16:05	Gold Coast	Cronulla	Cbus Super Stadium

ROUND 12

Thu	26 May 22	19:50	Melbourne	Manly	AAMI Park
Fri	27 May 22	18:00	Penrith	North Qld	BlueBet Stadium
Fri	27 May 22	19:55	Brisbane	Gold Coast	Suncorp Stadium
Sat	28 May 22	15:00	Warriors	Newcastle	Moreton Daily Stadium
Sat	28 May 22	17:30	Souths	Wests Tigers	Accor Stadium
Sat	28 May 22	19:35	Cronulla	Sydney	PointsBet Stadium
Sun	29 May 22	14:00	Canterbury	St Geo Illa	Belmore Sports Ground
Sun	29 May 22	16:05	Canberra	Parramatta	GIO Stadium

2022 NRL DRAW

ROUND 13

Thu	02 Jun 22	19:50	Gold Coast	North Qld	Cbus Super Stadium
Fri	03 Jun 22	19:55	Penrith	Canterbury	BlueBet Stadium
Sat	04 Jun 22	19:35	Manly	Warriors	4 Pines Park
Sun	05 Jun 22	16:05	Canberra	Sydney	GIO Stadium

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

ROUND 14

Fri	10 Jun 22	19:55	North Qld	St Geo Illa	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Sat	11 Jun 22	15:00	Gold Coast	Souths	Cbus Super Stadium
Sat	11 Jun 22	17:30	Sydney	Melbourne	Sydney Cricket Ground
Sat	11 Jun 22	19:35	Brisbane	Canberra	Suncorp Stadium
Sun	12 Jun 22	14:00	Wests Tigers	Manly	Campbelltown Stadium
Sun	12 Jun 22	16:05	Newcastle	Penrith	McDonald Jones Stadium
Sun	12 Jun 22	18:15	Warriors	Cronulla	Moreton Daily Stadium
Mon	13 Jun 22	16:00	Canterbury	Parramatta	Accor Stadium

ROUND 15

Thu	16 Jun 22	19:50	St Geo Illa	Souths	WIN Stadium
Fri	17 Jun 22	18:00	Manly	North Qld	4 Pines Park
Fri	17 Jun 22	19:55	Melbourne	Brisbane	AAMI Park
Sat	18 Jun 22	15:00	Cronulla	Gold Coast	C.ex Coffs International
Sat	18 Jun 22	17:30	Warriors	Penrith	Moreton Daily Stadium
Sat	18 Jun 22	19:35	Parramatta	Sydney	CommBank Stadium
Sun	19 Jun 22	14:00	Canberra	Newcastle	GIO Stadium
Sun	19 Jun 22	16:05	Canterbury	Wests Tigers	CommBank Stadium

ROUND 16

Thu	30 Jun 22	19:50	Manly	Melbourne	4 Pines Park
Fri	01 Jul 22	18:00	Newcastle	Gold Coast	McDonald Jones Stadium
Fri	01 Jul 22	19:55	Penrith	Sydney	BlueBet Stadium
Sat	02 Jul 22	15:00	Canterbury	Cronulla	CommBank Stadium
Sat	02 Jul 22	17:30	North Qld	Brisbane	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Sat	02 Jul 22	19:35	Souths	Parramatta	Accor Stadium
Sun	03 Jul 22	14:00	Warriors	Wests Tigers	Mt Smart Stadium
Sun	03 Jul 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	Canberra	WIN Stadium

ROUND 17

Thu	07 Jul 22	19:50	Cronulla	Melbourne	PointsBet Stadium
Fri	08 Jul 22	19:55	Newcastle	Souths	McDonald Jones Stadium
Sat	09 Jul 22	19:35	Wests Tigers	Parramatta	Leichhardt Oval
Sun	10 Jul 22	16:05	Brisbane	St Geo Illa	Suncorp Stadium

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

ROUND 18

Fri	15 Jul 22	18:00	North Qld	Cronulla	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Fri	15 Jul 22	19:55	Parramatta	Warriors	CommBank Stadium
Sat	16 Jul 22	15:00	Sydney	St Geo Illa	Central Coast Stadium
Sat	16 Jul 22	17:30	Manly	Newcastle	4 Pines Park
Sat	16 Jul 22	19:35	Gold Coast	Brisbane	Cbus Super Stadium
Sun	17 Jul 22	14:00	Wests Tigers	Penrith	CommBank Stadium
Sun	17 Jul 22	16:05	Melbourne	Canberra	AAMI Park
Sun	17 Jul 22	18:15	Canterbury	Souths	Accor Stadium

ROUND 19

Thu	21 Jul 22	19:50	Parramatta	Brisbane	CommBank Stadium
Fri	22 Jul 22	18:00	St Geo Illa	Manly	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
Fri	22 Jul 22	19:55	Newcastle	Sydney	McDonald Jones Stadium
Sat	23 Jul 22	15:00	Canberra	Warriors	GIO Stadium
Sat	23 Jul 22	17:30	Penrith	Cronulla	BlueBet Stadium
Sat	23 Jul 22	19:35	Souths	Melbourne	Accor Stadium
Sun	24 Jul 22	14:00	Canterbury	Gold Coast	CommBank Stadium
Sun	24 Jul 22	16:05	North Qld	Wests Tigers	Qld Country Bank Stadium

ROUND 20

Thu	28 Jul 22	19:50	Manly	Sydney	4 Pines Park
Fri	29 Jul 22	18:00	Warriors	Melbourne	Mt Smart Stadium
Fri	29 Jul 22	19:55	Parramatta	Penrith	CommBank Stadium
Sat	30 Jul 22	15:00	Gold Coast	Canberra	Cbus Super Stadium
Sat	30 Jul 22	17:30	Cronulla	Souths	PointsBet Stadium
Sat	30 Jul 22	19:35	Brisbane	Wests Tigers	Suncorp Stadium
Sun	31 Jul 22	14:00	Newcastle	Canterbury	McDonald Jones Stadium
Sun	31 Jul 22	16:05	St Geo Illa	North Qld	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium

ROUND 21

Thu	04 Aug 22	19:50	Sydney	Brisbane	Sydney Cricket Ground
Fri	05 Aug 22	18:00	Melbourne	Gold Coast	AAMI Park
Fri	05 Aug 22	19:55	Manly	Parramatta	4 Pines Park
Sat	06 Aug 22	15:00	Souths	Warriors	Sunshine Coast Stadium
Sat	06 Aug 22	17:30	Canberra	Penrith	GIO Stadium
Sat	06 Aug 22	19:35	Cronulla	St Geo Illa	PointsBet Stadium
Sun	07 Aug 22	14:00	Canterbury	North Qld	Salter Oval Bundaberg
Sun	07 Aug 22	16:05	Wests Tigers	Newcastle	Campbelltown Stadium

ROUND 22

Thu	11 Aug 22	19:50	Penrith	Melbourne	BlueBet Stadium
Fri	12 Aug 22	18:00	Warriors	Canterbury	Mt Smart Stadium
Fri	12 Aug 22	19:55	Parramatta	Souths	CommBank Stadium
Sat	13 Aug 22	15:00	Sydney	North Qld	Sydney Cricket Ground
Sat	13 Aug 22	17:30	Wests Tigers	Cronulla	Scully Park Tamworth
Sat	13 Aug 22	19:35	Brisbane	Newcastle	Suncorp Stadium
Sun	14 Aug 22	14:00	Canberra	St Geo Illa	GIO Stadium
Sun	14 Aug 22	16:05	Gold Coast	Manly	Cbus Super Stadium

ROUND 23

Thu	18 Aug 22	19:50	Souths	Penrith	Accor Stadium
Fri	19 Aug 22	18:00	North Qld	Warriors	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Fri	19 Aug 22	19:55	Brisbane	Melbourne	Suncorp Stadium
Sat	20 Aug 22	15:00	Parramatta	Canterbury	CommBank Stadium
Sat	20 Aug 22	17:30	Manly	Cronulla	4 Pines Park
Sat	20 Aug 22	19:35	Sydney	Wests Tigers	Sydney Cricket Ground
Sun	21 Aug 22	14:00	St Geo Illa	Gold Coast	WIN Stadium
Sun	21 Aug 22	16:05	Newcastle	Canberra	McDonald Jones Stadium

ROUND 24

Thu	25 Aug 22	19:50	Brisbane	Parramatta	Suncorp Stadium
Fri	26 Aug 22	18:00	Penrith	Warriors	BlueBet Stadium
Fri	26 Aug 22	19:55	Melbourne	Sydney	AAMI Park
Sat	27 Aug 22	15:00	Canberra	Manly	GIO Stadium
Sat	27 Aug 22	17:30	Cronulla	Canterbury	PointsBet Stadium
Sat	27 Aug 22	19:35	Souths	North Qld	Accor Stadium
Sun	28 Aug 22	14:00	Wests Tigers	St Geo Illa	CommBank Stadium
Sun	28 Aug 22	16:05	Gold Coast	Newcastle	Cbus Super Stadium

ROUND 25

Thu	01 Sep 22	19:50	Parramatta	Melbourne	CommBank Stadium
Fri	02 Sep 22	18:00	Canterbury	Manly	Accor Stadium
Fri	02 Sep 22	19:55	Sydney	Souths	Sydney Football Stadium
Sat	03 Sep 22	15:00	Warriors	Gold Coast	Mt Smart Stadium
Sat	03 Sep 22	17:30	St Geo Illa	Brisbane	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
Sat	03 Sep 22	19:35	North Qld	Penrith	Qld Country Bank Stadium
Sun	04 Sep 22	14:00	Newcastle	Cronulla	McDonald Jones Stadium
Sun	04 Sep 22	16:05	Wests Tigers	Canberra	Leichhardt Oval

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