

The



LEAGUE UNLIMITED

FRONT ROW

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The Axe



Super League Semis



2020 Award Winners

Welcome to the cauldron

ORIGIN III Queensland v New South Wales - Wednesday 18 November 8:10pm - Suncorp Stadium

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From the editor

Tim Costello

It was always going to come down to a decider.

And how fitting that it will be played in front of a full house at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium.

While I'm a born and bred New South Welshman (albeit now living in Melbourne), there's something special about Origin at Suncorp, and it wouldn't be right if there weren't the requisite 52,500-odd Queenslanders booing loudly at every referee decision.

While the Blues' record at Suncorp in a deciding Origin game isn't much chop (see *Stat Attack* on page 11), where there's hope there's opportunity and given the quality of the New South Wales side, they're every chance of making it three series in a row with a win on Wednesday night.

In the UK the Super League season hits fever pitch with a pair of intriguing Grand Final qualifiers. Flip the mag for full coverage of both contests and a tribute to retiring Wigan veteran Sean O'Loughlin.

Wherever you are in the world - stay safe and happy reading!

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Origin of the speccies

by Steve MASCORD

NO that's not a typo: 'speccies' is what they call fans - short for spectators - in the UK.

And with a full house permitted by the Queensland government, the speccies are back on Wednesday night for the deciding State of Origin game at Suncorp Stadium against New South Wales. This, we are told, will make it the biggest crowd for any sporting event since the beginning of Covid lockdowns in March.

There are interesting subtexts around this clash which have nothing to do with the football.

Rugby league loves to engage governments but the involvement of Annastacia Palaszczuk's administration has been both good and bad in relation to this week's event.

On one hand, she has let the fans back in. On the other, though, strict Covid protocols must be adhered to by the visiting Blues - straight from the airport to the Stadium, then straight back to the airport and out of town.

In a state where, at the time of writing, there were no new Covid cases, this seems extreme for rugby league fans elsewhere in the world. But such zealousness is no doubt why there are no cases.

The restrictions have hit Channel Nine, who have been denied "specialty worker exemptions" for commentators and crew.

"They're welcome to come but they will have to quarantine for 14 days," Queensland chief medical officer Jeanette Young was quoted as saying.

"If they are part of the (NRL) bubble they can. If they're not part of that, they have to apply for an exemption to be allowed into the state and then they would have to hotel quarantine.

"I would (grant an exemption) to allow them to come into the state, and I frequently have, but they would have to quarantine in a hotel for 14 days."

Channel Nine hit back at the ban on Twitter and as The Front Row went to press, was still trying to get its team to Brisbane.

The decision could prematurely end the career of caller Ray Warren, who is contemplating retirement during he off-season.

Both teams had the opportunity to spend a few hours in an Adelaide hotel before Origin I.

The Axe.

Rick Edgerton talks to Queensland legend Trevor Gillmeister in a wide-ranging interview

Queensland Maroons legend Trevor Gillmeister made 22 appearances in the toughest of rugby league arenas between the years of 1987-1996.

The Maroons second-rower was a fearless runner of the football with an ability to slip a right arm offload and had a built-in battery that would never die.

His legacy however was the tackling technique that saw him cut New South Welshman in half and earned him one of the all-time great Rugby League nicknames – The Axe.

We caught up with the great Queenslander to reflect on his Origin journey as well as touching on a recent health scare and the message he has for Australian men as a result.

The early years – 1987-89

Gillmeister was named to make his debut in the second-row for game one of the 87 series – 12 months on from when he first caught the attention of Queensland selectors as he reflected on a missed opportunity in 1986.

"I hadn't actually played for Queensland yet, but Wayne Bennett had come down to watch me play and I was told to have a big game," Gillmeister said.

"I ended up going a bit silly and got suspended for six weeks which ruled me out of that entire series."

That lesson, along with one of the biggest influences of his Origin career in fellow back-rower Paul Vautin helped prepare him for the Origin cauldron in 87 despite feeling a bit overawed at first.

"Coming into that side, it was a bit daunting with guys like Wally Lewis, Gene Miles, Mal Meninga and Fatty who was my roommate and so good for me," he said.

Rick Edgerton
Contributor



"I used to get a bit wound up sometimes and Fatty was just so relaxed – he'd just tell me to go out and play footy.

"He probably didn't realize it at the time but I learnt a lot off him about Origin where you're learning on the run and to get to play with a bloke and packing down with him and you see what he does – it was the best way to learn."

Gillmeister went on to start in every game of the 87 series winning side and was involved in the sides of 1988-89 that also lifted the shield as he recalled how good it was to play with Queensland legends such as Lewis, Meninga, Vautin, Bob Lindner, Greg Dowling and a young Allan Langer, just to name a few.



"To be able to play with the calibre of players we had, I'd just look around sometimes and think holey moley how good is this," he said.

Challenging times – 1990, 1992-94

After tasting his first defeat at Origin level in the 1990 series, Gillmeister was overlooked by incoming coach Graham Lowe for the 1991 series.

"I was a bit disappointed in missing out in 91 but it often came down to coach's preferences and he liked the bigger style of forwards and I'm fine with that now," Gillmeister said.

"I was happy for Mick McLean who came into the team but I was also a bit dirty at the time because I felt I was probably playing my best football and actually got the player of the year at the Broncos that year."

After the disappointment of 91, Gillmeister would force his way back into the team for the 92 series but after his initial success in the Origin arena, would face some challenging times with the Maroons going through somewhat of a transitional period as they suffered three series losses on the trot.

"Coming back in 92, Wally and a lot of good players had retired around that time but the lesson I learned was to probably not take success for granted because it can all be taken away pretty quickly," Gillmeister said.

"I actually thought my time in Origin was probably coming to an end after the 94 series but then of course the super league war changed everything in 95."

The Pinnacle – 1995

Early in the 1995 season, the ARL/Super League war rocked the game and at the time it was thought State of Origin would be one of the big losers as the ARL made the decision to rule super league players ineligible for selection that year.

A large component of the Queensland team at the time was made up of the super league aligned Brisbane Broncos, forcing the Maroons and rookie Coach Paul Vautin into naming nine rookies for game one of the series.

Eight years on from their first Origin together, Vautin and Gillmeister would again team up with the latter named to lead his state out as captain for the first time – something he considers a tremendous honour.

"It was amazing – I never put myself in the same stratosphere as guys like Wally Lewis or Mal Meninga but to be able to follow in their footsteps and lead the State was a massive thrill," Gillmeister said.

"People always ask what the best thing to happen to me footy wise was and whilst playing in grand finals and playing for Australia are obviously right up there – Captaining Queensland is just something else."

What ensued in that series is now entrenched in rugby league folklore with the Maroons miraculously taking

a clean sweep of the series against all the odds and the former Queensland skipper recalls the special bond that group of players had and how quickly they gelled as a team.

"I remember the first team meeting – Fatty said a bit, Tosser Turner said a bit, I had to say something and then Fatty asked Chris Close what it meant to him to play for Queensland," Gillmeister said.

"Choppy got about six words out before getting emotional and just couldn't talk so had to sit down – I can feel the hairs on my arms standing up just thinking about it now."

Gillmeister also recalls a conversation he had with Vautin about how they planned on approaching the series against their heavily fancied opposition.

"I remember he said to me, how do you think we go about the game and I told him – we're not going to beat them in skill," Gillmeister said.

"We're going to get a bond together that we've never had in a Queensland team and they won't beat us.

"We're going to have beers together, bond together and enjoy each other's company – If one bloke wanted to go somewhere we all went."

After winning the first two games, Gillmeister became sick with a blood clot and was hospitalized in the days before the third game. It wasn't until 5pm on game day and still in his hospital bed that the decision was made to lace his boots that night.

It's long been a question in rugby league circles, what exactly is 'The Queensland Spirit' and what makes it so special.

Maybe only those who pull on the Maroon jersey will ever really know, but perhaps a small insight is given with the conversations held in a hospital room late that afternoon.

"I was in the room with Fatty, Chopper and Tosser and the question was put to the doc – What's the worst thing that could happen and the doc said the blood poison could go throughout his system and worst case scenario – he could die," Gillmeister recalled.

continued overleaf

"Choppy just said, well I couldn't think of a better place to die than Lang Park.

"I wasn't saying much because I was just thinking they're probably just going to rule me out.

"Fatty just looked at me and said, if I were you and had a chance to win 3-0 and hold that trophy up at Lang Park in front of our home crowd, I'd do it.

"So I said – well why didn't you just tell me that 20 minutes ago!

"In the end the doc said the only way he'd let me play is if I came straight back to hospital after the game so that's what we agreed to.

"After the game, it was just amazing – the old Lang Park was just going off and I've actually never heard a crowd like that and when we went over to the old stand (the old pig pen) they were just going ballistic."

Tackle technique – The Axe

There's been a countless number of players to forge brilliant careers in our game, but few leave a legacy behind that is still spoken about decades after they retire. The ability of Gillmeister to cut blokes in half with his chopping like tackles leaves a legacy to be proud of and the former Maroon remembers it being ingrained in him from a very young age.

"My father taught myself and my brother and we'd practise in the backyard every day," Gillmeister said.

"You can't do it now obviously, but he used to give me a little slap in the side of the head if I didn't get my head in right."

Whilst recognising there's a few players in the current game who show good technique in defence, for the most part it has become a lost art and maybe a contributing factor to the amount of concussions seen in today's game – something Gillmeister comes across as very passionate about.

"There's just not enough time these days spent practising technique which is a bit of a pet hate of mine," he said.

"Even guys today like Jake Trbojevic and Victor Radley who have great technique have to spend time practising because you can get your head in the wrong position."



Swinging the axe through Prostate Cancer

Being the month of November, along with mental health awareness and testicular cancer, prostate cancer is a topic largely spoken about thanks to Movember – the organization driving awareness around the above mentioned health issues men can potentially face.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer amongst men with 1 in 6 men diagnosed in their lifetime. Approximately 3500 Australian men die from prostate cancer each year.

It's something the former Maroon is all too familiar with after being diagnosed himself last year, but he was one of the lucky ones after it was picked up early thanks to a routine blood test. Gillmeister is now cancer free but is extremely passionate about encouraging men to get tested.

"I just want to make sure all blokes get out there and get their blood tests as priority number one," he said.

"Wherever I go now I drive people and all my mates mad about getting their blood tests because if I hadn't have gotten mine, I wouldn't have known as I wasn't showing any symptoms.

"We as blokes are so casual and especially in Australia with the mantra 'she'll be right mate' but she'll be right mate just won't work with these things.

"So to all you boofheads out there – go and get tested."

Smith speaks out

Sydney Morning Herald
June 21, 1994
by Steve MASCORD

DISTRAUGHT Queensland forward Darren Smith said he hoped NSW's Ian Roberts would be suspended for the rest of the year after an incident which left his brother, Jason, with a suspected fractured cheekbone at Lang Park last night.

Queensland manager Dick Turner vowed to cite Roberts and another Blues player, believed to be lock Brad Clyde, after Jason Smith and winger Willie Carne were taken to hospital with head injuries following NSW's series-clinching 27-12 win.

Darren Smith said he had been 'upset and angry' when he went on in the ninth minute to replace his brother, who was carried off on a Jordan frame after an off-the-ball collision with Roberts.

Jason Smith, 22, was making his State of Origin debut.

"I couldn't believe it that sort of stuff went out in the '60s," Darren Smith said.

"I was looking forward to getting on the field, but not like that. Some bloke comes along and does that to him. I hope the judiciary give him a holiday for the rest of the season."

Queensland Rugby League chairman John McDonald said Jason Smith appeared to be "OK." in hospital, but brother Darren said he had heard that there was every possibility of a fractured cheekbone.

"And he's got bad bleeding on the temple," Darren Smith said.



Queensland coach Wally Lewis said: "The doctor was real frightened. He couldn't get brain response and he ordered, straight away, that Jason go to a neurosurgeon.

"We read some articles this week about how players in State of Origin games were told that they wouldn't get sent off. By the looks of tonight, it appears to be true."

Carne, meanwhile, was taken to hospital straight after the match for x-rays on his jaw and to recover from concussion.

The identity of the player who tackled him as he was passing the ball with 14 minutes to go was shrouded in mystery but television replays confirmed it to be Clyde.

"I have the tape here; I will watch it, and when I find out who it is, we will cite him, said Turner. "And we will be citing Ian Roberts as well."

Darren Smith was also upset at a tackle Roberts made on him shortly after his brother's departure, saying: "I'm going to have to start wearing headgear all the time again by the looks of some of the high shots out there tonight."

Best in class

The award winners at your club in season 2020 have been announced.

Brisbane Broncos

Paul Morgan Medal (NRL Players of the Year) - Payne Haas & Patty Carrigan

Gary Balkin Award (Players' Player) - Payne Haas & Patty Carrigan
 Wally Lewis Award (Play of the Year) - Kotoni Staggs, R15 try v Dragons
 Shane Webcke Award (Best Forward) - Payne Haas
 Allan Langer Award (Best Back) - Kotoni Staggs
 Kevin Walters Award (Most Consistent) - Patty Carrigan
 Cyril Connell Award (Rookie of the Year) - Herbie Farnworth



Canberra Raiders

Mal Meninga Medal (NRL Players of the Year) - Josh Papali'i and Jack Wighton

Geoff Caldwell Welfare & Education Award - Matt Frawley
 Fred Daly Memorial Club Person of the Year - Dunamis Lui
 NRL Rookie of the Year - Semi Valemei
 NRL Coaches Award - Ryan Sutton



Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs

Dr George Peponis Medal (player of the year) - Kieran Foran

Steve Mortimer Award (rookie of the year) - Jake Averillo
 Les Johns Award (clubman of the year) - Jackson Topine
 Community Service Award - Adam Elliott
 Coaches Award - Raymond Faitala-Mariner



Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks

Porter-Gallen Medallist and Pontifex Player of the Year - Shaun Johnson

Tommy Bishop Players Player - Siosifa Talakai
 Steve Rogers Rookie of the Year - Toby Rudolf
 Andrew Ettingshausen Club Person of the Year - Mark Noakes
 Members Player of the Year - Shaun Johnson
 Sharks Have Heart Community Award - Ronaldo Mulitalo
 Try of the Year - Connor Tracey - round 12 v Broncos
 Tackle of the Year - Shaun Johnson - round 17 v Eels
 Wellbeing and Education Excellence Award - Cameron King and Ronaldo Mulitalo
 Sharks Harvey Norman Women's Premiership Player of the Year - Kaarla Cowan
 Coaches Award - Maddie Studdon



Gold Coast Titans

Paul Broughton Medal (NRL Player of the Year) - Brian Kelly

"The Preston" Award - Dale Copley
 Rookie of the Year - Jaimin Jolliffe
 Members MVP - AJ Brimson
 Coaches Award - Jamal Fogarty
 Try of the Year - Jamal Fogarty



Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles

Roy Bull (NRL Best and Fairest) along with Doug Daley Clubman of the Year and Player's Player awards will be presented at the 2021 Season Launch.

Rookie of the Year: Tevita Funa
 Leading Points scorer: Reuben Garrick
 Leading Try scorer: Jorge Taufua
 Steve Menzies Medal (Play of the Year): Curtis Sironen
 NRL Academic Team of the Year: Toafofoa Sipleby



Melbourne Storm

RedZed Australia NRL Player of the Year - Cameron Smith

Cooper Cronk Feeder Player of the Year - Isaac Lumelume
 Billy Slater Rookie of the Year - Tino Fa'asuamaleaui
 Most Improved - Justin Olam
 Michael Moore Club Person of the Year - Daniel Di Pasqua
 Suzuki Members' Player of the Year - Ryan Papenhuyzen
 Best Back - Ryan Papenhuyzen
 Best Try - Ryan Papenhuyzen
 Best Forward - Brandon Smith



Newcastle Knights

Danny Buderus Medal (NRL Player of the Year) - Kalyn Ponga

Rookie of the Year - Chris Randall
 Knight in Shining Armour - Mitch Barnett
 Community Player of the Year - Connor Watson
 Gladiator of the Year - Kurt Mann
 Club Person of the Year - Luke Huth
 NRL Players' Player - Kalyn Ponga



North Queensland Cowboys

Paul Bowman Medal (NRL Player of the Year) Jason Taumalolo

Players' Player - Josh McGuire
 Coach's Award - Mitch Dunn
 Rookie of the Year - Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow
 Members Player of the Year - Kyle Feldt
 Club Person of the Year - John Asiata



Parramatta Eels

Ken Thornett Medal (NRL Player of the Year) - Clint Gutherson

Jack Gibson NRL Coaches' Award - Junior Paulo
 Ray Price NRL Community Award - Reed Mahoney
 Eric Grothe NRL Rookie of the Year - Andrew Davey
 Blue and Gold Army Player of the Year - Clint Gutherson
 Michael Cronin Club Person of the Year - Don Musson



Penrith Panthers

The Merv Cartwright Medal evening has been postponed and will take place in early 2021.



St George Illawarra Dragons

Dragons Medal (NRL Player of the Year) - Cameron McInnes

Immortals Trophy - Tyson Frizell

Geoff Selby Memorial Trophy (selflessness & commitment) - Adam Clune

Mark Coyne Trophy (career development) - Tristan Sailor

Community Involvement Award - not awarded due to COVID-19

Red V Members Player of the Year & NRLW Player of the Year - TBC



Sydney Roosters

Jack Gibson Medal (NRL Player of the Year) - James Tedesco

Steggles Try of the Year: Jared Waerea-Hargreaves

Members Player of the Year: James Tedesco

Roosters Our Community Award: Angus Crichton

Barry Van Heekeren "MOCCA" Award: Chris James

Harry Phipps Rising Star Award: Daniel Suluka-Fifita

Chris Sykes Award (Junior Representative Player of the Year): Naufahu Whyte

James Mathews Clubman of the Year: Victor Radley



South Sydney Rabbitohs

George Piggins Medal (NRL Player of the Year) - Cody Walker

Jack Rayner Award (Players' Player) - Cody Walker

Bob McCarthy Award (Clubman of the Year) - Damien Cook

John Sattler Award (Rookie of the Year) - Keaton Koloamatangi

Koloamatangi

Albert Clift Award (Behind the Scenes) - Brian Stow

Roy Asotasi Award (Members Choice) - Adam Reynolds

Burrow Appreciation Award (NRL) - Thomas Burgess

Burrow Appreciation Award (Womens) - Emma Denison

Womens' Player of the Year - Ellie Johnston

Womens' Players' Player - Janaya Bent



Warriors

Simon Mannerling Medal (NRL Player of the Year) - Tohu Harris

Vodafone People's Choice Award - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck

Vodafone NRL Rookie of the Year - Jamayne Taunoa-Brown

Brown

Canterbury of NZ Clubman of the Year - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck

NRL Players' Player of the Year - Tohu Harris



Wests Tigers

Kelly-Barnes Award (NRL Player of the Year) - David Nofoaluma

NRL Players' Player - David Nofoaluma

NRL Rookie of the Year - Harry Grant

Harvey Norman Women's Player of the Year - Sophie

Curtain

Harvey Norman Women's Players' Player - Botille Vette-Welsh

Wayne Pearce Community Award - Chris Lawrence

Wests Tigers Club Person of the Year - Clair Schwencke and Billy Callaway

Wests Tigers Women of the Year - Jess Adams

Life Member Inductees - Todd Payten and Daniel Fitzhenry



Word Jumbles

These players are all on the move to new clubs in 2021. How many of the names can you unscramble?

RAW JOIRA

RENARF NOKIA

MILAN EATEN

ARMY JANES

JOHN CARKINGTEETH

CHOAT JOBS

TITANS >> RABBITOHS

BULLDOGS >> SEA EAGLES

WARRIORS >> RABBITOHS

TITANS >> RAIDERS

PANTHERS >> BULLDOGS

DRAGONS >> RABBITOHS

MOO CATPIC

MINCING DOYOU

VANE SNAKE

FONZY STILLER

THICKER PREBART

BEALE INSACK

COWBOYS >> EELS

HUDDERSFIELD >> KNIGHTS

EELS >> WARRIORS

DRAGONS >> KNIGHTS

WARRIORS >> TITANS

PANTHERS >> RAIDERS

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS: Adrian Lam, Ben Te'o, Tonie Carroll, Billy Moore, Wayne Bartrim, Israel Folau, Mat Rogers, Julian O'Neill, Josh Papali'i, Sam Thaiday, Neville Costigan, Karmichael Hunt

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Blues bash Maroons to force decider

By Justin DAVIES

New South Wales produced a superb attacking display to run out 34-10 victors against Queensland tonight in front of 36,212 fans at ANZ Stadium to set up an Origin decider next week.

The Blues had the perfect antidote to last week's shocker as the home side found their rhythm to blow away Queensland. A double to Josh Addo-Carr alongside tries to most of the Blues backline saw the pre-series favourites bounce back in style.

In his first game as captain, James Tedesco led from the front. The fullback was well contained in the first game but he ran all over the Maroons tonight. Tedesco scored in the first half blitz and was involved in several others to make it a first game as captain to remember.

From the opening whistle, it looked a much steelier Blues line-up as they thumped the Maroons from the kick-off. They were given a slight scare when Broncos winger Xavier Coates showed off his aerial abilities to make it 4-nil. From then, it was a bluewash at ANZ Stadium.

Cody Walker was the big change for side headed into game 2 and the Rabbitohs half, was energetic. He scored the Blues first try to make it 6-4 then alongside



34-10



the maligned Nathan Cleary directed the Blues to a blockbuster result. Cleary had the ball on the string again, his kicking trapped Queensland time and again. The Panthers half also added a 40/20 to his all round performance.

Addo-Carr inspired with his defense then Tedesco and Addo-Carr himself found the stripe to make it 18-4 at the break. New South Wales looked much more composed and were able to stifle the Maroons energy which was helped with Cameron Munster leaving the field with a HIA.

Half-time saw Wayne Bennett deliver a stirring speech to get his side back into the contest but tonight, the magic evaporated in the Sydney sky. Jack Wighton surged over from the restart and the game was settled at 22-4. Daniel Tupou added another to make it 24 from another simple scrum play.

There was some fight shown between Tino Fa'asuamaleaui and Payne Haas after the two came together and were sin binned. Queensland did claw one back after Josh Papalii gave Rabbitohs fans a sense of deja vu when he ran over Damien Cook to make it 28-10.

New South Wales held firm and Addo-Carr added a second late to complete the 34-10 scoreline. We head up to the Sunshine state for a mouth watering decider to see if the Blues can win only their third series deciding game at Suncorp Stadium.

MATCH SUMMARY: GAME 2

New South Wales 34 - Queensland 10

Venue: ANZ Stadium

Crowd: 36212

Halftime Score: New South Wales 18-4

LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:

3 points - James Tedesco

2 points - Cody Walker

1 points - Angus Crichton

NEW SOUTH WALES (34)

TRIES

Josh Addo-Carr (2)

Cody Walker James Tedesco

Jack Wighton Daniel Tupou

GOALS

Nathan Cleary (5/7)

QUEENSLAND (10)

TRIES

Xavier Coates

Josh Papalii

GOALS

Valentine Holmes (1/2)

Stat Attack

GAME 3 DECIDERS AT SUNCORP / LANG PARK

1983	QLD 43	def	NSW 22
1987	QLD 1	def	NSW 8
1991	QLD 14	def	NSW 12
1994	QLD 12	lost	NSW 27
1999	QLD 10	drew	NSW 10
2005	NSW 32	def	QLD 10
2011	QLD 34	def	NSW 24
2012	QLD 21	def	NSW 20
2015	QLD 52	def	NSW 6
2017	QLD 22	def	NSW 6

PLAYERS

Individual records

Most tries in a match: 3 – Chris Anderson (Game 3, 1983), Kerry Boustead (Game 1, 1984), Ryan Girdler (Game 3, 2000), Lote Tuqiri (Game 2, 2002), Matt Sing (Game 3, 2003), Matt King (Game 3, 2005), Dane Gagai (Game 2, 2016), Valentine Holmes (Game 3, 2017), Tom Trbojevic (Game 2, 2019).

Most goals in a match: 10 – Ryan Girdler (Game 3, 2000)

Most field goals in a match: 2 – Ben Elias (Game 3, 1994)

Most points in a match: 32 – Ryan Girdler (Game 3, 2000)

Most appearances: 42 – Cameron Smith (2003–2017)

Most consecutive matches: 36 – Johnathan Thurston (Game 1, 2005 – Game 3, 2016)

Most tries in Origin career: 18 – Greg Inglis (2006–2018)

Most points in Origin career: 212 (5 tries, 102 goals, 2 field goals) – Johnathan Thurston (2005–2017)

Oldest player: Petero Civoniceva (36 years and 73 days – Game 3, 2012)

Youngest player: Ben Ikin (18 years and 83 days – Game 1, 1995)

Most wins as a player: Cameron Smith 27 games to Game III 2017

MOST APPEARANCES

Queensland

42 – Cameron Smith (2003–2017)

37 – Johnathan Thurston (2005–2017)

36 – Darren Lockyer (1998–2007, 2009–2011)

34 – Allan Langer (1987–1994, 1996, 1998, 2001–2002)

33 – Petero Civoniceva (2001–2012)

New South Wales

31 – Brad Fittler (1990–1996, 1998–2001, 2004)

27 – Andrew Ettingshausen (1987–1994, 1996, 1998)

24 – Paul Gallen (2006–2016)

23 – Laurie Daley (1989–1994, 1996, 1998–1999)

23 – Andrew Johns (1995–2000, 2002–2003, 2005)

MAN OF THE MATCH AWARDS

Player	State	Awards
Wally Lewis	QLD	8
Cameron Smith	QLD	7
Johnathan Thurston	QLD	5
Peter Sterling	NSW	4
Allan Langer	QLD	4
Andrew Johns	NSW	4

SUNCORP  STADIUM





QUEENSLAND

#Origin

WHEN	Wednesday 18 November 2020, 8:10pm AEDT
VENUE	Suncorp Stadium, Milton QLD
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

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 122 matches

NSW 54 QLD 63 Drawn 5

At Suncorp Stadium: 57 matches - NSW 19 QLD 36 Drawn 2

LAST 10 MATCHES

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	ANZ
2020	G1	QLD 18-14	Adelaide
2020	G2	NSW 34-10	ANZ

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

2020 series: QLD 1 NSW 1

(Cowboys) Valentine HOLMES	1	FULLBACK
(Broncos) Xavier COATES	2	WING
(Panthers) Kurt CAPEWELL	3	CENTRE
(Rabbitohs) Dane GAGAI	4	CENTRE
(Rabbitohs) Corey ALLAN	5	WING
(Storm) Cameron MUNSTER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH
(Sea Eagles) Daly CHERRY-EVANS	7	HALFBACK
(Storm) Christian WELCH	8	FRONT ROW
(Roosters) Jake FRIEND	9	HOKKER
(Raiders) Josh PAPALI'I	10	FRONT ROW
(Storm) Felise KAUFUSI	11	SECOND ROW
(Rabbitohs) Jaydn SU'A	12	SECOND ROW
(Storm) Tino FA'ASUAMALEAUI	13	LOCK
Harry GRANT (Storm/Tigers)	14	INTERCHANGE
Lindsay COLLINS (Roosters)	15	
Jai ARROW (Titans)	16	
Dunamis LUI (Raiders)	17	
Ben HUNT (Dragons)	18	RESERVES
Edrick LEE (Knights)	19	
Moeaki FOTUAIKA (Titans)	20	
Brenko LEE (Storm)	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

Match Preview

By Jason HOSKEN

Cauldron boils COVID, fiery decider sold out

Christmas has come early for league fans, but unless Santa scores time on Premier Palaszczuk's lap and gets his border wish, the Cauldron will be a Maroon only broth. And for ear splitting crazy-eyed interstate mayhem, it's the way it should be.

As good as the Blues were in Sydney, the Maroons were flatter than Brisbane's surf. On paper at least, Wayne Bennett's men appear cooked but with the cult masses ruling the roost, you just never know.

On the field, kicking from the halves has been instrumental in the first two matches. Game One man of the match Daly Cherry-Evans kicked Queensland to victory, then a week later, an under siege Nathan Cleary replied in kind to keep the series alive. Opening try hero Xavier Coates and fellow winger Phillip Sami finished battered and bruised such was the Blues' pinpoint precision.

Sami won't be bothered this week, Bennett has swapped him out for Rabbitohs Mr Fixit, Corey Allan. In the middle, Christian Welch returns with the sparingly used Dunamis Lui dropping to the bench. But it's the halves and hooker where Bennett needs spunk. To that end, Harry Greary's dummy-half spark sees the Tiger debut from the interchange in place of Ben Hunt.

Ultimately, the availability of Cameron Munster could decide the Maroons' fate. His early departure in Sydney dimmed Queensland's lights and with question marks over his selection seven days later, hopes of preventing a NSW three-peat could be decided by the medicos.

As good as the Blues' were from the boot, it was the speed of Josh Addo-Carr that sounded the sirens. A toe injury has slowed the Fox in the aftermath and in the unlikely scenario that he misses out, Brad Fittler has included Ryan Papenhuyzen as back-up in the 21-man squad.

While NSW have pulled up largely unscattered, it's the devil in the head that will worry Fittler. A shocking three wins from 13 attempts at Suncorp since 2010 can't be ignored, and with six players yet to experience the leg-jellying furnace, there's little doubt the Blues coach will be sweating on past players and shrinks to alleviate the fears.

Who to watch: In crazy times like these, if the decider was scrapped and Billy Idol tossed a rugby league redeeming microphone, you can bet the mosh pit would revolve around Game Two thrashers Payne Haas and Tino Fa'asuamaleaui. In a series that has often rumbled along at club footy intensity, the passion and angst generated by these two punks should culminate in a ratings revival. Niggle aside, in around 50 minutes of game time, both trucked for over 100 metres last week and inspired teammates with every touch. And with no footy until next season, what started as push and shove, could easily end in tears this week.

It's tough to be critical of Valentine Holmes behind a beaten pack, but Bennett needs more from the premiership winning flyer. Where James Tedesco's constant snipping and off the ball presence keeps defenses guessing, Queensland rely on Munster. But if the Maroons can at least draw level up front, they'll need Holmes at his scheming best.

Favourite: Nothing new here. Three games, the Blues favourite each time.

My tip: In four halves of football, NSW lead 3-1 but still find themselves in a battle to reach three consecutive series wins for the first time since 2005. That won't worry Queensland, with just two series deciding defeats at home in 40 years, they know Suncorp is the Cockroaches' biggest fear. That said, NSW are far more settled after the Adelaide hiccup and for the most part have outclassed an inexperienced opponent. Despite carrying the scars of Queensland's record breaking eight year dominance, expect the Blues' new era of clear heads to extinguish the Cauldron. **NSW by 14.**

FULLBACK	1	James TEDESCO (C) (Roosters)
WING	2	Daniel TUPOU (Roosters)
CENTRE	3	Clint GUTHERSON (Eels)
CENTRE	4	Jack WIGHTON (Raiders)
WING	5	Josh ADDO-CARR (Storm)
FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Cody WALKER (Rabbitohs)
HALFBACK	7	Nathan CLEARY (Panthers)
FRONT ROW	8	Daniel SAIFITI (Knights)
HOOKER	9	Damien COOK (Rabbitohs)
FRONT ROW	10	Payne HAAS (Broncos)
SECOND ROW	11	Angus CRICHTON (Roosters)
SECOND ROW	12	Tyson FRIZELL (Dragons)
LOCK	13	Jake TRBOJEVIC (Sea Eagles)
INTERCHANGE	14	Dale FINUCANE (Storm)
	15	Junior PAULO (Eels)
	16	Nathan BROWN (Eels)
	17	Isaah YEO (Panthers)
RESERVES	18	Ryan PAPHUYZEN (Storm)
	19	Jarome LUAI (Panthers)
	20	Cameron McINNES (Dragons)
	21	Nick COTRIC (Raiders)
COACH	Brad FITTLER	
PENALTIES	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	
SCRUMS	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	

Queensland seals first Women's State Of Origin victory

By Josh ROBERTSON

The Queensland Maroons are celebrating their first victory in six years and first win of the Origin era, with a 24-18 victory over a hard finishing NSW side at Sunshine Coast Stadium.

Despite having a gale force wind behind them in the first half, the Queensland Maroons could only manage the one first half try and that came through Broncos superstar Tamika Upton who turned something into nothing. Upton took a kick on her own 20m and then just put on the afterburners as she charged upfield and beat a desperate effort from Botille Vette-Welsh.

The Blues would've been happy with their first half effort despite blowing their own chances early on. New South Wales opened their scoring through Kezie Apps when she got the advantage of a good bounce from a Melanie Howard kick to score. Melanie Howard who set up the try levelled the scores at 6-6.

After having all the momentum at the back end of the first half, the Blues were quickly required to play catch up football again after Tamika Upton put her second try on the board after Tarryn Aiken went through to score for the Queenslanders.

Momentum had well and truly swung in favour of the home side and Tarryn Aiken was rewarded with her own four-pointer when she was able to pick a hole in the Blues defensive line after being gifted field position of the back of a penalty. Queensland then looked to have put the game beyond reach when veteran Steph Hancock showed she's a multi-skilled player when she fooled the Blues defence out of dummy half by stepping to the right and throwing the dummy before going over.



24-18



Despite the Maroons leading 24-6, the game wasn't as one-sided as it read on paper and New South Wales weren't going to die wondering as they looked to close the gap. The Blues would need three converted tries if they were to draw level and with just under 10 minutes to go they started the somewhat of a comeback when Tiana Penitani scored her maiden State Of Origin try in the corner. The conversion from Hannah Southwell didn't go anywhere near the posts meaning the Blues would still need another three tries.

New South Wales weren't going to let the game go without a fight as they added a try with just two minutes to go when the veteran teamed up with the rookie. The Blues added another try with Filomina Hanisi scoring off the back of a pass from veteran hooker Kylie Hilder to the rookie who is 25 years younger than Hilder. A shocking conversion miss from Quincy Dodd who missed from almost in front had almost fully closed the door for the blues.

Still with a chance of pulling off the miracle, New South Wales put a scare down the Queensland side as Botille Vette-Welsh went through with just under a minute to score and another missed conversion meant that NSW had 8 seconds to come up with a game equalling play.

Sadly for NSW, that play never came to fruition with the ensuing kick-off going into touch sealing victory for the Maroons with their first victory under the new format and their first victory over NSW since 2014.

MATCH SUMMARY

Queensland 24 - New South Wales 18

Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 4818;

Halftime Score: 6-all

LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:

3 points - Tamika Upton

2 points - Tarryn Aiken

1 points - Filomina Hanisi

QUEENSLAND WOMEN (24) Tamika Upton (2), Tarryn Aiken, Stephanie Hancock tries; Lauren Brown 4/4 goals **def NEW SOUTH WALES WOMEN (18)** Kezie Apps, Tiana Penitani, Filomina Hanisi, Botille Vette-Welsh tries; Melanie Howard 1/2, Quincy Dodd 0/2 goals

Poetry in motion (2009)

**Andrew
Ferguson**
Contributor



*The last throw of the dice, all or nothing,
"Coyne at the seventy ninth minute is tackled,"
Everyone on the edge of their seat,
All are hopeful, all crossing fingers,
But for two different outcomes,
Coyne plays the ball,
Twelve to ten,
The scoreline,
Now...
Meninga
Dummy half,
Players scattered everywhere
He passes to Langer
Everyone's eyes fixated on him,
"Langer, pushing it wide, Walters onward,"
Each pass filled with trepidation and hope,
Half the crowd are overcome with looming concern,
While the other half start to get very excited.*

*The heart begins to race, normality is pushed aside,
"Carne joins in, floats the pass to Renouf,"
He swiftly turns to catch the pass,
In one motion, he sets off,
The crowd sensing something ominous,
Some cover their eyes,
Others stand up,
To see,
Renouf.
Looking
For opportunity,
Any small chance,
As does the crowd,
They begin to make noise,
Adrenaline begins pumping even more now,
They know Renouf can score from anywhere,
He spots an opportunity, he wastes no time,
"Renouf down the touchline, beats one, gets it infield."*

*Renouf's speed eluded him from David Barnhill's desperate
clutches,
He passes back inside as Wishart tackles him,
Hancock is heavily tackled just after receiving,
As he gets driven backwards ruthlessly,
He manages to find support,
"Hancock gets it on,"
They aren't quitting,
Not yet,
No!
Smith
Backs up,
Keeps it alive,
"Queensland are coming back!"
Blues fans fearing the worst,
Maroons fans confidence continues to build,
As Darren Smith saunters across the field,
Keeping his options open while looking for support,
Blue faces begin frowning, they can't believe their eyes.*

*Blue panic begins running wild, this can't be happening,
Maroon faces grow more excited, they smell victory,
The Blues players tired, exhausted and sore,
Never giving up, continue to defend,
The Maroons continue pressing on,
"Darren Smith for Langer,"
Langer in space,
He's through,
Langer!
Caught!
Falling forward,
He looks around,
"Langer gets it away,"
He passes to his right,
Blues defence come swarming down field,
Finally realising the game is still alive,
The play has travelled from left to right,
And now the Maroons are only twenty metres out.*

*Every player exhausted, desperate, hopeful yet trying damn hard,
To ensure victory for their team and themselves,
They are all oblivious to the scoreboard,
It's now or never for all,
Langer's pass floats to Meninga,
"Here's the big fella!"
Running with purpose,
With power,
Intent.
Tackled
By Mackay,
Looks for support,
"Gets the pass on,"
They have come forty metres,
There is only five more left,
Every person is on their feet now,
Despair, hope, glory, tragedy, excitement, suspense, victory, failure,
All running wild through every single fan and player.*

*No one has taken a breath for a minute,
Not one single person has blinked an eyelid,
The Maroons are near the left sideline,
There are no more options left,
Down to one last man,
On this last play,
To seal fate,
That man?
"COYNE!"
"COYNE!"
Did he?
No one knows
There is no way,
Not a chance in hell,
Coyne is grabbed around the waist,
Fittler hanging on, Coyne steps back infield,
Ricky Stuart is there to defend his line,
Coyne is falling forward, Stuart haunches down as well.*

*Preparing himself as much as possible against the attack,
Coyne is almost on the ground, no hope,
Ben Elias comes running over to assist,
Blues players have appeared from nowhere,
Coyne reaches out for glory,
"Goes for the corner,"
His arm free
Finds freedom,
Victory!
Unbelievable!
Tiny gap,
Grounds the ball,
"And gets the try,"
"Queensland, it's a miracle performance,"
The try is awarded, Queensland wins!
The patient siren sounds in the background,
Blues fans are aghast at what just happened,
For seventy nine minutes they were never in doubt.*

*The mighty Queensland spirit never waned for a second,
Disappointment wasn't going to be wearing Maroon today,
Blues fans and players are quiet, unbelieving,
While the Maroon fans jump emphatically,
Their players embrace one another
Proud of the feat,
Of their heroes,
These men,
Legends.
Tension,
It subsides,
Euphoria reigns supreme,
"That's not a try..."
The immortal words of Ray,
"That's a miracle!" He excitedly proclaims,
The never say die spirit grew stronger,
All those years of beatings from the Blues,
Making this emphatic and miraculous victory even more sweeter!*



WIGAN W



WARRIORS



2020 Draw

NRL Telstra Premiership

ROUND 1

Thu 8:05pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 8:05pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:15pm

MARCH 12-15

Eels v Bulldogs
Raiders v Titans
Cowboys v Broncos
Knights v Warriors
Rabbitohs v Sharks
Panthers v Roosters
Sea Eagles v Storm
Dragons v Tigers

Bankwest	8-2
GIO	24-6
Townsville	21-28
MJS	20-0
ANZ	22-18
Panthers	20-14
Lottoland	4-18
WIN	14-24

ROUND 2

Thu 8:05pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 8:05pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:15pm

MARCH 19-22

Bulldogs v Cowboys
Dragons v Panthers
Broncos v Rabbitohs
Warriors v Raiders
Roosters v Manly
Sharks v Storm
Tigers v Knights
Titans v Eels

ANZ	16-24
Kogarah	28-32
Suncorp	22-18
Cbus	6-20
Leichh.	8-9
Kogarah	10-12
Leichh.	24-42
Cbus	6-46

**PREMIERSHIP SUSPENDED MARCH 23 to MAY 27
due to COVID-19 restrictions**

ROUND 3

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:30pm

MAY 28-31

Broncos v Eels
Cowboys v Titans
Roosters v Rabbitohs
Warriors v Dragons
Sharks v Tigers
Storm v Raiders
Panthers v Knights
Manly v Bulldogs

Suncorp	6-34
Townsville	36-6
Bankwest	28-12
Gosford	18-0
Bankwest	16-28
AAMI	6-22
C'town	14-14
Gosford	32-6

ROUND 4

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:30pm
Mon 4:05pm

JUNE 4-8

Broncos v Roosters
Panthers v Warriors
Storm v Rabbitohs
Eels v Manly
Cowboys v Sharks
Raiders v Knights
Titans v Tigers
Bulldogs v Dragons

Queen's Birthday	
Suncorp	0-59
C'town	26-0
AAMI	22-8
Bankwest	19-16
Townsville	16-26
C'town	18-34
Suncorp	28-23
Bankwest	22-2

ROUND 5

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Mon 7:00pm

JUNE 11-15

Manly v Broncos
Warriors v Cowboys
Eels v Panthers
Rabbitohs v Titans
Knights v Storm
Tigers v Raiders
Dragons v Sharks
Bulldogs v Roosters

Gosford	20-18
Gosford	37-26
Bankwest	16-10
Bankwest	32-12
Gosford	12-26
C'town	6-14
C'town	30-16
Bankwest	6-42

ROUND 6

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:30pm

JUNE 18-21

Knights v Broncos
Rabbitohs v Warriors
Panthers v Storm
Titans v Dragons
Tigers v Cowboys
Roosters v Eels
Raiders v Manly
Sharks v Bulldogs

Beansies for Brain Cancer Round	
Gosford	27-6
Bankwest	40-12
C'town	21-14
Suncorp	8-20
C'town	36-20
Bankwest	24-10
C'town	6-14
Bankwest	20-18

ROUND 7

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:30pm

JUNE 25-29

Panthers v Rabbitohs
Storm v Warriors
Roosters v Dragons
Cowboys v Knights
Broncos v Titans
Eels v Raiders
Manly v Sharks
Bulldogs v Tigers

Kogarah	20-12
Kogarah	50-6
Bankwest	26-12
Townsville	32-20
Suncorp	12-30
Bankwest	25-24
Gosford	22-40
Bankwest	6-34

ROUND 8

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:30pm

JULY 2-5

Storm v Roosters
Raiders v Dragons
Eels v Cowboys
Titans v Sharks
Warriors v Broncos
Tigers v Panthers
Manly v Knights
Bulldogs v Rabbitohs

Suncorp	27-25
GIO	22-16
Bankwest	42-4
Cbus	10-40
Gosford	26-16
Bankwest	12-19
Lottoland	12-14
Bankwest	10-26

ROUND 9

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:30pm

JULY 9-12

Cowboys v Roosters
Titans v Warriors
Rabbitohs v Tigers
Sharks v Panthers
Broncos v Bulldogs
Raiders v Storm
Knights v Eels
Dragons v Manly

Townsville	16-42
Cbus	16-12
Bankwest	18-10
Kogarah	24-56
Suncorp	26-8
GIO	14-20
MJS	4-10
Kogarah	34-4

ROUND 10

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 2:00pm
Sun 4:05pm

JULY 16-19

Roosters v Raiders
Storm v Titans
Tigers v Broncos
Dragons v Bulldogs
Rabbitohs v Knights
Manly v Eels
Warriors v Sharks
Panthers v Cowboys

SCG	20-24
S. Coast	42-6
Leichh.	48-0
WIN	28-22
Bankwest	18-20
Lottoland	22-18
Gosford	10-46
Panthers	22-10

ROUND 11

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 2:00pm
Sun 4:05pm

JULY 23-26

Eels v Tigers
Cowboys v Manly
Broncos v Storm
Warriors v Roosters
Sharks v Dragons
Raiders v Rabbitohs
Knights v Bulldogs
Titans v Panthers

Bankwest	26-16
QCBS	12-24
Suncorp	8-46
Gosford	10-18
Kogarah	28-24
GIO	18-12
MJS	12-18
Cbus	14-22

ROUND 12

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 2:00pm
Sun 4:05pm

JULY 30-AUGUST 2

Dragons v Rabbitohs
Tigers v Warriors
Broncos v Sharks
Roosters v Titans
Cowboys v Raiders
Manly v Panthers
Bulldogs v Eels
Storm v Knights

Indigenous Round	
Kogarah	24-32
SCG	20-26
Suncorp	26-36
SCG	18-12
Townsville	12-14
Lottoland	12-42
ANZ	16-18
S. Coast	26-16

ROUND 13

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 2:00pm
Sun 4:05pm

AUGUST 6-9

Dragons v Roosters
Manly v Warriors
Rabbitohs v Broncos
Storm v Bulldogs
Knights v Tigers
Panthers v Raiders
Titans v Cowboys
Sharks v Eels

WIN	16-24
Lottoland	22-26
ANZ	28-10
S. Coast	41-10
MJS	44-4
Panthers	28-12
Cbus	30-10
Kogarah	12-14

ROUND 14

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 2:00pm
Sun 4:05pm

AUGUST 13-16

Roosters v Storm
Warriors v Panthers
Eels v Dragons
Sharks v Titans
Cowboys v Rabbitohs
Raiders v Broncos
Knights v Manly
Tigers v Bulldogs

SCG	6-24
Gosford	12-18
Bankwest	12-14
Kogarah	30-18
Townsville	30-31
GIO	36-8
MJS	26-24
Bankwest	29-28

ROUND 15

Thu 7:50pm
 Fri 6:00pm
 Fri 7:55pm
 Sat 3:00pm
 Sat 5:30pm
 Sat 7:35pm
 Sun 2:00pm
 Sun 4:05pm

ROUND 16

Thu 7:50pm
 Fri 6:00pm
 Fri 7:55pm
 Sat 3:00pm
 Sat 5:30pm
 Sat 7:35pm
 Sun 4:05pm
 Sun 6:30pm

ROUND 17

Thu 7:50pm
 Fri 6:00pm
 Fri 7:55pm
 Sat 3:00pm
 Sat 5:30pm
 Sat 7:35pm
 Sun 4:05pm
 Sun 6:30pm

ROUND 18

Thu 7:50pm
 Fri 6:00pm
 Fri 7:55pm
 Sat 3:00pm
 Sat 5:30pm
 Sat 7:35pm
 Sun 4:05pm
 Sun 6:30pm

ROUND 19

Thu 7:50pm
 Fri 6:00pm
 Fri 7:55pm
 Sat 3:00pm
 Sat 5:30pm
 Sat 7:35pm
 Sun 2:00pm
 Sun 4:05pm

ROUND 20

Thu 7:50pm
 Fri 6:00pm
 Fri 7:55pm
 Sat 3:00pm
 Sat 5:30pm
 Sat 7:35pm
 Sun 2:00pm
 Sun 4:05pm

AUGUST 20-23

Eels v Storm
 Panthers v Sharks
 Broncos v Dragons
 Titans v Raiders
 Tigers v Roosters
 Rabbitohs v Manly
 Bulldogs v Warriors
 Knights v Cowboys

AUGUST 27-30

Eels v Rabbitohs
 Dragons v Titans
 Roosters v Broncos
 Warriors v Knights
 Sharks v Cowboys
 Panthers v Tigers
 Storm v Manly
 Raiders v Bulldogs

SEPTEMBER 3-6

Broncos v Panthers
 Knights v Sharks
 Rabbitohs v Storm
 Bulldogs v Titans
 Manly v Tigers
 Raiders v Roosters
 Warriors v Eels
 Cowboys v Dragons

SEPTEMBER 10-13

Tigers v Rabbitohs
 Bulldogs v Manly
 Panthers v Eels
 Dragons v Raiders
 Titans v Broncos
 Roosters v Knights
 Storm v Cowboys
 Sharks v Warriors

SEPTEMBER 17-20

Rabbitohs v Bulldogs
 Cowboys v Panthers
 Eels v Broncos
 Manly v Titans
 Storm v Tigers
 Roosters v Sharks
 Raiders v Warriors
 Knights v Dragons

SEPTEMBER 24-27

Broncos v Cowboys
 Titans v Knights
 Rabbitohs v Roosters
 Bulldogs v Panthers
 Sharks v Raiders
 Tigers v Eels
 Warriors v Manly
 Dragons v Storm

Bankwest 14-0
 Panthers 38-12
 Suncorp 24-26
 Cbus 16-36
 Leichh. 16-38
 ANZ 56-16
 ANZ 14-20
 MJS 12-0

Bankwest 0-38
 Kogarah 10-14
 SCG 58-12
 Tamworth 36-6
 Kogarah 28-12
 Panthers 30-6
 S. Coast 30-6
 GIO 34-20

Suncorp 12-25
 MJS 38-10
 ANZ 16-22
 ANZ 14-18
 Lottoland 32-34
 GIO 6-18
 Gosford 18-24
 QCBS 23-22

Bankwest 24-26
 ANZ 20-32
 Panthers 20-2
 WIN 8-37
 Cbus 8-6
 SCG 42-12
 S. Coast 36-20
 Kogarah 22-14

Women in League Round

ANZ 16-26
 QCBS 12-32
 Bankwest 26-12
 Lottoland 24-42
 S. Coast 50-22
 SCG 34-18
 GIO 26-14
 MJS 42-18

Suncorp 16-32
 Cbus 36-6
 ANZ 60-8
 ANZ 0-42
 Kogarah 28-38
 Bankwest 24-28
 Gosford 40-28
 Kogarah 30-22

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

Panthers (1) v Roosters (4)
 Raiders (5) v Sharks (8)
 Storm (2) v Eels (3)
 Rabbitohs (6) v Knights (7)

Qualifying & Elimination Finals

Panthers 29-28
 GIO 32-20
 Suncorp 36-24
 ANZ 46-20

WEEK 2

Fri 7:50pm - SF 1
 Sat 7:50pm - SF 2

OCTOBER 9-10

Roosters v Raiders
 Eels v Rabbitohs

Semi Finals

SCG 18-22
 Bankwest 24-38

WEEK 3

Fri 7:50pm - PF 2
 Sat 7:50pm - PF 1

OCTOBER 16-17

Storm v Raiders
 Panthers v Rabbitohs

Preliminary Finals

Suncorp 30-10
 ANZ 20-16

GRAND FINAL

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 18-4
 GIO 28-14

ROUND 2

Sat 12:30pm
 Sat 4:00pm

OCTOBER 9-10

Warriors v Roosters
 Dragons v Broncos

Bankwest 12-22
 Bankwest 4-18

ROUND 3

Sat 12:30pm
 Sat 4:00pm

OCTOBER 16-17

Dragons v Warriors
 Roosters v Broncos

ANZ 10-22
 ANZ 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**

Wed 8:10pm

NOVEMBER 4

QLD v NSW

Adelaide Oval

18-14

GAME 2

Wed 8:10pm

NOVEMBER 11

NSW v QLD

ANZ Stadium

34-10

GAME 3

Wed 8:10pm

NOVEMBER 18

QLD v NSW

Suncorp Stadium

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

Fri 8:10pm

NOVEMBER 13

QLD v NSW

Sunshine Coast Stadium

24-18





2020 Draw

Betfred Super League

ROUND 1	JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 2		
Thu 7:45pm	Wigan v Warrington	DW	16-10
Fri 7:45pm	St Helens v Salford	TWS	48-8
	Hull KR v Wakefield	HCCP	30-12
Sat 5:00pm	Catalans v Huddersfield	SGB	12-32
Sun 4:45pm	Leeds v Hull FC	EHS	4-30

ROUND 2	FEBRUARY 6-9		
Thu 7:45pm	Warrington v St Helens	HJS	19-0
Fri 7:45pm	Castleford v Wigan	MHJ	16-12
	Hull FC v Hull KR	KCOM	25-16

ROUND 3	FEBRUARY 13-16		
Fri 7:45pm	Leeds v Hull KR	EHS	52-10
	Salford v Huddersfield	AJB	10-12
Sat 5:00pm	Catalans v Castleford	SGB	36-18
Sun 3:00pm	Hull FC v St Helens	KCOM	18-32
	Wakefield v Warrington	MRS	18-8

ROUND 4	FEBRUARY 21-23		
Fri 7:45pm	Castleford v Wakefield	MHJ	32-15
	Hull KR v Huddersfield	HCCP	4-22
Sat 2:00pm	Salford v Leeds	AJB	8-22
Sun 3:00pm	Wigan v Hull FC	DW	26-12

ROUND 5	FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1		
Thu 7:45pm	Hull KR v Castleford	HCCP	8-28
Fri 7:45pm	Leeds v Warrington	EHS	36-0
Sun 3:00pm	Hull FC v Catalans	KCOM	29-34
	Huddersfield v Wigan	JSS	10-42
	Salford v Wakefield	AJB	12-22

ROUND 6	MARCH 5-8		
Fri 7:45pm	St Helens v Huddersfield	TWS	10-12
	Wakefield v Hull FC	MRS	26-27
	Warrington v Castleford	HJS	9-8
Sat 5:00pm	Catalans v Salford	SGB	30-14
Sun 3:00pm	Wigan v Hull KR	DW	30-16

ROUND 7	MARCH 12-15		
Thu 7:45pm	Hull FC v Warrington	KCOM	4-38
Fri 7:45pm	Salford v Wigan	AJB	18-14
Sun 3:00pm	Castleford v St Helens	MHJ	28-14

SUPER LEAGUE SEASON SUSPENDED MAR 17 - AUGUST 1 due to COVID-19 restrictions: Toronto Wolfpack withdrew from competition. Teams listed to play them in remaining fixtures will not play matches. Toronto's previous results are removed.

REARRANGED	AUGUST 2		
Sun 4:15pm	St Helens v Catalans	EHS	34-6
Sun 6:30pm	Huddersfield v Leeds	EHS	26-27

ROUND 8	AUGUST 8-9		
Sat 4:15pm	Castleford v Catalans	EHS	14-40
Sat 6:30pm	Warrington v Hull KR	EHS	40-10
Sun 1:00pm	Salford v Hull FC	EHS	54-18
Sun 3:15pm	Wakefield v Wigan	EHS	22-23
Sun 6:30pm	Leeds v St Helens	EHS	0-48

ROUND 9	AUGUST 15-16		
Sat 4:15pm	Wakefield v Catalans	TWS	0-58
Sat 6:30pm	Huddersfield v Warrington	TWS	18-19
Sun 4:15pm	St Helens v Castleford	TWS	10-0
Sun 6:30pm	Wigan v Leeds	TWS	28-10

ROUND 10	AUGUST 29-30		
Sat 4:15pm	Wigan v Castleford	HJS	30-22
Sat 6:30pm	Leeds v Salford	HJS	50-12
Sun 1:00pm	Hull KR v St Helens	HJS	18-32
Sun 4:15pm	Huddersfield v Hull FC	HJS	12-31
Sun 6:30pm	Warrington v Wakefield	HJS	36-0

ROUND 11	SEPTEMBER 3-4		
Thu 2:30pm	Salford v Castleford	EHS	30-37
Thu 6:00pm	Hull KR v Wigan	EHS	34-18
Fri 6:00pm	Huddersfield v St Helens	EHS	6-54
Fri 8:15pm	Warrington v Hull FC	EHS	37-12

ROUND 12	SEPTEMBER 10-12		
Thu 6:00pm	Hull FC v Wakefield	TWS	26-23
Thu 8:15pm	Castleford v Warrington	TWS	10-12
Fri 6:00pm	St Helens v Hull KR	TWS	21-20
Fri 8:15pm	Leeds v Huddersfield	TWS	13-12
Sat 5:00pm	Catalans v Wigan	SGB	12-28

ROUND 13	SEPTEMBER 17-25		
Thu 3:00pm	Wakefield v Huddersfield	JSS	6-29
Thu 3:30pm	Hull KR v Leeds	HJS	16-41
Thu 6:00pm	Hull FC v Salford	HJS	22-28
Thu 8:15pm	Castleford v Huddersfield	HJS	19-31
Fri 6:00pm	Warrington v Catalans	HJS	30-16
Fri 8:15pm	Wigan v Wakefield	HJS	28-16

ROUND 14	SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1		
Tue 5:30pm	Salford v Warrington	AJB	20-18
Tue 7:45pm	Wigan v St Helens	AJB	0-42
Wed 5:30pm	Huddersfield v Hull KR	JSS	32-22
Wed 3:00pm	Leeds v Catalans	EHS	6-34
Thu 7:45pm	Castleford v Hull FC	MHJ	28-32

ROUND 15	OCTOBER 4-9		
Sun 3:00pm	Catalans v Wakefield	SGB	40-8
Thu 5:30pm	Huddersfield v Salford	EHS	16-24
Thu 7:45pm	Hull FC v Leeds	EHS	22-40
Fri 5:30pm	Wakefield v St Helens	EHS	16-20
Fri 6:15pm	Catalans v Hull KR	SGB	34-4
Fri 7:45pm	Warrington v Wigan	EHS	14-18

ROUND 16	OCTOBER 13-18		
Tue 2:00pm	Hull KR v Salford	HJS	24-22
Tue 5:30pm	Hull FC v Huddersfield	HJS	18-16
Tue 7:45pm	Warrington v Leeds	HJS	32-6
Thu 7:45pm	St Helens v Wakefield	HJS	48-6
Sun 3:00pm	Hull FC v Castleford	HJS	48-6

ROUND 17	OCTOBER 22-23			SEMI FINALS	NOVEMBER 19-20		
Thu 5:30pm	Castleford v Hull KR	TWS	38-24	SF1 - Thu 7:45pm	Wigan (1) v Hull FC		DW Stadium
Thu 7:45pm	Huddersfield v Wakefield	TWS	14-18	SF2 - Fri 7:45pm	St Helens (2) v Catalans		Totally Wicked Stadium
Fri 5:30pm	Wigan v Salford	TWS	58-12				
Fri 7:45pm	St Helens v Leeds	TWS	40-8				
				2020 BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL			
				Sat 27 Nov 7:45pm	Winner SF 1 v Winner SF 2		KCOM Stadium
ROUND 18	OCTOBER 25-26			2020 CORAL CHALLENGE CUP			
Sun 2:00pm	Wakefield v Hull KR	MRS	48-18	SIXTH ROUND			
Mon 5:30pm	Salford v St Helens	EHS	12-10	AUGUST 22, SEPTEMBER 13			
Mon 7:45pm	Leeds v Castleford	EHS	28-24	Sat 2:30pm			
				Catalans v Wakefield	JSS	36-24	
ROUND 19	OCTOBER 29-30			Sun 3pm			
Thu 5:30pm	Leeds v Wakefield	TWS	6-30	Castleford v Hull FC	TWS	16-29	
Thu 7:45pm	Hull KR v Hull FC	TWS	16-31				
Forfeit	Warrington v Salford	N/A	24-0				
Fri 5:30pm	Warrington v Huddersfield	TWS	19-12	QUARTER FINALS			
Fri 7:45pm	St Helens v Wigan	TWS	6-12	SEPTEMBER 18, 19			
				Fri 6pm	Catalans v Salford	TWS	18-22
REARRANGED	NOVEMBER 1-2			Fri 8:15pm	Leeds v Hull KR	TWS	48-18
Sun 2:00pm	Wakefield v Leeds	MRS	18-20	Sat 2:30pm	Warrington v St Helens	AJB	20-18
Mon 3:00pm	Salford v Catalans	AJB	42-24	Sat 5pm	Hull v Wigan	AJB	4-36
ROUND 20	NOVEMBER 6			SEMI FINALS	OCTOBER 3		
Fri 5:30pm	Wakefield v Salford	EHS	20-28	Sat 2:30pm	Leeds v Wigan	TWS	26-12
Fri 7:45pm	Wigan v Huddersfield	EHS	19-6	Sat 5pm	Salford v Warrington	TWS	24-22
2020 BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE PLAYOFFS				FINAL	OCTOBER 17		
ELIMINATION FINALS	NOVEMBER 12-13			Sat 3pm	Leeds v Salford		Wembley 17-16
EF1 - Thu 7:45pm	Warrington (3) v Hull FC (6)	HJS	14-27				
EF2 - Fri 7:45pm	Catalans (4) v Leeds (5)	HJS	26-14				



All times are GMT or BST (local time in the UK)

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St
HELENS



Catalans
DRAGONS

P	T	G	FG	Pts						P	T	G	FG	Pts
14	8	60	-	152	Lachlan COOTE	1	1	David MEAD		7	7	-	-	28
10	6	8	-	40	Tommy MAKINSON	2	2	Lewis TIERNEY		5	1	-	-	4
17	6	-	-	24	Kevin NAIQAMA	3	3	Samisoni LANGI		14	6	-	-	24
5	-	5	-	10	Mark PERCIVAL	4	4	Israel FOLAU		14	5	-	-	20
17	11	-	-	44	Regan GRACE	5	5	Fouad YAHA		13	11	-	-	44
17	1	3	-	10	Jonathan LOMAX	6	6	James MALONEY		16	3	69	-	150
16	4	-	1	17	Théo FAGES	7	7	Josh DRINKWATER		14	1	-	-	4
16	9	-	-	36	Alex WALMSLEY	8	8	Rémi CASTY		16	-	-	-	-
13	2	-	-	8	James ROBY	9	9	Mike McILORUM		14	1	-	-	4
5	3	-	-	12	Luke THOMPSON	10	10	Sam MOA		10	-	-	-	-
16	3	-	-	12	John TAIA	11	11	Matt WHITLEY		14	8	-	-	32
12	1	-	-	4	Dominique PEYROUX	12	12	Joel TOMKINS		11	3	-	-	12
16	3	-	-	12	Louie McARTHUR-SCARSBROOK	13	13	Benjamin GARCIA		16	3	-	-	12
14	2	-	-	8	Morgan KNOWLES	14	14	Julian BOUSQUET		14	3	-	-	12
16	-	-	-	-	Matthew LEES	15	16	Tom DAVIES		10	13	-	-	52
14	-	-	-	-	Kyle AMOR	16	17	Benjamin JULLIEN		12	2	-	-	8
1	-	-	-	-	Matty FOSTER	16	18	COSTA Alrix DA		3	1	-	-	4
4	-	-	-	-	Jack ASHWORTH	17	19	Mickaël GOUDEMAMAND		7	-	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	-	Joseph PAULO	18	20	Lucas ALBERT		2	-	-	-	-
13	4	-	-	16	Aaron SMITH	19	21	Paul SÉGUIER		5	1	-	-	4
15	3	-	-	12	James BENTLEY	20	22	Arthur ROMANO		2	-	-	-	-
7	2	-	-	8	Matty COSTELLO	21	23	Antoni MARIA		4	-	-	-	-
14	8	-	-	32	Jack WELSBY	22	24	Jason BAITIERI		15	1	-	-	4
4	-	-	-	-	Joe BATCHELOR	23	25	Arthur MOURGUE		5	1	1	-	6
6	3	-	-	12	Josh SIMM	26	26	Lambert BELMAS		1	-	-	-	-
3	1	3	-	10	Lewis DODD	27	28	Sam KASIANO		15	2	-	-	8
10	1	-	-	4	James GRAHAM	32	29	Sam TOMKINS		12	5	2	-	24

Kristian WOOLF

COACH

Steve McNAMARA

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

#SLsemi1

First Semi Final

DATE Friday 13 November 2020
KICKOFF 7:45pm GMT
VENUE Totally Wicked Stadium, St Helens
WATCH Sky Sports & OurLeague

MATCH OFFICIALS

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

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)

OVERALL 34 MATCHES

Saints 21 Catalans 13

At **Totally Wicked**: 10 matches - Saints 7, Catalans 3

LAST TEN

	SAINTS 8-2	
2016	Catalans 33 - 16	Gilbert Brutus
2016	Saints 39 - 16	Langtree Park
2017	Saints 28 - 24	Gilbert Brutus
2017	Saints 46 - 28	Totally Wicked
2018	Saints 21 - 12	Gilbert Brutus
2018	Saints 26 - 12	Totally Wicked
2018	Saints 26 - 22	Gilbert Brutus
2019	Catalans 18 - 10	Gilbert Brutus
2019	Saints 50 - 14	Totally Wicked
2020	Saints 34 - 6	Headingley

BIGGEST WINS

2007	R10	Saints 53 - 10	Knowsley Road
2014	R16	Catalans 42 - 0	Gilbert Brutus

Match Preview

by Steve MASCORD

GIANT-killing expedition two: Catalans are the last expansion team surviving in Super League and seek to eliminate the champions and strike a blow for the progressives.

But first Steve McNamara's team needs to overcome a couple of potential judiciary issues with Joel Tomkins accused of Hopoate-style bum-poking in the upset victory over Leeds on Friday night while hooker Michael McIlorum copped Rhinos hooker Brad Dwyer high.

Reacting to the Tomkins incident - or not reacting, perhaps - coach Steve McNamara said: "There is nothing in that! And in terms of Michael McIlorum, I did get asked on Sky about the incidents, which I was not sure what they were talking about.

"If you are talking about that then, well, this is not semi-final football without maybe a high tackle so, for me, I have no concerns."

The big 'in' for St Helens is giant prop Alex Walmsley, whose suspension has expired. Saints' last game was a defeat, it must be remembered - a 12-6 derby reverse at the hands of Wigan on October 30. Walmsley was sorely missed in that game.

Catalans have played 14 games this year due to Covid while St Helens have played 18.

Saints have this week signed Agnatius Paasi from New Zealand Warriors. Louis McCarthy-Scarsbrook has also extended his contract for another season while youngster Callum Hazzard will join North Wales Crusaders next year.

Sam Tomkins needs 14 points for 1000 in Super League. These two teams brought us back from lockdown on August 2 at Headingley and the champs were too strong winning 34-6.

Who to watch: Sam Tomkins had a blinder last week against Leeds. He'll need a five-star showing if the Frenchmen are to continue their late-season run.

Favourites: St Helens are the best British team of the last two years. A loss here would make a milestone changing of the guard.

My tip: St Helens by 16.

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HUB.COM

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PATREON.COM/RUGBYLEAGUELONGREADS

Wigan WARRIORS



Hull FC

P	T	G	FG	Pts						P	T	G	FG	Pts
17	4	64	-	144	Zak HARDAKER	1	2	Bureta FARAIMO		14	5	-	-	20
9	6	-	-	24	Liam MARSHALL	2	3	Carlos TUIMAVAVE		18	8	-	-	32
3	-	3	-	6	Chris HANKINSON	3	4	Josh GRIFFIN		17	5	3	-	26
7	5	-	-	20	Oliver GILDART	4	6	Jake CONNOR		17	4	15	1	47
10	5	-	-	20	Joe BURGESS	5	7	Marc SNEYD		16	2	55	5	123
18	14	-	-	56	Bevan FRENCH	6	8	Scott TAYLOR		10	-	-	-	-
16	1	-	-	4	Thomas LEULUAI	7	9	Danny HOUGHTON		16	2	-	-	8
7	-	-	-	-	Tony CLUBB	8	10	Tevita SATAE		17	2	-	-	8
17	12	-	-	48	Sam POWELL	9	11	Josh JONES		7	-	-	-	-
8	1	-	-	4	George BURGESS	10	12	Manu MA'U		12	3	-	-	12
19	2	-	-	8	Willie ISA	11	13	Liligiifo SAO		17	1	-	-	4
18	8	-	-	32	Liam FARRELL	12	14	Albert KELLY		8	4	-	-	16
5	-	-	-	-	Sean O'LOUGHLIN	13	15	Joe CATOR		12	1	-	-	4
8	1	-	-	4	Ben FLOWER	14	16	Jordan JOHNSTONE		16	1	-	-	4
13	-	-	-	-	Morgan SMITHIES	16	19	Masi MATONGO		5	-	-	-	-
14	1	-	-	4	Oliver PARTINGTON	17	20	Brad FASH		16	-	-	-	-
13	1	-	-	4	Joe BULLOCK	19	21	Jordan LANE		12	3	-	-	12
11	1	-	-	4	Liam BYRNE	20	22	Josh BOWDEN		17	2	-	-	8
11	3	-	-	12	Dominic MANFREDI	21	23	Andre SAVELIO		11	4	-	-	16
8	-	-	-	-	Mitch CLARK	22	24	Mahe FONUA		18	7	-	-	28
16	3	-	-	12	Jake BIBBY	23	26	Kieran BUCHANAN		6	2	-	-	8
3	-	-	-	-	Jake SHORROCKS	27	29	Gareth ELLIS		8	-	-	-	-
15	2	-	1	9	Harry SMITH	28	30	Jack BROWN		9	2	-	-	8
2	-	-	-	-	Jack WELLS	29	31	Cameron SCOTT		4	1	-	-	4
11	-	-	-	-	Joseph HAVARD	30	33	Ratu NAULAGO		10	8	-	-	32
18	9	-	1	37	Jackson HASTINGS	31								
4	-	-	-	-	Brad SINGLETON	38								

Adrian LAM

COACH

Andy LAST

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

#SLsemi2

Second Semi Final

DATE	Thursday 19 November 2020
KICKOFF	7:45pm GMT
VENUE	DW Stadium, Wigan
WATCH	Sky Sports & OurLeague

MATCH OFFICIALS

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

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)

OVERALL 57 MATCHES

Wigan 43 Hull 12 Drawn 2

At DW: 26 matches - Wigan 19, Hull 6, Drawn 1

LAST TEN

	WIGAN 7-3	
2016	Wigan 28 - 18	DW Stadium
2017	Hull FC 22 - 20	DW Stadium
2017	Hull FC 39 - 26	KCOM Stadium
2017	Wigan 30 - 22	KCOM Stadium
2018	Wigan 24 - 10	WIN Stadium
2018	Wigan 14 - 10	KCOM Stadium
2018	Wigan 14 - 12	DW Stadium
2019	Hull FC 23 - 22	DW Stadium
2019	Wigan 15 - 14	KCOM Stadium
2020	Wigan 26 - 12	DW Stadium

BIGGEST WINS

2008	R23	Wigan 66 - 6	JJB Stadium
2006	R12	Hull FC 54 - 12	KCOM Stadium

Match Preview

by Steve MASCORD

The first of our David v Goliath grand final qualifiers features the team that finished sixth, which was until fortnight ago impossible. Will David v Goliath prove to be a lamb to a slaughter?

Wigan have become something of a beast as the season has evolved and they've been given plenty of external boosts of late with captain Sean O'Loughlin announcing his retirement at the end of the season and even a new logo which fans think looks so much like Costa Coffee that they might go to the shop across the road from the stadium on game day by mistake.

Their opponents rocked Warrington last week to qualify and have a coach, Andy Last, who's apparently on borrowed time. He's officially the caretaker and owner Adam Pearson has told colleague Ross Heppenstall there is someone else lined up to take the job next year.

For Wigan, there is considerable doubt over winger Dom Manfredi (knee). "He's got a loose body in the knee and he may need a clean out," coach Adrian Lam told the Wigan Observer.

Lam still hasn't signed for next year and refused to be pinned down on the matter when he appeared as a guest on Sky Sports on Friday night.

For Hull, centre Josh Griffin has revealed he was involved in a car crash on the morning of the 27-14 win over Warrington.

Speaking to the Yorkshire Post, Griffin said: "I tested positive for Covid two weeks ago, had to self-isolate for 10 days, came out, had a couple of days training and then had a crash in the car which I'd only had for two weeks.

"I'd not even driven it too much! I was just taking my son to the park - I always like to get out of the house on the morning of a game to get some fresh air - and on the way there an elderly couple pulled out on me.

"Luckily, nobody got hurt and the accident wasn't as bad as it could have been. I managed to swerve so that reduced the impact a bit."

A unique honour awaits Hull - a home grand final.

Who to watch: Jackson Hastings is probably the best player involved in this game. He has to play like it.

Favourites: Wigan would need to fall into a deep, dark hole from the kick-off to lose this one.

My tip: Wigan by 24.

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'Disarmingly normal' - but a giant on the pitch

England captain **SEAN O'LOUGHLIN** announced his retirement last week. This is his 2014 A-list profile from the now-defunct *Rugby League Week*.

SEAN O'Loughlin would probably like to say he remembers Wigan travelling to the old ANZ Stadium in 1994 and shocking Brisbane 20-14. For a start, his brother-in-law no doubt expects him to remember it.

"He would have played in that, wouldn't he? He would have just come on the scene at the time," says Wigan's captain sitting by a pool near Orlando, Florida.

O'Loughlin's brother-in-law is former Golden Boot winner Andy Farrell. It's a family connection that links the February 22 Wigan-Sydney Roosters showpiece at Allianz Stadium with the last time the World Club Challenge was played in Australia, two whole decades ago.

But curly-headed O'Loughlin was only 11 at the time.

"I can't really remember the game ... I've seen footage," he concedes. "Those kind of rivalries with some of the Aussie clubs ... especially Brisbane, they were a massive club at the time ... they're the kind of things the fans want to see.

"Like in '87 when Manly came over to Wigan. That's written into the history of the club, the big games against the Aussie teams. For us to get a chance to play in one of them now ..."

O'Loughlin is a player most rugby league fans would recognise; tall, athletic, curly-haired, hard working. But very little about his personality is known. As it transpires from A-List's conversation with him here at the National Training Center during Wigan's pre-season US camp, that is not in any way because 'Lockers' is secretive.

He just seems disarmingly ... *normal*.

OK, time to hit some meaty issues. Why hasn't captain Wigan joined his buddies in the NRL?

"I've been tempted. The last few times I've come off contract at Wigan, there has been an opportunity to go ... one year ago, the beginning of last year. It was something I sat down with the wife and kids ... well, I didn't discuss it too much with the kids and had a good chat about. It cropped up but having young kids and family ties, those kind of things kept me (in England).

"It was St George. My agent had a chat with them and I had a chat but when push came to shove, with Waney coming in here ... it was our second year with Waney and I wanted to stay and be part of that. Luckily enough we had the chance to play in two finals that year and won both finals so I'd probably be banging my head against the wall if I missed that."

At his current age, O'Loughlin believes the opportunity has passed him by. But if it's not ... he's open to offers. "You never know. If there is ever an opportunity to go over there, it's always something I could consider - just because the opportunities don't come around too often. But I'm very, very happy at Wigan. I'm very happy with the time I've had here so I think I'd have to have another sit-down with the wife if that were to ever happen."

What about the state of the game in England, with clubs facing consistent financial problems and the player drain to the NRL gathering pace?

"When you see clubs struggling like Bradford have done - and they're a big club - it is a little bit of a worry but I think we've got a good enough game to look after itself," he answers, optimistically.

"I think it's probably the people on the other side of the fence, the RFL and that, looking after their finances a little bit better and looking after clubs a little bit better

Steve Mascord Contributor



than they have been doing. With the salary cap going the way it is, it's probably going to be harder to pull Australian players over. It gives a lot of young kids a stronger opportunity now."

OK, another curly one: misbehaviour in the England camp during the World Cup with Gareth Hock and Zak Hardaker kicked out by coach Steve McNamara and James Graham omitted from the tournament opener.

"Most of the stuff happened early doors in the camp so it gave everyone the chance to get on, crack on with what we had to do," says O'Loughlin. "It weren't ideal, going in to a World Cup. I think Steve Mac handled it well, he dealt with it the best he thought and all the lads got behind him.

"He did put his head on the block with a few things. The most disappointing thing was to lose that game (against New Zealand), more than anything. The lads had all bonded together with a few things we were up against. We need to get past that last semi-final to kind of prove that our game is going forward a little bit."

Saturday week provides the British game with another such opportunity. You might think the conditions will be outside Wigan's comfort zone - but they look pretty comfortable here in Florida. And besides, "pretty much every other year, I went to Australia as a kid. We went as a schoolboy at 16, academy at 18, toured a couple of times with England and Great Britain..."

Besides, you know the WCC is a big game simply because Sean O'Loughlin is playing in it. Last year, he won at Wembley, did not pay again until the grand final, and then sat out the World Cup until the sold-out match against Ireland.

"I got a good bit of abuse about that," he laughs. "The injury I got before the Challenge Cup final, it was just a slight calf strain.

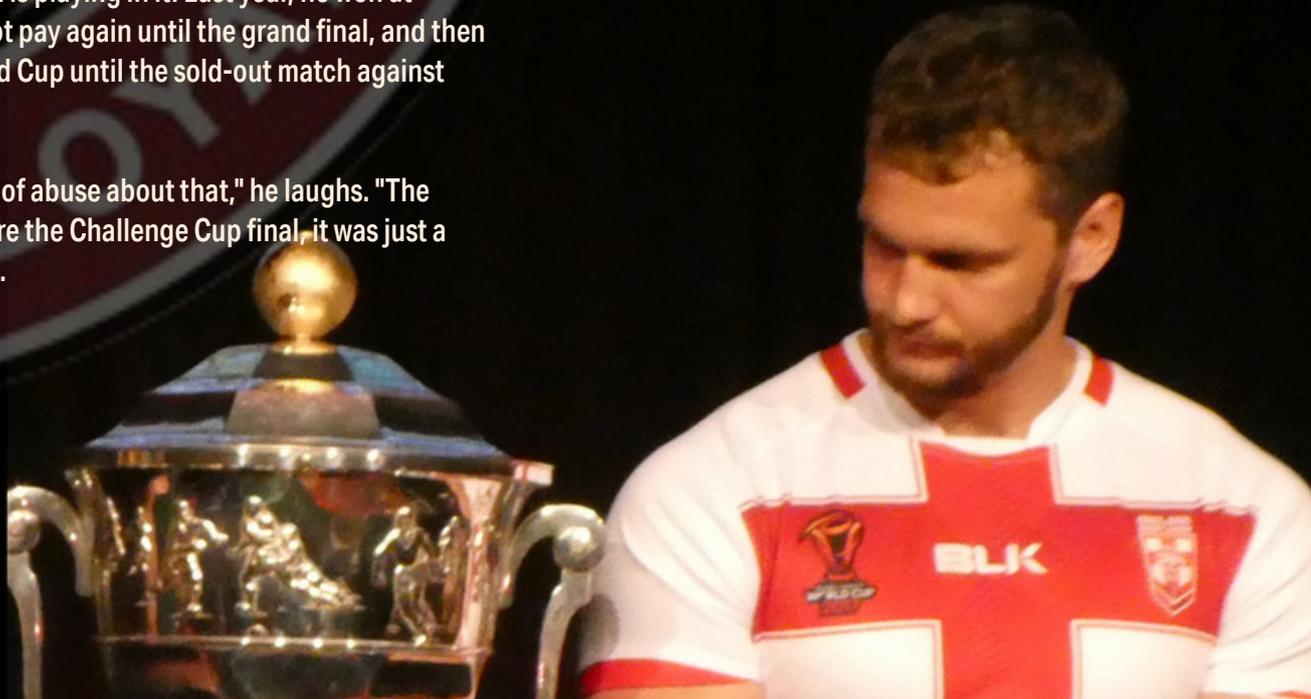
"So I'd not played in three or four weeks. I went into the final and slightly tore my achilles. Then I thought that was season over. I was sort of hoping to try and get back and be in contention for England but I didn't think I'd be back for the grand final. I got the boot off, I think it were Monday or Tuesday, and the grand final was on the Saturday.

"The physios were happy for me to try it, I had two sessions before the grand final, it felt good, so I played in that. Then I got back into the England squad. I think I only played about 18 games last year and two of them were finals!"

The fact the start of Super League was brought forward to give Wigan the best possible preparation for the Roosters is compelling evidence that everyone sees the Allianz Stadium encounter as being on par with anything Wembley or Old Trafford can offer. It's hard to see the NRL doing likewise to help an Aussie side travelling to England.

"I think a lot of the clubs, and the league over here, want us to do well at it," Sean agrees. "If you can go over to Australia and win that, it shows that our competition is strong and we've got a lot of good quality players. It's not just big for Wigan, its big for our sport.

"Our boys will be pumped to be part of that. You're wearing your Wigan clothes but you're wearing your English and Super League flag as well."





STEVE MASCORD

DISCORD

DO the criteria for picking the 12th team in next year's Super League competition favour any of the likely applicants? I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that despite the inevitable and justifiable controversy the decision will cause, my tip is Bradford.

Under the criteria announced last week, Bradford Bulls, Featherstone Rovers, Halifax, Leigh Centurions, London Broncos, Toulouse Olympique, Widnes Vikings and York City Knights all appear to qualify.

Lord Jonathan Caine will chair a committee comprising three representatives each of the Rugby Football League and Super League to determine who replaces Toronto in next year's competition.

To qualify, clubs must have either played in Super League or finished in the top six of the Championship in 2018 or 2019. Their stadium must hold at least 5000 people and their average attendance last year must have been at least 2000.

Social and digital footprint, community engagement, season-ticket sales, merchandising and sponsorship will also be assessed but the comparative weighting of all these criteria, however, has not been announced.

And the clubs will get £1 million in funding, compared to the likely £1.5 Super League sides will get after Sky are given their Covid rebate.

Many fans seem to think Toulouse are favourites. I just can't see this. Super League just did a report saying there was no future in North America and claiming

Catalans had brought nothing, commercially, to the competition.

Super League's executive is driven now completely by the bottom line. Toulouse bring no away fans, they don't sell any Sky boxes and Betfred don't operate there and are the subject of French anti-gambling legislation. I can't imagine any of Super League's three nominees going for them.

Listen to what Super League chief executive Robert Elstone (pictured right) said on Sky last week: "We want something that's robust and rigorous that measures what a club might bring to Super League.

"It looks at whether a club is sustainable and well managed. It looks at how a club might compete on the field and above all what it brings to Super League."

Featherstone and Leigh have strong claims but are seen as too provincial. Widnes, like Bradford, are former world champions while York are ambitious outsiders who will definitely apply.

The reduction in funding does not seem to be a deterrent to any of these clubs. There are even suggestions that Leigh, like Toronto, would go in with no funding if asked to. Perhaps there is a belief that the draw bridge is about to come up and relegation removed, although Elstone said at a recent press briefing there would definitely be promotion and relegation next year.

Lower division clubs have benefitted from furlough this year while Super League clubs have funded the entire game by playing - that is important to recognise.



Sorenson set for Super League move

EXCLUSIVE

By John DAVIDSON

CRONULLA Sharks forward Scott Sorenson has been linked with a switch to Super League for 2021.

The Front Row understands Sorenson is keen to move to England next year to continue his career in Super League.

The 27-year-old back-rower is off-contract and set to leave the Sharks.

It is believed Wakefield Trinity is one English club interested in acquiring the second-rower.

Wakefield CEO Michael Carter said: "He's been mentioned, but we haven't had a conversation about him yet."

Sydney-born Sorenson is the nephew of former New Zealand internationals Kurt and Dane Sorenson. Both brothers played for Cronulla, with Kurt starring overseas with Wigan, Widnes and Whitehaven as well.

Scott came through the Sharks' junior ranks and debuted in the NRL in 2014. He then joined South Sydney but failed to make a first-grade appearance with the Bunnies.

The forward signed for Canberra in 2017 and played two NRL games for the Raiders. He then returned to Cronulla in 2018.

In the past three seasons the former Endeavour Sports High School student has racked up 32 appearances in the NRL.

Sorenson has twice been named in the reserve grade team of the year, in the Intrust Super Premiership NSW team in 2017 and then in 2019 in the Canterbury Cup NSW team.

Last year he helped Newton defeat Burleigh Bears in the NRL State Championship grand final.

Wakefield already have a number of former Sharks players on their books in David Fifita and Tinirau Arona.

But Elstone's administration appear to have a Back To The Future outlook. Bradford is a big city, they have a strong travelling support and they are one of only four clubs to have won Super League.

OK, let's begin to count the drawbacks. They're only fresh out of League 1 and have a playing roster that reflects that. They've gone broke multiple times, the most recent occasion being last year when I was among the creditors. They're homeless, currently playing their games at Dewsbury.

Bradford getting in would be something approaching a scandal if rugby league was a mainstream sport in this country. But as it is, the press reaction will be critical if mixed and Super League will have another go at recreating what it was sometime between Paris St Germain going broke and Catalans joining.

Trying to make great again something that wasn't great in the first place always results in disappointment.

The year of living precariously

“WILL there be an asterisk alongside whoever wins Super League this year?”

Myself and fellow reporters John Davidson and Ross Heppenstall have started doing a live stream for our Patreon platform every Friday and taking questions from subscribers and, well, randoms.

This one caught us a little by surprise a couple of weeks ago. I mean, if there's an asterisk alongside the Super League champions in 2020 then there's one alongside everything, right? The price of milk, the median wage, the unemployment figures, rent... everything.

That's 2020.

The NRL has asterisks in the years Melbourne were stripped of their titles for salary cap abuse. Some honour rolls have asterisks for 1997, when there were two competitions. But Super League this year?

Well, things haven't got as smoothly here as they have in Australia. There, players have been kept in strict bubbles and there hasn't been a single Covid positive. Here in England, there have been multiple positives almost every week and many games have been cancelled, with teams 'swapping in' at a day's notice.

The competition table was changed on September 9 so that percentages of games won would determine positions rather than competition points. Then the system of determining the grand finalists was changed too, with the regular season effectively abandoned and the finals starting a week early.

Otherwise, it was mathematically impossible - and has been for several weeks - for Hull to be playing this week.

We don't know what is around the corner but here's five things from the Year Of Living Precariously that are unlikely to be ever repeated:

1. MULTIPLE TEAMS FAIL TO COMPLETE FIXTURES.

OK, we can't say for sure that there will never be another Toronto Wolfpack, who on July 22 announced they were withdrawing from the competition completely - only after an advertising campaign for the relaunch was announced. But Salford also forfeited a match while Castleford and Hull KR were unable to finish the regular season because of Covid positives. It's hard to see these catastrophes being repeated;

2. THE TEAM THAT FINISHES OUTSIDE THE TOP HALF IN THE SEMI-FINALS.

Generally speaking, it's never a good idea to have more than half the teams in a pro sports league make the play-offs. Wildcards might add a bit of excitement but if you can win fewer than half your games and still win the competition, then the value and importance of the regular season diminishes. I guess under this premise, half of the Hull team are entitled to be there and the other half aren't, since sixth is precisely the midpoint of the table;

3. YOU CAN WIN THE CHALLENGE CUP WITH ONLY THREE VICTORIES.

Leeds' efforts at an empty Wembley on October 17 should not be disrespected but when Toronto Wolfpack plus all lower division clubs withdrew from

riously

Steve Mascord
Contributor



the sixth round, leaving only two fixtures, this was a very different competition. Leeds entered at the quarter-final stage, beat Hull KR and Wigan and - abracadabra - they were off to Wembley;

about neutrality and the possibility of having Hull play the grand final at KC Stadium has some people apoplectic.

4. GRAND FINAL AT A SUPER LEAGUE HOME GROUND:

In Oz, many teams have used grand final venues like the Sydney Football Stadium and both ANZ Stadiums (Brisbane are based there in 1997) as their home grounds and gone on to win grand finals there. But in England we're a bit more sensitive

5. A SEMI-FINAL IS A TEAM'S 14TH LEAGUE GAME OF THE YEAR:

A lot of people think the season should be shortened but this is ridiculous. Even if Super League had the courage to make the season as long as the NFL and create enormous demand for each match, no team would have as skinny a fixture list as Catalans.

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