

The



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FRONT ROW

ROUND 1 2021

VOLUME 2 · ISSUE 1

*Every club
previewed*

Our writers look at all 16 NRL teams
ahead of the 2021 season

*Footy to do
the talking*

Jayden Brailey is back
- and has a new focus



LET THE GAMES BEGIN

WHO'S BEST PLACED TO STEAL THE STORM'S CROWN IN 2021?

INSIDE: NRL Round 1 program with squad lists, previews & head to head stats



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Match Centre: Round 1 Next Round >

Thu 8:00PM Storm vs Rabbitohs Match Centre	Fri 6:00PM Knights vs Bulldogs Match Centre	Fri 8:00PM Broncos vs Eels Match Centre	Sat 3:00PM Warriors vs Titans Match Centre	Sat 5:30PM Roosters vs Sea Eagles Match Centre	Sat 7:30PM Panthers vs Cowboys Match Centre	Sun 4:00PM Raiders vs Wests Tigers Match Centre	Sun 6:15PM D... vs S... Match Centre
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Warriors to stay in Australia til June

VODAFONE Warriors CEO Cameron George has today confirmed the club has been forced to extend the NRL team's stay in Australia until June 21.

6 Mar 2021 9:59AM

NRL issues breach notices to t Raiders players

THE NRL has issued both Corey Horsburgh and Corey Harawata with breach notices.

6 Mar 2021 12:03PM

Latest News

2021 NRL Season Previews
THROUGHOUT February and March, our dedicated team of writers and contributors have been busy previewing each of the 16 NRL clubs - with just days to go before the season kicks off, get access to the reviews right now in one easy spot!

9 Mar 2021 1:50PM | LeagueUnlimited Team

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26 hours ago | LeagueUnlimited Media

MELBOURNE **0 STORM** VS **0 RABBITOHS** SOUTH SYDNEY

Pre Match **0:00**

8:05pm Thu March 11, 2021
Round 1 - AAMI Park

#NRLStormSouths

PRE-MATCH TEAMS PLAY BY PLAY SCORERS WRAP UP

Round 1:

Form Guide	Upcoming Games	Form Guide	Upcoming Games
Yet to play this season	Round 2 Bankwest Stadium V	Yet to play this season	Round 2 Lottoland V
	Round 3 Panthers Stadium V		Round 3 Stadium Australia V
	Round 4 AAMI Park V		Round 4 Stadium Australia V
	Round 5 HBF Park V		Round 5 Stadium Australia V

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From the editor

Tim Costello

WE'RE BACK!

After one of the toughest years any of us can remember, the footy is back and it's gonna be a mammoth season.

Save for any unexpected COVID outbreak, we're back to a full 25-round season, Origin in winter, and an October long weekend Grand Final. Fans in the stands from the first round. Boy, it's gonna be good.

And we're back. To start, we're just publishing online. We aim to be your handy match program you can refer to for the 2021 season. This week we're also packing the pages with our fantastic club previews - our writers spent a great deal of time to bring you their thoughts on all sixteen NRL clubs for this coming season.

As much as possible, we're also aiming to keep you across the lower grades. It's something we pride ourselves on at LeagueUnlimited.com - so expect to see plenty of NSWRL and QRL teamlists and results as the year progresses.

Most of all - enjoy this opening edition for 2021, and ENJOY THE FOOTY!

The FRONT ROW ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We'd like to thank RugbyLeagueProject.org for their support and use of various statistics throughout this publication. Interested in advertising with The Front Row or LeagueUnlimited.com, or just want to provide feedback? Contact us by email - media@leagueunlimited.com
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Cover image: Melbourne Storm fullback Ryan Papenhuyzen has his eye on another title.
Courtesy: Melbourne Storm media



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	'Elementary'

WHO DARES WIN?

ROB CROSBY predicts how 2021 will pan out...

After one of the most turbulent seasons in the history of rugby league, all 16 NRL clubs will be hoping a return to normalcy results in premiership glory.

Can the Storm go back-to-back? Which team will be the biggest improvers? Will the Broncos get off the bottom of the ladder?

As with every set of predictions, these are entirely subjective and meant to be taken in good faith. I'm happy to own that I backed the Broncos and Bulldogs to make the finals in 2020, but I also tipped Will Kennedy to finish last year as Cronulla's preferred fullback!

Rugby League has impacted my life for the better in so many ways. I hope every fan experiences the highs of winning and stands by their team during the dark times. Bring on 2021!

16TH – NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS: The Cowboys were spared a lot of deserved criticism last year due to the train wreck experienced by their higher profile Queensland rivals. Making little movement in the transfer market with journeyman Lachlan Burr the only signing of note, former Warriors mentor Todd Payten looks set to have a tough job with a squad that has struggled to adapt to life post-JT.

Crystal Ball – Jake Clifford is denied an early release to Newcastle and left to languish in reserve grade over the final two months of the season.

15TH – ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS: Paul McGregor's time at the joint venture needed to come to an end, but it remains to be seen whether Anthony Griffin is the man to restore the club to its former glory. Set to field a youthful backline and benefit from a fully fit Jack Bird, inconsistent playmakers Ben Hunt and Corey Norman will need to fire for the Dragons to have any chance of making an impact.

Crystal Ball – The form of Blake Lawrie and Josh Kerr results in representative prop Paul Vaughan being relegated to the bench for much of the year.

14TH – BRISBANE BRONCOS: After finally hitting rock bottom with a wooden spoon finish in 2020, new coach Kevin Walters will need early wins to regain the faith of supporters. Set to field a number of different playmakers over the course of 25 rounds, it's hard to imagine the Broncos posing a serious challenge for the top eight.

Crystal Ball – After being informed he won't be offered a new contract for 2022, Anthony Milford is granted a mid-year release to sign a short-term deal in England.

13TH – WESTS TIGERS: Staring down the prospect of missing the finals for a tenth consecutive season, the Wests Tigers will be banking on veteran prop James Tamou instilling a tougher edge throughout the playing ranks. Boasting a dangerous backline headlined by enigmatic centre pairing Joey Leilua and James Roberts, coach Michael Maguire will be hoping young Queensland Jake Simpkin can follow in the footsteps of Harry Grant in the number nine jersey.

Crystal Ball – After failing to lead the joint venture to the finals for the eighth straight year, halfback Luke Brooks finishes the season in reserve grade.

12TH – CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS: Overhauling their roster in an effort to break a finals drought dating back to 2016, the Bulldogs will need a competitive start after beginning their past three campaigns in dismal form. Renown for their tenacity and team spirit, second chance coach Trent Barrett will be focused on overhauling the side's lacklustre attack as an early priority.

Crystal Ball – Jake Averillo thrives in the number six jersey after beginning the year as a centre.



Image: Bulldogs Media

11TH – MANLY SEA EAGLES: Enduring a dismal 2020 cruelled by injuries and a lack of defensive grit, the Sea Eagles will be banking on a fit-and-firing Tom Trbojevic to improve their fortunes. Investing heavily in outside backs at the expense of a recognised dummy half, returning favourite Kieran Foran shapes as a player capable of determining where the side finishes up.

Crystal Ball – After struggling with multiple makeshift number nines, Des Hasler is forced to purchase a recognised hooker prior to the transfer deadline.

10TH – GOLD COAST TITANS: Touted as a team on the rise off the back of an impressive recruitment drive, the Titans will be hoping to carry their strong finish to last year into 2021. Making the most of his second chance at the big time, newly appointed co-captain Jamal Fogarty looms as a key figure in the side's bid to feature in September.

Crystal Ball – A key playmaking injury coincides with a mid-season run of losses



Image: Sharks Media

9TH – CRONULLA SHARKS

Bowing out in the opening week of the finals over the past two years, the Sharks will be looking to prove their worth against the heavyweights of the competition. Unable to beat a top eight team once last season, an injury-free campaign could see Matt Moylan regain his status as one of the best attacking players in the game. *Crystal Ball – Experienced outside back Josh Dugan silences his critics to earn a new deal.*

8TH – NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

Breaking back into the finals after a seven-year absence, the Knights will be aiming to feature in back-to-back play-offs for the first time since 2003. Welcoming hardened second rower Tyson Frizell to the club, the search for consistency is set to be a primary goal for coach Adam O'Brien in his second year at the helm.

Crystal Ball – Exciting speedster Stafford To'a enjoys a breakout year with 15 tries.



Image: Knights Media

4TH – PENRITH PANTHERS

The Panthers may have won 17 games in a row last year, yet the sting of saving their worst for last is set to be the enduring memory. Losing several experienced players over the off-season, it's unlikely Ivan Cleary's men will be able to recapture the heights of 2020.

Crystal Ball – Canterbury-bound playmaker Matt Burton sees out the entire season at the foot of the mountains and steps up following an injury in the halves.

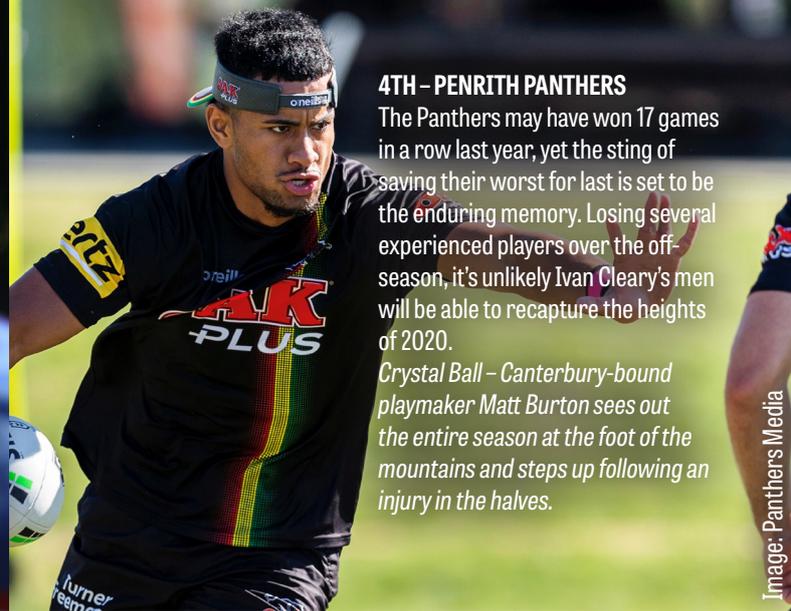


Image: Panthers Media

7TH – NEW ZEALAND WARRIORS: Coming off a year of hardship and sacrifice as a more resilient outfit, the Warriors will be looking to improve further under the watch of new mentor Nathan Brown. Welcoming a host of new faces headlined by premier front-rower Addin Fonua-Blake, captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck will be eager to make his final season one to remember ahead of his switch to the 15-man code.

Crystal Ball – Tohu Harris is named captain of the New Zealand national team following another outstanding season.

6TH – PARRAMATTA EELS: Beginning last season as the team to beat before bowing out of the play-offs in straight sets, the Eels have too much class to miss the finals - but a premiership appears unlikely. Acquiring some handy buys in Isaiah Papalii and Tom Opacic, the signing of Bryce Cartwright could be a masterstroke if the much-maligned forward can recapture the form that saw him on the cusp of NSW selection.

Crystal Ball – Reed Mahoney and Joey Lussick form a potent combination out of dummy half.

5TH – SYDNEY ROOSTERS: Coming off a disappointing season (by Roosters' standards) with back-to-back losses in the finals, 2021 shapes as a career-definer for coach Trent Robinson. Heading into the year with an untested playmaker, captain Boyd Cordner rested for half the season and versatile stalwart Mitchell Aubusson hanging up the boots, the Tricolours will remain competitive without being the premiership force of recent years.

Crystal Ball – The Tricolours struggle to find a regular partner for Luke Keary with Lachlan Lam, Sam Walker, Drew Hutchison and Adam Keighran all spending time in the halves.

3RD – CANBERRA RAIDERS: Finishing one game short of the grand final after many dismissed their chances in the wake of Josh Hodgson's season-ending knee injury, the Raiders will be hoping 2021 bring about greater luck with injury. Enduring a traumatic first season in the nation's capital, premiership winner Curtis Scott will be primed to bounce back with a vengeance.

Crystal Ball – A wealth of forwards sees veteran Iosia Soliola struggle to crack the top 17.

2ND – SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS: Starting 2020 slowly before finding form at the right time of year, the Rabbitohs appear set to challenge for the title after falling short in three consecutive preliminary finals. Boasting a roster stacked with talent and experience, little-known forward Jacob Host could be one of the buys of the year after taking up an opportunity to learn under Wayne Bennett.

Crystal Ball – Latrell Mitchell thrives in the number one jersey and earns a New South Wales recall.

1ST – MELBOURNE STORM: Even without Cameron Smith at the helm, the Storm are far-and-away the best team in the league. Boasting a roster stacked with veterans and young guns yet to reach their prime, coach Craig Bellamy has cultivated a culture of success that stands above the rest.

Crystal Ball – Josh Addo-Carr becomes the first Storm player to score five tries in a match



Image: Storm Media

ROB'S PICKS FOR 2021

NRL Premiers
Top Point-scorer
Top Try-scorer
State of Origin
World Cup
Most Improved
Best Signing
Rookie of the Year

Melbourne Storm
Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs)
Ronaldo Mulitalo (Sharks)
NSW (2-1)
Postponed due to COVID-19
Jacob Host (Rabbitohs)
Joey Lussick (Eels)
Jake Howarth (Storm)
Naufahu White (Roosters)
Daine Laurie (Tigers)

STRING TO HIS BOW

PAUL JOBBER on how Newcastle hooker Jayden Brailey is focused on posing more questions with the footy

SINCE making his debut in 2017 for Cronulla-Sutherland, Knights hooker Jayden Brailey has created a reputation as a defensive workhorse.

Ahead of Newcastle's 2021 season opener against the Bulldogs on March 12, the former Shark has given an insight into what his focus was on this pre-season.

"I've worked heavily on my kicking game which I want to implement a bit more this year," he said.

"It's probably not something that comes naturally to me and my game but I think I can bring a lot of value to the Knights team if I can get that in this year."

The news will come as music to the ears of halfback Mitchell Pearce who all too often was the Knights' sole general-play kicker on tackle five in 2020.

Not only does Brailey want to take some pressure off Pearce when it comes to kicking the footy, he also wants to be more of a threat out of dummy half.

If he can develop his running game, Adam O'Brien's men will have a few more options in good-ball areas - something they lacked last season.

"Being a bit more of an attacking threat is a big thing for me," Brailey said.

"I just want to do everything I can for the team, put the team first and do everything I can to get some wins on the board."

When Brailey runs onto McDonald Jones Stadium on Friday night, it will be his first NRL game since the knee injury suffered against the Wests Tigers in round two last year.

Despite emerging unscathed from a 40-minute stint in the club's final trial against the Storm in Albury, Brailey will still suffer from nerves.

"I was pretty nervous before the trial being my first proper game, but hopefully the nerves will be a little bit more eased now I've got that out of the way," he said.

"I'm really looking forward to this Friday and just getting back to what I do best and playing some good football."

The former Shark admitted his promotion to the club's leadership group had come out of the blue after only donning the red and blue for two matches.

"It was definitely a surprise, but for me I feel like I've experienced a lot and it's my fifth year now (in the NRL)," he said.

"I don't see myself as a young guy anymore, I've experienced enough to help a lot of the young guys and lead the boys as best I can around the park."

Brailey knows Friday night's opponents will be much-improved on previous seasons.

"Last year I wasn't playing but I remember they played a really good game of footy and they beat us here at home," he recalled.

"They've got a few more new recruits and a new coach so we're not taking them lightly at all and they had a good trial win against the Sharks, so they'll be a tough opponent."

The club will also welcome back the red and blue faithful with COVID-19 restrictions allowing the venue to be at 75 percent capacity.

"Being able to have all the Knights fans back is massive for us players ... we really missed them last year," Brailey said.

"Round one was the only time I got to play in front of fans last year and it was a miserable old day, but geez the fans really turned out for us."



BRISBANE LACHY MacCORQUODALE

Will Kevin Walters be the man to bring the Brisbane Broncos from the rubble or will 2021 be a repeat of the embarrassing season that was 2020?

The Broncos' 2020 campaign was a disaster, as the club collected their maiden wooden spoon. Despite winning two from two to open the season, the Broncos failed to find any rhythm after the restart of the competition in May as the global pandemic took charge. When they returned in May, the Broncos lost six straight matches with a win against the Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs giving them some hope for the remainder of the season. Unfortunately, it would only get worse for Brisbane, losing their last 11 games of the season to cement their place in history as the worst performing Broncos' side of all time.

2021 brings Broncos legend, Kevin Walters into the frame as the clubs' head coach after four seasons in charge of the Queensland State of Origin side. Unfortunately, the 2021 season does not look all too promising for the Broncos, firstly, with the young prodigy, David Fifita moving to rivals the Gold Coast Titans and secondly, an injury to star centre Kotoni Staggs which won't see him feature until the middle of the season.

Why They'll Win It

A lot of things will have to go right if the Brisbane Broncos are to pose a threat to the competition favourites in 2021. In fact, it would most likely require a miracle. However, it was just 18 months ago when the Broncos last featured in the finals with a similar squad to the one they boast now. The likes of Payne Haas, Anthony Milford, Patrick Carrigan and Tevita Pangai Jr will be pivotal if the Broncos are to make a run for the title along with some extra help from their upcoming young stars. Brisbane's forward pack should be up to the job, but special performances will need to come from those playing in the spine. Young 19-year-old, Tom Dearden became a regular during the second half of last season showed glimpses of the player he could one day become. In his 10 starts at halfback, Dearden created three tries, forced a total of five dropouts whilst running for 63.4 metres per game. Just 17 games into his career, Dearden could be expected to improve throughout the year and will need to do so to keep his spot in the side. If the halfback can take more control and responsibility of the side, it will enable Anthony Milford the freedom to return to his best football which gives the Broncos their best chance of making a push for the premiership in 2021.

Why They Won't

There are a lot of reasons why the Broncos will not challenge for the title in 2021 and their performances last season are one of them. Brisbane struggled on both ends of the field last season, scoring the least number of points (268) whilst being the only side to concede over 600 points last season (624). After the restart of the competition, the Broncos only restricted their opponents to under 20 points just twice in 18 matches, a feat which can not be repeated if the Broncos wish to improve on their 2020 season.

However, the current squad as it stands is very similar to that of the 2020 squad besides a few exceptions. The loss of David Fifita to the Gold Coast Titans is a massive loss and one that Broncos fans will be disappointed about given the talent and x-factor ability that the young backrower possesses. The 20-year-old only played nine games for the Broncos' yet managed to average five tackles breaks and 128 run metres along with four tries as he demonstrated his immense potential.

Another major loss for the Broncos is the injury to Kotoni Staggs, suffered at the end of last season, ruling him out for the opening half of the season. One of Brisbane's best players and a potential candidate for the New South Wales side down the track will be a big exclusion in an inexperienced Broncos' side. At just 22 years of age, Staggs has managed to score 23 tries in just 47 appearances and has been touted for higher honours as he continues to impress the wider NRL community, especially during 2020 as he crossed the line on 10 occasions during his 14 games last season.

Key Players

New South Wales prop **Payne Haas** will once again be a key component of the Broncos side during the 2021 season. The 21-year-old had another monster season

in 2020 averaging 175 run metres and 33.7 tackles per game in 72 minutes per game. The inclusion of John Asiata into the middle forwards rotation could allow Haas some extra minutes on the bench which should in hand produce his impact on the field.

Queensland Origin winger **Xavier Coates** will play a big part this season for the Broncos after an excellent debut Origin series. Despite an inconsistent 2020 season, the 19-year-old averaged 115 run metres per game which should see a rise during the 2021 season. Five tries in 12 appearances wasn't an ideal strike rate for Coates, however, it's hard to cross the stripe for a side that can only manage to score 13 points per game. Coates try scoring record for 2021 is largely dependent on whether or not the Broncos' spine can spark some creativity, something they desperately lacked during the 2020 season.

Rookies to Watch

19-year-old **Tesi Niu** is set to feature this season for the Broncos after making six appearances in his debut season. Expected to play in the centres, the youngster filled in at fullback last year and proved to be a hard kid to tackle, breaking 13 tackles in his four starts at the back. A highly touted prospect having already represented the Tongan national side during 2019 is set for a big year if he can avoid any potential injuries.

Player Movements

IN: Dale Copley, John Asiata, David Mead

OUT: Darius Boyd, Matt Gillett, David Fifita, Sean O'Sullivan, Jack Bird, Andrew McCullough, Joe Ofahengau

Best 17

1. Jamanye Isaako 2. Xavier Coates 3. Kotoni Staggs 4. Tesi Niu 5. Herbie Farnworth 6. Anthony Milford 7. Thomas Dearden 8. Payne Haas 9. Jake Turpin 10. Matthew Lodge 11. Tevita Pangai Jr. 12. Alex Glenn 13. Patrick Carrigan Interchange: 14. Thomas Flegler 15. John Asiata 16. Jordan Riki 17. Cory Paix

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Fri	Mar 12th	8:05pm	Brisbane	Parramatta	Suncorp
2	Fri	Mar 19th	8:05pm	Gold Coast	Brisbane	CBUS
3	Sat	Mar 27th	5:30pm	Brisbane	Canterbury	Suncorp
4	Fri	Apr 2nd	8:05pm	Melbourne	Brisbane	AAMI Park
5	Thu	Apr 8th	7:50pm	South Sydney	Brisbane	Stadium Aust
6	Thu	Apr 15th	7:50pm	Brisbane	Penrith	Suncorp
7	Fri	Apr 23rd	7:55pm	Parramatta	Brisbane	TIO Stadium
8	Fri	Apr 30th	7:55pm	Brisbane	Gold Coast	Suncorp
9	Sat	May 8th	7:35pm	North Qld	Brisbane	QCBS
10	Fri	May 14th	8:05pm	Manly	Brisbane	Suncorp
11	Sat	May 22nd	5:30pm	Sydney	Brisbane	SCG
12	Thu	May 27th	7:50pm	Brisbane	Melbourne	Suncorp
13	Thu	Jun 3rd	7:50pm	St Geo Illa	Brisbane	Netstrata
14	Sat	Jun 12th	7:35pm	Canberra	Brisbane	GIO Stadium
15	Thu	Jun 17th	7:50pm	Brisbane	South Sydney	Suncorp
16	Sun	Jul 4th	2:00pm	Brisbane	Cronulla	Suncorp
18	Sun	Jul 18th	4:05pm	Brisbane	Wests Tigers	Suncorp
19	Sat	Jul 24th	7:35pm	Penrith	Brisbane	Panthers
20	Fri	Jul 30th	7:55pm	Brisbane	North Qld	Suncorp
21	Thu	Aug 5th	7:50pm	Newcastle	Brisbane	McDonald Jones
22	Fri	Aug 13th	7:55pm	Brisbane	Sydney	Suncorp
23	Sun	Aug 22nd	4:05pm	Brisbane	Warriors	Suncorp
24	Sat	Aug 28th	5:30pm	Cronulla	Brisbane	Netstrata
25	Sat	Sep 4th	5:30pm	Brisbane	Newcastle	Suncorp

CANBERRA ANDREW JACKSON

If there was one word that defined the Canberra Raiders' 2020 season it was resilience.

The resilience to push past a mounting injury toll, last-minute travel turmoil and the heartbreak of a grand final defeat in an attempt to this time go one better. Once again, they fell short - torn apart by a ruthless Melbourne Storm outfit at Suncorp Stadium. Once again, they were left to wonder what could have been. But if there were two moments that came to epitomise the resilient Raiders under Ricky Stuart's guidance, you have to go back to their 22-18 semi-final victory over the Roosters.

Finals football is so often defined by plays that require a split-second decision but have lasting consequences. In the big moments, the Raiders stood tall. Joseph Tapine bested five Roosters forwards all the way to the try line while later Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad desperately came across in cover defence to force Josh Morris into touch.

"They are the moments you remember. They are the moments that are really important in big games," Stuart said at the time.

Stuart had the Raiders believing the whole time, that they were the underdogs that everyone had been writing off, the second that Josh Hodgson went down with an ACL tear. It is a narrative that has long suited Canberra but as heroic as 2020 was, it was also yet another missed opportunity. With a healthy roster, the aim this year will be to finally seize the moment when it matters, like Tapine and Nicoll-Klokstad had.

Why they'll win it

As talented as Canberra's roster is, talent is only one ingredient in a premiership-winning team. Just as important is the man at the helm - and the consistent success of Trent Robinson and Craig Bellamy is no fluke. Ricky Stuart is a different style of coach to those two. He sits there on the sidelines on a plastic chair, at times drenched in rain, to feel what the players feel. They invest themselves so heavily into the club and he does the same to them. In July last year, Stuart was not even able to name a full 21-man squad, such was the injury crisis facing the club. As Nicoll-Klokstad joined 11 teammates on the casualty ward, Stuart's undermanned Raiders outlasted Wayne Bennett's Bunbunies 18-12.

There is plenty of character in this Canberra side and so much of it comes from their passionate coach. The Raiders made it so far last year without a host of big names - if they are all fit the belief is there that they have so much more to give.

Why they won't

There is not really a glaring problem or question mark surrounding Canberra that immediately casts doubt over their premiership credentials. The way Melbourne exposed them out wide in the preliminary final last year was a concern though. Curtis Scott was carved up on a number of occasions last season while Jarrod Croker also had a tendency to rush up.

No John Bateman means a new combination with Hudson Young in the frame to start in the second row ahead of Corey Harawira-Naera, adding an extra element of uncertainty there. The loss of Bateman will be a blow given his competitive drive but Young has the adequate mongrel and aggression to make up for it. Young's numbers in attack were also very similar to Bateman so the Raiders should not miss too much in that sense. The indecision in defence on the edge though remains the primary concern.

Key Players

While there may be some pressure on Josh Hodgson to reach his stellar form pre-injury, the rise of both **Tom Starling** and **Siliva Havili** eases that potential headache. When Hodgson was ruled out for the season most experts were quick to rule Canberra out of premiership contention.

The dynamic duo of Starling and Havili though rose to the occasion and they did not fall into the trap of trying to emulate Hodgson either. Both had different roles in the team too - Havili capable of weathering the storm early in defence by taking big hits

from forwards while Starling's running game made him a perfect impact player. Havili's versatility and selfless attitude makes him a key addition on the bench but he may end up missing out given Starling's attacking potential (five try assists, 21 tackle busts and five linebreaks from 14 games last season).

Rookies to watch

Harley Smith-Shields was the pick last season and once again he looks like the rookie best placed to have a breakout 2021. Smith-Shields was elevated into Canberra's top 30 squad last year after being awarded the club's Jersey Flegg Player of the Year Award in 2019. He also made seven appearances for Canberra's feeder club Mounties, scoring six tries, busting 30 tackles, breaking the line five times and averaging 108 running metres.

Smith-Shields made just two NRL appearances in 2020 - one off the bench and another starting at centre, where he scored a try, made a linebreak, busted a tackle and ran 123 metres. With Croker set to be sidelined for the start of the season he has the perfect opportunity to press his claims, although it likely would not be at the expense of the club captain. It is more likely to see Scott drop out and Stuart has shown in the past he is willing to make big calls.

Player Movements

IN: Harry Rushton, Ryan James, Caleb Aekins

OUT: Michael Oldfield, John Bateman, Nick Cotric, Luke Bateman, Jack Murchie

Best 17

1. Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad 2. Bailey Simonsson 3. Jarrod Croker 4. Curtis Scott 5. Jordan Rapana 6. Jack Wighton 7. George Williams 8. Josh Papalii 9. Josh Hodgson 10. Dunamis Lui 11. Hudson Young 12. Elliott Whitehead 13. Joe Tapine
Interchange: 14. Tom Starling 15. Corey Horsburgh 16. Corey Harawira-Naera 17. Emre Guler

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sun	Mar 14th	4:05pm	Canberra	Wests Tigers	GIO Stadium
2	Sun	Mar 21st	6:15pm	Cronulla	Canberra	Netstrata
3	Sat	Mar 27th	3:00pm	Canberra	Warriors	GIO Stadium
4	Sat	Apr 3rd	5:30pm	Gold Coast	Canberra	CBUS
5	Fri	Apr 9th	7:55pm	Penrith	Canberra	Panthers
6	Sat	Apr 17th	7:35pm	Canberra	Parramatta	GIO Stadium
7	Sat	Apr 24th	7:35pm	North Qld	Canberra	QCBS
8	Thu	Apr 29th	7:50pm	Canberra	South Sydney	GIO Stadium
9	Sat	May 8th	3:00pm	Canberra	Newcastle	McDonalds Park
10	Sat	May 15th	3:00pm	Canterbury	Canberra	Suncorp
11	Sat	May 22nd	7:35pm	Canberra	Melbourne	GIO Stadium
12	Sat	May 29th	7:35pm	Sydney	Canberra	Central Coast
14	Sat	Jun 12th	7:35pm	Canberra	Brisbane	GIO Stadium
15	Sat	Jun 19th	5:30pm	St Geo Illa	Canberra	WIN Stadium
16	Sat	Jul 3rd	5:30pm	Canberra	Gold Coast	GIO Stadium
17	Thu	Jul 8th	7:50pm	Manly	Canberra	Lottoland
18	Sat	Jul 17th	3:00pm	Canberra	Cronulla	GIO Stadium
19	Thu	Jul 22nd	7:50pm	Parramatta	Canberra	Bankwest
20	Sat	Jul 31st	5:30pm	Newcastle	Canberra	McDonald Jones
21	Fri	Aug 6th	6:00pm	Canberra	St Geo Illa	GIO Stadium
22	Thu	Aug 12th	7:50pm	Melbourne	Canberra	AAMI Park
23	Fri	Aug 20th	6:00pm	Canberra	Manly	GIO Stadium
24	Fri	Aug 27th	6:00pm	Warriors	Canberra	Mt Smart
25	Thu	Sep 2nd	7:50pm	Canberra	Sydney	GIO Stadium

CANTERBURY SAM BOURKE

After winning just 3 matches in 2020, the only way is up for the Bulldogs, with the once powerhouse club ushering in a new era.

The signing of new coach Trent Barrett has seen the well-connected coach secure a suite of up and coming players to complement the current roster in order to take the club forward in 2021. After a few seasons of despair, there is the sweet scent of optimism in the air down Belmore way.

2020 was simply rock bottom out for the Bulldogs, with their season becoming an epic disaster before a ball had been kicked. It commenced with the schoolgirl scandal in Port Macquarie leading to the sacking (and later re-instatement) of Jayden Okunbor, as well as Corey Harawira-Naera, who was later released to join the Raiders mid-season. The scandal provided a horrible platform with the Dogs starting the season dismally and it quickly turned into survival mode for under pressure coach Dean Pay who registered a stay of execution with their first win registered over the equally woeful Dragons on Easter Monday. It was all over for coach Pay however in Round 9 when the Dogs were dismantled by fellow cellar dwellers Brisbane as the club looked destined for their first spoon since 2008. Assistant coach Steve Georgallis took over for the rest of the season as the team tried their heart out most weeks, but simply did not have the talent on their roster to score enough points against the quality sides. It wasn't until the penultimate round that Canterbury put together a performance their patient and loyal fans had waited for, when they stunned the top 4 Rabbitohs outfit 26-16 (who themselves smashed reigning premiers the Roosters just days later), gifting last place on for-and-against to the Brisbane Broncos for the first time in that club's history.

With the ultimate insult of a Wooden Spoon avoided and with the diabolical decisions of the past - with back ended deals for former players to play at rival clubs finally lapsed - the club immediately set out to ensure future investments were wise ones. Barrett needed a major signing to get the ball rolling and he did so with Raiders and NSW outside back Nick Cotric. This saw a domino effect with promising forwards Corey Waddell and Jack Hetherington join the club, along with halfback prodigy and very hard done by Kyle Flanagan arriving from the Roosters. QLD Origin fullback Corey Allan then made the trip from Redfern to complete a refreshed and much stronger squad for 2021. Not only that, 2022 will see Panthers hot shot Matt Burton and premiership winner and Australian winger Josh Addo-Carr arrive in a huge show of faith that Canterbury are finally on the rise.

Why they'll win it

The Dogs recruitment has been the best in the NRL over the offseason. They can't score points, well they've recruited the 3rd best pointscorer of 2020 in Kyle Flanagan and added Origin level outside backs in Corey Allan and Nick Cotric. These keys additions further complement their already solid forward pack who kept them in the majority of their losses last year, with the Bulldogs losing just over half of their games by 8 points or less. The aggressive 'Dogs of War' forward pack could return in a big way with the front row rotation of firebrands Dylan Napa and Jack Hetherington supporting English prop Luke Thompson who enters his first full season in Australia. On paper the Dogs are a bit of an unknown commodity with so many new recruits and therefore could just be the surprise packs that find their way back to finals football and beyond if things really click.

Why they won't

The Bulldogs haven't made the finals since 2016 and their problems aren't going to be solved in one fell swoop. The facts are that in 2020 they were second last for most tries conceded, second last for missed tackles and unsurprisingly second last on the ladder. There are simply too many question marks over the relatively inexperienced coach Trent Barrett, whose tenure at Manly ended in poorly, Kyle Flanagan was rejected by the high flying Roosters after one year and now has to direct one of the cellar dwellers and how many suspensions will be shared between Thompson, Napa and Hetherington?

Key Players

The two marquee signings for Canterbury in **Kyle Flanagan** and **Nick Cotric** automatically become the key players to the Bulldogs planned revival. Halfback Flanagan has been endorsed by Barrett as holding the keys to the side and how he responds from his much publicised public dumping by the Roosters is a fascinating prospect. The goalkicking playmaker has revealed that signing a three year deal with Canterbury provides him with the motivation to immediately repay his new coach for showing faith in his ability. Flanagan comes from working under the expertise of Trent Robinson and Cooper Cronk in the Roosters set up, into working with former NSW and Australian half Barrett, who had huge success with the Panthers halves in Nathan Cleary and Jerome Luai in 2020. Filling a constant in the number 7 jersey has coincided with the Dogs slide down the ladder in recent seasons and Flanagan can be the player

to make the halfback position his own for years to come. The left centre position has also been a revolving door since the departure of Josh Morris two seasons ago and having been a highly successful winger at the Raiders, Cotric now gets the chance to move closer to the ball and move back to a position that he excelled at in his junior career. Cotric was again a powerhouse for the Green machine in 2020, scoring 14 tries and once again only falling behind James Tedesco for most tackle busts (122) in the NRL. Scoring tries and threatening in attack is absolutely an area the Bulldogs needed to improve in and how Cotric adapts to the centres will be pivotal for their improvement in 2021. While Canterbury did pay a large fee to prise Cotric away from Canberra, he is still only 22 years old and no doubt his best football is yet to come.

Rookies to Watch

The Bulldogs backrow will need to be on point throughout the season, as the Kennel has young pups **Matt Doorey** and **Jackson Topine** gunning for a run in the game day side. 20 year old Doorey made his NRL debut in Round 14 against the Wests Tigers in an eye catching display, scoring a runaway try. Unfortunately for Doorey, he only played five more matches before a season ending PCL injury. Doorey has recently been promoted to the Top 30 squad for this year and will see some time in the top grade at some stage. Topine has yet to make his NRL debut but was selected for the Maori All Stars and didn't let himself down. The Auckland born backrower is currently in the development squad for the side, but is already highly thought of at the club, taking out the Clubman of the Year in 2020 for his superb attitude and approach to being part of the squad. The 19 year old will look to keep improving and gain further experience in the Canterbury Cup during the early stages of the season but is a big chance to push for selection later in the season.

Player Movement

IN: Kyle Flanagan, Jack Hetherington, Corey Waddell, Nick Cotric, Corey Allan
OUT: Kieran Foran, Marcelo Montoya, Reimis Smith, Aiden Tolman, Sauaso Sue, Jack Cogger, Tim Lafai, Isaiah Tass Kerrod Holland

Best 17

1. Corey Allan 2. Nick Meaney 3. Nick Cotric 4. Will Hopoate 5. Dallin Watene-Zelezniak 6. Jake Averillo 7. Kyle Flanagan 8. Dylan Napa 9. Jeremy Marshall-King 10. Luke Thompson 11. Josh Jackson (c) 12. Raymond Faitala-Mariner 13. Adam Elliott
Interchange: 14. Lachlan Lewis 15. Corey Waddell 16. Renouf Atoni 17. Jack Hetherington

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Fri	Mar 12th	6:00pm	Newcastle	Canterbury	McDonald Jones
2	Sat	Mar 20th	3:00pm	Canterbury	Penrith	Bankwest
3	Sat	Mar 27th	5:30pm	Brisbane	Canterbury	Suncorp
4	Fri	Apr 2nd	4:05pm	Canterbury	South Sydney	Stadium Aust
5	Sat	Apr 10th	5:30pm	Canterbury	Melbourne	HBF Park
6	Sun	Apr 18th	4:05pm	North Qld	Canterbury	QCBS
7	Sat	Apr 24th	5:30pm	Cronulla	Canterbury	Netstrata
8	Sat	May 1st	5:30pm	Canterbury	Parramatta	Stadium Aust
9	Sun	May 9th	4:05pm	St Geo Illa	Canterbury	Netstrata
10	Sat	May 15th	3:00pm	Canterbury	Canberra	Suncorp
11	Sat	May 22nd	3:00pm	Gold Coast	Canterbury	CBUS
12	Sat	May 29th	3:00pm	Penrith	Canterbury	Panthers
14	Mon	Jun 14th	4:00pm	Canterbury	St Geo Illa	Stadium Aust
15	Sun	Jun 20th	2:00pm	Parramatta	Canterbury	Bankwest
16	Sat	Jul 3rd	3:00pm	Canterbury	Manly	Stadium Aust
17	Sat	Jul 10th	7:35pm	Canterbury	Sydney	Bankwest
18	Sun	Jul 18th	6:15pm	South Sydney	Canterbury	Stadium Aust
19	Sun	Jul 25th	4:05pm	Canterbury	Cronulla	Bankwest
20	Sun	Aug 1st	2:00pm	Canterbury	Gold Coast	Bankwest
21	Sun	Aug 8th	2:00pm	Canterbury	Wests Tigers	Belmore
22	Sun	Aug 15th	2:00pm	Warriors	Canterbury	Mt Smart
23	Sat	Aug 21st	5:30pm	Canterbury	Newcastle	Stadium Aust
24	Sun	Aug 29th	2:00pm	Manly	Canterbury	Lottoland
25	Sun	Sep 5th	4:05pm	Wests Tigers	Canterbury	Campbelltown

CRONULLA ANDREW FERGUSON

The epitomy of average. That was Cronulla in 2020 as they became the most perfectly average side in the game's history, as they had perfect parity in wins and losses and also in For and Against.

Under coach John Morris, the club has been immensely better in attack, considerably poorer in defence in the middle, with a much stronger focus on building success on the back of younger players, much unlike the Shane Flanagan era where importing stars was the norm.

For fans, this means there will be a few rocky seasons, but ultimately there's a long term focus in place and that's a good thing.

2020 saw the Sharks reach their sixth consecutive finals campaign, a feat the club has never achieved previously. They haven't been too active in the player market, but that will change by seasons end, when a number of highly paid players come off-contract.

The Sharks have a reasonably good draw, with more than half their games having a turnaround of either 6 or 7 days. However a downside is that they will play both 2020 Grand Finalists Melbourne and Penrith, twice each.

2021 will see the Sharks still playing their home games out of Netstrata Jubilee Stadium (save for two Queensland 'home' games). They will have a rocky run home with games against Manly, Wests Tigers, Brisbane and Melbourne - sides who the Sharks have historically struggled against.

Why they'll win it

Multi-faceted attack. The Sharks genuinely have attacking options in several areas.

Their wingers are great at finding the line, Josh Dugan at centre is hard to contain, young halves Connor Tracey and Braydon Trindall have shedloads of potential, while Shaun Johnson finally found his form in 2020 prior to suffering a tendon injury.

Then there's the fantastic young hooker Blayke Brailey, whose game along in leaps and bounds in 2020.

Not to mention the big men like a slimmer and fitter Andrew Fifita, the brilliant Wade Graham and the x-factors in Royce Hunt, Briton Nikora, Siosifa Talakai, Toby Rudolf and Braden Hamlin-Uele.

Why they won't

Middle defence. The Sharks middle was quite prone to conceding tries in the back end of games and this is something that urgently needs repairs.

You will not trouble top sides if they can walk through the meatiest part of your defence and score tries that can be easily converted. The Sharks learnt this in spades in 2020.

Key Players

Captain and second rower **Wade Graham** is a uniquely talented player. Hard-hitting, strong line running, with some deft passing skills and a very good short kicking game close to the line. He has been dogged by injuries in previous seasons, but is fully fit and ready to go for season 2021.

Hooker **Blayke Brailey** improved immensely in 2020, becoming a vital cog in the

Sharks attack and is shaping to become one of the best young rakes in the NRL. His defence is still improving too, making him a huge asset for the Sharks.

Rookies to Watch

Franklin Pele is an imposing front rower who has a penchant for running through humans. Represented as an Australian Schoolboy, this big unit has been elevated to the Sharks top 30 squad for 2021 where he will undoubtedly find his way into the NRL side.

Player Movement

IN: Luke Metcalf, Aiden Tolman

OUT: Jayson Bukuya, Cameron King, Scott Sorensen, Bryson Goodwin, Kayleb Milne

Best 17

1. William Kennedy 2. Sione Katoa 3. Josh Dugan 4. Jesse Ramien 5. Ronaldo Mulitalo 6. Shaun Johnson 7. Chad Townsend 8. Andrew Fifita 9. Blayke Brailey 10. Aiden Tolman 11. Briton Nikora 12. Wade Graham 13. Aaron Woods

Interchange: 14. Braden Hamlin-Uele 15. Toby Rudolf 16. Siosifa Talakai 17. Matt Moylan

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sun	Mar 14th	6:15pm	St Geo Illa	Cronulla	Netstrata
2	Sun	Mar 21st	6:15pm	Cronulla	Canberra	Netstrata
3	Sat	Mar 27th	7:35pm	Parramatta	Cronulla	Bankwest
4	Sat	Apr 3rd	7:35pm	Cronulla	North Qld	CBUS
5	Sat	Apr 10th	7:35pm	Sydney	Cronulla	SCG
6	Fri	Apr 16th	6:00pm	Newcastle	Cronulla	McDonald Jones
7	Sat	Apr 24th	5:30pm	Cronulla	Canterbury	Netstrata
8	Fri	Apr 30th	6:00pm	Melbourne	Cronulla	AAMI Park
9	Fri	May 7th	6:00pm	Penrith	Cronulla	Panthers
10	Sat	May 15th	5:30pm	Cronulla	South Sydney	Suncorp
11	Fri	May 21st	7:55pm	Cronulla	St Geo Illa	Netstrata
12	Sun	May 30th	2:00pm	Cronulla	Gold Coast	Central Coast
14	Fri	Jun 11th	7:55pm	Cronulla	Penrith	Netstrata
15	Fri	Jun 18th	6:00pm	North Qld	Cronulla	QCBS
16	Sun	Jul 4th	2:00pm	Brisbane	Cronulla	Suncorp
17	Sun	Jul 11th	4:05pm	Cronulla	Warriors	Netstrata
18	Sat	Jul 17th	3:00pm	Canberra	Cronulla	GIO Stadium
19	Sun	Jul 25th	4:05pm	Canterbury	Cronulla	Bankwest
20	Sun	Aug 1st	4:05pm	Cronulla	Manly	Netstrata
21	Sat	Aug 7th	3:00pm	Warriors	Cronulla	Mt Smart
22	Sun	Aug 15th	4:05pm	Cronulla	Newcastle	Netstrata
23	Sat	Aug 21st	3:00pm	Wests Tigers	Cronulla	Scully Park
24	Sat	Aug 28th	5:30pm	Cronulla	Brisbane	Netstrata
25	Fri	Sep 3rd	6:00pm	Cronulla	Melbourne	Netstrata

Riding a wave of momentum into new season.

After a slow start under debut Coach Justin Holbrook in which they managed just four wins in the opening 15 weeks of the competition, the Titans finished season 2020 as one of the hottest teams in the league winning their final five games to finish in ninth position and just one win away from the eighth placed Sharks.

It is worth noting that only one of them wins came against top 8 opposition and it's always easier to get on a late season roll when the pressure of qualifying for the finals has passed, but it was impressive all the same - mainly due to the attacking and expansive brand of footy they were producing in claiming them victories.

Coach Holbrook has seemingly wasted little time in re-shaping his roster since arriving at the club. In the Gold Coast departure lounge at the end of last year - Jai Arrow, Shannon Boyd, Ryan James, Young Tonumaiepa, Keagan Hipgrave, Dale Copley, Nathan Peats and Tyrone Roberts have all moved on with Arrow the only regular contributor out of that group last season. He was essentially replaced early last year with the signing of Tino Fa'asuamaleaui in what has turned out to be a shrewd investment given his breakout season in 2020 in which he played a key role in Melbourne lifting the trophy before making his Origin debut and helping the Maroons to an unlikely series win.

Whilst also gaining some handy pickups in Herman Ese'ese, Sam McIntyre and Patrick Herbert - the prize signing is of course that of former Bronco and Maroons representative David Fifita who gives the club the sort of star power lacking since their inaugural years when the likes of Preston Campbell and Scott Prince were lighting up the glitter strip.

Why they'll win it

With key signings Fa'asuamaleaui and Fifita joining the likes of Moeaki Fotuauka and Kevin Proctor in the Titans pack, they should have no problem laying a solid platform to showcase their exciting brand of rugby league.

Jamal Fogarty on the back of a strong breakout season should be better again this season as he continues to steer the ship, allowing Ash Taylor and AJ Brimson the freedom to showcase their attacking wares. Throw in the craft and experience of Mitch Rein out of dummy half and they look to have a well-balanced squad capable of making a deep run. They also look to have good depth with the likes of Corey Thompson, Sam Lisone, Tanah Boyd, Erin Clark, Beau Fermor and Jai Whitbread all a chance of missing out on their best 17.

Why they won't

With an air of anticipation around that they will break a five year finals drought comes a level of pressure that this squad is yet to face. How they perform under that pressure when the whips are cracking will no doubt play a key role to how deep they go. They are also probably an out and out superstar short in one of the key spine positions but who knows, that signing might yet come...

Key Players

Marquee signing **David Fifita** travels down the M1 with big expectations after signing a lucrative deal that will see the 20 year old become one of the biggest money earners in the game. Whilst some often struggle to live up to their lofty pay packets, you get the sense it won't phase the young wrecking ball with his on-field role changing little. Blessed with super-human strength that sees him busting tackles with ease, Fifita also has the ability to step off both feet and is amongst the quicker forwards getting around when in the clear. Brings with him the kind of X-factor the Titans have long been lacking, the Maroons rep is capable of winning games off his own back.

Whilst charging home to win their last five games, the real turnaround in the Titans fortunes last year came a few weeks prior when **AJ Brimson** returned from a long term back injury to ignite their attack. The blistering pace of the livewire fullback saw him cross for seven tries in nine games at the back end of the year to earn him an Origin debut. Unfortunately, Brimson suffered another blow in his rep debut injuring the Lisfranc ligament in his foot. The good news is he's reportedly on track

to line up in round one and has looked very sharp buzzing around the training paddock. The diminutive number one is the spark plug to the Titans attack and he'll need to stay relatively injury free for them to make the 8.

Rookies to Watch

Is this finally the year **Greg Marzhew** (formerly known as Greg Leleisiua) makes a long awaited first grade debut? Since making the Holden Cup team of the year at the Eels in 2017 the tackle busting winger has been touted as a future star but has been unable to break into a starting NRL side at either the Eels or Titans. In 2019 plying his trade for Parramatta feeder club Wentworthville, Marzhew averaged 173 metres and 7 tackle busts per game to lead the league in both categories. Securing a train and trial deal with the Titans last off season he forced his way into the top 30 but was unable to showcase his skills with the second tier leagues not returning in line with the NRL.

Known predominantly as a winger, Marzhew has been given an opportunity to shift one in and test his wares at centre during pre-season and scored a hat-trick playing there in the recent trial against the Burleigh Bears. Looks to have all the ability in the world will add even more strike to the Titans backline when he does crack the top grade.

Player Movement

IN: Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Herman Ese'ese, David Fifita, Patrick Herbert, Sam McIntyre
OUT: Keagan Hipgrave, Jai Arrow, Ryan James, Shannon Boyd, Young Tonumaiepa, Dale Copley

Best 17

1. AJ Brimson 2. Phillip Sami 3. Brian Kelly 4. Patrick Herbert 5. Anthony Don 6. Ash Taylor 7. Jamal Fogarty 8. Moeaki Fotuauka 9. Mitch Rein 10. Jarrod Wallace 11. David Fifita 12. Kevin Proctor 13. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui
Interchange: 14. Tyrone Peachey 15. Sam McIntyre 16. Jaimin Jolliffe 17. Herman Ese'ese

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	Mar 13th	3:00pm	Warriors	Gold Coast	Central Coast
2	Fri	Mar 19th	8:05pm	Gold Coast	Brisbane	CBUS
3	Sun	Mar 28th	6:15pm	North Qld	Gold Coast	QCBS
4	Sat	Apr 3rd	5:30pm	Gold Coast	Canberra	CBUS
5	Sat	Apr 10th	3:00pm	Gold Coast	Newcastle	CBUS
6	Sat	Apr 17th	3:00pm	Manly	Gold Coast	Glen Willow
7	Fri	Apr 23rd	6:00pm	Gold Coast	South Sydney	CBUS
8	Fri	Apr 30th	7:55pm	Brisbane	Gold Coast	Suncorp
9	Sat	May 8th	5:30pm	Wests Tigers	Gold Coast	Campbelltown
10	Sun	May 16th	6:25pm	Gold Coast	Penrith	Suncorp
11	Sat	May 22nd	3:00pm	Gold Coast	Canterbury	CBUS
12	Sun	May 30th	2:00pm	Cronulla	Gold Coast	Central Coast
13	Sat	Jun 5th	7:35pm	Melbourne	Gold Coast	AAMI Park
14	Sat	Jun 12th	3:00pm	Gold Coast	Sydney	CBUS
15	Sun	Jun 20th	4:05pm	Gold Coast	Manly	CBUS
16	Sat	Jul 3rd	5:30pm	Canberra	Gold Coast	GIO Stadium
18	Fri	Jul 16th	6:00pm	Gold Coast	Parramatta	CBUS
19	Sun	Jul 25th	2:00pm	St Geo Illa	Gold Coast	Netstrata
20	Sun	Aug 1st	2:00pm	Canterbury	Gold Coast	Bankwest
21	Sun	Aug 8th	4:05pm	Gold Coast	North Qld	CBUS
22	Sat	Aug 14th	3:00pm	South Sydney	Gold Coast	Central Coast
23	Thu	Aug 19th	7:50pm	Gold Coast	Melbourne	CBUS
24	Thu	Aug 26th	7:50pm	Newcastle	Gold Coast	McDonald Jones
25	Sun	Sep 5th	2:00pm	Gold Coast	Warriors	CBUS

MANLY-WARRINGAH ROBERT CROSBY

Few teams disappointed quite like the Manly Sea Eagles in 2020.

An unfortunate run with injury compounded with the challenges of COVID-19 contributed to the side's lacklustre 13th placed finish; but after showing tremendous resilience to reach the semi finals the previous year, the shortcomings of 2020 were all the more apparent.

Finishing the year with a single win from their final nine matches, coach Des Hasler will be determined to stiffen his side's defence after conceding 25 points on average; ranking ahead of only North Queensland and Brisbane. The side also endured a shocking record at home managing a single win at Lottoland from seven appearances.

Recruiting Samoan representative Josh Aloiai to replace Tongan enforcer Addin Fonua-Blake up front, premiership-winning playmaker Kieran Foran returns following an underwhelming five-year stint away from the northern beaches.

Emerging speedsters Jason Saab and Christian Tuipulotu are set to add depth in the backline, while late bloomer Andrew Davey will be determined to fill the void left by Joel Thompson in the backrow.

Beginning the year with an away clash against the Roosters, a mostly favourable draw will see the side face six of the seven teams that missed out on finals football twice.

Set to play on ANZAC Day for the first time since 2016, the side will be aiming to recapture the aura of 'Fortress Brookvale' with six of their final nine matches to be played at home.

Why they'll win it

Whenever a team pins their premiership hopes on a single player it is often fraught with danger. Tom Trbojevic may not be in the same league as Andrew Johns or Johnathan Thurston, yet his influence on the Sea Eagles gives such comparisons an air of legitimacy.

Managing just 19 out of a possible 46 matches over the past two seasons, the 24-year-old local product holds a 73 per cent success rate in that time, while earning rave reviews on the representative stage to boot.

Set to bring up a century of appearances for Manly early in the year once he returns from injury, the superstar fullback possesses remarkable natural ability as one of the few players in the league capable of single-handedly changing the course of a match.

Why they won't

In one of the most baffling recruitment decisions in recent memory, the Sea Eagles will head into the new campaign without a recognised number nine.

Opting against re-signing Danny Levi and set to be without rising star Manase Fainu until the verdict of his trial in July at the earliest, the club renown for the likes of Max Krilich and Matt Ballin looks set to manufacture utility Lachlan Croker and half Cade Cust into an unconventional dummy half tag team.

In a competition where the reigning premiers boast multiple hookers with representative experience, it's hard to see the Sea Eagles making a serious play for the eight without a nine.

Key Player

When **Kieran Foran** first partnered with Daly Cherry-Evans under the watch of Des Hasler a decade ago, the result was a grand final victory few envisioned. Enduring a

difficult run with injuries over the past five seasons across stints with Parramatta, New Zealand and Canterbury, the 30-year-old Kiwi international has continued to be an influential playmaker when fully fit.

Touted as a possible answer to the side's unknown number nine jersey, Foran looms as a certified winner capable of instilling much-needed mental toughness to a squad that struggled in the face of adversity last season.

Rookie to watch

Regarded as a star of the future after an eye-catching debut late in 2020, **Josh Schuster** will have his sights set on making the five-eighth role his own.

Contracted to the club until the end of next season, a strong pre-season and trial form could see the 19-year-old nephew of former Newcastle outside back, John, start the season ahead of established stars Dylan Walker and Kieran Foran.

Player Movements

IN: Josh Aloiai, Andrew Davey, Kieran Foran, Jason Saab, Christian Tuipulotu

OUT: Addin Fonua-Blake, Corey Waddell, Luke Metcalf, Joel Thompson, Abbas Miski, Brendan Elliot, Danny Levi, Sam Smith, Tony Williams

Best 17

1. Tom Trbojevic 2. Brad Parker 3. Dylan Walker 4. Moses Suli 5. Reuben Garrick 6. Kieran Foran 7. Daly Cherry-Evans (C) 8. Josh Aloiai 9. Lachlan Croker 10. Martin Taupau 11. Jack Gosweiski 12. Curtis Sironen 13. Jake Trbojevic Interchange: 14. Cade Cust 15. Andrew Davey 16. Sean Keppie 17. Taniela Paseka

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	Mar 13th	5:30pm	Sydney	Manly	SCG
2	Sat	Mar 20th	5:30pm	Manly	South Sydney	Lottoland
3	Fri	Mar 26th	6:00pm	St Geo Illa	Manly	WIN Stadium
4	Thu	Apr 1st	8:05pm	Manly	Penrith	Lottoland
5	Fri	Apr 9th	6:00pm	Warriors	Manly	Central Coast
6	Sat	Apr 17th	3:00pm	Manly	Gold Coast	Glen Willow
7	Sun	Apr 25th	1:45pm	Wests Tigers	Manly	Bankwest
8	Sat	May 1st	3:00pm	Penrith	Manly	Carrington
9	Sun	May 9th	2:00pm	Manly	Warriors	Lottoland
10	Fri	May 14th	8:05pm	Manly	Brisbane	Suncorp
11	Sun	May 23rd	4:05pm	Parramatta	Manly	Bankwest
12	Sun	May 30th	4:05pm	Newcastle	Manly	McDonald Jones
14	Fri	Jun 11th	6:00pm	Manly	North Qld	Lottoland
15	Sun	Jun 20th	4:05pm	Gold Coast	Manly	CBUS
16	Sat	Jul 3rd	3:00pm	Canterbury	Manly	Stadium Aust
17	Thu	Jul 8th	7:50pm	Manly	Canberra	Lottoland
18	Fri	Jul 16th	7:55pm	Manly	St Geo Illa	Lottoland
19	Sat	Jul 24th	5:30pm	Manly	Wests Tigers	Central Coast
20	Sun	Aug 1st	4:05pm	Cronulla	Manly	Netstrata
21	Sat	Aug 7th	7:35pm	Manly	Melbourne	Lottoland
22	Sat	Aug 14th	5:30pm	Manly	Parramatta	QCBS
23	Fri	Aug 20th	6:00pm	Canberra	Manly	GIO Stadium
24	Sun	Aug 29th	2:00pm	Manly	Canterbury	Lottoland
25	Sat	Sep 4th	7:35pm	North Qld	Manly	QCBS

MELBOURNE BRENDAN THURBON

And then there were none....

Players don't always get the fairytale farewell that fans think they might deserve. The heart break of losing a grand final, compounded by knowing it's your last game must be an unimaginably hollow feeling & one that a Melbourne - nay - rugby league great had to endure in 2018. Flash forward two years and whilst there has been no confirmation of his next move, many expected the 2020 Grand Final would be Cameron Smith's swansong, could one of - if not the - greatest player of all time deliver one last time for the club he has represented since 2002? It may have gotten a little hairy at the end, but a calm and composed Smith steered the Storm to an unassailable lead early in the second half and as they say the rest is history.

New rules after two rounds, a home away from the home away from home - there were many challenges that the Storm faced in 2020, yet every time the whips were cracking, Craig Bellamy's men had the answer. And unlike 2018 and 2019, they had another gear that for the most part the rest of the competition couldn't go with.

As I look back at my season preview last year, the two biggest questions I had were the centres and the halfback. Twelve months later, Justin Olam is a genuine star on possibly the most potent left edge in the game, Brenko Lee is an Origin-series-winning centre and Jahrome Hughes is a proven match-winner capable of taking games by the scruff of the neck through his accurate kicking game and astute run choices.

As we look at 2021, there is one obvious question. How do you replace the captain, goal kicker, on field general and referee? Whilst there are two extremely capable number 9's waiting to take over from Smith, it's the intangibles that he brought to the team which will be the hardest to replace. You can replace his tackles and his passes but how do you replace his ability to make correct decision after correct decision when the heat is on?

The other big question - can Reimis Smith or George Jennings replace a strike rate of almost eight tries in every 10 games on the right wing? For all his idiosyncrasies, Suliasi Vunivalu was one of the great try scorers in the last five years - see his effort against Canberra in the preliminary final from last year or his instinctive intercept and length of the field run the following week on the biggest stage.

It is however not all doom and gloom. The Storm will welcome back into the fold Harry Grant, a man many expect to be the Queensland hooker for the next 10 years (kind of fitting really, isn't it?). Harry is the reigning Dally M rookie of the year after lighting up the NRL for the Wests Tigers and making a stunning debut for Queensland off the bench in Game 3 of the 2020 State of Origin.

The development of backline players Olam, Ryan Papenhuyzen and Lee mean that despite losing a key contributor the Storm backline the rest of the backs are settled and should start 2021 full of confidence. In particular 'Paps' will have a point to prove after earning selection in the NSW Blues squad, but ultimately being unable to force himself into the team in Game 3, if he starts 2021 how he finished 2020 then the Storm won't miss a beat in attack.

Why they'll win it

Big game experience wins big games and the Storm are flush with this experience. From the master himself Craig Bellamy and throughout the majority of the squad there are representative players with experience across multiple finals and grand finals. Added motivation may exist for the super coach himself, his legacy will be a lasting one in the NRL however if we were to win a grand final without any of the big four (Smith, Billy Slater, Cooper Cronk and Greg Inglis), he will finish up as possibly the greatest coach the game has seen.

The other man with the added motivation is Cameron Munster, after winning the origin series he remarked in a post-game interview that it was good to win a series for Queensland without any of the 'big guys' playing, with this mentality I expect to see a very different Munster in 2021.

Why they won't

No Smith. Over 430 games of experience, over 2800 points and countless tackles. Simply put the impact Cameron Smith had on not only the tempo of the game but

also the way he lifted players around him is almost impossible to replace. Smith aside the losses of Vunivalu and Big Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, who at times were spectacular for the Storm in 2020 will also hurt.

Key players

Harry Grant and Brandon Smith, two players who are set to step into the biggest shoes in rugby league. Should one or both of these players fail to deliver then the Storm campaign is likely to be doomed. However if both players can fire then the Storm potentially pose a greater attacking threat than in 2020 with a dynamic dummy half running game to go with the slick backline movements.

Rookie to watch

With such a limited pre-season to base this on it's a tough call. Harry Grant is technically a Storm rookie but not a genuine rugby league rookie. At 190cm tall and weighing 107kg **Aaron Pene** who has played just 1 game of first grade is physically equipped to have a strong 2021 season, his biggest challenge will be breaking into the first grade side with some more seasoned campaigners in front of him in the pecking order.

Player movements

IN: George Jennings, Reimis Smith

OUT: Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Suliasi Vunivalu, Paul Momirovski, Sandor Earl, Ricky Leutele, Albert Vete, Cameron Smith

Best 17

1. Ryan Papenhuyzen 2. Josh Addo-Carr 3. Justin Olam 4. Brenko Lee 5. Reimis Smith 6. Cameron Munster 7. Jahrome Hughes 8. Jesse Bromwich 9. Harry Grant 10. Christian Welch 11. Kenny Bromwich 12. Felise Kaufusi 13. Dale Finucane Interchange: 14. Brandon Smith 15. Max King 16. Tui Kamikamica 17. Nelson Asofa-Solomona

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Thu	Mar 11th	8:05pm	Melbourne	South Sydney	AAMI Park
2	Thu	Mar 18th	8:05pm	Parramatta	Melbourne	Bankwest
3	Thu	Mar 25th	8:05pm	Penrith	Melbourne	Panthers
4	Fri	Apr 2nd	8:05pm	Melbourne	Brisbane	AAMI Park
5	Sat	Apr 10th	5:30pm	Canterbury	Melbourne	HBF Park
6	Fri	Apr 16th	7:55pm	Melbourne	Sydney	AAMI Park
7	Sun	Apr 25th	6:15pm	Melbourne	Warriors	AAMI Park
8	Fri	Apr 30th	6:00pm	Melbourne	Cronulla	AAMI Park
9	Thu	May 6th	7:50pm	South Sydney	Melbourne	Stadium Aust
10	Sun	May 16th	4:05pm	Melbourne	St Geo Illa	Suncorp
11	Sat	May 22nd	7:35pm	Canberra	Melbourne	GIO Stadium
12	Thu	May 27th	7:50pm	Brisbane	Melbourne	Suncorp
13	Sat	Jun 5th	7:35pm	Melbourne	Gold Coast	AAMI Park
14	Sun	Jun 13th	2:00pm	Warriors	Melbourne	Central Coast
15	Sat	Jun 19th	7:35pm	Melbourne	Wests Tigers	AAMI Park
16	Thu	Jul 1st	7:50pm	Sydney	Melbourne	SCG
18	Sat	Jul 17th	5:30pm	Melbourne	Newcastle	QCBS
19	Fri	Jul 23rd	7:55pm	North Qld	Melbourne	QCBS
20	Sat	Jul 31st	7:35pm	Melbourne	Penrith	AAMI Park
21	Sat	Aug 7th	7:35pm	Manly	Melbourne	Lottoland
22	Thu	Aug 12th	7:50pm	Melbourne	Canberra	AAMI Park
23	Thu	Aug 19th	7:50pm	Gold Coast	Melbourne	CBUS
24	Sat	Aug 28th	7:35pm	Melbourne	Parramatta	AAMI Park
25	Fri	Sep 3rd	6:00pm	Cronulla	Melbourne	Netstrata

NEWCASTLE LACHY MacCORQUODALE

Qualifying for the finals for the first time since 2013 was the highlight of the Newcastle Knights 2020 season, but it still felt somewhat sombre after losing by 26-points to the South Sydney Rabbitohs in the first week of finals.

2020 started brilliantly for the Knights, winning three of their opening four matches, including a big 16-point victory over a strong Canberra Raiders side. However, the Knights struggled to string together consecutive wins throughout the competition, highlighting their inconsistent play on a week-to-week basis. For example, a 21-point victory over the Brisbane Broncos was followed by a 12-point loss to the North Queensland Cowboys and later in the year, a 2-point victory over the Rabbitohs led to a 6-point loss to the Canterbury Bulldogs.

However, the Knights had plenty to cheer about as the mining town occupied a spot in the top eight for the entirety of the competition. It was also the first time since 2013 that the Knights had both, a winning record and scored more points than they conceded. Newcastle will once again be looking to improve on this and the addition of New South Wales back rower, Tyson Frizell to the squad will hold them in good stead for the 2021 season.

Why They'll Win It

The Knights possess some elite talent amongst their ranks with the likes of Kalyn Ponga, David Klemmer, Bradman Best and Tyson Frizell, just to name a few. They possess a total of six players who have represented New South Wales or Queensland at some stage in their careers, including two during the 2020 series. Fullback Kalyn Ponga was one to miss Origin last year due to injury, but his 2020 season was one of his best yet. In just 19 games, Ponga scored 10 tries whilst also assisting a career high 14 tries in 2020. Ponga will miss the opening few games of the season as he recovers from a shoulder injury, but he'll be fired up and ready to go for another season in the blue and red. The experience of Mitchell Pearce will be invaluable as the former Origin and Premiership winner who played a large role in his side's performances during the 2020 season. His kicking game will be pivotal to a successful season for the Knights, with the halfback recording 10 forced dropouts last season and 15 in 2019. Pearce will have to consistently string performances together if the Knights are to push for the title, something which he failed to do during the 2020 season.

The aforementioned addition of Tyson Frizell will bolster the Newcastle forward pack after the Australian backrower averaged a career high, 126 run metres per game. The Frizell and Ponga combination will be a scary proposition for oppositions defences as both are very dangerous runners of the football, with Frizell averaging 2.3 tackle breaks per game. Frizell could be the extra 'oomph' that the Knights have been looking for in their edge rowers, someone who is a genuinely hard man to tackle. The Knights' hooker, Jayden Brailey will be available for Round 1 (barring any trial drama) after missing the majority of 2020 after a knee injury sidelined him for the last 18 matches. Brailey looked promising in his two games with the Knights recording a try assist, a forced drop out and averaging 40 tackles per match. At just 24 years of age, Brailey still has time to improve and from what he has shown so far in his career, he could be a handy player in the near future.

Why They Won't

The Knights struggled with consistency during the 2020 season, as highlighted earlier by their failure to produce back-to-back wins at crucial times during the season. This could be attributed to the inconsistent performances of Mitchell Pearce throughout the year, who will have to perform at a much more consistent level if the Knights are to improve on last season. However, this has been an issue for the majority of Pearce's career, particularly at Origin level. Who is to say that it might just be another inconsistent year for Pearce as he guides his side to a 6-8 place on the competition ladder. Similar statements can be made about Ponga who has been criticised in the past for his inconsistent performances, and when both players are off, it's not great viewing for Knights' fans.

Newcastle's defence was a funny one during the 2020 season. They conceded the second least points at home, averaging just 11.6 points conceded per game but conceded on average 25.8 points away from home, the fourth most in the competition. If Adam O'Brien has done everything he can to help improve his side's defence over the off-season, then it'll be much of the same for the Knights in 2021.

Key Players

It goes without saying, but **Kalyn Ponga** is one of the key players for the Knights in 2021. One of the most exciting players in the competition and at just the age of 22, there is plenty more to come from the young fullback. Ponga's third season at the Knights saw him average a career high 184 run metres whilst breaking on average 5.9 tackles per game, proving that he is an extremely elusive player when he's at his best. The fullback's edge combinations with Mitchell

Barnett and Frizell are going to be critical to the Knights success during the 2021 season. Other players such as Frizell, Pearce and Bradman Best will be pivotal to the Knights 2021 season, but arguably not as pivotal as **David Klemmer's** involvement in the side. Klemmer has been the heartbreak for the Knights' pack over the past two years, averaging 172 run metres and 37.4 tackles per game. The front rower is an absolute work horse who will leave everything out there for his side each week. This is highlighted with his 72.9 post contact metres per game during the 2020 season, the fourth highest tally in the competition. Klemmer lays the foundation for the flashier players in the side and this'll be no different in 2021.

Rookies to watch

Bradman Best exploded onto the scene last season as an 18-year-old and will be expected to be a mainstay during 2021. 2021 could be the year for **Tex Hoy** who will start at fullback during the first few games of the season due to the absence of Ponga. The 21-year-old made nine appearances last year, mainly off the bench, but was excellent in his two starts at the back. His two starts at fullback saw Hoy run for more than 180 metres and breaking a combined total of 9 tackles. A solid return for such a young player. Unfortunately, his involvement his year is reliant upon injuries to starting players so we might not get to see too much of Hoy, but when we do, let's enjoy it. Young 19-year-old **Bailey Hodgson** will also be one to watch if he is given his chance this year. The outside back was signed from Castleford Tigers at the end of 2020 and is the nephew of Canberra Raiders hooker, Josh Hodgson. There have been some raps on this young lad, but it seems like this is more of a long-term investment for the Knights. We'll have to wait and see.

Player Movements

IN: Tyson Frizell, Dominic Young, Sauaso Sue, Bailey Hodgson, Jack Johns, Brayden Musgrove;
OUT: Herman Ese'ese, Aidan Guerra, Andrew McCullough, Sione Mata'utia, Mason Lino, Tautau Moga, Tyrone Roberts-Davis

Best 17

1. Kalyn Ponga 2. Edrick Lee 3. Enari Tuala 4. Bradman Best 5. Hymel Hunt 6. Kurt Mann 7. Mitchell Pearce 8. Daniel Saifiti 9. Jayden Brailey 10. David Klemmer 11. Mitchell Barnett 12. Tyson Frizell 13. Connor Watson
Interchange: 14. Jacob Saifiti 15. Lachlan Fitzgibbon 16. Sauaso Sue 17. Phoenix Crossland

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Fri	Mar 12th	6:00pm	Newcastle	Canterbury	McDonald Jones
2	Fri	Mar 19th	6:00pm	Warriors	Newcastle	Central Coast
3	Sun	Mar 28th	4:05pm	Newcastle	Wests Tigers	McDonald Jones
4	Sun	Apr 4th	4:05pm	Newcastle	St Geo Illa	McDonald Jones
5	Sat	Apr 10th	3:00pm	Gold Coast	Newcastle	CBUS
6	Fri	Apr 16th	6:00pm	Newcastle	Cronulla	McDonald Jones
7	Thu	Apr 22nd	7:50pm	Penrith	Newcastle	Panthers
8	Sat	May 1st	7:35pm	Newcastle	Sydney	McDonald Jones
9	Sat	May 8th	3:00pm	Canberra	Newcastle	McDonalds Park
10	Fri	May 14th	6:00pm	Wests Tigers	Newcastle	Suncorp
11	Thu	May 20th	7:50pm	North Qld	Newcastle	QCBS
12	Sun	May 30th	4:05pm	Newcastle	Manly	McDonald Jones
13	Sun	Jun 6th	4:05pm	Newcastle	Parramatta	McDonald Jones
14	Sat	Jun 12th	5:30pm	South Sydney	Newcastle	Stadium Aust
15	Sat	Jun 19th	3:00pm	Newcastle	Warriors	McDonald Jones
16	Sat	Jul 3rd	7:35pm	Newcastle	North Qld	McDonald Jones
18	Sat	Jul 17th	5:30pm	Melbourne	Newcastle	QCBS
19	Fri	Jul 23rd	6:00pm	Sydney	Newcastle	SCG
20	Sat	Jul 31st	5:30pm	Newcastle	Canberra	McDonald Jones
21	Thu	Aug 5th	7:50pm	Newcastle	Brisbane	McDonald Jones
22	Sun	Aug 15th	4:05pm	Cronulla	Newcastle	Netstrata
23	Sat	Aug 21st	5:30pm	Canterbury	Newcastle	Stadium Aust
24	Thu	Aug 26th	7:50pm	Newcastle	Gold Coast	McDonald Jones
25	Sat	Sep 4th	5:30pm	Brisbane	Newcastle	Suncorp

Todd Payten is promising a complete overhaul at the North Queensland Cowboys.

But don't mistake it for a rebuild - this is still a team capable of making the finals and going deep into September if they have the right processes and systems in place. That is where Payten comes in.

He is saying all the right things - there is going to be a focus on doing everything with speed - be it coming out of the line in defence or moving the ball in attack. The once stale, uninspiring Cowboys side of the past are expected to be transformed under Payten.

Given the way he brought together the Warriors and inspired the unlikeliest of finals runs last season, there are high expectations that he too can deliver similar results at North Queensland. Remember, this was a team tipped to challenge the stranglehold the Roosters and Storm have so long held over the competition but within a few years it became clear former coach Paul Green was too reluctant to make the changes needed to spark new life into the team.

Payten has shown no such reluctance, confidently coming in with fresh ideas and a bold vision to transform North Queensland back into top-eight contenders.

Why they'll win it

If Payten can get the most out of an underachieving roster, there is enough talent on paper to take the Cowboys far.

Starting with the spine - which admittedly is not locked in - the contenders promise plenty. Reece Robson has the pace out of dummy-half to fit into Payten's faster approach while Valentine Holmes, Scott Drinkwater and Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow are all dynamic options at fullback. Then there is Jake Clifford, who may be on the way to Newcastle but has grown in confidence and developed his kicking game since making his debut for the club.

The most important name on that list is Michael Morgan, who has in many ways individually come to represent North Queensland's struggles since the 2017 decider. Morgan himself was in career-best form at the time but has failed to fire since, with injuries playing their role. He has the potential to rediscover the spark but has too often looked unsure of his responsibility in the team, expected to organise and lead the side around when he is more naturally suited as a running five-eighth. Payten though understands the need to play to Morgan's strengths and it is a similar case for hulking forward Jason Taumalolo, who is set to suit up for fewer minutes.

It is quality over quantity for Payten, who is not afraid to make big calls that he believes will bring the best out of his marquee men. He was able to motivate the Warriors to turn their fortunes around in the most trying of circumstances last season so you would have to be confident he can do similar at North Queensland.

Why they won't

Edge defence was a serious concern for the Cowboys last year. The constant chopping and changing in the backline did not help but a serious lack of communication also contributed.

But often poor defence can be a sign of a team in need of a serious attitude adjustment and that will be a real test of Payten's coaching credentials.

Obviously, the attack is also another issue. North Queensland are still far too reliant on block plays and the problem is that without Thurston pulling the strings, it is all too predictable. Runners are not engaging the line enough before passing, allowing the defence to slide and handle it easily. By using Taumalolo more as a decoy or having runners at angles charging at the line with intent, it should open up more space and create indecision.

Key Players

The Cowboys used to have a lethal combination between Thurston and his edge backrowers - more often than not Gavin Cooper. However, that play seems to have lost its impact but could still have an important role in shaping North Queensland's attack if **Coen Hess** improves his dwindling form.

Hess' average running metres and tackle busts have both been on the decline since 2017, although part of that may also be connected to the increased defensive workload he has taken on. Crucially though, Payten has previously coached Hess at the junior level and shapes as the perfect mentor to get the most out of him.

"What he does do well is run hard at smaller halfbacks, and if he can do that consistently he's going to be a handful," Payten told the Courier Mail.

"He understands that he wasn't playing well, he's had a good four or five weeks - particularly the last couple. I've coached Coen at an under-20s level, I understand him pretty well - he needs to keep things simple. I've got full faith in him, he's a tremendous young kid and I think he can play first-grade for a long time. I'd like to get him back in that Origin team."

Rookies to watch

Kane Bradley has the size and versatility to put himself in the frame for NRL selection. He initially progressed through the grades in the second row before moving to the wing and at 196 centimetres tall and over 100 kilograms, he is a big body that would be hard to handle on the flank. He is also a noted try scorer having crossed the line nine times in 17 games for the Tigers in the 2019. The issue for Bradley though is that the Cowboys have lots of depth in the outside backs and are actually missing strike in the backrow, so it will be interesting to see if he is more likely to snag an opportunity there instead.

Player Movements

IN: Lachlan Burr, Kane Bradley, Javid Bowen

OUT: Gavin Cooper, Tom Opacic, John Asiata, Dan Russell, Tukimihia Simpkins

Best 17

1. Scott Drinkwater 2. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow 3. Esan Marsters 4. Murray Taulagi 5. Valentine Holmes 6. Michael Morgan 7. Jake Clifford 8. Jordan McLean 9. Reece Robson 10. Josh McGuire 11. Peter Hola 12. Mitchell Dunn 13. Jason Taumalolo Interchange: 14. Reuben Cotter 15. Lachlan Burr 16. Francis Molo 17. Tom Gilbert

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	Mar 13th	7:35pm	Penrith	North Qld	Panthers
2	Sat	Mar 20th	7:35pm	North Qld	St Geo Illa	QCBS
3	Sun	Mar 28th	6:15pm	North Qld	Gold Coast	QCBS
4	Sat	Apr 3rd	7:35pm	Cronulla	North Qld	CBUS
5	Sun	Apr 11th	4:05pm	Wests Tigers	North Qld	Leichhardt
6	Sun	Apr 18th	4:05pm	North Qld	Canterbury	QCBS
7	Sat	Apr 24th	7:35pm	North Qld	Canberra	QCBS
8	Sun	May 2nd	2:00pm	Warriors	North Qld	Mt Smart
9	Sat	May 8th	7:35pm	North Qld	Brisbane	QCBS
10	Sat	May 15th	7:45pm	Sydney	North Qld	Suncorp
11	Thu	May 20th	7:50pm	North Qld	Newcastle	QCBS
12	Fri	May 28th	6:00pm	North Qld	Warriors	QCBS
14	Fri	Jun 11th	6:00pm	Manly	North Qld	Lottoland
15	Fri	Jun 18th	6:00pm	North Qld	Cronulla	QCBS
16	Sat	Jul 3rd	7:35pm	Newcastle	North Qld	McDonald Jones
17	Fri	Jul 9th	7:55pm	South Sydney	North Qld	Stadium Aust
18	Sat	Jul 17th	7:35pm	North Qld	Sydney	QCBS
19	Fri	Jul 23rd	7:55pm	North Qld	Melbourne	QCBS
20	Fri	Jul 30th	7:55pm	Brisbane	North Qld	Suncorp
21	Sun	Aug 8th	4:05pm	Gold Coast	North Qld	CBUS
22	Sat	Aug 14th	7:35pm	North Qld	Wests Tigers	QCBS
23	Sat	Aug 21st	7:35pm	Parramatta	North Qld	Bankwest
24	Sat	Aug 28th	3:00pm	St Geo Illa	North Qld	WIN Stadium
25	Sat	Sep 4th	7:35pm	North Qld	Manly	QCBS

PARRAMATTA 'ELEMENTARY'

The Parramatta Eels - to paraphrase Winston Churchill, the Eels are "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma."

But as Churchill went on to say, "Perhaps there is a key."

The Eels' 2020 campaign was inconsistent, but they did manage to show grit, determination, and some semblance of defensive integrity throughout the year - despite seeing their attacking prowess flounder for the majority of their campaign.

Season 2021 brings the young core of key players at the Eels another year's worth of experience, and some astute signings splatter an already talented team with some extra punch; thus, 2021 should be another step in the right direction for the long-suffering Blue and Gold Army.

Why They'll Win It

The Parramatta Eels boast a very well-balanced squad on paper - they have two young, and talented (if erratic) halves; a forward pack that is big, fast, mobile, and skilful; a fullback who played Origin for the first time in 2020, and was almost a Dally M medallist; and big, powerful backs.

Dylan Brown, the Eels' 5/8, is still only 20 years old, and has shown composure, and defensive attitude, well beyond his tender years. While he has a lot of improvement left in him, his statistics in 2020 paint the picture of a man with a very bright future head of him: 11 forced drop-outs, 109.9 metres average kicked per match, 5 try assists, 3 linebreak assists, 7 offloads, and 116 metres average ran per match. And all this with only 874 receipts of the ball (as opposed to his more fancied halves partner, Mitchell Moses, who demanded 983 receipts of the ball, and produced 8 try assists, 5 linebreak assists, 20 forced drop outs, 446 average kicking metres per match). Young Brown is the key to Parramatta's attack, and he will benefit enormously from a pretty impressive 2020 season, as well as having a solid 2021 pre-season under his belt.

The Eels' forward pack is big, agile, strong, and skilful - the mixture of body shapes, and playing styles, makes containing the Eels' powerful pack a handful. Junior Paulo, and Reagan Campbell-Gillard, established themselves in 2020 as two of the best tight forwards in the NRL; Shaun Lane, and Ryan Matterson provide height, skill, and speed out wide; Nathan Brown provides energy, and some strong offloading; and Reed Mahoney showed in the back end of 2020 that, if the coaching staff allow Mahoney to play his natural game, he is an attacking threat, just as much as a rock in defence.

Why They Won't

Lack of big match experience has counted against the Eels for many years; Brad Arthur made it his mission over the years to inject some experience into the squad, and he has been able to do so.

However, this Eels unit as it stands, has still only won one Finals game from their last four campaigns. It is not unreasonable to assume that further experience in important matches will help, but the Eels simply trail the standard bearers (the Storm, and the Roosters) by considerable margins.

Parramatta's backs are big, powerful, and skilful - but they lack genuine pace. Blake Ferguson has good top end speed, but is slow to get his hulking frame moving; Maika Sivo has explosive power, but has average speed, and acceleration; Clint Gutherson is a tireless worker, but also has average speed. Waqa Blake possesses raw speed, but he is a major contributor to another concern in this Parramatta team - namely, their edge defence.

Michael Jennings - despite his age - was able to shore up one edge, and communicate with Sivo, and as a unit they conceded only 3 tries after the first 10 rounds; Blake, and Ferguson, had conceded 14 tries after 10 rounds. The loss of Michael Jennings further complicates the Eels' wide defence issues.

Key Players

Clint Gutherson received the ball 881 times in 2020 - he obviously had more touches than Dylan Brown, to help ease Brown into First Grade, but Gutherson was able to

muster up 17 try assists, 12 linebreaks, 10 tries, and 190 metres average ran per game.

Gutherson's tireless work ethic, and inspirational energy, will once again be key for the Eels.

Reed Mahoney was spoken about as a potential Queensland Origin hooker early in the year, before the spectacular rise of Harry Grant, and he showed plenty of promise - he made 968 tackles at 93.2% accuracy, received the ball 2,328 times, forced 5 drop outs, had 3 try assists, and 4 linebreak assists. If Mahoney can get more opportunity to show his attacking skill, this Eels team will really benefit from it.

Rookie To Watch

Haze Dunster made his NRL debut in last year's Finals campaign, and acquitted himself well; and due to Michael Jennings' career being in limbo, Dunster faces a unique opportunity to force himself into the squad. Tall, rangy, and quick, Dunster is not afraid of the tough stuff, and will ruck the ball out all day.

Player Movements

IN: Bryce Cartwright, Keegan Hipgrave, Joey Lussick, Michael Oldfield, Tom Opacic, Isaiah Papali'i, Nathaniel Roache

OUT: Daniel Alvaro, Andrew Davey, Rhys Davies, Kane Evans, Jai Field, David Gower, Watson Heleta, George Jennings, Ethan Parry, Jaeman Salmon, Kyle Schneider, Brad Takairangi, Peni Terepo, Stefano Utoikamanu, Michael Jennings

Best 17

1. Clint Gutherson (C) 2. Maika Sivo 3. Haze Dunster 4. Waqa Blake 5. Blake Ferguson 6. Dylan Brown 7. Mitchell Moses 8. Reagan Campbell-Gillard 9. Reed Mahoney 10. Junior Paulo 11. Shaun Lane 12. Ryan Matterson 13. Nathan Brown 14. Interchange: 14. Marata Niukore 15. Oregon Kaufusi 16. Bryce Cartwright 17. Joey Lussick

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Fri	Mar 12th	8:05pm	Brisbane	Parramatta	Suncorp
2	Thu	Mar 18th	8:05pm	Parramatta	Melbourne	Bankwest
3	Sat	Mar 27th	7:35pm	Parramatta	Cronulla	Bankwest
4	Mon	Apr 5th	4:00pm	Wests Tigers	Parramatta	Stadium Aust
5	Sun	Apr 11th	6:15pm	Parramatta	St Geo Illa	Bankwest
6	Sat	Apr 17th	7:35pm	Canberra	Parramatta	GIO Stadium
7	Fri	Apr 23rd	7:55pm	Parramatta	Brisbane	TIO Stadium
8	Sat	May 1st	5:30pm	Canterbury	Parramatta	Stadium Aust
9	Fri	May 7th	7:55pm	Parramatta	Sydney	Bankwest
10	Sun	May 16th	1:50pm	Warriors	Parramatta	Suncorp
11	Sun	May 23rd	4:05pm	Parramatta	Manly	Bankwest
12	Sat	May 29th	5:30pm	South Sydney	Parramatta	Stadium Aust
13	Sun	Jun 6th	4:05pm	Newcastle	Parramatta	McDonald Jones
14	Sun	Jun 13th	4:05pm	Parramatta	Wests Tigers	Bankwest
15	Sun	Jun 20th	2:00pm	Parramatta	Canterbury	Bankwest
16	Fri	Jul 2nd	7:55pm	Penrith	Parramatta	Panthers
18	Fri	Jul 16th	6:00pm	Gold Coast	Parramatta	CBUS
19	Thu	Jul 22nd	7:50pm	Parramatta	Canberra	Bankwest
20	Thu	Jul 29th	7:50pm	Sydney	Parramatta	SCG
21	Fri	Aug 6th	7:55pm	Parramatta	South Sydney	Bankwest
22	Sat	Aug 14th	5:30pm	Manly	Parramatta	QCBS
23	Sat	Aug 21st	7:35pm	Parramatta	North Qld	Bankwest
24	Sat	Aug 28th	7:35pm	Melbourne	Parramatta	AAMI Park
25	Fri	Sep 3rd	7:55pm	Parramatta	Penrith	Bankwest

PENRITH JOSH ROBERTSON

I said in this very preview last year that Penrith are a club who promise the world every year but usually deliver an atlas.

Thankfully, 2020 was the year they delivered on their promise, getting all the way to the Grand Final before falling at the final hurdle - when they nearly pulled off a miracle comeback.

There are many that think that the Panthers were lucky in 2020, but there is no doubt an eagerness to go one better this season and with an extra year under their belt, they could be set to take their first premiership since 2003.

Why They'll Win

Penrith went through 2020 with just one regular season loss and showed that they will be a dominant force in the future. Refereeing controversy was arguably the only thing that stopped them from being able to match the Melbourne Storm through the first half of last years decider. The Panthers have a solid squad of players who have been playing together for quite a while and it is that bond that runs through the team which has seen key combinations build, with the likes of Nathan Cleary and Jarome Luai becoming one of the most dangerous halves pairings in the NRL. The halves will play a vital role, with both Cleary and Luai playing with confidence - and already in both the All Stars and pre-season trial matches, Luai has already shown he's ready to pick up from where he left off in 2020.

The forward pack for Penrith is also still very underrated - and even after losing veteran James Tamou, the strength of their pack is solid with the likes of James Fisher-Harris, Moses Leota and young gun Spencer Leniu who all looked very dangerous, and did a good job at pushing the Parramatta defensive line over the weekend in the trial match at Panthers Stadium.

New rules could be a help to the Mountain Men too - the speed of Api Koroisau out of dummy half is set to cause more issues for opposition defence, with his agility and speed from the ruck able to catch out tiring defenders, and with more tiredness coming into the game, Api could take advantage. As too could the other players like Luai, whose stepping ability and speed could see him take advantage of tiring defence - something he did to great effect last season and on the weekend. The speed aspect of the game will also suit winger Charlie Staines, who showed what he can do in the one and a half games he played scoring six tries.

Why They Won't

Backing up such a strong season is going to be a challenge for the Panthers and with teams being able to cope better to a (hopefully) non-COVID affected season, they should be stronger through the competition. Consistency will be key through 2021 and putting in full 80-minute performances is still something that they have struggled to do for quite a while now - even with last years success.

The loss of some key experience will be something the Panthers need to overcome, with the losses of winger Josh Mansour and prop James Tamou being key to the lineup, especially with the latter's captaincy and power in the front row. Even though they are being replaced by players who have similar or potentially greater talent, the work these players do in the side is going to be a big loss, especially with Josh Mansour's hard running from his own end, which the Panthers built their sets upon in 2020.

Key Players

Unsurprisingly, **Nathan Cleary** is going to be key for the Panthers in 2021. His form throughout 2020 was a career highlight, but despite a strong season he came in for strong criticism during the State of Origin series, which shows that despite a good year, he still needs to prove himself at the top level which he can do by leading the black, red, green and yellow to a title this year. Alongside Cleary in the halves, **Jarome Luai** will also be vital, after rising to stardom last season. His deceptive speed and agility was a key part of Penrith's attack and his performances will be just as important given that his contrast to Cleary and his unpredictability was something else that ensured the side's winning run continued for so long.

Looking elsewhere in the lineup, the whole forward pack will be a key cog for any premiership tilt, and the power of **James Fisher-Harris** will be of utmost importance for Penrith with their go-forward relying on he and **Moses Leota** to set

a platform for the speed men and the halves. **Api Koroisau's** dummy half work is also going to be much-needed with his speed and deceptiveness from the ruck very important going forward.

Rookie to Watch

Everybody saw the 'Forbes Flyer' **Charlie Staines** light up the park against the Sharks on debut where he scored four tries, and then against Manly a few weeks later where he picked up a first half double before succumbing to a hamstring injury. Staines has plenty more to come on the park and with a full season ahead following the departure of Mansour, he is set to have a big year and could be dangerous - provided he can avoid injury and stay on the park.

One rookie who has yet to set foot in NRL - but looks to have a big future - is youngster **J'maine Hopgood**. The Queenslander has been part of the Panthers' system since the SG Ball competition, where he captained the Panthers' Under 18 side and showed plenty of talent on the park. He quickly rose to the NSW Cup level in 2019 where he made a big impact, which netted him a Development contract in 2020 and then eventually an NRL contract for season 2021. Hopgood possess strength which will help the Panthers going forward but he also has a good passing game and can be a danger on the outside of the ruck.

Player Movement

IN: Robert Jennings, Matt Eisenhuth, Paul Momirovski, Jaeman Salmon, Scott Sorensen **OUT:** Shawn Blore, Kaide Ellis, Jed Cartwright, Caleb Aekins, James Tamou, Daine Laurie, Jack Hetherington, Braydon McGrady, Malakai Watene-Zelezniak, Pat Hollis, Zane Tetevano, Josh Mansour, Dean Whare, Dean Blore

Best 17

1. Dylan Edwards 2. Charlie Staines 3. Stephen Crichton 4. Paul Momirovski 5. Brian To'o 6. Jarome Luai 7. Nathan Cleary 8. Moses Leota 9. Api Koroisau 10. James Fisher-Harris 11. Viliame Kikau 12. Kurt Capewell 13. Isiah Yeo Interchange: 14. Liam Martin 15. Spencer Leniu 16. Matt Eisenhuth 17. Tyrone May

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	Mar 13th	7:35pm	Penrith	North Qld	Panthers
2	Sat	Mar 20th	3:00pm	Canterbury	Penrith	Bankwest
3	Thu	Mar 25th	8:05pm	Penrith	Melbourne	Panthers
4	Thu	Apr 1st	8:05pm	Manly	Penrith	Lottoland
5	Fri	Apr 9th	7:55pm	Penrith	Canberra	Panthers
6	Thu	Apr 15th	7:50pm	Brisbane	Penrith	Suncorp
7	Thu	Apr 22nd	7:50pm	Penrith	Newcastle	Panthers
8	Sat	May 1st	3:00pm	Penrith	Manly	Carrington
9	Fri	May 7th	6:00pm	Penrith	Cronulla	Panthers
10	Sun	May 16th	6:25pm	Gold Coast	Penrith	Suncorp
11	Sun	May 23rd	2:00pm	South Sydney	Penrith	Apex Oval
12	Sat	May 29th	3:00pm	Penrith	Canterbury	Panthers
13	Fri	Jun 4th	7:55pm	Wests Tigers	Penrith	Leichhardt
14	Fri	Jun 11th	7:55pm	Cronulla	Penrith	Netstrata
15	Fri	Jun 18th	7:55pm	Penrith	Sydney	Panthers
16	Fri	Jul 2nd	7:55pm	Penrith	Parramatta	Panthers
18	Sun	Jul 18th	2:00pm	Warriors	Penrith	Mt Smart
19	Sat	Jul 24th	7:35pm	Penrith	Brisbane	Panthers
20	Sat	Jul 31st	7:35pm	Melbourne	Penrith	AAMI Park
21	Sat	Aug 7th	5:30pm	Sydney	Penrith	SCG
22	Fri	Aug 13th	6:00pm	St Geo Illa	Penrith	WIN Stadium
23	Fri	Aug 20th	7:55pm	Penrith	South Sydney	Panthers
24	Sun	Aug 29th	4:05pm	Penrith	Wests Tigers	Panthers
25	Fri	Sep 3rd	7:55pm	Parramatta	Penrith	Bankwest

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA JUSTIN DAVIES

By Hook or crook, the Dragons have started their rebuild in 2021. It looks like another of 'not much pleasure but plenty of pain' for the joint venture side under Anthony Griffin.

Last season was rock bottom for the Red V. Paul McGregor was in-and-out like the hokey pokey, but the former Steeler and Dragon was mercifully sacked before the Round 14 clash against the Eels. St George Illawarra then limped their way to the line with six wins in the COVID-affected 2020 season to finish 12th.

That finish flattered the Dragons, who were a bottom rung side in 2020. Not much will change in 2021 with the return of a majority of the side which ran out last season. The big change comes in a homecoming for Jack Bird and new coach in Griffin.

The rebuilding job ahead for Griffin is one that would be make Bob the Builder wince. 'Hook' has been out of the coaching ring since 2018. There have been some sprinkles of Griffin's work already in the 2021 side. Andrew McCullough - who Griffin coached in Brisbane - signed late in pre-season and Griffin has expressed confidence in both Ben Hunt (who was made captain) and Corey Norman to reproduce their best.

Simply put, the Dragons will be a bottom four side in 2021, but there is plenty of talent in the side which Griffin has to unlock if they want to breath more than just smoke against teams. This year might be the turning point for the side where they start to push the rebuild boulder up the hill - or they may well continue to run up that hill of mediocrity.

With a club in the Dragons' position, the fixture is just tough all round. It starts with a home derby at Kogarah against Cronulla. The hardest clashes come on ANZAC Day (Roosters), Magic Round (Storm) and prior to Origin 2 (Canberra), with a super-tough run home which includes the Raiders, Panthers, Roosters and Rabbitohs.

Whilst it's set to be another tough year for the Red V, fans want to see some form of plan and improvement from the side - something that was a big complaint in the McGregor era. Otherwise, Griffin will become another of the long line of failures at the joint venture since Wayne Bennett's departure a decade ago - and he might get the Hook sooner rather than later.

Why They'll Win It

Hahahaha.. Oh seriously? Well, if the all the other clubs had salary cap breaches it would leave the Dragons to be Premiers by default.

The club is entering their rebuild so it might be a while before they can taste Premiership glory again. There is always the 2010 Grand Final DVD to enjoy though!

If the Dragons want to make the top eight, it will rest on their stars - Hunt, Norman, Lomax, Dufty - to be consistent across the whole season. All have shown that they can be class players and if it clicks with a bit more starch in defence, it could be a quicker rebound for the joint venture. Most likely it won't be though.

Why They Won't

This is the start of the pain for the Dragons. Griffin was brought in to reshape the club after the disaster which has been the last few seasons. There is still plenty of big contracts and issues which surround the club, not to mention a roster which will struggle to win more than six games this year. The departure of Tyson Frizell and the loss of Cameron McInnes to injury has weakened the Dragons already maligned forward pack. Dragons were soft through the middle last year and plenty will rest on Paul Vaughan and Tariq Sims to lift them to some respectability.

Key Players

This is the tipping point for two much maligned figures at the club. Both **Ben Hunt** and **Corey Norman** came to Dragons with big reputations but have failed to fire. Hunt was named club captain and will take on plenty of responsibility. If Griffin can stick to a consistent halves pairing it might help spark the former Australian representative.

At times in 2020, Zac Lomax played a lone hand for the points-shy Saints. The centre locked down to a long term deal and probably will be the leading point scorer for the side again. Up front, Paul Vaughan needs to bounce back to the form which saw him play Origin in a Dragons pack which is lacking experience in 2021.

Rookie to watch

One of the bright spots at the end of a torrid 2020 was the flying **Cody Ramsay**. The long-haired winger debuted with a pair of tries (probably should've been a hat-trick) against Canberra and has injected some youthful energy to the side. The Dragons rewarded that hot start to life in the NRL with a three-year-deal last week.

Besides Ramsay, there is some exciting backline prospects coming through the Dragons ranks. **Max Feagai** got a taste of first grade late in 2020 and **his brother Mat** is waiting to make his debut but might push through this season.

One this writer and most Dragons fans will be keen to see on a permanent basis is half **Jayden Sullivan**. The youngster showed no fear in his only game last year and got tongues wagging with his hard running and kicking game which might see him surge into the halves equation if things go south early in the season.

Player Movements

IN: Poasa Faamausili, Andrew McCullough, Jack Bird, Daniel Alvaro

OUT: Tim Lafai, Tyson Frizell, James Graham, Issac Luke, Euan Aitken, Jacob Host, Korbin Sims, Jason Saab, Jack de Belin*, Joe Lovodua, Tristan Sailor

* contract signed, not yet registered due to pending court case

Best 17

1. Matt Dufty 2. Cody Ramsay 3. Jack Bird 4. Zac Lomax 5. Mikaele Ravalawa 6. Corey Norman 7. Ben Hunt (c) 8. Josh Kerr 9. Andrew McCullough 10. Paul Vaughan 11. Jackson Ford 12. Tariq Sims 13. Blake Lawrie

Interchange: 14. Trent Merrin 15. Tyrell Fuimaono 16. Kaide Ellis 17. Poasa Fa'amausili

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sun	Mar 14th	6:15pm	St Geo Illa	Cronulla	Netstrata
2	Sat	Mar 20th	7:35pm	North Qld	St Geo Illa	QCBS
3	Fri	Mar 26th	6:00pm	St Geo Illa	Manly	WIN Stadium
4	Sun	Apr 4th	4:05pm	Newcastle	St Geo Illa	McDonald Jones
5	Sun	Apr 11th	6:15pm	Parramatta	St Geo Illa	Bankwest
6	Sun	Apr 18th	2:00pm	St Geo Illa	Warriors	Netstrata
7	Sun	Apr 25th	4:05pm	Sydney	St Geo Illa	SCG
8	Sun	May 2nd	4:05pm	St Geo Illa	Wests Tigers	WIN Stadium
9	Sun	May 9th	4:05pm	St Geo Illa	Canterbury	Netstrata
10	Sun	May 16th	4:05pm	Melbourne	St Geo Illa	Suncorp
11	Fri	May 21st	7:55pm	Cronulla	St Geo Illa	Netstrata
12	Fri	May 28th	7:55pm	Wests Tigers	St Geo Illa	Bankwest
13	Thu	Jun 3rd	7:50pm	St Geo Illa	Brisbane	Netstrata
14	Mon	Jun 14th	4:00pm	Canterbury	St Geo Illa	Stadium Aust
15	Sat	Jun 19th	5:30pm	St Geo Illa	Canberra	WIN Stadium
16	Fri	Jul 2nd	6:00pm	Warriors	St Geo Illa	Mt Smart
18	Fri	Jul 16th	7:55pm	Manly	St Geo Illa	Lottoland
19	Sun	Jul 25th	2:00pm	St Geo Illa	Gold Coast	Netstrata
20	Sat	Jul 31st	3:00pm	St Geo Illa	South Sydney	WIN Stadium
21	Fri	Aug 6th	6:00pm	Canberra	St Geo Illa	GIO Stadium
22	Fri	Aug 13th	6:00pm	St Geo Illa	Penrith	WIN Stadium
23	Sun	Aug 22nd	2:00pm	St Geo Illa	Sydney	Netstrata
24	Sat	Aug 28th	3:00pm	St Geo Illa	North Qld	WIN Stadium
25	Sat	Sep 4th	3:00pm	South Sydney	St Geo Illa	Stadium Aust

SOUTH SYDNEY JASON HOSKEN

Buckle up Rabbitohs fans. With Wayne Bennett's impending exit and a legitimate title shot, Souths are bound to become the season's headline act.

Largely written off prior to 2020 following the retirement of several club stalwarts, an irresistible mid-season groove saw Souths smoke opponents in some of the most breathtaking onslaughts of the NRL-era.

Despite defying the experts, a preliminary final exit was an all too familiar crash along another promising road.

Now less than a year later, they are poised to raise the bar once again. The additions of representative stars Jai Arrow and Josh Mansour complement established combinations, and even with limited time on the park, Benji Marshall may yet prove to be an astute signing.

Throw in the return of Latrell Mitchell, and if the No.1 stays healthy the Burrow's premiership dreams are well and truly on track.

Why they'll win it

Even in the absence of premiership legends Sam Burgess and John Sutton, the Rabbitohs' unheralded pack rarely skipped a beat last season.

With the likes of Tevita Tatola and Keaon Kolomatangi enhancing their reputations alongside the continued rise of Cameron Murray, the arrival of Maroons star Jai Arrow ensures Souths' middle ranks alongside the most formidable in the competition.

Mitchell's return gives Souths' an imposing presence, and in the company of the cunning trio of Cody Walker, Adam Reynolds and Damien Cook, even the most resolute of defense can be made to look second rate.

And in a year where once again little is expected to separate the top sides, don't discount the farewell factor in the Redfern boys' title prospects. Having already acknowledged South Sydney's enviable history, Bennett is sure to leave no stone unturned in a final attempt to etch his name alongside the club's greats.

Why they won't

Last season's preliminary final loss to Penrith was the third consecutive season Souths have stumbled one game shy of the grand final. In a further twist, a sluggish Rabbitohs conceded starts in each of their 2020 finals games.

For all their power and finesse, it seems Souths' biggest battle in reaching the dizzy heights of 2014 lies more between the ears than anywhere else.

On the recruitment front, beyond the key signings, the loss of Corey Allan could come home to bite. The Origin back was Bennett's Mr Fix-It, the one who kept the likes of Alex Johnston and Dane Gagai in their favoured positions for the greater stability of the team.

Key players

Last season the Rabbitohs were a **Latrell Mitchell** shy of pinching Penrith's spot in the grand final.

With a strong nucleus developed over several seasons, the X-factor's bung hamstring robbed Souths when it mattered most.

Now back in the No.1 with the club's premiership window wide open, the pressure on the former Rooster to ice the club's 22nd premiership is set to intensify with every passing week.

Up front, the demolition tendencies of Arrow should free up the skills of **Cameron Murray**.

Set to enter his fifth year in the cardinal and myrtle, Blues coach Brad Fittler

underlined the significance of Murray's presence in lamenting the back-rower's loss to injury midway through last season's Origin series defeat.

Yet for all the class, the brains-trust of **Cook, Reynolds and Walker** will be key. How they adjust Souths' attack to modified defensive tactics and integrate the new recruits will not only shape their own form, but ultimately that of their teammates.

Rookies to watch

With 17 stars on the books capped at Origin or international level don't expect Souths' three uncapped rookies to crack the match day squad until later in the season, if at all. Half-back **Dean Hawkins** and hooker **Joshua Cook** are both local juniors, who along with Newcastle back-rower **Brock Gardner** will benefit in elite company.

For Marshall and Knights off-cut **Tautau Moga**, 2021 is hardly their first dance but with limited spots on offer both will be bouncing about like it's their debut season. A bargain buy, Marshall knows his place having covered for Bennett in the halves during his stint at the Broncos. While for Moga, with just 14 games under his belt since 2017, Souths becomes his fifth NRL club. But if the 27-year-old strapping centre can stay on the park, he's definitely one to watch.

Player movements

IN: Jai Arrow, Taane Milne, Jacob Host, Tautau Moga, Josh Mansour, Benji Marshall
OUT: Bryson Goodwin, Ethan Lowe, James Roberts, Tom Amone, Jack Johns, Bayley Sironen, Joseph Suaalii, Corey Allan

Best 17

1. Latrell Mitchell 2. Alex Johnston 3. Dane Gagai 4. Campbell Graham 5. Josh Mansour 6. Cody Walker 7. Adam Reynolds 8. Tom Burgess 9. Damien Cook 10. Tevita Tatola 11. Jaydn Su'A 12. Cameron Murray 13. Jai Arrow
Interchange: 14. Liam Knight 15. Keaon Kolomatangi 16. Jacob Host 17. Benji Marshall

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Thu	Mar 11th	8:05pm	Melbourne	South Sydney	AAMI Park
2	Sat	Mar 20th	5:30pm	Manly	South Sydney	Lottoland
3	Fri	Mar 26th	8:05pm	South Sydney	Sydney	Stadium Aust
4	Fri	Apr 2nd	4:05pm	Canterbury	South Sydney	Stadium Aust
5	Thu	Apr 8th	7:50pm	South Sydney	Brisbane	Stadium Aust
6	Sat	Apr 17th	5:30pm	South Sydney	Wests Tigers	Stadium Aust
7	Fri	Apr 23rd	6:00pm	Gold Coast	South Sydney	CBUS
8	Thu	Apr 29th	7:50pm	Canberra	South Sydney	GIO Stadium
9	Thu	May 6th	7:50pm	South Sydney	Melbourne	Stadium Aust
10	Sat	May 15th	5:30pm	Cronulla	South Sydney	Suncorp
11	Sun	May 23rd	2:00pm	South Sydney	Penrith	Apex Oval
12	Sat	May 29th	5:30pm	South Sydney	Parramatta	Stadium Aust
14	Sat	Jun 12th	5:30pm	South Sydney	Newcastle	Stadium Aust
15	Thu	Jun 17th	7:50pm	Brisbane	South Sydney	Suncorp
16	Sun	Jul 4th	4:05pm	Wests Tigers	South Sydney	Leichhardt
17	Fri	Jul 9th	7:55pm	South Sydney	North Qld	Stadium Aust
18	Sun	Jul 18th	6:15pm	South Sydney	Canterbury	Stadium Aust
19	Sat	Jul 24th	3:00pm	South Sydney	Warriors	Sunshine Coast
20	Sat	Jul 31st	3:00pm	St Geo Illa	South Sydney	WIN Stadium
21	Fri	Aug 6th	7:55pm	Parramatta	South Sydney	Bankwest
22	Sat	Aug 14th	3:00pm	South Sydney	Gold Coast	Central Coast
23	Fri	Aug 20th	7:55pm	Penrith	South Sydney	Panthers
24	Fri	Aug 27th	7:55pm	Sydney	South Sydney	SCG
25	Sat	Sep 4th	3:00pm	South Sydney	St Geo Illa	Stadium Aust

While the Roosters made the top 4 in 2020 and in doing so qualified for their 4th straight finals series, the boys from the East will be nowhere near satisfied with the final outcome and will look to reach the peaks of yesteryear once more in 2021.

The Roosters are a fascinating team to consider on the eve of the new season, with the majority of pundits picking them to remain in the mix amongst the contenders but very few thinking they're capable of going all the way. In many respects, this is fair enough. They are without an established halfback once again after releasing young Kyle Flanagan to the Bulldogs, while replacing him will be the even more raw Lachlan Lam, with gun teen Sam Walker waiting in the wings. Jake Friend also showed signs of decline in 2020.

However, the Roosters still boast arguably the best fullback and five-eighth in the comp in James Tedesco and Luke Keary respectively, and you can't count out the three-time premiership winning coach they have at the helm in Trent Robinson.

Why They'll Win It

The Roosters have a great mix of experience and raw young talent heading into 2021 and last season showed glimpses of what they're capable of at their peak. Their backline is both reliable, with the Morris twins proving age is no barrier on countless occasions, and dynamic, with Joseph Manu possessing the x-factor needed for the backline. Tedesco's track record speaks for itself and Tupou provides great value in terms of kick return metres in his own half and soaring through the air in the red zone. What needs to improve big time if the tri-colours are to win it all is the defence. Over 6 games in the 2018 and 2019 finals series, the Roosters conceded just 42 points combined, while in their 2 finals outings in 2020 alone, they conceded 51. While this can partly be attributed to the ludicrous new rules that increase player fatigue, it is still nowhere near the calibre that it needs to be to go all the way.

However, Trent Robinson is well aware of this and will be doing everything in his power to bring back the famed Bondi wall renowned for turning opposition attacks away set after set. Angus Crichton looks set for longer minutes after the retirement of Mitch Aubusson and the concussion of Boyd Cordner, and has improved exponentially recently, being among the Roosters best in a recent trial match. Dynamic lock forward Victor Radley is set to return and provide the link in attack so desperately missed, while Sam Verrills will also relieve some of the pressure on Jake Friend.

Why They Won't

In Rugby League, experience is just another way of saying someone is old, and in the case of the Roosters, there are a lot of old heads who are probably past their prime. The aforementioned Morris twins were good in 2020, but it'll prove quite the task to back it up in 2021. Jared Waerea-Hargreaves looked a shadow of his former self at times, while Jake Friends forward passes and nothing kicks became a weekly occurrence rather than an annual one. For better or for worse, the game is becoming much, much faster and it remains to be seen whether a team with a lot of players closer to retirement than debut can match it with some of the younger, more dynamic opposition.

Similarly, the Roosters are putting a lot of faith into young players with only a handful of first grade matches in key positions, most notably the five-eighth position with Robinson declaring Keary will wear the number 7 on his back. There is a plethora of options to partner Keary and I daresay we will see a number of them take the field at some point during the year. All signs indicate that Lachlan Lam will get the first crack, and probably deservedly so considering he has impressed in his limited opportunities so far. Breathing down his neck for the role will be Sam Walker and to a lesser extent Drew Hutchison and Adam Keighran. While all 4 options in 2021 are probably at worst serviceable first grade options and will most likely have their best years ahead of them, it is a lot to ask for someone like Lam or Walker to step in and immediately guide a team to the premiership.

Key Players

He's been already briefly mentioned in this piece so far, but it cannot be understated how much the Roosters missed **Victor Radley** in 2020. Their attack looked the clunkiest it's been in a long time and a lot of that can be put down to Radley's absence. He was pivotal in linking the big men with the outside backs and ensuring that the more dynamic men out wide could take full advantage whenever the forward pack got on a roll. He also didn't shy away from the tough stuff, averaging 131 metres and 32 tackles per game (not including against the Dragons where he got injured 7 minutes

in). With Radley back and firing, the Roosters are likely to pose more of a threat with ball in hand, especially in opposition territory.

If **Angus Crichton** can cling on to the form he showed in the 2nd half of 2020, he may be worth a sneaky punt for Dally M back-rower of the year. With Boyd Cordner out for 12 weeks and possibly longer, Crichton will get the opportunity to play for an extended period on the left-hand side of the field, and although he himself prefers the right, he has looked more damaging when able to link up with Keary on the side that historically receives the most traffic when the Roosters attack.

Rookie to Watch

In terms of external hype, it's not hard to argue that Joseph Suaalii will be the most heavily scrutinised player on the Roosters roster, however it is **Sam Walker** who I think is the most intriguing rookie to wear the Red, White and Blue in 2021. Walker was signed by the Roosters back in 2019 as a 16-year-old with huge potential, however it is only recently that footy fans have gotten the chance to watch him on a decent platform, that being the recent trial against the Raiders. It's fair to say that Walker gave Roosters fans a genuine reason to be excited, scoring 2 impressive tries that showed match awareness as well as having the confidence to throw 2 long cut-out passes on the same play. While it was only a trial match, he definitely showed himself to Trent Robinson as a genuine option to play first grade in 2021. Don't be surprised to see him get a call up at some point.

Player Movements

IN: Adam Keighran, Joseph Suaalii; **OUT:** Mitch Aubusson, Kyle Flanagan, Poasa Faamausili, Sonny Bill Williams, Christian Tuipulotu, Ryan Hall

Best 17

1. James Tedesco 2. Daniel Tupou 3. Josh Morris 4. Joseph Manu 5. Brett Morris 6. Lachlan Lam 7. Luke Keary 8. Sio-Siua Taukeiaho 9. Sam Verrills 10. Lindsay Collins 11. Angus Crichton 12. Boyd Cordner 13. Victor Radley
Interchange: 14. Jake Friend 15. Jared Waerea-Hargreaves 16. Sitili Tupouniua 17. Nat Butcher

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	Mar 13th	5:30pm	Sydney	Manly	SCG
2	Sun	Mar 21st	4:05pm	Wests Tigers	Sydney	Campbelltown
3	Fri	Mar 26th	8:05pm	South Sydney	Sydney	Stadium Aust
4	Sun	Apr 4th	6:15pm	Sydney	Warriors	SCG
5	Sat	Apr 10th	7:35pm	Sydney	Cronulla	SCG
6	Fri	Apr 16th	7:55pm	Melbourne	Sydney	AAMI Park
7	Sun	Apr 25th	4:05pm	Sydney	St Geo Illa	SCG
8	Sat	May 1st	7:35pm	Newcastle	Sydney	McDonald Jones
9	Fri	May 7th	7:55pm	Parramatta	Sydney	Bankwest
10	Sat	May 15th	7:45pm	Sydney	North Qld	Suncorp
11	Sat	May 22nd	5:30pm	Sydney	Brisbane	SCG
12	Sat	May 29th	7:35pm	Sydney	Canberra	Central Coast
14	Sat	Jun 12th	3:00pm	Gold Coast	Sydney	CBUS
15	Fri	Jun 18th	7:55pm	Penrith	Sydney	Panthers
16	Thu	Jul 1st	7:50pm	Sydney	Melbourne	SCG
17	Sat	Jul 10th	7:35pm	Canterbury	Sydney	Bankwest
18	Sat	Jul 17th	7:35pm	North Qld	Sydney	AAMI Park
19	Fri	Jul 23rd	6:00pm	Sydney	Newcastle	SCG
20	Thu	Jul 29th	7:50pm	Sydney	Parramatta	SCG
21	Sat	Aug 7th	5:30pm	Sydney	Penrith	SCG
22	Fri	Aug 13th	7:55pm	Brisbane	Sydney	Suncorp
23	Sun	Aug 22nd	2:00pm	St Geo Illa	Sydney	Netstrata
24	Fri	Aug 27th	7:55pm	Sydney	South Sydney	SCG
25	Thu	Sep 2nd	7:50pm	Canberra	Sydney	GIO Stadium

The New Zealand Warriors may have missed out on the top eight in 2020, but given the circumstances few would deny the year as anything other than a success.

Forced to relocate to Australia after the New Zealand Government announced border closures just moments before kick-off in their opening match, the unexpected nomads overcame the added burden of coach Stephen Kearney's shock dismissal to finish two wins shy of the finals in 10th position.

Heading into 2021 with Nathan Brown at the helm after interim mentor Todd Payten opted to return to Australia, the former Newcastle coach will be determined to build on the character growth of last season in an effort to transform the perennial underachievers into premiership contenders.

Welcoming seven new faces to the squad, headlined by formidable front rower Addin Fonua-Blake, the likes of Kane Evans, Ben Murdoch-Masila and Bayley Sironen will add plenty of punch to the forward pack.

Outside back Marcelo Montoya and playmaker Sean O'Sullivan will be hoping for injury-free campaigns, while a change of scenery may be the catalyst needed to turn Euan Aitken from a representative pretender to contender.

Remaining in Australia until June due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Warriors will enjoy a long awaited return to New Zealand against St George Illawarra in Round 16 - almost two years after their last premiership fixture in Auckland.

A challenging start to the year will see the side face three incumbent top eight teams over the first month, while barring further travel restrictions five of their final ten matches will take place at Mt Smart Stadium.

The Warriors will begin their 2021 campaign on the Central Coast with an afternoon clash against the Titans on Saturday, 13 March.

Why they'll win it

Few would have blamed the Warriors for throwing in the towel given the challenges of last season.

Uprooted to a different country due to forces beyond their control, the side refused to surrender to remain in finals contention until the final fortnight of the season.

Adding additional class to an already talented squad, the newfound resilience should see the Warriors vie for a top eight finish at a minimum.

Why they won't

While many clubs are set to have their depth tested as a result of no lower grade football being played last season, the Warriors are unlikely to be afforded the favourable treatment of being able to call upon loan players.

Benefitting greatly from the willingness of the Roosters, Panthers and Eels to engage in short-terms loans, the side's depth looks set to be tested when injuries and suspensions strike.

Key Player

Tasked with the responsibility of directing play in the number seven jersey, the form of **Chanel Harris-Tavita** will have a major bearing on where the Warriors end up in 2021.

Showing plenty of talent in limited game time over the past two seasons, the

21-year-old Samoan international will be looking to build on his combination alongside Kodi Nikorima in an effort to take the Auckland outfit back to the finals for the first time since 2018.

Rookie to watch

Making one appearance midway through last season, 20-year-old playmaker **Paul Turner** will be pushing for regular game time in the top grade. Showing touches of class as a starting halfback, the Whangarei product looms as a utility option thanks to his footwork and support play.

Player Movements

IN: Euan Aitken, Kane Evans, Addin Fonua-Blake, Marcelo Montoya, Ben Murdoch-Masila, Sean O'Sullivan, Bayley Sironen

OUT: Gerard Beale, Adam Blair, Lachlan Burr, Patrick Herbert, Adam Keighran, Taane Milne, Agnatus Paasi, Isaiah Papali'i, Nathaniel Roache

Best 17

1. Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (C) 2. David Fusitua 3. Euan Aitken 4. Peta Hiku 5. Ken Maumalo 6. Kodi Nikorima 7. Chanel Harris-Tavita 8. Addin Fonua-Blake 9. Wayde Egan 10. Leeson Ah Mau 11. Ben Murdoch-Masila 12. Tohu Harris 13. Jazz Tévaga
Interchange: 14. Bayley Sironen 15. Eliesa Katoa 16. Kane Evans 17. Jamayne Taunoa-Brown

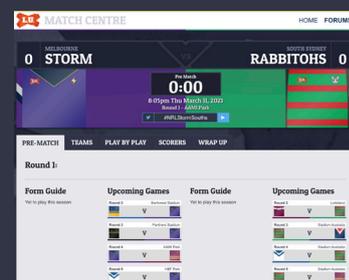
2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sat	Mar 13th	3:00pm	Warriors	Gold Coast	Central Coast
2	Fri	Mar 19th	6:00pm	Warriors	Newcastle	Central Coast
3	Sat	Mar 27th	3:00pm	Canberra	Warriors	GIO Stadium
4	Sun	Apr 4th	6:15pm	Sydney	Warriors	SCG
5	Fri	Apr 9th	6:00pm	Warriors	Manly	Central Coast
6	Sun	Apr 18th	2:00pm	St Geo Illa	Warriors	Netstrata
7	Sun	Apr 25th	6:15pm	Melbourne	Warriors	AAMI Park
8	Sun	May 2nd	2:00pm	Warriors	North Qld	Central Coast
9	Sun	May 9th	2:00pm	Manly	Warriors	Lottoland
10	Sun	May 16th	1:50pm	Warriors	Parramatta	Suncorp
11	Fri	May 21st	6:00pm	Warriors	Wests Tigers	Central Coast
12	Fri	May 28th	6:00pm	North Qld	Warriors	QCBS
14	Sun	Jun 13th	2:00pm	Warriors	Melbourne	Central Coast
15	Sat	Jun 19th	3:00pm	Newcastle	Warriors	McDonald Jones
16	Fri	Jul 2nd	6:00pm	Warriors	St Geo Illa	Mt Smart
17	Sun	Jul 11th	4:05pm	Cronulla	Warriors	Netstrata
18	Sun	Jul 18th	2:00pm	Warriors	Penrith	Mt Smart
19	Sat	Jul 24th	3:00pm	South Sydney	Warriors	Sunshine Coast
20	Fri	Jul 30th	6:00pm	Wests Tigers	Warriors	Bankwest
21	Sat	Aug 7th	3:00pm	Warriors	Cronulla	Mt Smart
22	Sun	Aug 15th	2:00pm	Warriors	Canterbury	Mt Smart
23	Sun	Aug 22nd	4:05pm	Brisbane	Warriors	Suncorp
24	Fri	Aug 27th	6:00pm	Warriors	Canberra	Mt Smart
25	Sun	Sep 5th	2:00pm	Gold Coast	Warriors	CBUS

EXCLUSIVE LIVE MATCH UPDATES

Every NRL match, every round.

Head to LeagueUnlimited.com on match day to follow the action



WESTS TIGERS ANDREW FERGUSON

The Wests Tigers extended their current finals drought to, fittingly, nine years in 2020.

In their 21 year existence, they've made the finals just three times. Coach Michael Maguire was lumbered with a badly managed salary cap and a horribly constructed roster when he arrived in 2019 and even now, after two full seasons, is he finally starting to build his own team. By the end of 2021 he will be able to field his own side.

The Tigers side has gone through plenty of player churn in the off-season and look to have the majority of their roster sorted, although there is still some doubt lingering over the spine.

They will again prove to be competitive for the most part which will see them avoid the dreaded wooden spoon, but whether they can reach the finals is a big question.

The Tigers first 4 games of 2021 are all against bogey teams – Canberra, Sydney, Newcastle and Parramatta, then from Round 13 they'll face in succession – Penrith, Parramatta, Melbourne, Souths, Brisbane and Manly before a reasonable run home to the end of the regular season.

They face 2020 Minor Premiers Penrith twice and current Premiers Melbourne once.

Why they'll win it

The Tigers are finally building some good attacking combinations on both edges. They now have very good attacking options in the back row on both sides, with some quality attacking centres and wingers outside them.

Why they won't

Defence. Always defence. Only 4 times in their 21 year history has the clubs points difference been positive. 2018 and 2019 saw the Tigers defence concede less than 20.5 points per game for the first time since 2011.

Last year though that figure blew out to 25.25 points per game, thanks to a streak of 10 games where they conceded 26 points or more.

Key Players

Halfback **Luke Brooks** will be in his final make or break season. He is 2 games shy of 150 games for the Tigers, yet has never appeared in a finals game. With the club freeing up cap space in recent seasons and continuing to do so at the end of the year, he may well find himself being replaced.

He is a very good half, with good skills as a playmaker, with a relatively strong kicking and passing game, while also being a handy exponent of taking intercepts. He's got plenty of toe too. But he has struggled to direct his side around the park. He won't have Robbie Farah or Benji Marshall to help him anymore, and with less experienced players than him in the spine, he really needs to take ownership of this side in 2021.

James Tamou looks to be a very handy acquisition for the club, a born leader who will lead the side in the middle, an area that the Tigers have forever struggled with.

If he can help improve the team defensively, he will be worth every red cent he earns.

Rookies to watch

Daine Laurie has been an exciting pick-up by the Tigers from the Panthers. The talented back is equally at home at five-eighth or fullback, has a good passing game and is very

nippy around the ruck.

Jake Simpkin is a very talented hooker who could very well find himself on the bench as a back-up for Jacob Liddle, who has barely played any 80 minute games in his career thus far.

Jock Madden is touted to be a long-term halves option for the club and if he isn't partnering Brooks, he may well be replacing him in the years to come.

Player Movements

IN: Tom Amone, Daine Laurie, Joe Ofahengaue, Tuki Simpkins, James Roberts, James Tamou, Stefano Utoikamanu

OUT: Chris Lawrence, Chris McQueen, Robert Jennings, Matt Eisenhuth, Harry Grant, Paul Momirovski, Sam McIntyre, Josh Aloiai, Josh Reynolds, Elijah Taylor, Kane Bradley, Benji Marshall

Best 17

1. Daine Laurie 2. David Nofoaluma 3. Joey Leilua 4. James Roberts 5. Asu Kepaoa 6. Adam Doueihi 7. Luke Brooks 8. James Tamou 9. Jacob Liddle 10. Alex Twal 11. Luke Garner 12. Luciano Leilua 13. Joe Ofahengaue; Interchange: 14. Shawn Blore 15. Thomas Mikaele 16. Stefano Utoikamanu 17. Michael Chee-Kam

2021 Fixtures

Round	Day	Date	Kickoff	Home	Away	Venue
1	Sun	Mar 14th	4:05pm	Canberra	Wests Tigers	GIO Stadium
2	Sun	Mar 21st	4:05pm	Wests Tigers	Sydney	Campbelltown
3	Sun	Mar 28th	4:05pm	Newcastle	Wests Tigers	McDonald Jones
4	Mon	Apr 5th	4:00pm	Wests Tigers	Parramatta	Stadium Aust
5	Sun	Apr 11th	4:05pm	Wests Tigers	North Qld	Leichhardt
6	Sat	Apr 17th	5:30pm	South Sydney	Wests Tigers	Stadium Aust
7	Sun	Apr 25th	1:45pm	Wests Tigers	Manly	Bankwest
8	Sun	May 2nd	4:05pm	St Geo Illa	Wests Tigers	WIN Stadium
9	Sat	May 8th	5:30pm	Wests Tigers	Gold Coast	Campbelltown
10	Fri	May 14th	6:00pm	Wests Tigers	Newcastle	Suncorp
11	Fri	May 21st	6:00pm	Warriors	Wests Tigers	Central Coast
12	Fri	May 28th	7:55pm	Wests Tigers	St Geo Illa	Bankwest
13	Fri	Jun 4th	7:55pm	Wests Tigers	Penrith	Leichhardt
14	Sun	Jun 13th	4:05pm	Parramatta	Wests Tigers	Bankwest
15	Sat	Jun 19th	7:35pm	Melbourne	Wests Tigers	AAMI Park
16	Sun	Jul 4th	4:05pm	Wests Tigers	South Sydney	Leichhardt
18	Sun	Jul 18th	4:05pm	Brisbane	Wests Tigers	Suncorp
19	Sat	Jul 24th	5:30pm	Manly	Wests Tigers	Central Coast
20	Fri	Jul 30th	6:00pm	Wests Tigers	Warriors	Bankwest
21	Sun	Aug 8th	2:00pm	Canterbury	Wests Tigers	Belmore
22	Sat	Aug 14th	7:35pm	North Qld	Wests Tigers	Lottoland
23	Sat	Aug 21st	3:00pm	Wests Tigers	Cronulla	Scully Park
24	Sun	Aug 29th	4:05pm	Penrith	Wests Tigers	Panthers
25	Sun	Sep 5th	4:05pm	Wests Tigers	Canterbury	Campbelltown

National Rugby League 2021



Overview
Draw and Results
Ladder
News

Draw and Results

Show Single Round

Round 1

Melbourne Storm v South Sydney Rabbitohs
Thu 11 Mar 2021PM at AAMI Park

FULL SEASON DRAWS

All the competitions in an easy to read, one page format

Check them out at LeagueUnlimited.com/Quick-Links

On Trial

Scores, scorers, match details from the 2021 NRL Pre-Season

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS V ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

Fri February 12 2021, 4:00pm at PointsBet Stadium
 Referees: Todd Smith; Sideline Officials: Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski, Phil Henderson
 Sharks 36 (Tries: Nene Macdonald 2, Kayal Iro 2, Teig Wilton, Braydon Trindall, Mawene Hiroiti; Goals: Braydon Trindall 4/7) def Dragons 28 (Tries: Tyrell Sloan, Jayden Sullivan, Jayden Hunt, Josh Coric, Connor Muhleisen; Goals: Jayden Sullivan 3/4, Sitiveni Moceidreke 1/1)

PARRAMATTA EELS V ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

Thu February 18 2021, 5:30pm at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
 Referees: Matt Noyen, Chris Butler, Kasey Badger
 Eels 28 (Tries: Tom Opacic, Will Smith, William Penisini, Oregon Kaufusi, Solomone Naiduki; Goals: Jordan Rankin 4/5) def Dragons 6 (Tries: Max Feagai; Goals: Jayden Sullivan 1/1)

GOLD COAST TITANS V BURLEIGH BEARS

Fri February 19 2021, 8pm AEDT (7pm QLD) at Pizzey Park
 Pizzey Park, Friday 8pm (7pm QLD)
 Bears 36 (Tries: Sami Sauliluma, Troy Leo, Kurtis Rowe, Blake Leary, Josh Berkers, Lochlyn Sheldon, Allan Lockwood; Goals: Guy Hamilton 2, Shallin Fuller 2) def Titans 34 (Tries: Greg Marzhew 3, Jonus Pearson 2, Treymain Spry; Goals: Tanah Boyd 5)

BRISBANE BRONCOS V WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS

Fri February 19 2021, 8:30pm AEDT (7:30pm QLD) at Kitchener Park
 Seagulls 22 (Tries: Emmanuel Tuimavave-Gerrard, Mathew Lyons, Jack Campagnolo, Selwyn Cobbo; Goals: Jack Campagnolo 2) drew with Broncos 22 (Tries: Josh James, Ethan Bullemor, Isaiah Taas, Leivaha Pulu, Dale Copley; Goals: Reece Walsh 3)

WESTS TIGERS V SYDNEY ROOSTERS

Sat February 20 2021, 6:30pm at Kinkham Oval
 Referees: Ben Cummins, Chris Sutton;
 Roosters 28 (Tries: Ronald Volkman 2, Naufahu Whyte, Ben Thomas, Sione Hopoate; Goals: Ronald Volkman 1, Thomas Carr 3) def Wests Tigers 22 (Tries: Tui Simpkins, Alex Seyfarth, Allan Fitzgibbon, Zac Cini; Goals: Jock Madden 3)

WARRIORS V MELBOURNE STORM

Sat February 20 2021, 8:15pm at Dolphin Stadium, Redcliffe
Match cancelled due to Victorian COVID-19 restrictions

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS V CESSNOCK GOANNAS

Sat 20 February 2021, 6pm at Cessnock Sports Ground
 Knights 20 (Tries: Dominic Young, Jacob Kiraz, Liam Wilkinson, Dylan Lucas; Goals: 2) def Cessnock 4 (Try: Scott Haynes)

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS V GROUP 20 INVITATIONAL

Sat 20 February 2021, 7pm at Solar Mad Stadium, Griffith
 Rabbitohs 58 (Tries: Jacob Gagai 2, Maila Chanfoon, Zane Bijorac 2, Peter Mamouzelos, CJ Mundine, Trent Peoples, Davvy Moale, 2 others; Goals: Blake Taaffe 3, Lachlan Ilias 3, Dean Hawkins 1) def Group 20 nil

NRL Women's All Stars INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S ALL STARS V MAORI FERNS

Sat 20 February 2021, 5:40pm at Queensland Country Bank Stadium
 Referees: Belinda Sharpe; Touch Judges: Wyatt Raymond, Nick Pelgrave; Video Referee: Steve Chiddy
 Maori 24 (Tries: Corban McGregor, Amy Turner, Shanice Parker, Page McGregor, Raecene McGregor; Goals: Zahara Temara 2/5) def Indigenous 0

NRL Men's All Stars INDIGENOUS MEN'S ALL STARS V MAORI KIWIS

Sat 20 February 2021, 8:10pm at Queensland Country Bank Stadium
 Referees: Adam Gee Touch Judges: Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski, Phil Henderson Video Referee: Henry Perenara
 Indigenous 10 (Try: Alex Johnston; Goals: Latrell Mitchell 2/2, Jamal Fogarty 1/1) drew with

Maori Kiwis 10 (Tries: Jordan Riki, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak; Goals: Patrick Herbert 1/2)

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS V GROUP 20 INVITATIONAL

Sat 20 February 2021, 7pm at Solar Mad Stadium, Griffith
 Rabbitohs 58 (Tries: Jacob Gagai 2, Maila Chanfoon, Zane Bijorac 2, Peter Mamouzelos, CJ Mundine, Trent Peoples, Davvy Moale, 2 others; Goals: Blake Taaffe 3, Lachlan Ilias 3, Dean Hawkins 1) def Group 20 nil

PENRITH PANTHERS V MOUNTIES

Sat February 20 2021, 7pm at St Marys Leagues Stadium
 Panthers 18 (Tries: Thomas Jenkins, Billy Burns, John Faiumu, Taylan May; Goals: Matt Burton 1) def Mounties 12

SYDNEY ROOSTERS V CANBERRA RAIDERS

Sat February 27 2021, 4:00pm at Seiffert Oval
 Referees: Matt Cecchin; Sideline Officials: Matt Noyen, Rickey McFarlane;
 Roosters 26 (Tries: Sitili Tupouniua, Lindsay Collins, Sam Walker, Daniel Tupou, James Tedesco; Goals: Siosia Tauekiahoo 2, James Tedesco 1) def Raiders 20 (Tries: Hudson Young, Joseph Tapine, Jack Wighton, Albert Hopoate; Goals: George Williams 2)

MELBOURNE STORM V NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

Sat February 27 2021, 4:45pm at Albury Sports Ground
 Referees: Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski; Sideline Officials: Dave Munro, Drew Oultram;
 Storm 30 (Tries: Dean Ieremia, Jahrome Hughes, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Felise Kaufusi, Chris Lewis; Goals: Ryan Papenhuyzen 3, Nicho Hynes 2) def Knights 10 (T: Brayden Musgrove, Dominic Young; G: Chris Randall 1)

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS V CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

Sat February 27 2021, 6:00pm at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
 Referees: Gerard Sutton; Sideline Officials: Nick Beashe, Liam Nicholls;
 Bulldogs 16 (Tries: Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Adam Elliott, Brad Deitz; Goals: Kyle Flanagan 2) def Sharks 12 (Tries: Ronaldo Mulitalo 2; Goals: Chad Townsend 2)

GOLD COAST TITANS V WARRIORS

Sat February 27 2021, 5:50pm at Oakes Oval
 Referees: Ben Cummins; Sideline Officials: Michael Wise, Wyatt Raymond;
 Titans 12 (Tries: Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Jarrod Wallace; Goals: Jamal Fogarty 2) drew with Warriors 12 (Tries: Josh Curran, Jazz Tevaga; Goals: Kodi Nikorima 2)

2021 Charity Shield: SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS V ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

Sat February 27 2021, 6:30pm at Glen Willow Regional Sports Stadium
 Referees: Peter Gough; Sideline Officials: Todd Smith, Jon Stone;
 Rabbitohs 48 (Tries: Cody Walker 3, Jaxson Paulo, Dane Gagai, Latrell Mitchell, Mark Nicholls, Keaton Koloamatangi, Josh Mansour; Goals: Adam Reynolds 4, Dean Hawkins 1, Blake Taaffe 1) def Dragons 16 (Tries: Jordan Pereira, Cody Ramsey, Paul Vaughan; Goals: Zac Lomax 2)

PENRITH PANTHERS V PARRAMATTA EELS

Sat February 27 2021, 7:30pm at Panthers Stadium
 Referees: Ashley Klein; Sideline Officials: Phil Henderson, Darian Furner;
 Panthers 16 (Tries: Jarome Luai, Nathan Cleary, Taylan May; Goals: Nathan Cleary 2) def Eels 6 (Tries: Tom Opacic; Goals: Jordan Rankin 1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS V NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS

Sat February 27 2021, 8:05pm (7:05pm QLD) at Dolphin Stadium
 Referees: Chris Sutton; Sideline Officials: Chris Butler;
 Cowboys 34 (Tries: Scott Drinkwater, Valentine Holmes, Kyle Feldt, Mitch Dunn, Esan Marsters, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow; Goals: Jake Clifford 3, Valentine Holmes 2) def Broncos 18 (Tries: Tesi Niu, David Mead, Jake Turpin; Goals: Jamayne Isaako 3)

WESTS TIGERS V MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES

Sun February 28 2021, 5:00pm at Leichhardt Oval
 Referees: Grant Atkins; Sideline Officials: Belinda Sharpe, Keiren Irons
 Wests Tigers 52 (Tries: Daine Laurie 2, Asu Kepaoa, Tommy Talau, Adam Doueih, James Roberts, Kelma Tuilagi, David Nofaloama, Jake Simpkin; Goals: Luke Brooks 5, Adam Doueih 3) def Sea Eagles 18 (Tries: Kaeo Weekes, Ben Trbojevic, Josh Schuster; Goals: Reuben Garrick 1, Tevita Funa 2)

NRL Match Review Pre-Season & NRL All Stars 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
Eddie BLACKER	Dragons	Grade 2 Dangerous Contact (head/neck)	35', Jack A Williams	300	1 similar (+50%)	0	450	338	Guilty - early plea	3 matches	38
Jayden SULLIVAN	Dragons	Grade 1 Dangerous Throw	45', Gabe Hamlin	100	None	0	100	75	Guilty - early plea	None	75
Kayleb MILNE	Sharks	Grade 1 Dangerous Throw	63', Tariq Sims	100	None	0	100	75	Guilty - early plea	None	75
Zane MUSGROVE	Maori All Stars (Wests Tigers)	Grade 2 Shoulder Charge	35', Tyrell Fuimaono	350	None	0	350	263	Guilty - early plea	2 matches	63
Dallin WATENE-ZELEZNIAK	Maori All Stars (Bulldogs)	Grade 1 Careless High Tackle	48', Alex Johnston	\$1500	1 non-similar (+20%)	N/A	\$1800	\$1350	Guilty - early plea	\$1350	N/A
Thomas FLEGLER	Broncos	Grade 1 Dangerous Throw	26', Reuben Cotter	100	1 non-similar (+20%)	0	120	90	Guilty - early plea	None	90

THE FRONT ROW

GAME DAY

ROUND 1 MATCH PROGRAM

TEAM LISTS · MATCH DETAILS & STATS · PREVIEWS

THURSDAY



**STORM
v RABBITOHS**
AAMI

SATURDAY



**WARRIORS
v TITANS**
CENTRAL COAST

FRIDAY



**KNIGHTS
v BULLDOGS**
MCDONALD JONES



**BRONCOS
v EELS**
SUNCORP



**PANTHERS
v COWBOYS**
PANTHERS

SUNDAY



**RAIDERS
v WESTS TIGERS**
GIO



**DRAGONS
v SHARKS**
Netstrata Jubilee

WEEKLY TIPS Round 1

Last year's position out of 12 in brackets; DNT = did not tip last year

Andrew Jackson (1st)

Rabbitohs
Bulldogs
Eels
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Sharks

Josh Robertson (4th)

Rabbitohs
Bulldogs
Eels
Warriors
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Sharks

Sam Bourke (6th)

Storm
Bulldogs
Eels
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Sharks

Rob Crosby (8th)

Storm
Knights
Eels
Warriors
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Sharks

Adam Huxtable (10th)

Storm
Bulldogs
Eels
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Sharks

Andrew Ferguson (12th)

Storm
Knights
Eels
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Tigers
Sharks

Jason Hosken (DNT)

Storm
Bulldogs
Eels
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Tigers
Sharks

Rick Edgerton (2nd)

Rabbitohs
Knights
Eels
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Sharks

Justin Davies (5th)

Storm
Bulldogs
Eels
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Dragons

Hamish Parker (7th)

Storm
Knights
Broncos
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Sharks

Tim Costello (9th)

Storm
Bulldogs
Eels
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Sharks

Steven Williams (11th)

Storm
Knights
Eels
Warriors
Roosters
Panthers
Tigers
Dragons

Lachy MacCorquodale (DNT)

Storm
Knights
Eels
Titans
Roosters
Panthers
Tigers
Sharks

Paul Jobber (DNT)

Rabbitohs
Knights
Eels
Warriors
Roosters
Panthers
Raiders
Sharks

Melbourne STORM



South Sydney RABBITOHS

Ryan PAPHUYZEN	1	FULLBACK	1	Latrell MITCHELL
George JENNINGS	2	WING	2	Alex JOHNSTON
Reimis SMITH	3	CENTRE	3	Dane GAGAI
Justin OLAM	4	CENTRE	4	Campbell GRAHAM
Josh ADDO-CARR	5	WING	5	Josh MANSOUR
Cameron MUNSTER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Cody WALKER
Jahrome HUGHES	7	HALFBACK	7	Adam REYNOLDS
Jesse BROMWICH	8	FRONT ROW	8	Thomas BURGESS
Brandon SMITH	9	HOOKER	9	Damien COOK
Christian WELCH	10	FRONT ROW	10	Tevita TATOLA
Felise KAUFUSI	11	SECOND ROW	11	Jacob HOST
Kenneath BROMWICH	12	SECOND ROW	12	Jaydn SU'A
Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	13	LOCK	13	Cameron MURRAY
Chris LEWIS	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Benji MARSHALL
Tui KAMIKAMICA	15		15	Mark NICHOLLS
Tom EISENHUTH	16		16	Keaon KOLOAMATANGI
Nicholas HYNES	17		17	Jai ARROW
Darryn SCHONIG	18	RESERVES	18	Patrick MAGO
Cooper JOHNS	19		19	Jaxson PAULO
Trent LOIERO	20		20	Tautau MOGA
Tyson SMOOTHY	21		21	Troy DARGAN
Craig BELLAMY		COACH		Wayne BENNETT

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

#NRLStormSouths

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Thursday 11 March 2021
KICKOFF	8:05pm AEDT
VENUE	AAMI Park Melbourne, VIC
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport Triple M (Sydney and Brisbane) NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Grant ATKINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Todd SMITH Chris BUTLER
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 33 MATCHES

Storm 28 Rabbitohs 5 Draws 0

At AAMI Park: 9 matches, Storm 9, Rabbitohs 0

LAST TEN: STORM 9-1

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2014	10	Storm 27-14	ANZ Stadium	18,508
2015	10	Storm 16-12	AAMI Park	18,067
2016	22	Storm 15-14	AAMI Park	13,569
2017	11	Storm 14-6	nib Park, Perth	11,433
2017	25	Storm 64-6	AAMI Park	15,403
2018	21	Rabbitohs 30-20	ANZ Stadium	15,132
2018	QF	Storm 29-28	AAMI Park	17,306
2019	21	Storm 26-16	Central Coast	19,533
2020	4	Storm 22-8	AAMI Park	-
2020	17	Storm 22-16	ANZ Stadium	-

BIGGEST WINS

2003	13	Rabbitohs 41-14	Allianz
2017	25	Storm 64-6	AAMI Park

MILESTONES

PLAYER	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
B. Lee (MEL)	100 career points	4 points
F. Kaufusi (MEL)	100 club & career points	8 points
J. Hughes (MEL)	100 career points	12 points
J. Addo-Carr (MEL)	300 club points	8 points
R. Papenhuyzen (MEL)	100 club & career points	7 points
J. Mansour (SOU)	300 career points	4 points
T. Moga (SOU)	100 career points	8 points

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Match Preview

with Lachy MacCorquodale

The NRL is back as the season kicks off with a blockbuster clash between the defending premiers the Melbourne Storm and the South Sydney Rabbitohs.

AAMI Park is set to host the opening clash of 2021 as it welcomes fans through its doors for the first time since the end of the 2019 season. 50 per cent of the total 30,050 capacity will be allowed for the opening game of the season as Melbourne fans will flock to see their side play live for the first time since 2019.

Funnily enough, the last game that AAMI Park hosted was a clash between these two sides in Round four last year with Melbourne come out on top as 14-point victors. It's an exciting matchup between the two favourites to win the competition, who could ask for a better season opener?

Firstly, the Melbourne Storm will get their first glimpse of life after Cameron Smith, as the 433-gamer is yet to publicly state his intentions for the 2021 season. Harry Grant was going to be the man in the number nine jersey in his first start for the Storm, but a knee injury will keep him out for the first few weeks of the season. Fortunately, the Storm are not short of replacements in the hooker position, with New Zealand hooker Brandon Smith starting in the number nine for Round 1.

Despite the change at hooker for the 2021 season, the Storm spine will still feature Ryan Papenhuyzen, Cameron Munster and Jahrome Hughes who lit the competition up with their brilliant ad-lib play as they helped their side to another premiership.

15 of the selected 17 for the Storm featured in last year's premiership campaign, the two new players are George Jennings and Reimis Smith who played for the Warriors/Parramatta and Canterbury respectively in 2020. They will feature on the same edge together which could be an area that the Rabbitohs would like to attack on Thursday night.

South Sydney will be rearing to start 2021 on the highest note possible, defeating the defending premiers. The Rabbitohs have named a strong team all the way from one through to 17 with club debuts for Josh Mansour, Jacob Host, Benji Marshall and Jai Arrow.

Souths' will be looking to build on their preliminary final loss to Penrith last year as they hope to send out Wayne Bennett with another premiership. Someone that the Rabbitohs' missed during the 2020 finals series was Latrell Mitchell, named at fullback this week will be pivotal for Souths' this year.

Mitchell, one of the most exciting players in the competition, will have his work cut out for him on Thursday night as Melbourne's halves will test out his hamstring by making the fullback run from corner to corner fetching balls as the Storm try and pin him down in his own half. On the other hand, his existing combinations with the Rabbitohs' spine could prove deadly if the execution is on point.

Who to watch: The big matchup for Thursday night's clash is the battle of the two number sixes. **Cody Walker** and **Cameron Munster**, both represent their respective states in their position will be two to watch as they face each other at AAMI Park. Munster had an exceptional finish to 2020 with one of the all-time great Origin performances as he capped off an incredible season which saw him assist eight tries during his 18 games for the Storm. His opposite number, Walker had arguably his best year of his career to date with the 31-year-old assisting 21 tries for Souths' whilst also scoring 10 himself. Both players were considered the best in the game at some stage during the 2020 season due to their brilliant ad-lib footy and as a result are two of the most exciting players currently in the competition. It's set to be a blockbuster clash to open the season and the battle between these two players will be enthralling to watch.

Favourite: Melbourne are the favourites for this fixture and rightfully so after their dominant performances during the 2020 season. They beat the Rabbitohs twice during the 2020 season and will be expecting to do so again as they push for back-to-back premierships.

My tip: South Sydney are going to give the Storm a run for their money, but I can't see the Storm being knocked off at home in front of a Melbourne crowd for the first time in nearly two years, especially with the form the Storm ended with last season. **Melbourne by 6.**

#NRLKnightsBulldogs

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 12 March 2021
KICKOFF	6:00pm AEDT
VENUE	McDonald Jones Stadium New Lambton, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport Triple M (Sydney and Brisbane) NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ben CUMMINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Ziggy PRZEKLASA-ADAMSKI Kasey BADGER
NRL BUNKER	Alan SHORTALL

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 49 MATCHES

Knights 21 Bulldogs 27 Drawn 1

At McDonald Jones Stadium: 24 matches, Knights 12, Bulldogs 12

LAST TEN: BULLDOGS 8-2

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2013	EF	Knights 22-6	ANZ Stadium	23,086
2014	8	Bulldogs 16-12	ANZ Stadium	15,286
2015	25	Bulldogs 20-18	McDonald Jones	23,604
2016	22	Bulldogs 28-14	McDonald Jones	13,318
2017	6	Bulldogs 22-12	McDonald Jones	16,929
2017	18	Bulldogs 20-18	Belmore	13,103
2018	16	Bulldogs 36-12	McDonald Jones	17,755
2019	9	Knights 22-10	Suncorp Stadium	12,646
2019	17	Bulldogs 20-14	McDonald Jones	17,757
2020	11	Bulldogs 18-12	McDonald Jones	-

BIGGEST WINS

1995	13	Knights 42-0	McDonald Jones
2004	25	Bulldogs 52-6	ANZ Stadium

MILESTONES

PLAYER	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
D. Saifiti (NEW)	100 club & career games	1 game
L. Fitzgibbon (NEW)	100 club & career points	4 points
Newcastle (since 1988)	2800 tries	2 tries
J. Jackson (CBY)	100 club & career points	4 points
R. Smith (CBY)	50 club & career games	1 game
W. Hopoate (CBY)	100 club points	8 points

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Match Preview

with Robert Crosby

Bulldogs begin new era on a Knight in Newcastle

A changing of the guard awaits the Newcastle Knights and the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs as they face off at McDonald Jones Stadium on Friday night.

Making a long awaited return to the finals last season, the Newcastle Knights will be eyeing greater consistency 20 years on from their last premiership title.

Naming a revamped leadership group after Mitchell Pearce stepped down as captain following a pre-season indiscretion, returning hooker Jayden Brailey and representative prop Daniel Saifiti - celebrating his 100th appearance for the club - will co-captain the Knights for the first time.

Making little impression in the pre-season with an expected victory over Newcastle Rugby League premiers Cessnock (20-4) and an underwhelming loss to Melbourne (10-30), the Knights will be hoping to continue a recent trend of bouncing back from a poor trial performance with a win at home in the opening round.

Marquee signing Tyson Frizell has been named to make his club debut in the second row, while Sauaso Sue will come off the bench to take on his former teammates.

Coming off a disastrous 2020 that yielded three wins and a 15th placed finish, the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs will be entrusting their fortunes to second-chance coach Trent Barrett.

Gaining another head coaching role after refining Penrith's attack as an assistant last year, Barrett will be looking to avoid the pitfalls that led to his bitter divorce from Manly while getting the best out of a club that last played finals in 2016.

Producing a second half comeback to defeat Cronulla (16-12) in the pre-season, the Bulldogs will be determined to continue a run of dominance in Newcastle having won their past six visits in succession.

New signings Corey Allan, Nick Cotric, Kyle Flanagan, Jack Hetherington and Corey Waddell will make their first appearances in blue and white, alongside 26-year-old hooker Brad Dietz, who was granted an exemption to debut in first grade after impressing as a train-and-trial player.

This is the third time the sides have met in the opening round of the season; the Knights have won on both previous occasions (2007 & 2010).

Who to watch: Set to start a season for the first time in the top grade, Auckland born speedster **Starford To'a** will be looking to hold his place in Adam O'Brien's team all year. Earning an upgraded deal after scoring four tries in seven appearances last season, the 20-year-old winger will line up alongside Bradman Best as part of a potent left side attack. Touted as a long-term prospect for the Knights amid rumours Queensland representative Edrick Lee won't be re-signed, To'a will have his sights set on the immediate future with a strong performance on Friday evening.

Enjoying a breakout year in 2020 on loan with the Warriors, fiery front-rower **Jack Hetherington** will be out to cement a starting position with his new club. Gaining a release from Penrith in order to secure a longer-term deal at Canterbury, the 24-year-old has garnered plaudits for his aggressive style of play, epitomised by his running battle with Jared Waerea-Hargreaves last season. Taking on a Newcastle pack boasting some of the most acclaimed forwards in the league, Hetherington will have little regard for reputations as he aims to put the bite back into the Bulldogs pack.

Favourite: Despite the absence of several established stars, including star fullback Kaly Ponga, the Knights are favoured to come out charging on home soil

My tip: In a match where the result could go either way, the accuracy of Tex Hoy (50%) and Kyle Flanagan (76%) with the boot may be the difference. **Knights by 4.**

Brisbane BRONCOS



Parramatta EELS

Jamayne ISAAKO	1
Xavier COATES	2
Herbie FARNWORTH	3
Tesi NIU	4
David MEAD	5
Anthony MILFORD	6
Brodie CROFT	7
Tevita PANGAI JUNIOR	8
Jake TURPIN	9
Matthew LODGE	10
Alex GLENN	11
Jordan RIKI	12
Patrick CARRIGAN	13
John ASIATA	14
Thomas FLEGLER	15
Ethan BULLEMOR	16
Ben TE'O	17
Tom DEARDEN	18
Rhys KENNEDY	19
Richard KENNAR	20
Cory PAIX	21
Kevin WALTERS	

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

Clinton GUTHERSON
Maika SIVO
Tom OPACIC
Waqā BLAKE
Blake FERGUSON
Dylan BROWN
Mitchell MOSES
Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD
Reed MAHONEY
Junior PAULO
Shaun LANE
Ryan MATTERSON
Nathan BROWN
Oregon KAUFUSI
Isaiah PAPALI'I
Keegan HIPGRAVE
Will SMITH
Haze DUNSTER
Joey LUSSICK
Jordan RANKIN
David HOLLIS
Brad ARTHUR

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PENALTIES
SCRUMS

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#NRLBroncosEels

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 12 March 2021
KICKOFF	7:05pm AEST (8:05pm AEDT)
VENUE	Suncorp Stadium Milton, QLD
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport Triple M (Brisbane) 2GB (Sydney), 4BC (Brisbane) and networks
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Adam GEE
TOUCH JUDGES	Belinda SHARPE Michael WISE
NRL BUNKER	Henry PERENARA

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 59 MATCHES

Broncos 33 Eels 25 Drawn 1

At Suncorp Stadium: 21 matches, Broncos 13, Eels 8

LAST TEN: EELS 6-4

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2016	1	Broncos 17-4	Pirtek Stadium	17,324
2016	23	Broncos 38-16	Suncorp Stadium	30,189
2017	21	Eels 28-14	ANZ Stadium	12,182
2017	25	Eels 52-34	Suncorp Stadium	29,058
2018	12	Broncos 18-10	Suncorp Stadium	21,555
2019	14	Eels 38-10	Bankwest Stadium	16,854
2019	24	Broncos 17-16	Suncorp Stadium	33,020
2019	EF	Eels 58-0	Bankwest Stadium	29,372
2020	3	Eels 34-6	Suncorp Stadium	-
2020	19	Eels 26-12	Bankwest Stadium	-

BIGGEST WINS

1995	13	Broncos 60-14	Pirtek Stadium
2019	EF	Eels 58-0	Bankwest Stadium

MILESTONES

PLAYER	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
S. Lane (PAR)	100 career points	8 points

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Match Preview

with Adam Huxtable

Broncos look to right wrongs of horror 2020 season at home against success-starved Eels

The Brisbane Broncos went into the COVID-19 break last year as one of only 6 teams with a 2-0 record and looked to be cruising to a finals berth, with the potential to make a deep run into September, or October as it ended up being.

After the resumption of play, they went 1-17 and won their first ever wooden spoon in what was undoubtedly rock bottom for a once proud club. They enter 2021 with next to no expectation and a coach with a questionable record in first grade.

The Eels started in a similar vein to the Broncos, winning their first 5 matches for the first time since 1986 in a run which had the blue and gold faithful daring to dream that the successes of that year could be replicated.

But a season that started with so much promise ultimately fizzled out, with Parra's clunky attack and at times non-existent edge defence meaning a top 4 berth would turn into a straight set exit for the 2nd time in 4 years.

So it goes without saying that when the Eels travel to Brisbane to take on the Broncos in a Friday night blockbuster, both sides will have everything to prove after a season that didn't go to plan for either of them.

The Broncos have named a relatively new look backline and are a team which will be screaming out for some stability after a year of constant changes to the 17 due to injuries, suspensions as well as an overall lack of commitment from coaching staff. Isaako will get another chance at fullback, with youngster Tesi Niu to line up in the centres alongside David Mead, who will play his first game in the NRL since 2017.

Brodie Croft has beaten out Tom Dearden for the number 7 jersey and will get the chance to partner Anthony Milford however he will be under pressure to perform from the outset or else risk getting dropped once again. In the forward pack, Matt Lodge returns to the starting side and Jake Turpin is at hooker, while John Asiata will make his club debut off the bench beside youngsters Flegler and Bullemor as well as veteran Ben Te'o.

For the Eels, the backline remains identical to much of 2020, with the only new face being off season recruit Tom Opacic, who will line up against the club he debuted with 5 years ago. The forward pack is still headlined by Reagan Campbell-Gillard and Junior Paulo, while signings Isaiah Papali'i and Keegan Hipgrave, from the Warriors and Titans respectively, will line up on the bench.

Who to watch: 2021 serves as the defining year for Anthony Milford's career at the Broncos. After being enticed away from Canberra on a big money deal in 2015, Milford had one of the great seasons and would've been a premiership winner had it not been for that famous Michael Morgan play in the Grand Final. Since then, Milford has gradually regressed into a shadow of his former self and couldn't get anything going consistently in 2020, despite showing occasional glimpses. His contract expires at the end of the year, and he will want to open with a bang to set the stage for what is hopefully the season where Anthony Milford gets back to his brilliant best.

In an extraordinary show of faith on the eve of the season, the Eels have reportedly offered halfback Mitch Moses an extension through to 2023. It comes as a surprise considering in recent years, Moses has shown signs of talent without ever being able to get the job done in big games, most notably finals matches. He was also the centrepiece of the Eels attack which struggled for the back end of 2020. That being said, Moses possesses rare talent and can be a handful for opposition defences when on-song. He isn't afraid to back himself, which can at times be both beneficial and detrimental to the Eels. Moses will want to start the season off strongly, however in 2021 his focus should be more on winning by taking control of games rather than trying to do so by creating highlight reel type plays.

Favourite: The Broncos are significant outsiders for this one, with the Eels favoured by 8 and a half points away from home.

My tip: The Eels are favourites in this one and for good reason; they have a far superior team on paper. However, the Broncos will be fired up by new coach Kevin Walters in the first official outing of the job he's wanted for years now, and his team may jump out to an early lead in front of their home faithful, but it won't be enough to hold out the Eels, who are simply a class above teams like the Broncos this year. **Eels by 8.**

New Zealand WARRIORS



Gold Coast TITANS

Roger TUIVASA-SHECK	1
David FUSITU'A	2
Euan AITKEN	3
Peta HIKU	4
Ken MAUMALO	5
Kodi NIKORIMA	6
Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA	7
Addin FONUA-BLAKE	8
Wayde EGAN	9
Jamayne TAUNOA-BROWN	10
Eliesa KATOA	11
Bayley SIRONEN	12
Tohu HARRIS	13
Jazz TEVAGA	14
Ben MURDOCH-MASILA	15
Leeson AH MAU	16
Bunty AFOA	17
Adam POMPEY	18
Sean O'SULLIVAN	20
Tom ALE	21
Josh CURRAN	22
Nathan BROWN	

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

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

AJ BRIMSON	1
Corey THOMPSON	2
Brian KELLY	3
Patrick HERBERT	4
Anthony DON	5
Ashley TAYLOR	6
Jamal FOGARTY	7
Jarrold WALLACE	8
Mitch REIN	9
Moeaki FOTUAIKA	10
Kevin PROCTOR	11
David FIFITA	12
Tino FA'ASUAMALEAUI	13
Tyrone PEACHEY	14
Sam LISONE	15
Jaimin JOLLIFFE	16
Erin CLARK	17
Phillip SAMI	18
Beau FERMOR	19
Herman ESE'ESE	20
Sam MCINTYRE	21
Justin HOLBROOK	

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#NRLWarriorsTitans

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 13 March 2021
KICKOFF	3:00pm AEDT (5pm NZ)
VENUE	Central Coast Stadium Gosford, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport Triple M (Sydney and Brisbane) NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ashley KLEIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Phil HENDERSON Jon STONE
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 27 MATCHES

Warriors 18 Titans 9 Draws 0

At Central Coast Stadium: never met at this venue previously

LAST TEN: WARRIORS 8-2

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2015	15	Warriors 36-14	Cbus Super	14,132
2016	17	Warriors 27-18	Mt Smart Stadium	15,107
2016	22	Warriors 24-14	Cbus Super	25,109
2017	5	Warriors 28-22	Mt Smart Stadium	10,263
2017	14	Warriors 34-12	Cbus Super	14,067
2018	2	Warriors 20-8	Mt Smart Stadium	14,132
2018	20	Titans 36-12	Cbus Super	15,149
2019	4	Warriors 26-10	Mt Smart Stadium	13,995
2019	14	Warriors 24-20	Cbus Super	9,973
2020	9	Titans 16-12	Cbus Super	5,206

BIGGEST WINS

2014	25	Warriors 42-0	Mt Smart Stadium
2018	20	Titans 36-12	Cbus Super Stadium

MILESTONES

PLAYER	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
Warriors (since 1995)	2300 tries	4 tries
A. Taylor (GLD)	100 career games	1 game

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Match Preview

with Hamish Parker

Renewed hope to be tested for two clubs

New Warriors coach Nathan Brown will face his first test this week as his side comes up against fellow up and comers the Titans at Central Coast Stadium. The opinion of most is that these sides have been two of the best in their off-season recruitment sprees and it will be intriguing to see how they fair, as well as who comes out on top in arguably the most exciting game of this weekend's action.

For the Warriors Addin Fonua-Blake, Ben Murdoch-Masila and Euan Aitken headline the new players in their squad. The men from across the Tasman have also added the likes Bayley Sironen and Kane Evans to bolster their playing stocks. Meanwhile, anticipation will be rife to see stars David Fifita and Tino Fa'asuamaleaui in their first NRL hit out in Titans colours. Herman Ese'ese, Sam McIntyre and Patrick Herbert are also new additions to the club.

With the confirmation coming earlier in the week that they again will be based in Australia until at least June, the Warriors must show us all that resilience we all admired throughout 2020. They will be looking to make an early statement in this one against one of the sides expected to improve the most this season.

The Titans on the other hand, have expectations to live up to this year - a challenge the club has not faced in years. With a number of star recruits and a coach with potential to put it all together, early questions could begin to heap the pressure on the young squad if they don't show signs of further improvement.

In team news, new recruit Euan Aitken will make his club debut for the Warriors at centre. Fellow newcomers Addin Fonua-Blake, Bayley Sironen and Ben Murdoch-Masila are also in the team - starting at front-row, second-row and off the bench respectively. They will also welcome hooker Wayde Egan, who was previously in doubt for the match with injury. His touted hooking replacement Jazz Tavaga will instead start from the interchange.

The Titans have too named a number of new additions to their squad in this round one clash. Patrick Herbert will start in the centres. Fresh star duo David Fifita and Tino Fa'asuamaleaui will start at second-row and lock respectively. In other team news, Jarrod Wallace starts at prop as he looks to turn his underwhelming 2020 form around. Tyrone Peachey will start from the bench in the utility role and Phillip Sami has not made the seventeen, with Corey Thompson instead grabbing the wing spot.

Who to watch: **Wayde Egan's** importance to the Warriors' success this season cannot be understated. With new forward recruits Addin Fonua-Blake and Ben Murdoch-Masila adding a large amount of size to the Warriors' forward pack, as well as some familiar faces like Tohu Harris and Eliesa Katoa, Egan will need to select when to run and pass successfully. It will be expected that the Warriors pack can get them over the advantage line, so look for whether Egan is able to take proper action on the back of this.

The damaging new signings of David Fifita and Tino Fa'asuamaleaui will have **AJ Brimson** licking his lips ahead of season 2021. No doubt you can expect a number of tackle breaks and line breaks from these two. Look for the speedy Brimson to be pushing up in support looking for an offload or even a pass on the inside from a line break.

Favourite: The Titans are favourites to take out this mouth-watering clash.

My tip: I'm of the opinion that the Titans will go the better of the two sides this season, but this game should be a tight one. The result greatly depends on if the Titans can start to put it together early or whether it will take some time for their new game plans to click. The Warriors will no doubt put up a good fight and show us some improvement from last season. For me though, it's **Titans by 8**.

Sydney ROOSTERS



Manly-Warringah SEA EAGLES

James TEDESCO	1
Daniel TUPOU	2
Josh MORRIS	3
Joseph MANU	4
Brett MORRIS	5
Lachlan LAM	6
Luke KEARY	7
Lindsay COLLINS	8
Jake FRIEND	9
Siosua TAUKEIAHO	10
Angus CRICHTON	11
Sitili TUPOUNIUA	12
Isaac LIU	13
Adam KEIGHRAN	14
Jared WAEREA-HARGREAVES	15
Nat BUTCHER	16
Daniel SULUKA-FIFITA	17
Matt IKUVALU	18
Fletcher BAKER	19
Freddy LUSSICK	20
Sam WALKER	21
Trent ROBINSON	

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

Dylan WALKER	1
Jason SAAB	2
Brad PARKER	3
Moses SULI	4
Reuben GARRICK	5
Kieran FORAN	6
Daly CHERRY-EVANS	7
Josh ALOIAI	8
Lachlan CROKER	9
Martin TAUPAU	10
Jack GOSIEWSKI	11
Curtis SIRONEN	12
Jake TRBOJEVIC	13
Tevita FUNA	14
Andrew DAVEY	15
Morgan BOYLE	16
Taniela PASEKA	17
Josh SCHUSTER	18
Sean KEPPIE	19
Toafofoa SIPLEY	20
Morgan HARPER	21
Des HASLER	

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#NRLRoostersManly

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 13 March 2021
KICKOFF	5:30pm AEDT
VENUE	Sydney Cricket Ground Moore Park, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport 2GB (Sydney) and network 4BC (Brisbane) and network
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Chris SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Matt NOYEN Nick BEASHEL
NRL BUNKER	Chris BUTLER

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 134 MATCHES

Roosters 47 Sea Eagles 85 Drawn 2

At Sydney Cricket Ground: 25 matches, Roosters 13, Sea Eagles 11, Drawn 1

LAST TEN: SEA EAGLES 6-4

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2014	4	Sea Eagles 8-0	Allianz Stadium	14,902
2014	16	Sea Eagles 24-16	Lottoland	17,155
2015	25	Roosters 46-10	Lottoland	12,911
2016	4	Sea Eagles 22-20	Allianz Stadium	12,271
2017	5	Sea Eagles 18-12	Allianz Stadium	12,376
2017	22	Sea Eagles 36-18	Lottoland	14,564
2018	9	Roosters 22-20	Allianz Stadium	10,129
2018	19	Roosters 56-24	Lottoland	9,427
2019	2	Roosters 26-18	Lottoland	9,664
2020	2	Sea Eagles 9-8	Leichhardt Oval	-

BIGGEST WINS

1999	R2	Roosters 46-0	Allianz Stadium
2007	R17	Sea Eagles 56-0	Lottoland

MILESTONES

PLAYER	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
J. Morris (SYD)	600 career points	4 points
Sydney Roosters (since 1908)	7300 tries	1 try
K. Foran (MAN)	200 career points	3 points
R. Garrick (MAN)	300 club & career points	8 points

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Match Preview

with Rick Edgerton

Roosters and Sea Eagles square off in battle of the birds.

After being bundled out of the finals in straight sets last season despite being heavily supported to capture a rare three-peat of premiership titles, the Roosters will be looking for a fast start in 2021.

Not being able to make it three straight premierships is one thing, but the manner in which they were bundled out in consecutive losses to the Panthers and Raiders would have left Coach Trent Robinson bitterly disappointed given his insatiable appetite in striving for perfection.

They will have to navigate a large chunk of the season without skipper Boyd Cordner as he continues to navigate ongoing concerns around the number of concussions he's suffered in recent times. That will give boom back-rower Sitali Topouniua a chance to further show his wares after an impressive breakout season in 2020.

The other big change to last year's squad sees Luke Keary make a permanent shift into the number seven jersey after Kyle Flanagan failed to impress the tri-colours hierarchy last season before hitting the exit door to join the Bulldogs.

The Sea Eagles come into the year after missing the finals in 2020 and after losing a couple of key forwards in Addin Fonua-Blake and Joel Thompson, look to be up against it in this encounter.

Jack Gosiewski has been handed first shot at Thompson's old edge roll and former Tiger Josh Aloiai will pair up with Marty Taupau in the engine room.

Struggling without the services of their gun custodian for a large chunk of 2020, Manly will again have to do without Tom Trbojevic for the early rounds as he continues his quest to get his hamstrings back to 100 per cent.

Who to watch: One of the Roosters' linchpins in their recent run of success, **Luke Keary** running out in the number seven only confirms what many have suspected for a while – destined to assume a dominant halves role. Since moving to the tri-colours, Keary has been simply brilliant whether playing alongside a more dominant half in Cooper Cronk or taking the reins himself. Like Cordner, the diminutive Keary has had his own share of concussion problems in recent times, but if he can stay fit and healthy he should be in for a big year.

Apart from a brief one year stint from Blake Green, Manly have struggled to lock in a quality replacement at pivot since **Kieran Foran** packed his bags for Parramatta at the end of 2015. So, they've gone back to the well in an attempt to rejuvenate the premiership halves duo of Foran and Daly Cherry-Evans. Of course, a lot has happened and not a lot good in Foran's career since leaving the Northern beaches with his body letting him down on a regular basis. There's no doubting when fit and healthy, Foran is a brilliant footballer capable of matching it with the very best. The former Kiwi international will be out to make a big impression in his first game back in maroon and white.

Favourite: The Roosters are heavily favoured to get their campaign off to a winning start.

My tip: It wasn't that long ago when there was nothing more dangerous than a Des Hasler coached team flying under the radar. That could still turn out to be the case and it won't surprise to seem them hold their own for a fair chunk of this contest, but it's hard to see them matching strides with a Roosters outfit still oozing class. **Roosters by 14.**

Penrith PANTHERS



North Queensland COWBOYS

Dylan EDWARDS	1
Charlie STAINES	2
Paul MOMIROVSKI	3
Stephen CRICHTON	4
Brian TO'O	5
Jarome LUAI	6
Nathan CLEARY	7
Moses LEOTA	8
Apisai KOROISAU	9
James FISHER-HARRIS	10
Viliame KIKAU	11
Kurt CAPEWELL	12
Isaah YEO	13
<hr/>	
Tyrone MAY	14
Spencer LENIU	15
Matthew EISENHUTH	16
Liam MARTIN	17
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J'maine HOPGOOD	18
Matt BURTON	19
Robert JENNINGS	20
Mitch KENNY	21
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Ivan CLEARY	

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INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

Scott DRINKWATER
Kyle FELDT
Esan MARSTERS
Hamiso TABUAI-FIDOW
Valentine HOLMES
Michael MORGAN
Jake CLIFFORD
Francis MOLO
Reece ROBSON
Jordan MCLEAN
Mitchell DUNN
Coen HESS
Jason TAUMALOLO

Jake GRANVILLE
Josh MCGUIRE
Corey JENSEN
Lachlan BURR

Shane WRIGHT
Reuben COTTER
Murray TAULAGI
Ben HAMPTON

Todd PAYTEN

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#NRLPanthersCowboys

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 13 March 2021
KICKOFF	7:35pm AEDT
VENUE	Panthers Stadium Penrith, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport 2GB (Sydney) and network 4BC (Brisbane) and network
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Matt CECCHIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Todd SMITH Liam KENNEDY
NRL BUNKER	Alan SHORTALL

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 41 MATCHES

Panthers 22 Cowboys 19 Draws 0

At Panthers Stadium: 19 matches, Panthers 10, Cowboys 9

LAST TEN: 5-ALL

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2014	23	Panthers 23-22	Panthers Stadium	7276
2015	5	Cowboys 30-10	Panthers Stadium	8409
2016	6	Cowboys 23-18	Panthers Stadium	13725
2017	16	Cowboys 14-12	1300Smiles Stadium	17876
2017	23	Panthers 24-16	Panthers Stadium	12357
2018	4	Panthers 33-14	1300Smiles Stadium	11907
2018	9	Cowboys 26-20	Carrington Park	10289
2019	23	Cowboys 24-10	1300Smiles Stadium	10523
2020	10	Panthers 22-10	Panthers Stadium	-
2020	19	Panthers 32-12	QLD Country Bank	7247

BIGGEST WINS

2004	R24	Panthers 56-6	Panthers Stadium
2013	R22	Cowboys 36-4	Panthers Stadium

MILESTONES

PLAYER	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
P. Momirovski (PEN)	100 career points	2 points
C. Jensen (NQL)	50 club & career games	1 game

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Match Preview

with Andrew Jackson

Cowboys eye major scalp to start life under Payten

The Panthers and Cowboys enter Saturday night's opening round clash with contrasting aims for the season.

For Penrith, the hope will be for more of the same from last year after a miraculous winning streak powered Ivan Cleary's men all the way to the grand final.

While the Panthers won't need to change too much, a full-scale revolution is happening at North Queensland under the eye of new coach Todd Payten.

The results may not be immediate but Payten has accused the Cowboys of failure to adapt to the changing game, stuck in old systems that worked when they won the title back in 2015 but have since become predictable.

There are changes to the team list too with Valentine Holmes starting on the wing, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow in the centres and Scott Drinkwater at fullback.

Penrith meanwhile will be contending with the losses of key experience in the form of Josh Mansour, Zane Tetevano and James Tamou.

The club's impressive depth though means they have easily been able to fill the void, although whether it will be enough to plug the leadership gap remains to be seen.

Penrith's challenge in 2021 will be dealing with added expectations after last year's breakout season and facing a Cowboys team that should be rejuvenated but slightly underestimated presents a potential headache.

Who to watch: The battle of the starting hookers shapes as an exciting face-off between the experienced and emerging.

Apisai Koroisau already showed elements of his scheming best out of dummy-half in the trial against Parramatta and will be keen to exploit a North Queensland defence that struggled last year.

The Cowboys need to ensure they do not give enough time or space to move as Koroisau has proven himself to be lethal even when under pressure, using his small frame to duck and weave through defenders.

There is a subtlety to Koroisau's work but he has a fresh challenge this week in the form of promising young gun **Reece Robson**.

The 22-year old had six linebreaks last season despite playing six fewer games than Koroisau while his average of 10 metres per run places him equal with the Panthers rake.

Robson has an electric running game and has showed little reluctance in the past to back himself if given a quick play-the-ball or strong platform from his forward pack.

Favourite: Penrith are heavy favourites to easily account for North Queensland.

My tip: The Cowboys should be a much-improved outfit under Payten, who has emphasised speed in both attack and defence during the off-season. The Panthers though are more settled and won't need as much time as North Queensland will to adapt to new systems. **Panthers by 14.**

Canberra RAIDERS



Wests TIGERS

Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	1
Bailey SIMONSSON	2
Sebastian KRIS	3
Curtis SCOTT	4
Jordan RAPANA	5
Jack WIGHTON	6
George WILLIAMS	7
Josh PAPALI'I	8
Josh HODGSON	9
Dunamis LUJ	10
Hudson YOUNG	11
Elliott WHITEHEAD	12
Joseph TAPINE	13
Siliva HAVILI	14
Ryan SUTTON	15
Iosia SOLIOLA	16
Ryan JAMES	17
Sam WILLIAMS	18
Tom STARLING	19
Emre GULER	20
Harley SMITH-SHIELDS	21
Ricky STUART	

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INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

Daine LAURIE	1
David NOFOALUMA	2
James ROBERTS	3
Joseph LEILUA	4
Asu KEPAOA	5
Moses MBYE	6
Luke BROOKS	7
James TAMOU	8
Jacob LIDDLE	9
Joe OFAHENGAUE	10
Luke GARNER	11
Luciano LEILUA	12
Alex TWAL	13
Tommy TALAU	14
Thomas MIKAELE	15
Stefano UTOIKAMANU	16
Russell PACKER	17
Jock MADDEN	18
Michael CHEE-KAM	19
Tukimihia SIMPKINS	20
Alex SEYFARTH	21
Michael MAGUIRE	

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#NRLRaidersTigers

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 14 March 2021
KICKOFF	4:05pm AEDT
VENUE	GIO Stadium Canberra Bruce, ACT
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport MIX 106.3 Canberra Triple M (Sydney and Brisbane) NRL Nation 2GB (Sydney) and 4BC (Brisbane) and networks
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Gerard SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Dave MUNRO Drew OULTRAM
NRL BUNKER	Ashley KLEIN

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 38 MATCHES

Raiders 19 Wests Tigers 19 Draws 0

At GIO Stadium: 20 matches, Raiders 10 Wests Tigers 10

LAST TEN: RAIDERS 8-2

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2015	7	Raiders 30-22	Leichhardt Oval	13198
2015	22	Wests Tigers 20-18	GIO Stadium	8704
2016	8	Raiders 60-6	GIO Stadium	13420
2016	26	Raiders 52-10	Leichhardt Oval	18634
2017	3	Raiders 46-6	GIO Stadium	14628
2018	15	Raiders 48-12	Campbelltown	10237
2018	22	Wests Tigers 22-20	GIO Stadium	14583
2019	13	Raiders 28-0	Bankwest Stadium	12585
2019	18	Raiders 20-12	GIO Stadium	15656
2020	5	Raiders 14-6	Campbelltown	-

BIGGEST WINS

2012	13	Wests Tigers 40-0	GIO Stadium
2016	8	Raiders 60-6	GIO Stadium

MILESTONES

PLAYER	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
D. Nofoaluma (WST)	300 club & career points	4 points
J. Roberts (WST)	150 career games	1 game
J. Roberts (WST)	300 career points	2 points

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Match Preview

with Jason Hosken

New stripes or Tigers of old? Raiders host opening round pop quiz

In a season that has Canberra among the title favourites, the Wests Tigers head south desperate to show they've mounted a ride capable of moving through the field.

Stranded in a finals wasteland for the best part of a decade, the Tigers' accumulation of bad boys and off cuts over the summer didn't turn heads. But if slick trial form is reason for optimism, then Tigers fans are right to claim light at the end of the tunnel.

Discarded by Penrith, premiership winning front-rower James Tamou knows how to lead an inexperienced outfit up the ladder. And with young Panthers reject Daine Laurie and enigmatic journeyman James Roberts, Michael Maquire welcomes the type of pace that can't be coached.

But in what sounds like a record that's had more spins than John Farnham, once again, Luke Brooks holds the key. His composure on both sides of the ruck in the trial thumping of Manly is one thing, be it must be sustained if the Tigers are to be a serious finals contender.

Matched against the settled Canberra pairing of George Williams and Jack Wighton, the suspension of Adam Doueihi makes Brooks' task all the more difficult. Doueihi's physical presence against Wighton will be sorely missed, and for replacement Moses Mbye it'll be a case of all hands on deck to contain the rampaging Dally M Medalist.

In good signs for Wests, ball playing back-rower Luciano Leilua returns in peak condition. And alongside the addition of Broncos recruit Joe Ofahengauwe the Tigers have the capacity to shake last year's soft underbelly that saw them ranked 13th in defence.

While the Raiders lineup looks familiar, coach Ricky Stuart isn't without problems. If John Bateman's return to Super League wasn't a big enough headache, the suspensions of Corey Horsburgh and Corey Harawira-Naera leave Canberra a little thin upfront. Josh Hodgson's return to dummy-half eases the pain but if the Tigers are on, his guile alone won't be enough to cover the cracks.

Having trumped the Tigers in nine of the past 11 clashes, the Raiders should be specials at home. However the absence of Jarrod Croker could dampen their ability to accumulate points. Sebastian Kris comes in for the club legend whose damaged shoulder needs more time, and with Nick Cotric's defection to Canterbury, Canberra's attacking best may still be weeks away.

For the Tigers, undefeated in their past six season openers, the small chinks in the Raiders' armour might be all they need to extend the run.

Who to watch: Josh Hodgson's return sees the Raiders spine back at full strength for the first time since the hooker tore an ACL in Round 9 last year. And while Tom Starling proved to be one of the finds of the season, there's little doubt the 31-year-old's absence impeded Canberra's 2020 finals surge. Now in his seventh NRL season, the Englishman's impressive trial form against the Roosters suggests he's already back in the groove.

In what shapes as a clash of the busted hookers, for Jacob Liddle 2021 is another opportunity. Restricted to just 44 appearances since 2016, the 24-year-old returns to fill the boots of Melbourne bound Harry Grant. Now treasuring every start like a gold bar, the nippy No.9's sizzling form two weeks ago showed he has the skills to shine under this season's new rules.

Favourite: In familiar surroundings, Canberra are at short odds to open their season with a win.

My tip: The Tigers are no stranger to eeking out early season victories against more fancied opponents. And with several big names missing, the Raiders are ripe for the picking. So as the sun sets among uptempo player burnout, look for the Tigers' speedsters to strike late and break Ricky's heart. **Wests Tigers by 2.**

St George Illawarra DRAGONS



Cronulla-Sutherland SHARKS

Matthew DUFTY	1
Cody RAMSEY	2
Jack BIRD	3
Zac LOMAX	4
Mikaele RAVALAWA	5
Adam CLUNE	6
Ben HUNT	7
Blake LAWRIE	8
Andrew MCCULLOUGH	9
Paul VAUGHAN	10
Josh KERR	11
Tariq SIMS	12
Tyrell FUIMAONO	13
Poasa FAAMAUSILI	14
Trent MERRIN	15
Daniel ALVARO	16
Brayden WILIAME	17
Jackson FORD	18
Kaide ELLIS	19
Jordan PEREIRA	20
Max FEAGAI	21
Anthony GRIFFIN	

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INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

Will KENNEDY
Sione KATOA
Josh DUGAN
Jesse RAMIEN
Ronaldo MULITALO
Matt MOYLAN
Chad TOWNSEND
Braden HAMLIN-UELE
Blayke BRAILEY
Aaron WOODS
Briton NIKORA
Wade GRAHAM
Toby RUDOLF
Connor TRACEY
Aiden TOLMAN
Jack WILLIAMS
Billy MAGOULIAS
Mawene HIROTI
Teig WILTON
Andrew FIFITA
Braydon TRINDALL

John MORRIS

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#NRLDragonsSharks

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 14 March 2021
KICKOFF	6:15pm AEDT
VENUE	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium Carlton, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Sport Triple M (Sydney and Brisbane)
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Grant ATKINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Todd SMITH Peter GOUGH
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 46 MATCHES

Dragons 23 Sharks 22 Drawn 1

At Netstrata Jubilee Stadium: 20 matches, Dragons 7, Sharks 4

LAST TEN: 5-ALL

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2016	2	Sharks 30-2	Sharks Stadium	17,946
2016	23	Dragons 32-18	Netstrata Jubilee	13,167
2017	3	Dragons 16-10	Sharks Stadium	14,247
2017	10	Sharks 18-14	Netstrata Jubilee	15,927
2018	2	Dragons 20-16	Sharks Stadium	13,517
2018	6	Dragons 40-20	WIN Stadium	17,882
2019	11	Sharks 22-9	WIN Stadium	14,586
2019	22	Sharks 18-12	Sharks Stadium	13,652
2020	5	Dragons 30-16	Campbelltown	-
2020	11	Sharks 28-24	Netstrata Jubilee	3,179

BIGGEST WINS

2007	4	Sharks 40-4	Sharks Stadium
2010	8	Dragons 38-0	WIN Stadium

MILESTONES

PLAYER	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
B. Hunt (SGI)	300 career points	5 points
M. Ravalawa (SGI)	100 club & career points	4 points
A. Woods (CRO)	50 club games	1 game
S. Katoa (CRO)	100 club & career points	6 points

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Match Preview

with Robert Crosby

Long-time rivals look to start 2021 on the front foot

Leaving much to be desired with their respective showings in 2020, the St George Illawarra Dragons and the Cronulla Sharks will close out the opening round with a grudge match at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium.

Coming into the new year with outsider Anthony Griffin taking over the reigns from club icons Paul McGregor and Dean Young, the St George Illawarra Dragons will be desperate to atone for a dispiriting 12th placed finish.

Appointing the former Brisbane and Penrith mentor following just three top eighth finishes in the decade since their historic 2010 grand final victory, the Dragons' management will be hoping Griffin's standing as a man with no existing ties to the club can restore the Red V to former glory.

Showing signs of concern following trial losses to Cronulla (28-36), Parramatta (6-28) and a humiliating Charity Shield performance against South Sydney (16-48), the joint venture will need to overturn history having won eight out of 22 opening round fixtures since merging on the eve of the new millennium.

Managing one win from their past four clashes with the Sharks, the joint venture has underperformed at Kogarah with a 36 per cent success rate over the past two years.

Naming new signings Jack Bird, Andrew McCullough, Poasa Fa'amusili and Daniel Alvaro in the squad, Adam Clune has been handed the number six jersey with Corey Norman serving a one-match suspension.

Qualifying for the finals without defeating a top eight side last year, the Cronulla Sharks will be looking to improve upon their 8th placed result.

Bowing out in the first week of the play-offs in his first two years as coach, John Morris will need early wins to gain an extension as rumours circulate Shane Flanagan could return to the club once his suspension expires.

Showing signs of promise in the pre-season with a youthful win over St George Illawarra (36-28) and a narrow loss to Canterbury-Bankstown (12-16), the Sharks hold a horrendous Round 1 record with one win over the past decade.

Fielding a largely stable line up with all but one player remaining from last season, Matt Moylan will start in place of Shaun Johnson (achilles) at five-eighth, while veteran front-rower Aiden Tolman will make his club debut off the bench.

Sunday evening marks the fourth time the Dragons and Sharks have met in the opening round; the Sharks hold a slender 2-1 advantage.

Who to watch: Enduring a wretched run with injury over the past three years, new recruit Jack Bird will be hoping for a change in fortune ahead of his senior debut for the Dragons. Making just 17 out of a possible 70 appearances in his three years with the Broncos, the former rookie of the year winner remains a player with immense talent having won a premiership and representing NSW within two years of debuting in first grade. Named in the centres, but capable of making an impact as a fullback, five-eighth or edge forward, a fit-and-firing Bird may prove to be one of the buys of the year.

Named on the bench for Cronulla after being linked with a move to St George Illawarra over the off-season, skilful forward Billy Magoulias will be out to seize his opportunity of becoming a regular first-grader in 2021. Playing five matches under John Morris over the previous two seasons, the 24-year-old Greek international has garnered a following in the lower grades after pulling off two audacious chip kicks to steer Newtown to Canterbury Cup NSW and State Championship titles in back-to-back weeks. Offering a point of difference with his skillset to most forwards, look for Magoulias to press his claims for a new deal with a strong showing on Sunday evening.

Favourite: Winning 10 of 12 clashes against teams that finished below them on the ladder last year, the Sharks are expected to continue that trend on Sunday evening.

My tip: While neither side displayed premiership-winning form throughout the pre-season, the more settled squad fielded by John Morris should see the Sharks sit inside the top eight at the end of the round. **Sharks by 14.**

2021 NR

ROUND 1

Thursday, Mar 11	Storm v Rabbitohs	AAMI Park	8:05pm
Friday, Mar 12	Knights v Bulldogs	McDonald Jones	6:00pm
	Broncos v Eels	Suncorp	8:05pm
Saturday, Mar 13	Warriors v Titans	Central Coast	3:00pm
	Roosters v Sea Eagles	SCG	5:30pm
	Panthers v Cowboys	Panthers	7:35pm
Sunday, Mar 14	Raiders v Tigers	GIO Stadium	4:05pm
	Dragons v Sharks	Netstrata Jubilee	6:15pm

ROUND 2

Thursday, Mar 18	Eels v Storm	Bankwest	8:05pm
Friday, Mar 19	Warriors v Knights	Central Coast	6:00pm
	Titans v Broncos	Cbus Super	8:05pm
Saturday, Mar 20	Bulldogs v Panthers	Bankwest	3:00pm
	Sea Eagles v Rabbitohs	Lottoland	5:30pm
	Cowboys v Dragons	QLD Country Bank	7:35pm
Sunday, Mar 21	Tigers v Roosters	Campbelltown	4:05pm
	Sharks v Raiders	Netstrata Jubilee	6:15pm

ROUND 3

Thursday, Mar 25	Panthers v Storm	Panthers	8:05pm
Friday, Mar 26	Dragons v Sea Eagles	WIN Stadium	6:00pm
	Rabbitohs v Roosters	Stadium Australia	8:05pm
Saturday, Mar 27	Raiders v Warriors	GIO Stadium	3:00pm
	Broncos v Bulldogs	Suncorp	5:30pm
	Eels v Sharks	Bankwest	7:35pm
Sunday, Mar 28	Knights v Tigers	McDonald Jones	4:05pm
	Cowboys v Titans	QLD Country Bank	6:15pm

ROUND 4

Thursday, Apr 1	Sea Eagles v Panthers	Lottoland	8:05pm
Friday, Apr 2	Bulldogs v Rabbitohs	Stadium Australia	4:05pm
	Storm v Broncos	AAMI Park	8:05pm
Saturday, Apr 3	Titans v Raiders	Sunshine Coast	5:30pm
	Sharks v Cowboys	Cbus Super	7:35pm
Sunday, Apr 4	Knights v Dragons	McDonald Jones	4:05pm
	Roosters v Warriors	SCG	6:15pm
Monday, Apr 5	Tigers v Eels	Stadium Australia	4:00pm

ROUND 5

Thursday, Apr 8	Rabbitohs v Broncos	Stadium Australia	7:50pm
Friday, Apr 9	Warriors v Sea Eagles	Central Coast	6:00pm
	Panthers v Raiders	Panthers	7:55pm
Saturday, Apr 10	Titans v Knights	Cbus Super	3:00pm
	Bulldogs v Storm	HBF Park, Perth	5:30pm
	Roosters v Sharks	SCG	7:35pm
Sunday, Apr 11	Tigers v Cowboys	Leichhardt	4:05pm
	Eels v Dragons	Bankwest	6:15pm

ROUND 6

Thursday, Apr 15	Broncos v Panthers	Suncorp	7:50pm
Friday, Apr 16	Knights v Sharks	McDonald Jones	6:00pm
	Storm v Roosters	AAMI Park	7:55pm
Saturday, Apr 17	Sea Eagles v Titans	Mudgee	3:00pm
	Rabbitohs v Tigers	Stadium Australia	5:30pm
	Raiders v Eels	GIO Stadium	7:35pm
Sunday, Apr 18	Dragons v Warriors	Netstrata Jubilee	2:00pm
	Cowboys v Bulldogs	QLD Country Bank	4:05pm

Round 7 (ANZAC)

Thursday, Apr 22	Panthers v Knights	Panthers	7:50pm
Friday, Apr 23	Titans v Rabbitohs	Cbus Super	6:00pm
	Eels v Broncos	TIO Stadium, Darwin	7:55pm
Saturday, Apr 24	Sharks v Bulldogs	Netstrata Jubilee	5:30pm
	Cowboys v Raiders	QLD Country Bank	7:35pm
Sunday, Apr 25	Tigers v Sea Eagles	Bankwest	1:45pm
	Roosters v Dragons	SCG	4:05pm
	Storm v Warriors	AAMI Park	6:15pm

ROUND 8

Thursday, Apr 29	Raiders v Rabbitohs	GIO Stadium	7:50pm
Friday, Apr 30	Storm v Sharks	AAMI Park	6:00pm
	Broncos v Titans	Suncorp	7:55pm
Saturday, May 1	Panthers v Sea Eagles	Carrington Park, Bathurst	3:00pm
	Bulldogs v Eels	Stadium Australia	5:30pm
	Knights v Roosters	McDonald Jones	7:35pm
Sunday, May 2	Warriors v Cowboys	Central Coast	2:00pm
	Dragons v Tigers	WIN Stadium	4:05pm

ROUND 9

Thursday, May 6	Rabbitohs v Storm	Stadium Australia	7:50pm
Friday, May 7	Panthers v Sharks	Panthers	6:00pm
	Eels v Roosters	Bankwest	7:55pm
Saturday, May 8	Raiders v Knights	McDonald's Park, Wagga	3:00pm
	Tigers v Titans	Campbelltown	5:30pm
	Cowboys v Broncos	QLD Country Bank	7:35pm
Sunday, May 9	Sea Eagles v Warriors	Lottoland	2:00pm
	Dragons v Bulldogs	Netstrata Jubilee	4:05pm

ROUND 10

Friday, May 14	Tigers v Knights	Suncorp	6:00pm
	Sea Eagles v Broncos	Suncorp	8:05pm
Saturday, May 15	Bulldogs v Raiders	Suncorp	3:00pm
	Sharks v Rabbitohs	Suncorp	5:30pm
	Roosters v Cowboys	Suncorp	7:45pm
Sunday, May 16	Warriors v Eels	Suncorp	1:50pm
	Storm v Dragons	Suncorp	4:05pm
	Titans v Panthers	Suncorp	6:25pm

ROUND 11

Thursday, May 20	Cowboys v Knights	QLD Country Bank	7:50pm
Friday, May 21	Warriors v Tigers	Central Coast	6:00pm
	Sharks v Dragons	Netstrata Jubilee	7:55pm
Saturday, May 22	Titans v Bulldogs	Cbus Super	3:00pm
	Roosters v Broncos	SCG	5:30pm
Sunday, May 23	Raiders v Storm	GIO Stadium	7:35pm
	Rabbitohs v Panthers	Apex Oval, Dubbo	2:00pm
	Eels v Sea Eagles	Bankwest	4:05pm

ROUND 12

Thursday, May 27	Broncos v Storm	Suncorp	7:50pm
Friday, May 28	Cowboys v Warriors	QLD Country Bank	6:00pm
	Tigers v Dragons	Bankwest	7:55pm
Saturday, May 29	Panthers v Bulldogs	Panthers	3:00pm
	Rabbitohs v Eels	Stadium Australia	5:30pm
	Roosters v Raiders	Central Coast	7:35pm
Sunday, May 30	Sharks v Titans	C. EX Coffs	2:00pm
	Knights v Sea Eagles	McDonald Jones	4:05pm

ROUND 13

Thursday, Jun 3	Dragons v Broncos	Netstrata Jubilee	7:50pm
Friday, Jun 4	Tigers v Panthers	Leichhardt	7:55pm
Saturday, Jun 5	Storm v Titans	AAMI Park	7:35pm
Sunday, Jun 6	Knights v Eels	McDonald Jones	4:05pm
Byes	Bulldogs, Cowboys, Rabbitohs, Raiders, Roosters, Sea Eagles, Sharks, Warriors		

STATE OF ORIGIN 1

Wednesday, Jun 9	NSW v QLD	Venue TBC	8pm
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ROUND 14

Friday, Jun 11	Sea Eagles v Cowboys	Lottoland	6:00pm
	Sharks v Panthers	Netstrata Jubilee	7:55pm
Saturday, Jun 12	Titans v Roosters	Cbus Super	3:00pm
	Rabbitohs v Knights	Stadium Australia	5:30pm
	Raiders v Broncos	GIO Stadium	7:35pm
Sunday, Jun 13	Warriors v Storm	Central Coast	2:00pm
	Eels v Tigers	Bankwest	4:05pm
Monday, Jun 14	Bulldogs v Dragons	Stadium Australia	4:00pm

April 29-May 2

Raiders v Rabbitohs	GIO Stadium	7:50pm
Storm v Sharks	AAMI Park	6:00pm
Broncos v Titans	Suncorp	7:55pm
Panthers v Sea Eagles	Carrington Park, Bathurst	3:00pm
Bulldogs v Eels	Stadium Australia	5:30pm
Knights v Roosters	McDonald Jones	7:35pm
Warriors v Cowboys	Central Coast	2:00pm
Dragons v Tigers	WIN Stadium	4:05pm

May 6-9

Rabbitohs v Storm	Stadium Australia	7:50pm
Panthers v Sharks	Panthers	6:00pm
Eels v Roosters	Bankwest	7:55pm
Raiders v Knights	McDonald's Park, Wagga	3:00pm
Tigers v Titans	Campbelltown	5:30pm
Cowboys v Broncos	QLD Country Bank	7:35pm
Sea Eagles v Warriors	Lottoland	2:00pm
Dragons v Bulldogs	Netstrata Jubilee	4:05pm

May 14-16

Tigers v Knights	Suncorp	6:00pm
Sea Eagles v Broncos	Suncorp	8:05pm
Bulldogs v Raiders	Suncorp	3:00pm
Sharks v Rabbitohs	Suncorp	5:30pm
Roosters v Cowboys	Suncorp	7:45pm
Warriors v Eels	Suncorp	1:50pm
Storm v Dragons	Suncorp	4:05pm
Titans v Panthers	Suncorp	6:25pm

May 20-23

Cowboys v Knights	QLD Country Bank	7:50pm
Warriors v Tigers	Central Coast	6:00pm
Sharks v Dragons	Netstrata Jubilee	7:55pm
Titans v Bulldogs	Cbus Super	3:00pm
Roosters v Broncos	SCG	5:30pm
Raiders v Storm	GIO Stadium	7:35pm
Rabbitohs v Panthers	Apex Oval, Dubbo	2:00pm
Eels v Sea Eagles	Bankwest	4:05pm

May 27-30

Broncos v Storm	Suncorp	7:50pm
Cowboys v Warriors	QLD Country Bank	6:00pm
Tigers v Dragons	Bankwest	7:55pm
Panthers v Bulldogs	Panthers	3:00pm
Rabbitohs v Eels	Stadium Australia	5:30pm
Roosters v Raiders	Central Coast	7:35pm
Sharks v Titans	C. EX Coffs	2:00pm
Knights v Sea Eagles	McDonald Jones	4:05pm

June 3-6

Dragons v Broncos	Netstrata Jubilee	7:50pm
Tigers v Panthers	Leichhardt	7:55pm
Storm v Titans	AAMI Park	7:35pm
Knights v Eels	McDonald Jones	4:05pm
Bulldogs, Cowboys, Rabbitohs, Raiders, Roosters, Sea Eagles, Sharks, Warriors		

June 9

NSW v QLD	Venue TBC	8pm
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June 11-14

Sea Eagles v Cowboys	Lottoland	6:00pm
Sharks v Panthers	Netstrata Jubilee	7:55pm
Titans v Roosters	Cbus Super	3:00pm
Rabbitohs v Knights	Stadium Australia	5:30pm
Raiders v Broncos	GIO Stadium	7:35pm
Warriors v Storm	Central Coast	2:00pm
Eels v Tigers	Bankwest	4:05pm
Bulldogs v Dragons	Stadium Australia	4:00pm

NRL DRAW

ROUND 15

Thursday, Jun 17	Broncos v Rabbitohs	Suncorp	7:50pm
Friday, Jun 18	Cowboys v Sharks	QLD Country Bank	6:00pm
	Panthers v Roosters	Panthers	7:55pm
Saturday, Jun 19	Knights v Warriors	McDonald Jones	3:00pm
	Dragons v Raiders	WIN Stadium	5:30pm
	Storm v Tigers	AAMI Park	7:35pm
Sunday, Jun 20	Eels v Bulldogs	Bankwest	2:00pm
	Titans v Sea Eagles	Cbus Super	4:05pm

WOMEN'S ORIGIN

Friday, Jun 25	QLD v NSW	Venue TBC	7:40pm
ORIGIN 2	June 27		
Sunday, Jun 27	QLD v NSW	Suncorp Stadium	7:40pm

ROUND 16

Thursday, Jul 1	Roosters v Storm	SCG	7:50pm
Friday, Jul 2	Warriors v Dragons	Mt Smart	6:00pm
	Panthers v Eels	Panthers	7:55pm
Saturday, Jul 3	Bulldogs v Sea Eagles	Stadium Australia	3:00pm
	Raiders v Titans	GIO Stadium	5:30pm
	Knights v Cowboys	McDonald Jones	7:35pm
Sunday, Jul 4	Broncos v Sharks	Suncorp	2:00pm
	Tigers v Rabbitohs	Leichhardt	4:05pm

ROUND 17

Thursday, Jul 8	Sea Eagles v Raiders	Lottoland	7:50pm
Friday, Jul 9	Rabbitohs v Cowboys	Stadium Australia	7:55pm
Saturday, Jul 10	Bulldogs v Roosters	Bankwest	7:35pm
Sunday, Jul 11	Sharks v Warriors	Netstrata Jubilee	4:05pm
Byes	Broncos, Dragons, Eels, Knights, Panthers, Storm, Wests Tigers, Titans		

ORIGIN 3

Wednesday, Jul 14	NSW v QLD	Stadium Australia	8pm
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ROUND 18

Friday, Jul 16	Titans v Eels	Cbus Super	6:00pm
	Sea Eagles v Dragons	Lottoland	7:55pm
Saturday, Jul 17	Raiders v Sharks	GIO Stadium	3:00pm
	Cowboys v Roosters	QLD Country Bank	5:30pm
	Storm v Knights	AAMI Park	7:35pm
Sunday, Jul 18	Warriors v Panthers	Mt Smart	2:00pm
	Broncos v Tigers	Suncorp	4:05pm
	Rabbitohs v Bulldogs	Stadium Australia	6:15pm

ROUND 19

Thursday, Jul 22	Eels v Raiders	Bankwest	7:50pm
Friday, Jul 23	Roosters v Knights	SCG	6:00pm
	Cowboys v Storm	QLD Country Bank	7:55pm
Saturday, Jul 24	Rabbitohs v Warriors	Sunshine Coast	3:00pm
	Sea Eagles v Tigers	Central Coast	5:30pm
	Panthers v Broncos	Panthers	7:35pm
Sunday, Jul 25	Dragons v Titans	Netstrata Jubilee	2:00pm
	Bulldogs v Sharks	Bankwest	4:05pm

ROUND 20

Thursday, Jul 29	Roosters v Eels	SCG	7:50pm
Friday, Jul 30	Tigers v Warriors	Bankwest	6:00pm
	Broncos v Cowboys	Suncorp	7:55pm
Saturday, Jul 31	Dragons v Rabbitohs	WIN Stadium	3:00pm
	Knights v Raiders	McDonald Jones	5:30pm
	Storm v Panthers	AAMI Park	7:35pm
Sunday, Aug 1	Bulldogs v Titans	Bankwest	2:00pm
	Sharks v Sea Eagles	Netstrata Jubilee	4:05pm

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.

ROUND 21

Thursday, Aug 5	Knights v Broncos	McDonald Jones	7:50pm
Friday, Aug 6	Raiders v Dragons	GIO Stadium	6:00pm
	Eels v Rabbitohs	Bankwest	7:55pm
Saturday, Aug 7	Warriors v Sharks	Mt Smart	3:00pm
	Roosters v Panthers	SCG	5:30pm
	Sea Eagles v Storm	Lottoland	7:35pm
Sunday, Aug 8	Bulldogs v Tigers	Belmore	2:00pm
	Titans v Cowboys	Cbus Super	4:05pm

ROUND 22

Thursday, Aug 12	Storm v Raiders	AAMI Park	7:50pm
Friday, Aug 13	Dragons v Panthers	WIN Stadium	6:00pm
	Broncos v Roosters	Suncorp	7:55pm
Saturday, Aug 14	Rabbitohs v Titans	Central Coast	3:00pm
	Cowboys v Tigers	QLD Country Bank	5:30pm
	Sea Eagles v Eels	Lottoland	7:35pm
Sunday, Aug 15	Warriors v Bulldogs	Mt Smart	2:00pm
	Sharks v Knights	Netstrata Jubilee	4:05pm

ROUND 23

Thursday, Aug 19	Titans v Storm	Cbus Super	7:50pm
Friday, Aug 20	Raiders v Sea Eagles	GIO Stadium	6:00pm
	Panthers v Rabbitohs	Panthers	7:55pm
Saturday, Aug 21	Tigers v Sharks	Scully Park, Tamworth	3:00pm
	Bulldogs v Knights	Stadium Australia	5:30pm
	Eels v Cowboys	Bankwest	7:35pm
Sunday, Aug 22	Dragons v Roosters	Netstrata Jubilee	2:00pm
	Broncos v Warriors	Suncorp	4:05pm

ROUND 24

Thursday, Aug 26	Knights v Titans	McDonald Jones	7:50pm
Friday, Aug 27	Warriors v Raiders	Mt Smart	6:00pm
	Roosters v Rabbitohs	SCG	7:55pm
Saturday, Aug 28	Dragons v Cowboys	WIN Stadium	3:00pm
	Sharks v Broncos	Netstrata Jubilee	5:30pm
	Storm v Eels	AAMI Park	7:35pm
Sunday, Aug 29	Sea Eagles v Bulldogs	Lottoland	2:00pm
	Panthers v Tigers	Panthers	4:05pm

ROUND 25

Thursday, Sep 2	Raiders v Roosters	GIO Stadium	7:50pm
Friday, Sep 3	Sharks v Storm	Netstrata Jubilee	6:00pm
	Eels v Panthers	Bankwest	7:55pm
Saturday, Sep 4	Broncos v Knights	Suncorp	3:00pm
	Cowboys v Sea Eagles	QLD Country Bank	5:30pm
	Rabbitohs v Dragons	Stadium Australia	7:35pm
Sunday, Sep 5	Titans v Warriors	Cbus Super	2:00pm
	Tigers v Bulldogs	Campbelltown	4:05pm

2021 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP FINALS SERIES

WEEK 1

Day/Time TBC	QF 1	1 v 4	
Day/Time TBC	QF 2	2 v 3	
Day/Time TBC	EF 1	5 v 8	
Day/Time TBC	EF 2	6 v 7	

WEEK 2

Day/Time TBC	SF 1	L QF 1 v W EF 1	
Day/Time TBC	SF 2	L QF 2 v W EF 2	

WEEK 3

Day/Time TBC	PF 1	W QF 1 v W SF 2	
Day/Time TBC	PF 2	W QF 2 v W SF 1	

GRAND FINAL

Sun, Time TBC	W PF 1 v W PF 2		
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August 5-8

Knights v Broncos	McDonald Jones	7:50pm
Raiders v Dragons	GIO Stadium	6:00pm
Eels v Rabbitohs	Bankwest	7:55pm
Warriors v Sharks	Mt Smart	3:00pm
Roosters v Panthers	SCG	5:30pm
Sea Eagles v Storm	Lottoland	7:35pm
Bulldogs v Tigers	Belmore	2:00pm
Titans v Cowboys	Cbus Super	4:05pm

August 12-15

Storm v Raiders	AAMI Park	7:50pm
Dragons v Panthers	WIN Stadium	6:00pm
Broncos v Roosters	Suncorp	7:55pm
Rabbitohs v Titans	Central Coast	3:00pm
Cowboys v Tigers	QLD Country Bank	5:30pm
Sea Eagles v Eels	Lottoland	7:35pm
Warriors v Bulldogs	Mt Smart	2:00pm
Sharks v Knights	Netstrata Jubilee	4:05pm

August 19-22

Titans v Storm	Cbus Super	7:50pm
Raiders v Sea Eagles	GIO Stadium	6:00pm
Panthers v Rabbitohs	Panthers	7:55pm
Tigers v Sharks	Scully Park, Tamworth	3:00pm
Bulldogs v Knights	Stadium Australia	5:30pm
Eels v Cowboys	Bankwest	7:35pm
Dragons v Roosters	Netstrata Jubilee	2:00pm
Broncos v Warriors	Suncorp	4:05pm

August 26-29

Knights v Titans	McDonald Jones	7:50pm
Warriors v Raiders	Mt Smart	6:00pm
Roosters v Rabbitohs	SCG	7:55pm
Dragons v Cowboys	WIN Stadium	3:00pm
Sharks v Broncos	Netstrata Jubilee	5:30pm
Storm v Eels	AAMI Park	7:35pm
Sea Eagles v Bulldogs	Lottoland	2:00pm
Panthers v Tigers	Panthers	4:05pm

September 2-5

Raiders v Roosters	GIO Stadium	7:50pm
Sharks v Storm	Netstrata Jubilee	6:00pm
Eels v Panthers	Bankwest	7:55pm
Broncos v Knights	Suncorp	3:00pm
Cowboys v Sea Eagles	QLD Country Bank	5:30pm
Rabbitohs v Dragons	Stadium Australia	7:35pm
Titans v Warriors	Cbus Super	2:00pm
Tigers v Bulldogs	Campbelltown	4:05pm

Qualifying & Elimination Finals

QF 1	1 v 4	Venue TBC
QF 2	2 v 3	Venue TBC
EF 1	5 v 8	Venue TBC
EF 2	6 v 7	Venue TBC

Semi Finals

SF 1	L QF 1 v W EF 1	Venue TBC
SF 2	L QF 2 v W EF 2	Venue TBC

Preliminary Finals

PF 1	W QF 1 v W SF 2	Venue TBC
PF 2	W QF 2 v W SF 1	Venue TBC

OCTOBER 2

W PF 1 v W PF 2	Stadium Australia
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THE KNOCK-ON EFFECT NSW CUP - ROUND 1

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS v MOUNTIES

McDonald Jones Stadium, Friday 12 March 3:45pm

Referee: Darian Furner; Sideline Officials: Ben Teague, Martin Jones

NEWCASTLE: 2. Jacob Kiraz 3. Dylan Lucas 4. Dominic Young 5. Brayden Musgrove 6. Simi Sasagi 7. Kobe Davies 8. Garrett Smith 10. Mathew Croker 11. Jack Johns 14. Liam Wilkinson 16. Jaron Purcell 17. Christian Ma'anaima 20. Daniel Ticehurst 22. Harry Croker **MOUNTIES:** 1. Declan Casey 2. Watson Heleta 3. Falakiko Manu 4. Aaron Schoupp 5. Tuipulotu Katoa 6. Lachlan Lewis 7. Brandon Wakeham 8. Ava Seumanufagai 10. Dean Britt 11. Reuben Porter 12. Matt Doorey 13. Joe Stimson 14. James Roumanos 15. Ben Seufale 16. Jack Miller 17. Rhys Davies 19. Vincent Rennie

PENRITH PANTHERS v SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

Panthers Stadium, Saturday 13 March 5:15pm

Referee: Cameron Paddy; Sideline Officials: Rickey McFarlane, Mark Bohan

PENRITH: 1. Brent Naden 2. Robert Jennings 3. Jaeman Salmon 4. Izack Tago 5. Taylan May 6. Matt Burton 7. Kurt Falls 8. Jayden Tanner 9. Mitch Kenny 10. Lindsay Smith 11. Scott Sorensen 12. Billy Burns 13. J'maine Hopgood 14. Brendan Hands 15. Alec Susino 16. Vasili Tsikrikas 17. John Faiumu **SOUTHS:** 1. CJ Mundine 2. Jaxson Paulo 3. Steven Marsters 4. Tautau Moga 5. Jacob Gagai 6. Troy Dargan 7. Dean Hawkins 8. Jack Cameron 9. Josh Cook 10. Patrick Mago 11. Pele Vaigalu 12. Trent Peoples 13. Joe Lovodua 14. James Tautaiolefua 16. Yileen Gordon 17. Matthew French 18. Tevita Taumoepenu 19. Maila Chan-Foon

BLACKTOWN WORKERS SEA EAGLES v NORTH SYDNEY BEARS

HE Laybutt Fields, Sunday 14 March 1:10pm

Referee: Kieren Irons; Sideline Officials: Cameron Mitchell, Liam Nicholls

BWSE: 1. Dylan Smith 2. Kane Allan 3. Christian Tuipulotu 18. Tim Simona 4. Sione Fonua 6. Brad Keighran 7. Alex Seve 8. Kurt De Luis 9. Cade Cust 10. Terrell May 11. Haumole Olakau'atu 12. Jordyn Leiu 13. Zac Saddler 14. Dane Aukafolau 15. Francis Laloua-Tui 16. Denzal Tonise 17. Reed Izzard 19. Phillip Makatoa 21. Tyrell Neiuhi **NORTHS:** 1. Brad Abbey 2. Matt Ikuvalu 3. Tony

Satini 4. Joseph Suaalii 5. Sione Hopoate 6. Sam Walker 7. Drew Hutchison 8. Tukupa Hau Tapuha 9. Freddy Lussick 10. Fletcher Baker 11. Egan Butcher 12. Naufahu Whyte 13. Max Bailey 14. Coby Thomas 15. Jerry Key 16. Elih Jackson 17. Ben Thomas 18. Michael Fenn

CANBERRA RAIDERS v WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES

GIO Stadium, Sunday 14 March 1:50pm

Referee: Martin Jones; Sideline Officials: Adam Reid, John Woods

CANBERRA: 1. Caleb Aekins 2. Semi Valemi 3. Harley Smith-Shields 4. Matthew Timoko 5. Albert Hopoate 6. Matt Frawley 7. Sam Williams 8. Emre Guler 9. Tom Starling 10. Keaton Walkington-Mead 11. Clay Webb 12. Harry Rushton 13. Darby Medlyn 14. Adrian Trevilyan 15. Brad Schneider 16. Sila Tituiti 17. Caleb Esera 18. Elijah Anderson **WESTS:** 1. Zachary Cini 2. Allan Fitzgibbon 3. William Kei 4. Kiah Cooper 5. Reece Hoffman 6. Zach Dockar-Clay 7. Jock Madden 8. Tukimihia Simpkins 9. Jake Simpkin 10. Alex Seyfarth 11. Edenn Rogers-Smith 12. Kelma Tuilagi 13. Thomas Freebairn 14. Joseph Taipari 15. Ky Rodwell 16. Austin Dias 17. EJ Lui 18. Israel Ogden 19. Tyler Field 20. Regan Hughes

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS v NEWTOWN JETS

Netstrata Jubilee Stadium, Sunday 14 March 3:55pm

Referee: Henry Perenara; Sideline Officials: Cameron Paddy, Ben Teague

ST GEO ILLA: 2. Sam McCann 3. Mathew Feagai 4. Shaun Sauni-Esau 5. Pio Sokobalavu 6. Tyran Wishart 7. Zeik Foster 8. Jaiyden Hunt 9. Billy Brittain 11. Matt Delbanco 12. Charly Runciman 13. Hayden Lomax 17. Luke Gale 18. Luke Chalker 19. Nathan Leatigaga **NEWTOWN:** 1. Honeti Tuha 2. Eddy Aiono 3. Tyrone Phillips 4. Jackson Ferris 5. Nene Macdonald 6. Tyla Tamou 7. Luke Metcalf 8. Brock Ilett 9. Kyle Paterson 10. Daniel Vasquez 11. Bronson Garlick 12. D'Rhys Miller 13. Gabe Hamlin 15. Zac Woolford 16. Brock Gray 17. Thomas Hazelton 21. Monty Raper 26. Wyndham Peachey

BYE: PARRAMATTA EELS

RON MASSEY CUP - ROUND 1

WENTWORTHVILLE MAGPIES v MOUNTIES

Ringrose Park, Saturday 13 March 3pm

Referee: Damian Brady; Sideline Officials: Karra-Lee Nolan, Billy Greatbatch

WENTY: 1. Nathan Milone 3. Nick Walker 4. Josh Minhinnick 7. Beau Henry 9. Ryan Pritchard 11. Blake Cook 12. Kieran Hayman 13. Jordan Latham 14. Rhys Armstrong 18. Niko Apelu **MOUNTIES:** 1. Kieren Moss 2. Roman Ioelu 3. Atini Gafa 4. Ethan Parry 5. Jaimon Wormleaton 6. Harry Leddy 7. Kamren Cryer 8. Paea Pua 9. Josh Daley 10. Brady Cheshire 11. Kane McQuiggin 12. Cleveland McGhie 14. Haimona Hiroti 15. Toby Huxley 16. Rydye Smith 19. Riley Cheshire 21. Mitchell Butfield

WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES v CABRAMATTA TWO BLUES

Lidcombe Oval, Saturday 13 March 3pm

Referee: Tom Cambourn; Sideline Officials: Jake Sutherland, Ben McMurray

WESTS: 1. Mitchell Francis 2. Kieran Wyld 4. Johnny Mitsias 5. Samuela Junior Buka 6. Kurtis Preece 7. Brock Pelligra 8. Kell O'Brien 9. Max Altus 10. James Mirceski 11. Ronny Palumbo 12. Jak Cannell 13. Daniel Petralia 15. Jacob Van Zanden 16. Mitch Zampetides 17. Simon Fonua 20. Sosifa Taufaa **CABRAMATTA:** 2. Joel Kingham 3. Anthony Raheb 7. Jack Ryan 10. Danny Fualalo 17. Brendon Luamanu 22. Moses Manu 25. Moo Doh

ST MARYS v GLEBE DIRTY REDS

St Marys Leagues Stadium, Saturday 13 March 5pm

Referee: Daniel Luttringer; Sideline Officials: Louis Matheson, Patrick Mackey

ST MARYS: 1 Jake Toby 2 Chris Aunese Scanlan 3 Geoff Daniela 4 Ray Lesoa 5 Luke Nadurutalo 6 trent Toelau 7 Zac Greene 8 Sam McGregor 9 Soni Luke 10 Tom Romer 11 Arthur Crichton 12 Matt Stimson 13 Anton Iaria 14 Meni Luke 15 Marli Sini 17 John Trimboli 20 Henry SeuManu

GLEBE: TBC

WINDSOR WOLVES v HILLS BULLS

Windsor Sports Complex, Saturday 13 March 6pm

Referee: Mitchell Currie; Sideline Officials: Tom Stindl, Mitchell Stone

WINDSOR: 1. Shondre Lee-Silva 2. Emosi Alamoti 3. Zac Mackay 7. Lazarus Brown 8. Dallas King 9. Isaac Thompson 10. Giordan Patea 11. Tyler Cassell 13. Eton Lindsay 14. Jaydn Field 16. James Horvat 17. Bruce Ward **HILLS:** 1. Anthony Layoun 2. Maile Li 3. Shane Kiel 4. Leva Li 7. Josh Lewis 8. Taniela Lasalo 13. David Gower 15. Jake Brennan 16. Shannon Gardiner 17. Rhys Scigliatano 18. Blake Goodman 19. Daniel Harrison 21. Joel Bradford 22. Jake Beetson 23. Kitone Vikash 24. Cowen Epere 25. Thomas Menzies

BLACKTOWN WORKERS SEA EAGLES v RYDE-EASTWOOD HAWKS

HE Laybutt Fields, Sunday 14 March 3:15pm

Referee: Jake Sutherland; Sideline Officials: Kieren Irons, Liam Nicholls

BWSE: TBC **R.E. HAWKS:** TBC

BYE: KAIVITI SILKTAILS

TEAMLISTS

LeagueUnlimited.com or NSWRL.com.au closer to match day.

JERSEY FLEGG CUP (U21) - ROUND 1

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS v CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

Collegians Sports Complex, Saturday 13 March 2:30pm

Referee: Dillian Wells; Sideline Officials: Micheal Ford, Jake Walsh

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA: 1. Treigh Stewart 3. James Schiller 4. Kaylen Miller 5. Billy Hayburn 6. Blake Barbuto 7. Braxton Wallace 8. Hudson Spicer 9. Connor Muhleisen 10. Matthew Nicholson 11. Bailey Antrobus 12. Shalom O'Ofou 13. Ben Arandt 14. Hayden Budd 15. Blake Dowel 16. Dallas Collins 17. Harris Georgopoulos 20. Zach Herring 21. Oliver Parrish **CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS:** 1. Trentham Petersen 2. Kayal Iro 3. Jenson Taumoepeau 4. Kyle Pickering 5. Jonah Lualua 6. Harrison Geraghty 7. Angus Ernst 8. Franklin Pele 9. Isaac Longmuir 10. Jack Martin 11. Kai Parker 12. Jack Boyling 13. Tyler Slade 14. Jesse Colquhoun 15. Thomas Giles 16. Rhys Dakin 18. Zane Jegers

PENRITH PANTHERS v SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

Panthers Stadium, Saturday 13 March 3:30pm

Referee: Charlie Suters; Sideline Officials: Rickey McFarlane, Mark Bohan

PENRITH PANTHERS: 1. Sunia Turuva 2. Flynn Isaacs 3. Logan Cohen 4. Thomas Jenkins 5. Ethan Clark-Wood 6. Sadee Sub Laban 7. Hayden Bonanno 8. Luke Bain 9. Luke Sommerton 10. Liam Henry 11. Sunita Lotoaniu 12. Bradley Fearnley 13. Hohepa Puru 14. Connor Mason 15. Mavrik Geyer 16. Hanna-jonathan El-nchar 17. Tyreece Tonga 18. Immanuel Tagaloamatua 19. Uenuku Malesala **SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS:** 1. Chaise Robinson 2. Thomas Ball 3. Tallis Angianga 4. L. Hutchinson-walters 5. Zane Bijorac 6. Dylan White 7. Lachlan Ilias 8. Keanu Ratumaitavuki-Aiolupo 9. Peter Mamouzelos 10. Augustine Stowers 11. Maila Chan-Foon 18. Cameron Akauola 12. Ryan Jones 13. Joshua Fepuleai 15. Darcy Hardman 16. Luke Puru 17. Ben Lovett 19. Ulysses Roberts

VICTORIA THUNDERBOLTS v CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

Casey Fields, Saturday 13 March 3:45pm

Referee: Cameron Turner; Sideline Officials: Kyle Grady, Matt Hicks

VICTORIA THUNDERBOLTS: 1. Saimone Ahomana 2. Damien Chandler 3. Haloti Fonua 4. Antonio Sanele 7. Lewis Habkoku 11. Aman Singh 14. Matthew Craparotta 16. Sam Fomai **CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS:** 1. Kaylib Savage 2. Anthony Pele 3. Zachary Rumble 4. Kurt Picken 5. Laitia Moceidreke 6. Paul Karaitiana 7. Bailey Biondi-Odo 8. Chris Patolo 9. Ryan Gray 10. Penisimani Teaup 11. Chase Chapman 12. Mateo Tatola 13. Kurtis Morrin 14. Blake Layton 15. Vikilifi Hopoi 16. Justin Filo 17. Aidan Manowski 19. Mosese Pope 20. Bailey Hayward

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES v SYDNEY ROOSTERS

HE Laybutt Fields, Sunday 14 March 11:00am

Referee: Ben McMurray; Sideline Officials: Charlie Suters, Dillian Wells

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES: 1. Flynn Angles-Corke 2. Max Lehmann 3. Jonah Palota-Kopa 4. Daniel Ala 5. Ray Tuaimalo-Vaega 6. Zane Harris 7. Jude Gibbs 8. Callan Burgess 9. Jack Birt 10. Jacob Sykes 11. Ben Trbojevic 12. Zac Fulton 13. Sione Fainu 14. Jamie Lawler 15. Tom Eveleigh 16. Lewis Afeaki 17. Neihana Oldham 18. Keegan Turner **SYDNEY ROOSTERS:** 1. Moala Graham-Taufa 2. Jack Mossman 3. Sidney Noppen 4. Lani Graham-Taufa 5. Corey Fenning 6. Max Batty 8. Hugo Patterson 9. Kobe Rugless 10. Luca Moretti 11. Jacob Preston 12. Riley Meyn 13. Harrison Edwards 14. Jack Stringer 15. Cooper Page-Wilson 16. Connagh Takairangi 17. Trevor-Joseph Sionetali 18. Riley Stevenson 20. Bayleigh Bentley-Hape

BYES: PARRAMATTA EELS, WESTS TIGERS

SYDNEY SHIELD - ROUND 1

WENTWORTHVILLE UNITED v MOOREBANK RAMS

Ringrose Park, Saturday 13 March 1pm

Referee: Karra-Lee Nolan; Sideline Officials: Damian Brady, Billy Greatbatch

WENTWORTHVILLE UNITED: TBC **MOOREBANK RAMS:** TBC

ST MARYS v CRONULLA-CARINGBAH SHARKS

St Marys Leagues Stadium, Saturday 13 March 3pm

Referee: Louis Matheson; Sideline Officials: Daniel Luttringer, Patrick Mackey

ST MARYS: 1. Daniel Brown 2. Ethan Mcpherson 3. Maliko Filino 4. Luke Geary 5. Jake Tago 6. Aiden Glanville 7. Adam Fearnley 8. Samuel Cookson 16. Joey Tramontana 10. Quinn Ma'aelopa 11. Alexander Myles 12. Jesse Abbott 13. Emmanuel Petrus 9. Riley Stokes 14. Dylan McBain 17. Jedd Gordon 18. Kaleb Farr 20. Laisenia Turuva 23. Luke Sim **CRONULLA-CARINGBAH SHARKS:** TBC

WINDSOR WOLVES v HILLS BULLS

Windsor Sports Complex, Saturday 13 March 4pm

Referee: Tom Stindl; Sideline Officials: Mitchell Currie, Mitchell Stone

WINDSOR WOLVES: 2. Dermot McKeever King 3. Joshua Fraser 4. Isaac Gorman 5. Ayden Leyshon 6. Hayden McWilliam 7. Edmond Matta 8. Will Epere 9. Daniel Sullivan 10. Dean Barnes 11. Franco Parodiso 13. Brandon Smallwood 15. James Goring 16. Matt Tomkins 18. Temisi Charley 19. Joshua Galvin **HILLS BULLS:** 1. Masi Paulo Fidow 2. Daniel Lotu 3. Jared Ross 4. Ilija Cotric 5. Jack Kenny 6. Jacob Harrington 7. Jesse Parker 8. Sean Walpole 9. Mitch Hyde 10. Mohammed Sultan 11. Winstone Asotasi 12. Nathan Layoun 13. Julian King 14. Jayden Griffin 15. Tristan Kini

16. Jermaine Ma'u 17. Dallas Mcewan 18. Blake Hill

EAST CAMPBELLTOWN EAGLES v CABRAMATTA TWO BLUES

Waminda Oval, Saturday 13 March 5pm

Referee: Bradley Kiehne; Sideline Officials: Jimmy Oliveira, Paul Eden

EAST CAMPBELLTOWN EAGLES: 1. Christian Savaiinaea 2. Jesse Lacey 3. Jayke Lealuga-Puhotau 4. Douglas Faaee 5. Mosese Vuki 6. Brett Lahey 8. Edward Masoe 9. Luke Williams 10. Jim Laulilii 11. Brody Dooner 12. Grant Lahey 13. Raymond Redman 14. Sakaraia Ratuovu 15. William Saunders 16. Samuel Kimi-Ioane 17. Alapati Potifara 77. Baden Stewart **CABRAMATTA TWO BLUES:** 2. Aisake Sadranu 9. Jake Stig 17. Timothy Fangalahi 20. Harley Sanchez 23. Lorenzo Falaniko 24. Lui Tavete

PENRITH BROTHERS v RYDE-EASTWOOD HAWKS

Hickeys Lane Reserve, Sunday 14 March 4pm

Referee: Nathan Loveday; Sideline Officials: Tom Cambourn, Nick Beashel

PENRITH BROTHERS: 1. Joshua Smith 3. Michael Compton 5. Seteone Vatuvei 6. Tori Willie 7. Tyrann Pettit-young 8. Brandon Nasio 10. Dallas Burns 11. Vaipuna Tia Kilifi 12. Brendan Hunter 13. Adrian Doyle 14. Daniel Penese 15. Daniel Arona 16. Joseph Pelesio 17. Patrick Hinder 18. Rodney Peake 19. Tevita Piukana 20. Jared Farkas 21. Eddie Ene **R.Y.E. HAWKS:** 19. Issac Tremel 22. Kirk Patton 23. Orisi Moceidreke 24. Joshua Vella 25. Callum Ellis 29. Harry Wilson 30. Zac Vella 46. Fa'atui Uele 49. Stefano Totidis

BYE: BELROSE EAGLES

SG BALL CUP (U19) - ROUND 6

PENRITH PANTHERS v BALMAIN TIGERS

St Marys Leagues Stadium; Saturday 13 March 12pm

Referee: Brandon Mani; Sideline Officials: Curtis Robinson, Ramzi Daizli

PANTHERS: 1. Kristian-Li Mai 2. Jimmy Donnelly 3. Cody Lawson 4. Angelis Hotere-Papalii 5. Ashley Cosgrove 6. Jack Cole 7. Keagan Russell-Smith 8. John Sagaga 9. Ryley Smith 10. Ili Tuia 11. Izaak Nasio 12. Zac Lipowicz 13. Lachlan Blackburn 14. Braith Alexander 15. Mason Teague 16. Lafaele Tauapai 17. Aston Warwick 19. Jai Wynbergen 21. Brandon Hamilton 23. Cruise Tweedie 24. Joshua Belfanti **TIGERS:** 1. Corey Thomas 2. Harrison Henson 3. Livi Saukuru 4. Trey Peni 5. Samuel Kanaan 6. Rylee Blackhall 7. Christian Jardim 8. Fonua Pole 9. Trent Borthwick 10. Campbell Fisher 11. Zayn Wilkins 12. Ragen Gilbert 13. Braydon Guyan 14. Cougar Wheeler 15. Jaxson Rahme 16. Markis Atoa 17. Vaka Aho 18. Sione Vaihu 19. Cayne Nicholas 20. Malakai Manoa

NORTH SYDNEY BEARS v SYDNEY ROOSTERS

Macquarie University Sports Field; Saturday 13 March 12pm

Referee: Blake Williams; Sideline Officials: Darcy Hind, Dylan Guptil

BEARS: 1. Damien Nati 2. Connor Leysion 3. John Wesley-vunga 4. Aaron Dimovitch 5. Isaac Rosario 6. Finn Douch 7. Michael Farah 8. Taine Boland 9. Elijah Sarkis 10. Tayson Fakaosi 11. Kobe Bone 12. David Haumono 13. Samuel Iese 14. Kobe Poching 15. Lafi Tuinauvai 16. Augustino Mauu 17. Blake Coombes 18. Rory Togiatu 19. Tanasio Winikerei 20. Jordan Dickson 21. Giovanni Abel **ROOSTERS:** 1. Ethan King 2. Petelo Kepaoa 4. Jordan Swann 5. Kyrn Fekitoa 6. Sandon Smith 7. Vaiala Tamati 8. Nicholas Fenton 9. Thomas Deakin 10. Asolelei Fretton 11. Joshua Wong 12. Zac Montgomery 13. Darcy Clifton 14. Alan Holten 15. Sione Vaenuku 17. Jeremiah Ratabua 19. Jeff Tatupu

ILLAWARRA STEELERS v CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

Collegians Sporting Complex; Saturday 13 March 1pm

Referee: Micheal Ford; Sideline Officials: Jack Gerrie, Jake Walsh;

STEELERS: 1. Tyrell Sloan 2. Alexander Lobb 3. Benjamin Lavender 4. Brandon Morkos 5. Cooper Tunbridge 6. Junior Amone 7. Jhet Steyger 8. Bryce Magnone 9. Riley Wooden 10. Clive Brett 11. Jackson Shereb 12. Travis Barrett-Hancock 13. Joshua Coric 14. Viliami Mahe 15. Jack Owens 16. Trent Griffiths 17. Syddarys Cassidy 25. Jacob Webster **SHARKS:** 1. Kade Dykes 2. Samuel Stonestreet 3. Jordan Samrani 4. Noah Lester 5. Te Wehi Waitere 6. Cody Fuz 7. Ryan Rivett 8. Joshua Finau 9. Kobie Wilson 10. Semisi Sikei 11. Jed Hardy 12. Toby Boothroyd 13. Blake Hosking 14. Samuel Healey 15. Jake Biggs 16. Waylon Fiaii 17. Douglas Levi 18. Billy Burke 19. Kenny Saad 20. Jackson Lenzo

HARVEY NORMAN TARSHA GALE CUP (U19 WOMENS) - ROUND 6

ILLAWARRA STEELERS v CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

Collegians Sporting Complex; Saturday 13 March 10am

Referee: Mitchell Pitscheider; Sideline Officials: Todd Pieters, Ethan Rix;

STEELERS: 1. Teagan Berry 2. Keele Browne 3. Olivia Vale 4. Shante Lenartowicz 5. Lily Rogan 6. Keeley Kopara 7. Riley Scott 9. Salma Nour 11. Jordyn Preston 12. Checoby Murray 13. Chantel Tugaga 14. Sian Allen 15. Mackenzie Lear 16. Alex Wallace 17. Mollie Bonham 18. Jemma Gallagher 20. April Stevens 21. Tiana Kore **SHARKS:** 1. Lilly Murdoch 2. Ella Gould 3. Chloe Boston 4. Ella Barker 5. Lilli Odea 6. Alexandra Weir 7. Zali Hopkins 8. Kirsty Sant 9. Sienna Stewart 10. Skye Brennan 11. Tayah Beckett 12. Taylor Curtis 13. Sophia Griffin 14. Taylah Charman 15. Meaghan Mccauley 16. Erika-May Kavana 17. Tipani Matai 18. Monica Litisoni

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS v WESTS TIGERS

Cessnock Sports Ground; Saturday 13 March 11am

Referee: Brayden Hunt; Sideline Officials: Olivia Lawne, Jabri Daizli;

KNIGHTS: 1. Tylah Vallance 2. Alyssa Shoulders 3. Tori Brazier 4. Morgan Keys 5. Kasey Gaukroger 6. Tamika Bull 7. Matilda Jones 8. Kayla Romaniuk 9. Monica Morris 10. Kyra Simon 11. Carissa Reid 12. Bree Chester 13. Ebony Woodcock 14. Sophie Clancy 15. Macy Taape 16. Lexi Beagan 17. Kayla Waldron 18. Montana Shoemsmith 21. Bianca Blackhall **TIGERS:** 1. Jessica Whelan 2. Jayme Willingham 3. Shelby Muir 4. Hope Tévaga 5. Chloe Newman 6. Georgia Edwards 7. Briana Dean 8. Tiamo Williams 9. Ebony Prior 10. Katie Edwards 11. Tehillah Vaeluaga 12. Shondell Akhabue 13. Jessica Kennedy 14. Anna Moa 15. Imogen Gobran 16. Eliza Siilata 17. Folau Vaki

VICTORIA THUNDERBOLTS v ST GEORGE DRAGONS

Casey Fields; Saturday 13 March 2pm

Referee: Matt Hicks; Sideline Officials: Kyle Grady, Mohammad Hussaini

THUNDERBOLTS: TBC **DRAGONS:** TBC

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS v MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES

Cessnock Sports Ground; Saturday 13 March 2pm

Referee: Tobi Holder; Sideline Officials: Ethan Murray, Jayden Kastelan

KNIGHTS: 1. Christopher Veaila 2. Fletcher Myers 3. Logan Jones 4. Logan Radziewicz 6. Zane Camroux 7. Noah Griffiths 8. Noah Johannssen 9. Noah Nailagoliva 10. Tim Johannssen 11. Brock Greacen 12. Tevita Toloi 13. Lachlan Williams 14. Noah Ryan 15. Rhys Williams 16. Thomas Cant 17. Kodi Crowther 18. Jacob Davis 20. Noah Reed **SEA EAGLES:** 1. Kaeo Weekes 2. Charlie Thompson 3. Tolu Koula 4. Simon Tito 5. Cameron Brown 6. Krystian Mapapalangi 7. Jamie Humphreys 8. James Uesele 9. Gordon Chan Kum Tong 10. Fa'afetai Autagavaia 11. Zane Dunford 12. James Malauulu 13. Siva Fotu 14. Daniel O'Donnell 16. Hunta Saunders 17. Seturi Takopo 18. Dan Stovold 19. Kobe Fulton 20. Emmanuel Di Bartolo

CANBERRA RAIDERS v PARRAMATTA EELS

Seiffert Oval; Saturday 13 March 3pm

Referee: Daniel Perry; Sideline Officials: Gage Miles, James Leane

RAIDERS: 1. Jack Sandford 2. Michael Asomua 3. Deakin Bright 4. Joshua Billing 5. Joseph Delle 6. Mitchell Spencer 7. Sione Moala 8. Kane Smith 9. Toby Thorburn 10. Caleb Esera 11. Noah Saddler 12. Clay Webb 13. Mitchell Prest 14. Connor Williams 15. Blake Martin 16. Loghan Lewis 21. Wilson Hamblin 22. Joshua Pokoney **EELS:** 1. Freeman Forsythe 2. Caleb Coroneos 3. Kamoe Fekitoa 4. Jabriel Kalache 5. Sione Tapuosi 6. Joshua Chappell 7. Keahlan Bray 8. Jontay-Junior Betham-Misa 9. Vlado Jankovic 10. Larry Muagututia 11. Jock Brazel 12. Maximus Tupou 13. Peter Taateo 14. Drew Lloyd 15. Taylor Mauala 16. Francis Faafof Tuitino 17. Koevy Lemusu 18. Kylan Mafoa

BYES: CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS, SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS, WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES

CANBERRA RAIDERS v PARRAMATTA EELS

Seiffert Oval; Saturday 13 March 12pm

Referee: Mitchell Robinson; Sideline Officials: Zac Fares, Matthew Gomes

RAIDERS: 2. Chloe Muggleton 3. Valasi Asomua 5. Klaudia Osztrenkovic 6. Madyson Tooth 7. Makayla Morris 8. Jacqueline Pele 9. Maddie Dodson 10. Amelia Kiriui 12. Maata Alai-Lokeni 13. Geena Elliott 14. Jaxan Blackhall 15. Cassius Delamere 16. Teliya Hetaraka 17. Grace Tai 18. Carly Wilkin 20. Carly Heyman 21. Hayley Liddle 23. Molly Carr 24. Shanae Pope **EELS:** 1. Ameena Kanj 2. Tamerah Leati 3. Tahleisha Pugh 4. Loreen Luamanuvae 5. Chelsee Austin 6. Katalina Vave 7. Demia Pritchard 8. Ruby-Jean Kennard 9. Jada Toevai 10. Losalio Sita Payne 11. Lorijocacha Ane Masame 12. Summah Terare 13. Taimani Kolomaka 14. Jacinta Tui 15. Lei-lani Tua 16. Kristen Cawthorne 17. Summer Brown 18. Eloisa Seve

SYDNEY ROOSTERS INDIGENOUS ACADEMY v ST GEORGE DRAGONS

Morry Breen Oval; Saturday 13 March 1pm

Referee: Michael Bonnici; Sideline Officials: Corey Fisher, Harrison Bayssari

ROOSTERS: 1. Maddie Binding 2. Charlize Lloyd-phillips 3. Sophie Whitton 4. Ruby Smith 5. Zoe Cass 6. Tayla Montgomery 7. Taneka Todhunter 8. Tymeakwa Duckett 9. Jessica Deakin 10. Anita Brown 11. Jasmon Tupou 12. Otesa Pule 13. Rease Casey 14. Iesha Duckett 15. Maya Svagelli 16. Tahlia Smith 17. Kadeesha King 18. Teisha Saunders 19. Darcy Carr 21. Milly Lupo **DRAGONS:** 1. Cassey Tohi-Hiku 2. Stella Tjijou 3. Breeze E'e 4. Rosemarie Beckett 5. Courageous Afoa 6. Luisa Yaranamua 7. Erana Reti 8. Fatafehi Hanisi 9. Ruben Cherrington 10. Faith Nimmo 11. Myah Tahan 12. Rysh'e Fa'amausili 13. Katarina Raravula 14. Limiah Enoka 15. Maurice Nafoi 16. Lahtia Sione 17. Maleah Mayol 19. Chelsea-Lina Koomson 20. Failuma Faaoloaga 21. Selenna Fuimaono 22. Faith Ainuu

BYE: CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

HAROLD MATTHEWS CUP (U17) - ROUND 6

PENRITH PANTHERS v BALMAIN TIGERS

St Marys Leagues Stadium; Saturday 13 March 10:30am

Referee: Isaac El-Hassen; Sideline Officials: Ebony Tzoukas, Lukas Durant

PANTHERS: 1. Jesse Mclean 2. Henry Neemia 3. David Afu 4. Latrelle Leota 5. John-Paul Donevski 6. Luke Hanson 7. Tylor Bunting 8. Peteru Pritchard 9. Billy Scott 10. Luron Patea 11. Jermaine McEwen 12. Harrison Hassett 13. Ethan Hutchings 14. Jenson Tuaoi 15. Bayden Moran 16. Judah Galuvao 17. Tevita Alatini 18. Cainan Hardiman 19. Bonamarei Taiki 22. Tana Papu 23. Wilson De Courcy **TIGERS:** 1. Cameron Kanaan 2. Eddie Markopoulos 3. Quinton Vaughan 5. Manus Bailey 6. Jonathan Ibrahim 7. Levi Conti 8. Tunui Jorgensen 10. Lipina Ata 11. Keenan Lawandos 12. Tony Sukkar 13. Liam Aarons 14. Jacob Matta 17. Adam Mehrez 18. Joseph Caracoglia 21. Dimitri Tselis

NORTH SYDNEY BEARS v SYDNEY ROOSTERS

Macquarie University Sports Field; Saturday 13 March 10:30am

Referee: Joel Pitscheider; Sideline Officials: Scott Rothery, Nathan Lorenti

BEARS: 1. Joseph Jaber 2. BJ Wilson 3. Malachi Tareke 4. Jason Collison 5. Benjamin Zahra 6. Malakye Enasio 7. Marbam Wichmann 8. Christian Loleni 9. Moustafa Dirani 10. Matthew Newlyn 11. Riley Price 12. Jake Elyard 13. Eden Devonshire 14. Joshua Coinakis 15. Aiafi Pomale 16. Joshua Tajhya 17. Philip Talaiavea 18. Blake Ireland 19. Ngatupuna Mariri 20. Papasees Tamaseu 21. Jhet Carroll **ROOSTERS:** 1. Dane Towns 2. Siaoisi Lepa 3. Cooper Toy 4. Modotinrowson Siu 5. Grayson Reimer 6. Benjamin Dufficy 7. Cassius Tia 8. Aj Preketes 9. Brent Hawkins 10. Nosa Obaseki 11. Michael Abdow 12. Ethan Roberts 13. Salesi Foketi 14. Tyren Ryan 15. Kakile Leha 16. Patrick Hoggett 17. Henry Finau 18. Oscar Morgan 19. Ethan Halatokoua

CENTRAL COAST ROOSTERS v ST GEORGE DRAGONS

Morry Breen Oval; Saturday 13 March 11:30am

Referee: Adam Sirianni; Sideline Officials: Corey Fisher, Harrison Bayssari

CC ROOSTERS: 1. Oliver Juras 2. Mason Stottelaar 3. Noah Goodman 4. Robert Toia 5. Kalem Surya 6. Haydan Ritchie 7. Ethan Strange 8. Kye Durie 9. Benaiah Ioelu 10. Brodie Moore 11. Emmet Nicholls 12. Blake Steep 13. Cade Mellon 14. Nabil Ali 15. Cody Starr 16. Kyle Kane 17. Braydan Purcell 18. Wylon Pene 19. Ben Taylor 22. Jack Wilkins **DRAGONS:** 1. Araz Nanva 2. Godfrey Ilavala 23. Flynn Gannon 24. Tyrell Fakaua 5. Dannie Samani 10. Ethan Arena 9. Kye Robson 11. Nicholas Tsougranis 13. Corey Ackers 14. Elijah Porter 15. Oliver Townsend 16. Hussein Anani

HARVEY NORMAN WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP - ROUND 1

CABRAMATTA TWO BLUES v WESTS TIGERS

New Era Stadium, Saturday 13 March 12pm

Referee: Paul Eden; Sideline Officials: Hayden Hooker, Mitchell Lothian

CABRAMATTA: 1. Diana Mousselamani 2. Anniqe Omodiagbe 3. Amira Hamid 4. Mele Loko 5. Safa Laalaa 21. Jada Karam 7. Guilhermina El Mir 10. Elisapeta Taufaa 9. Sarah Chahine 22. Natalie Bainou 11. Carly Drury 12. Naomi De Bruine 23. Ashley Blackmore 14. Natisha Forsyth-tule 15. Seraia Yasa **WESTS TIGERS:** 1. Botille Vette-Welsh 2. Rebecca Pollard 3. Josephine Lenaz 4. Page Mcgregor 5. Ana Fekela 6. Shekinah Edwards 7. Emily Curtain 8. Awhina Akuhata 9. Tyler Pelligra 10. Najvada George 11. Taylor Osborne 12. Jasmine Lepua 13. Sophie Curtain 14. Jaysharna-jean Houia 15. Mereana McManus-Ta'ase 17. Sarah Boyle 18. Ashlee Makim 19. Rachel Simpson 20. Rebecca Mose 24. Ana-lise Sio

ST MARYS v GLEBE DIRTY REDS

St Marys Leagues Stadium, Saturday 13 March 1:30pm

Referee: Jack Bird; Sideline Officials: Curtis Robinson, Brendan Mani

ST MARYS: 1. Rikaya Horne 2. Reshaun Vaughan 3. Jasmin Huriwai 4. Nicole Kennedy 5. Taiana Waddell 6. Ashlee Harrison 7. Emily Rains 8. Suzanne Sene-lefao 9. Talia Lealaialuto 10. Josephine Maejiirs 11. Christian Pio 12. Grace Clarke 13. Sarah Togatuki 14. Emily Hupton 15. Malia Tuifua 16. Ebony Millgate 17. Litiana Tuifua 21. Jenaye Collins 22. Hanna Sio **GLEBE:** TBC

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS v SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

Cronulla High School, Saturday 13 March 1:30pm

Referee: Robert Morey; Sideline Officials: Jeremy Framke, Justin Saadeh

CRONULLA: 1. Tiana Penitani 2. Zali Fay 3. Leianne Tufuga 4. Kiana Takairangi 5. Andie Robinson 6. Corban Mcgregor 7. Maddie Studdon 8. Crystal Papalii 9. Quincy Dodd 10. Kennedy Cherrington 11. Talei Holmes 12. Zali Waihape 13. Kaarla Cowan 14. Tegan Dymock 15. Analei Netzler 16. Natasha

ILLAWARRA STEELERS v CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

Collegians Sporting Complex; Saturday 13 March 11:30am

Referee: Lachlan Greenfield; Sideline Officials: Todd Pieters, Ethan Rix

STEELERS: 1. Sean Trindall 2. Ethan Cliff 3. James Walsh 4. Te Umuariki Heremia-Tukere 5. Bryden Rutledge 6. Palu Tausala 7. Kynan Clough 8. Jahream Lole-Ngarima 9. Jaxon Lavender 10. Jack Quine 11. Callum Leikvoll 12. Dylan Egan 13. Kane Graham 14. Taj Ford 15. Zakariya Maarbani 16. Viliami Amone 17. Kristian Sekuljica 18. Roy Fenukitau 19. Hamish Stewart 20. Kyan Hjaltason 21. Ashton Ward **SHARKS:** 1. Siteni Taukamo 2. Chevy Stewart 3. Talanoa Penitani 4. Koby Douglas 5. Osca Catton 6. Max Demeio 7. Dylan Christensen 8. Lachlan Crossle 9. Taj Brailey 10. Samuel McCulloch 11. Lawson Cotter 12. Luke Raymond 13. Zane Watson 14. Billy Dickens 15. Lachlan Araullo 16. Justin Letton 17. Ricardo Oloapu 18. Samson Mairi 20. Riley Lester

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS v MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES

Cessnock Sports Ground; Saturday 13 March 12:30pm

Referee: Benjamin Seppala; Sideline Officials: Olivia Lawne, Jabri Daizli

KNIGHTS: 1. Elijah Faalua 2. Jireh Toka 3. Ethan Ferguson 4. Preston Conn 5. Kai Spruce Conn 6. Jye Linnane 7. Taj Blackman 8. Egan Verheyen 9. Broden Konz 10. Kade Youtlen 11. Liam Williams 12. Cooper Bigeni 13. Rory Whitby 14. Harper Collins 15. Mayson Metcalf 16. Jarred Williams 17. Matthew Hughes 19. Kynan Toomey 21. Te Arahi Paraha **SEA EAGLES:** 1. Lehi Hopoate 2. Calvin Levy 3. Eli Sagala 4. Josh Feledy 5. Revelation Sio 6. Latu Fainu 7. Alfred Ah Chong 8. Samuela Fainu 9. Ollie Cummins 10. Ropeti Lole 11. Dylan Coutts 12. Drew Williams 13. Noa Faatui 14. Mitchell Taotua 15. Rene Bagon 16. Jake Smith 17. Roy Quiroz-Mapusua 18. Zedrick Fa'i Tupulua 22. Maxwell Taotua 23. Jakob Biet

CANBERRA RAIDERS v PARRAMATTA EELS

Seiffert Oval; Saturday 13 March 1:30pm

Referee: Ethan Klein; Sideline Officials: Liam Richardson, Aidan Richardson

RAIDERS: 1. Samuel Gash 2. Jacob Haeata 3. Hunter Marsh 4. Michael Griffiths 5. Siamani Leulua 6. Brock Sing 7. Leroy Murray 8. David White 10. Matthew Parkes 11. Owen Hromow 12. Noah Martin 13. Clay Sing 14. Noah Marcantonio 15. Blake Halls 17. Harley Young 18. Kaide Steele 19. Deekon Parsons 20. Darcey Bush 21. Jordan Eti 22. Cooper Emonson **EELS:** 1. Patrick Spence 2. Suliasi Aho 3. Charlie Guymner 4. Declan Murray 5. Joshua Lealaialuto 6. Terrence Lafai 7. Ethan Sanders 8. Sam Tuivaiti 9. Yehya Ayache 10. Aufag Mino 11. Raffaele De Stradis 12. Saxon Pryke 13. Myles Martin 14. Blaize Talagi 15. Joshua Alhazim 16. Movete 'oto'tota 17. Tyrese Lokeni 18. Mohamed Alameddine

BYES: CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS, SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS, WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES

Penitani 17. Shae Muhleisen 18. Lynda Howarth 19. Rosaline Aumale 20. Ariel George 21. Mary Makai

SOUTHS: 1. Rikka Lamb 2. Summer Dann 3. Monique Donovan 4. Terri-ann Caine 5. Renee Burgess 6. Nikki Baird 7. Akira Kelly 8. Kyla Gordon 9. Shirley Mailangi 10. Moniqa Moale 11. Ellie Johnston 12. Tia Cook 13. Aaliyah Fasavalu-faamausili 14. Katie Brown 15. Aahlivia Ingram 16. Mariah Leger 17. Jessica Potter 18. Nikki Perugini 19. Crystal Overton

CENTRAL COAST ROOSTERS v NORTH SYDNEY BEARS

Morry Breen Oval, Saturday 13 March 2:30pm

Referee: Cody Simmons; Sideline Officials: Nathan Guptil, Zac McDonald

CC ROOSTERS: 1. Isabelle Kelly 2. Jasmine Strange 3. Jayme Fressard 4. Yasmin Meakes 5. Alicia Martin 7. Jocelyn Kelleher 8. Tayla Predebon 9. Olivia Higgins 10. Madeline Jones 11. Roxy Murdoch 12. Britney Duff 13. Hannah Southwell 14. Shawden Burton 15. Olivia Kernick 17. Simone Simone 18. Joeli Morris **NORTHS:** 1. Shanice Parker 2. Donna Matangi 3. Shontelle Stowers 4. Shenai Lendill 5. Priscilla Younes 6. Kirra Dibb 7. Sabrina Green 8. Mya Hill-Moana 9. Nita Maynard 10. Shannon Mato 11. Jamilee Bright 12. Ngalika Barker 13. Nicole Backhouse 14. Caitlin Keefe 16. Leti Sagono 17. Lacey Shields 18. Jodeci Nicholson 19. Jessica Rastrick-auva'a 20. Courtney Frankl 25. Mary Taipau

WENTWORTHVILLE MAGPIES v MOUNTIES

Ringrose Park, Monday 15 March 7pm (NSWRL TV)

Referee: Luke Saldern; Sideline Officials: Jack Bird, Robert Morey

WENTY: TBC **MOUNTIES:** 1. Taina Naividi 2. Chantelle Leishman 3. Jocyph Daniels 4. Mareva Swann 5. Leanne Toomalatai 6. Taliah Fuimaono 7. Sereana Naitokatoka 8. Filomina Haniisi 9. Mikayla Malaki 10. Elianna Walton 11. Jamie Anne Wright 12. Jade Etherden 13. Simaima Taufa 15. Janelle Williams 16. Stephanie Ball 17. Ema Rainima 18. Alexandra Sulusi 22. Karol-Ann Tanevesi

BYE: HELENSBURGH TIGERS

QRL TEAMLISTS

PLEASE NOTE: Some teamlists are incomplete. Check LeagueUnlimited.com or QRL.com.au closer to match day.

AUSWIDE BANK MAL MENINGA CUP (U18) - ROUND 2

SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS v WIDE BAY BULLS

Kawana Sports Precinct; Saturday 13 March 1:10pm

FALCONS: 1. Mason Peut 2. Elliot Smethills 3. Rueben Howes 5. Ryan Hargreaves 6. Marlon Hawkins 7. Jackson Russell 8. Blake Woodford 9. Oska Boyd 10. Jack Underhill 11. Saxon Day 12. Mitchell Jennings 13. Harry Dwyer 14. Dyllan Cousins 15. Jaeden Usher 16. Kahn Sutherland-chan 17. Rylie Warman 18. Aidan Mckittrick 19. Aiden Stafford-johns 20. Tyler MCGoldrick 21. Ethan Bainbridge; **BULLS:** 1. Malachi Lawton 2. Heneli Havili 3. Ruben Broome 4. Dylan Bennett 5. Tallis Murray 6. Bryden Blair 7. Christopher Kerkow 8. Elias Broome 9. Matthew Springate 10. Folau Havili 11. Cody Gale 12. Bailey Mills 13. Joel Cox 14. Lachlan Zelinski 15. Zander Kerr 16. Kyle Knight 18. Riley Kearton 19. Flynn Purkis 20. Cooper Burke

WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS v REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS

Kitchener Park; Saturday 13 March 2pm

WM SEAGULLS: 1. Jayden Elder 2. Leon Te Hau 3. Nathaniel Tangimataiti 4. Parata Leota 5. Haizyn Mellars 6. Blake Moore 7. Cassius Cowley 8. Hamuera Kingi 9. Shaun Packer 10. Jarvis Black 11. Kieran Tempest 12. Cooper Hewett 13. John Radel 14. Braydon Seu-easthope 15. Brendon Taylor 16. Ryan Jackson 17. Tieran Ross 18. Angus Wright 19. Luke Philp; **DOLPHINS:** 1. Kallum Weatherall-stacey 2. Ulisese Nati 3. Eric Vaafusuaga 4. Caleb Pflugst 5. Guireh Brooks 6. Jonathan Maller 7. Sebastyan Jack 8. Jaeden Wellington 9. Drew Timms 10. Trent Veukiso 11. Braith Major 12. Matthew Bennett 13. Tuhirangi Ratana 14. Ezra Wainouh 15. Xiavia Fatamaimataia 16. Kiah Moore 17. Jarrod Patchett 18. Sefo Faatuono

NORTHERN PRIDE v TOWNSVILLE BLACKHAWKS

Barlow Park; Saturday 13 March 2:30pm

PRIDE: 1. Gaige Vella 2. Kaleb Nielsen 3. Kyle Riehl 4. Ben Dooley 5. Tuvaka Palu 6. Brad Hammond 7. James Frazer 8. Keanu Bowen-wilson 9. Hamish Davies 10. Tammuz Fa'aoso 11. Clayton Dalgety 12. Reece Dally 13. Clay Salecich 14. Liam Kelley 15. Marcellus Luki 16. Keron Thompson 17. Brock Salecich 18. Michael Lallemand 19. Jack Gatacre; **BLACKHAWKS:** 1. Ragarive Wavik 2. Jordan Davies 3. Xavier Chatfield-mooka 4. Dudley Dotoi 5. Cathane Hill 6. Harley Taylor 7. Thomas Duffy 8. Cruz Smith 9. Tyreice Baira-gela 10. Arama Kite 11. D'jazirhae Pua'avase 12. William Latu 13. Luke Jack 14. Sean Bourke 15. Ethan Roberts 16. Sione Afu 17. Damon Marshall 18. Manihui Maurangi 19. Maverick Pegoraro 20. Darnell Geia

BRISBANE TIGERS v NORTHS DEVILS

Totally Workwear Stadium; Saturday 13 March 4pm

TIGERS: 1. Antioch Faitala 2. Jordan Abel 3. Teapo Stoltman 4. Jodeci Maher 5. Rickson Aliva 6. Jake Self 7. Zack Lamont 8. Jackson Barling 9. Jackson Chang 10. Lance Fuaelama 11. Te Anau Graham-papali'i 12. Xavier Asi 13. Madison Beckett 14. Harry Spragg 15. Dylan Gibb 16. Lington Jeli 17. Tyson Stanley 18. Asukulu Baruani; **DEVILS:** 1. Isaiah Tongi 2. Bristowe Murray 3. William

Curran 4. Damon Coldwell 5. George Henry Monaëi 6. Brayden Paix 7. Jalen Afamasaga 8. Benjamin Te Kura 9. Nesta Tutunoa 10. Felix Faatili 11. Angus Hinchey 12. Metuisela Taungata 13. Liam Le Blanc 14. Tyrell Waaka Rhind 15. Damascus Neemia 16. Hayden Lammon 17. Tahrell Feaveai 18. Darcy Turner 19. Patrick Towne 20. Jake House 21. Jordan Tut-chapman

WESTERN MUSTANGS v CQ CAPRAS

Lindsay Williams Oval; Saturday 13 March 4:30pm

MUSTANGS: 1. Riley Wockner 2. Joshua Truscott 3. Matthew York 4. William Johnston 5. Jaycob Mudge 6. Wil Brady 7. Matthew Wilson 8. Xavier Va'a 9. Ky Rashleigh 10. Kelly Shadow 11. Oliver Chaffey 12. Tyson Stevens 13. Morgan Byrne 14. Declan Ryan 15. Ryan Gill 16. Clancy Mcpherson 17. Darcy Carswell 18. Isaac Jones 19. Noah Shepley 20. Lachlan Fanning 21. Domenic Whittingham; **CAPRAS:** 1. Matthew Hill 2. Kalani Sing 3. Coby Williamson 4. Elekana Suavai 5. Jackson Warde 6. Seth MCGilvray 7. Peyton Jenkins 8. Tyler Keogh-paladin 9. Jai Hansen 10. Tane Kiriona 11. Jordan Heke 12. Tyler Conroy 13. Riley Hall 14. Isaac Jackson 15. Cadel Crawford 16. Jaiden Green 17. Mitchell Biddulph 18. Kurt Fisher 19. Brayden Duffy 20. Joshua Grange 21. Bailey Cavanaugh

IPSWICH JETS v BURLEIGH BEARS

North Ipswich Reserve; Saturday 13 March 6pm

JETS: 1. Luke Dixon 2. Malique Douthat 3. Cyron Tull 4. Damien Burrows 5. Kyle Colburn 6. Mason Pintegre 7. Jackson Walker 8. Samson Sauaso 9. Zachery Alley 10. Xavier Stowers 11. Josiah Pahulu 12. Jed Bignell 14. Travis Cornthwaite 16. Jaeden Foua 17. Patrick Merlehan 18. Peniata Poutasi 19. Mitchell Oakenful; **BEARS:** 1. Syris Schmidt 2. Jeremiaah Tamepo 3. Tuvali Pereira 4. Delahia Wigmore 5. Levi Jones 6. Travis May 7. Jye Gray 8. Kaden Somerville 9. Caleb Gould-waiariki 10. Carsen Patu 11. Seth Nikotemo 12. Brody Smitka 13. Arama Hau 14. Hunter Ploegsma 15. Titan Vaikai 16. Vaa Semu 17. Christian Kiri 18. Jaxen Yow 19. K-ci Newton-whare

SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES v TWEED SEAGULLS

Davies Park; Sunday 14 March 3pm

MAGPIES: 1. Aiden Severns 2. Luke Bossons 3. Jonathan Van Aswegen 4. Prinston Esera 5. Tyrese Tapiki 6. Ezra Mam 7. Macauley Aoake 8. Marley Lupeomanu 9. Tyree Bowman 10. Herman Tofaeono 11. Vincent Sefo 12. Edward Finau 13. Christopher Faagutu 14. Sione Fotuauka 15. Cody Hamilton 16. Eli Tuli 17. Terry Lafaai; **SEAGULLS:** 1. Jaylan De Groot 2. Keano Kini 3. Kaleb Ngamanu 4. Campbell Watchirs 5. Timothy Sialaff-burns 6. Harradyn Wilson 7. Thomas Weaver 8. Jack Cullen 9. Oskar Bryant 10. Jotham Russell 11. Ryan Foran 12. Jayden Wright 13. John-thomas Manuofetoa 14. Blake Mozer 15. Bailey Martin 16. Nicholas Hilton 17. Jesse Jackson 18. Kruz Rimene 19. Reico Ratana 20. Kyen Murphy 21. Elijah Lui

BYE: MACKAY CUTTERS

HARVEY NORMAN WOMEN'S UNDER 19's - ROUND 2

WESTERN MUSTANGS v CQ CAPRAS

Lindsay Williams Oval; Saturday 13 March 2:30pm

MUSTANGS: 1. Amanda Hinch 2. Chloe Gray 3. Tanea Jones-drennen 4. Kylie Janes 5. Sara Brauer 6. Tyra Mitchell 7. Ella Kowitz 8. Elisa Niki 9. Jayde Rolph 10. Kyha Black 11. Antonia Hendry-ratima 12. Ashlea Nolan 13. Katelyn Anderson 14. Rachael Evans 15. Amy Heath 16. Mariah Bladen 17. Darcey Patterson **CAPRAS:** 3. Layne Ivey 4. Taleigha Leefe 5. Meg Skuthorp 6. Aaliyah Gyemore 7. Prue Peters 9. Alenna Whipp 10. Chloe Buttigieg 11. Tiaan Harbin 12. Lillian Yarrow 15. Josephine Anderson 17. Brianna Mauger 18. Montanna Whipp

SUNSHINE COAST FALCONS v WIDE BAY BULLS

Kawana Sports Precinct; Saturday 13 March 2:30pm

FALCONS: 1. Bianca Diath 2. Sharrayay Tonia 3. Tamzin Taumafai 4. Grace Giampino 5. Maddison Carstairs 6. Makayla Everding 7. Ruojzharna Richardson 8. Molly Carter 9. A'eisha Jeffs 10. Emmogen Taumafai 11. Kirra Smith 12. Brodie Capstick 13. Sarah Stahlhut 14. Karlisha Te Rure 15. Trinity-maree Jackson 16. Mariesha Orr 17. Willow Harrison 18. Lily Steel 20. Matyniah Fullagar 21. Madeleine Mcelhinney 22. Centuary Hardy **BULLS:** 1. Tayla Zielke 2. Rashida Scott 3. Traevonnah Fisher 4. Kellita Flanagan-togo 6. Skye Girard 7. Skye Houliston 8. Rhylee Kennaway 9. Kaycee Zahra 10. Ebony-rose Doherty 11. Hannah Mountford 12. Brenna Prendergast 14. Sinead Turner 15. Aimee Barron 16. Chaylee Howarth

NORTHERN PRIDE v TOWNSVILLE BLACKHAWKS

Barlow Park; Saturday 13 March 4pm

PRIDE: 1. Priya Deshong 2. Tatjana Seden 3. La Schaya Body 4. Michaela Stephen 5. Lauren Jones 6. Angela Barley 7. Jalleala Riley Georgetown 8. Brooke Tongalea 9. Etuina Suavai 10. Czenzi Morris 11. Kaiyla Ward 12. Kanika Coleman 13. Jarketta Smith 14. Aerielle Hobbler 15. Essay Banu 16.

Sidney Huggett 17. Teleai Fredriksson 19. Makaela Morgan **BLACKHAWKS:** 1. Jamaica Lampton 2. Jasmyrn Braby 3. Teneal Baker 4. Shania Nordlof 5. Indee Everett 6. Nahiani Ah Kit 7. Babetha Neliman 8. Jacinta Maurangi 9. Tiyanna Trevasik 11. Jordii Mahendrarajah 12. Emma Wood 13. Jodie Tilse 14. Lucy Bradford 15. Remi Bishop 16. Charlise Clough 17. Elizabeth Loto 18. Niquita Peters 19. Ella Whittle 20. Michelle Abai 21. Talei Koroibulu

IPSWICH v BURLEIGH BEARS

North Ipswich Reserve; Saturday 13 March 4:30pm

IPSWICH: 1. Tarleah Fisher-pearson 2. Louisa Andersen 3. Emily Maseese 4. Shona Misi 5. Bridgette Molloy 6. Tenesha Trunks 7. Lily Devin 8. Natasha Toa 10. Fuatino Ah-him 12. Abigail Asiata 13. Kendelle Satour 15. Hannah Nugent 16. Katie Asiatia 18. Hayley Keats 19. Nellalia Evala 20. Kayla Taputoa 21. Alofa Apulu 24. Lesleigh Savage 25. Wendy Toma **BEARS:** 1. Faith Tutauha 2. Taya Davie 3. Kori Mavin 4. Hailee-jay Ormond-maunsell 5. Tahli Devine 6. Jetaya Faifua 7. Jayda Lole 8. Danni Perese 9. Lily-rose Kolc 10. Ebony Laing 11. Sunny Gerrard 12. Liantre Simon-anderson 13. Tiana Raftstrand-smith 14. Layne Northey 15. Aleyas Manapori 16. Kalani Paulo 17. Tyla-jane White 18. Merci Saifiti 19. Jordan Warneke 20. Baxson Amundsen

SOUTHS LOGAN MAGPIES v WYNNUM MANLY SEAGULLS

Davies Park; Sunday 14 March 1:15pm

MAGPIES: 2. Jaedynn Leger 4. Atlanta Peters 7. Charmayne Pakura 8. Alisa Ola Talutoe 10. Lavinia Kitai 13. Angel Sipeli-muriwai 16. Ataahua Dudley **WM SEAGULLS:** 2. Ngiri Green 3. Helen Uituaigai 4. Aria Hudson-davies 5. Jorja Drake 6. Jayde Herdegen 7. Sierra Maple 8. Jayda Lofipo 9. Emma Barnes 10. Kennedy Harrison-vahua 12. Trinity Veetutu 18. Sarai Ona-sue

BYE: MACKAY CUTTERS, WEST BRISBANE PANTHERS

Joseph Suaalii is being set up to fail

ROB CROSBY on the media storm surrounding Roosters' teenage signing Joseph Suaalii

Iworry about the level of attention being afforded to Joseph Suaalii.

I accept the NRL, broadcasters and media have a vested interest in promoting the game, but in the case of a teenager who until this weekend had only shown talent playing against other teenagers, there appears to be a severe lack of interest in ensuring his welfare.

The way Suaalii has been covered has been nothing short of irresponsible. Never before has an untested NRL player - who is legally a child - received such a disproportionate level of attention.

Off the back of a flashy highlights reel and a media appetite for content that can never be satisfied, Suaalii has been thrust onto a podium of clickbait journalism alongside the likes of Latrell Mitchell and Cameron Smith.

When have you ever heard of a reserve grade trial being live-streamed solely for the purpose of promoting a player who has yet to play first grade? As I write these words the absurdity of the situation becomes greater and greater. As far as asinine coverage goes it is rivalled only by Fox League's Hayne Cam and Channel 9 airing an internal monologue from Sonny Bill Williams during his return to rugby league.

Suaalii may be physically capable of playing rugby league at a professional level this year, but mentally he cannot possibly be prepared for the hyper-intense scrutiny that is set to come his way.

His performance for North Sydney over the weekend was not without praise. He produced an early defensive effort to prevent a try that spoke more of his ability than the two he scored. But it was one game.

Will he be able to live up to the hype when he requires a painkilling injection to get on the field for a match that has no bearing on the ladder?

When the day inevitably comes where he has a shocker, how soon will the fawning attention he is currently receiving turn to vitriol? He won't merely have an "off night", he'll be decried as "overrated, overpaid and reading into his own hype".

Perhaps you think I'm being overly dramatic or some "lefty snowflake who cares more about feelings than facts".

Maybe you're right, maybe you're wrong.

What I do feel confident in saying is we've seen what happens when a player gets an unwarranted level of attention at a young age.

Ashley Taylor. Jamal Idris. Tim Smith.

All three were Dally M Rookie of the Year winners. All three stepped away from the game for a period when the fishbowl existence of the NRL became untenable.

Sione Mata'utia was at a similar age when the hype to blood him in first grade began. After playing the final seven matches of the 2014 season for Newcastle he found himself in a green and gold jersey as the youngest player to ever represent the Kangaroos.

The rapid rise had a detrimental effect on his development the following year where he was caught in an identity crisis of being an Australian international unable to justify his position in the team at times.

He eventually grew into a regular first grader, but by his own admission the pressure took a personal toll.

More recently, the last time a club wanted to debut a 17-year-old in first grade was Bronson Xerri.

Physically capable, mentally unprepared.

Suaalii won't be eligible under the current NRL rules to play first grade until he is 18 in August.

ARLFC chairman Peter V'Landys and NRL CEO Andrew Abdo have previously spoken on the possibility of making an exception to the rule, which was introduced to manage the expectations of young players still in the process of developing physically and in their knowledge of the game.

The NRL proudly touts its State of Mind campaign as a driver to reduce stigma around mental illness and improving understanding of mental health throughout the wider community.

Given the game's profile and reach it is a noble aspiration, however it becomes increasingly difficult to reconcile when it actively portrays a child as one of the faces of the game before he has debuted in first grade.

I can't claim to know the innermost thoughts of Joseph Suaalii, but if all the adults in the room were declaring me as a superstar and considering a move wherein the rules did not apply to me, I might have a distorted sense of perspective.

For Suaalii's sake, I hope the age restriction rule is maintained - history shows anything less is just setting him up to fail.



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