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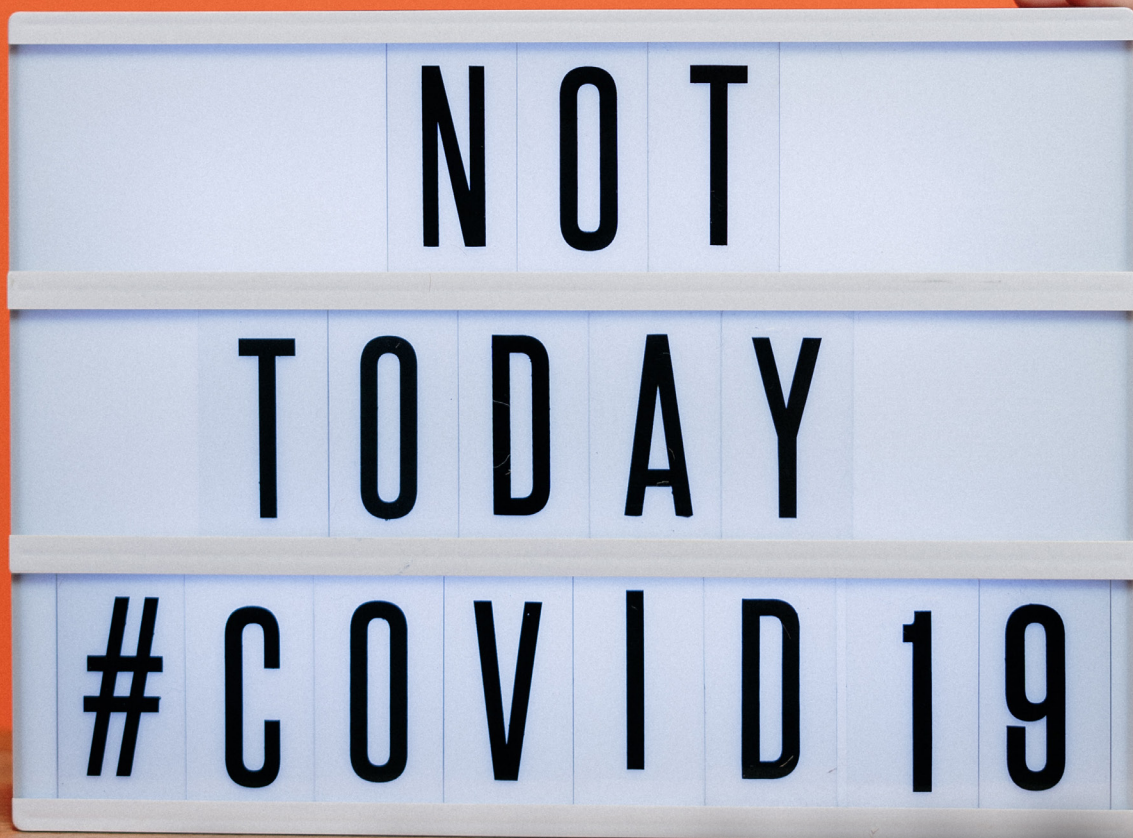


LEAGUE
UNLIMITED

FRONT ROW

ROUND 9 2020

VOLUME 1 · ISSUE 7



How fantasy footy buffs got through the COVID-19 break

INSIDE: CROSSWORD & WORD JUMBLES · ROUND 8 RESULTS & REPORTS LADDER · STATS LEADERS · NEWS · ROUND 9 TEAMLISTS & PREVIEWS · 2020 DRAW



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THERE IS NO OFF-SEASON

From the editor

Tim Costello

What a weekend of NRL. It started with one of the more memorable finishes in the history of the game - that incredible showdown between the NRL's two most recent premiership winners in the Storm and Roosters. The 2017 title winners got the upper hand in extra time thanks to a penalty, but the real nailbiting highlights came at the end of regulation time when the Storm came from behind to level things, only for the Tricolours to pip them with a field goal - which they then matched just seconds later! Long may we see games like that after the competition restart contained way too many blowouts early on.

Sadly though - the weekend ended with some very negative headlines. A contentious video referee decision at the end of Sunday's Manly-Newcastle clash at Brookvale led to a shocking outburst from Sea Eagles prop Addin Fonua-Blake, calling the referee a slur we won't repeat in this publication.

He was initially slapped with a two-match ban - which he accepted by entering an early guilty plea - but has since been notified he has breached the NRL's anti-vilification code. This will almost certainly involve further sanction, which at the time of publishing remains unknown. Credit to acting NRL CEO Andrew Abdo for moving quickly to recognise the suspension didn't meet community expectations.

This week we have one key feature story - a look at how those who love their fantasy footy coped during the COVID-19 lockdown period earlier this year. Check out Joshua Wells' yarn on page 12!

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Storm claim victory in match of the year

Robert Crosby



27-25



A Cameron Smith penalty goal was all that separated the Melbourne Storm and the Sydney Roosters in a golden point thriller on Thursday evening.

Coming from 22-12 down with ten minutes remaining to secure the 27-25 win, the Storm showed their premiership credential to hand last year's premiers their first loss since the season resumption.

Going set for set during the opening ten minutes, Sydney speedster Brett Morris capitalised on a Melbourne error to send Kyle Flanagan (11th minute) over for the first try of the evening.

Responding immediately with Josh Addo-Carr (13th minute) latching onto a loose ball to race 60 metres to level the scores at 6-all, the initial rush of points came to a halt as both teams showed their premiership credentials with inspired defence for the remainder of the half.

Striking a pivotal blow shortly before the break after Luke Keary put up a cross-field kick for Daniel Tupou, the giant winger offloaded to send Josh Morris (37th minute) over for his second try in red, white and blue colours.

Taking less than two minutes after the resumption of play to draw the scores

level at 12-all, Melbourne utility Tom Eisenhuth latched onto a wayward pass to send Jahrome Hughes (42nd minute) over for his first try of the season. Hitting back through Brett Morris (54th minute) following a brilliant passage of play that saw the Roosters spread the ball from sideline to sideline, the four-pointer saw the evergreen winger move into outright seventh on the all-time try-scorers list.

Appearing to have the result sewn up after Josh Morris (68th minute) managed to stay inside the field of play, the Storm rose to the occasion to produce two tries in quick succession through Hughes (71st minute) and former Rooster Paul Momirovski (73rd minute).

Taking the lead for the first time through Cameron Smith's sideline conversion, the match took a further twist as rookie halfback Flanagan stepped up to nail a 30-metre penalty with three minutes remaining.

Appearing to secure the result courtesy of a Keary one-pointer in the following set, an error from the kick-off afforded Storm fullback Ryan Papenhuyzen the chance to send the match into golden point with seconds left on the clock.

Taking advantage of a Boyd Cordner error inside the Roosters' half, a determined run from Dale Finucane produced the decisive penalty with Smith stepping up to nail the kick from in front of the posts.

Next week, the Roosters take on the Cowboys in Townsville, while the Storm will face the Raiders at GIO Stadium.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Cameron Smith

2 points - Luke Keary

1 points - Brett Morris

Heart palpitations for Ricky as Raiders hold off fast-finishing Dragons

Andrew Jackson



22-16



The Raiders snapped a two-game losing streak against the Dragons but did little to announce themselves as premiership contenders with a nervy 22-16 win.

Canberra can be somewhat excused given they lost Sia Soliola, Elliott Whitehead and Emre Guler at various stages of the match.

They were already without Corey Horsburgh and John Bateman.

But after two-straight losses the Raiders needed to make a statement and had the opportunity to against a Dragons side that looked lethargic in the opening half.

Canberra did race away to an 18-0 lead by the break but it could have been much more as execution in attack left much to be desired.

Their potent left-edge proved a handful with Whitehead and Jack Wighton combining beautifully on a number of occasions.

Wighton finished the game with two linebreak assists, a try assist and 372 kicking metres in a very solid display.

But with the Storm and Roosters to come in the next fortnight, Raiders fans will be hoping the challenge will see their side rise to start playing the same sort of footy that saw them make it all the way to the decider last year.

Matt Dufty, Zac Lomax and Euan Aitken proved the biggest threats in the later stages of the second half for the Red V as they ran in three quick tries.

Aitken's 115 running metres and seven tackle busts in the second half were particularly impressive while Lomax was strong across the entire 80 minutes.

It didn't prove enough though as the Dragons fell to another defeat.

They host the Sea Eagles next Sunday while Canberra play Melbourne on Saturday.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Jack Wighton

2 points - Josh Papali'i

1 points - Zac Lomax

The King and Sivo demolish Cowboys

Sam Bourke



42-4



Parramatta have maintained their lead at the top of the NRL ladder with an absolute demolition job over the Cowboys at Bankwest Stadium tonight running out convincing winners by 42-4.

In his 100th game for the club, Eels skipper Clint Gutherson was superb for the home side, setting up three tries, kicking 6 goals and running for over 200 metres in a dominant display, which also saw Fijian winger Maiko Sivo score an incredible four tries in a night to remember at Bankwest Stadium.

The Cowboys simply had no much for the Eels firepower, as they were blown off the park in the second half, with the home side running in four unanswered tries in the second half in a performance sure to heap pressure on premiership winning coach Paul Green moving forward.

Despite coming into the game missing key playmaker Mitchell Moses through injury, Parramatta looked comfortable at home early on and it was in form skipper Gutherson who was pivotal for delivering the opening try. The Eels skipper took the ball close to the line and hit his outside man Micheal Jennings with a superb ball for the former NSW centre to score the first points of the evening. Gutherson then converted from out wide and the Eels lead 6-0 after just 11 minutes.

Gutherson was at it again for the Eels' second try, when he again threw the key pass, this time a 15m rocket to try scoring machine Maika Sivo who dived over to score his first try of the night. Gutherson's conversion attempt hit the post and Parramatta led 10-0.

Parramatta have thrived on the one, two punch so far this season and they quickly made it three first half tries, when five eighth Dylan Brown kicked high for Waqa Blake who leapt high to score and following Gutherson's conversion extended the Eels lead to 16-0.

North Queensland managed to claw their way back just before the break, when five-eighth Scott Drinkwater took on the line and found a steaming Tom Opacic who crashed over close to the line to give the away side some hope just before the stroke of halftime, reducing the Eels lead to 16-4 at the break.

After the break, the Eels got off to a dream start, when Brown again kicked high for his preferred target in Waqa Blake. Blake then batted the ball back into the hands of speedster Jai Field and the former Dragons showed his blistering speed to race over in the corner to score on debut for his new club. Gutherson then converted from the sideline and Parramatta extended their lead to 22-4 just minutes into the second half.

Gutherson was at it again for the Eels next try when he again threw an amazing cut out ball for Sivo to score his second try. The 'King' then kicked the conversion and Parramatta were in a commanding position leading 28-4.

It was de-ja-vu for the Cowboys right edge defence when Sivo crashed over for his hat-trick, when Dylan Brown nailed a superb long pass onto the chest of the Fijian flyer to touch down. Gutherson again converted from out wide and Parramatta extended their lead to 34-4.

The blockbusting winger then made it four tries, when Brown promoted the ball through the hands towards backrowers Shaun Lane and Brad Takairangi and Sivo strolled over yet again. Gutherson converted from the sideline for 40-4.

Parramatta had a late chance to try and get Sivo over for his 5th try, when Cowboys prop Josh McGuire gave away a penalty in front of the posts with minutes remaining, however the captain elected to take the two points on offer much to the dismay of the Eels #2 and the small number of Eels supporters in attendance.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

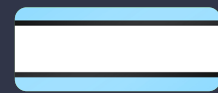
3 points - Clinton Gutherson; 2 points - Maika Sivo; 1 points - Junior Paulo

Sharks second half dominance ruins Titans' homecoming

Josh Robertson



10-40



A five try second half haul for the Sharks has seen them move into the NRL top 8 following their 40-10 victory over the Gold Coast Titans at Cbus Super Stadium on the Gold Coast.

The opening half of action may have looked tight on the scoreboard but it was a story of missed opportunities for the Sharks. The first opportunity came for the Titans when they were able to get over the line through Corey Thompson, after Tyrone Peachey set up the play cleaning up an Aaron Woods charge-down. The excitement for the hosts was short-lived with the bunker picking up a rather clear knock-on in the lead up by Peachey.

Cronulla were the first team to add points to the board when Braden Hamlin-Uele was able to get his way over the line with a hard run and used his momentum to get into the in-goal. The Sharks continued to dominate but the Titans were able to go up the other end of the field when Shaun Johnson's pass failed to hit the mark and Thompson was able to race away to score and Ash Taylor was able to level the scores.

The Sharks coughed up chances both before and after the first Titans try but they were able to re-take the lead when Andrew Fifita was able to get over the line off a good pass back inside from Wade Graham.

Chances continued to mount for the Sharks but they couldn't take advantage and it was the Titans who scored after blowing their own chances. The Titans second try came when Anthony Don was able to get over the line following a misread in defence by the Sharks outside backs. The conversion was waved away and the Sharks held a two-point margin at the break.

The second half was a one-act affair for the visitors with the Sharkies running in five unanswered tries during the half. Cronulla only took two minutes to extend their lead when Briton Nikora was able to run an angled line across the grain of the defensive line to score. Gold Coast fans were given a glimmer of hope when the Titans got close to the line and then put pressure on the Sharks but either lost the ball or were penalised in defence giving the Sharks an easy out of their own zone.

Blayke Brailey was the next recipient of Johnson's skill when the latter was able to run at the Titans defensive line before finding Brailey who was able to score. The Sharks went out to a 24-10 lead. The Titans defensive line was in all sorts as the Sharks halves ran the ball and it was Chad Townsend who was next to be able to take advantage when he was able to get through to score.

The Titans couldn't break the momentum and the Sharks were able to get on the board a further two times when Royce Hunt spun his way to the line to score his first NRL try whilst Bryson Goodwin added to his extensive tally in the final 5 minutes to give the Sharks a 40-10 victory.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Shaun Johnson; 2 points - Braden Hamlin-Uele; 1 points - Blayke Brailey

Stubborn Warriors fight back as Broncos lose six straight

Andrew Ferguson



26-16



The Warriors have won their third match from six since the competition restarted, downing a listless Brisbane Broncos side 26-16 in Gosford, the losing side now winless since Round 2.

The Broncos scored first after just 8 minutes of play when they spread the ball right with some nice catch and passing, creating the extra man, which resulted in Xavier Coates strolling over for an easy try. Jamayne Isaako failed to convert from the sideline.

Things got worse for the Warriors ten minutes later when playmaker Kodi Nikorima came off second best when he attempted a tackle on Tevita Pangai, suffering a head knock as he hit the ground. He then failed his HIA assessment.

In the 27th minute, Coates crossed for his second try courtesy of some sloppy play by the Warriors close to the Broncos line. A poor last pass was intercepted by Oates who raced 95 metres to score untouched. Isaako added the extras to give the Broncos a 10-0 lead.

Right on the stroke of halftime, the Warriors got on the scoreboard when Ken Maumalo got a good ball from Gerard Beale. Maumalo barged into Tesi Niu,

bounced off him and rolled over in the Broncos in-goal to score in the left corner. Chanel Harris-Tavita converted from touch.

Six minutes after halftime, the Warriors struck first when Agnatius Paasi steamed onto a crash ball close to the Broncos line and barged over for a strong try. Harris-Tavita converted from in front to give the Warriors a 12-10 lead.

Ten minutes later the lead changed again when the Warriors fill-in fullback Peta Hiku got lost under a towering Anthony Milford bomb and let it bounce. The ball then evaded Maumalo, rolled into the Warriors in-goal and grounded by Herbie Farnworth who scored. Isaako converts from in front and the Broncos led 16-12.

The Warriors looked to have hit back almost immediately, when in the 60th minute after Blake Green kicked a 40/20, the Warriors spread the ball right and Maumalo strolled in for what seemed an easy try. The Broncos then utilised the captain's challenge, which found the Broncos gave away a penalty prior to the try being scored, which essentially denied the Warriors a try.

In the 69th minute, with the Warriors attacking close to the Broncos line, they received a set restart. Wayde Egan decided to charge over from dummy half and miraculously got the ball down to level the scores. Harris-Tavita converted to give the Warriors the lead again, 18-16.

With 5 minutes remaining in the game, Maumalo scored a miraculous try in the corner which Harris-Tavita was unable to convert and then right on the final siren, Isaiah Papali'i stormed onto an inside ball from Green and steamrolled over the Broncos goal line defence to score a good strong try. Harris-Tavita converted and the Warriors won 26-16 in a stirring performance.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Blake Green

2 points - Wayde Egan

1 points - Tohu Harris

Panthers win spirited clash against Tigers

Justin Davies



12-19



Penrith Panthers continue their Premiership contending form with a solid 19-12 result against Wests Tigers tonight in front of 5,107 at Bankwest tonight.

The battle of the west lived up to the name tonight, as Penrith and Wests went at it blow for blow tonight, the Panthers snuck home through two class pieces of action from Nathan Cleary and Apisau Korisau to give the required buffer. The Tigers showed tonight, they are a top eight side in this season's National Rugby League competition.

Both sides brought spirit into their work and from the opening tackle from Villiame Kikau, who crunched Luke Garner to the final moments where the two sides came together it showed that there is plenty of passion and commitment in these sides. There will be another clash between the two later this season, and punters will be waiting with popcorn to enjoy another bout.

Tonight belonged to the Panthers. It is a side that is committed, tight-knit and know their strengths. It is a side that is directed well by Cleary with both Jarome Luai and Api Korisau able to pop up for moments of brilliance which makes them a tough prospect for any side in the competition.

Centre Stephen Crichton typifies this Panthers side. The 19-year-old is tall, strong and has an eye for the try-line. Crichton crossed to kick off the contest and produced a magical effort to nudge the Panthers ahead 12-10 but importantly, the youngsters combination with Villiame Kikau on the left is the secret sauce for the Panthers attack.

Panthers were made to work for the two points, after the spirited Tigers fought back twice and led 10-6 at the break. Panthers have an unbreakable self belief though, took the field goal in the 71st minute then Koroisau split them minutes later to ice the contest. It makes it a Western Sydney 1-2 at the top of the ladder and both will be competing deep into October.

For the Tigers, it was a loss but coach Michael Maguire will take a lot from that defeat. The Tigers tackled their way back into the contest after wave after wave of attack from the Panthers then went back-to-back through Matt Eisenhuth and young winger Tommy Talau to lead 10-6 at the break.

Adam Doueihi added a penalty goal on the hour mark for 12-all but after that, there was plenty of huff and puff from the Tigers who were unable to break through the Panthers defense to consolidate their spot in the top eight.

There will be plenty written on moves from Joseph Leilua and Luke Garner, both put on report for late shots. Leilua will be under the microscope from his brain snap but Leilua especially is a net positive for this Tigers side and they will take these lessons and apply them to their work later in the season.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Stephen Crichton

2 points - Jarome Luai

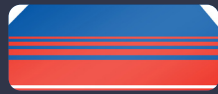
1 points - David Nofaluma

Gutsy Knights outlast fast finishing Manly

Adam Huxtable



12-14



The Newcastle Knights have produced one of the defensive performances of the season, holding on to defeat Manly 14-12 in a controversial finish on Sunday afternoon.

Both sides were out to make amends for extremely poor and uncharacteristic performances in Round 7, with Manly and Newcastle leaking 40 and 32 points respectively, and they more than redeemed themselves with only 4 tries being scored by both teams combined.

The scoring got underway in the 8th minute courtesy of a penalty goal awarded after Manly captain Daly Cherry-Evans was sin binned for a professional foul. The Sea Eagles were probably lucky to get away with only two points against them as Knights halfback Mitchell Pearce piled on the repeat sets.

The pressure finally got to Manly after 15 minutes and they were made to pay for countless errors as veteran hooker Andrew McCullough burrowed his way over from dummy half after selling the defensive line a huge dummy. The 8 points was all they were able to pile on during the sin bin period.

After coming back onto the field it didn't take Cherry-Evans long to make his mark on the contest. Manly were attacking the try line and the skipper was able to take advantage of some poor Knights defence, running late in the tackle count off his left foot and getting over for his first try of 2020.

It seemed Manly had all the momentum for the rest of the half however errors close to the line cost them, particularly when Cade Cust threw a cutout ball that sailed over the sideline immediately after being gifted a set restart.

The Knights landed a dagger to the hearts of the Manly faithful right on half time, with the halves Mitchell Pearce and Kurt Mann combining beautifully to extend the lead to 8. Pearce put in a trademark cross-field kick that was juggled and then grounded by Mann, a play that took the wind out of Manly's sails at the break.

The Newcastle Knights defended better than perhaps any other NRL team has this year for the bulk of the second half, repelling countless Manly attacking raids on numerous occasions, however the Sea Eagles finally broke through in the 67th minute when Cade Cust crashed over, setting up a grandstand finish. Daly Cherry-Evans probed across field and saw a hard running Cust come his way, and with 12 to go the deficit was down to 2.

Newcastle looked long odds to hold on, with Manly seemingly having wrestled back momentum and their star fullback Kalyn Ponga being forced off with an HIA. Regardless, they held on and left Manly with the tough ask of going 90 metres in the final minute.

Rookie winger Tevita Funa tried to pull a rabbit out of the hat after getting into open space and putting in a kick, however Andrew McCullough was there to ground the ball. The drama didn't stop when the siren sounded though, with the contest being sent up for a possible penalty try. The findings came back inconclusive and the Knights held on to win 14-12, much to the dismay of Manly fans and players alike, particularly Addin Fonua-Blake who was sent off for dissent.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Mitchell Pearce

2 points - Kurt Mann

1 points - Daly Cherry-Evans

Rabbitohs bounce back against battling Bulldogs

Justin Davies



10-26



The South Sydney Rabbitohs got back in the winner's circle after an uncomfortable 26-10 result against a gallant Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs side tonight at Bankwest Stadium.

Looking at the scoreline only, you would suggest the Rabbitohs were comfortable victors tonight. The game suggested anything but, the Rabbitohs did enough including a late Dane Gagai intercept to get past a Bulldogs side down on talent but not grit which kept the game tense all evening.

The clear difference was in the halves. Adam Reynolds directed the Rabbitohs like a Spielberg movie, his general kicking pinned back the Bulldogs back three then he assisted Jaydn Su'A to make it 14-6. Reynolds had his best game of the season and the Rabbitohs half is key to their success this season, with his kicking game.

It becomes the same old song and dance for the Bulldogs. They were competitive but lack the cattle to challenge most teams in the NRL. Pre-match Dean Pay said he had given his side a license to "play some footy" and

they were more open in attack but still only produced 10 points tonight.

It seemed like every set, the Rabbitohs were making metres at will. They opened and closed the game with long range efforts from the unwanted Alex Johnston and veteran Dane Gagai took a late intercept to ice the cake.

Tonight wasn't a contest to indicate what the Rabbitohs will be in 2020. Their three victories since the restart have been against Bulldogs, Titans and Warriors whilst they were clear second best against the Roosters and Panthers. So, the litmus test for them, will be when they come up against another heavyweight side to confirm their credentials for the finals later in the season.

From their opening set, the Rabbitohs spread it wide for Johnston open the scoring before an inventive kick from Brandon Wakeham made it 8-6 at the break. Jaydn Su'A stretched the Rabbitohs advantage to eight right after the break with his chase on a grubber.

Raymond Faitala-Mariner closed the gap to four points for the Bulldogs again from a short pass but the Rabbitohs looked likely each set. Cody Walker punched in the nail with his strong running before the late Gagai intercept hammered it for the 26-10 final score.

The Rabbitohs remain outside the top eight on points difference, but have crucial clashes with Wests Tigers and Newcastle Knights coming in the next fortnight. For the Bulldogs, they take on fellow cellar dwellers Brisbane Broncos and St George Illawarra, for their next two.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Adam Reynolds

2 points - Damien Cook

1 points - Cameron Murray

The scoresheet

Scores, scorers, match details from Round 8

Storm 27 (Josh Addo-Carr, Jahrome Hughes (2), Paul Momirovski tries; Cameron Smith 5/5 goals, Ryan Papenhuyzen 1 field goal) def **Roosters 25** (Kyle Flanagan, Josh Morris (2), Brett Morris tries; Kyle Flanagan 4/5 goals; Luke Keary 1 field goal)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Date: Thursday 2 July 2020, 7:50pm AEST; Halftime: Roosters 12-6
Referee: Ashley Klein; Touch Judges: Dave Munro, Phil Henderson; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy, Ben Galea

Raiders 22 (Nick Cotric, Jarrod Croker, Bailey Simonsson, George Williams tries; Jarrod Croker 3/4 goals) def **Dragons 16** (Matthew Dufty (2), Zac Lomax tries; Zac Lomax 2/3 goals)
Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Date: Friday 3 July 2020, 6:00pm AEST; Halftime: Raiders 18-0; Crowd: 2,500
Referee: Matt Cecchin; Touch Judges: Henry Perenara, Drew Oultram; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy, Ben Lowe

Eels 42 (Michael Jennings, Maika Sivo (4), Waqa Blake, Jai Field tries; Clint Gutherson 7/8 goals) def **Cowboys 4** (Tom Opacic try; Kyle Feldt 0/1 goals)
Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Friday 3 July 2020, 7:55pm AEST; Halftime: Eels 16-4; Crowd: 6,730
Referee: Ben Cummins; Touch Judges: Tim Alouani-Roby, Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell, Bryan Norrie

Sharks 40 (Braden Hamlin-Uele, Blayke Brailey, Andrew Fifita, Briton Nikora, Chad Townsend, Royce Hunt, Bryson Goodwin tries; Shaun Johnson 6/7 goals) def **Titans 10** (Corey Thompson, Anthony Don tries; Ashley Taylor 1/2 goals)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Date: Saturday 4 July 2020, 3:00pm AEST; Halftime: Sharks 12-10; Crowd: 1,995
Referee: Chris Sutton; Touch Judges: Jon Stone, Liam Kennedy; NRL Bunker: Steve Clark, Ben Galea

Warriors 26 (Ken Maumalo (2), Agnatus Paasi, Wayde Egan, Isaiah Papali'i tries; Chanel Harris-Tavita 3/5 goals) def **Broncos 16** (Xavier Coates (2), Herbie Farnworth tries; Jamayne Isaako 2/3 goals)
Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Date: Saturday 4 July 2020, 5:30pm AEST; Halftime: Broncos 10-6
Referee: Chris Butler; Touch Judges: Todd Smith, Gavin Badger; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell, Bryan Norrie

Panthers 19 (Stephen Crichton (2), Dylan Edwards tries; Nathan Cleary 3/3 goals; Nathan Cleary 1 field goal) def **Wests Tigers 12** (Matt Eisenhuth, Tommy Talau tries; Adam Doueihi 2/3 goals)
Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Saturday 4 July 2020, 7:35pm AEST; Halftime: Wests Tigers 10-6; Crowd: 5,107
Referee: Adam Gee; Touch Judges: Phil Henderson, Kasey Badger; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy, Beau Scott

Knights 14 (Andrew McCullough, Kurt Mann tries; Kalyn Ponga 3/3 goals) def **Sea Eagles 12** (Daly Cherry-Evans, Cade Cust tries; Reuben Garrick 2/2 goals)
Venue: Lottoland; Date: Sunday 5 July 2020, 4:05pm AEST; Halftime: Knights 14-6; Crowd: 2,271
Referee: Grant Atkins; Touch Judges: Dave Munro, Belinda Sharp; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell, Bryan Norrie

Rabbitohs 26 (Alex Johnston, Jaydn Su'A, Cody Walker, Dane Gagai tries; Adam Reynolds 5/5 goals) def **Bulldogs 10** (Marcelo Montoya, Raymond Faitala-Mariner tries; Nick Meaney 1/2 goals)
Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Sunday 5 July 2020, 6:30pm AEST; Halftime: Rabbitohs 14-6; Crowd: 3,858
Referee: Peter Gough; Touch Judges: Matt Noyen, Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski; NRL Bunker: Steve Clark, Ben Galea

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LeagueUnlimited Player of the Year

Standings after Round 8

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), Cameron Smith (Storm), Brett Morris (Roosters)

10 points - Cameron Munster (Storm), Shaun Johnson (Sharks)

9 points - Mitchell Pearce (Knights), Nathan Cleary (Panthers), Jack Wighton (Raiders)

8 points - Jason Taumalolo (Cowboys), Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs), Blake Green (Warriors)

7 points - Matthew Dufty (Dragons), James Tedesco (Roosters)

6 points - Luke Keary (Roosters), Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs), Stephen Crichton (Panthers), Dylan Brown (Eels), Matt Burton (Panthers)

5 points - Ashley Taylor (Titans), Harry Grant (Storm), David Klemmer (Knights), Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Will Hopoate (Bulldogs), Sione Katoa (Bulldogs), Jarrod Croker (Raiders), Kodi Nikorima (Warriors), Benji Marshall (Wests Tigers), Kalyn Ponga (Knights), Maika Sivo (Eels), Isaah Yeo (Panthers), Jahrome Hughes (Storm), Mitchell Moses (Eels), Luke Brooks (Wests Tigers), Daniel Saifiti (Knights)

4 points - Jarome Luai (Panthers), Kurt Mann (Knights), Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Bulldogs), Shaun Lane (Eels), Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles), George Williams (Raiders), David Nofoaluma (Wests Tigers), Curtis Sironen (Sea Eagles)

3 points - Young Tonumaipaea (Titans), Josh Papali'i (Raiders), Jake Clifford (Cowboys), Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Roosters), Jesse Ramien (Sharks), Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys), Kotoni Staggs (Broncos), Josh Morris (Sharks), Jake Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Viliame Kikau (Panthers), Jamayne Isaako (Broncos), Joseph Leilua (Wests Tigers), Cody Walker (Rabbitohs), Blayke Brailey (Sharks), Addin Fonua-Blake (Sea Eagles), Waqa Blake (Eels)

2 points - Cameron McInnes (Dragons), Adam Doueih (Wests Tigers), Ronaldo Mulitalo (Sharks), Nathan Brown (Eels), Cameron Murray (Rabbitohs), James Fisher-Harris (Panthers), Jorge Taufua (Sea Eagles), Corey Norman (Dragons), Michael Jennings (Eels), Dale Finucane (Storm), Corey Thompson (Wests Tigers), Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Eels), Nick Cotric (Raiders), Michael Morgan (Cowboys), Anthony Milford (Broncos), Braden Hamlin-Uele (Sharks), Zac Lomax (Dragons), Lindsay Collins (Roosters), Damien Cook (Rabbitohs), Bradman Best (Knights), Emre Guler (Raiders), David Fifita (Broncos), Wayde Egan (Warriors)

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

NRL Match Review

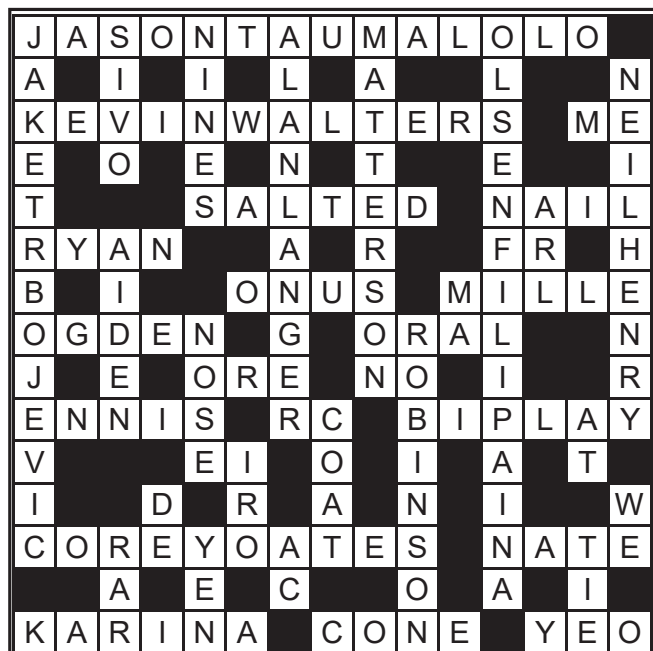
Round 8 Charge Sheet

Joey Leilua (Wests Tigers)

Grade 3 Dangerous Contact (head/neck)
78th min, on D Edwards (Panthers)
Base penalty 500 points
1 x non-similar prior offence last 2 years (20% loading)
Guilty / no contest = 600 points (6 matches)
Guilty - early plea = 450 points (4 matches)
PLEA: Guilty - early plea
OUTCOME: **Suspended 4 matches.** 50 carryover points accrued.

Addin Fonua-Blake (Sea Eagles)

Grade 3 Contrary Conduct
80th minute, on G Atkins (official)
Base penalty 300 points
1 x similar prior offence last 2 years (20% loading)
Guilty / no contest = 360 points (3 matches)
Guilty - early plea = 270 points (2 matches)
PLEA: Guilty - early plea
OUTCOME: **Suspended 2 matches.** 70 carryover points accrued.



Last week's crossword answers

Premiership ladder

NRL 2020 Telstra Premiership after Round 8

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1.	Parramatta Eels	8	7	1	0	200	92	108	14
2.	Penrith Panthers	8	6	1	1	162	110	52	13
3.	Melbourne Storm	8	6	2	0	175	108	67	12
4.	Newcastle Knights	8	5	2	1	183	132	51	11
5.	Sydney Roosters	8	5	3	0	226	96	130	10
6.	Canberra Raiders	8	5	3	0	150	113	37	10
7.	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	8	4	4	0	186	158	28	8
8.	Wests Tigers	8	4	4	0	187	159	28	8
9.	South Sydney Rabbitohs	8	4	4	0	170	144	26	8
10.	Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	8	4	4	0	129	129	0	8
11.	North Queensland Cowboys	8	3	5	0	179	211	-32	6
12.	Warriors	8	3	5	0	105	198	-93	6
13.	St George Illawarra Dragons	8	2	6	0	122	168	-46	4
14.	Brisbane Broncos	8	2	6	0	108	235	-127	4
15.	Gold Coast Titans	8	2	6	0	106	233	-127	4
16.	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	8	1	7	0	86	188	-102	2

Stats leaders

after Round 8

Top Tryscorers

1	Kyle FELDT (Cowboys)	9
2	David NOFOALUMA (Wests Tigers)	8
	Sione KATO (Sharks)	8
	Maika SIVO (Eels)	8
5	Suliasi VUNIVALU (Storm)	7
	Brett MORRIS (Roosters)	7
	Alex JOHNSTON (Rabbitohs)	7
8	Stephen CRICHTON (Panthers)	6
9	Zac LOMAX (Dragons), Kotoni STAGGS (Broncos), Matt DUFTY (Dragons), Michael JENNINGS (Eels), Anthony DON (Titans), Bradman BEST (Knights), Edrick LEE (Knights), Mikaele RAVALAWA (Dragons)	5

Top Goalkickers

1	Kyle FLANAGAN (Roosters)	38/46 (83%)
2	Adam REYNOLDS (Rabbitohs)	31/33 (94%)
	Cameron SMITH (Storm)	31/36 (86%)
4	Shaun JOHNSON (Sharks)	27/37 (73%)
5	Kalyn PONGA (Knights)	25/34 (74%)
6	Mitchell MOSES (Eels)	23/27 (86%)
	Jarrold CROKER (Raiders)	23/26 (88%)
8	Zac LOMAX (Dragons)	21/25 (84%)
9	Nathan CLEARY (Panthers)	20/24 (83%)
	Reuben GARRICK (Sea Eagles)	20/31 (65%)

Top Pointscorers

	T	G	FG	Pts	
1	Kyle FLANAGAN (Roosters)	4	38	-	92
2	Adam REYNOLDS (Rabbitohs)	2	31	-	70
3	Kalyn PONGA (Knights)	3	25	-	62
	Cameron SMITH (Storm)	-	31	-	62
	Zac LOMAX (Dragons)	5	21	-	62
6	Kyle FELDT (Cowboys)	9	12	-	60
7	Shaun JOHNSON (Sharks)	-	27	-	54
8	Mitchell MOSES (Eels)	1	23	1	51
9	Jarrold CROKER (Raiders)	1	23	-	50
	Nathan CLEARY (Panthers)	2	20	2	50

FROM THE NRL

NRL statement on Addin Fonua-Blake

NRL Media Release, 7 July 2020

National Rugby League Acting Chief Executive Andrew Abdo has determined that Manly Warringah Sea Eagles Player Addin Fonua-Blake has breached the game's Anti-Vilification Code.

"What happened on Sunday was divisive and against the fabric of what we stand for as a game," he said.

"There is no place for comments like that in our game. Sport is about bringing people and communities together and we pride ourselves on being an inclusive game for everyone.

"Now that the Match Review process is complete, I want to speak

directly with Addin and the Club about the incidents before determining any penalty.

"This is more than a simple sanction. It's important there is an education and rehabilitation component to issues like this to ensure players learn from these mistakes and realise the impact of their actions on the community."

Mr Abdo reaffirmed the game had a zero-tolerance approach for abuse of match officials.

"Our match officials have the toughest and most scrutinised job in the game. Decisions are always going to have an element of controversy but there is no excuse for abuse of any kind aimed at our officials. It will not be tolerated," he said.

"I want to thank and congratulate all our officials who have adapted to significant rule changes this season."

Happy birthday!

This round's birthday boys & girls:

Wednesday 8 July

Jesse Arthurs (Broncos) - 22

Braidon Burns (Rabbitohs) - 24

Friday 10 July

Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs) - 30

Saturday 11 July

Anthony Milford (Broncos) - 26

Braydon Trindall (Sharks) - 21

Sunday 12 July

Jai Arrow (Titans) - 25

Kurt Capewell (Panthers) - 27

Christian Crichton (Bulldogs) - 24

Monday 13 July

Ben Condon (Cowboys) - 20

Kieran Foran (Bulldogs) - 30

Paul Momirovski (Storm) - 24

Tuesday 14 July

Brodie Croft (Broncos) - 23

Cooper Johns (Storm) - 21

Tarryn Aiken (Broncos NRLW) - 21

LIVE MATCH UPDATES

Every NRL game, every round.

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

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

Fantasy land

How rugby league's diehards got through the NRL lockdown

There's a large cohort of die-hard rugby league fans who partake in Fantasy Football each year – a game designed to test out would-be coaches and how well they know players, teams and strategies.

Since the NRLs return in May, those same people are hitting the game data tracking websites, stats and rumours pages harder than ever before.

When the NRL shut down, this die hard bunch – akin to disciples of rugby league – were feeling the pain as much as anyone else. Where would their statistical fix come from?

Enter NRLCEO – a draft-fantasy football website – with their 'Lockdown' tournament.

One of the gurus behind the website, Jamie, said he was at a loss when the code shut down – like many others.

"I was a bit shocked rugby league would just – stop. I was a bit naïve but when it happened, I thought 'what am I going to do,'" he told *The Front Row*.

"We love fantasy footy, we live and breathe it. It adds a new element to the weekend – when your player scores a hat trick or gets denied by the video referee, it is just a different layer to the game for us.

"We began to think of a Lockdown League. We always talk of the greats of the game and how they would have scored in the modern era – everyone loves retro footy so we thought we could bring it back."

Joshua Wells
LeagueUnlimited.com
Contributor



So, that was it. The idea was on its way to becoming a reality.

Jamie said the group were lucky enough to get information from season 2004 from NRLSTATS and information from Rugby League Project.

Suddenly, while the death toll rung for rugby league's fear mongers, its most dedicated would have the option to draft the greats.

"We got to bring back Andrew Johns, Matt Orford, Clint Schifcofske (Editor's note: I had to google how to spell that) and all those guys. Even players like Hazem El Masri and Amos Roberts, Nutley and Menzies. The list goes on," Jamie said.

"So we decided to get competitions started with 10 teams each. They would draft sides from 2004s cohort of players and play out 13 rounds."

But how do you stop fantasy know it alls and cheats who wanted to look back in time?

"We didn't play rounds 1 to 13. We picked random rounds, out of order, so there wasn't a way people could rort the system. Well, maybe a few did," he said.

"But Andrew Johns only played three games this year. Jamie Lyon went off mid-season.

"It was great. We'd relive old scores – try scoring was at a premium back then. It was a lot of fun."

While rugby league wasn't missing for the full 13 weeks, the Lockdown Leagues eventually wrapped up as players got back to season 2020 – and wondering how Luke Thompson will go at the Bulldogs.



Round 1 Team Lists

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Featured Team Lists

Retro Rugby League – Round 1 2004

April 8, 2020 JB

Welcome to the first ever team lists for our Retro Rugby League game – TheBench Lock Down

Of course, we know that you could do a quick search on the net to figure out the round by team lists, but I'd implore you not to. It's against the spirit of this game which is there to fill a void of something we love. Fantasy footy.



Grand Final Scores

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Featured

Retro Rugby League – Grand Final Scores

June 10, 2020 JB 0 Comments

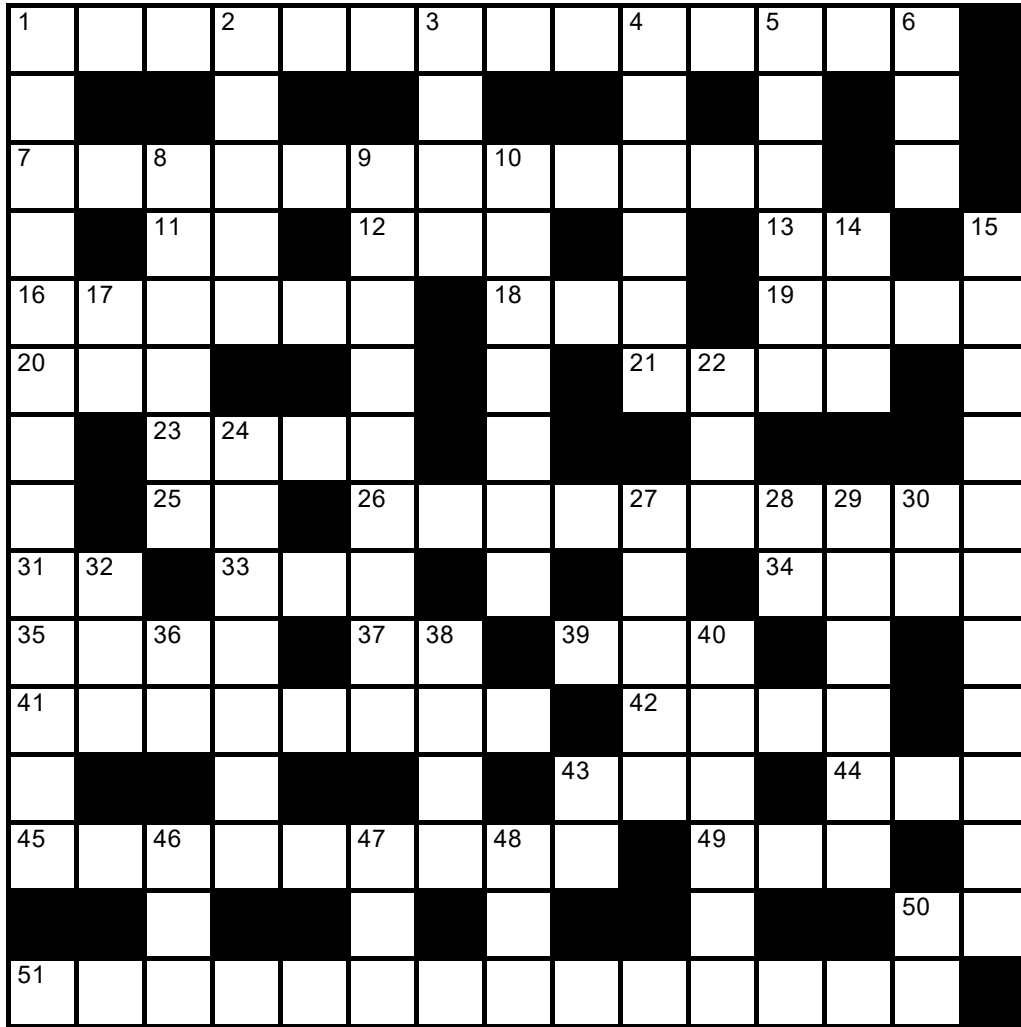
Welcome to the Grand Finals of Retro Rugby League. This is it. The Roosters, Storm, Knights and Dragons all fired. I hope you weren't too reliant on the Doggies.

We really hope you enjoyed this game which was created as a way of keeping fantasy footy going during COVID-19 Lock Down. It shows that even though watching footy is the ultimate, playing fantasy footy can be achieved with raw stats as well. We'd love to get your feedback. So send us an email or drop us a line on the socials.

Stay tuned for the Lock Down Dream Team which will be published in the next week.



The LU Crossword



60's, played for Western Suburbs and he was also a Kangaroo at hooker and Prop. (4,5)
 49. To be a good kicker your ___ has to be good (3)
 50. Personal pronoun (2) (2)
 51. Former Rooster and current Knights and Blues halfback. (8,6)

Down

1. Titans Winger (5,8)
 2. Former Tigers, Panthers and Eels player of the early '90s, Paul Clarke, nic name (5)
 3. Union of European Football Association (4)
 4. One of the stats that you dont want. (6)
 5. Largest desert in the world (6)
 6. The score that you dont want (3)
 8. Played his entire career for the Cowboys as centre from '95 to '07, also played for the Maroons from '00 to '05. (6)
 8. Goal kicking back rower for the Bunnies (5,4)
 10. Played back row for the Knights and Cowboys in the early '80', Daniel _____ (7)
 14. Female pronoun (3)
 15. Also referred to as the Dragons (5,6)
 17. Double O (2)
 22. 2 tries and a conversion. (3)
 24. Bunnies fullback (7)
 27. She played NRLW for the Roosters from '17 to '19 and was also picked for the Blues SOO in '18 where she won player of the

Across

1. King of the Eels (5,9)
 7. Played from '03 to '19 as hooker for Tigers, Souths and back to the Tigers. Represented NSW and Kangaroos as well as Lebanon. (6,6)
 11. On Board (acronym) (2)
 12. Betting Agency (3)
 13. Exclamation (2)
 16. Former Broncos, Qld and Kangaroo wing/centre from '09 to '12 and was named in the '10 and '12 all stars team. (6)
 18. Zip file (3)
 19. From Mackay she captained the Maroons in the '00s, also played for the Jillaroos, _____ e Kunst (4)
 20. Also known as Turbo (3)
 21. Young highly rated Knights winger ____ To'a (4)
 23. Dally M rookie of the year in '87, played in various positions for the Sharkies, Dragons and

Blues in the '90s ____ Wilson (4)
 25. Not Applicable (2)
 26. Current prop for the Bunnies (4,6)
 31. Personal pronoun (2) (2)
 33. Current sponsor with naming rights to Marrara Stadium in Darwin, ____ Stadium. (3)
 34. Christian name of one of Australia's and Maroon's most famous indigenous footballers. (4)
 35. A professional equal (4) (4)
 37. The difference between Woman and Man. (2)
 39. Alternative (3)
 41. They merged with St George in 1988 (8)
 42. First part of the hyphenated name of English Lions Women's player of '19 ____ - Burke (4)
 43. League players spend a lot of time here. (3)
 44. Invisible substance that surrounds the Earth (3) (3)
 45. Recently passed, he was considered as one of the toughest men to play the game, legend of the

match and later selected to play for the Jilaroos in '17 to '19. (5)
 28. Installation Guide (acronym) (2)
 29. Former Panther utility player (back row and 5/8) currently with the Sharkies. (6)
 30. Male pronoun (2)
 32. Up until the present time (3)
 36. Electrical Engineer (acronym) (2)
 38. Of the mouth. (4)
 40. She played 5/8 for the Chooks in '17 to '19 and scored a try on debut for the Jillaroos. (6)
 43. Footballer from the '60s Greg Young (inits) (2)
 46. Chew and swallow (3)
 47. Female Sheep (3)
 48. Laugh Out Loud (3)
 50. 50 across (2)

Answers in next week's edition

Word Jumbles

CHIVE DEADPAY
 MONER CRAYON
 HELLO TWIGAYAK
 SHORTE BEAMUT

Using the clues provided, unjumble the letters below - can you figure out the names of these State of Origin one-game wonders?

CASEY REMPERT
 START COLTEST
 BALDER RANTER
 WING MANCHUNEON

WOKE CLARDY
 TANDY NEULYN
 KIA SUNDIMOTOR
 FANTAH NINE

THE FRONT ROW

GAME DAY

ROUND 9 MATCH PROGRAM

TEAM LISTS · MATCH DETAILS & STATS · PREVIEWS



**Cowboys
v Roosters**

Thursday
QLD Country Bank



**Titans
v Warriors**

Friday
Cbus Super



**Rabbitohs
v Wests Tigers**

Friday
Bankwest



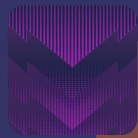
**Sharks
v Panthers**

Saturday
Netstrata Jubilee



**Broncos
v Bulldogs**

Saturday
Central Coast



**Raiders
v Storm**

Saturday
GIO



**Knights
v Eels**

Sunday
McDonald Jones



**Dragons
v Sea Eagles**

Sunday
Netstrata Jubilee

WEEKLY TIPS Round 9

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

Tim Costello (8)

Roosters
Warriors
Tigers
Panthers
Bulldogs
Storm
Eels
Sea Eagles

Andrew Ferguson (3)

Roosters
Warriors
Tigers
Sharks
Bulldogs
Storm
Eels
Sea Eagles

Andrew Jackson (5)

Roosters
Titans
Tigers
Panthers
Bulldogs
Storm
Knights
Dragons

Justin Davies (3)

Roosters
Warriors
Rabbitohs
Panthers
Broncos
Storm
Eels
Dragons

Adam Huxtable (4)

Roosters
Titans
Tigers
Panthers
Broncos
Storm
Eels
Sea Eagles

Rick Edgerton (7)

Roosters
Warriors
Tigers
Panthers
Bulldogs
Storm
Eels
Dragons

Rob Crosby (6)

Roosters
Warriors
Tigers
Panthers
Bulldogs
Storm
Knights
Sea Eagles

Steven Williams (4)

Roosters
Titans
Rabbitohs
Panthers
Broncos
Raiders
Eels
Dragons

Sam Bourke (6)

Roosters
Titans
Rabbitohs
Panthers
Bulldogs
Storm
Eels
Sea Eagles

Josh Robertson (6)

Roosters
Warriors
Rabbitohs
Panthers
Bulldogs
Storm
Eels
Sea Eagles

Jeff Dickinson-Fox (6)

Roosters
Warriors
Rabbitohs
Panthers
Broncos
Storm
Knights
Dragons

Hamish Parker (6)

Roosters
Warriors
Rabbitohs
Panthers
Broncos
Raiders
Eels
Dragons

North Queensland COWBOYS



Sydney ROOSTERS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
3	1	-	4	Hamiso TABUAI-FIDOW	1	FULLBACK	1	James TEDESCO	6	4	-	16
8	9	12	60	Kyle FELDT	2	WING	2	Ryan HALL	5	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Connelly LEMUELU	3	CENTRE	3	Josh MORRIS	7*	3	-	12
8	1	-	4	Esan MARSTERS	4	CENTRE	4	Joseph MANU	8	1	-	4
6	2	12	32	Valentine HOLMES	5	WING	5	Brett MORRIS	8	7	-	28
8	2	-	8	Scott DRINKWATER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Luke KEARY	8	2	-*	10
6	1	1	6	Jake CLIFFORD	7	HALFBACK	7	Kyle FLANAGAN	8	4	38	92
7	-	-	-	Josh MCGUIRE	8	FRONT ROW	8	Jared WAEREA-HARGREAVES	7	1	-	4
8	2	-	8	Reece ROBSON	9	HOOKER	9	Jake FRIEND	8	1	-	4
8	1	-	4	Francis MOLO	10	FRONT ROW	10	Siosua TAUKEIAHO	7	1	-	4
4	-	-	-	Shane WRIGHT	11	SECOND ROW	11	Angus CRICHTON	6	4	-	16
7	2	-	8	Coen HESS	12	SECOND ROW	12	Mitchell AUBUSSON	6	1	-	4
7	1	-	4	Jason TAUMALOLO	13	LOCK	13	Nat BUTCHER	6	-	-	-
* 2 games for Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks												
7	4	-	16	Ben HAMPTON	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Lachlan LAM	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Tom GILBERT	15		15	Sitili TUPOUNIUA	7	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Peter HOLA	16		16	Poasa FAAMAUSILI	6*	-	-	-
7	1	-	4	Gavin COOPER	17		17	Lindsay COLLINS	7	1	-	4
* 4 games for Warriors												
-	-	-	-	Murray TAULAGI	18	RESERVES	18	Daniel FIFITA	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Reuben COTTER	19		19	Drew HUTCHISON	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Corey JENSEN	20		20	Freddy LUSSICK	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Jake GRANVILLE	21		21	Matt IKUVALU	2	-	-	-

PAUL GREEN

COACH

TRENT ROBINSON

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 Kyle FELDT (Cowboys) - 16 more points for 400 career points

#NRLCowboysRoosters

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Thursday 9 July 2020
KICKOFF	7:50pm AEST
VENUE	Queensland Country Bank Stadium Townsville, QLD
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Adam GEE
TOUCH JUDGES	Belinda SHARPE Matt NOYEN
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL Ben GALEA

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 38 matches

12

26

At QLD Country Bank Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN CLASHES

		NQL 4 - 6 SYD	
2019	Round 17	Cowboys 15-12	Central Coast
2018	Round 21	Roosters 26-20	Allianz
2017	Finals W3	Cowboys 29-16	Allianz
2017	Round 21	Roosters 22-16	Allianz
2016	Round 23	Roosters 22-10	Allianz
2016	Round 3	Cowboys 40-0	1300SMILES
2015	Round 1	Roosters 28-4	1300SMILES
2014	Finals W2	Roosters 31-30	Allianz
2014	Round 10	Cowboys 42-10	1300SMILES
2013	Round 10	Roosters 12-8	1300SMILES

BIGGEST WINS

COWBOYS	2016 Round 3	40-0 at 1300SMILES
ROOSTERS	2002 Round 6	58-12 at Allianz

CURRENT FORM

COWBOYS	L W W L L L W L	11th, 6pts
ROOSTERS	L L W W W W W L	5th, 10pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 10

COWBOYS	Panthers @ Panthers, Sun 19 Jul 4:05pm
ROOSTERS	Raiders @ SCG, Thu 16 Jul 7:50pm

Match Preview

with Jeff Dickinson-Fox

The North Queensland Cowboys will be gunning for a second-straight upset against their Sydney rival, while the Roosters need a win to stay in touch with the top four

If you like surprises when it comes to footy, the Cowboys have been one of the competition's best at delivering them in the past month.

They've conceded points in bunches: 37 in a loss to the NZ Warriors, 34 in the first half against the Wests Tigers, 20 points in the second half after leading 26-0 against the Newcastle Knights and 42 to the Parramatta Eels last week. If North Queensland's not careful, this Thursday night clash with the Roosters could provide another statistic for that list.

Cowboys coach Paul Green has adjusted his team as a result, with the big move of allocating Valentine Holmes to the wing and selecting Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow at fullback.

Green explained on Tuesday that the adjustment was primarily to stop leaking points on the edges, and that it'll be the best position for Holmes as he regains his full range of movement after returning from an ankle injury last week.

With three wins from their first eight games, the Cowboys are in the middle of a tough season-defining run of opponents that have included the Knights and Eels. From next week they'll take on the Panthers, Sea Eagles and Raiders.

What may amaze you about the Roosters, as brilliant as they've looked, we're two rounds away from the halfway point in the season and they're sitting outside the top four. Throughout the 2020 season Roosters coach Trent Robinson has looked to rest and rotate his players to manage their workload for the challenges that a COVID-19 season and an attempt at a three-peat bring.

While we will have to wait for the end of the season to see if this strategy pays off, for now it's placed them lower on the ladder than what is expected of this side. Teams that don't finish the season in the top four have to overcome heavy odds to win the premiership. To jump back in the top four they'll have to do it without a mounting list of injured stars.

Boyd Cordner has not been named as he recovers from a head knock, Daniel Tupou faces weeks on the sideline after being unable to finish with an ankle injury in what was the game of the year so far against the Melbourne Storm, Isaac Liu is nursing a broken rib and Victor Radley is out for the season alongside Sam Verrills.

Who to watch: If the Cowboys forwards can get a roll on and win some field position, the team has been able to score points as Jake Clifford showed against the Knights two weeks ago. He scored one, assisted on another and broke seven tackles. That type of all-around impact without Morgan in support or Holmes at fullback will be needed again on Thursday. Clifford was the man to seal a win against the Roosters last year, has he got the confidence to do it again?

Watching James Tedesco return last week it didn't appear to be one of his usual great performances. However, Tedesco's overall impact was still immense. He recorded 268 metres (73m more than anyone else on the night), nine tackle breaks, four offloads, two linebreak assists and one linebreak. Now coming up against a defence that's not as restricting as Melbourne's, his combination with Luke Keary, Kyle Flannagan, Brett Morris, Josh Morris and Angus Crichton should create fireworks.

Favourite: Let's put it this way, I challenge you to remember the last game the Roosters weren't considered the favourite.

My tip: I have concern for the Cowboys as they've been fluctuating from their best to their worst a lot. The team has gone a long time without Michael Morgan and a fully fit Valentine Holmes. Some of the replacements have played admirably but it looks like this team is getting worn down. There's no doubting the Roosters for talent, experience and fitness levels even though they've got some injured players. Plenty of motivation for them as well after narrowly losing last week. **Roosters by 18.**

Gold Coast
TITANS



WARRIORS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
5*	1	-	4	Corey THOMPSON	1	FULLBACK	1	Roger TUIVASA-SHECK	7	-	-	-	
7	5	-	20	Anthony DON	2	WING	2	David FUSITU'A	4	1	-	4	
1	-	-	-	Beau FERMOR	3	CENTRE	3	Patrick HERBERT	7	2	-	8	
6	1	-	4	Bryce CARTWRIGHT	4	CENTRE	4	Peta HIKU	6	3	-	12	
-	-	-	-	Treymain SPRY	5	WING	5	Ken MAUMALO	5	2	-	8	
8	1	17	38	Ashley TAYLOR	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA	4	-	5	10	
6	-	-	-	Jamal FOGARTY	7	HALFBACK	7	Blake GREEN	8	-	-	-	
7	-	-	-	Moeaki FOTUAIKA	8	FRONT ROW	8	Jamayne TAUNOA-BROWN	8	1	-	4	
5	-	-	-	Erin CLARK	9	HOOKER	9	Wayde EGAN	7	1	-	4	
6	-	-	-	Jaimin JOLLIFFE	10	FRONT ROW	10	Adam BLAIR	8	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Sam STONE	11	SECOND ROW	11	Jack MURCHIE	6	-	-	-	
6	1	-	4	Keegan HIPGRAVE	12	SECOND ROW	12	Tohu HARRIS	8	-	-	-	
8	-	-	-	Jai ARROW	13	LOCK	13	Karl LAWTON	6	1	-	4	
5	1	-	4	Tanah BOYD	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Agnatius PAASI	4	2	-	8	
8	1	-	4	Sam LISONE	15		15	Jack HETHERINGTON	2*	-	-	-	
8	-	-	-	Tyrone PEACHEY	16		16	Isaiah PAPALI'I	6	1	-	4	
5	-	-	-	Jarrold WALLACE	17		17	Jazz TEVAGA	-	-	-	-	
3	-	-	-	Jai WHITBREAD	18	RESERVES	18	Lachlan BURR	4	-	-	-	
3	-	-	-	Nathan PEATS	19		20	Gerard BEALE	6	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Greg LELESIUAO	20		21	King VUNIYAYAWA	5	-	-	-	
3	-	-	-	Tyrone ROBERTS	21		22	Adam POMPEY	3	1	-	4	

* 2 games for Wests Tigers

* 1 game for Penrith Panthers

JUSTIN HOLBROOK

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 (Warriors) - 4 more points for 200 career points

#NRLTitansWarriors

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 10 July 2020
KICKOFF	6:00pm AEST
VENUE	Cbus Super Stadium Robina, QLD
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Chris BUTLER
TOUCH JUDGES	Kasey BADGER Henry PERENARA
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL Ben LOWE

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 26 matches

8

18

At Cbus Super Stadium: 13 matches, Titans 5, Warriors 8

LAST TEN CLASHES

		GLD 2 - 8 WAR	
2019	Round 14	Warriors 24-20	Cbus Super
2019	Round 4	Warriors 26-10	Mt Smart
2018	Round 20	Titans 36-12	Cbus Super
2018	Round 2	Warriors 20-8	Mt Smart
2017	Round 14	Warriors 34-12	Cbus Super
2017	Round 5	Warriors 28-22	Mt Smart
2016	Round 22	Warriors 24-14	Cbus Super
2016	Round 17	Warriors 27-18	Mt Smart
2015	Round 15	Warriors 36-14	Cbus Super
2015	Round 8	Titans 32-28	Mt Smart

BIGGEST WINS

TITANS	2018 Round 20	36-12 at Cbus Super
WARRIORS	2014 Round 25	42-0 at Mt Smart

CURRENT FORM

TITANS	LLLWLLWL	15th, 4pts
WARRIORS	LLWLWLLW	12th, 6pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 10

TITANS	Storm @ Sunshine Coast, Fri 17 Jul 6:00pm
WARRIORS	Sharks @ Central Coast, Sun 19 Jul 2:00pm

Match Preview

with Adam Huxtable

Battling Titans look to bounce back against resurgent Warriors

The Titans were brought back to earth last week, experiencing a heavy 30-point defeat against a strong Sharks side. They looked to be keeping pace with the Shire boys, the score-line being 12-10 at half time before running out of gas and conceding 28 unanswered points in the second 40 minutes and succumbing to their 6th loss of the season.

The Warriors became the latest team to sink the boot in the lowly Broncos, coming back from being 16-12 down with just over 10 minutes remaining to come away with a convincing 26-16 win. It was the match everyone had their eyes on for all the wrong reasons, and the Warriors were able to get the job done in front of a small but vocal crowd and give some extra motivation to players who have been doing it tough while being away from their families for an extended period.

The Titans have reshuffled their backline for what feels like the 8th time in 8 weeks. New recruit Corey Thompson returns to fullback after spending time on the wing last start, pushing Tyrone Roberts out of the 17. Youngster Treyman Spry will make his NRL debut on the wing, while rookie Beau Fermor moves to the centres, pushing Tyrone Peachey to the bench. Erin Clark comes into hooker in a straight swap for the injured Mitch Rein, and Sam Stone comes into the back row. Jarrod Wallace has been recalled via the interchange.

The Warriors regain their captain and fullback Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, who returns from a one-week suspension. His inclusion pushes Peta Hiku back to the centres and Gerard Beale out of the side. Chanel Harris-Tavita replaces Kodi Nikorima, who is out after suffering a head knock against the Broncos. Jazz Tevaga will make his long-awaited return via the bench.

In a year that they were already up against it to challenge for a finals berth, the Titans have been dealt some cruel blows with injury, particularly in the outside backs with Phillip Sami, Young Tonumaiepa, Jonus Pearson and AJ Brimson all unavailable for a long period. Come Friday they'll also be without the experience of Ryan James and Kevin Proctor, adding to the challenge of winning the match. They've shown character lacked by recent Gold Coast outfits at times in 2020, so it will be interesting to see which Titans side shows up on Friday.

Who to watch: Titans half Ash Taylor has been subjected to much criticism throughout his career and has been rocks and diamonds again in 2020, however he has shown glimpses of the form that got him the big money deal a few years ago. He seems to have benefited from the move to five-eighth and new partner Jamal Fogarty has been a good fit. When Taylor is on form, he's one of the best halves in the comp, however those times have been few and far between over the last couple of seasons. He will be critical to whether or not his team can get win number 3 of the season.

The obvious choice for the Warriors is returning captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck. Pre-season Tuivasa-Sheck was talked up as having a more ball playing role for the kiwi side and not being as much of a "metre eater," however currently he is in the top 10 for run metres and doesn't have a single try assist to his name. He hasn't been poor by any stretch, however he does have improvement in him and this week, like every other week, is absolutely critical to if his side wins or loses.

Favourite: The odds are dead even for this clash between the teams placed 12th and 15th on the table.

My tip: Both teams have forged a reputation for being inconsistent at the best of times not just this year but throughout their lifetimes. The Warriors are a more solid team who are capable of grinding out a victory, while you never know what you're getting with the Titans. Considering they are coming off a loss and the Warriors are win, I'm going to say that the inconsistency continues, and the Titans get up. **Titans by 8.**

South Sydney RABBITOHS



WESTS TIGERS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
8	1	-	4	Latrell MITCHELL	1	FULLBACK	1	Adam DOUEIHI	8	2	2	12
8	3	-	12	Dane GAGAI	2	WING	2	David NOFOALUMA	8	8	-	32
8	3	-	12	Campbell GRAHAM	3	CENTRE	3	Michael CHEE-KAM	6	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	James ROBERTS	4	CENTRE	4	Moses MBYE	6	1	12	28
8	7	-	28	Alex JOHNSTON	5	WING	5	Tommy TALAU	3	3	-	12
6	3	-	12	Cody WALKER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Josh REYNOLDS	6	1	-	4
8	2	31	70	Adam REYNOLDS	7	HALFBACK	7	Luke BROOKS	6	2	-	8
8	-	-	-	Tevita TATOLA	8	FRONT ROW	8	Josh ALOIAI	8	2	-	8
8	1	-	4	Damien COOK	9	HOOKER	9	Harry GRANT	6	2	-	8
8	1	-	4	Thomas BURGESS	10	FRONT ROW	10	Oliver CLARK	4	-	-	-
8	1	-	4	Jaydn SU'A	11	SECOND ROW	11	Luke GARNER	7	1	-	4
8	1	-	4	Ethan LOWE	12	SECOND ROW	12	Luciano LEILUA	8	2	-	8
8	1	-	4	Cameron MURRAY	13	LOCK	13	Matt EISENHUTH	3	1	-	4
8	-	-	-	Liam KNIGHT	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Elijah TAYLOR	4	-	-	-
4	1	-	4	Bayley SIRONEN	15		15	Thomas MIKAELE	8	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Patrick MAGO	16		16	Sam MCINTYRE	3	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Hame SELE	17		17	Chris LAWRENCE	5	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Mark NICHOLLS	18	RESERVES	18	Benji MARSHALL	4	1	13 ⁺	31
-	-	-	-	Steven MARSTERS	19		19	Reece HOFFMAN	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Troy DARGAN	20		20	Billy WALTERS	4	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Corey ALLAN	21		21	Russell PACKER	1	-	-	-

WAYNE BENNETT

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 Damien COOK (Rabbitohs) - 100 club games; Campbell GRAHAM (Rabbitohs) 4 more points for 400 club and career points; James ROBERTS (Rabbitohs) 6 more points for 300 career points

#NRLSouthsTigers

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 10 July 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	Ben CUMMINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Jon STONE Tim ALOUANI-ROBY
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY Bryan NORRIE

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 34 matches

18

16

At Bankwest Stadium: 1 match, Rabbitohs 0, Wests Tigers 1

LAST TEN CLASHES

SOU 4 - 6 WST

2019	Round 15	Wests Tigers 14-9	Bankwest
2018	Round 11	Rabbitohs 32-16	ANZ
2018	Round 25	Rabbitohs 51-10	ANZ
2017	Round 19	Wests Tigers 22-6	ANZ
2017	Round 10	Rabbitohs 28-8	ANZ
2017	Round 1	Wests Tigers 34-18	ANZ
2016	Round 14	Wests Tigers 30-14	ANZ
2016	Round 9	Wests Tigers 30-22	ANZ
2015	Round 14	Wests Tigers 34-6	ANZ
2015	Round 3	Rabbitohs 20-6	ANZ

BIGGEST WINS

RABBITOHS	2013 Round 10	54-10 at ANZ
WESTS TIGERS	2004 Round 22	56-6 at Leichhardt

CURRENT FORM

RABBITOHS	W L L L W W L W	9th, 8pts
WESTS TIGERS	W L W L L W W L	8th, 8pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 10

RABBITOHS	Knights @ Bankwest, Sat 18 Jul 5:30pm
WESTS TIGERS	Broncos @ Leichhardt, Fri 17 Jul 7:55pm

Match Preview

with Robert Crosby

Long-standing rivals meet in prime time clash

Winning four of their opening eight matches respectively, the South Sydney Rabbitohs and the Wests Tigers will be looking to press their top eight credentials on Friday evening.

Scoring a solid 26-10 victory over the last-placed Bulldogs on Sunday night, the South Sydney Rabbitohs will be hoping to claim the scalp of a top eight team for the first time since the opening round.

Downing the lowly Titans, Warriors and Bulldogs in three of their past four matches to sit on the precipice of the top eight, coach Wayne Bennett will be eager to gauge his team's standing among the NRL hierarchy after falling short against premiership front-runners the Roosters, Storm and Panthers.

Losing Braidon Burns with a dislocated kneecap that looks set to rule the speedster out for the remainder of 2020, Bayley Sironen returns after being a late withdrawal last week.

Clinging to eighth position on for-and-against following last Saturday's hard-fought 19-12 loss to Penrith, the Wests Tigers will be viewing Friday night as a must-win if they hope to feature beyond the regular season.

Gaining confidence off the back of comprehensive wins over the Cowboys and Bulldogs - along with solid showings against the Raiders and Panthers in recent weeks - coach Michael Maguire will have a personal incentive to get one over the Rabbitohs on Friday night having been shown the door by the club at the end of 2017.

Naming versatile second rower Michael Chee-Kam in place of suspended centre Joseph Leilua, veteran Chris Lawrence comes onto the bench for his first match in a month.

Who to watch: Set to become only the 55th player since 1908 to reach 100 matches for South Sydney, hooker Damien Cook will be out to cap his century with a win on Friday evening. Joining the foundation club four years ago in pursuit of regular game time, the 29-year-old has thrived in the ensuing years to become one of the game's premier number nines at club, state and international levels. Capable of destroying teams with his blistering speed out of dummy half, look for Cook to run early and often as the Rabbitohs strive to move back into the top eight.

Producing a match-winning effort when the two sides faced off last season, utility Michael Chee-Kam will be hoping for a similar impact to cement the Tigers place in the top eight. Gaining his first start of the season after being used exclusively off the bench in 2020, the 28-year-old Samoan international will be hoping to increase his game time after averaging 25 minutes over the first eight rounds. Capable of producing moments of individual brilliance with the game on the line, look for Chee-Kam to feature prominently as the Tigers look to bounce back from the disappointment of last week.

Favourite: With the Tigers missing a number of players headlined by erratic centre Joseph Leilua, the Rabbitohs are expected to prove too strong for their historic foes.

My tip: With both teams winning three clashes apiece over the past three seasons, fans can expect a tight contest on Friday likely to be decided by the slimmest of margins. **Wests Tigers by 1.**

Cronulla-Sutherland SHARKS



Penrith PANTHERS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
6	3	-	12	Josh DUGAN	1	FULLBACK	1	Dylan EDWARDS	3	2	-	8
8	8	-	32	Sione KATOA	2	WING	2	Josh MANSOUR	7	2	-	8
3	3	-	12	Bryson GOODWIN	3	CENTRE	3	Dean WHARE	7	-	-	-
8	3	-	12	Jesse RAMIEN	4	CENTRE	4	Stephen CRICHTON	8	6	6	36
4	2	-	8	Ronaldo MULITALO	5	WING	5	Brian TO'O	8	2	-	8
8	-	27	54	Shaun JOHNSON	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Jarome LUAI	8	1	-	4
7	1	-	4	Chad TOWNSEND	7	HALFBACK	7	Nathan CLEARY	6	2	20 ⁺	50
6	1	-	4	Andrew FIFITA	8	FRONT ROW	8	James TAMOU	8	-	-	-
8	2	-	8	Blayke BRAILEY	9	HOOKER	9	Apisai KOROISAU	8	1	-	4
8	-	-	-	Aaron WOODS	10	FRONT ROW	10	James FISHER-HARRIS	8	-	-	-
7	2	-	8	Briton NIKORA	11	SECOND ROW	11	Viliame KIKAU	8	4	-	16
8	2	-	8	Wade GRAHAM	12	SECOND ROW	12	Liam MARTIN	6	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	Jack WILLIAMS	13	LOCK	13	Isaah YEO	8	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	Toby RUDOLF	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Tyrone MAY	1	-	-	-
8	2	-	8	Braden HAMLIN-UELE	15		15	Zane TETEVANO	8	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Siosifa TALAKAI	16		16	Moses LEOTA	8	-	-	-
3	1	-	4	Royce HUNT	17		17	Billy BURNS	6	1	-	4
5	-	-	-	Scott SORENSEN	18	RESERVES	18	Mitch KENNY	2	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Connor TRACEY	19		19	Malakai WATENE-ZELEZNIAK	-	-	-	-
5	1	-	4	Will KENNEDY	20		20	Spencer LENIU	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Nene MACDONALD	21		21	Charlie STAINES	-	-	-	-

JOHN MORRIS

COACH

IVAN CLEARY

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 Despite 93 meetings between these sides since they both joined the premiership in 1967, this will be their first meeting at Kogarah's Netstrata Jubilee Stadium.

#NRLSharksPanthers

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 11 July 2020
KICKOFF	3:00pm 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	Ashley KLEIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Todd SMITH Gavin BADGER
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL Bryan NORRIE

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 93 matches

51

3

39

At Netstrata Jubilee Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN CLASHES

		CRO	8 - 2	PEN
2019	Round 21	Panthers	26-20	Panthers
2019	Round 6	Sharks	24-20	Pointsbet
2018	Finals W1	Sharks	21-20	Allianz
2018	Round 18	Sharks	24-12	Panthers
2018	Round 7	Sharks	26-22	SC Group
2017	Round 7	Sharks	28-2	Pepper
2016	Round 18	Sharks	26-10	Pepper
2016	Round 8	Sharks	20-18	SC Group
2015	Round 8	Panthers	26-18	Pepper
2014	Round 20	Sharks	18-16	Bathurst

BIGGEST WINS

SHARKS	1978 Round 16	43-4 at Penrith
PANTHERS	2000 Round 26	44-6 at Penrith
	2010 Round 26	50-12 at CUA

CURRENT FORM

SHARKS	L L L W L W W W	7th, 8pts
PANTHERS	W W D W L W W W	2nd, 13pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 10

SHARKS	Warriors @ Central Coast, Sun 19 Jul 2:00pm
PANTHERS	Cowboys @ Panthers, Sun 19 Jul 4:05pm

Match Preview

with Hamish Parker

High-flying Panthers take on table-climbing Sharks

The Cronulla Sharks and Penrith Panthers will go head-to-head at the black, white and blue's 2020 home of Kogarah on Saturday.

Both teams are coming off 3 straight wins, making for a great clash of two in form sides. The Sharks will be looking to cement their spot in the top 8, whilst Penrith will be looking to put themselves in a great spot for the top 4.

In team news, Cronulla are without Matt Moylan who is out with a hamstring complaint. Josh Dugan moves to fullback to cover.

Young gun Ronaldo Mulitalo is back from injury and starts on the wing, with Bryson Goodwin moving into the centres.

Andrew Fifita has been named in to start, but it remains to be seen if he will be moved back to the bench before kick-off.

For the men from the foot of the mountains, young dynamo Brian To'o is set to face 2 months on the sidelines with an ankle injury.

Brent Naden moves to the wing to cover, with Dean Whare coming back in at centre.

Other than that, the Penrith team is unchanged heading into this game.

Who to watch: Shaun Johnson has been l'm terrific from as of late, leading the competition in try assists. He also currently sitting towards the top of the Dally-M voting. Johnson is searching for some consistency in his footy that he has lacked over the course of his career and if he can play well against Penrith, he may have just found it.

Api Koroisau has been one of, if not the in form hooker in the NRL. His illusiveness out of dummy-half has caused problems for defensive lines all season and he will be looking to move around the Sharks bigger men through his creativity. Another strong performance could just have Koroisau in the conversation for an Origin calling.

Favourite: Penrith are the favourites to win this one, as they look to build on currently sitting in second place.

My tip: Both teams have been in terrific form and this game should be a good one. The Sharks have been looking good through Shaun Johnson's creativity, but their forwards may struggle to go all the way with Penrith's. **Panthers by 4.**



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Brisbane
BRONCOS



Canterbury-Bankstown
BULLDOGS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
4	-	-	-	Tesi NIU	1	FULLBACK	1	Dallin WATENE-ZELEZNIAK	8	-	-	-
8	1	13	20	Jamayne ISAAKO	2	WING	2	Nick MEANEY	6	1	8	20
8	2	3	14	Herbie FARNWORTH	3	CENTRE	3	Reimis SMITH	7	2	-	8
8	1	-	4	Darius BOYD	4	CENTRE	4	Marcelo MONTOYA	1	1	-	4
4	4	-	16	Xavier COATES	5	WING	5	Christian CRICHTON	6	2	-	8
8	1	-	4	Anthony MILFORD	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Kieran FORAN	5	2	-	8
8	1	-	4	Brodie CROFT	7	HALFBACK	7	Brandon WAKEHAM	5	-	3	6
4	1	-	4	Tevita PANGAI JUNIOR	8	FRONT ROW	8	Aiden TOLMAN	6	-	-	-
6*	-	-	-	Issac LUKE	9	HOOKER	9	Jeremy MARSHALL-KING	8	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	Payne HAAS	10	FRONT ROW	10	Dylan NAPA	8	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Alex GLENN	11	SECOND ROW	11	Josh JACKSON	8	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	Corey OATES	12	SECOND ROW	12	Raymond FAITALA-MARINER	8	1	-	4
7	-	-	-	Patrick CARRIGAN	13	LOCK	13	Luke THOMPSON	6*	3	-	12
2	-	-	-	Tom DEARDEN	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Kerrod HOLLAND	5	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	Thomas FLEGLER	15		15	Dean BRITT	8	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	Rhys KENNEDY	16		16	Renouf TO'OMAGA	8	1	-	4
4	1	-	4	Ben TE'O	17		17	Sauaso SUE	6	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Cory PAIX	18	RESERVES	19	Ofahiki OGDEN	2	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	Jamil HOPOATE	19		20	Jack COGGER	2	-	-	-
4	5	-	20	Kotoni STAGGS	20		21	Sione KATOA	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Matthew LODGE	21		22	Lachlan LEWIS	5	1	-	4

* 3 games for St George Illawarra Dragons

* 6 games for St Helens (Super League)

ANTHONY SEIBOLD

COACH

DEAN PAY

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Jamayne ISAAKO (Broncos) - 8 more points for 400 club and career points

#NRLBroncosBulldogs

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 11 July 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	Chris SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Ziggy PRZEKLASA-ADAMSKI Drew OULTRAM
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK Beau SCOTT

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 56 matches

31

1

24

At Suncorp Stadium: 17 matches, Broncos 9, Bulldogs 8

LAST TEN CLASHES

BRI 5 - 5 CBY

2019	Round 25	Bulldogs 30-14	ANZ
2019	Round 18	Bulldogs 18-16	Suncorp
2018	Round 21	Bulldogs 40-14	ANZ
2018	Round 9	Broncos 20-10	Suncorp
2017	Round 20	Bulldogs 10-7	ANZ
2017	Round 5	Broncos 42-12	Suncorp
2016	Round 24	Broncos 22-20	Suncorp
2016	Round 16	Bulldogs 36-22	ANZ
2015	Round 22	Broncos 28-6	Suncorp
2015	Round 18	Bulldogs 30-14	ANZ

BIGGEST WINS

BRONCOS	2014 Round 22	41-10 at Suncorp
BULLDOGS	2003 Round 18	40-4 at Suncorp

CURRENT FORM

BRONCOS	W W L L L L L L	14th, 4pts
BULLDOGS	L L L W L L L L	16th, 2pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 10

BRONCOS	Tigers @ Leichhardt, Fri 17 Jul 7:55pm
BULLDOGS	Dragons @ WIN, Sat 18 Jul 3:00pm

Match Preview

with Andrew Jackson

Cellar dwellers battle as under-fire coaches face off

The Broncos seem to be drifting further away from victory each week after another disappointing performance last round against the Warriors. The 26-16 loss was particularly concerning given Todd Payten's men played without two key members of their spine in Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Kodi Nikorima.

Breaking down in tears as the full-time siren sounded, the Broncos again appeared lost for answers. You can tell that they are trying but the results aren't coming. Instead, the pressure continues to grow.

Interestingly, Anthony Seibold has opted against drastic changes although there could be a few late switches as he fights for survival. Kotoni Staggs and Matthew Lodge both have been named on the bench as the eye a return from injury.

Meanwhile, the Bulldogs put in another spirited performance last week against the Rabbitohs. Yet courage will only get them so far because at the moment they just seem a class below the rest of the competition.

The one shining light in an otherwise dismal season – Adam Elliott – has also been ruled out for the season but is replaced by new recruit Luke Thompson in a boost for Dean Pay's men.

Like Seibold, Pay's days seem numbered and reports emerged this week suggesting the Bulldogs may part ways with him sooner rather than later.

Victory on Saturday will do little to change his long-term prospects but at least it will lift the Bulldogs out of bottom spot on the ladder.

Who to watch: Brodie Croft appeared to take last week's loss to the Warriors personally and I am expecting a big performance from the developing halfback. Coming from a Storm system where all he has known is success, the transition to the struggling Broncos has been tough for Croft. He still has a strong running game to draw upon and needs to back himself more, although the same could be said for the entire team.

His opposite Brandon Wakeham seemed to be on the outer at the start of the season but has been handed a massive opportunity to stake his claim for a starting spot in recent weeks. Wakeham is off-contract at the end of the year alongside fellow playmaker Jack Cogger. There is likely only room for one as the Bulldogs head to the open market for marquee players in 2021 so Wakeham needs to make every game count now if he is to secure another contract.

Favourite: Brisbane are slight favourites at home.

My tip: This is a complete toss of the coin. I'd rather back neither team but Canterbury have more confidence in their ability to play through adversity. **Bulldogs by 10.**

Canberra RAIDERS



Melbourne STORM

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
8	3	-	12	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	1	FULLBACK	1	Ryan PAPENHUYZEN	8	3	- ⁺	13
8	4	-	16	Nick COTRIC	2	WING	2	Marion SEVE	4	-	-	-
8	1	23	50	Jarrold CROKER	3	CENTRE	3	Justin OLAM	8	1	-	4
4	-	-	-	Michael OLDFIELD	4	CENTRE	4	Paul MOMIROVSKI	2	3	-	12
6	2	-	8	Bailey SIMONSSON	5	WING	5	Josh ADDO-CARR	7	3	-	12
8	4	-	16	Jack WIGHTON	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Ryley JACKS	3	1	-	4
8	1	-	4	George WILLIAMS	7	HALFBACK	7	Jahrome HUGHES	6	2	-	8
8	2	-	8	Josh PAPALI'I	8	FRONT ROW	8	Jesse BROMWICH	8	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	Josh HODGSON	9	HOOKER	9	Cameron SMITH	8	-	31	62
5	-	-	-	Dunamis LUI	10	FRONT ROW	10	Christian WELCH	6	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Hudson YOUNG	11	SECOND ROW	11	Felise KAUFUSI	8	1	-	4
8	4	-	16	Elliott WHITEHEAD	12	SECOND ROW	12	Kenneath BROMWICH	8	-	-	-
7	1	-	4	Joseph TAPINE	13	LOCK	13	Dale FINUCANE	8	1	-	4
8	-	-	-	Siliva HAVILI	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Brandon SMITH	6	2	-	8
-	-	-	-	Kai O'DONNELL	15		15	Tino FAASUAMALEAUI	8	1	-	4
4	-	-	-	Ryan SUTTON	16		16	Tom EISENHUTH	6	1	-	4
5	1	-	4	Jordan RAPANA	17		17	Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	6	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Tom STARLING	18	RESERVES	18	Darryn SCHONIG	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Matt FRAWLEY	19		19	Cameron MUNSTER	7	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Darby MEDLYN	20		20	Brenko LEE	3	1	-	4
8	1	-	4	Curtis SCOTT	21		21	Nicho HYNES	-	-	-	-

RICKY STUART

COACH

CRAIG BELLAMY

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Josh Papali'i (CAN) - 1 try / 4 points to reach 50 tries / 200 points (club and career); Paul MOMIROVSKI (Storm) - 6 points for 100 career points

#NRLRaidersStorm

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 11 July 2020
KICKOFF	7:35pm AEST
VENUE	GIO Stadium Canberra Bruce, ACT
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand 2GB SYD, 4BC BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Grant ATKINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Dave MUNRO Peter GOUGH
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY Ben GALEA

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 45 matches

14

31

At GIO Stadium Canberra: 21 matches, Raiders 7, Storm 14

LAST TEN CLASHES CAN 4 - 6 MEL

2020	Round 3	Raiders 22-6	AAMI
2019	Finals W1	Raiders 12-10	AAMI
2019	Round 22	Raiders 22-18	AAMI
2019	Round 2	Storm 22-10	GIO
2018	Round 20	Storm 44-10	AAMI
2017	Round 26	Storm 32-6	AAMI
2017	Round 20	Storm 20-14	GIO
2016	Finals W?	Storm 14-12	AAMI
2016	Round 23	Raiders 22-8	GIO
2015	Round 6	Storm 14-10	GIO

BIGGEST WINS

RAIDERS	2012 Round 18	40-12 at AAMI
STORM	2013 Round 21	68-4 at GIO

CURRENT FORM

RAIDERS	W W L W L L W	6th, 10pts
STORM	W W L W W L W W	3rd, 12pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 10

RAIDERS	Roosters @ SCG, Thu 16 Jul 7:50pm
STORM	Titans @ Sunshine Coast, Fri 17 Jul 6:00pm

Match Preview

with Josh Robertson

Revenge will be the order of the day in Canberra on Saturday night, as the Melbourne Storm head to the nation's capital to avenge their loss to the Canberra Raiders back at the resumption of the season.

Last weekend, the Canberra Raiders struggled to dominate against the St George Illawarra Dragons despite taking an 18-0 lead into the break. The Raiders have struggled for consistency and it was shown last week as they couldn't finish off the Dragons after being able to extend their lead out to 22-0 before the Dragons nearly pulled off a comeback.

The Raiders form since the season resumed has been patchy at best with all signs looking good in Round 3, when they were able to dominate up against the Melbourne Storm winning 22-6. From there, Canberra have struggled to find consistency this season with no dominance in their matches since that victory against Melbourne in Round 3.

Canberra coach Ricky Stuart has again been forced to make significant changes with Sia Soliola and Emre Guler both ruled out due to significant injuries. Dunamis Lui and Josh Papalii are named to start in the front row whilst Kai O'Donnell is set to debut off the bench. Joseph Tapine has moved back into the starting line-up with Ryan Sutton dropping to the bench. Curtis Scott's indifferent form has seen him drop off the interchange in place of Jordan Rapana.

The Melbourne Storm needed more than 80 minutes to get past the Sydney Roosters last weekend following their 27-25 victory last Thursday night. The Storm then scored twice in the space of two minutes to take a 24-22 lead before the Roosters were able to level things and take a one-point lead before the Storm levelled things up to force golden point. A penalty goal at the end of the first period of extra-time sealed the 27-25 victory.

The Storm haven't been their consistent best in 2020 but are climbing up the NRL ladder to sit in third spot behind the Eels and Panthers. The Storm have won four of their past five matches including a 50-6 victory over the NZ Warriors. Coach Craig Bellamy has been forced into one change with Suliasi Vunivalu out after suffering a hamstring injury last weekend. Marion Seve has been named on the wing. Cameron Smith has been named in his traditional number 9 role with Ryley Jacks at halfback and Brandon Smith named on the bench, although changes could be likely with Cameron Smith starting at halfback last week.

Who to watch: The Raiders five-eighth Jack Wighton has had an inconsistent season for the Raiders and will need to find his a-game if the Raiders want to win. Wighton has been good in patches but choices of play have let Canberra down at key times which like many in the Raiders team hasn't helped their consistency at all. Wighton will need to be on song if the Raiders want to beat Melbourne again.

Since losing Cameron Munster, a lot of Melbourne's attacking aspects have fallen upon Jahrome Hughes who has had the number 7 jersey this season. Hughes was a key part of the Storm's comeback last weekend taking on the kicking duties and standing up in defence.

Favourite: There isn't a clear favourite for the match with both sides going up on either side as favourites across different organisations. The history of the two teams plays a big part in this given that the Raiders have had a strong record of late over the Storm.

My tip: The Raiders might have had a strong record over the Storm of late and took victory when these two sides met in Round 3 but since that point Canberra have struggled to find any consistency whatsoever. The Storm haven't been their clinical best but are starting to find their groove and should be able to have enough to get over the Raiders who are missing some key players. It'll be a tight game and could head to golden point but I think the Storm should be able to get over the top of the Raiders. **Storm by 4.**

Newcastle KNIGHTS



Parramatta EELS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
7	3	25	62	Kalyn PONGA	1	FULLBACK	1	Clinton GUTHERSON		8	2	10 ⁺	29
6	1	2	8	Tex HOY	2	WING	2	Maika SIVO		8	8	-	32
7	3	-	12	Enari TUALA	3	CENTRE	3	Michael JENNINGS		8	5	-	20
5	5	-	20	Bradman BEST	4	CENTRE	4	Waqā BLAKE		8	3	-	12
8	2	-	8	Hymel HUNT	5	WING	5	Blake FERGUSON		8	-	-	-
8	4	-	16	Kurt MANN	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Dylan BROWN		8	3	-	12
8	2	- ⁺	9	Mitchell PEARCE	7	HALFBACK	7	Jai FIELD		1	1	-	4
8	-	-	-	David KLEMMER	8	FRONT ROW	8	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD		7	-	-	-
7 ⁺	1	-	4	Andrew MCCULLOUGH	9	HOKKER	9	Reed MAHONEY		8	2	-	8
8	2	-	8	Daniel SAIFITI	10	FRONT ROW	10	Junior PAULO		8	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Lachlan FITZGIBBON	11	SECOND ROW	11	Shaun LANE		8	1	-	4
8	-	-	-	Aidan GUERRA	12	SECOND ROW	12	Ryan MATTERSON		8	2	-	8
8	-	-	-	Herman ESE'ESE	13	LOCK	13	Nathan BROWN		4	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Starford TO'A	14	INTERCHANGE	14	David GOWER		1	-	-	-
8	1	-	4	Jacob SAIFITI	15		15	Stefano UTOIKAMANU		-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Pasami SAULO	16		16	Marata NIUKORE		8	1	-	4
3	-	-	-	Brodie JONES	17		17	Brad TAKAIRANGI		6	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Tautau MOGA	18	RESERVES	18	Daniel ALVARO		1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Josh KING	19		19	George JENNINGS		-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Phoenix CROSSLAND	20		20	Will SMITH		-	-	-	-
3	1	-	4	Connor WATSON	21		21	Andrew DAVEY		-	-	-	-

* 2 games for Brisbane Broncos

ADAM O'BRIEN

COACH

BRAD ARTHUR

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Kalyn PONGA (Knights) - 14 more points for 300 career points; Herman ESE'ESE (Knights) - 50th Knights game
Blake FERGUSON (Eels) - 8 points for 500 career points; David GOWER (Eels) - 100th Eels game

#NRLKnightsEels

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 12 July 2020
KICKOFF	4:05pm AEST
VENUE	McDonald Jones Stadium New Lambton, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD / BNE 2GB SYD / 4BC BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Gerard SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Phil HENDERSON Tim ALOUANI-ROBY
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY Ben GALEA

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 53 matches

30

1

22

At McDonald Jones Stadium: 27 matches, Knights 19, Eels 8

LAST TEN CLASHES

NEW 7 - 3 PAR

2019	Round 21	Eels 20-14	Bankwest
2019	Round 7	Knights 28-14	McDonald Jones
2018	Round 18	Knights 18-16	McDonald Jones
2018	Round 13	Knights 30-4	ANZ
2017	Round 23	Knights 29-10	ANZ
2016	Round 12	Eels 20-18	Hunter
2015	Round 7	Eels 28-22	Hunter
2014	Round 25	Knights 42-12	Hunter
2014	Round 16	Knights 16-10	Pirtek
2013	Round 26	Knights 54-6	Hunter

BIGGEST WINS

KNIGHTS	2013 Round 26	54-6 at Hunter
EELS	2005 Round 14	50-0 at EnergyAustralia

CURRENT FORM

KNIGHTS	W W D W L W L W	4th, 11pts
EELS	W W W W L W W	1st, 14pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 10

KNIGHTS	Rabbitohs @ Bankwest, Sat 18 Jul 5:30pm
EELS	Sea Eagles @ Lottoland, Sat 18 Jul 7:35pm

Match Preview

with Jason Hosken

Steely Knights back on home turf against the high flying Eels.

Newcastle host Parramatta in a return to home soil for the first time since Round 1. And with last start wins, both coaches will be desperate to solidify their top-four billing.

But in a contrast of styles the comparisons end there.

In a dour contest at Brookvale, the injury plagued Knights overcame the odds to repel a fast finishing Manly a week after raising the white flag in Townsville.

While at Bankwest it was a case of no Moses, no worries as the Eels crashed through the Cowboys' middle before flooding the flanks in a seven try romp.

For Adam O'Brien, this week's test is twofold. Where Manly were one out, the super slick Eels are flush with attacking options, something the Knights must develop if they are to prolong their status among the competition's best.

For the second week running Kalyn Ponga was largely silenced. And until the Knights brains trust work out how to unlock the prized fullback, Newcastle's gutsy resolve will be pushed to the limit.

In Clint Gutherson, Brad Arthur has no such troubles. Gifted with a ticket to roam, the fullback's brilliance manifests itself through an acute sense of timing without forcing his hand.

That said, the comfort for O'Brien is Newcastle's decade long superiority over the Eels. Since 2010, the Novacastrian's have won 11 of 14 including a seven from nine dominance in the Hunter.

But without the injured Edrick Lee and Sione Mata'utia, it'll be up to Tex Hoy and Aidan Guerra to make an impression from the start with Brodie Jones and Starford To'a to contribute off the bench.

For the Eels, lock Nathan Brown is back from suspension forcing Marata Niukore to the interchange. And in what will be David Gower's 100th game for the club, will also double as 20-year old prop Stefano Utoikamanu's NRL debut.

Who to watch: Newcastle's hopes start on the shoulders of Blues bookends David Klemmer and Daniel Saifiti. With five consecutive Origin series under his belt, Klemmer is arguably one of the most respected props in the game. And if the Knights are to tame Parramatta's rampant front six, his strength and aggression will need to be at its non-negotiable best.

For the Blue-and-Golds, Junior Paulo and Reagan Campbell-Gillard are yet to shirk a challenge. The classy Eels backline stole the plaudits last week, but it was Paulo's 223 metres that scattered the Cowboys. And with the 140-game mainstay responsible for up to a third of Parramatta's offloads, the Knights could be in for a long evening if he's allowed to cut loose.

Favourite: Even with Newcastle back on home turf, the ladder leading Eels are still narrow favourites.

My tip: With proven defence, Newcastle are a side on the up but in Parramatta we'll find out just how far they've come. With only one loss, the Eels forwards are yet to misfire and their left edge is just as lethal. Look for last week's effort to sap the Knights as the Eels storm home. **Eels by 10.**

St George Illawarra DRAGONS



Manly-Warringah SEA EAGLES

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
6	5	-	20	Matthew DUFTY	1	FULLBACK	1	Reuben GARRICK		8	1	20	40
6	1	-	4	Jordan PEREIRA	2	WING	2	Jorge TAUFUA		6	4	-	16
6	-	-	-	Euan AITKEN	3	CENTRE	3	Brad PARKER		8	2	-	8
8	5	21	62	Zac LOMAX	4	CENTRE	4	Moses SULI		6	1	-	4
7	5	-	20	Mikaele RAVALAWA	5	WING	5	Tevita FUNA		4	3	-	12
8	1	-	4	Corey NORMAN	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Lachlan CROKER		8	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Adam CLUNE	7	HALFBACK	7	Daly CHERRY-EVANS		8	2	+	19
8	-	-	-	Blake LAWRIE	8	FRONT ROW	8	Taniela PASEKA		6	-	-	-
8	1	-	4	Ben HUNT	9	HOOKER	9	Danny LEVI		8	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	Paul VAUGHAN	10	FRONT ROW	10	Martin TAUPAU		7	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	Tyson FRIZELL	11	SECOND ROW	11	Joel THOMPSON		8	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Tariq SIMS	12	SECOND ROW	12	Curtis SIRONEN		7	1	-	4
6	1	-	4	Cameron MCINNES	13	LOCK	13	Jake TRBOJEVIC		8	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	Trent MERRIN	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Cade CUST		2	1	-	4
8	-	-	-	Josh KERR	15		15	Jack GOSIEWSKI		4	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	Tyrell FUIMAONO	16		16	Sean KEPPIE		8	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Jackson FORD	17		17	Morgan BOYLE		3	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Tim LAFAI	18	RESERVES	18	Corey WADDELL		3	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Tristan SAILOR	19		19	Brendan ELLIOT		2	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Jason SAAB	20		20	Abbas MISKI		-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	Korbin SIMS	21		21	Haumole OLAKAU'ATU		2	-	-	-

PAUL MCGREGOR

COACH

DES HASLER

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Ben HUNT (Dragons) - 5 more points for 300 career points;

Curtis SIRONEN (Sea Eagles) - 50th Sea Eagles game, 4 more points for 100 career points; Daly CHERRY-EVANS (Sea Eagles) - 1 more point for 500 club & career points

#NRLDragonsManly

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 12 July 2020
KICKOFF	6:30pm AEST
VENUE	Netstrata Jubilee Stadium Carlton, NSW
WATCH	Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD / BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Matt CECCHIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Belinda SHARPE Liam KENNEDY
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK Bryan NORRIE

Match Stats

Courtesy of Rugby League Project

HEAD TO HEAD: 29 matches

19

10

At Netstrata Jubilee Stadium: 7 matches, Dragons 5, Sea Eagles 2

LAST TEN CLASHES SGI 5 - 5 MAN

2019	Round 14	Sea Eagles 34-14	Lottoland
2019	Round 6	Dragons 12-10	WIN
2018	Round 15	Dragons 32-8	WIN
2017	Round 20	Dragons 52-22	WIN
2017	Round 6	Dragons 35-10	Lottoland
2016	Round 17	Sea Eagles 36-6	Brookvale
2015	Round 4	Dragons 12-4	WIN
2014	Round 19	Sea Eagles 21-12	WIN Jubilee
2013	Round 8	Sea Eagles 24-18	WIN Jubilee
2012	Round 13	Sea Eagles 20-8	Brookvale

BIGGEST WINS

DRAGONS	2009 Round 18	48-18 at WIN
	2017 Round 20	52-22 at WIN
SEA EAGLES	2008 Finals W1	38-6 at Brookvale

CURRENT FORM

DRAGONS	L L L L W W L L	13th, 4pts
SEA EAGLES	L W W L W W L L	10th, 8pts

NEXT UP - ROUND 10

DRAGONS	Bulldogs @ WIN, Sat 18 Jul 3:00pm
SEA EAGLES	Eels @ Lottoland, Sat 18 Jul 7:35pm

Match Preview

with Robert Crosby

Last-start losers look to bounce back

Sitting outside the top eight following back-to-back losses respectively, the St George Illawarra Dragons and the Manly Sea Eagles will be aiming to re-enter the winner's circle at the end of round nine.

Mounting a late comeback in an otherwise poor showing during last Friday's 22-16 loss to the Raiders, the St George Illawarra Dragons will return to Kogarah for the first time since the season resumption.

Winning two of their past eight appearances at the Dragons' spiritual home ground, coach Paul McGregor will be hoping his positive record against the Sea Eagles continues on Sunday evening having won five out of eight clashes since taking the helm six years ago.

Boosted by the return of Tariq Sims from a wrist injury, Ben Hunt will start at hooker with captain Cameron McInnes wearing the number 13 jersey for the first time in his career. Jordan Pereira returns from a two-match ban in place of Jason Saab on the wing.

Unable to take advantage of an injury-hit Newcastle side during last Sunday's 14-12 defeat at Lottoland, the Manly Sea Eagles will be desperate to avoid three straight losses for the first time in Des Hasler's second stint at the club.

Holding an underwhelming overall record at Kogarah with two wins from seven appearances against the joint venture, the Sea Eagles will be chasing three straight victories at the venue following wins in 2013 and 2014.

Losing Addin Fonua-Blake for a fortnight after the Tongan international was sent-off for abusing referee Grant Atkins during last week's loss to Newcastle, Tanieli Paseka comes into the starting pack with Morgan Boyle joining the bench.

Overcoming a number of injuries to become a mainstay of the Sea Eagles' second row, former Tigers playmaker Curtis Sironen will bring up 50 appearances for the club on Sunday evening.

Who to watch: Taking advantage of the opportunity to establish himself as a starting front rower, Dapto junior Blake Lawrie will be relishing the chance to go up against one of the best props in the league. Shifting into the number eight jersey following the departure of James Graham, the 23-year-old has been a quiet achiever under Paul McGregor, averaging 37 tackles and over 100 metres in a half of football each week. Contracted to the joint venture for the next two seasons, look for Lawrie to give a good account of himself as the Dragons aim to bounce back from consecutive losses.

Knocking back a lucrative offer to join the joint venture next season, Sea Eagles centre Moses Suli will be eager to rub further salt into the Dragons' wounds on Sunday evening. Playing the best football of his career under Des Hasler, the 22-year-old Tongan international has come a long way since garnering headlines questioning his commitment to the game. Running for over 120 metres per game, expect Suli to revel in his personal duel opposite Euan Aitken as the Sea Eagles chase back-to-back wins over the Dragons for the first time in six years.

Favourite: Despite a growing list of unavailable stars, the Sea Eagles are expected to close out the round with a win.

My tip: With both teams needing the win to stay in touch with the eight, the class of Daly Cherry-Evans should get the visitors home. **Sea Eagles by 10.**

2020 Draw

NRL Telstra Premiership

ROUND 1

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

MARCH 12-15

Eels v Bulldogs 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 3:00pm
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 3:00pm
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 3:00pm
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 3:00pm
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 3:00pm
Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:30pm

JUNE 25-29

Panthers v Rabbitohs Kogarah 20-12
Storm v Warriors Kogarah 50-6
Roosters v Dragons Bankwest 26-12
Cowboys v Knights Townsville 32-20
Broncos v Titans Suncorp 12-30
Eels v Raiders Bankwest 25-24
Sea Eagles v Sharks Gosford 22-40
Bulldogs v Tigers Bankwest 6-34

ROUND 8

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

JULY 2-5

Storm v Roosters Suncorp 27-25
Raiders v Dragons GIO 22-16
Eels v Cowboys Bankwest 42-4
Titans v Sharks Cbus Super 10-40
Warriors v Broncos Gosford 26-16
Tigers v Panthers Bankwest 12-19
Sea Eagles v Knights Lottoland 12-14
Bulldogs v Rabbitohs Bankwest 10-26

ROUND 9

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

JULY 9-12

Cowboys v Roosters 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 Netstrata Jubilee Stadium

ROUND 10

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

JULY 16-19

Roosters v Raiders Sydney Cricket Ground
Storm v Titans Sunshine Coast Stadium
Tigers v Broncos Leichhardt Oval
Dragons v Bulldogs WIN Stadium
Rabbitohs v Knights Bankwest Stadium
Sea Eagles v Eels Lottoland
Warriors v Sharks Central Coast Stadium
Panthers v Cowboys Panthers Stadium

ROUND 11

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

JULY 23-26

Eels v Tigers Bankwest Stadium
Cowboys v Sea Eagles QLD Country Bank Stadium
Broncos v Storm Suncorp Stadium
Warriors v Roosters Central Coast Stadium
Sharks v Dragons Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
Raiders v Rabbitohs GIO Stadium Canberra
Knights v Bulldogs McDonald Jones Stadium
Titans v Panthers Cbus Super Stadium

ROUND 12

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

JULY 30-AUGUST 2

Dragons v Rabbitohs Netstrata Jubilee Stadium
Tigers v Warriors Campbelltown Stadium
Broncos v Sharks Suncorp Stadium
Roosters v Titans Sydney Cricket Ground
Cowboys v Raiders QLD Country Bank Stadium
Sea Eagles v Panthers Lottoland
Bulldogs v Eels ANZ Stadium
Storm v Knights Sunshine Coast Stadium

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 3:00pm
 Sat 5:30pm
 Sat 7:35pm
 Sun 2:00pm
 Sun 4:05pm

AUGUST 6-9

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

ROUND 14

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

AUGUST 13-16

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

ROUND 15

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

AUGUST 20-23

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

ROUND 16

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

AUGUST 27-30

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

ROUND 17

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

SEPTEMBER 3-6

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

Women in League Round**ROUND 18**

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

SEPTEMBER 10-13

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

ROUND 19

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

SEPTEMBER 17-20

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

ROUND 20

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

SEPTEMBER 24-27

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

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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