

The



LEAGUE  
UNLIMITED

# FRONT ROW

ROUND 6 2020

VOLUME 1 · ISSUE 4



# From the other side

McCullough prepares to face the Broncos

**INSIDE:** MILLIE BOYLE · MARK HUGHES · CROSSWORD · R5 RESULTS & REPORTS  
LADDER · STATS LEADERS · NRL NEWS · R6 TEAMLISTS & PREVIEWS · SEASON DRAW





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# From the editor

Tim Costello

Well it had to happen - the first rescheduled match due to COVID-19 fears. Last Sunday's match between the Bulldogs and Roosters was postponed for a day after it became known a Canterbury player's daughter was at a school where a worker had contracted the virus. Thankfully - the match was rescheduled to Monday night without issue. On a more positive note, more and more announcements from government leaders both state and federal hold promise for reasonable crowd numbers to return to grounds over the coming weeks. It was great to see handfuls of fans back in the stands backing their side after such a long break.

Our Newcastle correspondent Paul Jobber has another yarn on the Knights this week - focusing on new hooker Andrew McCullough ahead of his first game against his former club Brisbane. Also inside this issue you'll find a great chat with Jillaroos and Broncos champion Millie Boyle following from last week's announcement the NRLW will proceed later in the year.

This week is the NRL's first themed round of 2020 - the Mark Hughes Foundation 'Beanies for Brain Cancer' Round. Get behind the cause and buy a Beanie (see ad on opposite page)! Later in this issue there's also a yarn from Rick Edgerton on Hughes' story and how the initiative evolved.

Thanks for continuing to read and support The Front Row (plenty of you loved the new crossword last week - it's back again!) - and make sure you tell your family, tell your friends and tell your pets!

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# Manly come back to snatch victory from fast starting Broncos

Adam Huxtable



**In the opening game of NRL Round 5 the Broncos shocked everyone by racing out to an 18 point lead inside 30 minutes, only to be run down by Manly in the second half courtesy of two Tom Trbojevic try assists, with the Sea Eagles finishing 20-18 winners.**

It couldn't have been a worse opening set for the Broncos after Brodie Croft kicked out on the full leaving fans of the struggling Brisbane side thinking "here we go again." But any thought of last week's horror show repeating itself was stamped out after young gun Xavier Coates plucked the ball out of the air - not for the last time in the game - and got it to Kotoni Staggs who grubbered for himself and scored in his first game back.

The Broncos waited 10 more minutes for their second 4 pointer and this time it was Coates doing it all himself, out-leaping debutant winger Tevita Funa to score his second try in the NRL, putting the Broncos out to an unlikely 12 point lead. Based on the first half alone, Funa will be having nightmares about Coates for weeks. Manly then had a golden opportunity to get back into it with 3 consecutive sets on the Broncos line, however the pressure was relieved when Sean Keppie knocked on with his first touch of the game, giving the Broncos some new found confidence in their defence.

Darius Boyd went over shortly after, completing a simple sweep play and opting not to pass to his outside man. Backing himself proved to be the right option as he ran over the top of rep fullback Trbojevic, sending the Broncos 18 points clear after 29 minutes and shocking the Rugby League world.

Manly were able to crucially get one back on Brisbane 4 minutes out from half time, with Funa making up for his poor showing under the high ball and strolling over off the back of a beautiful Trbojevic ball. This got Manly within 14 after Reuben Garrick missed his conversion attempt from out wide, but the important thing was Manly were on the board after the first haf.

It took the Sea Eagles just 4 minutes in the second half to further the comeback, with Daly Cherry-Evans taking the line on off a Dylan Walker short ball and exposing a gap in the Broncos line, reducing the gap to 8 points. From this moment on, Manly began playing a more expansive brand of footy, however a pass in the first set after points to Brad Parker in space was ruled forward.

There's no doubt Manly were getting the rub of the green, the penalty count finishing 12-2 their way, however you can't blame that for the poor Broncos defence that let Moses Suli go over in the 56th minute. It was like a training run for the Sea Eagles, who created a 3-on-1 overlap that saw Suli stroll over for the easiest try he'll ever score. All of the sudden the Broncos were only up by 2 with 23 minutes to go.

Manly were given the opportunity to level up after Coates was ruled to have ran an escort on Joel Thompson, gifting the Sea Eagles two points and deadlocking the scores with just over 15 to go. Staggs looked to have swung momentum back Brisbane's way when he wrapped up Trbojevic 5 metres out form his own line, however he ruined it by giving away a penalty for not being square at marker. Manly attempted to go one up in the resulting set but Cherry-Evans missed the shot, however his side retained possession due to a Bronco hand getting involved. A controversial decision to award Manly a penalty due to Patrick Carrigan having his hand in the ruck handed them the lead for the first time with 10 to go.

That was all she wrote but the Broncos were not without their chances, Coates looked destined for the line in the final minute but some Tom Trbojevic cover defence made sure that didn't happen.

**LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:**  
3 points - Tom Trbojevic; 2 points - Addin Fonua-Blake; 1 points - Payne Haas

# Nikorima's night out as Warriors win shootout on the coast

Justin Davies



**The Warriors got back to winning ways with a 37-26 result against an inconsistent North Queensland Cowboys side tonight at Central Coast Stadium.**

Gosford is starting to look like home for the Warriors. They have won both clashes at their temporary home and piled on 37 points which included a hat-trick from Peta Hiku and a strong running game from Kodi Nikorima. Cowboys showed promise but couldn't find a consistent effort to get the points.

It was the perfect response from the Warriors after being held to nil against the Panthers. They stuck to their gameplan with a simpler style of play and it saw them pile on the points once the Cowboys tired at the back end of the contest. It has given the Warriors fans back home some added delight after earlier this week, the nation had eliminated the novel Corona Virus.

Central to the result for the Warriors was the work of their halves. Kodi

Nikorima lit up the contest with two try-assists and in the second half, Blake Green had the ball on a string and trapped the Cowboys behind their line for several repeat sets to break their spirit.

The first half was an exhibition of points. Both sides shared five tries between them but the Warriors took a five-point advantage into the break through Patrick Herbert, Peta Hiku and youngster Eliesa Katoa with Kodi Nikorima slotting a field goal at the hooter. For Cowboys, Valentine Holmes before he succumbed to an injury and Kyle Feldt touched down for their points.

Cowboys got the perfect start to the second half, Justin O'Neill was fed by debutant Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow to claw it back to 17-16. The game see-sawed again with Adam Pompey restoring the Warriors lead before young tyro Francis Molo crept the Cowboys closer again.

From there, the Warriors stamped their authority on the contest. Hiku scored back-to-back to complete his hat-trick and stretched their advantage to nine. Karl Lawton was on the spot to put the contest to bed, a kick rebounded off the chasing pack and the interchange man was there to pick up the scraps.

For the Cowboys, they have some issues with both Holmes and Jordan Maclean limping off the field before the end. Youngster Tabuai-fidow chimed in well at fullback once Holmes went off and there is something for the side to build on for next weekend.

**LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:**  
3 points - Kodi Nikorima  
2 points - Blake Green  
1 points - Peta Hiku



# Eels stun Panthers late in derby

Sam Bourke



16-10



**Parramatta remain undefeated in 2020 after they laid on three successive tries in a matter of minutes to record a stunning come from behind win over the Panthers at Bankwest Stadium tonight.**

With the Panthers leading 10-0 in the 64th minute, it was former Panther Waqa Blake who came back to haunt his former side, when he produced a devastating fend on opposite Stephen Crichton to score the Eels first try. Blake didn't stop there, stepping past Crichton minutes later and then finding his skipper Clint Gutherson who raced away to tie the game up late in the second half.

Parramatta then kicked clear when Eels half Mitch Moses kicked ahead with the Panthers on the backfoot. The kick produced a horror bounce for Panthers fullback Caleb Aekins and into the arms of Ryan Matterson who slid over to score and secure a superb win for Parramatta over their local rivals.

It was a disappointing loss for the Panthers who looked in control after the hour mark and then saw their 10-0 lead evaporate in a matter of minutes. The loss was further compounded by the loss of backrower Kurt Capewell who left the field in the first set of six with a suspected medial ligament injury.

With both sides looking to take the lead on the NRL ladder, the Battle of the West was a huge clash for both sides and as expected the game then turned into a see-sawing affair, with both number seven's in Nathan Cleary and Mitchell Moses launching some monstrous high kicks early which were keeping each sides respective back three on their toes.

After both sides were denied tries due to interference on defenders from attacking kicks, which saw both the Eels' Ryan Matterson and Panthers' Dean Whare denied early tries. It was the visitors who struck first, when newly re-signed Panther winger Brian To'o collected a wayward Caleb Aekins pass off his bootlaces to step past his opposite Maika Sivo and carry three more Eels defenders over the line to score the first try of the match. Cleary missed his first conversion of the year from out wide and Penrith led 4-0.

Off the back of a penalty against Moses for a high shot on Panthers' rookie Crichton, Penrith scored on the left-hand side after Jerome Luai and Cleary combined to allow the rookie centre to exact some revenge by putting his muscle-bound winger Josh Mansour over to score. Cleary converted to give his side a 10-0 lead at halftime.

The arm wrestle continued after the break, as the Eels did their best to power their way through the Panthers middle. A penalty from Panthers prop James Fisher-Harris then sparked the Eels, when the firebrand prop took Eels lock Nathan Brown off the ball when chasing a kick. Off the ensuing play former Panther Blake, managed to produce a huge fend on his opposite Crichton to open the scoring. This sparked two more Eels tries, with both Blake and Nathan Brown featuring with some decisive runs and from seemingly out of nowhere the Eels were in control.

The Eels had a chance to ice the game when Moses had a golden opportunity missing a late field goal to give his side the win, however Parramatta defended a late Panthers onslaught to secure their best start to a season since they last won the competition in 1986.

Next week the Eels have the ultimate challenge when they face the defending premiers, the Roosters at Bankwest Stadium next Saturday night in what will no doubt be the game of the round. Penrith also face a tough match up when they play the Melbourne Storm at Campbelltown Sports Ground next Friday night.

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

3 points - Waqa Blake

2 points - Nathan Brown

1 points - Isaah Yeo

# Rabbitohs run riot against Titans

Justin Davies



32-12



**The South Sydney Rabbitohs secured their first win since the restart with a comfortable 32-12 result against Gold Coast Titans this afternoon at Bankwest Stadium.**

For the first time since his switch to Redfern, Latrell Mitchell looked comfortable as a custodian. Mitchell opened the scoring with a juggling effort and contributed a pair of try-assists as the Rabbitohs did enough to down the Titans. Much of the damage was done in the first half where Souths led 26-6 headed into the break.

Stinging from their defeat to the Storm and Roosters back-to-back, Souths looked energised with the return of five-eighth Cody Walker and crossed after three minutes through Mitchell before the Titans struck back from a slicing effort from Philip Sami making it 6-6.

It might've come against softer opposition but Souths looked more like the side

they promised to be in 2020. Cook was scheming, Walker kicked well and the points flowed quickly once they got the roll on.

Alex Johnston, Dane Gagai and Braidon Burns all crossed the stripe. Adam Reynolds, who looked a bit lost without Walker the previous two games, kicked six from six goals today with five of those in the first half and looked back to his composed self.

The Titans were gallant with their effort, briefly rumbling for a comeback when Bryce Cartwright, in the headlines for the wrong reasons during the lockdown, score dhis first four-pointer of the season to bring it back to 14. They probed and pushed but bar a no try to Cartwright Titans lacked enough punch to trouble the Rabbitohs defense in a low quality second half.

Mitchell put the cherry on top of his Man of the Match performance today as he left future Rabbitoh Jai Arrow clutching at air before he slung the ball to Gagai to complete his double in the dying stages of the contest to make it 32-12.

Getting back in the win column will please coach Wayne Bennett as the Rabbitohs eye the chance to put some form together with a much more favourable run in the next month while the Titans have a vital clash against fellow strugglers St George Illawarra next weekend.

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

3 points - Latrell Mitchell

2 points - Cody Walker

1 points - Cameron Murray

# Smith spearheads Storm win over Knights

Jeff Dickinson-Fox



12-26



**Cameron Smith and Cameron Munster have combined to reignite the spark in the Melbourne Storm attack to secure a 26-12 win over the Newcastle Knights at Central Coast Stadium.**

Melbourne got off to a quality start as they built up an 18-2 lead by half-time with tries to Ryley Jacks (3rd minute), Suliasi Vunivalu (24th minute) and Tino Faasuaaleaui (34th minute), of which two were assisted by Cameron Smith.

The Knights were able to reduce their errors at the start of the second half and scored tries through Bradman Best (53rd minute) and Edrick Lee (61st minute) to get themselves only six points behind in the final quarter of the match.

With Newcastle rallying in the final 10 minutes, the Storm were able to put the Knights away with a penalty goal and an inspirational solo Brandon Smith try.

Newcastle appeared to be hard done by late when trailing by six, as they received a penalty while defending on their tryline. However, the play was brought back a few seconds to penalise contact with David Klemmer on Dale Finuncane which was incidental.

Melbourne was then able to set up for a penalty goal which gave the away side an eight-point buffer with less than five minutes to go.

In the third minute Munster ran the ball on the last through the short side and once the ball got to Addo-Carr allowed the winger kicked in-field for replacement halfback Ryley Jacks to surprise everyone by beating the well positioned Herman Ese'ese to ground the ball.

Then Cameron Smith laid on two try-assists from dummy-half which made the Storm's attack look slick once more.

A 15-metre pass from the play-the-ball to Vunivalu's wing set the winger up to beat one defender and another sliding tackler at the corner for a four-pointer.

Next time Cameron Smith ran diagonally out of dummy-half to link up with Faasuaaleaui to crash over for his first NRL try.

Against his old team Kurt Mann used a grubber on a six-again penalty to set Best up for his fifth try, during his third game of the season, to mark the first points of the second half.

Six minutes later and the Knights were in again through a diving Edrick Lee that left him with noticeable pain in the ribs inflicted by the cover defence.

The last try through Brandon Smith was a man on a mission to drag defender after defender just far enough to plant the ball on the tryline.

Newcastle had stand out efforts from Daniel Saifiti (158 metres, 39 tackles) and Kalyn Ponga (10 tackle breaks) but they weren't able to run Melbourne down.

The win for the Storm sees them overtake the Knights into second spot on the ladder, with Newcastle dropping down to third. Cameron Smith was five-from-five on conversion kicks. Newcastle has not beaten Melbourne since 2015.

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

3 points - Cameron Smith

2 points - Cameron Munster

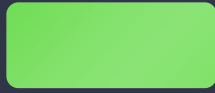
1 points - Daniel Saifiti

# Tigers gutsy but Raiders force victory

Josh Robertson



6-14



**Canberra have taken advantage of some good fortune their way to take a 14-6 victory over a very gutsy Wests Tigers side at Campbelltown Stadium.**

It was a very strong opening forty minutes for the Tigers, as the Raiders struggled to gain any ascendancy in attack and were pinned down in their own half for long periods of time. The only points of the first half came off the back of a Raiders error. The home side was able to get on the board when Luke Brooks was in the right spot to catch an error from Curtis Scott who snatched at the Josh Reynolds kick and Brooks was able to get around to ground the ball to score.

The Raiders did have a bunker referral for a potential penalty or further with Chris Sutton unsure about contact by the Tigers on Curtis Scott. After a quick review, the bunker ruled no illegal contact and a dropout was called from the ensuing play.

The second half started very much like the first half with the Tigers dominating the field position but again were not able to take any advantage from it. Canberra were starting to get into good position but they just couldn't find the

right pass which was shown by a ball that would've gone straight to touch judge Belinda Sharpe rather than any Raiders player.

They were able to get on the board in the 50th minute when Jack Wighton got over the line after back to back penalties against the Tigers for infringements in the ruck. The try didn't come without questioning, with Wighton not penalised in the prior play for a raised elbow that left Josh Reynolds down injured.

The momentum had well and truly swung and the Raiders were able to take advantage again when Russell Packer was sent to the sin bin by Chris Sutton for illegally stopping the Raiders from taking a quick tap off the back of a penalty. The reduced numbers for the Tigers came back to cost them almost instantly when George Williams took advantage with a kick behind the line and Nick Cotric had a free passage to the line to score the Raiders second try of the night. A pinpoint Jarrod Croker conversion pushed the margin out to 8 points.

The Tigers looked to close the gap and take time off the clock when they closed the margin to six following a Moses Mbye penalty goal. The Tigers fortunes didn't turn in their or in particular Russell Packer's favour when the veteran was placed on report for a high shot and the Raiders took the two points on offer to push it out to an 8-point margin.

The Tigers tried hard to get over the line to close the gap again but the Green Machine's defence stood tall and they held on for the 14-6 victory.

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

3 points - Jack Wighton

2 points - Adam Doueihi

1 points - Josh Reynolds

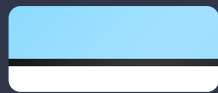


# Dragons break through for first win of 2020

Robert Crosby



30-16



The St George Illawarra Dragons have recorded their first win of the season after downing the Cronulla Sharks 30-16 at Campbelltown Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

Scoring five tries to three in a game that was brought forward due to coronavirus concerns within the Bulldogs' camp, the Dragons responded in fine fashion following two dismal showings over the past fortnight, with reinstated fullback Matt Dufty providing a much-needed attacking spark for the joint venture.

Avoiding an early scare after Dufty was denied for an obstruction, the Sharks wasted little time in opening the scoring through former South Sydney winger Mawene Hiroti (6th minute) following a lovely offload from Josh Dugan.

Crossing for their first try since the 63rd minute of their Round 2 loss to Penrith back in March, Mikaele Ravalawa (14th minute) was on the spot to give the Dragons a 6-4 lead.

Responding through Sione Katoa (21st minute) following a nice right side shift from a scrum play, the Sharks looked to extend their lead minutes later through Will Kennedy only for Jack Williams to penalised for an obstruction.

Buoyed by their most competitive half of the season, Matt Dufty (30th minute) and Ben Hunt (39th minute) crossed just before halftime to give the Dragons an 18-10 lead.

With both sides exchanging sets after halftime, the Dragons were lucky to avoid a catastrophic four-pointer from within their own in-goal, only for Cronulla utility Connor Tracey to be deemed to have knocked on.

Building pressure on the Sharks' goal line thanks to good kicking from Corey Norman, the Dragons were rewarded through captain Cameron McInnes (62nd minute) who crashed over to push the home side out beyond two converted tries.

Threatening to pull off a comeback after Wade Graham (70th minute) crashed over from a Shaun Johnson short ball, a contentious call killed off the Sharks' hopes despite Katoa appearing to pull off a simultaneous grounding alongside Euan Aitken.

Capping the victory in style with Dufty firing a lovely cut-out pass to send Ravalawa (79th minute) over for his second of the afternoon, the Dragons finished as deserving 30-16 victors to post their first premiership points of the season.

In the only negative for the Dragons, five-eighth Corey Norman looks set to draw the ire of the match review committee after being placed on report for a trip late in the match.

Next week, the Dragons face the Titans on Saturday afternoon at Suncorp Stadium, while the Sharks will host the Bulldogs on Sunday evening at Bankwest Stadium.

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

3 points - Matthew Dufty

2 points - Cameron McInnes

1 points - Shaun Johnson

# Rampant Roosters demolish bullish Bulldogs

Justin Davies



36-6



Canterbury-Bankstown got off the mark for 2020, a 22-2 win leaving St George Illawarra winless after four rounds following tonight's match at Bankwest Stadium.

At times tonight, the Roosters SFX used by Fox Sports needed some relief. The Roosters blitzkreiged the Bulldogs early, Angus Crichton notched up an early double alongside James Tedesco touching down as they searched for another massive score.

Monday night is a happy hunting ground for Tedesco. The superstar fullback notched his second career hat-trick tonight, his first coming for Wests Tigers back in 2016, also on Monday night. The custodian was in supreme form as he broke tackles at will, amassed over 200m in a Man of the Match performance.

For a long portion, it looked like the Roosters were to become the third

side since 1980 to score 100 points unanswered alongside Norths and the Roosters themselves. It looked like clockwork at points for the Roosters, as they just cut through the Bulldogs at will. It will take a huge effort for a team to knock off the back-to-back Premiers this season.

Brett Morris, who deputised at fullback last weekend, got himself a late four-pointer but the evergreen winger has sparkled since his move to the tri-colours. He provided a superb pass for one of Tedesco's tries and adds another layer of class to what is a galaxy of them at the Premiers.

It must feel like a dream for young halfback Kyle Flanagan. Since his move from the Sharks, Flanagan has enjoyed a golden run at the Roosters which included a four-pointer tonight and continued to stretch his lead at the top of the point-scorer's list.

For the Bulldogs, it was a night to forget after their Queens Birthday success. There was delight late when Kieran Foran started and finished an effort to make it 30-6. They were outmuscled early and never recovered against the machine-like Roosters line-up.

Now we look forward to a mouth-watering contest on Saturday night. The unbeaten Parramatta Eels take on the rampaging Sydney Roosters in a marquee contest at Bankwest Stadium. Canterbury take on fellow bottom-four side Cronulla on Sunday night at the same venue.

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

3 points - James Tedesco

2 points - Brett Morris

1 points - Luke Keary

# The scoresheet

## Scores, scorers, match details from Round 5

**Sea Eagles 20** (Tevita Funa, Daly Cherry-Evans, Moses Suli tries; Reuben Garrick 4/5 goals)

def **Broncos 18** (Kotoni Staggs, Xavier Coates, Darius Boyd tries; Jamayne Isaako 3/3 goals)

Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Date: Thursday 11 June 2020, 7:50pm AEST; Halftime: Broncos 18-4; Crowd: 178

Referees: Ashley Klein; Touch Judges: Dave Munro, Belinda Sharpe; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell, Ben Galea

**Warriors 37** (Patrick Herbert, Eliesa Katoa, Peta Hiku (3), Adam Pompey, Karl Lawton tries; Kodi Nikorima 4/7, Patrick Herbert 0/1 goals)

def **Cowboys 26** (Valentine Holmes, Kyle Feldt (2), Justin O'Neill, Francis Molo tries; Kyle Feldt 3/5 goals)

Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Date: Friday 12 June 2020, 6:00pm AEST; Halftime: Warriors 17-12

Referee: Adam Gee; Touch Judges: Tim Alouani-Roby, Liam Kennedy; NRL Bunker: Steve Clark, Ben Galea

**Eels 16** (Waq Blake, Clinton Gutherson, Ryan Matterson tries; Mitchell Moses 2/3 goals)

def **Panthers 10** (Brian To'o, Josh Mansour tries; Nathan Cleary 1/2 goals)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Friday 12 June 2020, 7:55pm AEST; Halftime: Panthers 10-0; Crowd: 507

Referee: Gerard Sutton; Touch Judges: Chris Butler, Phil Henderson; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy, Bryan Norrie

**Rabbitohs 32** (Latrell Mitchell, Alex Johnston, Dane Gagai (2), Braidon Burns tries; Adam Reynolds 6/6 goals)

def **Titans 12** (Phillip Sami, Bryce Cartwright tries; Ash Taylor 2/2 goals)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Saturday 13 June 2020, 3:00pm AEST; Halftime: Rabbitohs 26-6; Crowd: 415

Referee: Matt Cecchin; Touch Judges: Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski, Drew Oultram; NRL Bunker: Steve Clark, Bryan Norrie

**Storm 26** (Ryley Jacks, Cameron Smith, Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Brandon Smith tries; Cameron Smith 5/5 goals)

def **Knights 12** (Bradman Best, Edrick Lee tries; Kalyn Ponga 2/3 goals)

Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Date: Saturday 13 June 2020, 5:30pm AEST; Halftime: Storm 18-2

Referee: Ben Cummins; Touch Judges: Todd Smith, Gavin Badger; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell, Ben Galea

**Raiders 14** (Jack Wighton, Nick Cotric tries; Jarrod Croker 3/3 goals)

def **Wests Tigers 6** (Luke Brooks try; Moses Mbye 1/2 goals)

Venue: Campbelltown Stadium; Date: Saturday 13 June 2020, 7:35pm AEST; Halftime: Wests Tigers 4-0

Referee: Chris Sutton; Touch Judges: Belinda Sharpe, Matt Noyen; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy, Beau Scott

**Dragons 30** (Mikaele Ravalawa (2), Matthew Dufty, Ben Hunt, Cameron McInnes tries; Zac Lomax 5/5 goals)

def **Sharks 16** (Mawene Hiroti, Sione Katoa, Wade Graham tries; Shaun Johnson 2/3 goals)

Venue: Campbelltown Stadium; Date: Sunday 14 June 2020, 4:05pm AEST; Halftime: Dragons 18-10

Referee: Henry Perenara; Touch Judges: Dave Munro, Jon Stone; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy, Ben Lowe

**Roosters 42** (Angus Crichton (2), Kyle Flanagan, James Tedesco (3), Brett Morris tries; Kyle Flanagan 7/7 goals)

def **Bulldogs 6** (Kieran Foran try; Nick Meaney 1/1 goals)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Monday 15 June 2020, 7:00pm AEST; Halftime: Roosters 24-0

Referee: Grant Atkins; Touch Judges: Peter Gough, Kasey Badger; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell, Bryan Norrie

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# LeagueUnlimited Player of the Year

## Standings after Round 5

At the conclusion of each match our reporters choose their best three players from the match. On this page, we'll publish the full standings throughout the season.

**9 points** - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles)

**8 points** - Cameron Munster (Storm)

**7 points** - James Tedesco (Roosters)

**6 points** - Jason Taumalolo (Cowboys), Cameron Smith (Storm), Dylan Brown (Eels), Jack Wighton (Raiders), Matt Burton (Panthers), Brett Morris (Roosters)

**5 points** - Benji Marshall (Wests Tigers), Jarrod Croker (Raiders), Kodi Nikorima (Warriors), Blake Green (Warriors), David Klemmer (Knights), Kalyn Ponga (Knights), Mitchell Moses (Eels), Mitchell Pearce (Knights)

**4 points** - George Williams (Raiders), Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Bulldogs), Shaun Johnson (Sharks), Luke Keary (Roosters), Isaah Yeo (Panthers)

**3 points** - Luke Brooks (Wests Tigers), Kotoni Staggs (Broncos), Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs), Jesse Ramien (Sharks), Will Hopoate (Bulldogs), Maika Sivo (Eels), Jamayne Isaako (Broncos), Young Tonumaipaea (Titans), Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs), Nathan Cleary (Panthers), Matthew Dufty (Dragons), Waqa Blake (Eels), Jake Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Viliame Kikau (Panthers)

**2 points** - Lindsay Collins (Roosters), Adam Doueihi (Wests Tigers), Jarome Luai (Panthers), Bradman Best (Knights), Cameron McInnes (Dragons), Jorge Taufua (Sea Eagles), Addin Fonua-Blake (Sea Eagles), Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys), Nathan Brown (Eels), Ashley Taylor (Titans), Cody Walker (Rabbitohs), Ronaldo Mulitalo (Sharks), Dale Finucane (Storm), Emre Guler (Raiders), Stephen Crichton (Panthers), David Fifita (Broncos), Nick Cotric (Raiders), Sione Katoa (Bulldogs), Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles), Anthony Milford (Broncos), Daniel Saifiti (Knights), Michael Jennings (Eels), Michael Morgan (Cowboys), David Nofaloama (Wests Tigers), Jahrome Hughes (Storm), Clinton Gutherson (Eels)

**1 point** - Ethan Lowe (Rabbitohs), Thomas Flegler (Broncos), Adam Elliott (Bulldogs), Payne Haas (Broncos), Alex Twal (Wests Tigers), Coen Hess (Cowboys), Tyrell Fuimaono (Dragons), Peta Hiku (Warriors), Josh Reynolds (Wests Tigers), Cameron Murray (Rabbitohs), Daniel Tupou (Roosters), Tevita Pangai Junior (Broncos), Josh Papali'i (Raiders), Wade Graham (Sharks), Shaun Lane (Eels), Eliesa Katoa (Warriors), Phillip Sami (Titans), Reed Mahoney (Eels), Curtis Sironen (Sea Eagles), Valentine Holmes (Cowboys), Herman Ese'ese (Knights), Tui Kamikamica (Storm), Jaydn Su'A (Rabbitohs), Connor Watson (Knights), Apisai Koroisau (Panthers), Brian Kelly (Titans)

# NRL Match Review

## Round 5 Charge Sheet

### Danny Levi (Sea Eagles)

Grade 1 Dangerous Contact (head/neck)  
74th minute, on Matt Lodge (Broncos)  
Base penalty 100 points  
Guilty / no contest = 100 points (1 match)  
Guilty - early plea = 75 points (0 matches)  
PLEA: Guilty - early plea  
OUTCOME: No suspension. 75 carryover points accrued.

### Kane Evans (Eels)

Grade 1 Dangerous Contact (head/neck)  
41st minute, on Liam Martin (Panthers)  
Base penalty 100 points  
1 x non-similar prior offence last 2 years (20% loading)  
25 carryover points to be added  
Guilty / no contest = 120+25=145 points (1 match)  
Guilty - early plea = 90+25=115 points (1 match)  
PLEA: Guilty - early plea  
OUTCOME: **Suspended 1 match** (15 c/o points)

### Tom Gilbert (Cowboys)

Grade 2 Dangerous Contact (head/neck)  
44th minute, on King Vuniyayawa (Warriors)  
Base penalty 300 points  
1 x non-similar prior offence last 2 years (20% loading)  
55 carryover points to be added  
Guilty / no contest = 360+55=415 points (4 matches)  
Guilty - early plea = 270+55=325 points (3 matches)  
PLEA: Guilty - early plea  
OUTCOME: **Suspended 3 matches** (25 c/o points)

### Jack Murchie (Warriors)

Grade 1 Dangerous Contact (other)  
34th minute, on Tom Gilbert (Cowboys)  
Base penalty 100 points  
Guilty / no contest = 100 points (1 match)  
Guilty - early plea = 75 points (0 matches)  
PLEA: Guilty - early plea  
OUTCOME: No suspension. 75 carryover points accrued.

### Poasa Faamausili (Warriors)

Grade 1 Dangerous Contact (other)  
33rd minute, on Kyle Feldt (Cowboys)  
Base penalty 100 points  
Guilty / no contest = 100 points (1 match)  
Guilty - early plea = 75 points (0 matches)  
PLEA: Guilty - early plea  
OUTCOME: No suspension. 75 carryover points accrued.

### Russell Packer (Wests Tigers)

Grade 3 Careless High Tackle  
66th minute, on Joseph Tapine (Raiders)  
Base penalty 300 points  
Guilty / no contest = 300 points (3 matches)  
Guilty - early plea = 225 points (2 matches)  
PLEA: Guilty - early plea  
OUTCOME: **Suspended 2 matches** (25 c/o points)

### Corey Norman (Dragons)

Grade 1 Tripping  
72nd minute, on Mawene Hiroti (Sharks)  
Base penalty \$750 fine  
1 x non-similar prior offence last 2 years (20% loading)  
Guilty / no contest = \$900 fine  
Guilty - early plea = \$700 fine  
PLEA: Guilty - early plea  
OUTCOME: \$700 fine

### Raymond Faitala-Mariner (Bulldogs)

Grade 1 Contrary Conduct  
9th minute, on Siosia Taukeiaho (Roosters)  
Base penalty \$750 fine  
Guilty / no contest = \$750 fine  
Guilty - early plea = \$550 fine  
PLEA: Guilty - early plea  
OUTCOME: \$550 fine

### Angus Crichton (Roosters)

Grade 1 Dangerous Contact (other)  
10th minute, on Lachlan Lewis (Bulldogs)  
Base penalty 100 points  
Guilty / no contest = 100 points (1 match)  
Guilty - early plea = 75 points (0 matches)  
PLEA: Guilty - early plea  
OUTCOME: No suspension. 75 carryover points accrued.

# Premiership ladder

NRL 2020 Telstra Premiership after Round 5

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1.	Parramatta Eels	5	5	0	0	123	40	83	10
2.	Canberra Raiders	5	4	1	0	98	58	40	8
3.	Melbourne Storm	5	4	1	0	84	56	28	8
4.	Newcastle Knights	5	3	1	1	122	82	40	7
5.	Penrith Panthers	5	3	1	1	102	72	30	7
6.	Sydney Roosters	5	3	2	0	151	47	104	6
7.	Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	5	3	2	0	81	69	12	6
8.	North Queensland Cowboys	5	2	3	0	123	113	10	4
9.	Wests Tigers	5	2	3	0	105	114	-9	4
10.	South Sydney Rabbitohs	5	2	3	0	92	102	-10	4
11.	Warriors	5	2	3	0	61	92	-31	4
12.	Brisbane Broncos	5	2	3	0	74	152	-78	4
13.	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	5	1	4	0	86	108	-22	2
14.	St George Illawarra Dragons	5	1	4	0	74	112	-38	2
15.	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	5	1	4	0	52	108	-56	2
16.	Gold Coast Titans	5	1	4	0	58	161	-103	2

## Stats leaders

after Round 5

### Top Tryscorers

1	David NOFOALUMA (Wests Tigers)	6
	Kyle FELDT (Cowboys)	6
3	Edrick LEE (Knights)	5
	Bradman BEST (Knights)	5
	Kotoni STAGGS (Broncos)	5
6	Jack WIGHTON (Raiders)	4
	Suliasi VUNIVALU (Storm)	4
	Ben HAMPTON (Cowboys)	4
	Angus CRICHTON (Roosters)	4
	James TEDESCO (Roosters)	4

### Top Goalkickers

1	Kyle FLANAGAN (Roosters)	25/29 (86%)
2	Mitchell MOSES (Eels)	21/24 (87%)
3	Adam REYNOLDS (Rabbitohs)	18/19 (95%)
4	Cameron SMITH (Storm)	16/19 (84%)
5	Jarrold CROKER (Raiders)	15/17 (88%)
	Kalyn PONGA (Knights)	15/22 (68%)
7	Zac LOMAX (Dragons)	13/14 (93%)
	Benji MARSHALL (Wests Tigers)	13/18 (72%)
	Shaun JOHNSON (Sharks)	13/19 (68%)
10	Valentine HOLMES (Cowboys)	12/17 (71%)
	Reuben GARRICK (Sea Eagles)	12/21 (57%)

### Top Pointscorers

	T	G	FG	Pts	
1	Kyle FLANAGAN (Roosters)	3	25	-	62
2	Mitchell MOSES (Eels)	1	21	1	47
3	Kalyn PONGA (Knights)	3	15	-	42
4	Adam REYNOLDS (Rabbitohs)	1	18	-	40
5	Kyle FELDT (Cowboys)	6	5	-	34
	Zac LOMAX (Dragons)	2	13	-	34
7	Cameron SMITH (Storm)	-	16	-	32
	Valentine HOLMES (Cowboys)	1	14	-	32
9	Benji MARSHALL (Wests Tigers)	1	13	1	31
10	Jarrold CROKER (Raiders)	-	15	-	30



FROM THE NRL

# Vale Noel Kelly OAM

NRL Media Release, 14 Jun 2020

**Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) Chairman Peter V'landys AM has tonight paid tribute to Kangaroo Noel Kelly OAM who passed away this afternoon aged 84. He played 28 tests for the Kangaroos.**

Mr V'landys said Noel created Kangaroos history during the 1960s.

"He was the first front rower to tour with the Kangaroos three times on the 1959-60, 1963-64 and 1967-68 tours, a feat that will forever be etched in rugby league history," he said.

"A deserved member of the National Rugby League Hall of Fame, "Ned" as he was fondly known, was an uncompromising forward. As tough as they came, he was sent off 17 times playing for his beloved Wests. His send-off 90 seconds into the 1967 second test against New Zealand will always remain part of our folklore."



Noel played in three NSWRL Grand Finals for Western Suburbs and was named in the Kangaroos team of the 1960s. In all he played 111 games for the Magpies and was named captain-coach in 1966.

Noel also made the 'Team of the Century'; and named among the '100 Greatest Players over the first century of the game' by the ARL in 2008. He was also named captain and hooker of Wests Magpies Team of the Century in 2004.

Noel, although as tough as they came, was also a man with a big heart being a founding member of the Men of League Foundation

"Noel Kelly will forever be remembered as one of the game's all-time greats. His loss today will be felt throughout the rugby league community."

"On behalf of the game I send my condolences to Noel's family and friends."

# NRL approves changes to Round 5 schedule

NRL Media Release, 14 Jun 2020

**The Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) this morning approved changes to the Round 5 schedule to ensure the health and safety of the playing group and community after a remote risk to the Bulldogs squad emerged last night.**

The Bulldogs last night informed the NRL that a teacher at a school attended by children of one Bulldogs player had tested positive to COVID-19.

As a result, the player has been placed into isolation and will be tested for COVID-19 today. To ensure no risk to the playing group and community, the Commission has delayed today's match between the Bulldogs and the Roosters to allow the test results to return.

The revised schedule will be:

4:05pm today (Sunday 14 June): St George Illawarra Dragons v Cronulla Sharks (brought forward from 6:30pm today)

7:00pm tomorrow (Monday 15 June): Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs v Sydney Roosters (moved from 4:05pm today).

ARLC Chairman Peter V'landys AM said while the risk the virus had spread to the Bulldogs playing group was remote the Commission wanted absolute certainty before allowing the team to play.

"There's a very remote risk of infection within the Bulldogs squad. To ensure there is no risk at all, the player will be tested today and the game delayed until tomorrow to ensure the test results have returned. I want to congratulate the Bulldogs for swiftly informing the NRL," he said.

"I want to thank our broadcast partners for their assistance, at very short notice, in changing the schedule. The changes will ensure our fans will still be able to watch a game on free to air television this afternoon," he said.

## Happy birthday!

This round's birthday boys and girls:

### Wednesday 17 June

Josh Mansour (30 - Panthers)  
Connor Tracey (24 - Sharks)  
Daniel Tupou (29 - Roosters)

### Thursday 18 June

Cory Denniss (23 - Rabbitohs)  
Nicho Hynes (24 - Storm)  
Reece Robson (22 - Cowboys)  
Cameron Smith (37 - Storm)

### Friday 19 June

Luke Huth (21 - Knights)

### Sunday 21 June

Dylan Brown (20 - Eels)  
Joshua Cook (21 - Rabbitohs)  
Tyson Gamble (24 - Broncos)  
Tyrone May (24 - Panthers)  
Ky Rodwell (21 - Rabbitohs)  
Mariah Storch (23 - Broncos NRLW)

### Tuesday 23 June

Tristan Sailor (22 - Dragons)  
Damien Cook (29 - Rabbitohs)  
Starford To'a (20 - Knights)

# Millie Boyle's whirlwind year

## From a premiership to bushfires and pandemic

**A**s the world came to grips with the COVID-19 lockdowns earlier this year, injured Brisbane Broncos, Blues and Jillaroos prop Millie Boyle wanted to make most of a tough situation – and it may have helped fast track her return to the field.

It has been a whirlwind year and a half for Boyle. A few days after winning the 2019 NRLW grand final with Brisbane Broncos, she noticed she was unable to turn her head.

But she pressed on through the pain in the neck to represent the Jillaroos at the World Cup Nines and then in the Test match. Two days later she got an MRI which revealed she had a bulging disc.

Then, in early 2020, Boyle returned to her hometown of Cobargo to help her community as the New South Wales bushfire crisis took hold. She was desperate to help out and told tales of how her family bravely saved the family farm.

With so much going on in the world, 22-year-old Boyle was still staring the barrel of a long stint on the sidelines. Then it took yet another turn.

In March, she left her home in Queensland to attend a New South Wales Origin Camp for a few weeks in Sydney and the last thing she would ever have expected is to get stuck.

The original plan was to attend camp and work through her recovery aiming to play for the Blues again in 2020. Then came the border closures.

"It is crazy, you don't expect a global pandemic to happen," Boyle said. "We had an Origin camp in March, so I drove to Sydney to attend and catch up with some people. Then it all hit pretty badly.

"Our camp got cancelled and the restrictions came in. I ended up staying down in Sydney to work as a nanny for [BaiMed Physio] Michael Baines, our Origin physio, and his

wife's kids while they worked.



**Joshua Wells**  
[LeagueUnlimited.com](https://www.leagueunlimited.com)  
Contributor

"I got well looked after there and I am back on track to play pretty soon. Taking a positive out of a negative, it helped in the recovery."

Boyle admits the down time was focused on getting her body prepared for the 2020 NRLW season, State of Origin and keeping a hopeful eye on the 2021 Rugby League World Cup in Europe.

While she didn't miss any football – she did in fact worry about the status of the NRLW. With so much uncertainty around the timelines, Australian Rugby League Commission Chair Peter V'Landys finally delivered the good news. The NRLW would be back in 2020.

"It is unreal to have the support from the NRL to get our game back. It means there is a fair bit of loyalty there to us and they are committed – we want to show everyone how much that means to us," Boyle said.

"It was tough earlier this year with everything in the air. NRLW has done so much for women's sports and for us who grew up loving rugby league dreaming of a chance to play, and the past players before us who have built so much momentum.

"Now we are back. Our pathways can continue to develop, and we can keep building rugby league – hopefully to possible expansion of the NRLW soon. And we have a World Cup next year. We just wanted to keep building.

"I am just excited to get back out there."

Boyle will return to the field with the Burleigh Bears before the 2020 NRLW season gets underway.



**Quite the journey:**  
Millie Boyle is looking  
forward to the 2020  
NRLW season. Photos:  
Brisbane Broncos







**Keen to take on his old team:**

Andrew McCullough has plenty of motivation to help the Knights back into the winners circle this Thursday.

Photo: Newcastle Knights



# Other side of the fence

McCullough focuses on bringing down former club



**Paul Jobber**

LeagueUnlimited.com Contributor

**S**ITTING from the comfort of his new lounge room, Knights hooker Andrew McCullough couldn't help but feel for his former Brisbane teammates when they were on the end of a 59-0 hiding from the Roosters a fortnight ago.

McCullough played more than 250 first grade games for the Queenslanders before Knights coach Adam O'Brien made the shrewd signing a month ago that saw the 30-year-old sign with the Novocastrians.

"I'd be a gutless sort of bloke if I wasn't," McCullough said last week when asked if he felt any sympathy for his old club.

"They've got some good people there and they've got the young players who haven't faced that sort of adversity before.

"That's one way to have a reality check about the ups and downs of football and it's not all scoring tries and getting in the paper.

"There's certainly a bad side of footy which they've soon realised."

However, there will be no room for sentiment when he aims to bring his former team undone in Thursday night's clash at Central Coast Stadium.

"I feel it's my previous club and I'm not in the space or bubble

there, I'm in this team and I'm just enjoying the moment here with these boys," he said.

McCullough admitted the opportunity to chase more game time with a new club was one of the main reasons for his move.

He wasn't going to be content sitting behind young guns Jake Turpin and Cory Paix although that would have been the comfortable option.

"I could have sat there at Brissy and been content, but the challenge here to come down and play good footy under a new coach and in a new team is exciting," he said.

"I think you have to look at a few things – the coach, the roster, the area – and [Newcastle] ticked all those boxes."

As the Knights continue to build to a level of play that is consistent with that of a potential top four side, the former Queensland State of Origin hooker knows he has a role to play.

And that requires working with some of the Knights' young talent.

"The good thing is there is plenty of depth," he said.

"But you've got to maintain those performances throughout the year and it's about the young guys trying to limit the gap between their best and worst games.

"I've got no doubt Adam's going to try and touch on that."

# Hughesy's courage

The long road back for Mark Hughes is just one part of his amazing story.

**Rugby league in 2020 hey? It's sure been a crazy old ride in rugby league circles since the COVID-19 pandemic shut the competition down after just two rounds in late March and of course plenty has happened since.**

Whether it be the NRL reverting back to one referee, the new six again rule, broadcast deals or opinions around how the game is being managed, it seems the rugby league world has been split in two.

On both sides of the fence, there's the undoubted passion and love of the game and it's that very passion that will bring the Rugby League community together again this week to rally for those suffering from the tragic disease of Brain Cancer.

Round 6 of the NRL doubles as Beanie For Brain Cancer Round, the brainchild of the late Matt Callander, the much loved and well respected Channel 9 employee.

Partnering with the Mark Hughes Foundation, the concept has been an overwhelming success since its inception in 2016 and has grown each year, with last year's edition raising a remarkable \$3.1 million.

The statistics of the disease are really quite scary.

It's estimated that over 1500 Australians will die from brain cancer this year making it the biggest killer of children and adults under the age of 40. Perhaps even more alarming is the fact that less than 5% of Federal

Government Cancer research is provided to brain cancer and that these statistics have barely changed in the past 30 years.

Enter Mark Hughes, a champion player for the Newcastle Knights in their glory days of the late 90's, early 2000's who had his world turned upside down in July 2013 when he was diagnosed with brain cancer himself.

For those who don't remember, 'Hughesy' was the underrated player every successful team needs. The guy a superstar like Andrew Johns could throw the ball wide to for an inspirational run and quick play the ball when the team needed it most.

On the field, he was simply courageous, brave and committed to the cause. As the Knights club motto goes, he was the player everyone wanted to play with.

It's those very qualities that have surely helped him amidst the fight of his life.

After being diagnosed and having the tumour removed, he went through an extensive amount of radiation and chemotherapy which he responded well to. So far there has been no regrowth and he considers himself lucky just to be around and having regular scans, the latest of which came back clear.

Bravely, it was in his darkest hours that Hughes and his wife Kirralee decided they needed to start a charity to help people now and into the future suffering

from the same horrific battle he was going through.

The Mark Hughes Foundation's mission is to raise awareness for brain cancer while raising funds to research the disease and support brain cancer patients and their families.

This year he's doing an amazing job at the forefront of Beanie For Brain Cancer Round so make sure you do your bit to help the many sufferers out there doing it tough and help in the fight against this disease.

You can buy a Mark Hughes Foundation beanie from selected IGA and Lowes stores or head to [markhughesfoundation.com.au](http://markhughesfoundation.com.au).

If there's one thing that hasn't changed in rugby league and all its supporters over the years, it's the ability for the game to band together. No one rallies for a cause quite like 'rugby league people' and chances are if you happen to be reading this article you certainly fall into that bracket.

The battle for many however will continue long after this round of footy. So next time your team cops a controversial call or something happens in the game that you don't necessarily agree with, stop for a second and think about how important that really is.

**And don't forget, grab yourselves a beanie!**



**Rick Edgerton**  
LeagueUnlimited.com Contributor



ROUND 6

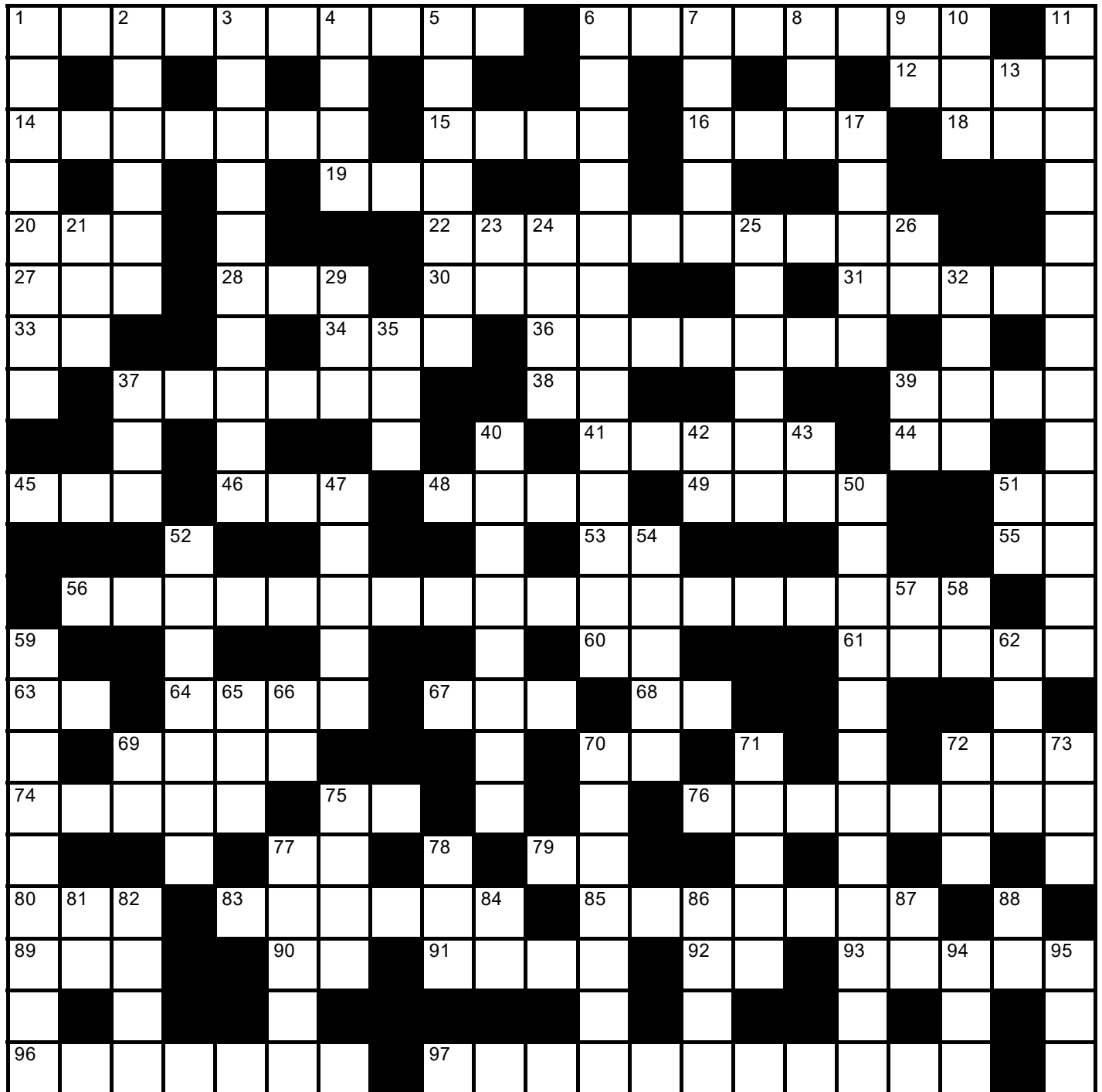


JUNE 18-21





# The LU Crossword



- Across**
- 1. Considered by many to be the greatest rugby league coach ever (4,6)
  - 6. Sydney's newest Rugby League Stadium (8)
  - 12. Utility forward for the Rabbitohs, former Dragon and Panther, aged 23 (4)
  - 14. Known to his Maroon team mates as Rowdy (7)
  - 15. Zip zip man. (4)
  - 16. Born in 1964, former Bear, Maroon and Kangaroo winger (4)
  - 18. A Sailor with all the moves (3)
  - 19. \_\_\_ Evans, current winger for West Wales Raiders RL (3)
  - 20. Glen \_\_\_\_, born in Bulli in 1975, played for Illawarra Hawks, then Tigers, finished his career in ESL (3)
  - 22. Fijian born highly decorated dual RL and RU Australian international winger, played for Broncos, Tigers, Souths and Maroons. (4,6)
  - 27. Born in 1936, nic name High Tower, played NRL for Manly and was a Kangaroo in 1961-64, Ken \_\_\_\_. (3)
  - 28. Jillaroos and Maroons skipper (3)
  - 30. Bread (4)
  - 31. The final that you want to win. (5)
  - 33. Born in 1993 Samoan International winger playing for the Wests Tigers - initials (1,1)
  - 34. Former Kiwi prop of the 2000's, played for Bulldogs & Souths, retired in 2015 from ESL (3)
  - 36. RL club from Newcastle district, Raymond \_\_\_\_ Roosters (7)
  - 37. You'll need this in quality if sitting in the bleachers (6)
  - 38. Opposite to Junior - abbrev (2)
  - 39. Friends (4)
  - 41. The Duke (5)
  - 44. Not Out (2)
  - 45. Terri- \_\_\_\_ Cain, played Women's Origin for Queensland (3)
  - 46. The score that you dont want (3)
  - 48. The Incas are their national team (4)
  - 49. COVID-19 has caused us all to \_\_\_\_-isolate (4)
  - 51. Samoan International currently playing back rower for the Tigers - initials (1,1)
  - 53. Standard Imperial - initials (1,1)

- 55 Honourable - Abbrev (2)  
 56. Shark Park's sponsored name 2016-18 (8,5,5)  
 60. Not Applicable - initials (1,1)  
 61. NRL ladder (5)  
 63. Over Time - initials (1,1)  
 64. Panthers and Tigers are wild ones (4)  
 67. Father of Don and David, he coached the Raiders from '82 to '87 (3)  
 68. Broncos water boy - initials (1,1)  
 69. Ring \_\_\_\_ (4)  
 70. World Cup - initials (1,1)  
 72. Current position of Parramatta on the NRL ladder (3)  
 74. Bulldogs veteran who recently caused a stir by shaking hands with his players (5)  
 75. Opposite to out (2)  
 76. Born in 1955, she is an outspoken ABC sports journalist with a long and distinguished career (8)  
 77. ACT local boy, played 5/8 for Raiders, NSW Blues and Kangaroos from '08 to '16 - initials (1,1)  
 79. Own Goal - initials (1,1)  
 80. Wales Football Club - initials (1,1,1)  
 83. Broncos half (6)  
 85. Took a 12 month religious sabbatical (7)  
 89. Fijian born winger who was a Dragon in 2015 then went onto play for the Reds in Super Rugby (3)  
 90. Opp to off (2)  
 91. Born in '63 and played for the Illawarra Hawks in the '80s and '90s and captained the club (4)  
 92. Form of the indefinite article used before words beginning with a vowel sound (2)  
 93. Goal kicking back rower for the Bunnies (5)  
 96. Indigenous all star and Kangaroo centre formerly from Souths and now with the Chooks (7)  
 97. Raiders backrower currently out with a shoulder injury (4,7)

**Down**

- 1 Current Storm and Kangaroo winger \_\_\_\_\_ Carr (4,4)  
 2 Fruity Sea Eagles half back \_\_\_\_\_-Evans (6)  
 3. Born in '67, played for the Bears, Qld and Australia as a utility forward, known for his husky voice (4,6)  
 4. Former Shark utility back, now sitting on the sideline for the Broncos with an injury (4)  
 5. Born in '49 this massive middle forward started with the Eels, Panthers, Roosters then back to the Eels. Also a NSW Blue and Kangaroo, nickname the Bear (6)  
 6. 2019 indigenous All Star winger (5,8)  
 7. Born in '67 in NZ, played as lock for Castleford, Sharks, Storm and Wolves in the '90s, also a Kiwi International and Kiwi Maori representative. (5)

8. Fijian Representative, played for Dragons, Knights and Penrith as a utility back in '00s and '10s (Christian Name) (3)  
 9. Veteran current Samoan, Kiwi and Raiders utility forward, inits (1,1) (2)  
 10. Dragons and Magpie winger of the 80s \_\_\_\_ Goodwin (3)  
 11. Our first ever female NRL referee (7,6)  
 13. Leo 'Ledge' Epifania played in the 1980s for the Western Suburbs Magpies and Illawarra Steelers - inits (1,1)  
 17. Craig Sargent, Kangaroo and hard man from the 80s, nickname (5)  
 21. Christian name of the first NRL salary cap auditor (3)  
 23. No 9 dummy half, formerly know as a h\_\_ker (2)  
 24. A lot of players are covered in these (4)  
 25. Born in '47, played for the Chooks and Eels in the '70s but more well known as an NRL administrator and chief executive of the NRL in the 90s (6)  
 26. Former professional rugby league footballer who played in the 1980s and 1990s. A NSW Origin and Australia prop, he played club football with the Rabbitohs, Wigan Warriors, Sea Eagles and Cowboys. inits (1,1) (2)  
 29. Former Kiwi international and current Kiwi assistant coach and selector (3)  
 33. Christian name of a former Raider who played as a utility forward for 11 years in the '00s and '10s. Currently the Apprentice Mentor in the NRL's Trading Up program (4)  
 35. What a field goal is worth (3)  
 37. Sunshine Coast Falcons player Kyle \_\_\_ Klaveren (3)  
 39. Paul Israel, played for Souths in '93 - initials (1,1)  
 40. Born in Wagga Wagga in '78, played as middle forward for Raiders, Storm, Knights, Leeds and Wigan, played SOO for Blues in 2008. (3,4)  
 42. \_\_ and them (2)  
 43. Download - abbrev (1,1)  
 47. Won the ESL in '11, '12, 15, and '17 (5)  
 50. New car caviar 4 star daydream, think I'll buy me a: (8,4)  
 51. A famous finger poker - initials (1,1)  
 52. Sponsor of Lang Park (7)  
 54. \_\_\_\_\_ de Gois, more clubs than Greg

- Norman (5)  
 57. United Artists - initials (1,1)  
 58. Played in the 1990s and 2000s. A QLD Origin rep centre, he played his entire club career for the Cowboys - initials (1,1)  
 59. Current Jillaroo back rower, Hannah (9)  
 62. Born in '81 in Yorkshire, played for Bulls, St Helens, Dragons (ESL) and Hull, English International for '01 to '07, \_\_\_\_ Pryce (4)  
 65. Used to refer to one or some of a thing or number of things, no matter how much or how many (4)  
 66. Terry Edwards, North Sydney Bear who played in the '40s - initials (1,1)  
 69. Sea Eagle back rower and centre from '70-'82 also Blues and Kangaroo - initials (1,1)  
 70. Current Raiders and Kangaroo utility back (7)  
 71. Last place will earn you one of these.(5)  
 72. How to restart when the ball goes into touch (3)  
 73. Penalty - abbrev (3)  
 75. Mal Meninga is considered a Rugby League \_\_\_\_ (4)  
 77. Plenty of these on social media (and LU) (5)  
 78. Canterbury Bulldogs Chairman in 2018 (3)  
 81. Foot - abbrev (2)  
 82. Jacket (4)  
 84. End Of - initials (1,1)  
 86. Born in Limoux of Italian descent, this centre came through the ranks of his home town club and has also played for the Tigers in the '00s (4)  
 87. Andrew Ettingshausen's nickname (1.1.)  
 88. Current Eels coach - initials (1,1)  
 94. \_\_\_ Mr Peter Beattie, former ARLC Chair (3)  
 95. Not Actually Applicable, inits (1,1,1)

*Answers in next week's edition*



**Last week's answers**

## Player movement picks up

Releases and signings galore as June 30 deadline nears

With the deadline approaching, a range of clubs have made significant moves to ensure they are best prepared for the remainder of the 2020 season.

Last week, the Bulldogs fast-tracked their signing of Luke Thompson from St Helens, with the British prop making his way to hotel quarantine in Melbourne. It's anticipated he'll be available in Round 8 or after as the 'Dogs look to work their way off the bottom end of the ladder.

The Broncos have moved to secure Kiwi hooker Issac Luke after the departure of Andrew McCullough and injury to Jake Turpin. The move suits Luke's family circumstances, and with Ben Hunt seemingly shifting to relief rake for the Dragons, it increases Luke's chance of game time.

Other key moves in recent days saw the Rabbitohs release Bryson Goodwin - he returns to Cronulla after stints at the Bunnies, Warrington and Canterbury. The Sharks also picked up former Cowboys and Dragons winger Nene Macdonald during the week.

The Wests Tigers released Corey Thompson early in the week as well, with the former Bulldog now off to the Gold Coast - coach Justin Holbrook bringing him straight in as the Titans look to cover for various injury and form issues.

Re-signings and retirements were also on the agenda, with Jayson Bukuya from Cronulla retiring from the game after 12 seasons, while South Sydney have re-signed young pair Jaxson Paulo and Lachlan Ilias for two more seasons.

In weeks prior, Ben Te'o rejoined the Broncos after a stint in rugby, while the Warriors acquired Poasa Faumasili (Roosters) on a loan deal and also signed Jack Murchie from the Raiders.

## Agent accreditation cancelled

Disciplinary proceedings have concluded against player agent Isaac Moses

On Tuesday, the NRL announced that following the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings, the accreditation of NRL player agent Isaac Moses has been cancelled.

It was found he was in breach of his obligations as an Accredited Agent in 2017 when he procured and assisted a client - former Eels prop TIm Mannah - to give false and misleading evidence to an NRL Integrity Unit investigation.

"Player agents have a very influential role in the game and with the players they represent. Where agents fail to adhere to the standards expected of them, we will intervene to take action under the NRL Rules," said NRL Interim CEO, Andrew Abdo.

"That is what we have done in this case after a thorough investigation by the League's Integrity & Compliance Unit."

Moses has the right to apply to appeal the decision to an independent Appeals Committee, and the cancellation of his accreditation will not apply pending such an appeal.

# LIVE MATCH UPDATES

*Every NRL game, every round.*

*By the fans for the fans. Whether you're out and about and need to check the scorers, or just want to follow along with the game on the screen, LeagueUnlimited.com runs a detailed live blog of every single NRL match, every weekend.*

*Head to [leagueunlimited.com](https://www.leagueunlimited.com) and look for the Match Centre to follow along with our live blogs.*



THE FRONT ROW

# GAME DAY

ROUND 6 MATCH PROGRAM

TEAM LISTS · MATCH DETAILS & STATS · PREVIEWS

## WEEKLY TIPS Round 6

Number in () brackets indicated last week's correct tips

### Tim Costello (6)

Knights  
Warriors  
Storm  
Dragons  
Tigers  
Eels  
Raiders  
Bulldogs

### Andrew Ferguson (5)

Knights  
Rabbitohs  
Storm  
Titans  
Tigers  
Roosters  
Sea Eagles  
Sharks

### Andrew Jackson (5)

Knights  
Rabbitohs  
Panthers  
Dragons  
Tigers  
Roosters  
Sea Eagles  
Sharks

### Justin Davies (7)

Knights  
Rabbitohs  
Storm  
Dragons  
Tigers  
Roosters  
Raiders  
Sharks

### Adam Huxtable (5)

Broncos  
Rabbitohs  
Panthers  
Titans  
Tigers  
Roosters  
Raiders  
Bulldogs

### Rick Edgerton (5)

Knights  
Rabbitohs  
Panthers  
Dragons  
Tigers  
Roosters  
Raiders  
Sharks

### Rob Crosby (5)

Knights  
Rabbitohs  
Storm  
Dragons  
Tigers  
Roosters  
Raiders  
Bulldogs

### Steven Williams (6)

Knights  
Rabbitohs  
Storm  
Dragons  
Cowboys  
Roosters  
Raiders  
Bulldogs

### Sam Bourke (6)

Knights  
Rabbitohs  
Storm  
Dragons  
Cowboys  
Roosters  
Raiders  
Bulldogs

### Josh Robertson (5)

Broncos  
Rabbitohs  
Panthers  
Titans  
Tigers  
Eels  
Raiders  
Sharks

### Jeff Dickinson-Fox (5)

Knights  
Rabbitohs  
Storm  
Dragons  
Tigers  
Roosters  
Raiders  
Sharks

### Hamish Parker (5)

Broncos  
Rabbitohs  
Storm  
Dragons  
Cowboys  
Roosters  
Raiders  
Sharks

# Newcastle KNIGHTS



# Brisbane BRONCOS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
4	3	15	42	Kalyn PONGA	<b>1</b>	FULLBACK	<b>1</b>	Jamayne ISAAKO	5	1	11	26
5	5	-	20	Edrick LEE	<b>2</b>	WING	<b>2</b>	Corey OATES	5	-	-	-
5	3	-	12	Enari TUALA	<b>3</b>	CENTRE	<b>3</b>	Herbie FARNWORTH	5	-	-	-
3	5	-	20	Bradman BEST	<b>4</b>	CENTRE	<b>4</b>	Darius BOYD	5	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	Hymel HUNT	<b>5</b>	WING	<b>5</b>	Xavier COATES	1	1	-	4
5	1	-	4	Kurt MANN	<b>6</b>	FIVE-EIGHTH	<b>6</b>	Anthony MILFORD	5	1	-	4
5	1	-	4	Mitchell PEARCE (C)	<b>7</b>	HALFBACK	<b>7</b>	Brodie CROFT	5	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	David KLEMMER	<b>8</b>	FRONT ROW	<b>8</b>	Matthew LODGE	3	-	-	-
4*	-	-	-	Andrew McCULLOUGH	<b>9</b>	HOOKER	<b>9</b>	Cory PAIX	2	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Daniel SAIFITI	<b>10</b>	FRONT ROW	<b>10</b>	Payne HAAS	5	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Lachlan FITZGIBBON	<b>11</b>	SECOND ROW	<b>11</b>	Alex GLENN (C)	1	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Sione MATA'UTIA	<b>12</b>	SECOND ROW	<b>12</b>	Tevita PANGAI JNR	4	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	Herman ESE'ESE	<b>13</b>	LOCK	<b>13</b>	Patrick CARRIGAN	5	-	-	-
3	-	2	4	Tex HOY	<b>14</b>	INTERCHANGE	<b>14</b>	Tesi NIU	2	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Jacob SAIFITI	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>	Ben TE'O	1	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Tim GLASBY	<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>	Joe OFAHENGAUE	3	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Aidan GUERRA	<b>17</b>		<b>17</b>	Thomas FLEGLER	5	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Gehamat SHIBASAKI	<b>18</b>	RESERVES	<b>18</b>	Issac LUKE	3*	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Pasami SAULO	<b>19</b>		<b>19</b>	Rhys KENNEDY	4	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Phoenix CROSSLAND	<b>20</b>		<b>20</b>	Tom DEARDEN	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Starford TO'A	<b>21</b>		<b>21</b>	Jamil HOPOATE	4	-	-	-

\*2 matches for Brisbane Broncos

\*3 matches for St George Illawarra Dragons

ADAM O'BRIEN

COACH

ANTHONY SEIBOLD

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Jamayne ISAAKO needs 12 points to reach 400 points (club and career)

# #NRLKnightsBroncos

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Thursday 18 June 2020
KICKOFF	7:50pm AEST
VENUE	Central Coast Stadium Gosford, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE 4BC BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Gerard SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Tim ALOUANI-ROBY Phil HENDERSON
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY Bryan NORRIE

## Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

### HEAD TO HEAD: 49 matches

15

1

33

At Central Coast Stadium: first meeting at this venue

### LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 15	Knights 26-12	McDonald Jones
2018	Round 5	Knights 15-10	McDonald Jones
2017	Round 19	Broncos 34-22	McDonald Jones
2016	Round 7	Broncos 53-0	Suncorp
2015	Round 16	Broncos 44-22	Suncorp
2015	Round 11	Broncos 31-18	Hunter
2014	Round 24	Broncos 48-6	Suncorp
2014	Round 7	Broncos 32-6	Hunter
2013	Round 25	Knights 26-18	Suncorp
2013	Round 21	18-all Draw	Hunter

### BIGGEST WINS

KNIGHTS	2001 Round 18	44-0 at Marathon
BRONCOS	2007 Round 11	71-6 at Suncorp

### CURRENT FORM

KNIGHTS	W W D W L
BRONCOS	W W L L L

### NEXT UP - ROUND 7

Cowboys v Knights, QCB Stadium	Sat 27 Jun, 3:00pm
Broncos v Titans, Suncorp	Sat 27 Jun, 5:30pm

# Match Preview

with Andrew Jackson

### McCullough looks to heap further misery on former side

Anthony Seibold admitted during the week that he regrets letting Andrew McCullough leave. By Friday morning he may regret it even more as the former Broncos rake looks to continue his strong form at Newcastle.

The Knights were outclassed by the Storm early last week, falling to a 18-0 deficit. While a disappointing 26-12 defeat ensued, it is a credit to the coaching of Adam O'Brien that Newcastle were able to peg their way back to within one try of Melbourne.

The Knights of old would have collapsed under such pressure – you only have to look at their 54-10 thumping at the hands of Penrith last year.

But this is a much more resilient bunch and they will be eager to bounce back this week or risk undoing all of their good work in the opening weeks of the season.

Lachlan Fitzgibbon returns on the edge in the only notable team news.

On the contract front, star fullback Kalyn Ponga signed a four-year contract extension as he vowed to deliver a premiership to the city of Newcastle.

They look primed to have a serious tilt this year.

Unlike Newcastle, Brisbane got off to a fast start last week as they raced out to an 18-0 lead over Manly. They tired quickly in the second half though, being run down in the end and remain winless since the season resumed.

Seibold's men only sit two points outside the eight so not all hope is lost but this is a club steeped in success and anything less than a finals finish this year will see questions asked.

Compounding Brisbane's woes is a hamstring injury to gun centre Kotoni Staggs. It sees Corey Oates shift to the wing with Herbie Farnworth moving into the centres.

They are bolstered up front by the returns of Alex Glenn and Tevita Pangai-Junior though, with the former adding some much needed experience alongside new recruit Ben Te'o. Issac Luke is also a chance of making his club debut after being named on the extended bench.

**Who to watch:** The match-up in the centres sees two players at the opposite ends of their careers battle it out. **Bradman Best** is the talk of the NRL. Five tries, nine tackle busts and three line breaks from just five games will do that to you. The best is yet to come from the 18-year old – a scary prospect for the rest of the competition and his opposite number this week.

**Darius Boyd** turned back the clock with one of his best performances of recent memory last week against Manly. Boyd, unlike Best, is nearing the end of his career having played 322 games, represented his country and state at the highest level. The ultimate professional, Boyd will have to make sure his contact is strong this week against the imposing Best. The 18-year old may give up plenty of games of experience but he more than makes up for it with his size and tackle-busting ability.

**Favourite:** Newcastle are well-backed to continue Brisbane's woes.

**Tip:** To be honest, I think the Broncos would have preferred it if the Knights had won last week. Instead, they were handed a reality check and will be even more switched on. **Knights by 20.**



# South Sydney RABBITOHS



# WARRIORS

P T G Pts

5	1	-	4	Latrell MITCHELL	<b>1</b>
5	2	-	8	Dane GAGAI	<b>2</b>
5	2	-	8	Campbell GRAHAM	<b>3</b>
5	1	-	4	Braidon BURNS	<b>4</b>
5	3	-	12	Alex JOHNSTON	<b>5</b>
5	1	-	4	Cody WALKER	<b>6</b>
5	1	18	40	(C) Adam REYNOLDS	<b>7</b>
5	-	-	-	Tevita TATOLA	<b>8</b>
5	-	-	-	Damien COOK	<b>9</b>
5	1	-	4	Thomas BURGESS	<b>10</b>
5	-	-	-	Jaydn SU'A	<b>11</b>
5	1	-	4	Ethan LOWE	<b>12</b>
5	1	-	4	Cameron MURRAY	<b>13</b>

5	-	-	-	Liam KNIGHT	<b>14</b>
1	-	-	-	Patrick MAGO	<b>15</b>
3	-	-	-	Tom AMONE	<b>16</b>
2	-	-	-	Bayley SIRONEN	<b>17</b>
4	-	-	-	Mark NICHOLLS	<b>18</b>
-	-	-	-	Corey ALLAN	<b>19</b>
2	-	-	-	James ROBERTS	<b>20</b>
1	-	-	-	Keaon KOLOAMATANGI	<b>21</b>

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

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

P T G Pts

5	-	-	-	Roger TUIVASA-SHECK (C)	5	-	-	-
4	1	-	4	Patrick HERBERT	4	1	-	4
3	3	-	12	Peta HIKU	3	3	-	12
3	-	-	-	Gerard BEALE	3	-	-	-
3	1	-	4	Adam POMPEY	3	1	-	4
5	2	7 <sup>+</sup>	23	Kodi NIKORIMA	5	2	7 <sup>+</sup>	23
5	-	-	-	Blake GREEN	5	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Jamayne TAUNOA-BROWN	5	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	Wayde EGAN	5	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Lachlan BURR	3	-	-	-
5	2	-	8	Eliesa KATOA	5	2	-	8
5	-	-	-	Tohu HARRIS	5	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Adam BLAIR	5	-	-	-
3	1	-	4	Karl LAWTON	3	1	-	4
3 <sup>*</sup>	-	-	-	Poasa FAAMAUSILI	3 <sup>*</sup>	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	King VUNIYAYAWA	5	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Jack MURCHIE	3	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	David FUSITU'A	2	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Agnatius PAASI	1	-	-	-
3	-	1	2	Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA	3	-	1	2
4	-	-	-	Isaiah PAPALI'I	4	-	-	-

\*1 match for Sydney Roosters

STEPHEN KEARNEY

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

**RLP MILESTONES** Campbell Graham needs 8 points to reach 100 points (club and career); Cody Walker - 100 NRL games (club and career), Walker also needs 8 points to reach 200 points (club and career); Roger Tuivasa-Sheck needs 4 points to reach 200 points (career)

# #NRLSouthsWarriors

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 19 June 2020
KICKOFF	6:00pm AEST
VENUE	Bankwest Stadium Parramatta, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	<b>Matt CECCHIN</b>
TOUCH JUDGES	Belinda SHARPE Jon STONE
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY Ben GALEA

## Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

### HEAD TO HEAD: 35 matches



At Bankwest Stadium: first meeting at this venue

### LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 24	Rabbitohs 31-10	Mt Smart
2019	Round 5	Rabbitohs 28-24	Sunshine Coast
2018	Round 12	Rabbitohs 30-10	Mt Smart
2018	Round 1	Warriors 32-20	Optus (Perth)
2017	Round 24	Rabbitohs 36-18	ANZ
2016	Round 23	Rabbitohs 41-22	Mt Smart
2015	Round 13	Rabbitohs 36-4	nib (Perth)
2014	Round 13	Rabbitohs 34-18	nib (Perth)
2013	Round 17	Rabbitohs 30-13	nib (Perth)
2013	Round 5	Rabbitohs 24-22	Mt Smart

### BIGGEST WINS

RABBITOHS	2015 Round 13	36-4 at nib (Perth)
WARRIORS	2006 Round 16	66-0 at Telstra

### CURRENT FORM

RABBITOHS	W L L L W
WARRIORS	L L W L W

### NEXT UP - ROUND 7

Panthers v Rabbitohs, Campbelltown	Thu 25 June, 7:50pm
Storm v Warriors, AAMI Park	Fri 26 June, 6:00pm

# Match Preview

## with Josh Robertson

**Winning form clashes on Friday night as the South Sydney Rabbitohs look to kick into gear after their first win since the resumption of play, as they take on the New Zealand Warriors - who are looking to put inconsistencies behind them.**

The Rabbitohs' 32-12 victory over the Gold Coast Titans last weekend at Bankwest Stadium saw them perform strongly through the first half, scoring 24 points within as many minutes to start the game.

Latrell Mitchell put in his best performance at fullback to date and was a massive part of the Bunnies' efforts during that opening 25 minutes and indeed throughout the contest. The concern though for Souths, was that they were able to score rapidly in the first 25 minutes but then didn't score again until shortly before half time.

Coach Wayne Bennett has made no changes to the 17 he named to take the field last weekend, although he has named James Roberts on the reserves bench. Roberts was originally named to take the field last weekend but was withdrawn through injury midweek.

The Warriors have again showed their quality and attacking prowess after a 37-26 victory over the Cowboys in Gosford on Friday night. The Warriors have mixed their form up significantly since the resumption of play with victories over the Dragons and Cowboys split by a poor effort against the Panthers. Last weekend, they were good in attack, putting up their highest score since the opening round of the 2019 season.

Concerningly though for the Warriors is that despite their high score, their defence has been questionable, having given up 52 points in the past two matches - something the Rabbitohs could seize upon.

The Warriors' attack was at their entertaining best running in seven tries to five which included a hat-trick for Peta Hiku who was a late inclusion into the Warriors side. The Warriors take an unchanged 17 into this week's match.

**Who to watch:** Rabbitohs fullback Latrell Mitchell is one of the most scrutinised players in the competition with expectations on his performance set extremely high. His move to fullback has been an interesting journey with a poor start to his season at fullback, then the adverse attention during the COVID-19 lockdown, followed by the improved performance last weekend. If Mitchell can find his spark at the back yet again this round, then it'll be the Warriors who will be under the microscope as to how they stop him.

Five-eighth Kodi Nikorima as always had big wraps on him and had a potential level set very high, but into his sixth season as an NRL player the expectations on the Warriors stand-off are still yet to be met. A strong performance against South Sydney could help his cause. One of the strongest assets that Nikorima possesses is his running game which doesn't get seen enough. Possessing speed and footwork, Nikorima can have defensive lines going every which way and if he turns on the running game, he could leave the Bunnies' big men struggling to get to him.

**Favourite:** Despite both being last start winners, the Rabbitohs have been installed as strong favourites given the nature of their last victory and the strengths of the respective lineups.

**My tip:** It's hard to look past South Sydney. The Rabbitohs were strong last weekend and will be looking to grow on that. The issues that the Warriors still have in defence could be a big downfall for them, particularly if the Bunnies' attack is strong. The Warriors could match with Souths early but there looks to be a difference in quality all over the park. **Rabbitohs by 16.**



Penrith  
**PANTHERS**



Melbourne  
**STORM**

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
-	-	-	-	Dylan EDWARDS	<b>1</b>	FULLBACK	<b>1</b>	Ryan PAPENHUYZEN	5	1	-	4
5	2	-	8	Josh MANSOUR	<b>2</b>	WING	<b>2</b>	Suliasi VUNIVALU	5	4	-	16
5	-	-	-	Dean WHARE	<b>3</b>	CENTRE	<b>3</b>	Justin OLAM	5	1	-	4
5	2	6	20	Stephen CRICHTON	<b>4</b>	CENTRE	<b>4</b>	Brenko LEE	2	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Brian TO'O	<b>5</b>	WING	<b>5</b>	Josh ADDO-CARR	5	1	-	4
5	1	-	4	Jarome LUAI	<b>6</b>	FIVE-EIGHTH	<b>6</b>	Cameron MUNSTER	5	-	-	-
3	1	11	26	Nathan CLEARY	<b>7</b>	HALFBACK	<b>7</b>	Ryley JACKS	1	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	James TAMOU (C)	<b>8</b>	FRONT ROW	<b>8</b>	Jesse BROMWICH	5	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Apisai KOROISAU	<b>9</b>	HOOKER	<b>9</b>	Cameron SMITH (C)	5	-	16	32
5	-	-	-	James FISHER-HARRIS	<b>10</b>	FRONT ROW	<b>10</b>	Christian WELCH	3	-	-	-
5	3	-	12	Viliame KIKAU	<b>11</b>	SECOND ROW	<b>11</b>	Felise KAUFUSI	5	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Liam MARTIN	<b>12</b>	SECOND ROW	<b>12</b>	Kenneath BROMWICH	5	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Isaah YEO	<b>13</b>	LOCK	<b>13</b>	Dale FINUCANE	5	1	-	4
3	2	-	8	Matt BURTON	<b>14</b>	INTERCHANGE	<b>14</b>	Brandon SMITH	3	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	Zane TETEVANO	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>	Tino FA'ASUAMALEAUI	5	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	Moses LEOTA	<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>	Tom EISENHUTH	3	1	-	4
3	1	-	4	Billy BURNS	<b>17</b>		<b>17</b>	Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	3	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Mitch KENNY	<b>18</b>	RESERVES	<b>18</b>	Max KING	4	-	-	-
2	2	-	8	Brent NADEN	<b>19</b>		<b>19</b>	Marion SEVE	3	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Jack HETHERINGTON	<b>20</b>		<b>20</b>	Jahrome HUGHES	4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Caleb AEKINS	<b>21</b>		<b>21</b>	Paul MOMIROVSKI	-	-	-	-

IVAN CLEARY

COACH

CRAIG BELLAMY

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Suliasi Vunivalu - 100 NRL games (club and career)

# #NRLPanthersStorm

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 19 June 2020
KICKOFF	7:55pm AEST
VENUE	Campbelltown Stadium Leumeah, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand 2GB SYD, 4BC BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ashley KLEIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Chris BUTLER Peter GOUGH
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL Bryan NORRIE

## Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

### HEAD TO HEAD: 34 matches

8

1

26

At Campbelltown Stadium: first meeting at this venue

### LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 3	Storm 32-2	Bathurst
2018	Round 25	Panthers 22-16	AAMI
2017	Round 5	Storm 28-6	AAMI
2016	Round 13	Storm 24-6	AAMI
2015	Round 19	Storm 52-10	AAMI
2015	Round 13	Storm 20-0	Pepper
2014	Round 24	Storm 24-10	Sportingbet
2014	Round 2	Storm 18-17	AAMI
2013	Round 9	Panthers 12-10	Centrebet
2012	Round 22	Storm 46-6	AAMI

### BIGGEST WINS

PANTHERS	2002 Round 20	36-16 at Penrith
	2005 Round 5	36-16 at Penrith
STORM	2001 Round 11	58-14 at Penrith

### CURRENT FORM

PANTHERS	W W D W L
STORM	W W L W W

### NEXT UP - ROUND 7

Panthers v Rabbitohs, Campbelltown	Thu 25 June, 7:50pm
Storm v Warriors, AAMI Park	Fri 26 June, 6:00pm

# Match Preview

## with Rick Edgerton

**Panthers on the prowl for big scalp as Storm roll into town.**

A quality Friday night encounter awaits viewers in round 6 with the third placed Melbourne Storm rolling into town to do battle with the fifth placed Penrith Panthers at Campbelltown Stadium.

The Panthers have looked in nice touch since the competition reboot with a draw against the Knights and a commanding victory over the Warriors followed up last weekend with a strong showing against the top of the table Eels. Ivan Cleary's men looked well on top in the opening hour against their Western Sydney rivals last Friday night before letting in three tries down their left edge in a six minute window to cost themselves the competition points.

In a worrying sign for Cleary, that marked the second time in three weeks the mountain men have given up strong leads after giving up a 14 point lead to an injury hit Knights two weeks prior.

Its mixed news for the Panthers on the injury front this week.

Back-rower Kurt Capewell has been ruled out for ten weeks with a knee injury he picked up in the opening minutes against the Eels. The former Shark will be replaced on the right edge by promising youngster Liam Martin who enjoyed a breakout rookie season last year with Billy Burns coming onto the bench. The good news is first choice fullback Dylan Edwards returns from a hamstring injury in what will be his first appearance of the 2020 season.

Craig Bellamy's Storm outfit roll into town following back to back 14 point victories over the Rabbitohs and Knights in the last fortnight and will be shooting for three straight against a team they have dominated in recent years, winning 7 of their last 8 clashes.

Bellamy has made no changes to the team that accounted for the Knights last week. Christian Welch has been named in the front-row with Brandon Smith on the bench in the official teams named on Tuesday, but expect the two to switch places on the team sheet an hour before kick-off as has been the case the last two weeks.

Injured half Jahrome Hughes has been named in the reserves after breaking his hand two weeks ago but he's expected to be at least another week away with Ryley Jacks to feed the scrum again this week.

**Who to watch:** Returning to some of his best form since representing New South Wales four years ago, winger Josh Mansour has been a major reason the Panthers lead the league in both total metres gained and post contact metres. Averaging 204 metres per game, Mansour is a pro at taking valuable metres coming out of trouble early in sets. His strength often sees him hit the ground on his belly with an ensuing quick play the ball getting his team on an early roll. Scoring in his past two encounters, 'the Sauce' will be looking to add to his personal tally against the Storm having crossed for three tries in their past four games.

After being dominated through the middle against the Raiders three weeks ago, Coach Bellamy reacted swiftly in giving regular super-sub Brandon Smith an opportunity to start. The move was made in order to help gain some early ascendancy around the ruck amidst the new six again rule which many believed would halt the Storm's dominance. The move seems to have worked a treat with the Storm again looking strong through the middle third and the kiwi international's bullocking runs and quick play the balls a key factor.

**Favourite:** Melbourne are considered strong favourites to make it three wins on the trot.

**Tip:** This looks an intriguing Friday night contest and one which will shed further light on the Panthers premiership credentials. They will need to prove they can play out the 80 minutes, but if they can remain switched on for the duration they look a big chance of causing a boil over here. Look for the likes of Fisher-Harris and Kikau to bend the Melbourne defensive line, with Koroisau and Cleary playing nice and direct on the back of their big men. **Panthers by 4.**



# Gold Coast TITANS



# St George Illawarra DRAGONS

P	T	G	Pts					P	T	G	Pts	
2	1	-	4	Corey THOMPSON	1	FULLBACK	1	Matthew DUFTY	3	3	-	12
4	2	-	8	Anthony DON	2	WING	2	Jordan PEREIRA	5	-	-	-
5	2	-	8	Brian KELLY	3	CENTRE	3	Euan AITKEN	3	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Young TONUMAIPEA	4	CENTRE	4	Zac LOMAX	5	2	13	34
5	2	-	8	Phillip SAMI	5	WING	5	Mikaele RAVALAWA	3	3	-	12
5	-	9	18	Ashley TAYLOR	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Corey NORMAN	5	1	-	4
3	-	-	-	Jamal FOGARTY	7	HALFBACK	7	Adam CLUNE	2	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Moeaki FOTUAIKA	8	FRONT ROW	8	Josh KERR	5	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Erin CLARK	9	HOOKER	9	Cameron McINNES (C)	3	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	Sam LISONE	10	FRONT ROW	10	Paul VAUGHAN	5	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Kevin PROCTOR	11	SECOND ROW	11	Tyson FRIZELL	5	-	-	-
4	1	-	4	Bryce CARTWRIGHT	12	SECOND ROW	12	Tyrell FUIMAONO	4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Jai ARROW	13	LOCK	13	James GRAHAM	5	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Tanah BOYD	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Ben HUNT	5	1	-	4
3	-	-	-	Jaimin JOLLIFFE	15		15	Trent MERRIN	4	-	-	-
3	1	-	4	Keegan HIPGRAVE	16		16	Blake LAWRIE	5	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Tyrone PEACHEY	17		17	Jacob HOST	2	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Beau FERMOR	18	RESERVES	18	Jackson FORD	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Jarrold WALLACE	19		19	Jason SAAB	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Jai WHITBREAD	20		20	Korbin SIMS	1	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Tyrone ROBERTS	21		21	Tristan SAILOR	-	-	-	-

\* 2 games for Wests Tigers

JUSTIN HOLBROOK

COACH

PAUL MCGREGOR

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Phillip Sami needs 8 points to reach 100 (club & career); Matt Dufty needs 4 points to reach 100 (club & career); Ben Hunt needs 5 points to reach 300 (career)

# #NRLTitansDragons

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 20 June 2020
KICKOFF	3:00pm AEST
VENUE	Suncorp Stadium Milton, QLD
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Chris SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Gavin BADGER Liam KENNEDY
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL Ben LOWE

## Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

### HEAD TO HEAD: 22 matches

7

15

At Suncorp Stadium: 1 match, Dragons 1, Titans 0

### LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 25	Dragons 24-16	Cbus Super
2019	Round 21	Dragons 40-28	Netstrata Jubilee
2018	Round 3	Dragons 54-8	Toowoomba
2017	Round 23	Dragons 42-16	UOW Jubilee
2017	Round 17	Titans 20-10	Cbus Super
2016	Round 19	Titans 32-12	WIN Jubilee
2016	Round 7	Dragons 19-14	Cbus Super
2015	Round 25	Titans 28-26	Cbus Super
2014	Round 24	Dragons 34-6	WIN Jubilee
2014	Round 15	Dragons 19-18	Cbus Super

### BIGGEST WINS

TITANS	2016 Round 19	32-12 at WIN Jubilee
DRAGONS	2018 Round 3	54-8 at Toowoomba

### CURRENT FORM

TITANS	L L L W L
DRAGONS	L L L L W

### NEXT UP - ROUND 7

Roosters v Dragons, Bankwest	Fri 26 Jun, 7:55pm
Broncos v Titans, Suncorp	Sat 27 Jun, 5:30pm

# Match Preview

## with Robert Crosby

**Cellar dwellers face off in must-win encounter.**

Managing just five wins combined over the past twelve months, the Gold Coast Titans and St George Illawarra Dragons will be desperate to come away with two premiership points on Saturday afternoon.

Unable to keep up with the Rabbitohs during the opening quarter of last Saturday's 32-12 loss at Bankwest Stadium, the Gold Coast Titans have shown moments of promise since the season resumption.

Going toe-to-toe with opposition teams for long stretches only to concede multiple tries in quick succession, new coach Justin Holbrook will be eager to gauge the reaction of his players as they face a Dragons team coming off their first win of the season.

Naming former Wests Tigers utility Corey Thompson at fullback for his club debut, the ensuing backline reshuffle will see Phillip Sami shift to the wing and Brian Kelly move to centre in place of Dale Copley (ankle).

Breaking through for a sorely needed 30-16 win against the Sharks last Sunday, the St George Illawarra Dragons will be hoping to continue a dominant record over the Titans in recent times.

Winning seven out of ten clashes during Paul McGregor's tenure as coach, the joint venture will need to overcome a poor record at Suncorp Stadium which has yielded just two wins from their past 13 visits.

Keeping the faith with the same squad that triumphed at Campbelltown Stadium six days earlier, Ben Hunt will wear the number 14 jersey following a confidence-building performance as an impact hooker against Cronulla.

Saturday afternoon will be the first time the two teams have met at Suncorp Stadium since the Titans hosted the Dragons in their first premiership match back in 2007.

**Who to watch:** Returning to the NRL following an 18-month stint as a Mormon missionary, former Melbourne outside back **Young Tonumaiepa** has made an immediate impact for his new club. Averaging 120 metres and 14 runs per game over the past fortnight, the 27-year-old Samoan international has relished the stability of playing at right centre having deviated throughout the backline during his five seasons under Craig Bellamy. Hoping to secure his long-term future after penning a train-and-trial deal during the competition shutdown, Tonumaiepa looms as an underrated player capable of paving the way for Justin Holbrook to lead the Titans out of the doldrums.

Providing the Dragons with a much-needed injection of attacking spark last Sunday, **Matt Dufty** will be looking to recapture the form that saw him light up the NRL two years ago. Enduring a difficult time over the past 18 months with various spine combinations and emerging youngsters blocking his path to the number one jersey, the 24-year-old speedster produced one of the best performances of his career against the Sharks with a try, two assists and 184 running metres. Attracting interest from the Titans for an immediate release, look for Dufty to build on last week's performance and affirm his place as the Dragons' first-choice fullback.

**Favourite:** Having broken through for their first win since the final round of last season, the Dragons are expected to account for their work-in-progress opponents.

**Tip:** If the Dragons can build on last week's performance they should get the job done. If the Titans can grind away for 80 minutes they are capable of pulling off an upset. **Dragons by 4** (with very little confidence).



## WESTS TIGERS

North Queensland  
COWBOYS

P	T	G	Pts					P	T	G	Pts	
5	1	-	4	Adam DOUEIHI	<b>1</b>	FULLBACK	<b>1</b>	Hamiso TABUAI-FIDOW	1	-	-	-
5	6	-	24	David NOFOALUMA	<b>2</b>	WING	<b>2</b>	Kyle FELDT	5	6	5	34
5	1	-	4	Joseph LEILUA	<b>3</b>	CENTRE	<b>3</b>	Justin O'NEILL	5	3	-	12
3	-	3	6	Moses MBYE (C)	<b>4</b>	CENTRE	<b>4</b>	Esan MARSTERS	5	-	-	-
4	1	-	4	Robert JENNINGS	<b>5</b>	WING	<b>5</b>	Connelly LEMUELU	-	-	-	-
3	1	-	4	Josh REYNOLDS	<b>6</b>	FIVE-EIGHTH	<b>6</b>	Scott DRINKWATER	5	1	-	4
3	1	-	4	Luke BROOKS	<b>7</b>	HALFBACK	<b>7</b>	Jake CLIFFORD	3	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Josh ALOIAI	<b>8</b>	FRONT ROW	<b>8</b>	Francis MOLO	5	1	-	4
3	1	-	4	Harry GRANT	<b>9</b>	HOKKER	<b>9</b>	Reece ROBSON	5	2	-	8
3	-	-	-	Zane MUSGROVE	<b>10</b>	FRONT ROW	<b>10</b>	Josh McGUIRE	4	-	-	-
4	1	-	4	Luke GARNER	<b>11</b>	SECOND ROW	<b>11</b>	Mitchell DUNN	5	-	-	-
5	2	-	8	Luciano LEILUA	<b>12</b>	SECOND ROW	<b>12</b>	Coen HESS	4	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	Alex TWAL	<b>13</b>	LOCK	<b>13</b>	Jason TAUMALOLO	4	1	-	4
-	-	-	-	Matt EISENHUTH	<b>14</b>	INTERCHANGE	<b>14</b>	Ben HAMPTON	4	4	-	16
5	-	-	-	Thomas MIKAELE	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>	Corey JENSEN	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Sam McINTYRE	<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>	Peter HOLA	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Michael CHEE-KAM	<b>17</b>		<b>17</b>	Gavin COOPER	4	1	-	4
4	1	13 <sup>+</sup>	31	Benji MARSHALL	<b>18</b>	RESERVES	<b>18</b>	Tom OPACIC	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Chris LAWRENCE	<b>19</b>		<b>19</b>	Shane WRIGHT	2	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Billy WALTERS	<b>20</b>		<b>20</b>	Reuben COTTER	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Reece HOFFMAN	<b>21</b>		<b>21</b>	Emry PERE	-	-	-	-

MICHAEL MAGUIRE

COACH

PAUL GREEN

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Justin O'Neill needs 4 points to reach 300 (career)

# #NRLTigersCowboys

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 20 June 2020
KICKOFF	5:30pm AEST
VENUE	Campbelltown Stadium Leumeah, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand 2GB SYD, 4BC BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Henry PERENARA
TOUCH JUDGES	Kasey BADGER Matt NOYEN
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK Bryan NORRIE

## Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

### HEAD TO HEAD: 37 matches

21

16

At Campbelltown Stadium: 8 matches, Tigers 4, Cowboys 4

### LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 20	Wests Tigers 28-4	Leichhardt
2019	Round 14	Wests Tigers 27-26	1300SMILES
2018	Round 10	Wests Tigers 20-12	Leichhardt
2018	Round 25	Cowboys 22-14	Campbelltown
2017	Round 6	Wests Tigers 26-16	1300SMILES
2016	Round 22	Wests Tigers 26-14	Leichhardt
2015	Round 11	Cowboys 8-0	Campbelltown
2014	Round 22	Cowboys 64-6	1300SMILES
2014	Round 6	Wests Tigers 16-4	Campbelltown
2013	Round 26	Cowboys 50-22	1300SMILES

### BIGGEST WINS

WESTS TIGERS	2007 Round 20	54-10 at Leichhardt
	2005 Finals W1	50-6 at Telstra
COWBOYS	2014 Round 22	64-6 at 1300SMILES

### CURRENT FORM

WESTS TIGERS	W L W L L
COWBOYS	L W W L L

### NEXT UP - ROUND 7

Bulldogs v Tigers, Bankwest	Sun 28 Jun, 6:30pm
Cowboys v Knights, QCB Stadium	Sat 27 Jun, 3:00pm

# Match Preview

## with Robert Crosby

**Grand final foes look to bounce back.**

After starting the season with promise of bigger things, the Wests Tigers and North Queensland Cowboys will be looking to respond from back-to-back losses at Campbelltown Stadium on Saturday evening.

Producing a much-improved performance against the Raiders only to fall short 14-6 last Saturday, the Wests Tigers will be hoping to build on a run of five wins from their past six clashes against their 2005 grand final opponents.

Sitting in ninth position with two wins over the first five rounds, coach Michael Maguire will be looking to avoid a third consecutive loss and improve upon the side's below par record at Campbelltown Stadium that has generated three wins from their past 12 appearances.

Losing former New Zealand international Russell Packer for two weeks due to a careless high tackle, Robert Jennings, Matthew Eisenhuth and debutant Sam McIntyre have all been promoted into the top 17.

Suffering a high scoring 37-26 loss to the Warriors last Friday on the Central Coast, the North Queensland Cowboys will be chasing only their third win in Sydney since qualifying for the grand final three years ago.

Winning their past two appearances at Campbelltown Stadium by eight points, coach Paul Green will be demanding a much stronger defensive showing on Saturday evening after leaking 31.5 points per game over the past fortnight.

Losing marquee signing Valentine Holmes (ankle), stand-in captain Jordan McLean (calf) and rookie forward Tom Gilbert (suspension) in the aftermath of last week's loss, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow will start at fullback, former Bulldogs lower grader Connelly Lemuelu will make his debut on the wing, while Ben Hampton, Corey Jenson and Peter Hola all come onto the bench.

**Who to watch:** Signing with the joint venture midway through 2018 in order to alleviate the Bulldogs' salary cap woes, Moses Mbye has struggled to recapture the form that saw him appointed as club captain. Ranking among the least involved representative-calibre players so far this season, the 26-year-old Queensland utility has averaged fewer than 60 metres per game since the season resumed. Initially joining the Tigers as a fullback having made his name in the halves, look for Mbye to go after the football on Saturday night as the Tigers strive to improve their 2020 win-loss record to 50 per cent.

Spending three years in the top grade with the Tigers between 2017-2019, Cowboys recruit Esan Marsters will be aiming to get one over his former teammates on Saturday evening. Playing 61 games for the joint venture while representing the Cook Islands and New Zealand along the way, the 23-year-old centre has yet to reach the height of his powers in Townsville, despite retaining the skills that rank him among the league's premier offloaders. Yet to score a try for his new club after five rounds, Marsters looms as a player capable of revitalising the Cowboys following two disappointing performances in consecutive weeks.

**Favourite:** Having led last year's grand finalists for much of last week's clash, the Tigers are favoured to prove too strong for the injury-hit Cowboys.

**Tip:** While neither side will be featuring beyond the regular season based on recent form, the Tigers should get the job done despite the best efforts of Jason Taumalolo. **Wests Tigers by 6.**

# Sydney ROOSTERS



# Parramatta EELS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
4	4	-	16	James TEDESCO	<b>1</b>	FULLBACK	<b>1</b>	Clinton GUTHERSON (C)	5	2	-	8
5	3	-	12	Daniel TUPOU	<b>2</b>	WING	<b>2</b>	Maika SIVO	5	2	-	8
5*	1	-	4	Josh MORRIS	<b>3</b>	CENTRE	<b>3</b>	Michael JENNINGS	5	2	-	8
5	1	-	4	Joseph MANU	<b>4</b>	CENTRE	<b>4</b>	Waqā BLAKE	5	2	-	8
5	2	-	8	Brett MORRIS	<b>5</b>	WING	<b>5</b>	Blake FERGUSON	5	-	-	-
5	1	-*	5	Luke KEARY	<b>6</b>	FIVE-EIGHTH	<b>6</b>	Dylan BROWN	5	3	-	12
5	3	25	62	Kyle FLANAGAN	<b>7</b>	HALFBACK	<b>7</b>	Mitchell MOSES	5	1	21*	47
4	-	-	-	Jared WAEREA-HARGREAVES	<b>8</b>	FRONT ROW	<b>8</b>	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD	5	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Jake FRIEND	<b>9</b>	HOKKER	<b>9</b>	Reed MAHONEY	5	2	-	8
4	1	-	4	Siosia TAKUEIAHO	<b>10</b>	FRONT ROW	<b>10</b>	Junior PAULO	5	-	-	-
3	1	-	4	Boyd CORDNER (C)	<b>11</b>	SECOND ROW	<b>11</b>	Shaun LANE	5	1	-	4
3	4	-	16	Angus CRICHTON	<b>12</b>	SECOND ROW	<b>12</b>	Ryan MATTERSON	5	1	-	4
5	1	-	4	Victor RADLEY	<b>13</b>	LOCK	<b>13</b>	Nathan BROWN	3	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Sam VERRILLS	<b>14</b>	INTERCHANGE	<b>14</b>	Ray STONE	2	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Isaac LIU	<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>	Marata NIUKORE	5	1	-	4
4	-	-	-	Nat BUTCHER	<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>	Oregon KAUFUSI	1	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Lindsay COLLINS	<b>17</b>		<b>17</b>	Peni TEREPO	5	1	-	4
4	-	-	-	Sitili TUPOUNIUA	<b>18</b>	RESERVES	<b>18</b>	Brad TAKAIRANGI	4	-	-	-
3	1	-	4	Mitchell AUBUSSON	<b>19</b>		<b>19</b>	David GOWER	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Ryan HALL	<b>20</b>		<b>20</b>	George JENNINGS	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Lachlan LAM	<b>21</b>		<b>21</b>	Jai FIELD	-	-	-	-

\*2 matches for Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks

TRENT ROBINSON

COACH

BRAD ARTHUR

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

**RLP MILESTONES** Boyd Corder needs 2 points to reach 200 (club & career); Jake Friend - 250 games (club & career); Blake Ferguson needs 8 points to reach 500 (career); Michael Jennings needs 1 try to reach 150 (career) and 4 points to reach 600 (career)



# #NRLRoostersEels

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 20 June 2020
KICKOFF	7:35pm AEST
VENUE	Bankwest Stadium Parramatta, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand 2GB SYD, 4BC BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ben CUMMINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Dave MUNRO Ziggy PRZEKLASA-ADAMSKI
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY Ben GALEA

## Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

### HEAD TO HEAD: 132 matches

65

5

62

At Bankwest Stadium: first meeting at this venue

### LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 3	Roosters 32-18	ANZ
2018	Round 25	Roosters 44-10	ANZ
2017	Round 10	Roosters 48-10	Allianz
2016	Round 18	Eels 22-18	Pirtek
2015	Round 23	Roosters 28-18	Allianz
2014	Round 6	Eels 14-12	Pirtek
2014	Round 2	Roosters 56-4	Allianz
2013	Round 13	Roosters 38-24	Parramatta
2013	Round 4	Roosters 50-0	Allianz
2012	Round 23	Eels 36-22	Parramatta

### BIGGEST WINS

EELS	1982 Finals W3	33-0 at SCG
ROOSTERS	2014 Round 2	56-4 at Allianz

### CURRENT FORM

ROOSTERS	L L W W W
EELS	W W W W W

### NEXT UP - ROUND 7

Roosters v Dragons, Bankwest	Fri 26 Jun, 7:55pm
Eels v Raiders, Bankwest	Sat 27 Jun, 7:35pm

# Match Preview

with Adam Huxtable

**Back to back premiers clash with undefeated heavyweights in match of the round.**

In a contender for the game of 2020 so far, it's Easts hosting Parramatta, however due to the NRL's strict biosecurity measures the game will be played at BankWest Stadium. The Roosters are coming off a convincing win over the Bulldogs while the Eels dug deep last week to finish well against a strong Penrith outfit.

Jared Waerea-Hargreaves has been named to make his return after being a late scratching due to injury against the Bulldogs. The move pushes Lindsay Collins back to the bench, which sees back rower Sitili Tupouniua drop out of the 17. Trent Robinson has also named Sam Verrills in the number 14 jumper; however he was swapped with veteran Mitchell Aubusson last week at the 11th hour and Robinson could do the same.

The Eels haven't made any unforced changes, but former Rooster Kane Evans will miss the clash with his former club after taking the early guilty plea during the week resulting in a one-week suspension. Oregon Kaufusi will replace him on the bench.

Parramatta have turned in inconsistent performances over the last 2 weeks, fading in and out of games much too regularly. Against Manly, they scored all their tries over a 10-minute period while the span narrowed to 6 minutes against the Panthers. Their performance this week is going to have to be one where they apply themselves over the 80 minutes and attempt to grind their way to victory, as the Roosters are unlikely to allow the Eels to run in short bursts of tries as they have become accustomed to doing.

The Tricolours have been simply flawless since the competition resumed. They have won their 3 games by a combined margin of 129-18 and with the exception of a short lapse to begin the second half last week have looked streets better than their opposition.

Having said that, Parramatta will be a different beast to the teams they have easily dispatched of in 2020. The Roosters have yet to beat a team currently sitting in the top 8, losing to both Penrith and Manly before the season went on hiatus. Many have pencilled the Roosters in as premiers favourites after their strong resumption, whether that is warranted or not will be revealed on Saturday night.

**Who to watch:** Roosters custodian James Tedesco turned in one of the great performances against the Bulldogs, scoring a hat-trick of tries and setting up 2 more as well as running for 231 metres and breaking 10 tackles. No disrespect to the Bulldogs but the Eels are much more staunch opposition, and if they can limit Teddy's impact like they did Tom Trbojevic a couple of weeks ago they'll go a long way to winning this game.

From one former Wests Tiger to another, Eels halfback Mitchell Moses has been in scintillating form that has seen him mentioned in the origin selection discussion. One of the common criticisms of him is that he is flying when his team is on the front foot but goes missing when his team is losing the battle of momentum. Last week, his side was down 10-0 with 20 to go. The Eels persisted and got it back to 10 apiece. Enter Mitch Moses, who put in a grubber that sat up perfectly for Ryan Matterson to score the try to put the Eels ahead and ultimately give them the win. Moses will need to be at his best and play a controlling role against the Roosters to give them the best chance of continuing their undefeated run.

**Favourite:** The Roosters are clear favourites to continue their strong run.

**Tip:** There's a reason this is being touted as the game of the season so far and come 7:30pm on Saturday you won't want to be anywhere else. The Eels turned in arguably their most impressive performance of 2020 last week and will have 3 extra days than their opposition to prepare. I think they've come a long way since last year and will be by far the toughest opposition for the Bondi boys, but I honestly cannot see anyone beating the Roosters at the moment. **Roosters by 4.**

# Canberra RAIDERS



# Manly-Warringah SEA EAGLES

P T G Pts

5	1	-	4	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	1
3	1	-	4	Jordan RAPANA	2
5	-	15	30	Jarrod CROKER (C)	3
5	1	-	4	Curtis SCOTT	4
5	3	-	12	Nick COTRIC	5
5	4	-	16	Jack WIGHTON	6
5	-	-	-	George WILLIAMS	7
5	1	-	4	Josh PAPALI'I	8
5	-	-	-	Josh HODGSON	9
5	1	-	4	Iosia SOLIOLA	10
5	1	-	4	Joseph TAPINE	11
5	2	-	8	Elliott WHITEHEAD	12
4	-	-	-	Corey HORSBURGH	13
5	-	-	-	Siliva HAVILI	14
5	1	-	4	Emre GULER	15
1	-	-	-	Ryan SUTTON	16
-	-	-	-	Hudson YOUNG	17
5	-	-	-	Dunamis LUI	18
4	1	-	4	Bailey SIMONSSON	19
-	-	-	-	Matt FRAWLEY	20
-	-	-	-	Tom STARLING	21

FULLBACK	1
WING	2
CENTRE	3
CENTRE	4
WING	5
FIVE-EIGHTH	6
HALFBACK	7
FRONT ROW	8
HOOKER	9
FRONT ROW	10
SECOND ROW	11
SECOND ROW	12
LOCK	13
INTERCHANGE	14
RESERVES	18

P T G Pts

5	3	-	12	Tom TRBOJEVIC	1
1	1	-	4	Tevita FUNA	2
5	2	-	8	Brad PARKER	3
-	-	-	-	Brendan ELLIOT	4
5	1	12	28	Reuben GARRICK	5
5	1	-	4	Dylan WALKER	6
5	1	-	5	Daly CHERRY-EVANS (C)	7
5	-	-	-	Addin FONUA-BLAKE	8
5	-	-	-	Danny LEVI	9
3	-	-	-	Taniela PASEKA	10
5	-	-	-	Joel THOMPSON	11
4	1	-	4	Curtis SIRONEN	12
5	-	-	-	Jake TRBOJEVIC	13
5	-	-	-	Lachlan CROKER	14
1	-	-	-	Jack GOSIEWSKI	15
5	-	-	-	Sean KEPPIE	16
2	-	-	-	Morgan BOYLE	17
-	-	-	-	Toafofoa SIPLEY	18
-	-	-	-	Abbas MISKI	19
2	-	-	-	Haumole OLAKAU'ATU	20
-	-	-	-	Cade CUST	21

RICKY STUART

COACH

DES HASLER

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

**RLP MILESTONES** Josh Hodgson - 250 games (career incl. SL); Daly Cherry-Evans needs 5 points to reach 500 (club & career); Brad Parker - 50 games (club & career); Curtis Sironen needs 4 points to reach 100 (ca

# #NRLRaidersManly

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 21 June 2020
KICKOFF	4:05pm AEST
VENUE	Campbelltown Stadium Leumeah, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE 2GB SYD/4BC BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Grant ATKINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Todd SMITH Phil HENDERSON
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL Ben GALEA

## Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

### HEAD TO HEAD: 57 matches

21

1

35

At Campbelltown Stadium: first meeting at this venue

### LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 23	Sea Eagles 18-14	GIO
2019	Round 7	Sea Eagles 24-20	Lottoland
2018	Round 12	Raiders 21-20	GIO
2018	Round 4	Sea Eagles 32-16	Lottoland
2017	Round 13	Sea Eagles 21-20	Lottoland
2017	Round 8	Sea Eagles 20-18	GIO
2016	Round 25	Raiders 44-30	Brookvale
2016	Round 13	Raiders 30-18	GIO
2015	Round 23	Sea Eagles 26-24	GIO
2015	Round 5	Raiders 29-16	Albury

### BIGGEST WINS

RAIDERS	2003 Round 22	51-16 at Brookvale
SEA EAGLES	1982 Round 20	61-20 at Brookvale

### CURRENT FORM

RAIDERS	W W W L W
SEA EAGLES	L W W L W

### NEXT UP - ROUND 7

Eels v Raiders, Bankwest	Sat 27 Jun, 7:35pm
Sea Eagles v Sharks, Central Coast	Sun 28 Jun, 4:05pm

# Match Preview

with Hamish Parker

### Premiership threats test their credentials.

The Canberra Raiders and the Manly Sea Eagles are both coming off round 5 wins last week. Canberra managed to beat the Wests Tigers in what was a tight encounter, seeing the men from the nation's capital win 14-6. The loss to the Knights in round 4 and then a close game against a side they were expected to beat comfortably in round 5 could be the sign of a rough patch for the Raiders and they will be looking to get back to the form that we all know they can produce this weekend. Manly looked all but gone in their round 5 battle against the Brisbane Broncos. They were down 18-0 in the first half, before putting on 20 unanswered points to win 20-18. Playing against an understrength Brisbane, the game was a little closer than what the Sea Eagles would have liked. Similar to Canberra, Manly went down in their round 4 clash as well, despite the controversy surrounding a forward pass decision late in the game. Both of these sides are showing a few signs of being shaky recently and both will be looking to pick up their form a little this week against quality opposition.

Canberra come into this clash with a few changes in their team from the round 5 team who faced Wests Tigers. Corey Horsburgh comes back in as a welcome inclusion for Canberra at lock. This change pushed Iosia Soliola back to the front row. Despite starting the game against the Tigers last week, the change also pushes Dunamis Lui out of the 17 and back to the reserves at 18th man. Hudson Young comes onto the bench for the green machine, which means Bailey Simonsson is also pushed to the reserves.

Manly also come into this game with changes and an amount more significant than that of Canberra's. Moses Suli is out and will be replaced in the centres by Brendan Elliot who has proven a capable replacement in the backline on multiple occasions. Martin Taupau is out with a thumb injury which saw him leave the game early last round. Addin Fonua-Blake will be promoted off the bench and start in place of Taupau. Curtis Sironen is back and will replace Corey Waddell in the second row. Morgan Boyle will come onto the bench for this match.

Each team are fresh off a win in round 5 and will be looking to continue their winning ways in round 6. Despite some shaky form from both of the teams that will be lining up against each other on Sunday afternoon, expect this to be a terrific game with some quality play. Both sides came into the season as premiership threats and it will be great to see the two of them face off.

**Who to watch:** Josh Papalii has started 2020 exactly how he left 2019 - in great form. His runs are extremely damaging to opposition and, for a prop forward, he isn't a stranger to the try line. Look for Papalii to potentially have a large impact on the Raiders winning the middle battle. If Papalii can get on top, he may help open up the game for Canberra and the likes of Charnze Nicoll-Kolkstad and Jack Wighton.

This game will likely be first won in the middle of the park and after starting off the bench last week, look for Addin Fonua-Blake to be at his damaging best come Sunday afternoon. Fonua-Blake can be a real handful and will be a big part of Manly's success if they are to win over the middle in the game.

**Favourite:** The Raiders are better back to win this one.

**Tip:** This game is a tough one to pick and it should be a tight one as well. The loss of Martin Taupau is a big one for Manly and they may struggle to gain ascendancy in the middle of the park without him. The Canberra pack should be too strong and their backs should be able to capitalise on it. The game will be tight, but Canberra should edge it here. **Raiders by 6.**



# Cronulla-Sutherland SHARKS



# Canterbury-Bankstown BULLDOGS

P T G Pts

5 1 - 4

Will KENNEDY **1**

FULLBACK

**1**

Will HOPOATE

5 - - -

5 3 - 12

Sione KATO A **2**

WING

**2**

Christian CRICHTON

4 1 - 4

3 2 - 8

Josh DUGAN **3**

CENTRE

**3**

Reimis SMITH

4 1 - 4

5 2 - 8

Jesse RAMIEN **4**

CENTRE

**4**

Dallin WATENE-ZELEZNIAK

5 - - -

1 1 - 4

Mawene HIROTI **5**

WING

**5**

Jake AVERILLO

4 1 - 4

5 - 13 26

Shaun JOHNSON **6**

FIVE-EIGHTH

**6**

Kieran FORAN

2 1 - 4

4 - - -

Chad TOWNSEND **7**

HALFBACK

**7**

Lachlan LEWIS

5 1 - 4

3 - - -

Andrew FIFITA **8**

FRONT ROW

**8**

Renouf TO'OMAGA

5 1 - 4

5 - - -

Blayke BRAILEY **9**

HOOKER

**9**

Jeremy MARSHALL-KING

5 - - -

5 - - -

Aaron WOODS **10**

FRONT ROW

**10**

Dylan NAPA

5 - - -

4 1 - 4

Briton NIKORA **11**

SECOND ROW

**11**

Josh JACKSON (C)

5 - - -

5 2 - 8

Wade GRAHAM (C) **12**

SECOND ROW

**12**

Raymond FAITALA-MARINER

5 - - -

5 - - -

Jack WILLIAMS **13**

LOCK

**13**

Adam ELLIOTT

5 1 - 4

5 - - -

Toby RUDOLF **14**

INTERCHANGE

**14**

Kerrod HOLLAND

2 - - -

5 - - -

Braden HAMLIN-UELE **15****15**

Dean BRITT

5 - - -

1 - - -

Siosifa TALAKAI **16****16**

Sauaso SUE

3 - - -

- - - -

Royce HUNT **17****17**

Ofahiki OGDEN

1 - - -

5 - - -

Scott SORENSEN **18**

RESERVES

**19**

Sione KATO A

- - - -

4 - - -

Connor TRACEY **19****20**

Brandon WAKEHAM

2 - 3 6

- - - -

Bryson GOODWIN **20****21**

Morgan HARPER

1 - - -

2 - - -

Matt MOYLAN **21****22**

Jack COGGER

1 - - -

JOHN MORRIS

COACH

DEAN PAY

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

**RLP MILESTONES** The Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks need 4 goals to reach 4000 since their inception in 1967

# #NRLSharksBulldogs

## MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 21 June 2020
KICKOFF	6:30pm AEST
VENUE	Bankwest Stadium Parramatta, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

## MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Adam GEE
TOUCH JUDGES	Chris BUTLER Drew OULTRAM
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK Beau SCOTT

# Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

## HEAD TO HEAD: 92 matches

35 2 55

At Bankwest Stadium: first meeting at this venue

## LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 15	Bulldogs 14-12	ANZ
2018	Round 25	Sharks 30-18	ANZ
2018	Round 11	Sharks 22-16	SC Group
2017	Round 12	Sharks 9-8	SC Group
2016	Round 13	Sharks 20-18	ANZ
2015	Round 20	Sharks 18-16	Belmore
2014	Round 2	Bulldogs 42-4	ANZ
2013	Round 7	Bulldogs 24-8	Central Coast
2012	Round 11	Bulldogs 26-6	ANZ
2011	Round 23	Bulldogs 19-12	Toyota

## BIGGEST WINS

SHARKS	2001 Finals W2	52-10 at SFS
BULLDOGS	2014 Round 2	42-4 at ANZ

## CURRENT FORM

SHARKS	L L L W L
BULLDOGS	L L L W L

## NEXT UP - ROUND 7

Sea Eagles v Sharks, Central Coast	Sun 28 Jun, 4:05pm
Bulldogs v Tigers, Bankwest	Sun 28 Jun, 6:30pm

# Match Preview

## with Robert Crosby

### Sydney battlers look to build confidence.

Coming into Round 6 with one win respectively, the Cronulla Sharks and Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs will be looking to build confidence when they face off at Bankwest Stadium on Sunday evening.

Suffering a disappointing 30-16 defeat at the hands of the Dragons last Sunday, the Cronulla Sharks will be aiming to continue a strong record over the blue and whites having won five of their past six meetings.

Yet to produce a consistent performance across 80 minutes this season, coach John Morris will be stressing the importance of maintaining intensity after squandering leads shortly before halftime in three of their past four matches.

Retaining William Kennedy at fullback in place of Matt Moylan (hamstring tightness), Siosifa Talakai and club debutant Royce Hunt have been named on the bench. Journeyman Bryson Goodwin is in line to make his first appearance for the club since 2008 after being named as part of the extended squad.

Blown off the park in a one-sided 42-6 defeat at the hands of the Roosters on Monday night, the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs will be desperate to atone against their southern Sydney opponents.

Averaging just over ten points per game - the worst attacking record of any team after five rounds - coach Dean Pay will have his team focussed on avoiding another slow start after conceding four tries in the first 25 minutes against last year's premiers.

Unable to call upon veteran prop Aiden Tolman due to COVID-19 protocols, try-scoring weapon Reimis Smith returns from a one-match ban at the expense of Nick Meaney, while Kerrod Holland comes onto the bench in a utility role.

**Who to watch:** Making an eye-catching return three years after his last appearance in the NRL, Cronulla forward Siosifa Talakai will be determined to make the most of his second chance in the top grade. Touted as a star of the future after representing the Junior Kiwis and debuting with South Sydney while still a teenage, the 23-year-old has spent several years in the rugby league wilderness before earning his way back as an impact forward with the Newtown squad that claimed the State Championship last season. Running for 75 metres in 19 minutes of game time in the Sharks lone win this season, look for Talakai to build on those numbers as he strives to establish himself as a permanent fixture in John Morris' squad.

Producing a number of slashing runs during the loss to the reigning premiers last Monday, rookie Jake Averillo served as a rare source of light for the struggling club. Named to start on the wing after coming off the bench as replacement playmaker earlier in the season, the 19-year-old speedster has been touted as a star of the future for the Bulldogs after progressing through the lower grades at the club. Making seven tackle breaks and over 140 metres with the ball last week, look for the Bulldogs to provide Averillo with plenty of ball as they fight to avoid the ignominy of finishing the round on the bottom of the ladder.

**Favourite:** While both sides have struggled before and after the competition shutdown, the Sharks are expected to have too much experience for the out-of-form Bulldogs.

**Tip:** Despite conceding seven tries in both of their losses since the season resumed, the Bulldogs have shown that when they are able to grind away and play on their terms, they are more than capable of causing an upset. **Bulldogs by 4.**

# 2020 Draw

## NRL Telstra Premiership

### ROUND 1

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

### MARCH 12-15

Eels v Bulldogs Bankwest 8-2  
Raiders v Titans GIO 24-6  
Cowboys v Broncos Townsville 21-28  
Knights v Warriors MJS 20-0  
Rabbitohs v Sharks ANZ 22-18  
Panthers v Roosters Panthers 20-14  
Sea Eagles v Storm Lottoland 4-18  
Dragons v Tigers WIN 14-24

### ROUND 2

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

### MARCH 19-22

Bulldogs v Cowboys ANZ 16-24  
Dragons v Panthers Jubilee 28-32  
Broncos v Rabbitohs Suncorp 22-18  
Warriors v Raiders Cbus Super 6-20  
Roosters v Sea Eagles Leichhardt 8-9  
Sharks v Storm Jubilee 10-12  
Tigers v Knights Leichhardt 24-42  
Titans v Eels Cbus Super 6-46

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

### ROUND 3

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

### MAY 28-31

Broncos v Eels Suncorp 6-34  
Cowboys v Titans Townsville 36-6  
Roosters v Rabbitohs Bankwest 28-12  
Warriors v Dragons Gosford 18-0  
Sharks v Tigers Bankwest 16-28  
Storm v Raiders AAMI 6-22  
Panthers v Knights C'town 14-14  
Sea Eagles v Bulldogs Gosford 32-6

### ROUND 4

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

### JUNE 4-8

Broncos v Roosters Suncorp 0-59  
Panthers v Warriors C'town 26-0  
Storm v Rabbitohs AAMI 22-8  
Eels v Sea Eagles Bankwest 19-16  
Cowboys v Sharks Townsville 16-26  
Raiders v Knights C'town 18-34  
Titans v Tigers Suncorp 28-23  
Bulldogs v Dragons Bankwest 22-2

### Queen's Birthday

### ROUND 5

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

### JUNE 11-15

Sea Eagles v Broncos Gosford 20-18  
Warriors v Cowboys Gosford 37-26  
Eels v Panthers Bankwest 16-10  
Rabbitohs v Titans Bankwest 32-12  
Knights v Storm Gosford 12-26  
Tigers v Raiders C'town 6-14  
Dragons v Sharks C'town 30-16  
Bulldogs v Roosters Bankwest 6-42

### ROUND 6

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

### JUNE 18-21

Knights v Broncos Central Coast Stadium  
Rabbitohs v Warriors Bankwest Stadium  
Panthers v Storm Campbelltown Stadium  
Titans v Dragons Suncorp Stadium  
Tigers v Cowboys Campbelltown Stadium  
Roosters v Eels Bankwest Stadium  
Raiders v Sea Eagles Campbelltown Stadium  
Sharks v Bulldogs Bankwest Stadium

### Beanies for Brain Cancer Round

### ROUND 7

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

### JUNE 25-29

Panthers v Rabbitohs Campbelltown Stadium  
Storm v Warriors AAMI Park  
Roosters v Dragons Bankwest Stadium  
Cowboys v Knights QLD Country Bank Stadium  
Broncos v Titans Suncorp Stadium  
Eels v Raiders Bankwest Stadium  
Sea Eagles v Sharks Central Coast Stadium  
Bulldogs v Tigers Bankwest Stadium

### ROUND 8

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

### JULY 2-5

Storm v Roosters AAMI Park  
Raiders v Dragons Campbelltown Stadium  
Eels v Cowboys Bankwest Stadium  
Titans v Sharks Suncorp Stadium  
Warriors v Broncos Central Coast Stadium  
Tigers v Panthers Campbelltown Stadium  
Sea Eagles v Knights Central Coast Stadium  
Bulldogs v Rabbitohs Bankwest Stadium

### ROUND 9

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

### JULY 9-12

Cowboys v Roosters QLD Country Bank Stadium  
Titans v Warriors Suncorp Stadium  
Rabbitohs v Tigers Bankwest Stadium  
Sharks v Panthers Bankwest Stadium  
Broncos v Bulldogs Suncorp Stadium  
Raiders v Storm Campbelltown Stadium  
Knights v Eels Central Coast Stadium  
Dragons v Sea Eagles Campbelltown Stadium

### ROUND 10

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

### JULY 16-19

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

### ROUND 11

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

### JULY 23-26

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

### ROUND 12

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

### JULY 30-AUGUST 2

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

**All matches except GF & Origin broadcast live on Fox League & Kayo Sports**  
**Matches Thu 7:50pm, Fri 7:55pm and Sun 4:05pm, plus all Finals, Grand Final and Origin broadcast live on Nine Network & 9Now**



**ROUND 13**

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

**AUGUST 6-9**

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

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**ROUND 14**

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

**AUGUST 13-16**

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

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**ROUND 15**

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

**AUGUST 20-23**

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

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**ROUND 16**

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

**AUGUST 27-30**

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

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**ROUND 17**

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

**SEPTEMBER 3-6**

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

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**ROUND 18**

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

**SEPTEMBER 10-13**

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

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**ROUND 19**

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

**SEPTEMBER 17-20**

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

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**ROUND 20**

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

**SEPTEMBER 24-27**

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

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**2020 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP FINALS SERIES****WEEK 1**

Day/Time TBC  
 Day/Time TBC  
 Day/Time TBC  
 Day/Time TBC

**OCTOBER 2-4**

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

**Qualifying & Elimination Finals**

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**WEEK 2**

Day/Time TBC  
 Day/Time TBC

**OCTOBER 9-10**

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

**Semi Finals**

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**WEEK 3**

Day/Time TBC  
 Day/Time TBC

**OCTOBER 16-17**

PF 1 W QF 1 v W SF 2  
 PF 2 W QF 2 v W SF 1

**Preliminary Finals**

Venue TBC  
 Venue TBC

**GRAND FINAL**

Sun, Time TBC

**OCTOBER 25**

W PF 1 v W PF 2

Venue TBC

**Women in League Round****2020 STATE OF ORIGIN SERIES****GAME 1**

Wed

**NOVEMBER 4**

QLD v NSW

Venue TBC

**GAME 2**

Wed

**NOVEMBER 11**

NSW v QLD

Venue TBC

**WOMEN'S**

Fri

**NOVEMBER 13**

NSW v QLD

Venue TBC

**GAME 3**

Wed

**NOVEMBER 18**

QLD v NSW

Venue TBC

The NRL draw is subject to change. Latest updates to the draw can be found at [NRL.com](http://NRL.com) or [LeagueUnlimited.com](http://LeagueUnlimited.com).





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RUGBY LEAGUE  
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**THERE IS NO OFF-SEASON**