





# THE FRONT ROW FOR UNINS

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## What's inside

**THE FRONT ROW - ISSUE 23** 

From	the editor		3			
Featu	re Boyd C	Cordner	4-5			
Featu	Feature Origin 2020 style					
Featu	re Greate	st Dynasties	7			
Featu	e in Lockdown	8-9				
NRL G	rand Final Revi	ew	10			
Birtho	Birthdays, Word Jumbles 10					
NRLW	NRLW Grand Final Review 11					
GAME DAY - State of Origin 1 12-13						
2020	2020 NRL & NRLW Draw 14-15					
GAME	DAY - Super L	eague R20	16			
SUN	Wakefield v Le	eeds	16-17			
MON	Salford v Cata	lans	18-19			
THU	Hull KR v War	rington	20-21			
	Catalans v St	Helens	22-23			
	Wigan v Hudd	ersfield	24-25			
FRI	Wakefield v Sa	alford	26-27			
	Castleford v Leeds 28-29					
2020 Super League Draw 30-31						







## From the editor

### **Tim Costello**

Congratulations to the Melbourne Storm, overcoming a mountain of obstacles to claim their fourth premiership in their 23 seasons. They downed a Penrith side last Sunday in what was a riverting second half of a Grand Final.

It was a Grand Final Day for the seasoned victors - Brisbane claimed their third straight NRLW title as well, although the Roosters certainly made the work for it.

Focus now shifts to the big stage of Origin. New South Wales are on the hunt for their third straight series win after nearly a decade in the wilderness. Queensland are almost in a rebuilding phase following the departures of key spine players and will need a big effort in 2020 to overcome the odds.

This week's edition looks at Origin through the eyes of NSW skipper Boyd Cordner as well as a bit of perspective on what to expect from this series from our Origin columnist Rick Edgerton. We also take a look at the dynasties in premiership history along with stories from rugby league fans in locked-down Victoria as the 2020 season drew to its climax. Happy reading!

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# Three of a kind

### Cordner raring to go as Blues eye Origin trifecta

lues captain Boyd Cordner doesn't subscribe to the theory they are red-hot favourites and should have little trouble claiming an Origin clean sweep in 2020.

New South Wales head into the November series focused on making it three-straight series wins.

While Queensland will field a new-look squad over the next three weeks, Cordner knows the Maroons relish the underdog status and history shows that's when they do their best work.

"It's nearly the other way around normally, but we're not looking too far into that," he said.

"We're very confident in the group we have and we're focusing on ourselves and not Queensland."

The Blues are expecting nothing different despite the inexperienced Maroons side.

"When we step on the field with them and every time they pull on that jersey, we know it's going to be a hell of a game," Cordner said.

"It's going to be no different this series."

The Roosters backrower will again lead his state into battle at the Adelaide Oval next Wednesday despite suffering a number of head knocks throughout the season.

There were concerns about his playing future, but the man himself is confident his body is up to the rigours of Origin.

# Paul Jobber Contributor



"You don't want to get head knocks and it's not ideal, but the body is fine and I wouldn't be here if that wasn't the case," he said.

"I've had great medical staff at the Roosters who have looked after me and put my wellbeing before anything else."

Numerous Blues teammates have openly admitted they grow in confidence knowing the 28-year-old is alongside them.

"It's humbling and nice to hear that sort of thing from your teammates," he said.

Cordner has spent a couple of weeks outside of the NRL's biosecurity bubble following the Roosters' 22-18 defeat to the Raiders on October 9.

He was comfortable returning to that environment with the Blues over the next month and admitted it created an easier Origin atmosphere than when the fixtures were mid-season.

"It's easier to prepare because you're in camp for the whole time and you can put your focus solely on Origin rather than having to go back to clubland and then back into camp," he said.

"It's been a crazy year with that side of things, but it's been good to have a break and then come back into camp again."



# Origin: 2020 style

Get ready for a truly unique State of Origin series!

n a year that has been like no other, here we are on the verge of November about to take in the jewel in rugby league's crown.

Once the siren sounded at fulltime in Sunday night's grand final, the annual hollow feeling of the season coming to an end was strangely still there

The thought of three of the highest quality games to come feels almost surreal. It doesn't really feel like Origin right now but of course Origin is a beast like no other and no doubt as the build-up continues, the sleeping giant will awaken and capture the attention of the rugby league world once more.

The series will commence on Wednesday,
November 4 at a ground making its Origin debut

- Adelaide Oval - at a time when curators of
the ground would normally be prepping for the
International summer of cricket.

It shapes as a massive two days for sporting fans across the country with the race that stops the nation – The Melbourne Cup to be run the day prior. From there, we move back to the traditional venues of ANZ Stadium, New South Wales for game two on November 11 and a potential decider at Suncorp Stadium, Queensland on November 18.

With the games to be played on three consecutive Wednesdays, the depth of both states are set to be tested more than ever before, hence the 27 man squads named.

In what has already been a brutal year on the injury front, there's every chance more injuries strike throughout the series. If you take into consideration the potential of concussions and the likelihood of players automatically ruled out the following week – players with recent history of sitting out games like Boyd Cordner and Luke Keary come to mind – there's every chance the full 27 man squads will be called upon at some stage.

On paper, this looks to test the depth of Queensland most.

No fewer than 14 Maroons players from last year's series will be missing. Some of their biggest stars like Kalyn Ponga, Michael Morgan and David Fifita were ruled unavailable through injury, whilst other well-known names such as Josh McGuire, Dylan Napa and Corey Oates were overlooked by returning Coach Wayne Bennett.

In total there are 17 faces in Bennett's squad yet to don the jersey, meaning at least seven will run out for their Origin debut in game one.

But of course, we've been here before with an understrength Queensland outfit.

In 1995 the Maroons were left decimated due to the Super League war and any contracted players to the new league ruled ineligible for selection. At the time, a large number of their Origin squad were made up of Broncos players who had signed with Rupert Murdoch and his cohorts which left Coach Paul Vautin to roll out nine debutantes on route to an unlikely 3-0 series whitewash.

The Blues should at least be ready for a similar Queensland ambush with current Coach Brad Fittler skippering the Blues that year.

Similarly in 2001, Queensland rolled out ten debutantes – this time in response to the previous year's 3-0 whitewash they received at the hands of the Blues and the embarrassing 56-16 score line in game three. They famously went on to win that series with a little help from the fairy-tale return of Allan Langer in game three. The Blues captain that year was again Brad Fittler and the Maroons coach was Wayne Bennett.

Speaking of Fittler, he's made some bold calls of his own for this series.

Already missing a couple of key men from last year's series victory in the injured Tom Trbojevic

Rick Edgerton
Contributor

and the departed James
Maloney, the New South
Wales coach chose to leave out experienced
men David Klemmer, Wade Graham and Blake
Ferguson.

Fittler of course is no stranger in thinking outside the box, himself debuting 11 Blues in the opening game of his first series in charge as coach in 2018. New South Wales subsequently went on to win the next two series after over a decade of Queensland dominance and are now chasing just their third three-peat in Origin's 40 year history.

This series looks set for a real injection of youthful exuberance and untapped talent which should leave footy heads licking their lips in anticipation.

For the Blues, the likes of Junior Paulo, Stephen Crichton and Ryan Papenhuyzen fresh off a Clive Churchill medal performance look set to ignite. Not to mention a long awaited debut for Luke Keary – one of the game's best playmakers.

The Maroons meanwhile look to have a young pack ready to unleash with names such as Moeaki Fotuaika, Jaydn Su'A and Tino Fa'asuamaleaui who will all thrive on the back of forward leader Josh Papalii.

Titans' fullback AJ Brimson finished the season in blistering form and will provide plenty of spark to their attack whilst Jake Friend looks a strong chance for a long awaited debut, although he will have to stave off a challenge from rookie of the year Harry Grant.

There's certainly plenty of intriguing plot lines set to unfold as this historic series unfolds.

Let's get this party started!

# The great dynasties

### How do the current Storm and Roosters compare?

With the Melbourne Storm finishing as Premiers at the end of the 2020 NRL season, it seems appropriate to see how the Craig Bellamy coached outfit ranks against some of the elite dynasties from the games history.

A dynasty can be viewed in many different ways, but one thing that is commonplace is success over several years and winning titles. For this piece though, there are several factors. The dynasty must be at least 7 years in length, must contain at least 2 Premierships and a cut-off for win percentage set at 60%.

This whittled the list down to 21 dynasties. Here they are in chronological order:

Souths (1908-18)

Easts (1908-23)

Balmain (1914-25)

Souths (1923-35)

Easts (1930-42)

Balmain (1936-50)

Canterbury (1936-42)

St.George (1939-80)

Wests (1945-52)

Souths (1949-57)

Souths (1964-74)

Manly (1966-78)

Easts (1972-83)

Parramatta (1975-86)

Manly (1981-98)

**Canterbury (1982-88)** 

Canberra (1987-2000)

Brisbane (1989-2019)

Canterbury (1993-2004)\*

Melbourne (2003-20)\*\*

Manly (2005-14)

\*37 pts deducted for cap breaches in 2002 \*\*28 pts deducted for cap breaches in 2010





The current Melbourne Storm dynasty ranks third for longevity, behind the Dragons mammoth 42 years of success and the Broncos run of 31 years prior to this years wooden spoon, their first. Melbourne are a distance back with 18 seasons, joined by the Manly side of the 80's and 90's.

As far as win percentages go, the Storm sit in fourth place, with an impressive 66.53% of all games won. They are bettered only by Souths, who have 3 of their 4 dynasties taking up the top 3 places. The 1923-35 side won an impressive 74.02% of games, the pioneers outfit from their first 11 seasons won 71.52% - they are the only teams to win better than 70% of their games.

Another metric used was the average margin per game, where the Storm, aided by 4 point tries and the 10 metre rule, sit second at 8.42 points per game only just behind Dave Brown's point scoring machine from the 30's and 40's, which had an average margin of 8.43.

Melbourne sit again in the top few for number of games played in their run, at 472, only behind the 786 by the Broncos and the 859 of the Dragons.

The final metric which these dynasties are ranked upon is the percentage of Premierships won during their respective runs. After Melbourne had two of their titles stripped for cap breaches, they fell down in this ranking to by tied for second last with Balmain's 1940's side and the Bulldogs run from 1993-2004 (which itself was also punished for breaching the salary cap), and beating only the Manly side of the 80's and 90's.

With all of these metrics combined and ranked, an overall list of top dynasties, ranked from best to 21st can be revealed:

Team	Start	End	Years	PI	W	D	L	<u>F</u>	A	Win%	<b>Minor Premiers</b>	Runners-Up	Premiers
St.George	1939	1980	42	859	571	31	257	16417	11177	66.47%	14	8	15
Melbourne**	2003	2020	18	472	327		143	11203	7231	69.28%			
Souths	1923	1935	13	204	151	5		3584		74.02%	5	3	7
Easts													
Manly	1966	1978	13	312	211	8	93	6037	3979	67.63%	4	2	4
Parramatta	1975	1986	12	314	208	9	97	6150	3872	66.24%	3	3	4
Balmain	1914	1925	12	159	109	14	36	2408	1234	68.55%	6	0	6
Souths	1908	1918	11	151	108	5	38	2378	1190	71.52%	3	2	4
Canberra	1987	2000	14	346	222	4	120	8151	5405	64.16%	1	2	3
Souths	1949	1957	9	182	127	5					4	2	
Manly	1981	1998	18	443	285	12	146	9243	6340	64.33%		4	2
Brisbane	1989	2019	31	786	480	14	292	18040	13868	61.07%	4	1	6
Easts													
Souths	1964	1974	11	246	163	3	80	4421	3246	66.26%	3	2	4
Balmain	1936	1950	15	247	154	16	77	4207	3154	62.35%	2	4	4
Canterbury*	1993	2004	12	302	194	6	102	7074	5603	64.24%	2	2	2
Easts													
Canterbury	1982	1988	7	186	120	6	60	3241	2325	64.52%	1	1	3
Manly	2005	2014	10	263	163	1	99	6027	4776	61.98%	0	2	2
Canterbury	1936	1942	7	102	66	4	32	1668	1233	64.71%	2	1	2
Wests	1945	1952	8	147	89	5	53	2593	2228	60.54%	2	1	2

<sup>\*37</sup> pts deducted for cap breaches in 2002

<sup>\*\*28</sup> pts deducted for cap breaches in 2010

# Locked away

Mark Thierry and Emile El-Azar share their tales from living life in locked-down Victoria throughout the 2020 NRL season

Mark Thierry



As Ray Warren said all the way back in 1999, there are "real rugby league fanatics in Melbourne", despite what the gormless Sydney media would tell you.

Whether they are exiles from elsewhere, converts to the game, or casual observers; there's a passion here for rugby league that extends beyond the ever growing numbers of Melbourne Storm members and fans.

Being a rugby league fan in 2020 south of the Murray river has certainly been a challenge. 84 years ago, during Lockdown 1.0 when it was #AllSportsCancelled, and replays of old games was all we had to nourish our needs, there was a certain rhythm as we flattened the curve and socially distanced to keep each other safe.

When Supreme Chancellor V'Landys announced the NRL would be restarting the season in late May, we knew things would be different. Empty stands, game day travel and strict protocols, but there was hope we would eventually see rugby league at Olympic Park in 2020 and local rugby league would return to play.

That hope was quickly dashed as Victoria's COVID-19 case numbers rose and the Storm were first forced to host a home game in Sydney, then relocate to their home away from home in Queensland. We were locked into our 5km bubbles and watched from afar, as cardboard fans in the stands were eventually replaced by our friends attending selected games.

Lockdown life got even harder as rival fans began attending games in ever increasing numbers, while us Victorians couldn't leave our homes for more than an hour before 8pm each night. Storm fans took some delight as the team went on a seven game winning run through the middle of the season, but as case numbers peaked

in August and the tragic loss of love ones increased, it all became a bit too much to even think of sport as a distraction from the bleak life of Lockdown 2.0.

Indeed it felt from inside Victoria that we had been insulted, abused, ostracised, and then ultimately forgotten. Our weekly fix of live rugby league was reduced to the soul-crushing reality of watching via television. But in mid-August, Storm did something truly nice. They put the Big V "Our Home, Victoria" logo on their jerseys to show their support for those of us stuck at home. In a letter to fans the club wrote "our players are missing their homes and you - their members. But they haven't forgotten where their home is or who they are playing for."

That logo became a real touchstone for Storm fans as the team played some fantastic football to finish an extraordinary regular season in second behind a rampant Penrith. With a finals series in prospect, the light at the end of Lockdown 2.0 was in sight as roadmaps and trigger point targets entered our consciousness.

As the Storm steamrolled Parramatta and then Canberra to make their tenth NRL Grand Final, and the rolling average case numbers plummeted to now acceptable levels, Storm fans experienced the final level of Lockdown 2.0 - FOMO. Again we would have to be there in spirit as Melbourne achieved the seemingly impossible. As Cameron Smith summed it up collecting the Provan-Summons Trophy to "everyone back in Victoria; this one's for you. You beauty!"

Now as Victoria emerges from Lockdown 2.0 like a beautiful butterfly, we can look back and say thanks for the memories NRL season 2020; and again hope to see our teams play live again at home or far away in 2021.





I should start this piece by pointing out something....I'm nuts.

Some background.

I'm a Rugby League fan living in exile, in Melbourne. Growing up, that meant checking scores in the Australian on a Monday, live scores via Teletext and 2 games a weekend via Channel 9 Melbourne after midnight.

The advent of Cable TV in the late 90's brought some actual Rugby League coverage to Mexico, however Channel 9 games were not simulcast, and my beloved Canterbury were much more often than not shown by Nine in those days.

The Melbourne Storm entering the NRL in 1998, meant I could start attending games again, having been born and raised in Yagoona, and falling in love with Canterbury at the 1993 Multicultural Day at Belmore with 27,000 other people.

This still wasn't enough.

I attended the 1999 and 2001 Grand Finals, as a 16 and 18 year old. Booking my own flights and tickets with my hard-earned. It was amazing.

I got my drivers license in late 2001. In 2002 Canterbury got 37 points deducted with 3 weeks to go in the season, for Salary Cap breaches. Our next game after this was in Canberra. I loaded up the 1985 Camira and drove up the Hume Highway for what was an emotional night in the nation's capital. Watched the game, and drove back to Melbourne straight after, as I had work the next morning.

Roll on the 2003 season, and I was not prepared to endure another minute of poor, delayed Rugby League TV coverage. I NEEDED to be at the games. So I drove or flew up to every single Canterbury game in 2003, except 1.

And so this continued, as my work, health and financial status changed over the years, my method of travel to Sydney varied (planes, trains & automobiles.....and even the odd coach). But the one thing I gave myself to make me happy was being able to travel to see my Bulldogs play.

I lived in Sydney for work in 2006 and lived a stone's throw from Olympic Park, so that was easy. Work sent me to Brisbane in 2009 and the travelling continued.

So back to 2020.....

Depriving me of being able to attend Canterbury games, is akin to depriving me of oxygen. Travelling to games isn't just about the game, it's also about the travel time being used as "me" time, it's about seeing my family and friends in Sydney/Brisbane/Auckland/

Wherever, and it's about the amazing people I attend games with. It's a complete suite of products designed to keep this workaholic's mental health on the level.

Safe to say, 2020 has been a punish. Not being able to see friends and family for months on end, and no sport based outlet. Thankfully I have my job and my health, so in an overall sense I am very blessed compared to those that have lost everything, and I'll never lose sight of that.

I got to attend the Round 1 game v Parramatta, with the Bulldogs crew, and I was lucky enough to be invited to attend the Round 5 game v Sydney Roosters as part of a small handful of people.

In the first lockdown, as the NRL season resumed, I joined a fun initiative, "Dogglebox", watching games over Zoom with other fans. I believe those videos are still on the Bulldogs website.

Shortly after attending the Roosters game, Melbourne went into hard lockdown, and we would stay that way until the 28th of October.

No more games for me!

Whist I was happy that my friends in Sydney and Brisbane could attend games again, I would be a massive liar if I didn't say that it hurt. Really hurt. Seeing people in the stands at games, getting Snapchats from the ground...It was nice to see, but it really rammed home the fact that I was not there. That was tough to deal with.

So, I had to settle down to Fox League's coverage of NRL....and Channel 9 for the Grand Final.

Oh boy. The only highlight of watching Rugby League in 2020 is Andrew Voss' commentary. That's it.

Often, game match analysis is shallow, lacks detail, lacks real statistical analysis. Pre-game/Half time/Post-game is all about sensationalist stories, chasing injured players around, trying to trip up players and coaches into saying things they shouldn't. With the resources at the fingertips of some of these outlets, it is substandard at best, a disservice to the game at worst.

I have been to every NRL Grand Final since 1999, except for 2000 and 2015. I fear that this standard of coverage is what it's like all the time.

So, here's to season 2021, hopefully with borders open. See you at the games, and let's hope I don't have to watch another Canterbury game on TV ever again.

# **Storm surge secures premiership over Panthers**

**Justin Davies** 



20-26



Melbourne Storm won their fourth NRL Premiership after a 26-20 success against Penrith Panthers in front of 37,303 fans tonight at Stadium Australia.

In a tough year for everyone, Melbourne Storm delivered a masterclass to add another Premiership to the already bulging trophy case. It was a first half which saw them explode out to a 22-nil lead with tries to Justin Olam, Suliasi Vunivali and Cameron Smith. The Premiership gives something for Victorians to enjoy in what has been a tough year for the state.

This game was billed as a heavyweight contest, but the Storm landed a heavy blow in the first half. They soaked up some early pressure from the Panthers then blew them off the park to put up a 22-point lead. The first came through a penalty try which was the first since the 2013 decider when Justin Olam was awarded the four-pointer after a professional foul from Tyrone May.

May came in as a switch like last weekend for Brent Naden. It was a half to forget for May and the Panthers. They held a majority of the possession and went to their celebrated left-side but time and again, Villiame Kikau or Stephen Crichton coughed up the ball. The usually slick Panthers attack stuttered at the wrong time in the big dance against a machine-like Storm side.

Storm were efficent in their work. Smith kicked them ahead in twos after Vunivalu snaffled an intercept from Nathan Cleary then the man who has been under speculation all season, got a rare four-pointer on the half-time siren to ultimately seal the contest.

Penrith showed some fight in the second half, despite having the wind knocked out of them by Ryan Papenhuyzen's runaway effort from the scrum in the 44th minute. Brian To'o was given the Panthers first four-

pointer after a lengthy bunker check. Josh Mansour and Stephen Crichton both crossed to give the game some life at 26-16.

Sensing the rising tide of the Panthers, Melbourne had two men sin-binned late in the contest. Halfback Jahrome Hughes and interchange forward Brandon Smith received their marching orders in the final ten minutes. Nathan Cleary stepped to the line in the final minute to set up a hail mary but the young Panthers were a left short at the final game of the season.

The names may change but the Storm remain the same. Under the tuteladge of Smith and coach Craig Bellamy the Storm are a winning machine. They have turned ordinary players into stars and superstars into supernovas. One example is Clive Churchill medalist, Ryan Papenhuyzen. He has shown immense growth this season and thrived in the fullback position and takes the trifecta - Premiership, try of the game and the medal to Origin camp.

#### **MATCH SUMMARY**

Venue: ANZ Stadium Crowd: 37303 Halftime: Storm 22-0 Referee: Gerard Sutton

Touch Judges: Todd Smith, Chris Butler

NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy

#### **MELBOURNE STORM 26**

TRIES 3 min 21 min Cameron Smith 30 min 44 min Ryan Papenhuyzen GOALS 5/6 Cameron Smith

#### **PENRITH PANTHERS (20)**

TRIES 52 min Brian To'o
68 min Stephen Crichton
71 min Josh Mansour
80 min Nathan Cleary
GOALS 2/4 Nathan Cleary

#### LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen 2 points - Nelson Asofa-Solomona 1 points - Cameron Smith

### NRL & NRLW Match Review Grand Final Charge Sheet

Player	Club	Grade / Charge	Minute / on who	Base Penalty	Priors / discounts (loading)	Carry overs	Points/fine if guilty	Points/fine if early plea	Plea	Suspension / fine	Carryovers accrued
James FISHER- HARRIS	Panthers	Grade 1 Dangerous Contact (Other)	26 min, Brandon Smith	100	None	None	100	75	Guilty - early plea	0 matches	75
Tarryn AIKEN	Broncos NRLW	Grade 1 Contrary Conduct	46 min, Botille Vette-Welsh	100	None	None	100	75	Guilty - early plea	0 matches	75

### Happy birthday! This week's NRL & NRLW birthday boys & girls

Saturday 31 October: Josh Hodgson (Raiders) - 31; George Williams (Raiders) - 26 Wednesday 4 November: Tex Hoy (Knights) - 21; Zane Tetevano (Panthers) - 30

### **Word Jumbles**

These players have all won the Player of the Year awards at their respective clubs over the last few years. How many of the names can you unscramble?

DENT COWHANDS
TALL WHOOPIE
ACEMOO KIND
MEMENUN CARROTS
LOANED VARIAL
JOURNO PAULI

SHARKS 2019
BULLDOGS 2019
RABBITOHS 2018 & 2019
STORM 2018
EELS 2018

RAIDERS 2017

ALPACA GARBLING-MERDELL ABSURD YODI EDNA AGGIA FRED JAIKEN DUKO SEAGULL TUI NOBLEMAN PANTHERS 2017 BRONCOS 2016 KNIGHTS 2016 ROOSTERS 2016 TITANS 2015 WARRIORS 2015

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS: Cooper Cronk, Chris Heighington, Luke Patten, Luke Keary, David Barnhill, Travis Norton, Brett Mullins, Gorden Tallis, Feleti Mateo, Kane Linnett, Tawera Nikau, Anthony Mundine

### Broncos hold off Roosters to record Women's threepeat

**Tim Costello** 

Brisbane have grinded out a tough 20-10 win in the NRLW Grand Final today, keeping a spirited Roosters side at bay in front of 9,071 fans at ANZ Stadium.

After taking home the title in 2018 and 2019, the women from north of the border weren't expected to be as strong this year, with the Dragons listed as pre-season favourites. But come Grand Final Day, they were once again undefeated and went in favourites - ultimately living up to that title and claiming three from three NRLW premierships.

In previous seasons the Broncos dominated the Grand Final from the outset - this time it looked like history might repeat, but after a 12-0 early lead, the Broncos were slowly roped in by an enthusiastic Roosters outfit who exploited some soft edges to reduce the margin to two at halftime. It would be two second half tries that delivered the reigning champs yet another trophy.

That fast start came courtesy of a fourth minute try to Tamika Upton, who took advantage of a bust by halfback Tarryn Aiken to deliver a perfect support run to open the scoring.

Brisbane backed the effort up a few minutes later when Karyn Murphy Medal winner Amber Hall barged over off a left-edge run which took her across the line from about 20 metres out.

Meg Ward converted both tries and the Broncos were ahead of the clock, leading 12-0 after just ten minutes.

From there though, the Roosters found some resolve and got some ball - and by the fourteenth minute took advantage of a successful Captain's Challenge to have Yasmin Meakes put them on the board.

The gap was narrowed further before halftime, with Quincy Dodd barrelling over from dummy half. As a result the Tricolours only trailed by two as the sides went to the break.



20-10



Brisbane's Chelsea Lenarduzzi was key to her side starting strong after the break, putting a big effort in to get over the line and slam the ball down on the left side. Ward's missed extras meant the Roosters still had a sniff with a six point margin.

Come the 44th minute the outlook was growing darker for the Roosters as the rain continues to fall, with Tallisha Harden cruising through a big gap to score the Broncos' fourth and what would be final try.

Try as they might, the Roosters would not overcome the the reigning champs and Brisbane held on for their third NRLW premiership in three years.

Amber Hall was named player of the match.

#### **MATCH SUMMARY**

Venue: ANZ Stadium

Crowd: 9071

Halftime: Broncos 16-10 Referee: Belinda Sharpe

Touch Judges: Drew Oultram, Liam Kennedy

NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell

#### **BRISBANE BRONCOS 20**

TRIES 4 min Tamika Upton
9 min Amber Hall
35 min Chelsea Lenarduzzi
44 min Tallisha Harden
GOALS 2/4 Meg Ward

#### **SYDNEY ROOSTERS 10**

TRIES 14 min Yasmin Meakes 26 min Quincy Dodd Zahara Temara

#### LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Amber Hall 2 points - Ali Brigginshaw 1 points - Melanie Howard



# QUEENSLAND



### #Origin

WHEN Wednesday 4 November 2020, 8:10pm AEDT

VENUE Adelaide Oval, Adelaide SA

WATCH Nine Network

LISTEN ABC Grandstand, Triple M, 2GB/4BC, NRL Nation

LIVE BLOG LeagueUnlimited.com

### **MATCH OFFICIALS**

**REFEREE Gerard SUTTON** TOUCH JUDGES Chris BUTLER

Todd SMITH

NRL BUNKER Steve CHIDDY



### **Match Stats**

## HEAD TO HEAD: 120 matches **OLD 62 NSW 53 Drawn 5**

At Adelaide Oval: first meeting at this venue

### **LAST 10 MATCHES**

2016	G3	NSW 18-14	ANZ
2017	G1	NSW 28-4	Suncorp
2017	G2	QLD 18-16	ANZ
2017	G3	QLD 22-6	Suncorp
2018	G1	NSW 22-12	MCG
2018	G2	NSW 18-14	ANZ
2018	G3	QLD 18-12	Suncorp
2019	G1	QLD 18-14	Suncorp
2019	G2	NSW 38-6	Optus
2019	G3	NSW 26-20	AN7

### **BIGGEST WINS**

2000	G3	NSW 56-16	Stad. Aust.
2015	G3	QLD 52-6	Suncorp

## HEAD TO HEAD: 39 series QLD 21 NSW 15 Drawn 2

AJ BRIMSON	1	FULLBACK
Xavier COATES	2	WING
Brenko LEE	3	CENTRE
Dane GAGAI	4	CENTRE
Phillip SAMI	5	WING
Cameron MUNSTER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH
Daly CHERRY-EVANS	7	HALFBACK
Christian WELCH	8	FRONT ROW
Jake FRIEND	9	HOOKER
Josh PAPALI'I	10	FRONT ROW
Felise KAUFUSI	11	SECOND ROW
Coen HESS	12	SECOND ROW
Tino FA'ASUAMALEAUI	13	LOCK
Ben HUNT	14	INTERCHANGE
Lindsay COLLINS	15	
Jai ARROW	16	
Jaydn SU'A	17	
Kurt CAPEWELL	18	RESERVES
Moeaki FOTUAIKA	19	
Dunamis LUI	20	
Hymel HUNT	21	
Wayne BENNETT		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** 

# **NEW SOUTH WALES**

FULLBACK	1	James TEDESCO
WING	2	Daniel TUPOU
CENTRE	3	Clint GUTHERSON
CENTRE	4	Jack WIGHTON
WING	5	Josh ADDO-CARR
FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Luke KEARY
HALFBACK	7	Nathan CLEARY
FRONT ROW	8	Daniel SAIFITI
HOOKER	9	Damien COOK
FRONT ROW	10	Junior PAULO
SECOND ROW	11	Boyd CORDNER
SECOND ROW	12	Tyson FRIZELL
LOCK	13	Jake TRBOJEVIC
INTERCHANGE	14	Cody WALKER
	15	Payne HAAS
	16	Cameron MURRAY
	17	Angus CRICHTON
RESERVES	18	Cameron McINNES
	19	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD
	20	Nathan BROWN
	21	Zac LOMAX
COACH		Brad FITTLER
PENALTIES	1 2 3 4 5	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
SCRUMS	1 2 3 4 5	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

### **Match Preview**

Normally, we'd be gearing up for the Australian summer of cricket and a few Rugby League Tests, but luckily this year we are being thrust straight into three weeks of awesome Rugby League action, which features the three men's State of Origin matches and the women's State of Origin.

New South Wales enter the series as back-to-back winners and will be aiming to become the first New South Wales side since 2005 to win three straight Origin titles. The Blues have named three debutants in their 17 for Game One which gives them an immediate advantage regarding experience over the eight debutants that the Queensland side will blood.

In terms of experience the Queensland halves have the wood over the New South Wales halves as both Cameron Munster and Daly Cherry-Evans have combined for 17 matches whilst the debutant Luke Keary and 22-year-old Nathan Cleary have just five games between them. Although, Keary is no stranger to big games with the 28-year-old five-eighth having won three premierships over the course of his career. This matchup between four of the top players in the game will be fascinating to watch as it unfolds over the course of the three games.

The New South Welshmen's three debutants include Clint Gutherson, Junior Paulo and the aforementioned Keary who join a very strong Blues side. The defending champions field four of the top five vote-getters from the Dally M Medal and boast a forward pack with a great mixture of experienced leaders and young stars. They're going to be a tough team to beat.

Although, you can never count out the Queenslanders who will be looking for revenge after losing last year's series in the dying stages of the third and final match. The new look Maroons side includes AJ Brimson, Xavier Coates, Brenko Lee, Phillip Sami, Jake Friend, Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Lindsay Collins and Jaydh Su'A who will all be making their Origin debuts on Wednesday. Queensland have named a strong forward pack that has plenty of talent to match the NSW pack however, their struggles on paper seem to lie with their back five which includes four debutants who come up against a strong NSW back five including Dally M medallists James Tedesco and Jack Wighton.

Meanwhile the battle in the coaching box is going to be as interesting as it's been in a long time. Brad Fittler is hoping to become just the fourth coach to win three series in a row and the fifth coach to win three origin series. But standing in his way are two Queensland legends in coach Wayne Bennett and mentor Mal Meninga who have won a combined 14 Origin series as coaches. Wayne Bennett is hoping to be the saviour for his home state as he was in the 2001 series which saw Bennett reclaim is old job as the Maroons coach and guided his side to an incredible 2-1 series victory, preventing the Blues from winning back-to-back series. Bennett will be hoping for much of the same this time around as he looks to prevent a New South Wales three peat. Bennett and the Queenslanders will embrace the underdog tag as they have done in the past and will not be an easy pushover for the defending champions.

Who to watch: There are some great matchups in the Game One line-ups, some of these include the battle of the halves pairings, the forward packs and the two exciting fullbacks. But it's two of the prop forwards who come to mind, Queensland Josh Papalii and New South Wales debutant Junior Paulo. Papalii has had another monster season and was one of two props named in the Dally M Team of the Year. For the Raiders this season, Papalii averaged a massive 148 run metres per game whist making 31 tackles per game. The most experienced Queenslander in the 17 with 15 Origin appearances had his best individual performance last year with career highs for both run metres and tackles in an Origin series.

Lining up against him is debutant Junior Paulo who once played with Papalii at the Raiders, now lines up against him in his biggest game of his career. Paulo had the best season of his career to date and was a key part to Parramatta's top four finish. 155 run metres, 26 tackles and 2.5 offloads per game highlight the skills that Paulo will bring to this New South Wales side. Paulo was the top offloader in the competition and will be sure to create plenty of second phase footy for Keary, Cleary, Cook and Tedesco to pounce on. Both Papalii and Paulo are key member of their respective forward packs and their performances will have a big influence on the result on Wednesday night.

Favourite: New South Wales enter the first game of the series as favourites and rightfully so. Winners of the 2018 & 2019 Origin series combined with the experience their side possess gives them the edge on paper over the untested Queensland side.

My tip: I'm expecting this game to be a tight contest with that intangible Queensland spirit to be in full effect for the Maroons. However, New South Wales's experience could be enough to get them over the line and put themselves in a great position for the rest of the series. The battle between the forward packs and spine are going to be tight, but I think the outside backs for the Blues possess too much power for the Queensland backs to handle. NSW by 8.

2020	Drom			ROUND 8	JULY 2-5	•	
ZUZU	<b>Draw</b>			Thu 7:50pm	Storm v Roosters	Suncorp GIO	27-25 22-16
NDL Tala	tua Duanatanalata			Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm	Raiders v Dragons Eels v Cowbovs	Bankwest	42-4
NKL IEIS	tra Premiership			Sat 3:00pm	Titans v Sharks	Chus	10-40
	_			Sat 5:30pm	Warriors v Broncos	Gosford	26-16
ROUND 1	MARCH 12-15			Sat 7:35pm	Tigers v Panthers	Bankwest	12-19
Thu 8:05pm	Eels v Bulldogs	Bankwest	8-2	Sun 4:05pm	Manly v Knights	Lottoland	12-14
Fri 6:00pm	Raiders v Titans	GIO	24-6	Sun 6:30pm	Bulldogs v Rabbitohs	Bankwest	10-26
Fri 8:05pm	Cowboys v Broncos	Townsville MJS	21-28 20-0	ROUND 9	JULY 9-12		
Sat 3:00pm Sat 5:30pm	Knights v Warriors Rabbitohs v Sharks	ANZ	20-0	Thu 7:50pm	Cowboys v Roosters	Townsville	16-42
Sat 7:35pm	Panthers v Roosters	Panthers	20-14	Fri 6:00pm	Titans v Warriors	Chus	16-12
Sun 4:05pm	Sea Eagles v Storm	Lottoland	4-18	Fri 7:55pm	Rabbitohs v Tigers	Bankwest	18-10
Sun 6:15pm	Dragons v Tigers	WIN	14-24	Sat 3:00pm	Sharks v Panthers	Kogarah	24-56
	5			Sat 5:30pm	Broncos v Bulldogs	Suncorp	26-8
ROUND 2	MARCH 19-22			Sat 7:35pm	Raiders v Storm	GIO	14-20
Thu 8:05pm	Bulldogs v Cowboys	ANZ	16-24	Sun 4:05pm	Knights v Eels	MJS	4-10
Fri 6:00pm	Dragons v Panthers	Kogarah	28-32 22-18	Sun 6:30pm	Dragons v Manly	Kogarah	34-4
Fri 8:05pm Sat 3:00pm	Broncos v Rabbitohs Warriors v Raiders	Suncorp Cbus	6-20	ROUND 10	JULY 16-19		
Sat 5:30pm	Roosters v Manly	Leichh.	8-9	Thu 7:50pm	Roosters v Raiders	SCG	20-24
Sat 7:35pm	Sharks v Storm	Kogarah	10-12	Fri 6:00pm	Storm v Titans	S. Coast	42-6
Sun 4:05pm	Tigers v Knights	Leichh.	24-42	Fri 7:55pm	Tigers v Broncos	Leichh.	48-0
Sun 6:15pm	Titans v Eels	Cbus	6-46	Sat 3:00pm	Dragons v Bulldogs	WIN	28-22
				Sat 5:30pm	Rabbitohs v Knights	Bankwest	18-20
PREM	HERSHIP SUSPENDED MARCH			Sat 7:35pm	Manly v Eels	Lottoland	22-18 10-46
	due to COVID-19 restrict	ions		Sun 2:00pm Sun 4:05pm	Warriors v Sharks Panthers v Cowboys	Gosford Panthers	22-10
ROUND 3	MAV 20 21			3uii 4.03piii	ranthers v cowboys	rantileis	22-10
Thu 7:50pm	MAY 28-31 Broncos v Eels	Suncorp	6-34	ROUND 11	JULY 23-26		
Fri 6:00pm	Cowboys v Titans	Townsville	36-6	Thu 7:50pm	Eels v Tigers	Bankwest	26-16
Fri 7:55pm	Roosters v Rabbitohs	Bankwest	28-12	Fri 6:00pm	Cowboys v Manly	QCBS	12-24
Sat 3:00pm	Warriors v Dragons	Gosford	18-0	Fri 7:55pm	Broncos v Storm	Suncorp	8-46
Sat 5:30pm	Sharks v Tigers	Bankwest	16-28	Sat 3:00pm	Warriors v Roosters	Gosford	10-18
Sat 7:35pm	Storm v Raiders	AAMI	6-22	Sat 5:30pm	Sharks v Dragons	Kogarah GIO	28-24 18-12
Sun 4:05pm	Panthers v Knights	C'town	14-14	Sat 7:35pm Sun 2:00pm	Raiders v Rabbitohs Knights v Bulldogs	MJS	12-12
Sun 6:30pm	Manly v Bulldogs	Gosford	32-6	Sun 4:05pm	Titans v Panthers	Cbus	14-22
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Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm		Suncorp	0-59 26-0 22-8	Thu 7:50pm Fri 6:00pm	Dragons v Rabbitohs Tigers v Warriors	Kogarah SCG	24-32 20-26
Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm Sat 5:30pm	Panthers v Warriors Storm v Rabbitohs Eels v Manly	Suncorp C'town AAMI Bankwest	0-59 26-0 22-8 19-16	Thu 7:50pm Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm	Dragons v Rabbitohs Tigers v Warriors Broncos v Sharks	Kogarah SCG Suncorp	24-32 20-26 26-36
Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm Sat 5:30pm Sat 7:35pm	Panthers v Warriors Storm v Rabbitohs Eels v Manly Cowboys v Sharks	Suncorp C'town AAMI Bankwest Townsville	0-59 26-0 22-8 19-16 16-26	Thu 7:50pm Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm Sat 3:00pm	Dragons v Rabbitohs Tigers v Warriors Broncos v Sharks Roosters v Titans	Kogarah SCG Suncorp SCG	24-32 20-26 26-36 18-12
Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm Sat 5:30pm Sat 7:35pm Sun 4:05pm	Panthers v Warriors Storm v Rabbitohs Eels v Manly Cowboys v Sharks Raiders v Knights	Suncorp C'town AAMI Bankwest Townsville C'town	0-59 26-0 22-8 19-16 16-26 18-34	Thu 7:50pm Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm Sat 3:00pm Sat 5:30pm	Dragons v Rabbitohs Tigers v Warriors Broncos v Sharks Roosters v Titans Cowboys v Raiders	Kogarah SCG Suncorp	24-32 20-26 26-36
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Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm Sat 5:30pm Sat 7:35pm Sun 4:05pm Sun 6:30pm	Panthers v Warriors Storm v Rabbitohs Eels v Manly Cowboys v Sharks Raiders v Knights Titans v Tigers	Suncorp C'town AAMI Bankwest Townsville C'town Suncorp	0-59 26-0 22-8 19-16 16-26 18-34 28-23	Thu 7:50pm Fri 6:00pm Fri 7:55pm Sat 3:00pm Sat 5:30pm Sat 7:35pm Sun 2:00pm Sun 4:05pm	Dragons v Rabbitohs Tigers v Warriors Broncos v Sharks Roosters v Titans Cowboys v Raiders Manly v Panthers Bulldogs v Eels Storm v Knights	Kogarah SCG Suncorp SCG Townsville Lottoland ANZ	24-32 20-26 26-36 18-12 12-14 12-42 16-18
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**ROUND 8** 

**JULY 2-5** 

ROUND 16	AUGUST 27-30		
Thu 7:50pm	Eels v Rabbtiohs	Bankwest	0-38
Fri 6:00pm	Dragons v Titans	Kogarah	10-14
Fri 7:55pm	Roosters v Broncos	SCG	58-12
Sat 3:00pm	Warriors v Knights	Tamworth	36-6
Sat 5:30pm	Sharks v Cowboys	Kogarah	28-12
Sat 7:35pm	Panthers v Tigers	Panthers	30-6
Sun 4:05pm	Storm v Manly	S. Coast	30-6
Sun 6:30pm	Raiders v Bulldogs	GIO	34-20
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ROUND 17	SEPTEMBER 3-6	0	40.05
Thu 7:50pm	Broncos v Panthers	Suncorp	12-25
Fri 6:00pm	Knights v Sharks	MJS	38-10
Fri 7:55pm	Rabbitohs v Storm	ANZ	16-22
Sat 3:00pm	Bulldogs v Titans	ANZ	14-18
Sat 5:30pm	Manly v Tigers	Lottoland	32-34
Sat 7:35pm	Raiders v Roosters	GIO	6-18
Sun 4:05pm	Warriors v Eels	Gosford	18-24
Sun 6:30pm	Cowboys v Dragons	QCBS	23-22
<b>ROUND 18</b>	SEPTEMBER 10-13		
Thu 7:50pm	Tigers v Rabbitohs	Bankwest	24-26
Fri 6:00pm	Bulldogs v Manly	ANZ	20-32
Fri 7:55pm	Panthers v Eels	<b>Panthers</b>	20-2
Sat 3:00pm	Dragons v Raiders	WIN	8-37
Sat 5:30pm	Titans v Broncos	Cbus	8-6
Sat 7:35pm	Roosters v Knights	SCG	42-12
Sun 4:05pm	Storm v Cowboys	S. Coast	36-20
Sun 6:30pm	Sharks v Warriors	Kogarah	22-14
ROUND 19	SEPTEMBER 17-20	Women in Leagu	ie Round
Thu 7:50pm	Rabbitohs v Bulldogs	ANZ	16-26
Fri 6:00pm	Cowboys v Panthers	QCBS	12-32
Fri 7:55pm	Eels v Broncos	Bankwest	26-12
Sat 3:00pm	Manly v Titans	Lottoland	24-42
Sat 5:30pm	Storm v Tigers	S. Coast	50-22
Sat 7:35pm	Roosters v Sharks	SCG	34-18
Sun 2:00pm	Raiders v Warriors	GIO	26-14
Sun 4:05pm	Knights v Dragons	MJS	42-18
ROUND 20	SEPTEMBER 24-27		
Thu 7:50pm	Broncos v Cowboys	Suncorp	16-32
Fri 6:00pm	Titans v Knights	Cbus	36-6
Fri 7:55pm	Rabbitohs v Roosters	ANZ	60-8
Sat 3:00pm	Bulldogs v Panthers	ANZ	0-42
Sat 5:30pm		Kogarah	28-38
	Sharks v Raiders	Nuuaiaii	
Jat 7.Jopin	Tigers v Eels	Bankwest	
Sat 7:35pm Sun 2:00pm		•	24-28 40-28
	Tigers v Eels	Bankwest	24-28

### **2020 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP FINALS SERIES**

WEEK 1 Fri 7:50pm - QF 1 Sat 5:40pm - EF 1 Sat 7:50pm - QF 2 Sun 4:05pm - EF 2	OCTOBER 2-4 Qualify Panthers (1) v Roosters (4) Raiders (5) v Sharks (8) Storm (2) v Eels (3) Rabbitohs (6) v Knights (7)	ing & Elimination Panthers GIO Suncorp ANZ	29-28 32-20 36-24 46-20
WEEK 2 Fri 7:50pm - SF 1 Sat 7:50pm - SF 2	OCTOBER 9-10 Roosters v Raiders Eels v Rabbitohs	· ···=	i Finals 18-22 24-38
<b>WEEK 3</b> Fri 7:50pm - PF 2 Sat 7:50pm - PF 1	OCTOBER 16-17 Storm v Raiders Panthers v Rabbitohs	<b>Preliminary</b> Suncorp ANZ	7 <b>Finals</b> 30-10 20-16
<b>GRAND FINAL</b> Sun 7:15pm	OCTOBER 25 Panthers v Storm	ANZ	20-26

### **2020 NRL TELSTRA WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP**

ROUND 1 Sat 11:30am Sat 3:00pm	OCTOBER 2-4 Roosters v Dragons Broncos v Warriors	GIO GIO	18-4 28-14
ROUND 2 Sat 12:30pm Sat 4:00pm	OCTOBER 9-10 Warriors v Roosters Dragons v Broncos	Bankwest Bankwest	12-22 4-18
ROUND 3 Sat 12:30pm Sat 4:00pm	OCTOBER 16-17 Dragons v Warriors Roosters v Broncos	ANZ ANZ	10-22 16-24
GRAND FINAL Sun 4:05pm	OCTOBER 25 Broncos v Roosters	ANZ	20-10

All matches except Grand Final & Origin broadcast live on Fox League & Kayo Sports. Thu 7:50pm, Fri 7:55pm and Sun 4:05pm matches, all Finals, Grand Final and Origin are broadcast live on the Nine Network. NRL draw is subject to change - visit LeagueUnlimited.com for updated fixtures. All times are AEST, except Rounds 1, 2, NRL Finals Weeks 2-4 and NRLW Round 2, 3 and Grand Final, plus State of Origin (all AEDT).

### **2020 AMPOL STATE OF ORIGIN SERIES**

 GAME 1
 NOVEMBER 4

 Wed 8:10pm
 NSW v QLD

 GAME 2
 NOVEMBER 11

 Wed 8:10pm
 NSW v QLD

 GAME 3
 NOVEMBER 18

 Wed 8:10pm
 QLD v NSW

Adelaide Oval

ANZ Stadium

Suncorp Stadium

### **2020 HARVEY NORMAN WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN SERIES**

ORIGIN NOVEMBER 13
Fri 8:10pm QLD v NSW

**Sunshine Coast Stadium** 





# Leeds RHINOS

Alex WALKER	1	1	Jack WALKER
Tom JOHNSTONE	2	2	Tom BRISCOE
Bill TUPOU	3	3	Harry NEWMAN
Reece LYNE	4	4	Konrad HURRELL
Ben JONES-BISHOP	5	5	Ash HANDLEY
Jacob MILLER	6	6	Robert LUI
Danny BROUGH	7	7	Luke GALE
David FIFITA	8	8	Ava SEUMANUFAGAI
Kyle WOOD	9	9	Kruise LEEMING
Tinirau ARONA	10	10	Matt PRIOR
Danny KIRMOND	12	11	Alex MELLOR
Joe WESTERMAN	13	12	Rhyse MARTIN
Jay PITTS	14	13	Stevie WARD
Craig KOPCZAK	15	14	Brad DWYER
James BATCHELOR	16	15	Liam SUTCLIFFE
Chris GREEN	17	16	Richie MYLER
Adam TANGATA	18	17	Adam CUTHBERTSON
Jordan CROWTHER	19	19	Mikolaj OLEDZKI
Joe ARUNDEL	20	20	Bodene THOMPSON
Max JOWITT	21	21	Rhys EVANS
Josh WOOD	23	22	Cameron SMITH
Jack CROFT	24	23	Callum McLELLAND
Brad WALKER	25	24	Luke BRISCOE
Titus GWAZE	26	25	James DONALDSON
Lee KERSHAW	27	26	Alex SUTCLIFFE
Ryan HAMPSHIRE	29	27	Sam WALTERS
Yusuf AYDIN	30	28	Tom HOLROYD
Connor BAILEY	31	30	Muizz MUSTAPHA
Kelepi TANGINOA	36	33	Jarrod O'CONNOR
Romain NAVARRETE	<b>37</b>	34	Jack BROADBENT
Liam KAY	38	36	Corey HALL
Innes SENIOR	40	39	James HARRISON
Eddie BATTYE	41	40	Brett FERRES

**PENALTIES** 

**SCRUMS** 

**Richard AGAR** 

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**Chris CHESTER** 

### **#SLWakLee**

### **MATCH DETAILS**

DATE Sunday 1 November 2020

KICKOFF 2:00pm GMT

VENUE Mobile Rocket Stadium, Wakefield

WATCH OuRLeague

### MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE Marcus GRIFFITHS
SIDELINE OFFICIALS Mark CRAVEN
Scott MIKALAUSKAS



### **HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)**

OVERALL 51 MATCHES

### **Wakefield 10 Leeds 40 Drawn 1**

At Mobile Rocket: 25 matches - Wakefield 5, Leeds 20

LAST TEN	LEEDS 5-1-4	
2016	Wakefield 20-16	Headingley
2016	Leeds 32-6	Rapid Solicitors
2017	Leeds 38-14	Headingley
2017	Leeds 18-16	Beaumont Legal
2017	Wakefield 38-6	Beaumont Legal
2018	Leeds 28-26	Mobile Rocket
2018	20-all draw	Headingley
2019	Wakefield 35-18	Headingley
2019	Wakefield 26-24	Mobile Rocket
2019	Leeds 10-0	Mobile Rocket

#### **BIGGEST WINS**

2017 S8 R2 Wakefield 38-6 Beaumont Legal 2005 R17 Leeds 70-6 Belle Vue

#### **MILESTONES**

James HARRISON (Leeds): 100th career match

Richie MYLER (Leeds): 4 more pts for 500 Super League pts Brett FERRES (Leeds): 1 more try for 100 career tries

### **Super League table**

		Р	W	L	D	For	Ag	Diff %	Pts	Win %
1	St Helens	16	12	4	0	463	177	261.58	24	75
2	Wigan	15	11	4	0	371	266	139.47	22	73.33
3	Warrington	16	11	5	0	346	192	180.21	22	68.75
4	Catalans	12	8	4	0	352	217	162.21	16	66.67
5	Leeds	15	9	6	0	343	342	100.29	18	60
6	Hull FC	16	8	8	0	374	420	89.05	16	50
7	Huddersfield	16	7	9	0	300	329	91.19	14	43.75
8	Castleford	16	6	10	0	328	379	86.54	12	37.5
9	Salford	16	6	10	0	284	425	66.82	12	37.5
10	Wakefield	16	4	12	0	256	449	57.02	8	25
11	Hull KR	16	3	13	0	274	495	55.35	6	18.75

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## **Match Preview**

### with Steve Mascord

IN the chaos of the late Super League season of 2020, Wakefield have found at least a modicum of calm.

Very poor since the resumption, Chris Chester's men broke through for a 48-18 win last Sunday over Hull KR to seemingly escape the wooden spoon. At the time of writing there were no Covid positives. It's like a parallel universe.

But this week they play big brothers Leeds twice in just four days, the first time at Totally Wicked Stadium on Thursday and the second at the Mobile Rocket Stadium on Sunday.

Leeds, meanwhile, are 1-1 since their Wembley triumph over Salford on October 17 having been flogged by St Helens and holding off Castleford. The Rhinos are currently in fifth and it's no surprise coach Richard Agar is in favour of an extended finals series.

"I thought it was a pretty ugly performance from us," Agar said after the Tigers' gutsy display in winning 28-24 despite losing Oli Holmes who was sent off for kicking. "I credit Castleford, they held us up over the line with a couple of last-ditch tackles, but at the start of the second half it was difficult to work out which was the team with 12 men.

"Having said that, I thought we defended all right when we had to at times...but I thought it was a really scruffy performance from us offensively."

Since this match, Leeds have named Sean Long as their assistant coach. Long replaces James Webster, who was also head coach at affiliated Featherstone. It will not be possible in future months to do both jobs because of COVID protocols.

Coach Richard Agar named the same 21-man squad for the game as he named last week. When I say "the game", I mean Thursday's clash between these teams.

Chester will be without the injured Tony Gigot and Matty Ashurst on Thursday while halfback Jacob Miller comes back into the squad, as do Joe Westerman, Jack Croft, Yusuf Adin, Connor Bailey and Innes Senior.

At the time of writing, Lance Todd Trophy winner Richie Myler needed four points to bring up 500 in Super League while Brett Ferres still poised for a century on 99 career tries.

The Rhinos had won 39 of the 50 Super League clashes with their neighbours.

Who to watch: Luke Gale was uncharacteristically cranky last week against his former club Castleford. We like it! Hope he stays in a bad mood.

**Favourites:** Leeds should ensure Wakefield's little purple patch is more like pale pink..

My tip: Leeds by 16.

# Salford RED DEVILS



# Catalans DRAGONS

Niall EVALDS	1	1	David MEAD
Ed CHAMBERLAIN	2	2	Lewis TIERNEY
Kris WELHAM	3	3	Samisoni LANGI
Dan SARGINSON	4	4	Israel FOLAU
Krisnan INU	5	5	Fouad YAHA
Tuimoala LOLOHEA	6	6	James MALONEY
Kevin BROWN	7	7	Josh DRINKWATER
Lee MOSSOP	8	8	Rémi CASTY
Joey LUSSICK	9	9	Mike McILORUM
Gil DUDSON	10	10	Sam MOA
Ryan LANNON	11	11	Matt WHITLEY
Pauli PAULI	12	12	Joel TOMKINS
Tyrone McCARTHY	13	13	Benjamin GARCIA
Sebastine IKAHIHIFO	14	14	Julian BOUSQUET
Greg BURKE	16	15	Mickaël SIMON
Luke YATES	17	16	Tom DAVIES
Chris ATKIN	18	17	Benjamin JULLIEN
Mark FLANAGAN	19	18	Alrix DA COSTA
Josh JOHNSON	20	19	Mickaël GOUDEMAND
James GREENWOOD	21	20	Lucas ALBERT
Rhys WILLIAMS	22	21	Paul SÉGUIER
Ken SIO	23	22	Arthur ROMANO
Elliot KEAR	24	23	Antoni MARIA
Connor JONES	25	24	Jason BAITIERI
Jack ORMONDROYD	26	<b>25</b>	Arthur MOURGUE
Luis ROBERTS	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	Lambert BELMAS
Oliver ROBERTS	29	28	Sam KASIANO
Andy ACKERS	30	29	Sam TOMKINS
Josh JONES	31		
Kallum WATKINS	<b>32</b>		
Tom GILMORE	33		
Oliver ASHALL-BOTT	34		

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Ian WATSON

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Steve McNAMARA

### **#SLSalCat**

### **MATCH DETAILS**

DATE Monday 2 November 2020

KICKOFF 3:00pm GMT

VENUE AJ Bell Stadium, Salford

WATCH OuRLeague

### MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE Jack SMITH
SIDELINE OFFICIALS Joe STEARNE
Cameron WORSLEY



### **HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)**

OVERALL 29 MATCHES

### **Salford 13 Catalans 15 Drawn 1**

At AJ Bell: 8 matches - Salford 7, Catalans 1

L	LAST TEN	5-ALL	
2	2016	Catalans 42-32	Perpignan
2	2017	Catalans 38-6	Perpignan
2	2017	Salford 50-12	AJ Bell
2	2018	Salford 32-16	AJ Bell
2	2018	Catalans 26-12	Newcastle
2	2018	Catalans 44-10	Perpignan
2	2019	Salford 46-0	Perpignan
2	2019	Salford 40-14	AJ Bell
2	2020	Catalans 30-14	Perpignan
2	2020	Salford 22-18	<b>Totally Wicked</b>

### **BIGGEST WINS**

2017 R15 Salford 50-12 AJ Bell 2007 R14 Catalans 66-6 Perpignan

#### **MILESTONES**

Kallum WATKINS (Salford): 2 more matches for 300 in career Mark FLANAGAN (Salford)): 2 more matches for 250 in career Dan SARGINSON (Salford): 2 more matches for 200 in career Sam KASIANO (Catalans): 1 more match for 200 in career Fouad YAHA (Catalans): 1 more match for 100 for Catalans Sam TOMKINS (Catalans): 14 more points for 1000 SL points

## **Match Preview**

### with Steve Mascord

HUGE news on Wednesday with Salford forfeiting their game against Warrington because they only had the bare minimum of 13 players.

"Salford Red Devils have informed Super League and the RFL that they are unable to fulfil Friday's scheduled Betfred Super League fixture with Warrington Wolves due to player availability issues," Super League announced in a media release.

"Warrington Wolves, under competition rules governing forfeited fixtures, will be awarded a 24-0 victory. The matter will be referred to the RFL's Compliance Department for further consideration.

"In the meantime, Super League continues to explore fixture rescheduling options."

Yet it is Monday's opponents, Catalans, over whom doubt has been cast about their ability to fulfil their fixture list.

Why? Of course, the answer is that Catalans have to travel for their games and France is reportedly about to go into four-week lockdown. But as we reported here in the Front Row two months ago, the French club used documents and submissions devised for the New Zealand Warriors in their negotiations with French authorities over their travel this year.

Perhaps it's time for Catalans to "do a Warriors" and relocate to England so they can play their 15 matches. (At the time of writing, a proposal to end the season prematurely and lengthen the finals was under consideration).

The Perpignan side has had nine positives over the past week and a half and is three or four games behind the rest of the field. The existing rules state clubs must have played 15 regular season games to be eligible for the play-offs.

"We're a rugby team that wants to play matches and we will do whatever we are instructed to by the RFL," coach Steve McNamara told the Mirror, in response to suggestions the Dragons were in some way taking the easy option of opting out of doubtful fixtures.

"We've done exactly what we've been told for the last three games and we weren't allowed to play, it's as simple as that.

"I've read comments that Catalans are dodging matches, which is ridiculous. With the way win percentage works, anybody with any kind of maths knowledges will know that if we slip up and lose now, our percentage will drop more dramatically because we've played fewer games."

Salford coach Ian Watson said on television last week he was turning down approaches from Hull "for the moment"

Who to watch: James Maloney is always the key for Catalans. The need to get games played and they need to win them. That'll come down to him.

Favourites: Salford beat the champions, forfeit a game, and come back and beat Catalans? That might be a unprecedented run.

My tip: Catalans by 2.

# Catalans DRAGONS



# HELENS

David MEAD	1	1	Lachlan COOTE
Lewis TIERNEY	2	2	Tommy MAKINSON
Samisoni LANGI	3	3	Kevin NAIQAMA
Israel FOLAU	4	4	Mark PERCIVAL
Fouad YAHA	5	5	Regan GRACE
James MALONEY	6	6	Jonathan LOMAX
Josh DRINKWATER	7	7	Théo FAGES
Rémi CASTY	8	8	Alex WALMSLEY
Mike McILORUM	9	9	James ROBY
Sam MOA	10	10	Luke THOMPSON
Matt WHITLEY	11	11	John TAIA
Joel TOMKINS	12	12	Dominique PEYROUX
Benjamin GARCIA	13	13	Louie McCARTHY-SCARSBROOK
Julian BOUSQUET	14	14	Morgan KNOWLES
Mickaël SIMON	15	15	Matty LEES
Tom DAVIES	16	16	Kyle AMOR
Benjamin JULLIEN	17	17	Jack ASHWORTH
Alrix DA COSTA	18	18	Joseph PAULO
Mickaël GOUDEMAND	19	19	Aaron SMITH
Lucas ALBERT	20	20	James BENTLEY
Paul SÉGUIER	21	21	Matty COSTELLO
Arthur ROMANO	22	22	Jack WELSBY
Antoni MARIA	<b>23</b>	23	Joe BATCHELOR
Jason BAITIERI	24	26	Josh SIMM
Arthur MOURGUE	<b>25</b>	27	Lewis DODD
Lambert BELMAS	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>	James GRAHAM
Sam KASIANO	28		
Sam TOMKINS	29		

Steve McNAMARA

**Kristian WOOLF** 

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### **#SLCatStH**

### **MATCH DETAILS**

DATE Thursday 5 November 2020
KICKOFF 6:30pm CET / 5:30pm GMT
VENUE Stade Gilbert Brutus, Perpignan

WATCH OuRLeague

### MATCH OFFICIALS

Check LeagueUnlimited.com for match officials appointments closer to match day

## **Project** Match Stats

### **HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)**

OVERALL 34 MATCHES

### **Catalans 13 St Helens 21**

At Stade Gilbert Brutus: 15 matches - Catalans 7, St Helens 8

LAST TEN	ST HELENS 8	-2
2016	Catalans 33-16	Perpignan
2016	St Helens 39-16	Langtree
2017	St Helens 28-24	Perpignan
2017	St Helens 46-28	Totally Wicked
2018	St Helens 21-12	Perpignan
2018	St Helens 26-12	<b>Totally Wicked</b>
2018	St Helens 26-22	Perpignan
2019	Catalans 18-10	Perpignan
2029	St Helens 50-14	Totally Wicked
2020	St Helens 34-6	Headingley

### **BIGGEST WINS**

2014	R16	Catalans 42-0	Perpignan
2007	R10	St Helens 53-10	<b>Knowsley Road</b>

## **Match Preview**

### with Steve Mascord

TWO weeks ago at the French Women's Nines in Toulouges, just outside Perpignan, teams from Realmont, Montpellier and Lyon had to pull out due to Covid lockdown in their cities. These included night-time curfews.

But now a complete lockdown, similar to March and April - which would end Catalans' home season - is being foreshadowed. The corresponding game last week against Warrington was called off.

But, for the moment, the gates are opening at Stade Gilbert Brutus on Thursday for the 6.30pm kick-off against champions St Helens.

For Catalans (8-4), it will be their second match in four days after Sunday's assignment against troubled Salford. Saints (12-4) will be play six days after their derby against Wigan.

If the Dragons are to hit their minimum requirement of 15 games and make the final four, this will be the flashpoint. St Helens only just fell against Salford with a dramatically understrength team last week for their first loss since the resumption of play.

If they field as strong a side here as is expected, they'll be a very tough nut indeed for Steve McNamara's side to crack.

St Helens will have cyclopian prop Alex Walmsley back after a onematch suspension. He had been given a two-match ban for Grade C dangerous contact but successfully appealed for a one-week downgrade of the sentence.

This could be the match that determines if Saints clinch the League Leaders Shield. Veteran James Graham has confirmed he will not play on next year.

At the time of writing, Catalans prop Sam Kasiano and winger Fouad Yaha were each one appearance short of a century while fullback Sam Tomkins needed 14 points for 1000 in Super League.

Who to watch: With James Graham confirming his retirement, this will be the last time he plays on French soil. Expect the old warhorse to fire up.

**Favourites:** Saints have so much depth they should have beaten Salford except for one of the worst bombed tried in history. A strong lineup and they win here.

My tip: St Helens by 10.



The untold story of rugby league's divided year and the birth of the NRL



# Hull Kingston ROVERS



# Warrington WOLVES

Adam QUINLAN 1 1 Stefan RATCHFORD  Ben CROOKS 2 2 Tom LINEHAM  Shaun KENNY-DOWALL 3 3 Anthony GELLING  Kane LINNETT 4 4 Toby KING  Greg MINIKIN 5 5 Josh CHARNLEY  Jordan ABDULL 7 6 Blake AUSTIN  Robbie MULHERN 8 7 Gareth WIDDOP  Matt PARCELL 9 8 Chris HILL  Weller HAURAKI 11 9 Daryl CLARK	
Shaun KENNY-DOWALL 3 3 Anthony GELLING  Kane LINNETT 4 4 Toby KING  Greg MINIKIN 5 5 Josh CHARNLEY  Jordan ABDULL 7 6 Blake AUSTIN  Robbie MULHERN 8 7 Gareth WIDDOP  Matt PARCELL 9 8 Chris HILL	
Kane LINNETT 4 4 Toby KING  Greg MINIKIN 5 5 Josh CHARNLEY  Jordan ABDULL 7 6 Blake AUSTIN  Robbie MULHERN 8 7 Gareth WIDDOP  Matt PARCELL 9 8 Chris HILL	
Greg MINIKIN 5 5 Josh CHARNLEY  Jordan ABDULL 7 6 Blake AUSTIN  Robbie MULHERN 8 7 Gareth WIDDOP  Matt PARCELL 9 8 Chris HILL	
Jordan ABDULL 7 6 Blake AUSTIN Robbie MULHERN 8 7 Gareth WIDDOP Matt PARCELL 9 8 Chris HILL	
Robbie MULHERN 8 7 Gareth WIDDOP  Matt PARCELL 9 8 Chris HILL	
Matt PARCELL 9 8 Chris HILL	
Weller HALIRAKI 11 9 Darvi CLARK	
Weiler HADITAIN II J Dary DEANN	
Harvey LIVETT 12 10 Mike COOPER	
Dean HADLEY 13 11 Ben CURRIE	
Mitch GARBUTT 14 12 Jack HUGHES	
George LAWLER 15 13 Ben MURDOCH-MASILA	
Daniel MURRAY 16 14 Jason CLARK	
Kyle TROUT 17 15 Joseph PHILBIN	
Jez LITTEN 18 16 Leilani LATU	
Will DAGGER 19 17 Jake MAMO	
Mikey LEWIS 20 18 Sitaleki AKAUOLA	
Owen HARRISON 21 19 Matt DAVIS	
Nick RAWSTHORNE 22 20 Danny WALKER	
Ethan RYAN 23 21 Declan PATTON	
Joseph KEYES 24 22 Luis JOHNSON	
Matty GEE 25 23 Luther BURRELL	
Will MAHER 26 24 Keanan BRAND	
Elliott MINCHELLA 27 25 Samy KIBULA	
Matty STORTON 28 26 Matthew ASHTON	
Jamie ELLIS 30 27 Ellis ROBSON	
Ryan BRIERLEY 31 28 Nathan ROEBUCK	
Nathaniel PETERU 32 29 Josh THEWLIS	
Will TATE 33 30 Riley DEAN	
Jimmy KEINHORST 34 31 Ellis LONGSTAFF	
Rowan MILNES 35 32 Eribe DORO	
George KING 36	

Tony SMITH Steve PRICE

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PENALTIES SCRUMS

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### **#SLHKRWar**

### **MATCH DETAILS**

DATE Thursday 5 November 2020

KICKOFF 5:30pm GMT

VENUE Emerald Headingley, Leeds

WATCH Sky Sports

### MATCH OFFICIALS

Check LeagueUnlimited.com for match officials appointments closer to match day

## **Project** Match Stats

### **HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)**

OVERALL 29 MATCHES

### **Hull KR 9 Warrington 19 Drawn 1**

At Emerald Headingley: 1 match - Hull KR 0, Warrington 1

LAST TEN	WARRINGTON	7-1-2
2015	Hull KR 36-10	Craven
2016	Warrington 38-8	Halliwell Jones
2016	16-all draw	Craven
2017	Warrington 46-24	Halliwell Jones
2018	Warrington 40-26	Halliwell Jones
2018	Warrington 34-20	
2019	Warrington 28-14	Halliwell Jones
2019	Warrington 54-6	
2019	Hull KR 16-14	Craven
2020	Warrington 40-10	Headingley

### **BIGGEST WINS**

2019	R12	Warrington 54-6	Craven
2009	R26	Hull KR 40-16	Craven

## **Match Preview**

### with Steve Mascord

WARRINGTON go into this clash with the team propping up the table following a hastily arranged Friday appointment with Huddersfield.

The Wire (10-5 at the time of writing) seek to stay in the top eight while Rovers (3-13) are bound for 11th spot but, due to the well-documented peculiarities of the year, will avoid relegation.

For Wolves coach Steve Price, it's the opposite problem to those of many of his rivals who have had to face a crowded fixture list. The previous clash with Catalans was also called off, leaving him with a fresher squad than the rest of the competition.

Jake Mamo would have missed the trip to Catalans with a PCL knee ligament injury and could still be in some doubt. Ben Murdoch-Masilla is back from a aductor muscle tear. Tom Lineham and Sitaleki Akauola remain suspended.

Hull KR, meanwhile, have the ultimate distraction: the derby against Hull which was played on Thursday. Coach Tony Smith has been in isolation after coming into contact with someone who tested positive for Covid.

His isolation is due to finish on Sunday November 1. "I'm feeling good, frustrated but good," he said during a media conference. "I want to be able to help my team out more in a time when it's needed. To not have the coach there is tough for the boys and it's tough for me as well.

"I've had two negative tests, I've got no symptoms. I'm sitting at home seeing my team perform not so well and unable to help them is tough.

"It's frustrating at the moment but it is what it is and I've got to play by the rules."

Smith's side is dramatically below strength with Adam Quinlan, Jez Litten, Greg Minikin, Mitch Garbutt, Ethan Ryan and Jimmy Keinhorst all missing. But Kane Linnett was due back for the derby as were Matt Parcell, George Lawler and Weller Hauraki.

Who to watch: Gareth Widdop has been heavily linked to a return to the NRL. While the club has played down the speculation, the player himself has not said much. He'll be looking to put the attention back on the field.

Favourites: Warrington, taking all the factors into account, should make mincemeat of the Robins. This will be one-sided.

My tip: Warrington by 36.



# Wigan



# Huddersfield GIANTS

Zak HARDAKER	1	1	Ashton GOLDING
Liam MARSHALL	2	2	Jermaine McGILLVARY
Chris HANKINSON	3	3	Jacob WARDLE
Oliver GILDART	4	4	Jordan TURNER
Joe BURGESS	5	5	Darnell McINTOSH
Bevan FRENCH	6	6	Lee GASKELL
Thomas LEULUAI	7	7	Aidan SEZER
Tony CLUBB	8	8	James GAVET
Sam POWELL	9	9	Adam O'BRIEN
George BURGESS	10	9	Brandon MOORE
Willie ISA	11	10	Suaia MATAGI
Liam FARRELL	12	11	Ken EDWARDS
Sean O'LOUGHLIN	13	12	Joe WARDLE
Ben FLOWER	14	13	Michael LAWRENCE
Joe GREENWOOD	15	14	Matty ENGLISH
Morgan SMITHIES	16	15	Oliver WILSON
Oliver PARTINGTON	17	16	Aaron MURPHY
Joe BULLOCK	19	17	Ukuma TA'AI
Liam BYRNE	20	18	Paul CLOUGH
Dominic MANFREDI	21	21	Leroy CUDJOE
Mitch CLARK	22	22	Tom HOLMES
Jake BIBBY	23	23	Oliver RUSSELL
Jake SHORROCKS	27	24	Louis SENIOR
Harry SMITH	28	26	Sam HEWITT
Jack WELLS	29	27	Sam WOOD
Joseph HAVARD	30	28	Adam WALNE
Jackson HASTINGS	31	30	Reiss BUTTERWORTH
Amir BOUROUH	32	32	Owen TROUT
Joe SHORROCKS	33	33	Dominic YOUNG
Kai PEARCE-PAUL	34	34	Chris McQUEEN
Sam HALSALL	35		
James McDONNELL	36		
Brad SINGLETON	38		

Adrian LAM

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

**Tony ROBINSON** 

## **#SLWigHud**

### **MATCH DETAILS**

DATE Thursday 5 November 2020

KICKOFF 7:45pm GMT

VENUE Emerald Headingley, Leeds

WATCH Sky Sports

### MATCH OFFICIALS

Check LeagueUnlimited.com for match officials appointments closer to match day

## **Project** Match Stats

**HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)** 

OVERALL 52 MATCHES

### Wigan 34 Huddersfield 16 Drawn 2

At Emerald Headingley: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN	WIGAN 6-2-2	
2016	Wigan 26-19	DW
2017	16-all draw	DW
2017	19-all draw	John Smith's
2017	Wigan 18-4	DW
2018	Wigan 48-10	DW
2018	Huddersfield 20-12	John Smith's
2018	Wigan 13-6	John Smith's
2019	Huddersfield 14-6	DW
2019	Wigan 38-22	John Smith's
2020	Wigan 42-10	John Smith's

#### **BIGGEST WINS**

2000	R21	Wigan 68-6	JJB
2008	R16	Huddersfield 34-4	JJB

## **Match Preview**

### with Steve Mascord

The Warriors are coming off their derby against St Helens on Friday while Huddersfield were subbed in when Salford were unable to complete their fixture against Warrington on the same night.

Depending on results between when I'm writing this and when you're reading, Wigan may well be playing for the League Leaders Shield while this is a dead rubber for Luke Robinson's Giants.

Wigan talisman Liam Farrell is in rare form at the moment but coach Adrian Lam is not without his injuries. "Lockers (Sean O'Loughlin) is another week or two with a hamstring strain," Lam said.

"Dom Manfredi has fluid on his knee at the moment. We are going to get that drained this week and see how it sits, but it could potentially be another week or two as well for Dom."

The new men in the squad for Friday's game were Liam Byrne and Chris Hankinson.

For Huddersfield, Darnell McIntosh Jermaine McGillvary are available for selection again. Leroy Cudjoe will be playing his 300th or 301st top grand game (when we went to press we were unaware if he took the field against Warrington).

McGillvary needs one try to be eighth on Super League's all-time list. He would overtake Luke Dorn. Wigan's Willie Isa will be playing his 250th or 251st game.

The Giants had a good initial run under caretaker coach Robinson before coming a cropper and even with some big names back can be expected to struggle against a side with much more to play for.

Who to watch: Bevan French impressed even the great Jason Robinson in his last outing. If we get a try pitch, he'll be too much for a Giants line-up counting the days til the end of the season.

**Favourites:** If Wigan have what it takes to win at the KC on November 27, they have what it takes to win comfortably here.

My tip: Wigan by 12.







# Salford RED DEVILS

Alex WALKER	1	1	Niall EVALDS
Tom JOHNSTONE	2	2	Ed CHAMBERLAIN
Bill TUPOU	3	3	Kris WELHAM
Reece LYNE	4	4	Dan SARGINSON
Ben JONES-BISHOP	5	5	Krisnan INU
Jacob MILLER	6	6	Tuimoala LOLOHEA
Danny BROUGH	7	7	Kevin BROWN
David FIFITA	8	8	Lee MOSSOP
Kyle WOOD	9	9	Joey LUSSICK
Tinirau ARONA	10	10	Gil DUDSON
Danny KIRMOND	12	11	Ryan LANNON
Joe WESTERMAN	13	12	Pauli PAULI
Jay PITTS	14	13	Tyrone McCARTHY
Craig KOPCZAK	15	14	Sebastine IKAHIHIFO
James BATCHELOR	16	16	Greg BURKE
Chris GREEN	17	17	Luke YATES
Adam TANGATA	18	18	Chris ATKIN
Jordan CROWTHER	19	19	Mark FLANAGAN
Joe ARUNDEL	20	20	Josh JOHNSON
Max JOWITT	21	21	James GREENWOOD
Josh WOOD	23	22	Rhys WILLIAMS
Jack CROFT	24	23	Ken SIO
Brad WALKER	25	24	Elliot KEAR
Titus GWAZE	26	25	Connor JONES
Lee KERSHAW	27	26	Jack ORMONDROYD
Ryan HAMPSHIRE	29	27	Luis ROBERTS
Yusuf AYDIN	30	29	Oliver ROBERTS
Connor BAILEY	31	30	Andy ACKERS
Kelepi TANGINOA	36	31	Josh JONES
Romain NAVARRETE	37	32	Kallum WATKINS
Liam KAY	38	33	Tom GILMORE
Innes SENIOR	40	34	Oliver ASHALL-BOTT
Eddie BATTYE	41		

Chris CHESTER

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

Ian WATSON

### **#SLWakSal**

### **MATCH DETAILS**

DATE Friday 6 November 2020

KICKOFF 5:30pm GMT

VENUE Emerald Headingley, Leeds

WATCH Sky Sports

### MATCH OFFICIALS

Check LeagueUnlimited.com for match officials appointments closer to match day



### **HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)**

OVERALL 48 MATCHES

### Wakefield 28 Salford 18 Drawn 2

At Emerald Headingley: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN	WAKEFIELD 7	<b>'-3</b>
2016	Wakefield 32-18	Rapid Solicitors
2016	Salford 38-8	AJ Bell
2017	Wakefield 24-22	Beaumont Legal
2017	Wakefield 34-24	AJ Bell
2017	Wakefield 43-18	AJ Bell
2018	Wakefield 14-12	Mobile Rocket
2018	Salford 38-4	AJ Bell
2019	Wakefield 33-22	Mobile Rocket
2019	Salford 44-20	AJ Bell
2020	Wakefield 22-12	AJ Bell

### **BIGGEST WINS**

2013	R18	Wakefield 46-10	AJ Bell
2006	R5	Salford 48-10	Willows



## **Match Preview**

### with Steve Mascord

ANOTHER game between two teams who can't make the play-offs and, as such, it's a clash that was still a chance of not taking places as we went to press.

Then again, all games these days are a chance of not taking place.

Trinity have some bad news with utility players Tony Gigot (elbow) and Matty Ashurst (knee) ruled out for the rest of the season due to injuries suffered against Hull KR.

"It is disappointing for both of those guys, especially Tony because he has been stood down a couple of times through track and trace.

"He has not been able to get a run of games. Looking back, it is probably because he has not had a full pre-season under his belt.

"I am disappointed for those two guys but it means some young kids can get a chance next week."

Wakefield stil have Jay Pitts, Craig Kopczak and Titus Gwaze isolating due to track and trace. "We are not too sure about (their availability for) the Salford game next week. Things are looking good.

"These guys have gone through the mill these last 14 weeks. Just looking at the squads and teams we have put out, there is not one week we have been able to go with the same 13 for one reason or another."

Chester has described a proposal to end the season early and expand the play-offs as "madness, crazy."

"I've not had anything from Michael [Carter, Trinity's chief executive] or the people upstairs, but we have worked so hard as a club to make sure we fulfil our obligations to Sky," he said.

"With everything we've gone through, as a club, I would be really, really disappointed if they went down that route.

"At times we've had 11 people stood down, nine people stood down -- we could very easily have said we can't play, we're not playing, we've got too many players out.

"We've not done that, we have fulfilled our fixtures."

Explaining the decision to forfeit the game against Warrington, Salford CEO Ian Blease said: ""From an employers' point of view I've got to look after their welfare. I had a good chat last night with our physio and Watto (coach Ian Watson), and we agreed that we just can't put the boys through it again.

"We did it against Saints on Monday - Lee Mossop and Oliver Roberts played with broken ribs and Gil Dudson was sick four times on the day of the game."

Who to watch: Salford hooker Joey Lussick has signed with Parramatta for next year - he's always a danger, particularly close to the line

**Favourites:** Chester's comments could be interpreted as a gentle dig at Salford for forfeiting a game. However, 24-0 in favour of the Devils is more likely than the reverse

My tip: Salford by 14.

# Castleford **TIGERS**



# Leeds RHINOS

Jordan RANKIN	1	1	Jack WALKER
Derrell OLPHERTS	2	2	Tom BRISCOE
Peter MATA'UTIA	3	3	Harry NEWMAN
Michael SHENTON	4	4	Konrad HURRELL
Sosaia FEKI	5	5	Ash HANDLEY
Jacob TRUEMAN	6	6	Robert LUI
Danny RICHARDSON	7	7	Luke GALE
Liam WATTS	8	8	Ava SEUMANUFAGAI
Paul McSHANE	9	9	Kruise LEEMING
Grant MILLINGTON	10	10	Matt PRIOR
Oliver HOLMES	11	11	Alex MELLOR
Mike McMEEKEN	12	12	Rhyse MARTIN
Adam MILNER	13	13	Stevie WARD
Nathan MASSEY	14	14	Brad DWYER
Jesse SENE-LEFAO	15	15	Liam SUTCLIFFE
George GRIFFIN	16	16	Richie MYLER
Alex FOSTER	17	17	Adam CUTHBERTSON
Bradley MARTIN	17	19	Mikolaj OLEDZKI
Cheyse BLAIR	18	20	Bodene THOMPSON
Daniel SMITH	19	21	Rhys EVANS
Junior MOORS	20	22	Cameron SMITH
James CLARE	21	23	Callum McLELLAND
Jacques O'NEILL	22	24	Luke BRISCOE
Matt COOK	23	25	James DONALDSON
Tyla HEPI	24	26	Alex SUTCLIFFE
Greg EDEN	25	27	Sam WALTERS
Calum TURNER	26	28	Tom HOLROYD
Lewis PEACHEY	27	30	Muizz MUSTAPHA
Sam HALL	32	33	Jarrod O'CONNOR
Gareth O'BRIEN	34	34	Jack BROADBENT
Jack SANDERSON	35	36	Corey HALL
Daniel FLEMING	36	39	James HARRISON
		40	Brett FERRES
Daryl POWELL			Richard AGAR

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

### **#SLCasLee**

### **MATCH DETAILS**

DATE Friday 6 November 2020

KICKOFF 7:45pm GMT

VENUE Emerald Headingley, Leeds

WATCH Sky Sports

### MATCH OFFICIALS

Check LeagueUnlimited.com for match officials appointments closer to match day

## **Project** Match Stats

### **HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)**

OVERALL 59 MATCHES

### Castleford 23 Leeds 33 Drawn 3

At Emerald Headingley: 29 matches - Castelford 8, Leeds 20, Drawn 1

CASTLEFORD	6-4
Castleford 23-12	Headingley
Castleford 38-24	Jungle
Leeds 24-6	Old Trafford
Castleford 25-24	Elland Road
Castleford 38-10	St. James' Park
Castleford 42-10	Jungle
Leeds 21-20	Headingley
Castleford 30-8	Headingley
Leeds 18-10	Jungle
Leeds 28-24	Headingley
	Castleford 38-24 Leeds 24-6 Castleford 25-24 Castleford 38-10 Castleford 42-10 Leeds 21-20 Castleford 30-8 Leeds 18-10

### **BIGGEST WINS**

2017 R3 Castleford 66-10 Jungle 2009 R24 Leeds 76-12 Headingley

## **Match Preview**

### with Steve Mascord

After Castleford were forced to call off a game after a huge 12 Covid-19 positives, the Rhinos had to stand down four players who had lined up against them.

Coach Richard Agar has not named the four, none of whom have tested positive. They are isolating under guidelines pertaining to how much contact they had with the infected Tigers players.

"It is hugely disappointing; I feel for the individuals concerned and for my squad," Agar told reporters. "We feel as a club and a squad we have done everything possible.

"We've been ultra-diligent and it's a very tough one for the guys who can't play in what is such an important period in our season.

"They have worked really hard all year as a group and as individuals."

Once more, as with Wakefield's Chris Chester having a pop at Salford for forfeiting a game, Agar's comments betray frustration and perhaps even anger at their opponents in this game, Castleford.

"We will get a team out on the park, even if it means going understrength in massively important games," he continued. "We will try and keep the game going as much as we possibly can."

Castleford coach Daryl Powell is curious more than anything about proposals to shorten the season. "I would be really interested to see what it is. We were hoping to have fans back in stadiums at this stage and that hasn't happened and that is why games were grouped together," he said.

"I have got to ask this group to play again on Friday, having already played on Thursday and Monday."

Who to watch: Paul McShane is probably still the best hooker in the comp despite his team's indifferent form.

**Favourites:** Castleford almost beat their big brothers with 12 players last week. With 13, on the back of a Covid-19 break against overworked opposition, they should do the job.

My tip: Castleford by 8.



2020	Super Le	agu	e	ROUND 9	AUGUST 15-16		
				Sat 4:15pm	Wakefield v Catalans	TWS	0-58
ROUND 1	JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 2	2		Sat 6:30pm	Huddersfield v Warrington	TWS	18-19
Thu 7:45pm	Wigan v Warrington	DW	16-10	Sun 4:15pm	St Helens v Castleford	TWS	10-0
Fri 7:45pm	St Helens v Salford	TWS	48-8	Sun 6:30pm	Wigan v Leeds	TWS	28-10
	Hull KR v Wakefield	HCCP	30-12				
Sat 5:00pm	Catalans v Huddersfield	SGB	12-32	ROUND 10	AUGUST 29-30	11.10	
Sun 4:45pm	Leeds v Hull FC	EHS	4-30	Sat 4:15pm	Wigan v Castleford	HJS	30-22
				Sat 6:30pm	Leeds v Salford	HJS	50-12
ROUND 2	FEBRUARY 6-9			Sun 1:00pm	Hull KR v St Helens	HJS	18-32
Thu 7:45pm	Warrington v St Helens	HJS	19-0	Sun 4:15pm	Huddersfield v Hull FC	HJS	12-31
Fri 7:45pm	Castleford v Wigan	MHJ	16-12	Sun 6:30pm ROUND 11	Warrington v Wakefield SEPTEMBER 3-4	HJS	36-0
	Hull FC v Hull KR	KCOM	25-16		Salford v Castleford	EHS	30-37
DOLLND 2	FERRUARY 40 40			Thu 2:30pm Thu 6:00pm	Hull KR v Wigan	EHS	30-3 <i>1</i> 34-18
ROUND 3	FEBRUARY 13-16	FILE	FO 10	Fri 6:00pm	Huddersfield v St Helens	EHS	6-54
Fri 7:45pm	Leeds v Hull KR	EHS	52-10	Fri 8:15pm	Warrington v Hull FC	EHS	37-12
Cat EiOOnm	Salford v Huddersfield Catalans v Castleford	AJB SGB	10-12	1110.13piii	warrington v riun i C	LIIO	37-12
Sat 5:00pm Sun 3:00pm	Hull FC v St Helens	KCOM	36-18 18-32	ROUND 12	SEPTEMBER 10-12		
Sun Stoopin	Wakefield v Warrington	MRS	18-32	Thu 6:00pm	Hull FC v Wakefield	TWS	26-23
	wakenelu v warrington	IVING	10-0	Thu 8:15pm	Castleford v Warrington	TWS	10-12
ROUND 4	FEBRUARY 21-23			Fri 6:00pm	St Helens v Hull KR	TWS	21-20
Fri 7:45pm	Castleford v Wakefield	MHJ	32-15	Fri 8;15pm	Leeds v Huddersfield	TWS	13-12
1117.43piii	Hull KR v Huddersfield	HCCP	4-22	Sat 5:00pm	Catalans v Wigan	SGB	12-28
Sat 2:00pm	Salford v Leeds	AJB	8-22	out oloopiii	Outdians v vvigan	OOD	12 20
Sun 3:00pm	Wigan v Hull FC	DW	26-12	ROUND 13	SEPTEMBER 17-25		
oun oloopin	Wigan Vilani O	DW	20 12	Thu 3:00pm	Wakefield v Huddersfield	JSS	6-29
ROUND 5	FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1			Thu 3:30pm	Hull KR v Leeds	HJS	16-41
Thu 7:45pm	Hull KR v Castleford	HCCP	8-28	Thu 6:00pm	Hull FC v Salford	HJS	22-28
Fri 7:45pm	Leeds v Warrington	EHS	36-0	Thu 8:15pm	Castleford v Huddersfield	HJS	19-31
Sun 3:00pm	Hull FC v Catalans	КСОМ	29-34	Fri 6:00pm	Warrington v Catalans	HJS	30-16
	Huddersfield v Wigan	JSS	10-42	Fri 8:15pm	Wigan v Wakefield	HJS	28-16
	Salford v Wakefield	AJB	12-22	•	_		
				<b>ROUND 14</b>	SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER	1	
<b>ROUND 6</b>	MARCH 5-8			Tue 5:30pm	Salford v Warrington	AJB	20-18
Fri 7:45pm	St Helens v Huddersfield	TWS	10-12	Tue 7:45pm	Wigan v St Helens	AJB	0-42
	Wakefield v Hull FC	MRS	26-27	Wed 5:30pm	Huddersfield v Hull KR	JSS	32-22
	Warrington v Castleford	HJS	9-8	Wed 3:00pm	Leeds v Catalans	EHS	6-34
Sat 5:00pm	Catalans v Salford	SGB	30-14	Thu 7:45pm	Castleford v Hull FC	MHJ	28-32
Sun 3:00pm	Wigan v Hull KR	DW	30-16				
				ROUND 15	OCTOBER 4-9		
ROUND 7	MARCH 12-15			Sun 3:00pm	Catalans v Wakefield	SGB	40-8
Thu 7:45pm	Hull FC v Warrington	KCOM	4-38	Thu 5:30pm	Huddersfield v Salford	EHS	16-24
Fri 7:45pm	Salford v Wigan	AJB	18-14	Thu 7:45pm	Hull FC v Leeds	EHS	22-40
Sun 3:00pm	Castleford v St Helens	MHJ	28-14	Fri 5:30pm	Wakefield v St Helens	EHS	16-20
				Fri 6:15pm	Catalans v Hull KR	SGB	34-4
	JE SEASON SUSPENDED MAR			Fri 7:45pm	Warrington v Wigan	EHS	14-18
	rictions: Toronto Wolfpack with		•	DOUND 40	00700504040		
Teams listed to	play them in remaining fixtures		atches.	ROUND 16	OCTOBER 13-18	11.10	04.00
	Toronto's previous results are re	moved.		Tue 2:00pm	Hull KR v Salford	HJS	24-22
DEADDANGED	ALIGUIOTA			Tue 5:30pm	Hull FC v Huddersfield	HJS	18-16
REARRANGED	AUGUST 2	FUC	04.0	Tue 7:45pm	Warrington v Leeds St Helens v Wakefield	HJS HJS	32-6 48-6
Sun 4:15pm	St Helens v Catalans	EHS	34-6	Thu 7:45pm	Hull FC v Castleford	HJS	48-6
Sun 6:30pm	Huddersfield v Leeds	EHS	26-27	Sun 3:00pm	Hull FO V Gastlelolu	плэ	40-0
ROUND 8	AUGUST 8-9			ROUND 17	OCTOBER 22-23		
Sat 4:15pm	Castleford v Catalans	EHS	14-40	Thu 5:30pm	Castleford v Hull KR	TWS	38-24
Sat 6:30pm	Warrington v Hull KR	EHS	40-10	Thu 7:45pm	Huddersfield v Wakefield	TWS	14-18
Sun 1:00pm	Salford v Hull FC	EHS	54-18	Fri 5:30pm	Wigan v Salford	TWS	58-12
Sun 3:15pm	Wakefield v Wigan	EHS	22-23	Fri 7:45pm	St Helens v Leeds	TWS	40-8
Sun 6:30pm	Leeds v St Helens	EHS	0-48				

ROUND 18	OCTOBER 25-26			2020 BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE PLAYOFFS			
Sun 2:00pm	Wakefield v Hull KR	MRS	48-18	SF1 - TBC	1st v 4th		Venue TBC
Mon 5:30pm	Salford v St Helens	EHS	12-10	SF2 - TBC	2nd v 3rd		Venue TBC
Mon 7:45pm	Leeds v Castleford	EHS	28-24				
				<b>2020 BETFRED</b>	SUPER LEAGUE GRA	ND FINAL	
<b>ROUND 19</b>	OCTOBER 29-30, NOVEMBER	R1		Nov 27	Winner SF 1 v Winner SF 2		KCOM Stadium
Thu 5:30pm	Leeds v Wakefield	Totally	y Wicked				
Thu 7:45pm	Hull KR v Hull FC	Totally	y Wicked				
Fri 5:30pm	Warrington v Huddersfield	Totally	y Wicked	2020 CORAL CH	IALLENGE CUP		
Fri 7:45pm	St Helens v Wigan	Totally	y Wicked	SIXTH ROUND	<b>AUGUST 22, SEPTEMBER</b>	R 13	
				Sat 2:30pm	Catalans v Wakefield	JSS	36-24
<b>ROUND 20</b>	NOVEMBER 5-6			Sun 3pm	Castleford v Hull FC	TWS	16-29
Sun 2:00pm	Wakefield v Leeds		e Rocket				
Mon 3:00pm	Salford v Catalans		Stadium	<b>QUARTER FINALS</b>	SEPTEMBER 18,19		
Thu 6:30pm	Catalans v St Helens	Stade Gilbe		Fri 6pm	Catalans v Salford	TWS	18-22
	Hull KR v Warrington	Emerald He	adingley	Fri 8:15pm	Leeds v Hull KR	TWS	48-18
Thu 7:45pm	Wigan v Huddersfield	<b>Emerald Headingley</b>		Sat 2:30pm	Warrington v St Helens	AJB	20-18
Fri 5:30pm	Wakefield v Salford	<b>Emerald Headingley</b>		Sat 5pm	Hull v Wigan	AJB	4-36
Fri 7:45pm	Castleford v Leeds	Emerald He	adingley				
				SEMI FINALS	OCTOBER 3		
ROUND 21	NOVEMBER 8-9			Sat 2:30pm	Leeds v Wigan	TWS	26-12
	Castleford v Salford	Ve	enue TBC	Sat 5pm	Salford v Warrington	TWS	24-22
	Leeds v Wigan	Ve	enue TBC				
	Hull KR v Catalans	Ve	enue TBC	FINAL	OCTOBER 17		
	St Helens v Hull FC		enue TBC	Sat 3pm	Leeds v Salford	Wembley	17-16
	Warrington v Huddersfield	Ve	enue TBC				
					All times	are GMT or BS	(London time)
ROUND 22	NOVEMBER 12-13						
	Huddersfield v Catalans	Ve	enue TBC				
	Salford v Hull KR	Ve	enue TBC				
	St Helens v Warrington	Ve	enue TBC				
	Hull FC v Wigan	Ve	enue TBC				
	Wakefield v Castleford	Ve	enue TBC				





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