

The

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LEAGUE
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FRONT ROW

ROUND 7 2020

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Far from Home

Can Storm return to their best
against a traditional rival?

INSIDE: KALYN PONGA · CROSSWORD · GAMES MOVED · R6 RESULTS & REPORTS
LADDER · STATS LEADERS · NRL NEWS · R7 TEAMLISTS & PREVIEWS · SEASON DRAW



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THERE IS NO OFF-SEASON

From the editor

Tim Costello

It had to happen eventually - a coach was sacked. While many were expecting Bulldogs boss Dean Pay or Dragon Paul McGregor to be given their marching orders, the Warriors were the first to move, with Stephen Kearney given the flick following the NZ side's loss to South Sydney on Friday. Todd Payten takes over in the meantime as his side looks to bounce back in this Friday's belated ANZAC clash with the Storm - relocated to Sydney's Netstrata Jubilee Stadium.

That's two matches for the coming weekend which were abruptly moved to the Kogarah venue - Thursday's Penrith v South Sydney match will be played there following overuse concerns at Campbelltown. The Storm v Warriors clash moving there on Friday follows a spike in new coronavirus cases in the Victorian capital. The NRL's full statements on the relocation of each game can be seen on page 18.

In this week's issue of The Front Row you'll find interviews with both Storm prop Christian Welch and Newcastle star Kalyn Ponga. Those stories start on page 12. We've added a new puzzle to our Fun & Games page too - in addition to the crossword we have some word jumbles! Check them out on pages 16 and 17.

This magazine relies on your support to read and share it - so please make sure you spread the word for us, tell your friends and family and share far and wide!

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The FRONT ROW

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Knights stroll to success against damp squib Broncos

Justin Davies



27-6



Newcastle Knights got themselves back in the win column after a comfortable 27-6 success against a downbeat Brisbane Broncos side tonight at Central Coast Stadium.

This contest wasn't a fair fight from the opening whistle. Newcastle rolled forward from the opening whistle, trampled Brisbane and rode their forward pack to two points. Tries in the first half to Kurt Mann and Hymel Hunt were punctuated by Mitch Pearce field goal on the siren for 13-6. Daniel Saifiti and Pearce crossed the stripe in the Novocastrian's fourth win this year.

The conditions were greasy in the opening exchanges, but the Knights settled first. They teased a breakthrough in the first ten then Kurt Mann swooped on a short ball for the opener followed by the five-eighth invented a kick for Hymel Hunt to cross untouched for 12-nil.

Daniel Saifiti has continued his purple patch since his Origin selection last year, munched through 226 metres and a four-pointer where he refused to go

down under the pressure of a host of Broncos defenders. That was a worthy aligory for tonight's contest, the Knights moved forward and the Broncos were holding on for dear life.

Mitch Pearce was able to direct well behind the forwards, the former representative half, bagged himself a late four-pointer to blow out the scoreline to 27-6 but his kicking, passing and grunt work has helped to turn the fortunes of the Knights around in the last season-and-a half.

Where to next for the Broncos? Humbled at home, run down by the Sea Eagles then a limp effort tonight will have Anthony Seibold's seat almost charred. There was no direction, passion or effort throughout the players on field, as damningly, new recruit Issac Luke was a bright spot.

The return of Pangai Junior failed to inspire. The forward tried to spark the side with an early hit on David Klemmer but drifted in and out of the contest, much like the rest of his side. Xavier Coates showed some guile with an instinctual intercept to streak away at 12-6.

Much of the second half looked like a training run for the Knights. On a drier surface, the scoreline might have reflected the chasm between the sides better but after their first loss of the season last weekend, to Melbourne, it was a happier night for the Novocastrians.

Next week they head to Townsville on Saturday to face the Cowboys, while Brisbane host the Titans later that evening.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Daniel Saifiti

2 points - Kurt Mann

1 points - Mitchell Pearce

Rabbitohs rampage downs bumbling Warriors

Justin Davies



40-12



South Sydney Rabbitohs secured back-to-back results for the first time in 2020 in a comfortable 40-12 contest against the New Zealand Warriors tonight at Bankwest stadium.

The Rabbitohs put on a dominant performance to back up their result against the Titans. Latrell Mitchell, Adam Reynolds and Cody Walker all sparkled in the 28-point result as the Rabbitohs ran in seven tries to put the inconsistent performances of the first month behind them.

Once again, Latrell Mitchell showed his all-round skills and looked on a different planet. He had a pair of try-assists in the first half and some strong defense to show the full breadth of his game tonight and earned the superstar fullback back-to-back Man of the Match awards.

Another bright sign for the Rabbitohs, was the work of the two halves - Adam Reynolds and Cody Walker - both crossed the stripe tonight but it was their

work in support including a pair of inventive kicks from Walker, that signalled the Rabbitohs will be challenging at the backend of the season.

For the Warriors, who were in the contest in the first half, will rue some simple errors of judgment plus fortune that were cruel tonight. The Rabbitohs first two tries came from Warriors penalties and a sin-bin to Kodi Nikorima alongside two errant passes in promising attacking positions which denied them points.

Overall, tonight was a step backwards for the Warriors. Their result against the Cowboys might have inspired them but some of the play tonight will keep coach Stephen Kearney up late tonight as they try to get back on the front foot this season with inconsistency starting to creep in from the Warriors after a positive start.

Welcoming back David Fusitu'a, the Warriors were first to strike through the gun winger off a sweep play before Campbell Graham made it 6-6 from a jinking effort. From there, the Rabbitohs piled on three straight tries through Braidon Burns, Reynolds and Alex Johnston to lead 22-6 at the break.

The second half brought much of the same as Walker, Damien Cook and a second to Johnston got them past the 40-point mark as the the Rabbitohs has started to warm up for the season. Warriors did find a late consolation through Agnatius Paasi but that was scant consolation in a bumbling performance from the Warriors.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Latrell Mitchell

2 points - Adam Reynolds

1 points - Cody Walker

Cleary kicks Panthers home against Storm

Robert Crosby



16-10



The Penrith Panthers have recorded a rare win over the Melbourne Storm in an enthralling encounter played at Campbelltown Stadium.

Winning just two of their past 20 clashes against the Victorian powerhouse club, a brilliant kicking performance from Nathan Cleary in the final quarter saw the Panthers run out 21-14 victors.

Placing plenty of pressure on the Storm during the opening quarter, the Panthers were rewarded through Stephen Crichton (16th minute) after a beautiful cut-out pass from Jarome Luai allowed Josh Mansour to send his centre over for the first try of the evening.

Making the most of their opportunities after replacement winger Marion Seve earned a repeat set inside the Panthers' half, Cameron Munster fired a pass from close range to Felise Kaufusi (30th minute) for his first try of the season.

With the scores tied heading toward the change of ends, a Cleary penalty goal gave the Panthers a deserved, yet slender 8-6 lead.

Determined to avoid the mistakes of their loss to the Eels last week, the Panthers started the second half full of defensive vigour to repel their opponents before finishing off a right-side shift through Brian To'o (49th minute) to go beyond a converted try.

Responding through Brenko Lee (56th minute) after another phenomenal pass from Munster, a penalty goal from Cameron Smith levelled the scores at 14-all on the hour mark.

Stepping up with the game on the line, a superb chip from Cleary landed straight in the arms of Fijian enforcer Viliame Kikau (62nd minute) to put the home side up by six.

Securing the result with four minutes remaining courtesy of a beautiful strike from Cleary, the Storm were unable to mount a comeback despite Liam Martin earning an early shower with a sin bin a minute before fulltime.

Next week, the Panthers host the Rabbitohs at Campbelltown Stadium on Thursday evening, while the Storm return to AAMI Park on Friday for an early kick-off against the Warriors.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Nathan Cleary

2 points - Cameron Munster

1 points - Isaah Yeo

Dragons dispose of luckless Titans

Adam Huxtable



8-20



The Dragons have gone back to back for the first time in 2020, beating an injury riddled Gold Coast side and giving veteran prop James Graham a farewell to remember in what was probably his final game in the NRL.

The Titans actually had the better start of the two sides, being awarded a penalty off their first set for late contact on Ash Taylor after his kick. They opted to take the 2 and they lead the Dragons just 3 minutes into the clash.

Gold Coast then had ample opportunity to extend their lead prior to the penalty goal, but they were unable to extend their lead as sets right on the Dragons line kept turning into 7 tackle sets for the joint venture. An expansive play at the start of one of these sets put the Dragons in a position to build some pressure, and a kick from Corey Norman put his side right back in the mix by forcing Phillip Sami to take it dead.

A brilliant ball from Matt Dufty put Zac Lomax into a hole off the dropout, and from there the young centre made Titans debutant Corey Thompson look silly, easily beating him with footwork to score the first try of the match in the 18th minute.

It was just under 10 minutes before the Titans again put themselves under the pump, Phillip Sami dropping a Dragons bomb gifting them possession in the attacking red zone. The mistake in play wasn't as bad as the challenge that ensued, with Kevin Proctor challenging what was a clear knock-on. The Dragons

made them pay, with Corey Norman throwing the first of many cutout balls to put Mikaele Ravalawa into space and the Fijian winger made what felt like his only catch of the day to score untouched.

The scoring for the first half was rounded out by a Zac Lomax penalty goal right on the half time hooter, making the half time scoreline 14-2 in favour of the Dragons.

St George Illawarra only took 8 minutes to get on the board in the second half after a momentum changing but correct obstruction call went against the Titans as they were starting to get on the attack. Jordan Pereira scored from the resulting set off a peach of a pass by rookie halfback Adam Clune, putting the Dragons in a prime position to run away with it.

Things took a drastic turn for the worse for the Titans, losing starting backline members Corey Thompson, Phillip Sami and Young Tonumaiepa all being ruled out, forcing Tyrone Peachey to fill in at fullback. It was an extremely dour final 25 minutes or so, with both sides making ample mistakes and missing opportunities to put points on the board. The Titans aimed up in defence in what was one of a not very long list of positives to take out of the match for the embattled Gold Coast franchise.

They finally got on the board in the 77th minute, with a bomb from Ashley Taylor tapped back by Tyrone Peachey to Kevin Proctor, who got it to rookie Tanah Boyd who scored a well deserved try to cap the scoring of the match off.

The Dragons have a much tougher task next week, facing off against defending premiers the Roosters on Friday night, while the Titans will tackle the Broncos on Saturday evening.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Matthew Dufty

2 points - Corey Norman

1 points - Zac Lomax

Tigers unconvincing in see-sawing victory

Andrew Ferguson



36-20



The Wests Tigers looked like a top four side in their first half against the North Queensland Cowboys and then more like a bottom four side in the second half as they finished 36-20 winners at Campbelltown tonight.

The Tigers raced out to a 34-0 lead at halftime, but lost the second half 20-2 to a resurgent Cowboys side in a very up and down game for both outfits.

Wests Tigers crossed for a try in just the first minute of the game after Jason Taumalolo dropped a pass on just the second tackle of the game. Zane Musgrove spotted a half gap and ran at it full tilt, crashing over to score a soft try. Moses Mbye converted from almost in front.

In the ninth minute, Joey Leilua ran slightly angled towards touch, appearing to position his winger, however the defence held off him and he slipped between the two edge defenders to score a good try. Mbye's sideline conversion was perfect.

In the 15th minute, luck of the bounce fell the Tiger's way when a Harry Grant kick went low and ricocheted off the Cowboys defenders. The Tigers regathered and David Nofaluma received an offload, drifted to the left and sent a beautiful long pass out to Mbye, who got outside his defender, busted out of a weak tackle, dummied to the winger before passing infield to Luke Brooks who ran away to score a good try. Mbye again converted.

The Wests Tigers scored again in the 23rd minute when Harry Grant scooped up the ball close to the Cowboys line, drew a defender and held up a nice ball for Josh Aloia who scored next to the posts without being touched. Mbye added the extras.

In the 32nd minute the Tigers scored another very fortunate try when a cross-field kick was allowed to bounce as Michael Chee Kam and Esan Marsters chose to play each other and not pay attention to the ball. The ball bounced off Chee Kams foot and travelled into the Cowboys ingoal area where Mbye followed through to ground it for a try. Mbye was unable to convert his own try. After 36 minutes the Tigers lead 34-0.

Any hopes of the Tigers keeping the Cowboys scoreless where annihilated in an amazing 7 minute period after halftime, when North Queensland put on 3 tries to get themselves back into the game.

In the 53rd minute, with the Tigers on the attack, Scott Drinkwater took an intercept and ran 87 metres to score under the posts. Kyle Feldt converted.

Three minutes later Jake Clifford put a beautifully weighted chip kick to the right corner and Feldt took a brilliant catch above his head to score. Feldt was unable to land the tough conversion.

Just two minutes later, the Cowboys were in again when Esan Marsters sent a stunning flick pass out to Feldt who dived down low and scored in the right corner again, despite Harry Grant kicking at the ball as he grounded it, which resulted in an 8 point try. Clifford missed the conversion but slotted the penalty goal from right in front.

In the 63rd minute Mbye kicked a penalty goal to give the Tigers a 20 point lead.

Both sides played attacking football, and the Tigers defence was holding strong despite having lost 3 players to injuries. However they did concede one last try with 2 minutes remaining in the game when a Clifford chip bounced perfectly for Esan Marsters, who juggled and regathered it to score out wide on the right side. Feldt was again unable to add the extras from the difficult angle.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Harry Grant

2 points - Luke Brooks

1 points - Scott Drinkwater

Morris's shine as Eels handed first defeat

Josh Robertson



24-10



The Parramatta Eels have suffered their first defeat of the NRL season following their 24-10 loss to the Sydney Roosters at Bankwest Stadium.

The opening forty minutes was a tough affair with the Roosters making all the running and despite some valiant defence from the Eels they couldn't get any attacking opportunities. The opening score of the half came after 20 minutes when Brett Morris was able to force his way over the line to score.

Kyle Flanagan couldn't convert the try but it didn't hurt the Roosters too much with Flanagan adding two penalties goals during the first half to give the tricolours an 8-0 lead at the break.

The second half seemed to be a completely different game to the first half with Parramatta coming out strongly and pushing the Roosters onto the backfoot. The Blue and Gold were able to score early when Michael Jennings showed his experience to get across the line. The conversion attempt from Mitch Moses was waved away and the Eels trailed by 4. It took the Roosters nearly 10 minutes to touch the ball in the second half but it

didn't halt the Eels momentum. It was the hometown visitors who got over the line next when Maika Sivo used all his power to get over the line leaving James Tedesco in his wake. The conversion from the touchline was successful from Mitch Moses and the Eels took the lead for the first time.

The loss of Tedesco for the game didn't hurt the Roosters and they were able to strike back soon after when Boyd Cordner was able to get over the line after some strong lead-up work. Kyle Flanagan added the conversion and pushed the Roosters out to a 14-10 lead.

The Roosters then extended the lead out to six when Nathan Brown was penalised for a high shot on Victor Radley after a review by the bunker. Parramatta's woes continued when Michael Jennings was sent to the sin bin by referee Ben Cummins for a deliberate offside which saw the Tongan international not even attempting to get back outside. The Roosters added another penalty goal to go to an 18-10 lead.

Victory was capped off for the Roosters with Daniel Tupou scoring to push the margin out to 12 and then following the conversion for Kyle Flanagan, the Sydney Roosters took a 24-10 lead for the remaining 90 seconds.

Next weekend, the Roosters take on the St George Illawarra Dragons whilst the Parramatta Eels run doesn't get any easier with a clash up against the Canberra Raiders next Saturday night.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Josh Morris

2 points - Brett Morris

1 points - Kyle Flanagan

Injury riddled Sea Eagles hold on for brave victory

Adam Huxtable



Manly-Warringah have overcome a horror casualty ward on Sunday afternoon to grind out a 14-6 win over Canberra at Campbelltown.

They lost their five-eighth within the first 10 minutes and centre shortly after. Tom Trbojevic succumbed to yet another hamstring injury. There were two back rowers playing in the centres by the end, but still Manly were able to grind out a trademark win against the Raiders.

Two of the aforementioned injuries occurred in the first 5 minutes, with Walker going down with a nasty ankle injury and Parker a head knock. Despite that, Manly were the first to score. They ran a block play which Tom Trbojevic was at the centre of. He put the Raiders right side defence in two minds as he dummied and took them on, going all the way and making the score 6-0 after 15 minutes.

It became an arm wrestle for the next 20 minutes. The Raiders had plenty opportunities and George Williams cross-field kicks were ever threatening, however not for the last time Manly dug deep and were able to repel them.

With 4 minutes to go in the half, Manly got a penalty within goal kicking range and everyone watching thought a lead of 6 would become 8. The Sea Eagles decided to back themselves though and the decision was proved the correct one after Tom Trbojevic again took on the right side defence, this time passing to put rookie Tevita Funa over the line and making the half time scoreline 12-0.

The Raiders finally troubled the scorer 10 minutes into the second half off the back of some strong kick returns from the back 3. Jack Wighton was able to pass just before a flying Brendon Elliott made contact with him and Elliott Whitehead strolled through the huge defensive hole created.

Just after that the Raiders assumed favouritism as Tom Trbojevic hobbled off with a hamstring injury. It was Manly who lifted in the wake of their wounded team mate though, rolling upfield and kicking a penalty goal that put them up by 8.

It seemed a matter of when rather than if the Raiders would be able to come back and win with all of Manly's troops out, but Jarrod Crokers aerial effort went unrewarded as it was ruled he knocked before grounding the ball.

After that, the Raiders looked rather legless in attack, squandering numerous opportunities attacking the Sea Eagles' line. They were going toe to toe before Reuben Garrick pulled off a one on one strip and consigned the Raiders to their second defeat of the season.

Canberra will face another high profile opponent on Saturday night next week at Bankwest Stadium against the Eels, while Manly tackle the Sharks on Sunday afternoon at Central Coast Stadium.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Curtis Sironen
2 points - Tom Trbojevic
1 points - Daly Cherry-Evans

Katoa hat-trick elevates Sharks to tight win over the Bulldogs

Jeff Dickinson-Fox



Sione Katoa's first NRL hat-trick has allowed the Cronulla Sharks to hang on for a 20-18 win against a relentless Canterbury Bulldogs on Sunday night at Bankwest Stadium.

Katoa's first try was his most spectacular of the match, as he used what looked like a rainbow leap on the right wing to score a solo winger's try around a defender in the 11th minute to set up a 6-0 lead.

Then in the second half he landed two blows within five minutes. Katoa put the Sharks up 12-6 in the 47th minute off back-to-back six-again penalties when a poor pass from Shaun Johnson went to the boots of Katoa, which the winger somehow collected at pace in rainy conditions to score.

The hat-trick was sealed when Johnson again was involved, with Brandon Wakeham being sin binned just moments earlier, to catch the Bulldogs short on numbers as Johnson's grubber for the wing meant Katoa could score untouched for a 16-6 lead.

Canterbury had plenty of fight left in them, as they closed the margin to four

without Wakeham on the field through a Kieran Foran try that Adam Elliott created on a spur of the moment grubber kick in the 56th minute.

Bryson Goodwin, in his first NRL match since 2017 and first with Cronulla since 2008, got the last try for the Sharks on an uncontested Townsend kick to set up a simple catch and put-down in the corner for a 20-12 advantage.

When Johnson tried to make the match sealing play with six minutes to go, his cut-out pass for Katoa turned into an 85m intercept try for Christian Chricton. Jake Averillo, in his fourth NRL match, took on the goal kicking duties for the first time and he nailed the clutch sideline conversion to draw the Bulldogs back within two points, which it stayed at.

Both teams were ill-disciplined in defence as they each conceded eight six-again restarts and lost a player to the sin bin for repeated infringements (Cronulla's Briton Nikora, 34th, and Canterbury's Wakeham, 50th minute).

It took 28 minutes for Canterbury to find their first points when Wakeham, the replacement halfback for Lachlan Lewis, threatened Cronulla's tryline and twisted to pass for Will Hopoate to slip through the defence for his first four-pointer of the season.

Dallin Watene-Zelezniak did his best Jorge Taufua impression with a crunching hit on Matt Moylan. To his credit he got up quickly after the hit. Moylan went for a HIA as a precaution, was cleared and returned to finish the second half.

The win for the Sharks moves them three spots up on the ladder to 11th after six rounds, while the Bulldogs remain in 15th and only separated from the Gold Coast Titans in last place on for-and-against.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Sione Katoa
2 points - Will Hopoate
1 points - Chad Townsend

The scoresheet

Scores, scorers, match details from Round 6

Knights 27 (Kurt Mann, Hymel Hunt, Mitchell Pearce, Daniel Saifiti tries; Kalyn Ponga 5/5 goals; Mitchell Pearce 1 field goal)
def **Broncos 6** (Xavier Coates try; Herbie Farnworth 1/1 goals)

Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Date: Thursday 18 June 2020, 7:50pm AEST; Halftime: Knights 13-6; Crowd: 167

Referee: Gerard Sutton; Touch Judges: Tim Alouani-Roby, Phil Henderson; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy, Bryan Norrie

Rabbitohs 40 (Campbell Graham, Adam Reynolds, Braidon Burns, Cody Walker, Alex Johnston (2), Damien Cook tries; Adam Reynolds 6/7 goals) def **Warriors 12** (David Fusitu'a, Agnatius Paasi tries; Kodi Nikorima 2/3 goals)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Friday 19 June 2020, 6:00pm AEST; Halftime: Rabbitohs 22-6

Referee: Matt Cecchin; Touch Judges: Belinda Sharpe, Jon Stone; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy, Ben Galea

Panthers 21 (Stephen Crichton, Brian To'o, Viliame Kikau tries; Nathan Cleary 4/4 goals, 1 field goal)
def **Storm 14** (Felise Kaufusi, Brenko Lee tries; Cameron Smith 3/3 goals)

Venue: Campbelltown Stadium; Date: Friday 19 June 2020, 7:55pm AEST; Halftime: Panthers 8-6

Referee: Ashley Klein; Touch Judges: Chris Butler, Peter Gough; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell, Bryan Norrie

Dragons 20 (Zac Lomax, Mikaele Ravalawa, Jordan Pereira tries; Zac Lomax 4/5 goals)
def **Titans 8** (Tanah Boyd try; Ashley Taylor 2/2 goals)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Date: Saturday 20 June 2020, 3:00pm AEST; Halftime: Dragons 14-2; Crowd: 1,930

Referee: Chris Sutton; Touch Judges: Gavin Badger, Liam Kennedy; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell, Ben Lowe

Wests Tigers 36 (Zane Musgrove, Moses Mbye, Joseph Leilua, Luke Brooks, Josh Aloiai, Robert Jennings tries; Moses Mbye 6/7 goals)
def **Cowboys 20** (Kyle Feldt (2), Scott Drinkwater, Esan Marsters tries; Kyle Feldt 1/3, Jake Clifford 1/2 goals)

Venue: Campbelltown Stadium; Date: Saturday 20 June 2020, 5:30pm AEST; Halftime: Wests Tigers 34-0

Referee: Henry Perenara; Touch Judges: Kasey Badger, Matt Noyen; NRL Bunker: Steve Clark, Bryan Norrie

Roosters 24 (Brett Morris, Boyd Cordner, Daniel Tupou tries; Kyle Flanagan 6/7 goals)
def **Eels 10** (Michael Jennings, Maika Sivo tries; Mitchell Moses 1/2 goals)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Saturday 20 June 2020, 7:35pm AEST; Halftime: Roosters 8-0; Crowd: 579

Referee: Ben Cummins; Touch Judges: Dave Munro, Ziggys Przeklasa-Adamski; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy, Ben Galea

Sea Eagles 14 (Tom Trbojevic, Tevita Funa tries; Reuben Garrick 3/3 goals)
def **Raiders 6** (Elliott Whitehead try; Jarrod Croker 1/1 goals)

Venue: Campbelltown Stadium; Date: Sunday 21 June 2020, 4:05pm AEST; Halftime: Sea Eagles 12-0

Referee: Grant Atkins; Touch Judges: Todd Smith, Phil Henderson; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell, Ben Galea

Sharks 20 (Sione Katoa 3, Bryson Goodwin tries; Shaun Johnson 2/4 goals)

def **Bulldogs 18** (Will Hopoate, Kieran Foran, Christian Crichton tries; Jake Averillo 3/3 goals)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Sunday 21 June 2020, 6:30pm AEST; Halftime: 6-all

Referee: Adam Gee; Touch Judges: Chris Butler, Drew Oultram; NRL Bunker: Steve Clark, Beau Scott

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LeagueUnlimited Player of the Year

Standings after Round 6

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.

11 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles)

10 points - Cameron Munster (Storm)

8 points - Brett Morris (Roosters)

7 points - James Tedesco (Roosters)

6 points - Matthew Dufty (Dragons), Cameron Smith (Storm), Jason Taumalolo (Cowboys), Mitchell Pearce (Knights), Nathan Cleary (Panthers), Dylan Brown (Eels), Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs), Matt Burton (Panthers), Jack Wighton (Raiders)

5 points - Kodi Nikorima (Warriors), Jarrod Croker (Raiders), Will Hopoate (Bulldogs), Luke Brooks (Wests Tigers), Kalyn Ponga (Knights), Benji Marshall (Wests Tigers), Blake Green (Warriors), Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs), Daniel Saifiti (Knights), Sione Katoa (Bulldogs), David Klemmer (Knights), Isaah Yeo (Panthers), Mitchell Moses (Eels)

4 points - George Williams (Raiders), Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Bulldogs), Luke Keary (Roosters), Curtis Sironen (Sea Eagles), Shaun Johnson (Sharks)

3 points - Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys), Josh Morris (Sharks), Jake Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Maika Sivo (Eels), Jamayne Isaako (Broncos), Viliame Kikau (Panthers), Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles), Young Tonumaipea (Titans), Waqa Blake (Eels), Kotoni Staggs (Broncos), Cody Walker (Rabbitohs), Jesse Ramien (Sharks), Harry Grant (Storm)

2 points - Jarome Luai (Panthers), Lindsay Collins (Roosters), Addin Fonua-Blake (Sea Eagles), Adam Doueihi (Wests Tigers), Cameron McInnes (Dragons), Kurt Mann (Knights), Corey Norman (Dragons), Nathan Brown (Eels), Bradman Best (Knights), Jorge Taufua (Sea Eagles), Ronaldo Mulitalo (Sharks), Ashley Taylor (Titans), Dale Finucane (Storm), Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Anthony Milford (Broncos), David Fifita (Broncos), Michael Jennings (Eels), Jahrome Hughes (Storm), Emre Guler (Raiders), Stephen Crichton (Panthers), Michael Morgan (Cowboys), David Nofoaluma (Wests Tigers), Nick Cotric (Raiders)

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

NRL Match Review

Round 6 Charge Sheet

Patrick Carrigan (Broncos)

Grade 2 Dangerous Contact (other)
59th min, on M Pearce (Knights)
Base penalty 200 points
Guilty / no contest = 200 points
(2 matches)
Guilty - early plea = 150 points
(1 match)
PLEA: Guilty - early plea
OUTCOME: **Suspended 1 match.**
50 carryover points accrued

Thomas Flegler (Broncos)

Grade 1 Dangerous Contact
(head/neck)
43rd min, on S Mata'utia (Knights)
Base penalty 100 points
1 x similar prior offence last 2 years
(50% loading)
Guilty / no contest = 150 points
(1 match)
Guilty - early plea = 112 points
(1 match)
PLEA: Guilty - early plea
OUTCOME: **Suspended 1 match.**
12 carryover points accrued.

Jarome Luai (Panthers)

Grade 1 Dangerous Contact
(head/neck)
44th min, on K Vuniyayawa (Warriors)
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.

Wayde Egan (Warriors)

Grade 2 Contrary Conduct
65th min, on L Mitchell (Rabbitohs)
Base penalty 200 points
Guilty / no contest = 200 points
(2 matches)
Guilty - early plea = 150 points
(1 match)
PLEA: Guilty - early plea
OUTCOME: **Suspended 1 match.**
50 carryover points accrued.

Nathan Brown (Eels)

Grade 2 Careless High Tackle
64th min, on V Radley (Roosters)
Base penalty 200 points
2 x non-similar prior offences
last 2 years (40% loading)
17 carryover points to be added
Guilty / no contest = 280+17
=297 points (2 matches)
Guilty - early plea = 210+17
=227 points (2 matches)
PLEA: Guilty - seeking downgrade to
Grade 1. Judiciary hearing Tuesday.
OUTCOME: Guilty. **Suspended 2
matches.** 97 carryover points accrued.

Victor Radley (Roosters)

Grade 1 Careless High Tackle

56th min, on C Gutherson (Eels)
Base penalty \$750 fine
1 x non-similar offence last 2 years
(20% loading)
Guilty / no contest = \$900 fine
Guilty - early plea = \$700 fine
PLEA: Guilty - early plea
OUTCOME: **\$700 fine.**

Harry Grant (Wests Tigers)

Grade 1 Dangerous Contact
(head/neck)
60th min, on K 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.

Josh Aloiai (Wests Tigers)

Grade 1 Contrary Conduct
55th min, on P Hola (Cowboys)
Base penalty \$750 fine
2 x non-similar prior offences
last 2 years (40% loading)
Guilty / no contest = \$1050 fine
Guilty - early plea = \$800 fine
PLEA: Guilty - early plea
OUTCOME: **\$800 fine.**

Sam McIntyre (Wests Tigers)

Grade 1 Dangerous Contact (other)
33rd min, on C Jensen (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.

Jordan Pereira (Dragons)

Grade 3 Careless High Tackle
23rd min, on C Thompson (Titans)
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 carryover points accrued.

Christian Crichton (Bulldogs)

Grade 1 Shoulder Charge
34th min, on M Moylan (Sharks)
Base penalty 200 points
1 x non-similar prior offence
last 2 years (20% loading)
Guilty / no contest = 240 points
(2 matches)
Guilty - early plea = 180 points
(1 match)
PLEA: Guilty - early plea
OUTCOME: **Suspended 1 match.**
80 carryover points accrued.

Premiership ladder

NRL 2020 Telstra Premiership after Round 6

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	Parramatta Eels	6	5	1	0	133	64	69	10
2	Newcastle Knights	6	4	1	1	149	88	61	9
3	Penrith Panthers	6	4	1	1	123	86	37	9
4	Sydney Roosters	6	4	2	0	175	57	118	8
5	Canberra Raiders	6	4	2	0	104	72	32	8
6	Melbourne Storm	6	4	2	0	98	77	21	8
7	Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	6	4	2	0	95	75	20	8
8	South Sydney Rabbitohs	6	3	3	0	132	114	18	6
9	Wests Tigers	6	3	3	0	141	134	7	6
10	North Queensland Cowboys	6	2	4	0	143	149	-6	4
11	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	6	2	4	0	106	126	-20	4
12	St George Illawarra Dragons	6	2	4	0	94	120	-26	4
13	Warriors	6	2	4	0	73	132	-59	4
14	Brisbane Broncos	6	2	4	0	80	179	-99	4
15	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	6	1	5	0	70	128	-58	2
16	Gold Coast Titans	6	1	5	0	66	181	-115	2

Stats leaders

after Round 6

Top Tryscorers

1	Kyle FELDT (Cowboys)	8
2	David NOFOALUMA (Wests Tigers)	6
	Sione KATOA (Sharks)	6
4	Edrick LEE (Knights)	5
	Bradman BEST (Knights)	5
	Kotoni STAGGS (Broncos)	5
	Alex JOHNSTON (Rabbitohs)	5
8	J WIGHTON (Raiders), S VUNIVALU (Storm), B HAMPTON (Cowboys), A CRICHTON (Roosters), J TEDESCO (Roosters), V KIKAU (Panthers), D TUPOU (Roosters), M RAVALAWA (Dragons), T TRBOJEVIC (Sea Eagles)	4

Top Goalkickers

1	Kyle FLANAGAN (Roosters)	31/36 (86%)
2	Adam REYNOLDS (Rabbitohs)	24/26 (92%)
3	Mitchell MOSES (Eels)	22/26 (85%)
4	Kalyn PONGA (Knights)	20/27 (74%)
5	Cameron SMITH (Storm)	19/22 (86%)
6	Zac LOMAX (Dragons)	17/19 (89%)
7	Jarrold CROKER (Raiders)	16/18 (89%)
8	Nathan CLEARY (Panthers)	15/16 (94%)
	Shaun JOHNSON (Sharks)	15/23 (65%)
	Reuben GARRICK (Sea Eagles)	15/24 (63%)

Top Pointscorers

	T	G	FG	Pts	
1	Kyle FLANAGAN (Roosters)	3	31	-	74
2	Adam REYNOLDS (Rabbitohs)	2	24	-	56
3	Kalyn PONGA (Knights)	3	20	-	52
4	Mitchell MOSES (Eels)	1	22	1	49
5	Zac LOMAX (Dragons)	3	17	-	46
6	Kyle FELDT (Cowboys)	8	6	-	44
7	Cameron SMITH (Storm)	-	19	-	38
8	Nathan CLEARY (Panthers)	1	15	1	35
9	Reuben GARRICK (Sea Eagles)	1	15	-	34
10	Jarrold CROKER (Raiders)	-	16	-	32
	Valentine HOLMES (Cowboys)	2	12	-	32

FROM THE NRL

NRL clubs return to home venues

NRL Media Release, 19 Jun 2020

The Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) today announced it has given approval to allow clubs to return to their standard home venues in Round 8 of the 2020 NRL Telstra Premiership.

The decision to end phase one of the National Rugby League's (NRL) consolidated venue strategy means clubs will be allowed to play at their venue of choice from July 2, 2020 with capped crowds in NSW and Queensland and applications under consideration in Victoria and the ACT.

Crowds will be permitted at games in NSW, from Round 8 which commences on July 2, provided they are capped at the lesser of 25% of capacity or 10,000 fans.

The Queensland Government will finalise crowd restrictions after a trial of crowds of up to 2000 this weekend.

ARLC Chairman Peter V'landys AM said the decision to allow Clubs to return to their traditional home grounds from Round 8 followed the accelerated return to crowds approval by government and health authorities.

Mr V'landys described the decision as another milestone moment in the game's return from COVID-19 and a tremendous win for fans.

"This is an outstanding outcome for our clubs, our players and importantly our fans who have been so loyal, and patient, throughout this crisis," he said.

"Our fans are everything and the opportunity to have them back in their home ground stands, is the greatest reward of all for their unwavering passion. I cannot wait to see and hear the return of that tribalism which makes rugby league so special.

"I also want to thank the State and Federal Governments for their ongoing assistance and to the Queensland government for allowing crowds of up to 2000, that's a great result for Queensland fans."

Mr V'landys said the return to home grounds would happen under continued tight protocols to protect crowd safety and that each venue would be required to have a COVID-safe plan in place.

Apollo protocols relaxed for players and staff

NRL Media Release, 20 Jun 2020

The Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) today confirmed the relaxation of Apollo Protocols for players and staff.

The easing of some of the strict biosecurity measures which were introduced in April to protect player and community health and safety follow consultation with a number of biosecurity experts and State Governments.

From Sunday 21 June, the eased restrictions will provide improved liveability for players and Club staff in daily lifestyle, however

certain limitations will remain in place which continue to be stricter than current public health guidelines for the general community.

ARLC Chairman Peter V'landys AM acknowledged and thanked players and Club staff for their sacrifice and commitment to date; and the Federal and State governments for their support.

"The level of sacrifice by players, officials and their families has been significant and has demonstrated the absolute commitment of all involved to protect their own health, the health of the game, and that of the wider community. I am exceptionally proud of the players and how their conscientiousness and professionalism went to the highest level in this crisis.

"The Federal and State governments have provided support and guidance throughout this period and we have listened, and acted, according to their advice. Allowing us to relax liveability restrictions for players and staff is another step forward for the game, and we will continue to progress change with respect to public health guidelines."

Happy birthday!

This round's birthday boys:

Thursday 25 June

Sione Mata'utia (Knights) - 24

Renouf To'omaga (Bulldogs) - 25

Friday 26 June

Jack Murchie (Warriors) - 23

Sunday 28 June

Andrew Fifita (Sharks) - 31

Monday 29 June

Joseph Manu (Roosters) - 24

Tuesday 30 June

Reuben Garrick (Sea Eagles) - 30

Staying Longer

Kalyn Ponga eyes the holy grail after extending his contract in the Hunter

SOMETIMES the wheel turns full circle.

The Newcastle Knights showed faith in Kalyn Ponga when they signed him after only a handful of NRL games in 2016.

At the time, the club had just picked up its second successive wooden spoon.

So it seems fitting that the 22-year-old returned the favour when he signed a contract extension last week that will keep him in the Hunter until the end of 2024.

Many doubted Ponga's decision to leave North Queensland at the end of 2017.

His teammates at the time included State of Origin stars such as Johnathan Thurston and Michael Morgan, but Ponga couldn't unseat Lachlan Coote at fullback.

He was faced with two scenarios - the comfortable option of biding his time and learning off an NRL great in Thurston or the option that required him to leave his comfort zone to become the best player he could be.

"I wanted to be in the NRL and that was the only focus I had and now the only focus I have is winning a comp," Ponga said.

Paul Jobber
LeagueUnlimited.com
Contributor



"So things change, but I was comfortable with my decision from the moment I made it and I'm definitely more comfortable with this one."

Many argued the Knights had paid "overs" for a player that couldn't regularly be named in the Cowboys' top 17.

As it turns out, they probably paid unders for the brilliant custodian's services.

More than two years down the track, the Novocastrians know the Queensland fullback has what it takes to lead the club to the promised land.

Should he do that, it will not only end the town's two-decade wait for a premiership but comparisons to Andrew Johns will no doubt be forthcoming.

"As a playing group we understand what it would mean to bring a premiership to this town," Ponga said last week.

"I want to do it; that's the main reason why I signed and I know we've got the Old Boys' backing and they're itching for another premiership too just as much as we are.

"I've Googled and YouTubed when they were doing the (grand final) parade and I've pictured myself doing that."

Having seen his family enjoy the lifestyle change from Townsville to Newcastle meant the decision to extend his stay in the Hunter was a simple one.

"I'm really happy here and my family's been happy since we got here from day one," he said.

"I want to win a comp ... that's my main drive and the thing I really want to do; there's no other team I want to do it with than the Knights.

"I've been calling this place home for the last two years and to know that I'm here until the end of 2024 is pretty exciting, but there's a lot of work to be done now."

Locked in: Kalyn Ponga has inked a multi-year contract extension at the Knights. Photo: Newcastle Knights





Ready to sacrifice: Christian Welch says the Storm are just playing their part to keep the competition going.
Photo Supplied: Melbourne Storm; Credit: NRL Imagery

Finding his feet



Joshua Wells
LeagueUnlimited.com
Contributor

Melbourne's Christian Welch is focused on getting his groove back

The Melbourne Storm are on the move to reduce the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and front rower Christian Welch says that's the least the men in purple can do.

The Queensland Origin representative has enjoyed a successful return to the park from injury after his second ACL injury sidelined him for 10 months – albeit in very unusual circumstances.

Welch said the Storm's move is nothing like what the embattled Warriors are going through.

"The sacrifice the Warriors made is incredible and every player at Storm is more than happy to relocate for some games," he said.

"It isn't ideal, but it pales in significance to some of the issues Australians are facing right now... we're playing our part to keep the competition going."

While the situation is fluid and could change at any moment, the Storm is simply focused on its traditional Anzac Day Clash rivals, New Zealand Warriors.

The Warriors players were rocked after coach Stephen Kearney, and Storm premiership player, was sent home earlier this week.

Despite the outpouring of love for the club off the field, on the field Welch hopes it is a different story.

"We're still wrestling with our [game] style and how we want to be attacking," he said.

"Look at the Knights game. We got into the arm wrestle... then we came up against Penrith who defend differently. We are trying to find the balance in how the Storm will attack in 2020.

"We aren't there yet obviously. We are finding that balance between completing sets and kicking long."

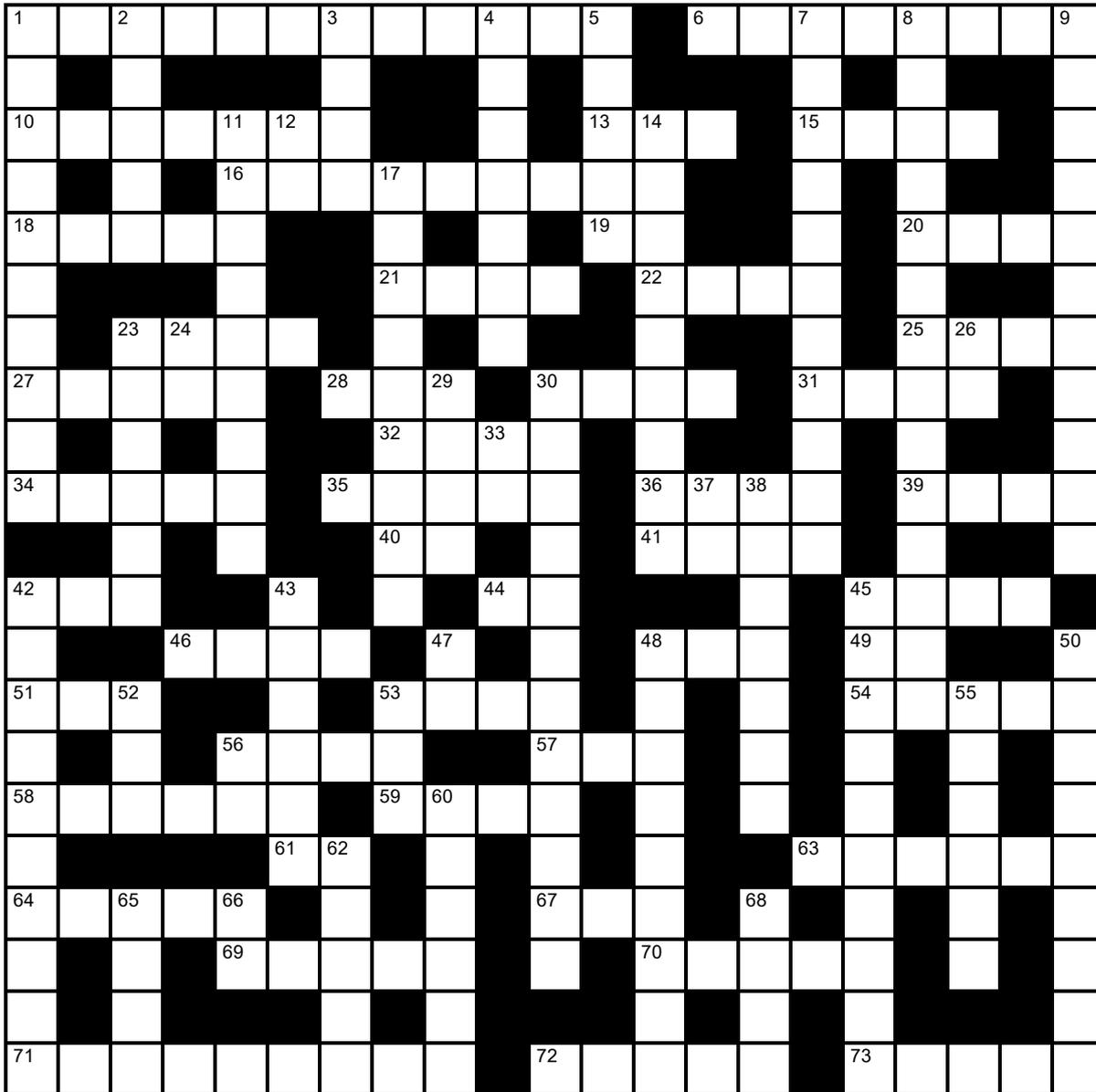
Win or lose, Welch is just happy to be back on the field in 2020.

"I think [since I've come back] I have been going pretty well. Started a bit slow, but I am finding my feet now," he said.

"I am grateful to be playing, enjoying each week and not looking too far ahead.

"I love this club and what we are about here."

The LU Crossword



45. What was used for placing the ball on for kicking, prior to tees and cones. (4)
 46. Ruben Wiki used to blow this at Raiders home games which started the viking clap. (4)
 48. One of the Sea Eagles' superstar brothers. (3)
 49. Overseas - abbrev (1,1)
 51. What a field goal is worth. (3)
 53. Australian sports scientist & biochemist, famous for all the wrong reasons (4)
 54. SOO is a battle of _ _ _ _ V _ _ _ (5)
 56. Born in '74, this Kiwi journey man played for Eels, Storm and Catalans from '01 to '08 Alex _ _ _ _ (4)
 57. Currently with Salford, played all his junior footy with the Eels and went onto to play for the Kiwis and Samoa at international level. Krisnan _ _ (3)
 58. Player who was a dual-code international rep centre for Australia, and NSW

Across

1. Current Rabbitohs coach (5,7)
 6. Tongan rep back (wing, centre & fullback), current Raider (8)
 10. Of Tongan descent, he played on the wing NZ Warriors from '13 to '15, now playing Super Rugby for the Hurricanes (7)
 13. First openly gay NRL player, played prop for Manly, _ _ _ Roberts. (3)
 15. Former Manly & Bulldogs, and current Eels back rower. (4)
 16. Played for Australia and New Zealand Maori at international level. Previously played for the Broncos and Knights, now a Rabbitoh (4,5)
 18. A member of the NSW parliament, this ex-footballer was the first ever president of Western Suburbs, then went on to become the first ever president of St George, a position he held for 17 years. (5)
 19. Acronym for Lebanese National (2)
 20. Current Eels hooker _ _ _ _ Mahoney (4)
 21. American slang for mate (4)

22. Not fast (4)
 23. Born and raised in Tamworth, 220 games with the Raiders over 12 seasons, 1999-2011, _ _ _ _ Tongue (4)
 25. Maika Sivo's home town in Fiji (4)
 27. Super League champions in 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2018 (5)
 28. Current halfback and utility player at the Dragons, formerly a Bronco, _ _ _ Hunt (3)
 30. Good for sunburn: _ _ _ _ Vera (4)
 31. Not a Gentleman, but a _ _ _ _ (4)
 32. Cronulla premiership captain _ _ _ _ Gallen (4)
 34. Luke Lewis' partner (5)
 35. Christian name of 14 down (5)
 36. How you enter a footy stadium (4)
 39. Storm and Eels have both been punished for a salary cap _ _ _ _ (4)
 40. Slowest swimmer at the Sydney Olympics - nickname - initials (1,1)
 41. Neither BA or Mary have any of this (4)
 42. _ _ _ Gould - nickname (3)
 44. Morning (1,1)

- State of Origin. Begun his career at Newcastle, with whom he won the 2001 title, before moving to the Eels. (6)
 59. Said at the end of prayer. (4)
 61. Wests Tigers coach, inits (1,1)
 63. Panthers v Eels is considered the _ _ _ _ _ of the West. (6)
 67. Legendary goal kicker, former Kiwi, and Bears & Bulldogs winger _ _ _ _ _ Halligan (5)
 69. Favoured position was as Hooker, where he represented NSW. In his later career he became a prop. Captained Souths 1986-1990, _ _ _ _ _ Fenech (5)
 70. Played on the wing for Canada in the 2017 Women's Rugby League Cup _ _ _ _ _ Patrinos (5)
 71. Born in '89, Samoan international and former Rooster ('10 to '12) recently suffered a spinal injury playing for Hull KR - they said he would never walk again. He just proved them wrong. (4,5)
 72. Christian name of former Australian international and NSW Origin player, former

Panther & Rhino, current Dragons backrower. (5)
 73. Born in '69, played in both England and Australia, winning the 1996 title with Manly, before playing out the last years of his career in rugby union in New Zealand. Also played for the 'Rest of the World' during the super league war, Craig _____. (5)

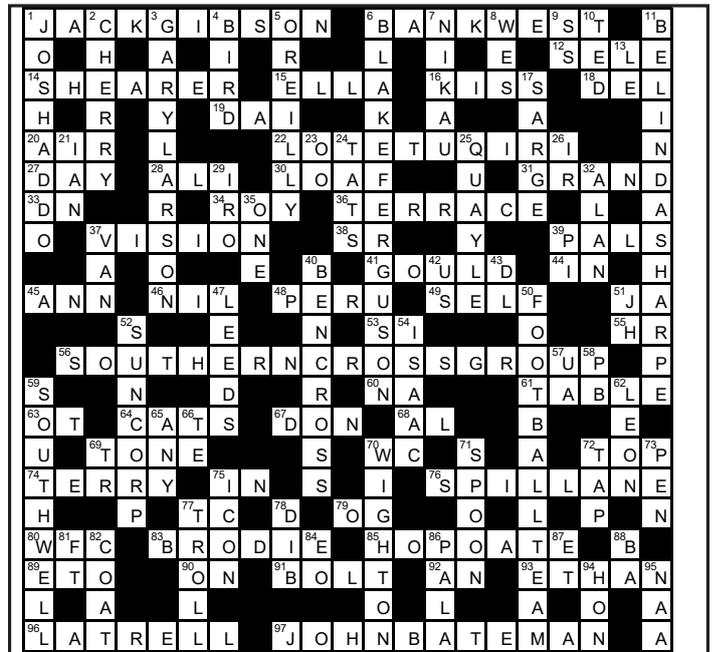
Down

1 Hard headed 5/8 played for QLD and Australia, known as The King. (5,5)
 2. Born in '56 a former Kangaroos and Blues middle forward, played for the Dragons from '77 to '88, son is a St George Illawarra premiership winner (5)
 3. Harry _____ was born in Kogarah, NSW. Eden played with the Dragons, Roosters and Rabbitohs and still holds the record for most tries by a prop (11) in a single season. He was the uncle of former NRL player Mike Eden and passed away in 2006 aged 63. (4)
 4. Born in Albury in '96 he progressed through the lower grades at Penrith he has established himself as first choice fullback for the Panthers. (7)
 5. A term used for pre-season games. (5) (5)
 7. Current Sea Eagles five-eighth, occasionally plays centre (5,6)
 8. Outgoing RLPA CEO, now CCO of AFL club Carlton (3,11)
 9. Current Broncos and Indigenous All Stars back rower. (5, 6)
 11. PNG's most famous NRL player, former Roosters half (6,3)
 12. Public Address - initials (1,1)
 14. Former Kangaroo and Blues rep, played his club footy for Wests, Knights and Dragons from '90 till '03, mostly with the Knights. (9)
 17. Born in '88 represented Tonga and played for the Bunnies from '06 to '08 as half and hooker. (5,4)
 23. One of these was just de-registered by the NRL. (6)

24. Los Angeles - initials (1,1)
 26. Bulldogs coach, Dean P____ (2)
 29. Words by which a player is known (4)
 30. Former Knight and Dragon who is confined to a wheelchair due to a dangerous tackle, was later employed by the Knights. (4,8)
 33. F____ Fui Moi Moi (2)
 37. Alcoholics Anonymous - initials (1,1)
 38 A NSW Origin and Australian international rep utility who played in the '90s and '00s, for Illawarra then St George Illawarra. A versatile player, performing at 5/8, centre, lock, and second-row at representative and club levels. (7)
 42. Home of the Raiders (3,7) (10)
 43. England and Dragons prop who just received a golden handshake (6)
 45. Born in NZ of Tongan descent, played on the wing for Cronulla from '13 to '19, currently with Castleford (6,4)
 47. Current Eels coach - initials (1,1)
 48. Alternative name for the sideline (5,4)
 50. Currently with St George Illawarra in the NRLW. Primarily a second-rower, she is an Australian international and NSW Women's Origin rep (5,4)
 52. A type of large tree (3)
 53. Deoxyribonucleic acid - initials (1,1,1)
 55. Nickname of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (6)
 56. Former Knights, Storm and Panther

back rower, played for USA in 2013, recently named to replace 8 down as RLPA CEO - initials (1,1)
 60. Played for the Cowboys, making his NRL debut in Round 22, 2009. A former Ipswich Jet, predominantly plays on the wing (6)
 62. Born in 1963, played for the Eels and Roosters in the 1980s as a backrower, part of the Eels premiership side of '83, Paul _____ (6)
 65. Former Australian and NSW rep, played for the Knights, Mariners, Broncos and Storm from '94 to '03, Robbie _____ (4)
 66. Played from '02 to '12 on the wing for Sharks, Rabbitohs, Dragons, Knights, Storm and Bulldogs - initials (1,1)
 68. NRL journalist with an NRL career spanning a whole 2 minutes (4)

Answers in next week's edition



Last week's answers

Word Jumbles

Using the clues provided, unjumble the letters below to figure out the player names!

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Example: | TIMES SEVENZE (Sea Eagles, Northern Eagles) | = | Steve Menzies |
| PORKY RECARE | (Broncos) | ELLIS BLARTY | (Storm) |
| BIRD LEFTART | (Panthers, Roosters) | TRIKE BENT | (Dragons, Sea Eagles, Panthers) |
| NUTS JONOTH | (Rabbitohs) | GOTHTOY WAMUHANN | (Northern Eagles, Sea Eagles, Eels) |
| SULK WEELI | (Panthers, Sharks) | | |

COVID-19 update: Melbourne Storm

NRL Media Release, 22 Jun 2020

The Round 7 Telstra Premiership match between the Melbourne Storm and the New Zealand Warriors on Friday night will be relocated from AAMI Park in Melbourne to Netstrata Jubilee Stadium in Sydney.

The Apollo team made the determination today to ensure the health and safety of the players, staff and wider community given the spike in COVID-19 cases in Victoria.

The Storm will fly to Sydney later this week to complete preparations. All Storm players and football staff will undergo COVID-19 tests to ensure no risk to the competition prior to Friday night's game.

NRL Acting CEO Andrew Abdo thanked the Storm club, players and staff for the sacrifice they will make over this period.

"I want to thank the Melbourne Storm players for putting the game ahead of their personal circumstances. What I'm most proud about this year is that every obstacle we have faced the game has banded together to reach an outcome in the best interests of the overall competition," he said.

"It was important to take decisive action not only in the best interest of our players and staff, but the broader community. We have shown that if there is even the slightest risk of infection we won't hesitate to reschedule or relocate games."

Round 7 venue change

NRL Media Release, 22 Jun 2020

The Round 7 match between the Penrith Panthers and South Sydney Rabbitohs on Thursday night will be relocated from Campbelltown Stadium to Netstrata Jubilee Stadium.

NRL Head of Football Graham Annesley said the game would be played on a fresh surface.

"Campbelltown Stadium has had an extremely heavy workload over the last month, with some games played in wet conditions. The staff at Campbelltown Stadium have done an excellent job hosting a number of teams," he said.

For ongoing updates to the NRL draw, keep an eye on our homepage at leagueunlimited.com.

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](https://leagueunlimited.com) runs a detailed live blog of every single NRL match, every weekend.

Head to leagueunlimited.com and look for the Match Centre to follow along with our live blogs.

THE FRONT ROW

GAME DAY

ROUND 7 MATCH PROGRAM

TEAM LISTS · MATCH DETAILS & STATS · PREVIEWS



**Panthers
v Rabbitohs**

Thursday
Netstrata Jubilee



**Storm
v Warriors**

Friday
Netstrata Jubilee



**Roosters
v Dragons**

Friday
Bankwest



**Cowboys
v Knights**

Saturday
QLD Country Bank



**Broncos
v Titans**

Saturday
Suncorp



**Eels
v Raiders**

Saturday
Bankwest



**Sea Eagles
v Sharks**

Sunday
Central Coast



**Bulldogs
v Wests Tigers**

Sunday
Bankwest

WEEKLY TIPS Round 7

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

Tim Costello (3)

Panthers
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Broncos
Eels
Sea Eagles
Bulldogs

Andrew Ferguson (6)

Panthers
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Titans
Raiders
Sharks
Tigers

Andrew Jackson (8)

Panthers
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Broncos
Eels
Sea Eagles
Bulldogs

Justin Davies (6)

Rabbitohs
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Broncos
Raiders
Sea Eagles
Tigers

Adam Huxtable (4)

Panthers
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Broncos
Eels
Sea Eagles
Tigers

Rick Edgerton (7)

Panthers
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Titans
Eels
Sea Eagles
Bulldogs

Rob Crosby (5)

Rabbitohs
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Broncos
Eels
Sea Eagles
Bulldogs

Steven Williams (4)

Panthers
Storm
Dragons
Cowboys
Broncos
Eels
Sea Eagles
Tigers

Sam Bourke (4)

Rabbitohs
Storm
Roosters
Cowboys
Broncos
Raiders
Sea Eagles
Bulldogs

Josh Robertson (4)

Panthers
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Broncos
Eels
Sea Eagles
Tigers

Jeff Dickinson-Fox (6)

Rabbitohs
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Broncos
Raiders
Sharks
Tigers

Hamish Parker (4)

Panthers
Storm
Roosters
Knights
Broncos
Raiders
Sea Eagles
Bulldogs

Penrith PANTHERS



South Sydney RABBITOHS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
1	-	-	-	Dylan EDWARDS	1	FULLBACK	1	Latrell MITCHELL	6	1	-	4
6	2	-	8	Josh MANSOUR	2	WING	2	Dane GAGAI	6	2	-	8
6	-	-	-	Dean WHARE	3	CENTRE	3	Campbell GRAHAM	6	2	-	8
6	3	6	24	Stephen CRICHTON	4	CENTRE	4	Braidon BURNS	6	2	-	8
6	2	-	8	Brian TO'O	5	WING	5	Alex JOHNSTON	6	2	-	8
6	1	-	4	Jarome LUAI	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Cody WALKER	6	2	-	8
4	1	15+	35	Nathan CLEARY	7	HALFBACK	7	Adam REYNOLDS	6	2	24	56
6	-	-	-	James TAMOU	8	FRONT ROW	8	Tevita TATOLA	6	-	-	-
6	1	-	4	Apisai KOROISAU	9	HOKKER	9	Damien COOK	6	1	-	4
6	-	-	-	James FISHER-HARRIS	10	FRONT ROW	10	Thomas BURGESS	6	1	-	4
6	4	-	16	Viliame KIKAU	11	SECOND ROW	11	Jaydn SU'A	6	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Liam MARTIN	12	SECOND ROW	12	Ethan LOWE	6	1	-	4
6	-	-	-	Isaah YEO	13	LOCK	13	Cameron MURRAY	6	1	-	4
4	2	-	8	Matt BURTON	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Liam KNIGHT	6	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	Zane TETEVANO	15		15	Bayley SIRONEN	3	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	Moses LEOTA	16		16	Patrick MAGO	2	-	-	-
4	1	-	4	Billy BURNS	17		17	James ROBERTS	2	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Mitch KENNY	18	RESERVES	18	Mark NICHOLLS	4	-	-	-
2	2	-	8	Brent NADEN	19		19	Hame SELE	2	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Jack HETHERINGTON	20		20	Troy DARGAN	2	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Tyrone MAY	21		21	Corey ALLAN	-	-	-	-

IVAN CLEARY

COACH

WAYNE BENNETT

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 James ROBERTS - 6 more points for 300 career points; Cody WALKER - 4 more points for 200 career points; Campbell GRAHAM - 4 more points for 100 club & career points

#NRLPanthersSouths

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Thursday 25 June 2020
KICKOFF	7:50pm AEST
VENUE	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium Carlton, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Gerard SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Todd SMITH Chris BUTLER
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY Ben GALEA

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 83 matches

36

1

46

At Netstrata Jubilee Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 14	Panthers 19-18	ANZ
2019	Round 7	Rabbitohs 22-18	Panthers
2018	Round 2	Panthers 18-14	Panthers
2017	Round 17	Rabbitohs 42-14	ANZ
2017	Round 6	Rabbitohs 21-20	Pepper
2016	Round 16	Panthers 28-26	Pepper
2015	Round 21	Rabbitohs 20-16	ANZ
2015	Round 17	Panthers 20-6	Pepper
2014	Round 6	Rabbitohs 18-2	Sportingbet
2013	Round 3	Rabbitohs 44-32	Centrebet

BIGGEST WINS

PANTHERS	1977 Round 15	43-2 at Penrith
RABBITOHS	1980 Round 7	59-5 at Redfern

CURRENT FORM

PANTHERS	W W D W L W	3rd, 9pts
RABBITOHS	W L L L W W	8th, 6pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 8

PANTHERS	Tigers @ Campbelltown, Sat 4 Jul 7:35pm
RABBITOHS	Bulldogs @ Bankwest, Sun 5 Jul 6:30pm

Match Preview

with Adam Huxtable

Panthers and Souths clash to open Round 3 in impromptu circumstances.

Round 7 will begin on Thursday night with the Panthers and Rabbitohs doing battle at the neutral territory of Kogarah Oval amid concerns over the viability of the turf at Campbelltown Sports Ground. Both sides are coming off impressive victories last Friday night and will be looking for victories in the hope of starting a mid-season run.

Penrith were able to clinch a victory against the Storm for just the third time in 21 clashes between the sides, a strike rate extremely low for any matchup in the NRL. Nathan Cleary bounced back after a quiet showing against Parramatta the week before and iced the match in the 76th minute with a field goal, pushing the lead out to beyond a converted try with not long to go and solidifying his sides position in the top 4.

The Rabbitohs notched up their second win in a row against below par opposition, easily disposing of the Warriors after a fairly even start to the match. The class and experience of their spine, in particular the returning Cody Walker, saw them have the match sealed at half time and take a much-needed step to securing a position in the top 8. Their clash with the Panthers will give us an insight into whether their recent performances were that of flat track bullies or actual contenders.

Ivan Cleary has kept his team 1-17 from the individuals that defeated the Storm, with Matt Burton retaining his interchange position despite not getting on the paddock at all last start. Wayne Bennett has made just the one change, with James Roberts making his return albeit via the interchange. He comes in at the expense of Tom Amone.

Both of Souths' wins since the resumption of the competition have come against teams predicted to finish in the bottom 4. By strolling to victories against the Titans and Warriors they've proven that they are not a part of the dreaded bottom half of the competition that seems to be forming, however if they are to be taken seriously they will need to show that they can compete with quality opposition, which Penrith have shown themselves to be after a tight loss against the Eels and wins over the Storm and Roosters in 2020.

Who to watch: Returning Penrith fullback Dylan Edwards may just be the extra step needed to transform the Panthers attack. Caleb Aekins was a solid fill in, but Edwards provides them with some much-needed spark particularly in the attacking 20, finishing with a try assist, line break assist and 157 running metres against a strong Melbourne outfit. His combination with fellow spine players Cleary and Koroisau can only improve, and the game against Souths on Thursday night would be a decent starting point.

Origin hooker Damien Cook was back to his brilliant best against the Warriors after being a little quieter than expected given the speed of the ruck since play resumed on May 28. His forwards were able to provide him with quick play the balls and it showed with Cook returning his best stats in a while, finishing with 162 running metres, a try assist, line break assist and a try of his own. He will need to match it with his opposite number Koroisau on Thursday, who is just as critical to his side's performance.

Favourite: The Panthers are slight favourites to get the win on Thursday.

Tip: The Rabbitohs have taken a step forward recently and shown that they still have the attack necessary to match it with top sides, however previously they have crumbled when faced with them. That will need to change on Thursday, however I think the Panthers forward pack will dominate and provide the perfect platform for Nathan Cleary and Api Koroisau to work their magic. **Panthers by 16.**

Melbourne STORM



WARRIORS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
5	1	-	4	Ryan PAPHENHUYZEN	1	FULLBACK	1	Roger TUIVASA-SHECK	6	-	-	-
5	2	-	8	Suliasi VUNIVALU	2	WING	2	David FUSITU'A	3	1	-	4
5	2	-	8	Justin OLAM	3	CENTRE	3	Peta HIKU	4	3	-	12
5	1	-	4	Brenko LEE	4	CENTRE	4	Patrick HERBERT	5	1	-	4
5	1	-	4	Josh ADDO-CARR	5	WING	5	Ken MAUMALO	3	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Cameron MUNSTER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Kodi NIKORIMA	6	2	9 ⁺	27
5	-	-	-	Jahrome HUGHES	7	HALFBACK	7	Blake GREEN	6	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Jesse BROMWICH	8	FRONT ROW	8	Jamayne TAUNOA-BROWN	6	1	-	4
5	1	18	40	Cameron SMITH	9	HOKKER	9	Karl LAWTON	4	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	Christian WELCH	10	FRONT ROW	10	Lachlan BURR	4	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Felise KAUFUSI	11	SECOND ROW	11	Jack MURCHIE	4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Kenneath BROMWICH	12	SECOND ROW	12	Tohu HARRIS	6	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Dale FINUCANE	13	LOCK	13	Adam BLAIR	6	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Brandon SMITH	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA	2	-	1	2
5	1	-	4	Tino FAASUAMALEAUI	15		15	Poasa FAAMAUSILI	3 [*]	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Tom EISENHUTH	16		16	Agnatius PAASI	2	1	-	4
2	-	-	-	Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	17		17	Isaiah PAPALI'I	4	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Ryley JACKS	18	RESERVES	18	Gerard BEALE	4	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Nicho HYNES	19		20	Adam POMPEY	3	1	-	4
4	-	-	-	Max KING	20		21	Josh CURRAN	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Paul MOMIROVSKI	21		23	Leivaha PULU	-	-	-	-

* 1 game for Sydney Roosters

CRAIG BELLAMY

COACH

TODD PAYTEN

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 Roger TUIVASA-SHECK - 4 more points for 200 career points; David FUSITU'A - 100 club & career games; Peta HIKU - 50 club games

#NRLStormWarriors

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 26 June 2020
KICKOFF	6:00pm AEST
VENUE	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium Carlton, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ben CUMMINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Chris SUTTON Drew OULTRAM
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK Bryan NORRIE

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 44 matches

26

16

At Netstrata Jubilee Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 13	Storm 32-10	Mt Smart
2019	Round 7	Storm 13-12	AAMI
2018	Round 19	Storm 12-6	Mt Smart
2018	Round 8	Storm 50-10	AAMI
2017	Round 8	Storm 20-14	AAMI
2017	Round 2	Storm 26-10	Mt Smart
2016	Round 8	Storm 42-0	AAMI
2016	Round 3	Storm 21-14	Mt Smart
2015	Round 18	Warriors 28-14	Mt Smart
2015	Round 5	Storm 30-14	AAMI

BIGGEST WINS

STORM	2000 Round 20	56-10 at Olympic
WARRIORS	2002 Round 11	28-12 at Olympic

CURRENT FORM

STORM	W W L W W L	6th, 8pts
WARRIORS	L L W L W L	13th, 4pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 8

STORM	Roosters @ AAMI, Thu 2 Jul 7:50pm
WARRIORS	Broncos @ Central Coast, Sat 4 Jul 5:30pm

Match Preview

with Robert Crosby

Trans-Tasman rivals face off in belated ANZAC clash.

Originally set to meet at AAMI Park on ANZAC Day two months ago, the Melbourne Storm and the New Zealand Warriors will be looking to bounce back following last-start losses.

Suffering their second defeat of the season in going down 21-14 against Penrith last Friday, the Melbourne Storm will be out to extend their run of dominance over the Warriors to nine straight wins.

Coming under fire from coach Craig Bellamy for failing to show urgency with the game on the line last week, the Storm will be determined to amend on relocated turf as they strive to avoid consecutive losses for the first time in 22 months.

Boosted by the return of representative winger Josh Addo-Carr following the birth of his son, Jahrome Hughes will replace Ryley Jacks in the number seven jersey after missing the past fortnight with a broken hand.

Stunning the league community by parting ways with coach Stephen Kearney in the aftermath of last week's 40-12 loss to South Sydney, the Warriors will be hoping to record a rare victory over their long-time rivals.

Appointing premiership-winning forward Todd Payten as interim coach following previous stints as an assistant at the Tigers and Cowboys, the Warriors will be out to overcome a poor record in ANZAC clashes that has seen the side manage two wins and a draw over the past decade.

Losing Wayne Egan, Gerard Beale and Eliesa Katoa from the team that went down to the Rabbitohs seven days earlier, Chanel Harris-Tavita, Ken Maumalo and Isaiah Papali'i will come into coach Payten's squad.

In a milestone match for a number of players, Blake Green, Peta Hiku and Agnatus Paasi will bring up 50 appearances for the club, while David Fusitua will become the 24th man to reach 100 appearances for the Warriors

Forced to shift the match to Netstrata Jubilee Oval following a rise in coronavirus cases in Victoria, the Storm have won four of six appearances at the venue, while the Warriors have emerged with two premiership points just once from five visits.

Who to watch: Becoming the latest in a long line of young players to come through the ranks at the Storm, forward Tino Fa'asuamaleaui has provided plenty of impact off the bench over the first six rounds. Making the most metres of any Melbourne forward in the loss to Penrith last Friday, the 20-year-old has provided Craig Bellamy with a strike weapon reminiscent of Nelson Asofa-Solomona upon his introduction to first grade five years ago. Penning a lucrative deal to join the Titans next season, look for the Junior Kangaroos and Samoan representative to cause plenty of havoc against the under-siege Warriors.

In the wake of one of the most controversial weeks in the club's history, Warriors forward Tohu Harris will be determined to respond through his actions on the field. Missing much of last season with a foot injury, the 28-year-old Kiwi international has returned bigger and better in 2020, averaging career best numbers in excess of 180 metres and 40 tackles per game. Possessing the versatility to play in the halves - as was the case in the corresponding fixture last season - look for Harris to leave nothing in reserve as the Warriors chase their first win against the Storm since 2015.

Favourite: Holding a 66% success rate over the Warriors during Bellamy's tenure, the Storm are heavily favoured to bounce back on Friday evening.

My tip: While the Warriors did stun the Storm 16-10 shortly after parting ways with Matthew Elliott midway through the 2014 season, the shock of Kearney's dismissal is unlikely to end in anything but a Melbourne victory. **Storm by 16.**

Sydney
ROOSTERS



St George Illawarra
DRAGONS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
5	4	-	16	James TEDESCO	1	FULLBACK	1	Matthew DUFTY	4	3	-	12
6	4	-	16	Daniel TUPOU	2	WING	2	Jason SAAB	-	-	-	-
6*	1	-	4	Josh MORRIS	3	CENTRE	3	Euan AITKEN	4	-	-	-
6	1	-	4	Joseph MANU	4	CENTRE	4	Zac LOMAX	6	3	17	46
6	3	-	12	Brett MORRIS	5	WING	5	Mikaele RAVALAWA	5	4	-	16
6	1	-*	5	Luke KEARY	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Corey NORMAN	6	1	-	4
6	3	31	74	Kyle FLANAGAN	7	HALFBACK	7	Adam CLUNE	3	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	Jared WAEREA-HARGREAVES	8	FRONT ROW	8	Blake LAWRIE	6	-	-	-
6	1	-	4	Jake FRIEND	9	HOOKER	9	Cameron MCINNES	4	1	-	4
5	1	-	4	Siosia TAUKEIAHO	10	FRONT ROW	10	Paul VAUGHAN	6	-	-	-
4	2	-	8	Boyd CORDNER	11	SECOND ROW	11	Tyson FRIZELL	6	-	-	-
4	4	-	16	Angus CRICHTON	12	SECOND ROW	12	Tyrell FUIMAONO	5	-	-	-
6	1	-	4	Victor RADLEY	13	LOCK	13	Trent MERRIN	5	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Sam VERRILLS	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Ben HUNT	6	1	-	4
6	-	-	-	Isaac LIU	15		15	Josh KERR	6	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Nat BUTCHER	16		16	Jacob HOST	3	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Lindsay COLLINS	17		17	Jackson FORD	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Sitili TUPOUNIUA	18	RESERVES	18	Korbin SIMS	1	-	-	-
4	1	-	4	Mitchell AUBUSSON	19		19	Tristan SAILOR	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Ryan HALL	20		20	Tim LAFAI	2	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Lachlan LAM	21		21	Billy BRITTAIN	2	-	-	-

* 2 games for Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks

TRENT ROBINSON

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 Matt DUFTY - 4 more points for 100 club & career points; Ben HUNT - 5 more points for 300 career points

#NRLRoostersDragons

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 26 June 2020
KICKOFF	7:55pm AEST
VENUE	Bankwest Stadium Parramatta, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand 2GB SYD, 4BC BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Grant ATKINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Dave MUNRO Tim ALOUANI-ROBY
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL Beau SCOTT

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 41 matches

20

1

20

At Bankwest Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 23	Roosters 34-12	Netstrata Jubilee
2019	Round 7	Roosters 20-10	SCG
2018	Round 20	Roosters 36-18	Allianz
2018	Round 8	Dragons 24-8	Allianz
2017	Round 8	Roosters 13-12	Allianz
2016	Round 24	Roosters 42-6	Allianz
2016	Round 8	Dragons 20-18	Allianz
2015	Round 15	Roosters 19-14	Allianz
2015	Round 8	Dragons 14-12	Allianz
2014	Round 21	Roosters 30-22	Allianz

BIGGEST WINS

ROOSTERS	2013 Round 17	36-0 at WIN Jubilee
DRAGONS	2005 Round 21	44-6 at WIN Stadium

CURRENT FORM

ROOSTERS	L L W W W W	4th, 8pts
DRAGONS	L L L L W W	12th, 4pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 8

ROOSTERS	Storm @ AAMI, Thu 2 Jul 7:50pm
DRAGONS	Raiders @ GIO, Fri 3 Jul 6:00pm

Match Preview

with Andrew Jackson

Delayed ANZAC Day clash honours the Battle of Lone Pine.

The Roosters haven't put a foot wrong since the competition restarted. Four-straight victories by an average of 31 points have propelled them back into the top four and into premiership favouritism again.

Kyle Flanagan is finally starting to ease into the big boots left by Cooper Cronk while James Tedesco is once again proving why he is the best player in the competition right now (even if Maika Sivo left him eating dirt on Saturday night – who would be brave enough to try and stop the rampaging Fijian that close to the line anyway?).

Lindsay Collins is back in for the Roosters, only strengthening their advantage up front while the Morris brothers continue to show no signs of slowing down.

The only reason Trent Robinson's men won't win Friday night's game in a canter is complacency and their 59-0 drubbing of the Broncos a few weeks ago looked anything but complacent. Tedesco will have to be monitored though after a heavy head knock last week although the Roosters could probably afford to rest him here anyway.

The Dragons have ridden the highs of being in the winner's circle for two weeks' straight but Paul McGregor could come crashing down to earth this week.

The Red V, to their credit, did what they had to do last week against the Titans. But both the Gold Coast and Cronulla were hardly stiff opposition. Jason Saab comes in for the suspended Jordan Pereira on the wing while James Graham is off to the Super League, replaced by Jackson Ford on the bench. Blake Lawrie starts at prop in the other significant team news for this week.

The Roosters have the best attack and defence in the competition, which is no surprise, but does not bode well for the Dragons this week.

Who to watch: If Tedesco plays it sets up quite the battle in the fullback jumper. His numbers are absolutely insane this year. An average of 242 running metres and six tackle busts go alongside three try assists and four tries, all of which have come in the past three weeks. Even if he doesn't suit up though, you only have to look at the Roosters' 59-0 thumping of the Broncos for proof they can win without their tackle-breaking number one.

Matt Dufty was unwanted at both the Dragons and Titans. But the livewire fullback proved both teams wrong on the weekend with another strong performance at the back. His ball-playing skills were on full display in the early stages of the Gold Coast game when he put Zac Lomax steaming through a gaping hole to score in the 17th minute. Dufty was dumped from the fullback role after just two games shortly after the lockdown was lifted. But with two try assists and just as many linebreak assists to his name from the Cronulla game the week prior, McGregor has no choice but to persist with Dufty who is proving he has more than just speed in his arsenal.

Favourite: The bookies aren't giving the Dragons much of a chance here.

Tip: This is a complete mismatch and the fact that the Dragons are coming off two-straight wins could almost work against them. The Roosters won't be underestimating them and should have this result wrapped up by halftime. **Roosters by 32.**

North Queensland COWBOYS



Newcastle KNIGHTS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
2	-	-	-	Hamiso TABUAI-FIDOW	1	FULLBACK	1	Kalyn PONGA	5	3	20	52	
6	8	6	44	Kyle FELDT	2	WING	2	Edrick LEE	6	5	-	20	
6	3	-	12	Justin O'NEILL	3	CENTRE	3	Enari TUALA	5	3	-	12	
6	1	-	4	Esan MARSTERS	4	CENTRE	4	Gehamat SHIBASAKI	3	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Connelly LEMUELU	5	WING	5	Hymel HUNT	6	1	-	4	
6	2	-	8	Scott DRINKWATER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Kurt MANN	6	2	-	8	
4	-	1	2	Jake CLIFFORD	7	HALFBACK	7	Mitchell PEARCE	6	2	+	9	
5	-	-	-	Josh MCGUIRE	8	FRONT ROW	8	David KLEMMER	6	-	-	-	
6	2	-	8	Reece ROBSON	9	HOKKER	9	Andrew MCCULLOUGH	5*	-	-	-	
6	1	-	4	Francis MOLO	10	FRONT ROW	10	Daniel SAIFITI	6	2	-	8	
6	-	-	-	Mitchell DUNN	11	SECOND ROW	11	Lachlan FITZGIBBON	3	-	-	-	
5	1	-	4	Coen HESS	12	SECOND ROW	12	Sione MATA'UTIA	4	-	-	-	
5	1	-	4	Jason TAUMALOLO	13	LOCK	13	Tim GLASBY	6	-	-	-	
5	4	-	16	Ben HAMPTON	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Tex HOY	4	-	2	4	
5	1	-	4	Gavin COOPER	15		15	Jacob SAIFITI	6	1	-	4	
1	-	-	-	Peter HOLA	16		16	Herman ESE'ESE	6	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Reuben COTTER	17		17	Aidan GUERRA	6	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Tom OPACIC	18	RESERVES	18	Brodie JONES	3	-	-	-	
2	-	-	-	Shane WRIGHT	19		19	Tautau MOGA	-	-	-	-	
5	-	-	-	Jordan MCLEAN	20		20	Phoenix CROSSLAND	-	-	-	-	
4	-	-	-	Jake GRANVILLE	21		21	Pasami SAULO	-	-	-	-	

* 1 game for Brisbane Broncos

PAUL GREEN

COACH

ADAM O'BRIEN

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 - 4 more points for 300 career points

#NRLCowboysKnights

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 27 June 2020
KICKOFF	3:00pm AEST
VENUE	Queensland Country Bank Stadium Townsville, QLD
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Matt CECCHIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Jon STONE Liam KENNEDY
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK Ben GALEA

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 38 matches

18

20

At QLD Country Bank Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 22	Knights 42-6	McDonald Jones
2018	Round 20	Cowboys 20-18	1300SMILES
2017	Round 8	Cowboys 24-12	1300SMILES
2016	Round 13	Cowboys 46-16	1300SMILES
2015	Round 8	Cowboys 26-24	Hunter
2015	Round 2	Knights 16-14	1300SMILES
2014	Round 15	Knights 36-28	Hunter
2014	Round 5	Cowboys 28-2	1300SMILES
2013	Round 24	Cowboys 26-6	1300SMILES
2013	Round 3	Knights 34-6	Hunter

BIGGEST WINS

COWBOYS	2005 Round 4	52-18 at Dairy Farmers
KNIGHTS	2003 Round 22	60-24 at Dairy Farmers

CURRENT FORM

COWBOYS	L W W L L L	10th, 4pts
KNIGHTS	W W D W L W	2nd, 9pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 8

COWBOYS	Eels @ Bankwest, Fri 3 Jul 7:55pm
KNIGHTS	Sea Eagles @ Central Coast, Sun 5 Jul 4:05pm

Match Preview

with Hamish Parker

Cowboys in freefall, Knights without Bradman but still one of the Best

The North Queensland Cowboys and the Newcastle Knights will go head-to-head on Saturday afternoon in Townsville, with the two sides having very different starts to their 2020 campaign. The Cowboys currently sit in 10th with 2 wins from 6 games to start the year. The start has seen premiership winning coach Paul Green under pressure, as rumblings start to get louder about him potentially taking up a job with Cronulla next season. The Cowboys were dreadful in their first-half performance last week against the Tigers. They were done 34-0 at half time, a score line which saw their coach erupt in the sheds. The Cowboys did respond in the second half, managing to bring the game back to 36-20 before the full-time siren. However, conceding 34 points in one half of football simply isn't acceptable and the Cowboys will have to improve dramatically in the first-half this week.

The Knights were quite different in their performance last week, with a 27-6 win over the Broncos. At times the game was scrappy, but Adam O'Brien will no doubt be happy about the win and the score they were able to put on. The Knights sit in 2nd on the ladder and will be comfortable with where they are at this point of the season. One team under pressure with a point to prove and one improving week-to-week could make for a good game on Saturday.

Despite a pretty poor showing last week, coach Paul Green has named a side with only one change from the Tigers loss. The starting 13 has remained the same as what it was last week and the change comes through the bench. Rueben Cotter will come into the 17 for Corey Jensen. Jordan McLean has been named in the reserves and is a chance to return from injury.

Newcastle are coming off another win last week and have managed to be in 2nd position on the table coming into round 7. In terms of team news, young star Bradman Best has been stood down for one week due to him breaching the NRL's strict coronavirus protocols for their players. This means that Enari Tuala will come into the side to take his place for this game. Apart from that forced change, coach Adam O'Brien has not named any other changes to his 17 for the game.

Who to watch: If the Cowboys are to win this game, Jason Taumalolo will have to do all that he can. He is one of the few players who can single-handedly win you a game and if he can carry the Cowboys on his back with one of his freakish efforts, then he will give his team a good shot at victory.

There has already been origin talk about 2019 series winner Daniel Saifiti and what better way to prove he should maintain his spot with a battle in the middle with Taumalolo. Saifiti has established himself as a leader in the Knights pack and will be looking take the middle challenge head on in this clash.

Favourite: Looking at the form guide at the moment, there is little wonder that the Knights are favourites to win on Saturday.

Tip: Even with Jason Taumalolo in their team, the Cowboys don't pack much of a punch in their forwards other than that. The likes of David Klemmer and Daniel Saifiti should get over the top of the Cowboys pack and open the game up for the likes of Kalyn Ponga and Mitchell Pearce to play off the back of. The Cowboys can't be completely discounted considering the pressure mounting on them, but that depends on whether or not they respond. **Knights by 14.**

Brisbane
BRONCOS



Gold Coast
TITANS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
2	-	-	-	Tesi NIU	1	FULLBACK	1	Corey THOMPSON	3*	1	-	4	
6	-	-	-	Corey OATES	2	WING	2	Anthony DON	5	2	-	8	
6	-	1	2	Herbie FARNWORTH	3	CENTRE	3	Brian KELLY	6	2	-	8	
6	1	-	4	Darius BOYD	4	CENTRE	4	Dale COPLEY	5	1	-	4	
2	2	-	8	Xavier COATES	5	WING	5	Phillip SAMI	6	2	-	8	
6	1	-	4	Anthony MILFORD	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Ashley TAYLOR	6	-	11	22	
6	1	-	4	Brodie CROFT	7	HALFBACK	7	Jamal FOGARTY	4	-	-	-	
4	-	-	-	Matthew LODGE	8	FRONT ROW	8	Moeaki FOTUAIKA	5	-	-	-	
4*	-	-	-	Issac LUKE	9	HOOKER	9	Mitch REIN	2	-	-	-	
6	-	-	-	Payne HAAS	10	FRONT ROW	10	Sam LISONE	6	-	-	-	
2	-	-	-	Alex GLENN	11	SECOND ROW	11	Kevin PROCTOR	6	1	-	4	
2	1	-	4	Tevita PANGAI JUNIOR	12	SECOND ROW	12	Keegan HIPGRAVE	4	1	-	4	
4	-	-	-	Joe OFAHENGAUE	13	LOCK	13	Jai ARROW	6	-	-	-	
6	1	11	26	Jamayne ISAAKO	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Tanah BOYD	3	1	-	4	
4	-	-	-	Jamil HOPOATE	15		15	Tyrone PEACHEY	6	-	-	-	
4	-	-	-	Rhys KENNEDY	16		16	Jaimin JOLLIFFE	4	-	-	-	
2	-	-	-	Ben TE'O	17		17	Jarrod WALLACE	3	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Tom DEARDEN	18	RESERVES	18	Bryce CARTWRIGHT	5	1	-	4	
3	-	-	-	Ethan BULLEMOR	19		19	Erin CLARK	4	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Tyson GAMBLE	20		20	Beau FERMOR	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Richard KENNAR	21		21	Tyrone ROBERTS	2	-	-	-	

* 3 games for St George Illawarra Dragons

* 2 games for Wests Tigers

ANTHONY SEIBOLD

COACH

JUSTIN HOLBROOK

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 - 12 more points for 400 club and career points; Phillip SAMI - 8 more points for 100 club and career points

#NRLBroncosTitans

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 27 June 2020
KICKOFF	5:30pm AEST
VENUE	Suncorp Stadium Milton, QLD
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand 2GB SYD / 4BC BNE Triple M BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Peter GOUGH
TOUCH JUDGES	Belinda SHARPE Matt NOYEN
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK Ben LOWE

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 27 matches

20

7

At Suncorp Stadium: 14 matches, Broncos 11, Titans 3

LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 19	Broncos 34-12	Cbus Super
2019	Round 13	Titans 26-18	Suncorp
2018	Round 17	Broncos 34-0	Cbus Super
2018	Round 4	Titans 26-14	Suncorp
2017	Round 22	Broncos 54-0	Cbus Super
2017	Round 7	Broncos 24-22	Suncorp
2016	Finals W1	Broncos 44-28	Suncorp
2016	Round 5	Broncos 24-16	Cbus Super
2015	Round 20	Broncos 34-0	Suncorp
2015	Round 5	Broncos 26-16	Cbus Super

BIGGEST WINS

BRONCOS	2017 Round 22	54-0 at Cbus Super
TITANS	2009 Round 20	34-18 at Skilled

CURRENT FORM

BRONCOS	WWLLLLL	14th, 4pts
TITANS	LLLWLL	16th, 2pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 8

BRONCOS	Warriors @ Central Coast, Sat 4 Jul 5:30pm
TITANS	Sharks @ Cbus Super, Sat 4 Jul 3:00pm

Match Preview

with Robert Crosby

Queensland rivals clash in battle of the also-rans

Enduring one of the roughest patches in the club's history over the past month, the Brisbane Broncos will be desperate to get back in the winner's circles when they host the Gold Coast Titans at Suncorp Stadium.

Conceding 140 points while posting just 30 of their own since the season resumption, the Brisbane Broncos will be approaching Saturday as a win-at-all-costs match following widespread scrutiny from former players and vocal sections of the media.

Holding a 74 per cent record over the Titans with 20 wins from 27 clashes dating back to 2007, coach Anthony Seibold will be wary of the threat posed by the reigning wooden spooners having suffered the embarrassment of going down to the Titans at Suncorp Stadium last year.

Responding to last Thursday's 27-6 loss to Newcastle, Tongan international Fanitesi Niu will start at fullback with Jamayne Isaako relegated to the bench alongside Jamil Hopoate and Rhys Kennedy.

Managing a single win from their opening six matches, the Gold Coast Titans will be hoping to move off the bottom of the ladder with victory on Saturday evening.

Finishing last week's 20-8 loss to the Dragons with one reserve following injuries to Corey Thompson, Young Tonumaiepa and Phillip Sami, coach Justin Holbrook will be optimistic about his side's chances following upset wins over the Broncos in the past two seasons.

Boosted by the return of former Broncos outside back Dale Copley in place of Tonumaiepa, seasoned first-graders Mitch Rein and Jarrod Wallace have been handed reprieves at the expense of Erin Clark and Bryce Cartwright.

Who to watch: Providing a rare spark of life to the rapidly imploding Broncos, speedster Xavier Coates will be hoping to record his first win of the season. Bagging a try in both of his appearances over the past fortnight, the 19-year-old flyer has earned comparisons to a young Israel Folau with his blistering speed and ability to contest the ball in the air. Representing Papua New Guinea last season, the young gun is sure to attract plenty of interest once he comes on the market at the end of this season, but will be primarily focused on getting the Broncos out of the doldrums on Saturday evening.

At just 20 years of age, Moeaki Fotuauka has put aside years of hardship to develop into the Titans' forward leader. Averaging 170 metres and 37 tackles in 2020 to usurp Jai Arrow as the premier forward at the club, the Tongan enforcer has embarrassed many of his higher profile teammates with performances belying his status as one of the youngest starting props in the league. Facing off against Broncos prodigy Payne Haas is a key personal duel, look for Fotuauka to give the visitors every chance of pulling off an upset through his efforts with the ball.

Favourite: Despite staring down the prospect of becoming the first Brisbane team in eight years to record five straight losses, the Broncos are expected to prove too strong for their struggling rivals.

Tip: A contest between 14th and 16th is unlikely to reach great heights, however the Broncos should get the job done if they have any aspirations of featuring beyond the regular season. **Broncos by 12.**

Parramatta
EELS



Canberra
RAIDERS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
6	2	-	8	Clinton GUTHERSON	1	FULLBACK	1	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	6	1	-	4
6	3	-	12	Maika SIVO	2	WING	2	Jordan RAPANA	4	1	-	4
6	3	-	12	Michael JENNINGS	3	CENTRE	3	Jarrold CROKER	6	-	16	32
6	2	-	8	Waqā BLAKE	4	CENTRE	4	Curtis SCOTT	6	1	-	4
6	-	-	-	Blake FERGUSON	5	WING	5	Nick COTRIC	6	3	-	12
6	3	-	12	Dylan BROWN	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Jack WIGHTON	6	4	-	16
6	1	22+	49	Mitchell MOSES	7	HALFBACK	7	George WILLIAMS	6	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD	8	FRONT ROW	8	Josh PAPALI'I	6	1	-	4
6	2	-	8	Reed MAHONEY	9	HOOKER	9	Josh HODGSON	6	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	Junior PAULO	10	FRONT ROW	10	Iosia SOLIOLA	6	1	-	4
6	1	-	4	Shaun LANE	11	SECOND ROW	11	Joseph TAPINE	6	1	-	4
6	1	-	4	Ryan MATTERSON	12	SECOND ROW	12	Elliott WHITEHEAD	6	3	-	12
4	-	-	-	^Nathan BROWN	13	LOCK	13	Corey HORSBURGH	5	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Ray STONE	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Siliva HAVILI	6	-	-	-
6	1	-	4	Marata NIUKORE	15		15	Emre GULER	6	1	-	4
2	-	-	-	Oregon KAUFUSI	16		16	Ryan SUTTON	2	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Brad TAKAIRANGI	17		17	Hudson YOUNG	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	David GOWER	18	RESERVES	18	Bailey SIMONSSON	4	1	-	4
-	-	-	-	Daniel ALVARO	19		19	Dunamis LUI	5	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	George JENNINGS	20		20	Matt FRAWLEY	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Jai FIELD	21		21	Tom STARLING	-	-	-	-

^ subject to judiciary hearing

BRAD ARTHUR

COACH

RICKY STUART

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 Blake FERGUSON - 8 more points for 500 career points

#NRL Eels Raiders

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 27 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	Ashley KLEIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Todd SMITH Gavin BADGER
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL Bryan NORRIE

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 58 matches

27

31

At Bankwest Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 15	Eels 22-16	TIO (Darwin)
2019	Round 5	Raiders 19-0	GIO
2018	Round 6	Raiders 18-2	GIO
2017	Round 11	Raiders 22-16	ANZ
2017	Round 5	Raiders 30-18	GIO
2016	Round 24	Raiders 28-18	GIO
2016	Round 6	Eels 36-6	Pirtek
2015	Round 26	Raiders 28-24	Pirtek
2014	Round 26	Raiders 33-20	GIO
2014	Round 22	Eels 18-10	TIO (Darwin)

BIGGEST WINS

EELS	1982 Round 7	54-3 at Belmore
RAIDERS	1993 Round 21	68-0 at Bruce

CURRENT FORM

EELS	W W W W W W	1st, 10pts
RAIDERS	W W W L W L	5th, 8pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 8

EELS	Cowboys @ Bankwest, Fri 3 Jul 7:55pm
RAIDERS	Dragons @ Campbelltown, Fri 3 Jul 6:00pm

Match Preview

with Josh Robertson

Two competition heavyweights meet on at Saturday night at Bankwest Stadium looking to both put defeats behind them when the Parramatta Eels take on the Canberra Raiders.

The Eels have been the form team of the competition and suffered their first defeat last weekend when falling to a 24-10 defeat at the hands of a very impressive Sydney Roosters side. The Blue and Gold were impressive despite the 14-point margin with their line being put under immense pressure throughout the first half and only conceding the one first half try.

The Eels were able to hit the lead against the Roosters for a short period before the defending premiers were able to hit back and race away with their experience and class prevailing. Parramatta will need to ensure their performance is on song this weekend because with a defeat they could slip all the way to seventh.

Parramatta coach Brad Arthur will be forced into changes with Nathan Brown unsuccessfully challenging his Grade 2 High Tackle charge so will miss the game despite being named, the other player out is Peni Terepo with Brad Takairangi named on the bench.

Mixing their form since the season resumption, the Canberra Raiders were comprehensively outplayed Sunday following their 14-6 defeat at the hands of Manly at Campbelltown last Sunday. The Raiders were never able to get into the game trailing 12-0 and although they came within one converted try, they couldn't get past the Sea Eagles.

The Green Machine started the season resumption with an impressive win over Melbourne, the Raiders have mixed their form with a defeat against Newcastle and a comeback victory over the Wests Tigers. The Raiders have struggled to score points in the first half over the past three weeks and need to improve on that to keep Parramatta quiet.

Canberra coach Ricky Stuart has kept the faith with his side naming the same 17 that took the field against the Raiders which gives his side some consistency in trying to get their season back on track to prove that they can match it with the best teams.

Who to watch: Michael Jennings – The Parramatta veteran notched up try 150 last weekend and doesn't show any signs of slowing down anytime soon. Impressive through the season, Jennings has been dangerous and could be able to show his skill and smarts up against his opposing Canberra backs. Jennings still possesses impressive speed but also his centre partnership with Maika Sivo is the most dangerous.

Curtis Scott – A big signing for the Raiders from the Storm, Curtis Scott has had a 2020 to forget with off-season drama at the start of the year adding to a poor start to his Canberra career. The 22-year-old hasn't been the spark that the Raiders would've been looking for since losing Joey Leilua to the Tigers. Scott's performances have seen Raiders fans calling for him to be dropped and more poor performances could see Ricky Stuart's patience quickly diminish.

Favourite: The Parramatta Eels have been put in as favourites, with their performances being very impressive and the fact that they are one of very few teams that are actually allowed to play at their own venue.

Tip: Parramatta were lucky to get victory over the Panthers a fortnight ago then were defeated by the Roosters. However, their performance was still very good and should be more than enough to get over the Raiders who have struggled to fire in the past few weeks. The game should be entertaining but Parramatta look to be the class team. **Eels by 10.**

Manly-Warringah SEA EAGLES



Cronulla-Sutherland SHARKS

P T G Pts

1 - - -
4 3 - 12
6 2 - 8
2 2 - 8
6 1 15 34
6 - - -
6 1 -+ 5
6 - - -
6 - - -
5 - - -
6 - - -
5 1 - 4
6 - - -

Brendan ELLIOT **1**
Jorge TAUFUA **2**
Brad PARKER **3**
Tevita FUNA **4**
Reuben GARRICK **5**
Lachlan CROKER **6**
Daly CHERRY-EVANS **7**
Addin FONUA-BLAKE **8**
Danny LEVI **9**
Martin TAUPAU **10**
Joel THOMPSON **11**
Curtis SIRONEN **12**
Jake TRBOJEVIC **13**

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

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

Matt MOYLAN
Sione KATOA
Josh DUGAN
Jesse RAMIEN
Bryson GOODWIN
Shaun JOHNSON
Chad TOWNSEND
Andrew FIFITA
Blayke BRAILEY
Aaron WOODS
Briton NIKORA
Wade GRAHAM
Jack WILLIAMS

P T G Pts

3 - - -
6 6 - 24
4 2 - 8
6 2 - 8
1 1 - 4
6 - 15 30
5 - - -
4 - - -
6 - - -
6 - - -
5 1 - 4
6 2 - 8
6 - - -

- - - -
2 - - -
6 - - -
4 - - -

Cade CUST **14**
Jack GOSIEWSKI **15**
Sean KEPPIE **16**
Taniela PASEKA **17**

INTERCHANGE

14
15
16
17

Toby RUDOLF
Braden HAMLIN-UELE
Siosifa TALAKAI
Royce HUNT

6 - - -
6 - - -
2 - - -
1 - - -

3 - - -
- - - -
2 - - -
- - - -

Morgan BOYLE **18**
Abbas MISKI **19**
Haumole OLAKAU'ATU **20**
Toafofoa SIPLEY **21**

RESERVES

18
19
20
21

Scott SORENSEN
Connor TRACEY
Will KENNEDY
Jackson FERRIS

5 - - -
4 - - -
6 1 - 4
- - - -

DES HASLER

COACH

JOHN MORRIS

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

PENALTIES
SCRUMS

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

#NRLManlySharks

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 28 June 2020
KICKOFF	4:05pm AEST
VENUE	Central Coast Stadium Gosford, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD 2GB SYD / 4BC BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Adam GEE
TOUCH JUDGES	Chris SUTTON Phil HENDERSON
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL Ben GALEA

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 92 matches

66 2 24

At Central Coast Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Finals W1	Sea Eagles 28-16	Lottoland
2019	Round 10	Sea Eagles 24-14	PointsBet
2018	Round 21	Sea Eagles 33-32	SC Group
2017	Round 16	Sea Eagles 35-18	SC Group
2016	Round 11	Sharks 20-12	SC Group
2016	Round 3	Sea Eagles 22-12	Brookvale
2015	Round 26	Sea Eagles 14-12	Remondis
2015	Round 17	Sea Eagles 28-16	Brookvale
2014	Round 15	Sea Eagles 26-0	Remondis
2014	Round 6	Sea Eagles 24-4	Brookvale

BIGGEST WINS

SEA EAGLES	1984 Round 6	50-14 at Brookvale
SHARKS	2005 Round 24	68-6 at Toyota

CURRENT FORM

SEA EAGLES	L W W L W W	7th, 8pts
SHARKS	L L L W L W	11th, 4pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 8

SEA EAGLES	Knights @ Central Coast, Sun 5 Jul 4:05pm
SHARKS	Titans @ Cbus Super, Sat 4 Jul 3:00pm

Match Preview

with Jeff Dickinson-Fox

After one of the Manly Sea Eagles' most courageous wins they will look to their returning cast to maintain a dominant record over the middling Cronulla Sharks.

Watching Manly hold off the Canberra Raiders with only 15 men after four minutes, then sans Tom Trbojevic for most of the second half was inspirational and no doubt galvanising for Des Hasler's side.

It's an effort just about every NRL coach would be dreaming their own team had, including Sharks coach John Morris.

When Cronulla was put under pressure from the Bulldogs in their 20-18 win over Canterbury, the Sharks gave away eight six-a-gain penalties and lost Briton Nikora to the sin bin for the repeated infringements. It was the second win of the season for Cronulla from six matches and they'll need to improve on their performance to overturn a heavily one-sided run of results against the Sea Eagles.

Manly has won 11 of their last 12 games against the Sharks and also enjoy a great record at Central Coast Stadium, where they've won 13 of their 16 matches.

There is more adversity for the Sea Eagles to combat this week as Tom Trbojevic and Dylan Walker are both set to miss at least six weeks of footy to deal with another torn hamstring and foot injury respectively. However in good news, Jorge Taufua and Martin Taupau return from their own injuries. Brad Parker is a chance to play after he failed a HIA on Sunday and Moses Suli is still unavailable for selection.

Meanwhile Cronulla will welcome some stability to their lineup as the only change they've made is Andrew Fifita to start, pushing Braden Hamlin-Uele to the bench. Sione Katoa will be brearming with confidence after completing his first NRL hat-trick of tries. Matt Moylan is set to start at fullback once again after playing 68 minutes on his return last round. He was on track to play the entire match until Dallin Watene-Zelezniak's crunching hit created heavy contact between Moylan's head and the ground. Fortunately he passed the HIA shortly after.

With Manly making two unplanned adjustments to their spine, Brendan Elliott at fullback and Lachlan Croker at five-eighth, where the points will come from remains to be seen. It puts a lot more responsibility on Daly Cherry-Evans to create and he'll no doubt be front of mind for the Sharks to scheme against. If Cherry-Evans is kept quiet, that might be enough to outscore the Sea Eagles.

Who to watch: Named to play his first match of the 2020 season, Cade Cust exploded into the NRL last year and could be the man to lift the Sea Eagles. Set to come off the bench on Sunday the 21-year-old played seven matches in the halves last season, scored four tries and six try assists. Lachlan Croker is the starter at five-eighth so there would be some reshuffling of the backline to accommodate Cust mid-match. Wherever he's placed, the impact off the bench could be a game changer.

Last week was his first NRL match since 2017 and the first in Sharks colours since 2008, Bryson Goodwin had a successful return and will look cement his spot in the team with more strong performances starting Sunday afternoon. With one try, 18 runs, 151 run metres, five tackle breaks and no missed tackles Goodwin has a harder job this week. He has the assignment of marking Jorge Taufua, and while Goodwin's been away Taufua's formed the reputation of being one of the NRL's leading enforcers.

Favourite: Purely based on betting odds, it'll make you believe the Sea Eagles are the likely winners. Given the recent history between these teams also heavily favours Manly, it's definitely a hoodoo the Sharks are struggling to crack.

Tip: The Sea Eagles found themselves down on healthy players early last week and kept a quality Raiders side at bay. This type of statement win should act as an alert to Cronulla that they too could find themselves beaten if they're not at their best. Last week against the Sharks were good but not great against the Bulldogs. Now Cronulla should be ready to put together a complete performance if they're serious about making the top eight. **Sharks by 10.**

Canterbury-Bankstown BULLDOGS



WESTS TIGERS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
6	1	-	4	Will HOPOATE	1	FULLBACK	1	Adam DOUEIHI		6	1	-	4
5	1	-	4	Reimis SMITH	2	WING	2	David NOFOALUMA		6	6	-	24
3	-	-	-	Kerrod HOLLAND	3	CENTRE	3	Joseph LEILUA		6	2	-	8
5	1	3	10	Jake AVERILLO	4	CENTRE	4	Moses MBYE		4	1	9	22
6	-	-	-	Dallin WATENE-ZELEZNIAK	5	WING	5	Tommy TALAU		1	-	-	-
3	2	-	8	Kieran FORAN	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Josh REYNOLDS		4	1	-	4
3	-	3	6	Brandon WAKEHAM	7	HALFBACK	7	Luke BROOKS		4	2	-	8
6	1	-	4	Renouf TO'OMAGA	8	FRONT ROW	8	Josh ALOIAI		6	2	-	8
6	-	-	-	Jeremy MARSHALL-KING	9	HOOKER	9	Harry GRANT		4	1	-	4
6	-	-	-	Dylan NAPA	10	FRONT ROW	10	Oliver CLARK		2	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	Josh JACKSON	11	SECOND ROW	11	Luke GARNER		5	1	-	4
6	-	-	-	Raymond FAITALA-MARINER	12	SECOND ROW	12	Luciano LEILUA		6	2	-	8
6	1	-	4	Adam ELLIOTT	13	LOCK	13	Matt EISENHUTH		1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Jack COGGER	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Elijah TAYLOR		2	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	Dean BRITT	15		15	Thomas MIKAELE		6	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Sauaso SUE	16		16	Sam MCINTYRE		1	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Ofahiki OGDEN	17		17	Michael CHEE-KAM		4	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Sione KATO A	19	RESERVES	18	Benji MARSHALL		4	1	13+	31
5	1	-	4	Lachlan LEWIS	20		19	Chris LAWRENCE		5	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Aiden TOLMAN	21		20	Billy WALTERS		4	-	-	-
5	1	7	18	Nick MEANEY	22		21	Reece HOFFMAN		-	-	-	-

DEAN PAY

COACH

MICHAEL MAGUIRE

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 Luciano LEILUA - 50 career games; Wests Tigers - 500 games as a club

#NRLBulldogsTigers

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 28 June 2020
KICKOFF	6:30pm AEST
VENUE	Bankwest Stadium Parramatta, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Henry PERENARA
TOUCH JUDGES	Kasey BADGER Ziggy PRZEKLASA-ADAMSKI
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY Bryan NORRIE

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 36 matches

23

13

At Bankwest Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN CLASHES

2019	Round 21	Bulldogs 18-16	ANZ
2019	Round 3	Bulldogs 22-8	Campbelltown
2018	Round 20	Bulldogs 16-4	ANZ
2018	Round 12	Wests Tigers 14-10	ANZ
2017	Round 8	Wests Tigers 18-12	ANZ
2016	Round 18	Bulldogs 32-22	ANZ
2016	Round 10	Bulldogs 36-4	ANZ
2015	Round 8	Wests Tigers 38-14	ANZ
2015	Round 4	Bulldogs 25-24	ANZ
2014	Round 24	Bulldogs 30-10	ANZ

BIGGEST WINS

BULLDOGS	2013 Round 8	40-4 at ANZ
WESTS TIGERS	2005 Round 4	54-2 at Telstra
	2008 Round 21	56-4 at Telstra

CURRENT FORM

BULLDOGS	LLLWLL	15th, 2pts
TIGERS	WLWLLW	9th, 6pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 8

BULLDOGS	Rabbitohs @ Bankwest, Sun 5 Jul 6:30pm
WESTS TIGERS	Panthers @ Campbelltown, Sat 4 Jul 7:35pm

Match Preview

with Rick Edgerton

Bulldogs and Tigers to square off in Sunday night showdown.

After a narrow loss to the Sharks last Sunday night that leaves them with just one win from six games for the season, speculation continues around the coaching future of Dean Pay in the top job at Canterbury. You certainly can't question the players' commitment to their top dog, with their efforts week to week proving they want to continue under his tutelage.

That and the fact their season is fast slipping away should provide them with plenty of motivation as they take centre stage for the last game of the round for the fourth straight week since the competition relaunch.

With winger Christian Crichton being suspended for a shoulder charge last week, Pay has re-jigged the backline with Reimis Smith and Dallin Watene-Zelezniak manning the flanks after being named in the centres last week and Kerrod Holland joining the run-on team to partner impressive youngster Jake Averillo in the centres. Jack Cogger has been named to take Holland's place on the interchange. Aiden Tolman also finds himself on the reserves list after spending time in isolation following a Covid-19 scare two weeks ago. He should come into the team pending a final test this week.

A month into the relaunched season and Wests Tigers fans find their team in a position they have become all too accustomed to in recent years – ninth on the ladder and searching for the consistency to breakthrough as a top 8 side.

After coach Michael Maguire sent a warning shot to the entire squad when axing club legend Benji Marshall a fortnight ago, there have been positives with a tough loss to the Raiders followed up by a strong victory over the Cowboys last week in which they blew out to a 34-0 halftime lead.

There's also been the negatives. After sending a strong message around his team's defensive mindset, McGuire's men let in 20 unanswered points against the Cowboys in the second half and for the second straight week – failed to cross the stripe for a try in the final 40.

Injuries have left the Tigers with a few headaches this week with Robert Jennings (hamstring), Zane Musgrove (foot) and Alex Twal (knee) all set for a stint on the sidelines. Jennings injury is offset by the return of Tommy Talau on the wing, whilst Oliver Clark and Matt Eisenhuth join the starting pack with Elijah Taylor finding his way back into the 17 via the bench.

Who to watch: Spending the last few years at Belmore switching between fullback and centre, the versatile Will Hopoate was initially pencilled in at right centre for season 2020 before again shifting to the back in Round 4. The former New South Wales rep has again looked at home in the number one jersey averaging 190 metres and 3 tackle busts per game. His ball-playing ability on the edges has added an attacking threat for the blue and whites and there's not a safer custodian under the high ball in the game today. As one of the few players in the Bulldogs squad displaying genuine NRL quality week in - week out, 'Hoppa' will again be key to their chances this week.

At the opposite end of the park, Tigers custodian Adam Doueihi is displaying plenty of promise as he continues to transition into the role Rabbitohs coach Wayne Bennett thrust him into for the back half of 2019. Plying his trade in the halves coming through the grades, Doueihi was forced to develop his utility value at South Sydney with regular halves Adam Reynolds and Cody Walker ahead of him. Signed by the Tigers late in the pre-season, McGuire opted to use him in the centres in rounds one and two, but fullback was always the plan for him as the season wore on and he got his chance to make the number one jersey his own when the comp restarted in round three. One of his biggest strengths at the back is his exceptional positional play and the ability to read an opposition kick. With similar stats to his opposite number of 188 metres and 4 tackle busts per game, expect the battle at the back to play a key role in the outcome of this one.

Favourite: The Tigers hold firm favouritism in this one.

Tip: The injuries to the Tigers levels things right up here and they are still yet to prove they're an 80 minute team. Their trend of not crossing the stripe the last two weeks is a concern against a Bulldogs side who refuses to go away. Despite struggling in recent times, the Bulldogs have won their last three against the Tigers and look a good chance of coming over the top of them again in this one. **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 Kogarah 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 Kogarah 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 Gosford 27-6
Rabbitohs v Warriors Bankwest 40-12
Panthers v Storm C'town 21-14
Titans v Dragons Suncorp 8-20
Tigers v Cowboys C'town 36-20
Roosters v Eels Bankwest 24-10
Raiders v Sea Eagles C'town 6-14
Sharks v Bulldogs Bankwest 20-18

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 Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
Storm v Warriors Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
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 GIO Stadium Canberra
Eels v Cowboys Bankwest Stadium
Titans v Sharks Cbus Super Stadium
Warriors v Broncos Central Coast Stadium
Tigers v Panthers Campbelltown Stadium
Sea Eagles v Knights Lottoland
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 Cbus Super Stadium
Rabbitohs v Tigers Bankwest Stadium
Sharks v Panthers Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
Broncos v Bulldogs Suncorp Stadium
Raiders v Storm GIO Stadium Canberra
Knights v Eels McDonald Jones Stadium
Dragons v Sea Eagles WIN or Netstrata Jubilee

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 Grand Final & Origin broadcast live on Fox League & Kayo Sports. Matches at 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

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 or LeagueUnlimited.com.



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