

THE FRONT ROW

FINALS WEEK 1 2021

VOLUME 2 · ISSUE 27



LEAGUE UNLIMITED



It's time to fire up

Hear from the key players ahead of the biggest games



EXPERIENCE MATTERS

THE NRL FINALS ARE HERE.



Farewell

A tribute to 'Cecch'



INSIDE: WE UNVEIL LEAGUEUNLIMITED'S 2021 TEAM OF THE YEAR PLUS WEEK 1 FINALS PROGRAM - SQUAD LISTS, PREVIEWS & HEAD TO HEAD STATS, R25 REVIEWED



JOIN THE CONVERSATION
@LEAGUEUNLIMITED



LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM

AUSTRALIA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT RUGBY LEAGUE WEBSITE

The screenshot displays the League Unlimited website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, NEWS, COMPETITIONS & STATS, QUICK LINKS, FORUMS, and LIVE. Below this is a 'Match Centre: Round 19' section showing a grid of match results from previous rounds, including Eels vs Roosters, Knights vs Storm, Cowboys vs Warriors, Rabbits vs Sea Eagles, Wests Tigers vs Panthers, Dragons vs Broncos, Bulldogs vs Titans, and Sharks.

The main content area features a 'MATCH CENTRE' for Round 20, showing a live match between MELBOURNE STORM and PENRITH PANTHERS. The score is 0-0, and the match is scheduled for 7:35pm on Saturday, July 31, 2021, at Suncorp Stadium. A pre-match timer shows 0:00. Below the match details are tabs for PRE-MATCH, TEAMS, PLAY BY PLAY, SCORERS, and WRAP UP.

On the left side, there is a 'Latest News' section with an article titled 'Storm sneak past the Cowboys to record 15th win in a row'. The article mentions that Melbourne has survived a late scare from North Queensland to register a club record 15th straight win by 20-16 at Queensland Country Bank Stadium tonight. Another article snippet is visible for 'NRL statement: Api Koroisau', stating that the NRL has issued a Breach Notice for failing to comply with biosecurity protocols during the State's Game II camp.

At the bottom of the screenshot, there are sections for 'Form Guide' and 'Upcoming Games' for both teams, showing their performance in previous rounds and their next fixtures.

THERE IS NO OFF-SEASON

What's inside

THE FRONT ROW - VOL 2 ISSUE 27

From the editor	3
Features	
Finals Experience	4-5
Nathan Cleary	6
Christian Welch	7
Tyson Frizell	8
Thanks Cecch	9
Team of the Year	10-11
NRL Ladder, Stats Leaders	12
GAME DAY · NRL Finals Week 1	13-29
LU Team Tips	13
FRI QF 1 Melbourne v Manly	14-15
SAT EF 1 Sydney Roosters v Gold Coast	16-17
QF 2 Penrith v South Sydney	18-19
SUN EF 2 Parramatta v Newcastle	20-21
NRL Round 25 Wrap	22-25
NRL POTY Standings, Match Review R25	26
UK Watch	27
QRL Teamlists - ISC R17, Colts R14	28
QRL results - ISC R16, Colts R13	29
2021 NRL Draw	30-31

From the editor

Tim Costello

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to finals footy!

And indeed welcome to a big issue of The Front Row. This week we have plenty of reading for you ahead of the first week of the finals series - starting with Rob Crosby's exclusive piece analysing who's got the most finals experience across the eight teams competing for glory over the next month.

Continue through the pages and you'll find yarns with key players from some of the contenders - Penrith's Nathan Cleary, Melbourne's Christian Welch and Newcastle's Tyson Frizell - as they each gear up for huge games on the weekend.

TheBiggestTiger this week pays tribute to retiring referee Matt Cecchin, and Rick Edgerton brings your our team of the year - and reveals our player and rookie of the year as well. All of that before you even get to the Week1 match day programme!

It's been a long and trying year for many readers across Australia, particularly in NSW. Here's hoping the last four weeks of footy put a smile on your face, no matter who you support.

Happy reading!

The FRONT ROW ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We'd like to thank RugbyLeagueProject.org for their support and use of various statistics throughout this publication. Magazine content originally appears on LeagueUnlimited.com © 2021 unless otherwise noted. Interested in advertising with The Front Row or LeagueUnlimited.com, or just want to provide feedback? Contact us by email media@leagueunlimited.com

Cover image: Melbourne with the J.J. Giltinan Shield (@Storm on Twitter)

MANAGERS

Steven Williams & Coby Delaney

EDITOR

Tim Costello

CONTRIBUTORS

Andrew Ferguson

TheBiggestTiger

Paul Jobber

Robert Crosby

Rick Edgerton

Josh Robertson

Justin Davies

Lachy MacCorquodale

Adam Huxtable

Andrew Jackson

Jason Hosken



THE NUMBERS THAT MATTER

FINALS EXPERIENCE MATTERS IN 2021

WORDS: ROB CROSBY

All 16 NRL clubs competed over the course of 25 rounds and 192 matches during the 2021 home-and-away season. The final 9 matches to be played over the next 4 weeks will see the top 8 teams fight for the right to be crowned premiers.

WELCOME TO FINALS FOOTBALL

Six of the eight teams that featured in the end of season matches twelve months ago are back with Manly and Gold Coast taking the places of Canberra and Cronulla respectively.

- Minor premiers Melbourne achieved a record result by posting the most wins in a season during the NRL era. The Storm previously won 21 matches (2007) with a roster subsequently found to be in breach of the salary cap.
- Penrith would have claimed the minor premiership in any other season during the NRL era having lost just three matches all year.
- South Sydney joined North Queensland (2007) in infamy by finishing in the top four despite conceding 50 points multiple times during the season.
- Manly overcame a dreadful start before becoming the first team since North Queensland (2015) to go from last position to the top four.
- Sydney debuted nine players in first grade and lost three premiership winners to mid-season retirements - all without spending a single week outside the top eight.
- Parramatta set a benchmark as the only club to defeat the reigning premiers twice this season.
- Newcastle qualified for the finals in back-to-back seasons for the first time in 18 years (2002/03).
- Gold Coast joined Brisbane (2007 and 2019), Canberra (2002 and 2004), Gold Coast (2016), Parramatta (2002) and St George Illawarra (2002) in qualifying for the finals having recorded more losses than wins during the regular season.

History shows experience plays a massive part in succeeding during September. Take a look at how the finals contenders of 2021 fare...



MELBOURNE STORM

Fielding three finals rookies to go along with 12 of the 17 players that suited up on grand final day last year, the Storm hold an imposing record in finals football winning 33 of 52 fixtures since entering the premiership in 1998. For the first time in more than two decades, the Storm will contest a finals series without future immortal Cameron Smith taking part.

MOST EXPERIENCED: Jesse Bromwich - 25 finals appearances; *Finals Fact:* Nicho Hynes is recognised as a premiership-winner despite failing to take the field in last year's grand final.



PENRITH PANTHERS

Waiting in anticipation for another shot at the premiership after producing their worst performance of last season in the match that mattered most, the Panthers will be looking to go one better by drawing on the big match experience of their seven stars who featured in State of Origin this year. Canterbury-bound

playmaker Matt Burton and interchange forward Spencer Leniu are yet to feature in finals football.

MOST EXPERIENCED: Isaah Yeo, Nathan Cleary, James Fisher-Harris - 9 finals appearances; *Finals Fact:* 12 players have been named from the team that featured in last year's grand final.

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

Seeking to break a wretched run in September after bowing out one game short of the decider three years in a row, the Rabbitohs will be motivated to send club legend Adam Reynolds out a winner. Missing Latrell Mitchell for the second straight finals series, replacement fullback Blake Taaffe will be the most inexperienced man named to start in a finals match for South Sydney since Justin Hunt in 2012.

MOST EXPERIENCED: Adam Reynolds - 18 finals appearances; *Finals Fact:* The Rabbitohs have selected a player with less than half a dozen NRL appearances in three of their past four finals campaigns - Blake Taaffe (2021: 5 games), Jed Cartwright (2020: 4 games), Dean Britt (2018: 3 games).

MANLY SEA EAGLES

Making a dramatic return to the top eight following an awful campaign last year, the Sea Eagles will be hoping to continue a remarkable statistic of winning a grand final in every decade from the 1970s onward. Premiership-winning halfback and captain Daly Cherry-Evans boasts the distinction as the only Clive Churchill Medal winner participating in this year's finals series.

MOST EXPERIENCED: Daly Cherry-Evans - 15 finals appearances; *Finals Fact:* Kieran Foran will play his first finals match in seven years.

SYDNEY ROOSTERS

Refusing to wilt in the face of an injury toll that would have crippled lesser teams lacking the fortitude instilled by Trent Robinson, 2021 marks just the fifth time in a quarter of a century the Roosters have qualified for the finals outside of the top four. Rookie of the Year frontrunner Sam Waker headlines a group of seven finals rookies.

MOST EXPERIENCED: Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Daniel Tupou - 19 finals appearances; *Finals Fact:* James Tedesco has scored six tries in his past five finals appearances.

IMAGERY THANKS TO:
PANTHERS MEDIA, STORM MEDIA,
KNIGHTS MEDIA, EELS MEDIA

30 FOR 30 - NRL FINALS EXPERIENCE

Rank	Player	Club	Finals Appearances	Grand Final Appearances
1	Jesse Bromwich	Melbourne	25	5 (2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020)
2	Dale Finucane	Melbourne	24	6 (2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020)
3	Jared Waerea-Hargreaves	Sydney Roosters	19	4 (2010, 2013, 2018, 2019)
	Kenny Bromwich	Melbourne	19	4 (2016, 2017, 2018, 2020)
	Daniel Tupou	Sydney Roosters	19	3 (2013, 2018, 2019)
6	Adam Reynolds	South Sydney	18	1 (2014)
7	Cameron Munster	Melbourne	17	4 (2016, 2017, 2018, 2020)
	Isaac Liu	Sydney Roosters	17	2 (2018, 2019)
	Josh Morris	Sydney Roosters	17	2 (2012, 2014)
10	Mitchell Pearce	Newcastle	16	2 (2010, 2013)
11	Daly Cherry-Evans	Manly	15	2 (2011, 2013)
12	Nelson Asofa-Solomona	Melbourne	14	3 (2017, 2018, 2020)
	Kieran Foran	Manly	14	2 (2011, 2013)
14	Siosua Taukieaho	Sydney Roosters	13	2 (2018, 2019)
	Kevin Proctor	Gold Coast	13	2 (2012, 2016)
	Benji Marshall	South Sydney	13	1 (2005)
	Tom Burgess	South Sydney	13	1 (2014)
	Alex Johnston	South Sydney	13	1 (2014)
	Blake Ferguson	Parramatta	13	1 (2018)
20	Josh Addo-Carr	Melbourne	12	3 (2017, 2018, 2020)
	Felise Kaufusi	Melbourne	12	3 (2017, 2018, 2020)
22	Dane Gagai	South Sydney	11	
	Damien Cook	South Sydney	11	
24	Brandon Smith	Melbourne	9	2 (2018, 2020)
	Dylan Walker	Manly	9	1 (2014)
	Isaiah Yeo	Penrith	9	1 (2020)
	James Fisher-Harris	Penrith	9	1 (2020)
	Nathan Cleary	Penrith	9	1 (2020)
	Cody Walker	South Sydney	9	
	Cameron Murray	South Sydney	9	

*Luke Keary (14) and Josh Mansour (11) were excluded due to sustaining season-ending injuries.



PARRAMATTA EELS

Missing out on a second chance in September despite sitting inside the top four for 18 weeks of the season, the Eels will be hoping to improve upon a dismal finals record of one win from six matches during Brad Arthur's tenure. Teenage centre Will Penisini is one of two Parramatta players set to play finals football for the first time; overlooked hooker Joey Lussick previously played in a Super League Grand Final and Challenge Cup Final during his time with Salford. **MOST EXPERIENCED:** Blake Ferguson - 13 finals appearances; **Finals Fact:** Haze Dunster made his first grade debut in last year's semi final loss to South Sydney.

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

Gaining momentum at the right time of year with five wins from their final six matches, the Knights will be determined to avoid the mistakes of last season after leading 14-0 only to be embarrassed at the end of 80 minutes. Sunday afternoon will mark the first time the Knights have met the Eels in finals football since their historic grand final victory two decades ago. **MOST EXPERIENCED:** Mitchell Pearce - 16 finals appearances; **Finals Fact:** Sauaso Sue will make his first finals appearance in his 165th NRL game.



GOLD COAST TITANS

Failing upwards in qualifying for only their fourth finals series since entering the premiership in 2007, the Titans will be aiming to claim the scalp of a top eight team for just the second time this season. Naming nine finals rookies, including co-captain Jamal Fogarty, off-contract playmaker Ashley Taylor is the only player remaining from the club's last finals appearance in 2016. **MOST EXPERIENCED:** Kevin Proctor - 13 finals appearances; **Finals Fact:** Rookie fullback Jayden Campbell will follow in the footsteps of his father, Preston, by playing finals football with the Gold Coast.

The winner of the Qualifying Final between Melbourne and Manly will progress through to the Preliminary Final. The loser will face the winner of the Elimination Final between Sydney and Gold Coast.

The winner of the Qualifying Final between Penrith and South Sydney will progress through to the Preliminary Final. The loser will face the winner of the Elimination Final between Parramatta and Newcastle.

FINALS FORMULA

CLEARY TO LEAD THE WAY AS PANTHERS EYE PREMIERSHIP

WORDS: PAUL JOBBER

IMAGE: PANTHERS MEDIA

Penrith co-captain Nathan Cleary acknowledges experience counts in finals football.



The halfback, along with Isaah Yeo and James Fisher-Harris will be leading the way if some of their inexperienced teammates need to look for composure throughout the next month.

Yeo, Cleary and Fisher-Harris all have nine finals appearances to their names, including last year's heartbreaking 26-20 grand final defeat to Melbourne Storm.

Cleary hopes this year will be different having led New South Wales to Origin success and he hopes he can call on some of that 'big game' experience when it comes to September football.

"Experience is priceless really, especially in big games," he said.

"I've definitely learned a lot of lessons in the big games I've played in and I've been lucky enough to have played in a few now through Origin and finals series, so you always learn with experience you get.

"Having said that, every game is different so you can lean on different things but mentally are the biggest things during games where if it's not going your way, it's how you bounce back from that and how you go in the face of adversity."

While it is a common theory that teams have to lose a grand final before they win one, the 23-year-old will take confidence knowing he performed on the big stage in the middle of the season.

That could prove to be the main difference as the Panthers look to end a premierships drought that stretches back to 2003.

The mountain men will have the added bonus of half a dozen players ready to call on 'big game' experience from the Blues' successful Origin series.

Winger Brian To'o, five-eighth Jarome Luai and lock forward Liam Martin along with co-captains Cleary and Isaah Yeo played integral roles for the Blues.

Backrower Kurt Capewell was a shining light for the Maroons.

"Any time as a team you perform well - especially on the biggest stage in an Origin series - you take confidence out of it," Cleary said.

"We were lucky enough to have five or six guys play in an Origin series this year and to win one so I think you do take confidence out of that.

"I feel like I've taken a lot of confidence out of every finals game I've played so far in my career and learned different lessons along the way.

"I'm hoping to take those into this finals series and to help out the guys that are going through their first finals' series or are very early in their career."

RED ALERT

WELCH SAYS STORM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGE OF TOM TRBOJEVIC

WORDS: PAUL JOBBER

Melbourne Storm were one of just three teams who managed to divulge a plan on how to shut down Manly superstar fullback Tom Trbojevic in the 2021 regular season.

It happened just four weeks ago and they'll have to do it again if they are to earn a much-needed week off on the way to a seventh-straight preliminary final appearance.

Prop forward Christian Welch admitted his team would be on high alert whenever 'Turbo' was near the ball - and it's with good reason too.

In the 15 games Trbojevic has played this season, the Sea Eagles registered 12 wins with the fullback recording an impressive 25 tries with 27 try assists and 30 linebreaks.

Whenever he touches the ball, something is likely to happen and the Storm are well aware of it.

"He's going to have his 25 carries a game so it's having intent whenever he's got the ball and trying to put some pressure on," Welch said.

"He's such a focal point of that team and as a fullback the way he starts their sets and the shifts and out the back of shape he's everywhere, so he must be a pretty fit guy.

"It's just being on high alert and when he's got the ball making sure we're all working together as a team to try and shut him down."

Welch admitted the Storm defence would be on "red alert" whenever the Eagles were in 'good ball' territory.

"He's such a powerful body and it's red alert whenever he's got the ball," he said.



IMAGE: STORM MEDIA

"It's the responsibility of the whole team to try and call him out a bit and let everyone know where 'Turbo' is because very often that's where the attacking shape is going," he said.

"But it's one thing knowing what's going to happen and what his tendencies are and it's another thing stopping them. Players like him are going to have an impact on the game, it's just where you give him those opportunities and you try and limit him."

Storm coach Craig Bellamy, however, will take comfort in knowing his team did a strong job on the Manly custodian in their 28-18 win in round 21.

On that occasion, Trbojevic's influence was only through two try assists and five tackle breaks.

In the three weeks since, Trbojevic has crossed for seven tries, provided six try assists and had an astonishing 33 tackle breaks.

The Eagles have won five of their last six and scored 240 points in the process.

And while some may argue otherwise, Welch was looking forward to the Storm's "reward" as minor premiers being a clash with a red-hot Manly outfit.

"They're the form team, but you look at the whole top four - Penrith, Rabbitohs - I don't think there's any easy contest there so it's going to be a great finals series and it'll be a great start this week against Manly," he said.

"They've been the form team the last couple of months; they're playing some great football and have some superstar players - none other moreso than Tommy Turbo.

"Everyone loves talking about it and we're talking about it for a reason. He's having a phenomenal year and it's going to be a great contest."

NERVES OF STEEL

FRIZELL SAYS KNIGHTS HOLD THE EDGE IF KNOCKOUT SEMI GOES THE DISTANCE

WORDS: PAUL JOBBER

They don't care that very few people expect their season to progress beyond this Sunday.

But Tyson Frizell feels Newcastle have the ability to cause Parramatta more than a few headaches in their elimination final clash at Rockhampton.

It might come at the expense of their fans' fingernails, though, with the Novocastrians' average winning margin this season across 12 games being a measly nine points.

If not for a 38-0 blowout against the Cowboys, the average win was by just six points.

By comparison, the Eels have cruised through their 15 wins by an average margin of 20 points with just two of their wins coming by eight points or less.

Nine of the Knights' 12 wins were by eight points or less suggesting they hold the aces should the match turn into a typical tight finals contest.

"We know we can win tight games and most of our games we've won haven't been by much," Frizell said.

"With those tight games I'd back our team any day of the week so semi-final footy is usually tough and pretty close too, so if it comes down to it we know we've got players in key positions to get us across the line.

"We're excited to be here, we know our fans can't wait to watch us play and the same as our family too. We know we've worked hard to get here and it happens every year ... eight teams go into the semi-finals."

While they had up to nine regular first graders missing in last weekend's 35-22 loss to Brisbane, the 29-year-old backrower knows they won't have any excuses this weekend.

Coach Adam O'Brien will welcome back the cavalry as the Saifiti brothers, along with Sauaso Sue, Lachlan Fitzgibbon. Mitch Barnett, Hymel Hunt and Jayden Brailey will all join Frizell on their returns to the field.

Although David Klemmer appears certain to take a rib injury into the contest, the Knights will have their first-choice forward pack all on deck.

And they will need it to thwart the Eels' go-forward. "There's no excuses for us," Frizell said.

"Parramatta are a quality side with a great forward pack and it will be a great challenge for us coming up against them this weekend. It's an exciting time of the year to be involved.

"The big pre-season you put in and the hard work throughout the start of the year is because you want to be playing at the end of the year.

"Over the past eight weeks we've really knuckled down and we've done whatever we could to get a win on the board and get ourselves in a position to play finals.

"We're here now and looking to win each week as they come, starting this week."



IMAGE: KNIGHTS MEDIA

THANKS CECCH

An emotional farewell last round to future Hall of Famer, Matt Cecchin, who was given a guard of honour by the players and officials as he left the field for the last time.

Artwork by TheBiggestTiger



OUR TEAM OF THE YEAR

LU'S 3-2-1 VOTES UNVEIL 2021'S BEST PLAYERS

At the conclusion of every game during the NRL season, the dedicated team of live updaters give their votes for the three best players of the match. Based on those votes, here is the leagueunlimited.com team of 2021.

Fullback & player of the year TOM TRBOJEVIC (Sea Eagles), 38 votes

In one of the most remarkable seasons by an individual in rugby league history, 'Tommy Turbo' doubles as both fullback and player of the year. Missing for the opening five rounds through injury, Manly could manage just one win without their superstar fullback. There were even serious doubts at the time Trbojevic could turn them around and in fact how long he would actually last on the field after ongoing hamstring issues in recent years and some were suggesting the Sea Eagles were wooden spoon contenders.

Any such thoughts were promptly blown out of the water upon his return in round six, treating the people of Mudgee to a rugby league masterclass as he guided the Sea Eagles to a dominant victory over the Titans.

What has transpired since has been nothing short of rugby league poetry. In just 15 games, Turbo has notched some eye watering stats – 27 try assists, 30 line-breaks, 221 average running metres and 7 tackle busts per game. Throw in 25 tries including two doubles and 5 hat-tricks and that doesn't include his Origin game one hat-trick. He also won the Wally Lewis medal for Origin's best player in one of the most dominant series wins in history. And that wasn't even whilst playing his natural position.

Not since the days of Andrew Johns have we seen a player have such a dominant influence on a team and the game as a whole. Wooden spoon contenders in April – Premiership contenders come September.

Next Best: Clint Gutherson, Will Kennedy, James Tedesco & Latrell Mitchell – 22 votes

Winger of the year BRIAN TO'O (Panthers), 13 votes

Following the exit of Josh Mansour at the end of last season, To'o moved from the right flank to the left, a move which has coincided with him taking his game to the next level and become the best winger in the game. Built low to the ground but with tremendous upper body strength, the dynamo's finishing skills have seen him cross for 14 tries in 18 games whilst breaking the line on 20 occasions. His biggest asset is his brilliance in coming out of trouble, eating metres for fun and getting his side on the front foot

in every set of six without fail. Leads the comp for metres gained averaging 250 per game and also sits number one for post contact metres with 94 per game. Not just strong and powerful with a big heart, but shows great footballing nous in using his diminutive frame to his advantage to duck, weave and evade would-be defenders.

Next best – Reuben Garrick – 9 votes

Centre of the year JOEY MANU (Roosters), 10 votes

Long been underrated due to the number of stars in the Roosters lineup but in an injury ravaged year to the Bondi based club, Manu's star has shined brightest highlighting just how good a rugby league player he is. One of the most gifted athletes in the game, the kiwi international has amazing footwork, a sublime passing game whether it be conventional or an out the back flick and is brilliant in aerial contests. Showing his versatility this year, Manu has spent time at fullback, five-eighth and on the wing to cover for injured or rested team mates. Not spoken about enough is a player's ability to leave a mark on a contest regardless of the number on his back, something Joey Manu does time and time again.

Next Best – Matt Burton – 9 votes

Five-Eighth of the year CODY WALKER (Rabbitohs), 28 votes

Finishing third overall, the South Sydney pivot has enjoyed arguably his most consistent season of footy in 2021. Always a threat with his natural running game, Walker has crossed for 12 tries thanks largely to his speed between the ears and his uncanny knack of sniffing out an opportunity. His big improvement this year has been his ability to lay on a four-pointer for his team mates, producing a career best and league leading 33 try-assists and a whopping 43 line-break-assists. The jury is still out on whether Walker can step up in the big end of season games after three straight preliminary final losses. With Latrell Mitchell out of action for the finals, there's no better chance for Walker to put any such theories to bed and the Rabbitohs will need him firing off all cylinders if they're to threaten for the title.

Next best – Adam Doueihi – 19 votes

Halfback of the year NATHAN CLEARY (Panthers), 35 votes

Our reigning player of the year from last season, Cleary finishes runner-up and just three points behind Trbojevic. Coming of age to

guide the Panthers to the grand final last year it was hard to envision the Panthers and Blues halfback getting much better, but you can certainly mount that argument after a dominant season at both club and state level. In 16 games, Cleary has put a major imprint on every contest, setting up 19 tries and scoring 10 of his own with his strong running game close to the line. There's not a player in the game who has more control over his overall game right now. Leads the comp for total kick metres with an average 520 per game and is a master at building pressure through repeat sets with 19 forced drop-outs for the year. With a win percentage of 100% at all levels this year, Cleary hasn't tasted defeat since last year's grand final and will be hell bent on keeping that record intact and take his side one better this year.

Next best – Mitchell Moses – 20 votes

Front-Rower of the year

PAYNE HAAS (Broncos), 17 votes

Another dominant season for the Broncos big man despite Coach Kevin Walters electing not to use him in the 80-minute workhorse role he'd been doing last year. Running for an average 168 metres per game, Haas was a tower of strength for his team mates leading the way with numerous colossal carries. Always determined to keep his legs pumping, Haas averaged 74 post contact metres – the most of any other forward in the game. An underrated cog in the Blues dominant machine during Origin this year where he was arguably the best forward in the series. Hard to believe he's just 21 years of age and with his strength, footwork, speed for a big man and the ability to offload - Is sure to pose even more of an attacking threat as he matures. Scary to think he still has the world at his feet really and where his career may end up.

Next best – Christian Welch – 10 votes

Hooker of the year

BRANDON SMITH (Storm), 14 votes

No disrespect to a legend and future immortal of the game, but it's somewhat refreshing not to be mentioning a Smith who wears a purple jersey in hooker of the year conversations right? Hold up... Nope, the legend continues but this time instead of Cameron, it's long time understudy Brandon who takes the gong and deservedly so.

After long being considered his name sake's heir apparent to the number nine jersey, it was feared Brandon's hooking window may have passed after developing into one of the game's more damaging running forwards and the return of Harry Grant to the club this year. Early season injuries to Grant meant 'The Cheese' got first crack at dummy half and excelled again in his junior position. His speed off the mark and strength make him a constant threat in and around the ruck, particularly close to the line, where he's crossed for 11 tries. With Grant back fit and firing from the bench, Smith is back to spending minutes as a middle forward when Grant comes on, giving Melbourne the best one two punch in the game.

Next best – Harry Grant & Reed Mahoney – 11 votes

Second-Rower of the year

DAVID FIFITA (Titans), 17 votes

A marquee signing for the Gold Coast Titans coming into this year, Fifita has had his critics in recent times but overall the barnstorming back-rower has given his new club plenty of bang for their buck. Scoring 17 tries including 2 doubles and 2 hat-tricks, the Maroons forward has taken his damaging running game to another level – his next best season tally was 7. Also averaging 127 metres with ball in hand and has broken more tackles than any other player with a league leading 150. Titans coach Justin Holbrook has been questioned in his tactics of starting Fifita off the bench in recent times, but that tactic certainly paid dividends last weekend after his two tries left a big impression on the contest. Holbrook will be looking for a similar performance in order for the Titans to cause a finals boil over against the Roosters this week.

Next best – Isaiah Papali'i – 12 votes

Lock of the year

CAMERON MURRAY (Rabbitohs), 9 votes

Another stellar year from the South Sydney lock forward who continues to be the poster boy for the modern day lock forward. Central to everything the Rabbitohs do at both ends of the park. In his own half, Murray is never afraid to take a tough run with his classy movement and footwork seeing him getting in between defenders to generate arguably the quickest play the ball in the game. Inside the opposition half, his ball-playing ability often sees him as the first man in the Bunnies attacking raids as he squares up middle defenders before passing for Cody Walker and Adam Reynolds to unleash their backline. A tremendous competitor, the Blues forward isn't afraid to put his body on the line and is a great support player often backing up through the middle following a break.

Next best – Tyrone Peachey – 7 votes

Rookie of the year

SAM WALKER (Roosters), 14 votes

At 19 years of age, the pint sized half was thrust into first grade in round 4 following a season ending injury to Luke Keary and wasted little time making a first grade rugby league field his own domain. There had been plenty of talk about the prodigious talent coming through the grades at Bondi for a good 18 months now, but not many could have picked just how quickly this whiz kid would light up the park. The son of Ben and nephew of Chris and Shane, Walker has notched 19 try-assists and 22 line-break assists in his rookie season whilst crossing for 8 tries of his own. A pure attacking footballer, Walker holds no fear in following his instincts and has all the skills to make him a superstar of the game in the near future. Coach Trent Robinson has nursed him through the last two months of the competition resting him at times as well as starting him from the bench in recent weeks in order to protect his physical workload at such an early stage of his career. That will only serve him well as he sets himself for his first taste of finals footy over the coming weeks.

Next best – Tyson Gamble & Josh Schuster – 5 votes

PREMIERSHIP LADDER

RUGBY LEAGUE project

FINAL 2021 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP STANDINGS

Pos	Team	Overall									Home						Away							
		P	W	L	D	B	F	A	Pts	Diff	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	Diff	P	W	L	D	F	A
1	Melbourne Storm	24	21	3	-	1	815	316	44	499	12	11	1	-	419	162	257	12	10	2	-	396	154	242
2	Penrith Panthers	24	21	3	-	1	676	286	44	390	12	12	-	-	320	110	210	12	9	3	-	356	176	180
3	South Sydney Rabbitohs	24	20	4	-	1	775	453	42	322	12	10	2	-	347	258	89	12	10	2	-	428	195	233
4	Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles	24	16	8	-	1	744	492	34	252	12	8	4	-	394	256	138	12	8	4	-	350	236	114
5	Sydney Roosters	24	16	8	-	1	630	489	34	141	12	8	4	-	310	238	72	12	8	4	-	320	251	69
6	Parramatta Eels	24	15	9	-	1	566	457	32	109	12	7	5	-	275	224	51	12	8	4	-	291	233	58
7	Newcastle Knights	24	12	12	-	1	428	571	26	-143	12	8	4	-	242	236	6	12	4	8	-	186	335	-149
8	Gold Coast Titans	24	10	14	-	1	580	583	22	-3	12	5	7	-	312	325	-13	12	5	7	-	268	258	10
9	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	24	10	14	-	1	520	556	22	-36	12	6	6	-	258	224	34	12	4	8	-	262	332	-70
10	Canberra Raiders	24	10	14	-	1	481	578	22	-97	12	4	8	-	249	322	-73	12	6	6	-	232	256	-24
11	St George Illawarra Dragons	24	8	16	-	1	474	616	18	-142	12	4	8	-	272	330	-58	12	4	8	-	202	286	-84
12	Warriors	24	8	16	-	1	453	624	18	-171	12	5	7	-	227	264	-37	12	3	9	-	226	360	-134
13	West's Tigers	24	8	16	-	1	500	714	18	-214	12	3	9	-	246	372	-126	12	5	7	-	254	342	-88
14	Brisbane Broncos	24	7	17	-	1	446	695	16	-249	12	6	6	-	266	301	-35	12	1	11	-	180	394	-214
15	North Queensland Cowboys	24	7	17	-	1	460	748	16	-288	12	5	7	-	258	327	-69	12	2	10	-	202	421	-219
16	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	24	3	21	-	1	340	710	8	-370	12	1	11	-	152	392	-240	12	2	10	-	188	318	-130

STATS LEADERS

FINAL 2021 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP STANDINGS

Top Tryscorers

Rank	Player	Team	Position(s)	P	T
1	Alex JOHNSTON	SOU	FB, W	19	27
2	Tom TRBOJEVIC	MAN	FB	15	25
3	Josh ADDO-CARR	MEL	W	21	23
	Jason SAAB	MAN	W	24	23
5	Reuben GARRICK	MAN	FB, W	24	21
6	David FIFITA	GLD	2RF, INT	21	17
	Maika SIVO	PAR	W	21	17
8	Matt BURTON	PEN	CTR, 5/8, HB	22	16
9	Ken MAUMALO	WAR, WST	W	21	15
10	Will KENNEDY	CRO	FB	24	14
	Mikaele RAVALAWA	SGI	W	16	14
	Charlie STAINES	PEN	FB, W	20	14
	Brian TO'O	PEN	W	18	14
	Connor TRACEY	CRO	W, CTR, 5/8, INT	24	14
	Daniel TUPOU	SYD	W	24	14
16	Clint GUTHERSON	PAR	FB	23	13
	Latrell MITCHELL	SOU	FB	17	13
	David NOFOALUMA	WST	W	24	13
	Reimis SMITH	MEL	CTR	23	13

Top Pointscorers

Rank	Player	Team	Position(s)	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	Reuben GARRICK	MAN	FB, W	24	21	110	-	304
2	Adam REYNOLDS	SOU	HB	22	5	112	2	248
3	Nathan CLEARY	PEN	5/8, HB	16	10	85	2	213
4	Adam DOUEIHI	WST	CTR, 5/8	20	9	69	-	174
5	Jamal FOGARTY	GLD	HB	20	4	66	-	148
6	Nicholas HYNES	MEL	FB, 5/8, HB, INT	22	7	58	-	144
7	Mitchell MOSES	PAR	HB	20	2	61	2	132
8	Ryan PAPENHUYZEN	MEL	FB, INT	13	11	41	1	127
9	Valentine HOLMES	NQL	FB, W, CTR	20	4	54	2	126
10	Jamayne ISAAKO	BRI	FB, W	18	6	50	-	124
11	Alex JOHNSTON	SOU	FB, W	19	27	-	-	108
12	Kodi NIKORIMA	WAR	5/8, HB, INT	21	4	42	-	100
	Tom TRBOJEVIC	MAN	FB	15	25	-	-	100
14	Josh ADDO-CARR	MEL	W	21	23	1	-	94
15	Jason SAAB	MAN	W	24	23	-	-	92
16	Clint GUTHERSON	PAR	FB	23	13	18	-	88
	Braydon TRINDALL	CRO	5/8, HB, INT	18	4	36	-	88
18	Zac LOMAX	SGI	CTR	12	4	35	-	86
19	Jake AVERILLO	CBY	5/8, HB	21	7	27	-	82
20	Jarrold CROKER	CAN	CTR	12	1	38	-	80
	Sam WALKER	SYD	HB, INT	19	8	23	2	80

THE FRONT ROW

GAME DAY

FINALS WEEK 1 MATCH PROGRAM
TEAM LISTS · MATCH DETAILS · STATISTICS · PREVIEWS

FRIDAY



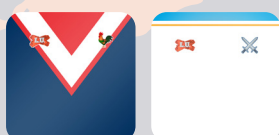
1ST QUALIFYING FINAL
MELBOURNE v MANLY
Sunshine Coast Stadium

SATURDAY



2ND QUALIFYING FINAL
PENRITH v SOUTH SYDNEY
QLD Country Bank Stadium

SATURDAY



1ST ELIMINATION FINAL
SYDNEY v GOLD COAST
QLD Country Bank Stadium

SUNDAY



2ND ELIMINATION FINAL
PARRAMATTA v NEWCASTLE
Browne Park

Top Goalkickers

Rank	Player	Team	Position(s)	P	G	Att	%
1	Adam REYNOLDS	SOU	HB	22	112	140	80%
2	Reuben GARRICK	MAN	FB, W	24	110	136	81%
3	Nathan CLEARY	PEN	5/8, HB	16	85	100	85%
4	Adam DOUEIHI	WST	CTR, 5/8	20	69	87	79%
5	Jamal FOGARTY	GLD	HB	20	66	85	78%
6	Mitchell MOSES	PAR	HB	20	61	82	74%
7	Nicholas HYNES	MEL	FB, 5/8, HB, INT	22	58	77	75%
8	Valentine HOLMES	NQL	FB, W, CTR	20	54	73	74%
9	Jamayne ISAAKO	BRI	FB, W	18	50	63	79%
10	Kodi NIKORIMA	WAR	5/8, HB, INT	21	42	52	81%
11	Ryan PAPHENHUYZEN	MEL	FB, INT	13	41	48	85%
12	Jarrold CROKER	CAN	CTR	12	38	41	93%
13	Braydon TRINDALL	CRO	5/8, HB, INT	18	36	44	82%
14	Zac LOMAX	SGI	CTR	12	35	45	78%
15	Chad TOWNSEND	CRO, WAR	HB	16	34	41	83%

TIPPING 2021

Who wins?

Round 25

Tim Costello	7
Rob Crosby	7
Paul Jobber	6
Lachy MacCorquodale	6
Adam Huxtable	6
Jason Hosken	6
Andrew Jackson	6
Sam Bourke	5
Rick Edgerton	5
Josh Robertson	5
Hamish Parker	4
Justin Davies	4
Andrew Ferguson	4
Steven Williams	4

Final Standings

Paul Jobber	148
Jason Hosken	146
Sam Bourke	145
Lachy MacCorquodale	140
Justin Davies138	
Hamish Parker	138
Josh Robertson	138
Rick Edgerton	137
Andrew Ferguson	136
Steven Williams	135
Tim Costello	134
Adam Huxtable	133
Rob Crosby	131
Andrew Jackson	125

MELBOURNE STORM



MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
23	13	11	41	1	127	Ryan PAPHENHUYZEN	1
28	16	11	-	-	44	George JENNINGS	2
24	23	13	-	-	52	Reimis SMITH	3
27	22	11	-	-	44	Justin OLAM	4
23	2	1	-	-	4	Isaac LUMELUME	5
26	18	7	16	-	60	Cameron MUNSTER	6
26	22	9	-	-	36	Jahrome HUGHES	7
32	22	1	-	-	4	Jesse BROMWICH	8
25	22	12	-	-	48	Brandon SMITH	9
27	19	1	-	-	4	Christian WELCH	10
29	18	3	-	-	12	Felise KAUFUSI	11
29	19	3	-	-	12	Kenneath BROMWICH	12
29	15	2	-	-	8	Dale FINUCANE	13
23	12	5	-	-	20	Harry GRANT	14
27	20	3	-	-	12	Tui KAMIKAMICA	15
25	15	4	-	-	16	Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	16
25	22	7	58	-	144	Nicholas HYNES	17
25	9	-	-	-	-	Aaron PENE	18
29	17	4	-	-	16	Tom EISENHUTH	19
29	20	2	-	-	8	Chris LEWIS	20
26	3	2	-	-	8	Marion SEVE	21

Craig BELLAMY

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

SET RESTARTS

Age P T G FG Pts

1	Tom TRBOJEVIC	24	15	25	-	-	100
2	Jason SAAB	20	24	23	-	-	92
3	Brad PARKER	24	23	8	-	-	32
4	Morgan HARPER	23	20	7	-	-	28
5	Reuben GARRICK	24	24	21	110	-	304
6	Kieran FORAN	31	22	3	-	-	12
7	Daly CHERRY-EVANS	32	22	8	1	2	36
8	Josh ALOIAI	25	13	-	-	-	-
9	Lachlan CROKER	24	24	4	-	-	16
10	Martin TAUPAU	31	23	2	-	-	8
11	Haumole OLAKAU'ATU	22	18	8	-	-	32
12	Josh SCHUSTER	20	18	2	-	-	8
13	Jake TRBOJEVIC	27	20	3	-	-	12
14	Dylan WALKER	26	17	4	-	-	16
15	Karl LAWTON	25	13	3	-	-	12
16	Sean KEPPIE	23	17	1	-	-	4
17	Taniela PASEKA	23	21	-	-	-	-
18	Toafofoa SIPLEY	26	20	2	-	-	8
19	Moses SULI	23	12	3	-	-	12
20	Curtis SIRONEN	28	5	1	-	-	4
21	Tevita FUNA	23	4	-	-	-	-

Des HASLER

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

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

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

#NRLStormManly

1ST QUALIFYING FINAL (1 v 4)



Friday 10
September 2021



7:50PM
AEST



Sunshine Coast
Stadium, Kawana
Waters QLD



Nine Network
Fox League
Kayo Sports



ABC Sport,
Triple M, NRL
Nation, 2GB/4BC

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee Grant ATKINS
Touch Judges Todd SMITH
Peter GOUGH
NRL Bunker Ashley KLEIN

Match Stats

OVERALL HEAD TO HEAD: 39 MATCHES

MELBOURNE 23-15 (1 DRAW)

At Sunshine Coast Stadium: 1 match, Melbourne 1-0

LAST TEN: MELBOURNE 8-2

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2016	R24	Melbourne 38-18	4 Pines Park	8,241
2017	R7	Melbourne 30-26	4 Pines Park	10,144
2017	R21	Melbourne 40-6	AAMI Park	15,036
2018	R11	Manly 24-4	AAMI Park	13,172
2018	R18	Melbourne 14-13	4 Pines Park	9,277
2019	R19	Manly 11-10	AAMI Park	14,836
2019	R24	Melbourne 36-6	4 Pines Park	14,640
2020	R1	Melbourne 18-4	4 Pines Park	10,315
2020	R16	Melbourne 30-6	Sunshine Coast	2,910
2021	R21	Melbourne 28-18	Suncorp Stadium	-

BIGGEST WINS

2008	GF	Manly 40-0	Stadium Australia	80,388
2017	R21	Melbourne 40-6	AAMI Park	15,036

FINALS HEAD TO HEAD: 4 MATCHES

MELBOURNE 3-1

At Sunshine Coast Stadium: never met in Finals at this venue

FINALS HISTORY

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2007	GF	Melbourne 34-8	Stadium Australia	81,392
2008	GF	Manly 40-0	Stadium Australia	80,388
2009	FN	Melbourne 40-12	Marvel Stadium	21,155
2012	FN	Melbourne 40-12	AAMI Park	25,543

MILESTONES

PLAYER	CLUB	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
Brenko Lee	Melbourne	100 career points	4 points
Cameron Munster	Melbourne	150 club & career games	1 games
Kenneath Bromwich	Melbourne	100 club & career points	4 points
Since 1998	Melbourne	2700 tries	6 tries

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Preview

with Lachy MacCorquodale

To open the 2021 Finals series, the minor premiers the Melbourne Storm 'host' the Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles in what could be a classic.

What a way to start the Finals series for 2021. A clash between two of the best teams in the competition on a Friday night will have rugby league fans everywhere salivating. Given the history between the two clubs - highlighted by the infamous 'battle of Brookvale' some 10 years ago - both teams are now ready to write the next chapter in this intense rivalry between Manly and Melbourne.

Now, back to the present day, we've got the Melbourne Storm who won 21 of their 24 games, including just one loss since the beginning of April coming up against the in-form and spectacular Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles, who stormed into the top four despite losing their opening four games of the season in convincing fashion. The two sides met a month ago with the Storm running away as 10-point victors after a dominant display which saw Melbourne finish with 58 per cent of possession of the football. The Sea Eagles didn't help themselves with 12 errors and 13 penalties/set restarts compared with the Storm's seven errors and six penalties/set restarts. These stats are quite damning and the fact that the Sea Eagles only lost by 10-points is impressive in itself. Since that Round 21 fixture, the two sides have played four games each, with Melbourne coming away with three wins and the Sea Eagles coming away with four, so it's safe to say that both teams are in exceptional form as they head into the finals.

Each side is littered with star players including nine Origin representatives past and present. Most notably, Manly's Tom Trbojevic, who has compiled one of the most impressive seasons in the game's history despite playing just 15 of 24 possible games. The star fullback is one of the favourites

for the Dally M Medal this season and is arguably the most dangerous player on the field which makes him a key target.

Stopping Trbojevic may be a little more challenging than the usual tactics of shutting down star halves, as the Storm managed to do against Penrith's Nathan Cleary and Jarome Luai in the 2020 Grand Final. As a fullback, you're generally given plenty of time on the ball as many fullbacks sit out the back of the shape, allowing themselves time and space to make life difficult for the defence. Tommy has proven that he is arguably the most dangerous player in the game when given space to work with and has resulted in him breaking the line 30 times in 15 games whilst averaging an incredible seven tackle breaks per game. The Storm will no doubt try and take his time and space away from him, but their slide defence will have to be at the top of its game given Turbo's quick hands.

The Sea Eagles have been excellent at capitalising on overlaps this season thanks in large part to the speed of Jason Saab on the wing. Daly Cherry-Evans, Reuben Garrick, Trbojevic and Saab have linked up on multiple occasions this season, resulting in an absurd amount of tries for the Manly back three. Melbourne have to be cautious of this and a perfect slide defence could pump the breaks on Manly's exhilarating attack. Essentially, Melbourne will be aiming to restrict the influence that Tom has on Manly's attack and if they can do so, it'll take them a long way to winning the game.

The biggest advantage the Storm have is in the dummy-half position. Manly's Lachlan Croker has done an excellent job this year but will face tough competition in the two-strike punch that is Harry Grant and Brandon Smith, both exceptional players. If they can control the ruck and turn the big Manly forwards around consistently, they'll be able to attack through the middle, a tactic which has worked quite well for both, especially Smith (11 tries).

In team news, Josh Aloiai returns for the Sea Eagles, pushing Toff Siple to the reserves. Melbourne have several changes with the likes of Munster, Jennings and Reimis Smith

returning to the backline after a well earned rest. Hynes shifts to the bench with Dean Jeremia and Marion Seve dropping out of the 17. In the forwards, the Bromwich brothers, Welch, and Kaufusi return for the Storm, Tui Kamikamica and Asofa-Solomona to the bench with Lewis, Trent Loiero, Aaron Pene, Tepai Moeroa and Daniel Atkinson drop out of the side.

Who to watch: 'Tommy Turbo' gets another write up here thanks to his arguably unprecedented season. The 24-year-old has scored 25 tries and assisted a further 27 in his 15 games this year, an absolutely unbelievable number. He's also scored an incredible five hat-tricks this season, all five occurring in his last eight appearances. The NSW Origin centre has set career-highs in the majority of recorded statistics including a mammoth 221 run metres per game, a whopping 32 metres per game better than his previous best (189m per game in 2017). It's been an incredible season for him and if he can perform like he has all season in the finals, it could well and truly go down as the best individual season in the games' history. He'll line up against fellow Blues star Ryan Papenhuyzen who has had a tough year with concussions, despite killing it early in the season. In just 13 appearances, 'Paps' has scored 11 tries, assisted six and broke the line on 12 occasions - nothing quite like Trbojevic but impressive non the less. He returned to his best form on the weekend and has grown more comfortable each week after returning to his preferred position in Round 23. In those three games, Papenhuyzen has scored three tries, assisted three more, broken 20 tackles and run for an average of 177m per game. The matchup between these two-star fullbacks will be exhilarating to watch.

Favourite: The Storm have only lost one game since round three and have been the best team in the competition over the course of the season, highlighted by their fourth minor premiership in just six seasons - so are rightful favourites.

My tip: Manly should give the Storm a run for their money but I expect Melbourne to have too much class all over the park. The ability to limit Trbojevic's influence on the game will be vital to the outcome. It'll be a tight one. **Melbourne by 6.**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS



GOLD COAST TITANS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
28	20	8	5	-	42	James TEDESCO	1
30	24	14	-	-	56	Daniel TUPOU	2
35	18	8	-	-	32	Josh MORRIS	3
24	13	4	30	-	76	Adam KEIGHRAN	4
27	13	12	-	-	48	Matt IKUVALU	5
26	18	3	-	-	12	Drew HUTCHISON	6
23	18	3	-	-	12	Lachlan LAM	7
32	21	-	-	-	-	Jared WAEREA-HARGREAVES	8
22	13	1	-	-	4	Sam VERRILLS	9
29	20	-	22	-	44	Sio Siua TAUKEIAHO	10
25	18	9	-	-	36	Angus CRICHTON	11
24	22	12	-	-	48	Sitili TUPOUNIUA	12
23	14	1	-	-	4	Victor RADLEY	13
19	19	8	23	2	80	Sam WALKER	14
30	24	1	-	-	4	Isaac LIU	15
21	13	1	-	-	4	Egan BUTCHER	16
21	14	2	-	-	8	Fletcher BAKER	17
30	5	3	-	-	12	Dale COPLEY	18
23	5	-	-	-	-	Ben THOMAS	19
24	12	1	-	-	4	Ben MARSCHKE	20
19	3	-	-	-	-	Naufahu WHYTE	21

Trent ROBINSON

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

SET RESTARTS

Age P T G FG Pts

1	Jayden CAMPBELL	21	6	5	-	-	20
2	Phillip SAMI	24	17	6	-	-	24
3	Brian KELLY	25	21	11	-	-	44
4	Patrick HERBERT	24	19	6	-	-	24
5	Corey THOMPSON	31	17	8	-	-	32
6	Tyrone PEACHEY	30	21	5	-	-	20
7	Jamal FOGARTY	27	20	4	66	-	148
8	Jarrold WALLACE	30	24	5	-	-	20
9	Mitch REIN	31	19	2	-	-	8
10	Moeaki FOTUAIKA	21	21	3	-	-	12
11	Kevin PROCTOR	32	22	6	-	-	24
12	Beau FERMOR	23	14	3	-	-	12
13	Tino FAASUAMALEAUI	21	21	3	-	-	12
14	Erin CLARK	23	18	1	-	-	4
15	Sam LISONE	27	15	-	-	-	-
16	David FIFITA	21	21	17	-	-	68
17	Jaimin JOLLIFFE	24	24	1	-	-	4
18	Sam McINTYRE	23	10	-	-	-	-
19	Toby SEXTON	20	4	1	16	-	36
20	Greg MARZHEW	24	8	6	-	-	24
21	Anthony DON	33	9	-	-	-	-

Justin HOLBROOK

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

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

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

#NRLRoostersTitans

1ST ELIMINATION FINAL (5 v 8)



Saturday 11
September
2021



5:40PM
AEST



QLD Country
Bank Stadium,
Townsville QLD



Nine Network
Fox League
Kayo Sports



ABC Sport,
Triple M, NRL
Nation, 2GB/4BC

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee	Adam GEE
Touch Judges	Liam KENNEDY Chris BUTLER
NRL Bunker	Steve CHIDDY

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 21 MATCHES

SYDNEY ROOSTERS 13-8 (no draws)

At QLD Country Bank Stadium: never met at this venue

LAST TEN: SYDNEY ROOSTERS 9-1

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2014	R22	Sydney 26-18	Allianz Stadium	6,345
2015	R16	Sydney 20-10	Central Coast	12,569
2016	R10	Gold Coast 36-6	Cbus Super	9,363
2017	R1	Sydney 32-18	Cbus Super	13,933
2017	R26	Sydney 20-16	Allianz Stadium	11,212
2018	R12	Sydney 34-14	Central Coast	10,194
2018	R18	Sydney 20-12	Cbus Super	10,074
2019	R20	Sydney 58-6	SCG	9,763
2020	R12	Sydney 18-12	SCG	3,149
2021	R14	Sydney 35-34	Cbus Super	15,111

BIGGEST WINS

2012	R21	Gold Coast 36-16	Allianz Stadium	8,134
2016	R10	Gold Coast 26-6	Cbus Super	9,363
2019	R20	Sydney 58-6	SCG	9,763

FINALS HEAD TO HEAD: 1 MATCH

SYDNEY ROOSTERS 1-0

At QLD Country Bank Stadium: never met in Finals at this venue

FINALS HISTORY

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2010	FN	Sydney 32-6	Suncorp Stadium	44,787

MILESTONES

PLAYER	CLUB	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
Daniel Tupou	Sydney	200 club & career games	1 game
James Tedesco	Sydney	400 career points	6 points
	Sydney	200 club points	6 points
Matt Ikuvalu	Sydney	100 club & career points	8 points
Sio Siuma Taukeiaho	Sydney	150 club & career games	1 game

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Preview

with Jason Hosken

Roosters' credibility on the line against contented Titans

With a rap sheet heavily smeared with losses, the eighth placed Titans host the fifth ranked Roosters in a Queensland eliminator. Knock, knock ...this is finals, yeah?

In the corridors of round 25, somehow Robina missed the message. Not only did the Gold Coast squeeze past Cronulla, they thumped the Warriors by the club's biggest winning margin.

But instead of fireworks and Meter Maids, as the Glitter Strip parade made its turn towards the finals it was comically hijacked by Looney Tunes escapees Matt Lodge and Kane Evans.

But in a strange 2021 kinda way, it makes sense. Now as the Roosters dip their salary cap sombrero to a depth greater than the Pacific Ocean, Justin Holbrook tops Queensland's only finals float.

Surely for Holbrook, to fly the state's only flag should be enough. They say the Titans' win/loss ratio is the lowest of any team to qualify for the finals in the history of the competition.

Now this week they face the Roosters, who they last beat in 2016 - it's the only time in the past 10 contests.

With the crazy-eyes of Jared Waerea-Hargreaves and Victor Radley back in the pack, the Bondi boys might just be timing their run. And with Lachlan Lam once again winning the number No.7, a fresh Sam Walker will be the cat on the hot tin roof the Titans dread most when the clock winds down.

Then there's James Tedesco, big games, big guns. But what of David Fifita? The Sunset Strip's cash cow still sits on the bench. That package up his jumper is either protecting bruised ribs or the big fella has stolen a loaf of bread.

Either way, he'll need to punch out another couple of tries, especially if Trent Robinson rolls out the September grind, because it's not the Gold Coast way. Even with three Maroons in the starting pack, the Titans will want a licence to unlock their ad-lib best.

Much like round 14, when the side's played out the match of the season. That day, Holbrook's men snoozed to a 30-4 deficit before drawing level after a five try blitz in 17 minutes.

Walker's late field goal cruelly brought them to their knees, but at least they learned how to ruffle the Roosters' feathers.

Who to watch: Despite the constant chat, Jayden Campbell is actually different to his old man.

For starters, he's twice as tall and doesn't pack headgear. Then there's the street woven rat-tail. That said, Preston's propensity to mesmerize defenders hasn't fallen far from the tree.

For the junior Campbell, last week's win was his first in Titans colours. The worry for Robinson lies in the five losses that preceded the Warriors clash. Despite the pressure, it did nothing to curb the fullback's solo genius.

With the masters of niggles, Victor Radley and Kevin Proctor back in their respective lineups, Townsville could be in for a treat. For all their energy and good intentions, the fact is when things go wrong, their side's prospects can spiral real quick. Radley has already missed eight games to suspension this season, while Proctor for the most part has avoided the judiciary's wrath. In the end, the result could boil down to which of the two keeps their hand out of the cookie jar the longest.

Favourite: C'mon, it's finals time. With only 10 wins from 24 starts, the Gold Coast are favourites to replicate their regular season form.

My tip: So much for Robbo's injury ravaged Roosters, this week he's named eight guns from his 2019 premiership winning side. Sure, a few Holbrook roulette spins will entertain, but in the end the big game Roosters, playing their fifth straight finals series, will collect the cash. **Sydney Roosters by 16.**

PENRITH PANTHERS



SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts		
25	18	5	-	1	22	Dylan EDWARDS	1
20	23	8	14	-	60	Stephen CRICHTON	2
25	15	6	-	-	24	Paul MOMIROVSKI	3
21	22	16	6	1	77	Matt BURTON	4
23	18	14	-	-	56	Brian TO'O	5
24	21	2	-	-	8	Jarome LUAI	6
23	16	10	85	2	213	Nathan CLEARY	7
26	22	3	-	-	12	Moses LEOTA	8
28	14	3	-	-	12	Apisai KOROISAU	9
25	20	2	-	-	8	James FISHER-HARRIS	10
26	23	9	-	-	36	Viliame KIKAU	11
28	19	5	-	-	20	Kurt CAPEWELL	12
26	21	2	-	-	8	Isaah YEO	13
23	16	-	-	-	-	Mitchell KENNY	14
20	16	1	-	-	4	Spencer LENIU	15
25	18	5	-	-	20	Tevita PANGAI JUNIOR	16
24	23	3	-	-	12	Liam MARTIN	17
29	18	1	-	-	4	Matt EISENHUTH	18
19	6	1	-	-	4	Izack TAGO	19
20	20	14	-	-	56	Charlie STAINES	20
25	6	4	-	-	16	Brent NADEN	21

Ivan CLEARY

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

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

FULLBACK

WING

CENTRE

CENTRE

WING

FIVE-EIGHTH

HALFBACK

FRONT ROW

HOOKER

FRONT ROW

SECOND ROW

SECOND ROW

LOCK

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

SET RESTARTS

1 Blake TAAFFE

2 Alex JOHNSTON

3 Dane GAGAI

4 Campbell GRAHAM

5 Jaxson PAULO

6 Cody WALKER

7 Adam REYNOLDS

8 Mark NICHOLLS

9 Damien COOK

10 Tevita TATOLA

11 Keaton KOLOAMATANGI

12 Jaydn SU'A

13 Cameron MURRAY

14 Benji MARSHALL

15 Jacob HOST

16 Thomas BURGESS

17 Jai ARROW

18 Jed CARTWRIGHT

19 Braidon BURNS

20 Lachlan ILIAS

21 Patrick MAGO

Wayne BENNETT

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

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

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

#NRLPanthersSouths

2ND QUALIFYING FINAL (2 v 3)



Saturday 11
September
2021



7:35PM
AEST



QLD Country
Bank Stadium,
Townsville QLD



Nine Network
Fox League
Kayo Sports



ABC Sport,
Triple M, NRL
Nation, 2GB/4BC

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee Gerard SUTTON
Touch Judges Dave MUNRO
Ziggy PRZEKLASA-ADAMSKI
NRL Bunker Alan SHORTALL

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 87 MATCHES

SOUTH SYDNEY 46-40 (1 DRAW)

At QLD Country Bank Stadium: never met at this venue

LAST TEN: PENRITH 7-3

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2016	R16	Penrith 28-26	BlueBet Stadium	13,080
2017	R6	Souths 21-20	BlueBet Stadium	15,535
2017	R17	Souths 42-14	Stadium Australia	14,103
2018	R2	Penrith 18-14	BlueBet Stadium	15,995
2019	R7	Souths 22-18	BlueBet Stadium	14,931
2019	R14	Penrith 19-18	Stadium Australia	11,023
2020	R7	Penrith 20-12	Netstrata Jubilee	106
2020	FN	Penrith 20-16	Stadium Australia	30,116
2021	R11	Penrith 56-12	Apex Oval	10,824
2021	R23	Penrith 25-12	Suncorp Stadium	8,848

BIGGEST WINS

1980	R7	Souths 59-5	Redfern Oval	4,752
2021	R11	Penrith 56-12	Apex Oval	10,824

FINALS HEAD TO HEAD: 1 MATCH

PENRITH 1-0

At QLD Country Bank Stadium: never met in Finals at this venue

FINALS HISTORY

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2020	FN	Penrith 20-16	Stadium Australia	30116

MILESTONES

PLAYER	CLUB	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
Apisai Korosau	Penrith	100 career points	10 points
Brent Naden	Penrith	100 club & career points	4 points
Brian To'o	Penrith	50 club & career games	1 game
Stephen Crichton	Penrith	50 club & career games	1 game
Tevita Pangai Jr	Penrith	100 career games	1 game
Damien Cook	Souths	100 career points	6 points
Dane Gagai	Souths	300 career points	6 points
Jaydn Su'a	Souths	50 club games	1 game

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Preview

with Andrew Jackson

With one tackle gone horribly wrong, South Sydney found their premiership hopes in tatters.

It wiped Latrell Mitchell out for the rest of the season and with it a key cog in the lethal left-edge attack that had made the Rabbitohs a title contender.

Put a line through a Wayne Bennett-coached team at your own peril though.

He took Queensland all the way to an Origin shield no-one saw coming and now, in his final year at the helm, Bennett is plotting one final push at the premiership. It won't come easy though, with the Rabbitohs preparing to face a Panthers side they are yet to defeat in 2021.

First it was an embarrassing 56-12 thumping and then later in the season a Nathan Cleary masterclass that sealed a 25-12 defeat.

Souths have actually lost five-straight against Penrith, who also boast a brilliant left edge that was on fire last week against Parramatta. Brian To'o scored a career-first hat-trick in the 40-6 win over the Eels.

It was Cleary's boot that caused all kinds of headaches for the Rabbitohs last time these two sides met though. The Panthers conceded the first two tries on that night before Cleary changed the complexion of the game with a swarm of towering bombs.

Bennett has named youngster Blake Taaffe at fullback but is yet to confirm whether that is locked in, with Alex Johnston and Cody Walker other safer options to deputise in the role.

Moving Walker would be criminal though given what he has achieved in the five-eighth jumper for Souths this year. He was relatively quiet in South Sydney's latest game against Penrith but was their biggest threat in the earlier drubbing.

On that afternoon the Panthers kept the rest of the Rabbitohs' weapons quiet and seem to have the blueprint to doing so on a consistent basis.

Penrith will be without Tyrone May (knee) and Scott Sorensen (wrist) on Saturday with Mitch Kenny and Spencer Leniu joining the bench.

Who to watch: All eyes will be on Cleary's boot, which means it is only more important Jarome Luai stands up. The Rabbitohs defenders will target the Panthers halfback heavily and while Luai does not necessarily need to offer an extra kicking option, he will need to shoulder more responsibility in attack if needed. Luai is at his best when playing second

fiddle but should Cleary struggle with the increased pressure, the five-eighth needs to put his hand up. Luai's running game is his most dangerous weapon, as proven a fortnight ago against the Tigers. Even taking on the line a few times early in the game to keep the Rabbitohs defence guessing will help ease the pressure on halves partner Cleary.

While Walker shapes as South Sydney's biggest threat in attack, it all starts with lock Cameron Murray. The Blues representative was missing in Penrith's 56-12 win earlier this year but suited up for the last meeting between the two sides. On that night Murray was reduced to a tackling machine. He ran for just 74 metres, instead forced into making 55 tackles which limited his impact in attack. While the Panthers' defence can appear impenetrable at times, the Tigers proved two weeks ago that they can be vulnerable around the ruck. Jacob Liddle's burst through the middle in the lead-up to Stefano Utoikamanu was evidence of it. Quick play-the-balls from Murray, who is one of the best in the league at it, could open up opportunities for Damien Cook to exploit that weakness.

Favourite: Penrith is strong favourites for this one.

My tip: The bookies may not see a close contest but even without Mitchell, the Rabbitohs are capable of causing an upset. The kicking game of Cleary though gives the Panthers a slight edge. **Penrith by 7.**

PARRAMATTA EELS



NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

Age	P	T	G	FG	Pts	
26	23	13	18	-	88	Clinton GUTHERSON 1
22	11	3	-	-	12	Haze DUNSTER 2
19	3	1	-	-	4	Will PENISINI 3
26	15	5	-	-	20	Waqā BLAKE 4
31	16	8	1	-	34	Blake FERGUSON 5
21	19	4	-	-	16	Dylan BROWN 6
26	20	2	61	2	132	Mitchell MOSES 7
28	18	4	-	-	16	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD 8
24	7	1	-	-	4	Ray STONE 9
27	21	2	-	-	8	Junior PAULO 10
26	24	5	-	-	20	Shaun LANE 11
25	19	2	-	-	8	Marata NIUKORE 12
28	22	1	-	-	4	Nathan BROWN 13
29	15	1	-	-	4	Will SMITH 14
26	17	4	-	-	16	Bryce CARTWRIGHT 15
22	23	7	-	-	28	Isaiah PAPALII 16
28	4	-	-	-	-	Makahesi MAKATOA 17
26	16	4	-	-	16	Ryan MATTERSON 18
22	21	1	-	-	4	Oregon KAUFUSI 19
26	21	7	-	-	28	Tom OPACIC 20
18	7	2	-	-	8	Jakob ARTHUR 21

Brad ARTHUR

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

INTERCHANGE

RESERVES

COACH

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

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

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

Age P T G FG Pts

1	Kalyn PONGA	23	14	8	10	-	52
2	Enari TUALA	22	24	10	-	-	40
3	Kurt MANN	28	21	3	-	1	13
4	Bradman BEST	20	16	3	-	-	12
5	Hymel HUNT	27	16	3	-	-	12
6	Jake CLIFFORD	23	19	3	31	-	74
7	Mitchell PEARCE	32	11	3	-	1	13
8	Jacob SAIFITI	25	22	4	-	-	16
9	Jayden BRAILEY	25	22	3	-	-	12
10	Daniel SAIFITI	25	19	2	-	-	8
11	Tyson FRIZELL	29	18	3	-	-	12
12	Mitchell BARNETT	27	23	4	13	-	42
13	Connor WATSON	25	24	2	-	-	8
14	Sauaso SUE	29	21	2	-	-	8
15	David KLEMMER	27	21	-	-	-	-
16	Josh KING	26	17	1	-	-	4
17	Brodie JONES	23	21	3	-	-	12
18	Phoenix CROSSLAND	21	9	1	1	-	6
19	Jirah MOMOISEA	23	3	-	-	-	-
20	Simi SASAGI	20	3	-	-	-	-
21	Jack JOHNS	23	6	1	-	-	4

Adam O'BRIEN

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

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

PENALTIES

SCRUMS

SET RESTARTS

#NRL Eels Knights

2ND ELIMINATION FINAL (6 v 7)



Sunday 12
September
2021



4:05PM
AEST



Browne Park,
Rockhampton
QLD



Nine Network
Fox League
Kayo Sports



ABC Sport,
Triple M, NRL
Nation, 2GB/4BC

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee Ashley KLEIN
Touch Judges Phil HENDERSON
Jon STONE
NRL Bunker Grant ATKINS

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD: 55 MATCHES

NEWCASTLE 30-24 (1 DRAW)

At Browne Park: never met at this venue

LAST TEN: 5-ALL

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
2014	R25	Newcastle 42-12	McDonald Jones	18,558
2015	R7	Parramatta 28-22	McDonald Jones	16,953
2016	R12	Parramatta 20-18	McDonald Jones	12,856
2017	R23	Newcastle 29-10	Stadium Australia	13,141
2018	R13	Newcastle 30-4	Stadium Australia	7,719
2018	R18	Newcastle 18-16	McDonald Jones	15,860
2019	R7	Newcastle 28-14	McDonald Jones	19,604
2019	R21	Parramatta 20-14	Bankwest Stadium	20,671
2020	R9	Parramatta 10-4	McDonald Jones	6,980
2021	R13	Parramatta 40-4	McDonald Jones	23,015

BIGGEST WINS

2005	R14	Parramatta 50-0	McDonald Jones	15,842
2013	R26	Newcastle 54-6	McDonald Jones	23,392

FINALS HEAD TO HEAD: 3 MATCH NEWCASTLE 2-1

At Browne Park: never met in Finals at this venue

FINALS HISTORY

SEASON	ROUND	RESULT	VENUE	CROWD
1997	FN	Newcastle 28-20	Allianz Stadium	17,849
1999	FN	Parramatta 30-16	Pirtek Stadium	22,053
2001	GF	Newcastle 30-24	Stadium Australia	90,414

MILESTONES

PLAYER	CLUB	MILESTONE	NEEDS...
Connor Watson	Newcastle	100 career points	8 points
Enari Tuala	Newcastle	100 career points	8 points
Blake Ferguson	Parramatta	100 club points	10 points
Bryce Cartwright	Parramatta	100 career points	4 points
Keegan Hipgrave	Parramatta	50 career games	1 game
Waqqa Blake	Parramatta	200 career points	8 points

Match stats courtesy of

RUGBY LEAGUE
project

Preview

with Rob Crosby

A finals rematch two decades in the making

The first week of the finals concludes with a do-or-die encounter between the Parramatta Eels and the Newcastle Knights on Sunday afternoon. Renewing a finals rivalry that reached a crescendo in 2001 when Newcastle defied the odds to be crowned premiers, the two teams will be fully aware of the stakes with the victor to take on the loser of the qualifying final between Penrith and South Sydney next Saturday evening.

Beginning the year in fine form before declining in the post-Origin period, the Parramatta Eels will be hoping 2021 can be the year the club's 35-year premiership drought comes to an end. Securing sixth position off the back of 15 wins and the prestige of being the only team to defeat the reigning premiers twice during the regular season, coach Brad Arthur will be looking for his rested players to make an impact in the end of season fixtures after effectively conceding last week's 40-6 loss to the Panthers by fielding an understrength line up. Recalling nine players who watched on from the grandstands last Friday, the blue and golds will be additionally bolstered by the returns of Ryan Matterson - named on the extended bench - and Reagan Campbell-Gillard from suspension and injury respectively.

Winning one of their three previous clashes against the Knights in finals football, the Eels have gone down

in four of their past six matches in September despite leading or being level on the scoreboard at halftime. Reaching the top eight in back-to-back seasons for the first time in 18 years, the Newcastle Knights will be hoping to continue a late surge of momentum after securing a place in the finals with five wins from their last six matches.

Finishing the home-and-away season in seventh position with the worst for-and-against of any team to legitimately qualify for the finals in the NRL era - the Raiders (2002) were elevated into eighth with a points differential of -170 after the Bulldogs were found to be in breach of the salary cap - coach Adam O'Brien will be banking on his side to bounce back after resting a host of stars during last week's 35-22 loss to the Broncos.

Regaining the services of Hymel Hunt, Daniel Saifiti, Jacob Saifiti, Jayden Brailey, Mitchell Barnett, Tyson Frizell and Sauaso Sue for the must-win encounter, ten members of the team that went down to South Sydney in last year's elimination final will line up again on Sunday afternoon. Naming four players in the first-choice 17 yet to experience the intensity of finals football, the match will be especially memorable for interchange forward Sauaso Sue who will play his first finals match eight years after debuting in first grade. Winning nine matches by eight points or less this season - the most of any team in the league - the Knights have made a habit out of conjuring match-winning plays with minutes remaining through the brilliance of explosive centre Bradman Best, superstar fullback Kalya Ponga and veteran halfback Mitchell Pearce.

Who to watch: Named on an extended bench after

spending the past three weeks watching on from the sidelines, skilful second-rower Ryan Matterson will be out to make up for lost time. Experiencing an interrupted season due to concussion and suspension, the 26-year-old second-rower has remained an imposing force with 109 metres and 33 tackles on average in 16 appearances this season. Coming into the contest as one of two players in the Parramatta ranks to experience the ecstasy of winning a grand final, Matterson's experience will be invaluable as the Eels strive to defy recent history in finals football.

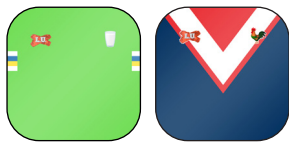
Set to gain his first taste of finals football after making a mid-season move to the Hunter, ever-improving five-eighth Jake Clifford will be out to add a new dimension to the side's attack during the September season. Developing a blossoming partnership alongside Mitchell Pearce in the halves, the former North Queensland playmaker has thrived in a supporting role with six try-assists and ten forced dropouts since making his club debut against the Eels back in June. Coming up with several clutch plays during the side's late season run, the 23-year-old's goal kicking accuracy may be the difference between booking a semi final berth and making plans for 2022.

Favourite: Coming into the contest with bragging rights after posting an emphatic win on Newcastle's Old Boys Day earlier in the season, the Eels are expected to advance into the second week of the finals.

My tip: If the Knights can establish an early lead and keep the contest close heading into the final ten minutes of the match, the class of the side's big match players should shine through for a memorable win. **Newcastle by 6.**

NRL: ROUND 25 WRAP

Thursday | SYDNEY ROOSTERS 40 CANBERRA 16



CANBERRA RAIDERS (16)

Tries: Elliott Whitehead, Josh Papali'i, Harley Smith-Shields

Conversions: Jordan Rapana (2/3)

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (40)

Tries: Adam Keighran (3), Matt Ikuvalu, Angus Crichton, Ben

Marschke, Lachlan Lam; Conversions: Adam Keighran (2/5), Siosiaua

Taukeiaho (2/2); Penalty Goals: Adam Keighran (2/2)

Venue: BB Print Stadium Mackay

Crowd: 3473

Halftime Score: Canberra 12 Sydney Roosters 20

LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:

3 points - Drew Hutchison

2 points - Siosiaua Taukeiaho

1 points - Tukupa Hau Tapuha

OUR REPORT with ROB CROSBY

Roosters run rampant over rueful Raiders

A career best performance from Drew Hutchison has seen the Sydney Roosters bring an end to the Canberra Raiders season with a 40-16 victory in Mackay.

Having a hand in three tries and taking on the line with confidence, the journeyman five-eighth played a leading role as the undermanned Tricolours fought back from an early deficit to outscore their 2019 grand final opponents seven tries to three.

The result sees the Roosters temporarily move into fourth position; the side's final standing won't be known until the Eels and Sea Eagles complete their fixtures over the weekend.

The Raiders started full of enthusiasm and opened the scoring through captain Elliott Whitehead (5th minute) after Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad offloaded to send the English

second-rower over with a determined run.

Appearing to hit back only for Adam Keighran to lose control in the act of grounding the ball, a run of penalties enabled James Tedesco to send Matt Ikuvalu (11th minute) over for a possible eight-point try; Nicoll-Klokstad was placed on report for leading with his knees, however Keighran could only add the extras with his second shot from in front.

Both sides continued to trade tries with Josh Papalii (18th minute) producing a powerful run from close range only for Angus Crichton (25th minute) to lock the scores up at 12-all in his return from suspension.

The Roosters hit the front for the first time through Keighran (32nd minute) after Hutchison pulled off an instinctive kick that fell through Semi Valemei's fingers into the goal-kicking centres hands.

A penalty goal on halftime saw the Roosters take a 20-12 lead to the sheds.

Coming out for the second half with an intensity the Raiders failed to match, a break from Tedesco allowed Keighran (46th minute) to take advantage of retreating defence.

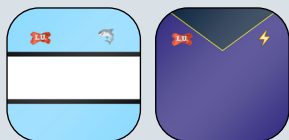
A few minutes later Keighran (51st minute) collected his hat-trick with one of the tries of the season involving a line break from within his own half, supporting Tedesco through the middle of the field and culminating in a collision with the goal posts while grounding the ball.

Losing touch with the contest due to poor ball handling and discipline, the Raiders accepted their fate as Hutchison took on the line and offloaded to send Ben Marschke (66th minute) over for his first try in the NRL.

A late cameo from Sam Walker saw Lachlan Lam (75th minute) cross before the Raiders finished with a hollow consolation try to Harley Smith-Shields (78th minute) in the shadows of fulltime.

The Raiders will need a miracle to qualify for the finals in the form of the Sharks losing by 74 points to the Storm and the Titans going down on Sunday afternoon.

Friday | MELBOURNE 28 CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND 16



CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (16)

Tries: Sione Katoa (2), Connor Tracey; Conversions: Braydon

Trindall (1/3); Penalty Goals: Braydon Trindall (1/1)

MELBOURNE STORM (28)

Tries: Brandon Smith, Ryan Papenhuyzen (3), Marion Seve

Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (3/5)

Penalty Goals: Nicholas Hynes (1/1)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium

Crowd: 8580

Halftime Score: Cronulla-Sutherland 12 Melbourne 12

LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:

3 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen

2 points - Jahrome Hughes

1 points - Harry Grant

OUR REPORT with JUSTIN DAVIES

Papenhuyzen inspired Storm crowned Minor Premiers against shaky Sharks

Ryan Papenhuyzen sounded an alarm just before the finals with a hat-trick in a 28-16 success for Melbourne Storm tonight against top eight hopefuls Cronulla Sharks tonight at Robina.

Melbourne Storm were crowned Minor Premiers for the fourth time in six years in a solid display which was highlighted by the work from two of their main stars Jerome Hughes and Ryan Papenhuyzen which has put a huge dent in the Sharks top eight hopes.

The equation was simple for both sides tonight, victory ensured they reached their goal for the season. Sharks needed to win to confirm a top eight spot while the Storm success meant another trophy added to their burgeoning

cabinet. A slip up by either allowed Warriors or Panthers to sneak up on them.

Sharks gave the Storm a fright in the first half with some expressive football. The shire side were giving the ball air and went into the break at 12-all due to a pair of fantastic finishes from winger Sione Katoa. He has become the premier finisher in the NRL and might qualify for the next Olympics with his acrobatics tonight.

Melbourne were first on the scoresheet though charismatic hooker Brandon Smith. The man who has been kicked out of the front rowers union has become an explosive option for the Storm in attack and finishes the regular season with 12 tries for the year.

There was a big, big sound (not that one) at half-time which spurred on the Storm. Right after the break Storm ran in back-to-back tries from Marion Seve and Papenhuyzen picked up his second with a superb support role on the inside to stretch the advantage to 12.

It has been a rough year for Papenhuyzen but the superstar fullback was back at his best tonight. He scored a hat-trick of tries and was electric in all his runs against a desperate opposition. His combination with halfback Jerome Hughes - who had the ball on a string with his kicking game - sent a loud message to the rest of the competition headed into September.

Once the Storm clicked into gear, Sharks couldn't go with them. Matt Moylan didn't have his best night with several errors in attack and their attack was clunky in the second half with their only four-pointer coming in late. Swiss knife back Connor Tracey pinned his ears back to get the margin back within a dozen.

That leaves the Sharks on a knives edge for the top eight. If Gold Coast Titans win by 12 or more, they will leapfrog the Sharks into 8th spot. Whatever happens, 2021 has been a successful season for the Sharks despite the mid-season coaching change. There is a new sheriff coming in 2022 alongside Nicho Hynes and their young talent which has flourished this season.

Friday | PENRITH 40 PARRAMATTA 6



PARRAMATTA EELS (6)

Tries: Tom Opacic
Conversions: Blake Ferguson (1/1)

PENRITH PANTHERS (40)

Tries: Brian To'o (3), Nathan Cleary, Tevita Pangai Junior, Matt Burton, Apisai Koroisau
Conversions: Nathan Cleary (6/7)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium

Crowd: 8580

Halftime Score: Parramatta 6 Penrith 12

LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:

3 points - Nathan Cleary

2 points - Brian To'o

1 points - Matt Burton

OUR REPORT with JUSTIN DAVIES

Panthers brush aside second string Eels

Penrith Panthers finished their regular season in style with a 40 points to six success against Parramatta Eels tonight at Robina.

They missed out on the Minor Premiership but Penrith Panthers warmed up for the finals with a 34-point win against an understrength Parramatta Eels team highlighted by a fabulous hat-trick from winger Brian To'o.

Both sides knew tonight was a game that didn't matter much in the grand scheme of things. Eels were locked into a spot in fifth or sixth while the Panthers couldn't catch the Storm for the Minor Premiership after earlier results. Eels battled hard for an hour but the Panthers extra class shone

through to reflect the final margin.

Back from injury the last fortnight, Brian To'o is a huge weapon for the Panthers side. He showed off his skills tonight scoring a hat-trick which included two simple finishes from a superb scrum play before he linked with the lethal left side to touch down late to complete the feat.

The first half was a tight tussle which saw the Panthers take a 12-6 lead into the break against a spirited Eels line-up. Tries to To'o and Tevita Pangai Junior for the Panthers while Eels centre Tom Opacic was the only try scorer for the blue and gold in the game tonight.

Knowing that the bigger challenges are yet to come. Tonight was a good warm up for the Panthers. They will face an attacking powerhouse in the Rabbitohs next weekend and tonight the spine hummed into action - both Nathan Cleary and Apisai Koroisau found the stripe - in a one-sided second half.

Matt Burton might be an x-factor for the Panthers on that left edge. He showed superb speed to score his four-pointer and linked well with To'o and Villiame Kikau for the winger to wrap up the hat-trick. He has filled in plenty in the halves but gives the Panthers some extra bite headed into the finals series.

For the Eels, tonight was a throwaway. They made mass changes to the side and knew it wouldn't affect their standing. Much of their salary cap sat in the stands but they looked refreshed as they are locked in to face Newcastle Knights next weekend in an elimination final.

One lowlight for the Panthers is the injury to interchange forward Scott Sorensen. He might miss the remainder of the season but Ivan Cleary has plenty of options for his bench make up to get the Panthers to back-to-back Grand Finals.

Saturday | BRISBANE 35 NEWCASTLE 22



BRISBANE BRONCOS (35)

Tries: Kobe Hetherington, Herbie Farnworth, Corey Oates, Anthony Milford, Selwyn Cobbo, Tesi Niu; Field Goals: Anthony Milford (1/1)

Conversions: Herbie Farnworth (5/6)

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (22)

Tries: Enari Tuala, Starford To'a, Jack Johns, Chris Randall

Conversions: Jake Clifford (3/4)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium

Crowd: 20747

Halftime Score: Brisbane 18 Newcastle 4

LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:

3 points - Anthony Milford

2 points - Tesi Niu

1 points - Herbie Farnworth

OUR REPORT with ADAM HUXTABLE

Broncos end season in style as Knights limp into Finals

The Brisbane Broncos have sent club captain and legend Alex Glenn off in style, beating the Newcastle Knights 35 points to 22 at Suncorp Stadium today.

The Broncos got off to a great start, with Xavier Coates out-leaping Enari Tuala and batting the ball back to Albert Kelly, who was able to get a pass off to Kobe Hetherington to score the opening try of the game.

Brisbane's strong attacking form continued, with Albert Kelly's decision to pass on the last proving a good one. The Broncos found an overlap and Corey Oates went over, making it 12-0 inside 16 minutes.

The game became more of an arm wrestle over the next 15 minutes, with the Broncos turning the Knights away multiple times. Finally, they were able to crack them, with Kalyn Ponga throwing a brilliant cut-out pass to put Enari

Tuala over. Clifford's kick was waved away and the score remained 12-4.

The Broncos appeared to have scored one of the tries of the year after some great work from Farnworth to make a break and then put a kick in at pace. Replays revealed Tesi Niu had knocked on over the line.

3 minutes later, the Broncos were back in good attacking position thanks to a penalty and this time it was Niu putting in the kick. Farnworth made no mistake as he planted the ball down, making it an 18-4 scoreline at the break.

The half started terribly for the Broncos as Albert Kelly knocked on off the kickoff. The Knights looked to have taken full advantage through Tuala, but replays showed Coates had executed the trysaver to perfection.

Things then got back to normal for Brisbane. Milford continued his strong form to put Selwyn Cobbo through a gaping hole, before backing up in support to score the try and make it a 20-point deficit.

The Knights were the next to get on the board, with Corey Oates making an absolute mess of Crossland's grubber and Starford To'a was there to plant it down.

The comeback didn't last long though. The Knights were able to get themselves back on the attack, but Clifford threw an intercept straight to Selwyn Cobbo, who took off 100 metres down the field to score against the run of play.

The Knights defence appeared to be shot, with Milford making a break through a huge hole and linking up with Tesi Niu on the inside, who scored his second try double in two weeks.

A mini comeback of sorts did appear to be on the cards for the Knights after that however, with Jack Johns and Chris Randall each crossing the stripe within 3 minutes of each other. The deficit was reduced to 12, but Milford put the result beyond doubt in the 76th minute with a field goal, his last scoring play as a Bronco.

That's all she wrote for the Broncos in 2021, while the Knights are up against the Eels in a do or die semi next week.

NRL: ROUND 25 WRAP

Saturday | MANLY-WARRINGAH 46 NORTH QUEENSLAND 18



NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (18)
Tries: Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Jordan McLean, Ben Condon
Conversions: Valentine Holmes (3/3)
MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (46)
Tries: Jason Saab, Reuben Garrick, Jake Trbojevic (2), Tom Trbojevic (3), Daly Cherry-Evans
Conversions: Reuben Garrick (7/8)

Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium
Crowd: 14336
Halftime Score: North Queensland 6 Manly-Warringah 18
LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:
3 points - Tom Trbojevic
2 points - Haumole Olakau'atu
1 points - Daly Cherry-Evans

OUR REPORT with ANDREW FERGUSON

Manly destroy Cowboys in final 10 minutes

Manly scored an impressive four tries in the final 10 minutes to run away with a big 46-18 win against a Cowboys side that had been right in the match up until that point.

The game got off to a flying start when two speedsters had a footrace in just the 3rd minute after Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow cleaned up a botched Manly play-the-ball and then raced 85 metres to score in the corner, brushing off the flying Jason Saab in the process. Valentine Holmes converted the try.

Manly responded ten minutes later after Daly Cherry-Evans kicked to the right corner where Saab jumped above everyone and took the ball cleanly to score a good try. Reuben Garrick converted to level the scores.

A 90 second period before halftime proved to be the telling period of the game, as Manly scored back-to-back tries.

In the 38th minute Cherry-Evans sent a nice ball to Tom

Trbojevic who broke the line, drew the fullback and then sent a good ball to his brother Jake who scored under the posts. Garrick converted.

Shortly after the restart, Manly produce An outside-inside play by Manly on the second tackle from the restart resulted in Keiran Foran putting Tom Trbojevic into space and he ran 70 metres to score a great try. Garrick converted on halftime to give Manly an 18-6 lead at halftime.

The Cowboys scored first after the break when Jordan McLean got the ball 10 metres from the tryline and went on a powerful, bustling, bumping run, before twisting in a standing tackle to just get the ball down on the line for a rare try for the front rower. Holmes converted.

In the 58th minute an amazing piece of athleticism by Haumole Olakau'atu set up Manly's next points. A kick by Cherry-Evans looked to go dead for all money, but Olakau'atu leapt from inside the field of play and batted the ball back into the Cowboys in-goal where Jake Trbojevic planted it for a try. Garrick converted again.

Four minutes later, the Cowboys hit back when a Holmes grubber sits up nicely for Ben Condon, who gets a hand on it before the Manly defence, to score a good try. Holmes

converted to keep the Cowboys within a converted try of Manly.

Then with just over 10 minutes left in the game, Manly shifted up a gear and ran away with the match. Garrick scored from a Cherry-Evans grubber in the 69th minute, but failed to convert his try.

In the 73rd minute, Tom Trbojevic scored an insane solo try where he bumped out of several tackles before barging over to score an unbelievable try. Garrick converted.

In the 78th minute Tom Trbojevic got himself into a space before linking with Cherry-Evans who raced away to score. Garrick added another goal.

And then right on fulltime, Manly crossed again, with a spectacular length of the field try after a Cowboys grubber into the Manly in-goal was collected by Garrick, who ran around and back into the field of play, then evaded two tackle attempts before passing to Cherry-Evans, who streaked down the left wing, drew the fullback and then kicked back infield to none other than Tom Trbojevic who collected the ball and fell over the line for an amazing try. Garrick converted yet again.

Saturday | SOUTH SYDNEY 20 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 16



SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (20)
Tries: Lachlan Ilias, Campbell Graham (2), Taane Milne
Conversions: Blake Taaffe (1/4)
Penalty Goals: Blake Taaffe (1/1)
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (16)
Tries: Tyrell Sloan (2), Mikaele Ravalawa
Conversions: Corey Norman (2/3)

Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium
Crowd: 3295
Halftime Score: South Sydney 14 St George Illawarra 0
LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:
3 points - Benji Marshall
2 points - Lachlan Ilias
1 points - Mark Nicholls

OUR REPORT with JOSH ROBERTSON

Rookie Rabbitohs hold off fast-finishing Dragons

A game of two very contrasting halves of football sent a scare through South Sydney as the rookie Rabbitohs took a 20-16 victory over a fast finishing St George Illawarra Dragons.

Debuts can go either way but for Lachlan Ilias it was a perfect start as the Bunnies debutant opened the scoring after just six minutes when he chased through his own kick which was fumbled by Mikaele Ravalawa multiple times before Ilias swooped to score.

A penalty goal for Blake Taaffe extended the Bunnies lead before Campbell Graham launched onto an error from

Gerard Beale and raced away to score the Rabbitohs second of the night.

Plenty of question marks surround the Rabbitohs third try of the first half when Campbell Graham looked to have pushed Mat Feagai in the back which forced the Dragons centre straight into teammate Tyrell Sloan which forced an error from Sloan. The bunker was happy to confirm the try and after Blake Taaffe missed the conversion, Souths took a 14-0 lead which they held into the break.

The Rabbitohs continued to dominate early as Taane Milne was able to go over after the Bunnies turned on their sweeping left hand play out the back and despite different names, the crispness was still there.

A blown opportunity for Jaxson Paulo could've extend the Souths lead but it meant that there was still an outside chance for the Dragons to come back. The Dragons took

until the last 10 minutes to fire into gear when Tyrell Sloan got over after an error from Taane Milne.

The Dragons set up a grandstand when Tyrell Sloan scored his second after only just holding a grip onto the ball after creating space and turning on the afterburners to score in the corner. The Dragons attempts for a grandstand finish were confirmed when Mikaele Ravalawa got the ball after a right-hand spread.

A final chance for the Dragons summed up their season and Corey Norman's Dragons career when the final attacking chance was put down with Norman under no pressure whatsoever.

The final play summed up a poor season for the Dragons and ends their season, whilst for the Rabbitohs they travel to Townsville for their Qualifying final on Saturday night up against the Penrith Panthers.

Sunday | GOLD COAST 44 WARRIORS 0



GOLD COAST TITANS (44)

Tries: Jayden Campbell (2), Mitch Rein, David Fifita (2), Brian Kelly, Patrick Herbert, Moeaki Fotuauka
Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (6/8)

WARRIORS (0)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium

Crowd: 12532

Halftime Score: Gold Coast 16 Warriors 0

LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:

3 points - Tyrone Peachey

2 points - Jayden Campbell

1 points - David Fifita

OUR REPORT with ANDREW FERGUSON

Titans destroy atrocious Warriors in abysmal game

The Titans and Warriors played out one of the worst games of the year, but in the end, the Titans won 44-0 - their biggest ever margin - to finish 8th and make the finals, knocking the Sharks out of the finals race in the process.

The Warriors very nearly scored in the first minute when Marcelo Montoya caught a bomb and then got a pass to Euan Aitken who very nearly scored, but the knee of Philip Sami bumped the ball free.

The first points came in the 6th minute when Jayden Campbell jumped into dummy half 13 metres from the Warriors line, ran himself, grubbered and just hung onto the ball to score a great solo try next to the left upright. Jamal Fogarty converted.

Reece Walsh with a good tackle denied Tyron Peachey a try in the 9th minute. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui dropped the

ball just short of the tryline 6 minutes later.

In the 20th minute Mitch Rein at dummy half, dived over to score a trademark hookers try. Fogarty converted.

In the final 10 minutes of the half, Jayden Campbell made a break and ran 50 metres before Walsh tackled him. On the next play, the Titans went left to Peachey who changed direction, drifted right before sending a long ball to the right to David Fifita who dived over in the right corner. Fogarty's sideline conversion hit the upright and was waved away. AT halftime, the Titans held a 16-0 win over a Warriors side that had struggled to complete a set through a combination of ill-discipline and poor handling.

Within the first minute after the resumption of play, Fifita got into dummy half and barged over for a clever try. Fogarty again converted.

The Warriors very nearly scored in the 47th minute, however the final pass to Dallin Watene-Zelezniak was ruled forward.

In the 52nd minute the Titans shifted left to Peachey who ran to the line before linking with Campbell, whose catch

and pass to Kelly put him into space and he dived over to score in the corner. Fogarty converted from touch.

A scuffle in the 64th minute lead to Jazz Tévaga getting sin binned for running in to get involved. A minute later another scuffle ensued and this time, the referee sent Matt Lodge, Kane Evans and Jarrod Wallace all to the sin bin. The Titans were reduced to 12 while the Warriors were down to 10 players.

With all the red mist removed from the field, the Titans went right where Campbell sent Patrick Herbert over the line for an easy try in the corner. Fogarty's sideline conversion is well wide of the mark.

Three minutes later another Warriors dropped ball was picked up by Peachey who passes to Fogarty who quickly sent it to Campbell who then ran 70 metres to score untouched under the posts. Fogarty added the extras.

The Titans scored once more in the final 2 minutes when Herbert put in a kick 10 metres inside the Warriors half and Moeaki Fotuauka chased it down and scored a good try. Fogarty converted.

Sunday | CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN 38 WESTS TIGERS 0



WESTS TIGERS (0)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (38)

Tries: Nick Meaney (2), Jake Averillo (2), Jack Hetherington, Jayden Okunbor, Corey Allan
Conversions: Nick Meaney (3/6), Will Hopoate (1/1)
Penalty Goals: Nick Meaney (1/1)

Venue: Moreton Daily Stadium

Crowd: 3104

Halftime Score: Wests Tigers 0 Canterbury-Bankstown 16

LeagueUnlimited.com Players of the Match:

3 points - Josh Jackson

2 points - Nick Meaney

1 points - Jack Hetherington

OUR REPORT with ANDREW JACKSON

Bulldogs unleashed as Tigers fall apart in shocking shutout

The Wests Tigers and Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs both head into the off-season in the middle of a long-term rebuild.

For the Bulldogs though, a 38-0 win on Sunday in Redcliffe is just another sign they are heading in the right direction when paired with an aggressive spending spree in the opening market.

It was the perfect farewell for a host of Bulldogs players who will be moving on as part of the Belmore shake-up.

The Tigers, on the other hand, are in a downward spiral and even more pressure is building on coach Michael Maguire and halfback Luke Brooks.

While the pair alone were not solely to blame for Sunday's

defeat, the two have already been heavily scrutinised and will only further come under the blowtorch.

As a whole though the Tigers simply did not aim up in defence.

Maguire spoke during the week about his long-term vision for the club and confidence its young core was heading in the right direction.

A horror first half though saw the Tigers fall to a 16-0 deficit.

Nick Meaney scored two tries, with both coming far too easily against a passive Tigers team.

The other try came courtesy of Brandon Wakeham's boot with Zac Cini fumbling a bomb and Brandon Wakeham trailing in support to pick up the scraps.

The Bulldogs quickly extended the lead as David Nofoaluma and Cini clashed at the back, ending with Jack

Hetherington racing away under the posts.

From there though errors invited the Tigers back into the contest but they failed to threaten in attack, with Trent Barrett's men pushing further ahead instead.

This time quick hands from Will Hopoate saw Jayden Okunbor score.

The Tigers' woes deepened as Luciano Leilua was sent to the bin and a Brandon Wakeham pass put Corey Allan soaring over in the corner.

Shawn Blore then joined Leilua in the sheds for a late, forceful hit on Sione Katoa.

The Bulldogs took full advantage once more, with Averillo then forcing his way over to score their seventh try of the game.

If the result was not enough, the Tigers also lost Tommy Talau (torn ACL) and Jake Simpkin (shoulder).

LEAGUEUNLIMITED NRL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Standings after Round 25

After each game, our writers allocate 3-2-1 points to the best players on the field, including every NRL game and all three Origin matches. On this page we track the full tally for each player across the season.

38 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles/NSW)

35 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers/NSW)

28 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)

22 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Will Kennedy (Sharks), James Tedesco (Roosters), Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs)

20 points - Mitchell Moses (Eels)

19 points - Adam Doueihi (Wests Tigers), Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles), Ben Hunt (Dragons/QLD)

18 points - Jahrome Hughes (Storm)

17 points - Nicholas Hynes (Storm), David Fifita (Titans), Payne Haas (Broncos/NSW)

16 points - Cameron Munster (Storm)

15 points - Kalyn Ponga (Knights), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors), Jake Clifford (Cowboys), Daine Laurie (Wests Tigers)

14 points - Sam Walker (Roosters), Brandon Smith (Storm), Jarome Luai (Panthers/NSW)

13 points - Alexander Brimson (Titans), Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm), Brian To'o (Panthers)

12 points - Isaiiah Papali'i (Eels), Reece Walsh (Warriors)

11 points - Harry Grant (Storm), Reed Mahoney (Eels)

10 points - Christian Welch (Storm), Joseph Manu (Roosters), Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys)

9 points - Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs), Ashley Taylor (Titans), Keaton Koloamatangi (Rabbitohs), Reuben Garrick (Sea Eagles), Matt Burton (Panthers), Viliame Kikau (Panthers), Luke Brooks (Wests Tigers), Cameron Murray (Rabbitohs)

8 points - Kieran Foran (Sea Eagles), Shaun Johnson (Sharks), James Fisher-Harris (Panthers), George Williams (Raiders)

7 points - Benji Marshall (Rabbitohs), Matthew Dufty (Dragons), Luke Thompson (Bulldogs), Tyrone Peachey (Titans), Stephen Crichton (Panthers)

6 points - Daniel Saifiti (Knights), Isah Yeo (Panthers), Jamal Fogarty (Titans), Valentine Holmes (Cowboys), Damien Cook (Rabbitohs), Alex Johnston (Rabbitohs), Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Roosters), Bradman Best (Knights), Maika Sivo (Eels), Josh Papali'i (Raiders), Anthony Milford (Broncos), Josh Addo-Carr (Storm), Addin Fonua-Blake (Warriors), Braydon Trindall (Sharks), Jamayne Isaako (Broncos), Tevita Pangai Junior (Broncos), Mitchell Pearce (Knights), Haumole Olakau'atu (Sea Eagles), Jordan Rapana (Raiders)

5 points - Josh Curran (Warriors), Corey Harawira-Naera (Raiders), Tyson Gamble (Broncos), Tom Starling (Raiders), Jason Saab (Sea Eagles), Josh Schuster (Sea Eagles), Drew Hutchison (Roosters), Mitchell Barnett (Knights), Dylan Edwards (Panthers), Brett Morris (Roosters), Luke Keary (Roosters), Chad Townsend (Sharks), Toby Rudolf (Sharks), Tino Fa'asuamaleaui (Titans/QLD)

4 points - Tui Kamikamica (Storm), Jack Wighton (Raiders), Ronaldo Mulitalo (Sharks), Mark Nicholls (Rabbitohs), Kodi Nikorima (Warriors), Dale Finucane (Storm), Jayden Brailey (Knights), Joseph Tapine (Raiders), Liam Martin (Panthers), Stefano Utoikamanu (Wests Tigers), Dane Gagai (Rabbitohs), Nathan Brown (Eels), Tohu Harris (Warriors), Sitili Tupouniua (Roosters)

3 points - David Klemmer (Knights), Adam Clune (Dragons), Matt Ikuvalu (Roosters), Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Bulldogs), Luke Metcalf (Sharks), Jake Granville (Cowboys), Josh Hodgson (Raiders), Moeaki Fotu'aika (Titans), Jayden Campbell (Titans), Connor Watson (Knights), Xavier Savage (Raiders), Josh Jackson (Bulldogs), Mikaele Ravalawa (Dragons), Luciano Leilua (Wests Tigers), Euan Aitken (Warriors), Nelson Asofa-Solomona (Storm), Blake Ferguson (Eels), Justin Olam (Storm), Jake Averillo

(Bulldogs), Tesi Niu (Broncos), Apisai Koroisau (Panthers), Siosia Taukeiaho (Roosters), Herbie Farnworth (Broncos), Jai Arrow (Rabbitohs), Briton Nikora (Sharks), Tariq Sims (Dragons), Ryan Sutton (Raiders), Sam Williams (Raiders), Angus Crichton (Roosters), Tom Dearden (Broncos), Toby Sexton (Titans), Paul Vaughan (Dragons), Thomas Burgess (Rabbitohs)

2 points - Hame Sele (Rabbitohs), Tyrone May (Panthers), Jesse Bromwich (Storm), Waqa Blake (Eels), Bailey Simonsson (Raiders), Jeremy Marshall-King (Bulldogs), Jack de Belin (Dragons), Josh Mansour (Rabbitohs), Taniela Paseka (Sea Eagles), Bayley Sironen (Warriors), Hudson Young (Raiders), Jack Bird (Dragons), Jack Williams (Sharks), Marata Niukore (Eels), Phillip Sami (Titans), Wayne Egan (Warriors), Sione Katoa (Bulldogs), Peta Hiku (Warriors), Josh Morris (Roosters), Dylan Napa (Bulldogs), Jeremiah Nanai (Cowboys), Josh Aloiai (Sea Eagles), Nick Meaney (Bulldogs), Blake Lawrie (Dragons), Blayke Brailey (Sharks), Junior Paulo (Eels), Jason Taumalolo (Cowboys), Moses Leota (Panthers), Josh Kerr (Dragons), Bunty Afoa (Warriors), Murray Taulagi (Cowboys), Matthew Lodge (Broncos), Ryan Matterson (Eels), Daniel Tupou (Roosters), Moses Mbye (Wests Tigers), Zac Lomax (Dragons), Martin Taupau (Sea Eagles), Moses Suli (Sea Eagles), Victor Radley (Roosters), Tyson Frizell (Knights)

1 point - Shawn Blore (Wests Tigers), Matt Frawley (Raiders), Tukupa Hau Tapuha (Roosters), Jack Hetherington (Bulldogs), Thomas Flegler (Broncos), Mitchell Dunn (Cowboys), Dean Jeremia (Storm), Beau Fermor (Titans), Isaac Liu (Roosters), Kotoni Staggs (Broncos), Alex Twal (Wests Tigers), Caleb Aekins (Raiders), Xavier Coates (Broncos), Ben Murdoch-Masila (Warriors), David Nofoluma (Wests Tigers), Sebastian Kris (Raiders), Nat Butcher (Roosters), Felise Kaufusi (Storm), Will Hopoate (Bulldogs), Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow (Cowboys), Brodie Jones (Knights), Corey Thompson (Titans), Jaydn Su'A (Rabbitohs), Kurt Mann (Knights), Francis Molo (Cowboys), Mathew Faagai (Dragons), Lindsay Collins (Roosters), Enari Tuala (Knights), Emre Guler (Raiders), Ryan James (Raiders), Lachlan Lewis (Bulldogs), Dylan Brown (Eels), Braden Hamlin-Uele (Sharks), Albert Kelly (Broncos), Connor Tracey (Sharks), Reece Robson (Cowboys), Matt Moylan (Sharks), Shane Wright (Cowboys), Andrew McCullough (Dragons), Coen Hess (Cowboys), Paul Momirovski (Panthers), Joe Ofahengaue (Wests Tigers)

NRL MATCH REVIEW

Round 25 Charge Sheet

Player	Club	Charge - Grade	On who?	Base Penalty	Priors / discounts (loading)	Carry overs	Points/fine if guilty	Points/fine early plea	Plea / result	Suspension / fine	Carryovers accrued
Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	Canberra	Dangerous Contact (other) - 1	Matt Ikuvalu	\$1500	7 year incident-free discount (-25%)	N/A	\$1150	\$750	Guilty - early plea	\$750	N/A
Keegan HIPGRAVE	Parramatta	Careless High Tackle - 1	James Fisher-Harris	100*	1 similar, 1 non-similar priors (+70%)	30	200	157	Guilty - early plea	1 match	57
Jeremiah NANAI	North Qld	Dangerous Throw - 1	Sean Keppie	\$1500	None	N/A	\$1500	\$1150	Guilty - early plea	\$1150	N/A
Josh McGUIRE	St Geo Illa	Careless High Tackle - 1	Tevita Tatola	100*	1 similar, 3 non-similar priors (+110%)	29	239	186	Guilty - early plea	5 matches	1
Josh McGUIRE	St Geo Illa	Careless High Tackle - 2	Peter Mamouzelos	200	1 similar, 3 non-similar priors (+110%)	29	449	344	Guilty - early plea		
Mitch REIN	Gold Coast	Dangerous Contact (other) - 1	Reece Walsh	\$1500	2 non-similar priors (+40%)	N/A	\$2100	\$1600	Guilty - early plea	\$1600	N/A
Jamal FOGARTY	Gold Coast	Dangerous Throw - 1	Bayley Sironen	\$1500	1 non-similar prior (+20%)	N/A	\$1800	\$1350	Guilty - early plea	\$1350	N/A
Kane EVANS	Warriors	Dangerous Contact (head/neck) - 1	Beau Fermor	100	1 similar, 3 non-similar priors (+110%)	75	285	232	Guilty - early plea	5 matches	47
Kane EVANS	Warriors	Contrary Conduct - 2	in a melee	200	1 similar, 3 non-similar priors (+110%)	75	495	390	Guilty - early plea		
Reece WALSH	Warriors	Contrary Conduct - 1	in a melee	100*	1 similar, 1 non-similar priors (+70%)	10	180	137	Guilty - early plea	1 match	37
Jazz TEVAGA	Warriors	Contrary Conduct - 1	in a melee	\$1500	1 similar, 1 non-similar priors (+70%)	N/A	\$2550	\$1900	Guilty - early plea	\$1900	N/A
Matt LODGE	Warriors	Dangerous Contact (other) - 1	Tyrone Peachey	100*	4 non-similar priors (+80%)	17	197	152	Guilty - early plea	1 match	52
Jarrold WALLACE	Gold Coast	Contrary Conduct - 1	in a melee	\$1500	None	N/A	\$1500	\$1150	Guilty - early plea	\$1150	N/A
Shawn BLORE	Wests Tigers	Dangerous Contact (other) - 1	Sione Katoa	\$1500	None	N/A	\$1500	\$1150	Guilty - early plea	\$1150	N/A

* not eligible for a fine due to at least 2 previous fines this season

UK WATCH - RESULTS & FIXTURES

BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 23 RESULTS - MAGIC WEEKEND

All matches played at St. James' Park, Newcastle.

Attendances: Day 1: 35,104 Day 2: 25,762

Castleford Tigers 29 Tries: Paul McShane, Peter Mata'utia, Jordan Turner, Oliver Holmes, Daniel Smith; Goals: Peter Mata'utia 4; Field Goals: Jordan Turner 1 **def Salford Red Devils 18** Tries: Ata Hingano, Joe Burgess, Ken Sio; Goals: Krisnan Inu 3

Catalans Dragons 31 Tries: Sam Kasiano, Gil Dudson, Dean Whare, Julian Bousquet, Sam Tomkins; Goals: James Maloney 5; Field Goals: James Maloney 1 **def St Helens 30** Tries: Morgan Knowles, Sione Mata'utia 2, Lachlan Coote, Tommy Makinson; Goals: Lachlan Coote 5

Leeds Rhinos 25 Tries: Jack Broadbent, Kruike Leeming, Rhyse Martin, Harry Newman; Goals: Rhyse Martin 4; Field Goals: Kruike Leeming 1 **def Hull FC 24** Tries: Jake Connor, Carlos Tuimavave, Danny Houghton; Goals: Marc Sneyd 6

Wakefield Trinity 32 Tries: Tom Johnstone, Chris Green, Reece Lyne, Kelepi Tanginoa, Ryan Hampshire; Goals: Mason Lino 6 **def Huddersfield Giants 18** Tries: Josh Jones, Sam Wood, Will Pryce; Goals: Will Pryce 3

Warrington Wolves 10 Tries: George Williams, Josh Thewlis; Goals: Stefan Ratchford 1 **def Wigan Warriors 6** Tries: Ethan Harvard; Goals: Harry Smith 1

Hull KR 44 Tries: Joe Keyes, Matty Storton, Jimmy Keinhorst, Ryan Hall, Matt Parcell, Brad Takairangi, Albert Vete, Ben Crooks; Goals: Joe Keyes 6 **def Leigh Centurions 6** Tries: Matty Russell; Goals: Ryan Brierley 1

CURRENT LADDER

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Diff	Pts	Win %
1	Catalans	21	19	2	0	662	356	306	38	90.48
2	St Helens	19	15	4	0	494	197	297	30	78.95
3	Warrington	19	13	5	1	528	311	217	27	71.05
4	Wigan	23	13	10	0	365	377	-12	26	56.52
5	Leeds	22	12	10	0	514	388	126	24	54.55
6	Castleford	21	11	10	0	394	486	-92	22	52.38
7	Hull KR	18	9	9	0	459	403	56	18	50.00
8	Hull FC	19	8	10	1	397	422	-25	17	44.74
9	Wakefield	22	8	14	0	420	510	-90	16	36.36
10	Huddersfield	22	7	15	0	388	474	-86	14	31.82
11	Salford	20	6	14	0	357	550	-193	12	30.00
12	Leigh	20	1	19	0	306	810	-504	2	5.00

ROUND 24 FIXTURES all times BST UK, add 9 hours for AEST

Fri 10 Sep	7:45pm	St Helens v Leeds	Totally Wicked Stadium
Sat 11 Sep	3:00pm	Hull FC v Wigan	MKM Stadium
		Warrington v Salford	Halliwel Jones Stadium
	6:00pm	Catalans v Huddersfield	Stade Gilbert Brutus
	7:45pm	Hull KR v Castleford	Hull College Craven Park
Sun 12 Sep	3:00pm	Leigh v Wakefield	Leigh Sports Village

BETFRED WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - PLAY-OFFS

WEEK 3 RESULTS

York City Knights 20 Tries: Katie Langan, Savannah Andrade, Tamzin Renouf, Bettie Lambert; Goals: Emma Hardy 2 **def Wigan Warriors 6** Tries: Rebecca Greenfield; Goals: Georgia Wilson 1 **at Robin Park Arena**
St Helens 24 **def Leeds Rhinos 0** on forfeit

LADDER: St Helens 4, Leeds 4, Castleford 2, York 2, Wigan 0

WEEK 4 FIXTURES

Sun 12 Sep	2:00pm	Castleford v St Helens	Mend-A-Hose Jungle
	3:00pm	Leeds v Wigan	Sports Park Weetwood

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 20 RESULTS

York City Knights 29 Tries: Chris Clarkson, Ben Jones-Bishop, Aidan McGowan 2, Perry Whiteley; Goals: Myles Harrison 4; Field Goals: Matty Marsh 1 **def Newcastle Thunder 16** Tries: Alex Clegg, Jack Johnson, Kieran Gill; Goals: Josh Woods 2 **at Kingston Park Whitehaven RLFC 22** Tries: Lachlan Walmsley 2, Karl Dixon, Louis Joffret; Goals: Lachlan Walmsley 3 **def Batley Bulldogs 14** Tries: Greg Johnson, Ben White; Goals: Tom Gilmore 1 **at Fox's Biscuits Stadium** --/-- **Toulouse Olympique 60** Tries: Guy Armitage 2, Jy Hitchcox, Ilias Bergal, Romain Navarrete, Justin Sangare 2, Joe Bretherton, Lloyd White, Mark Kheirallah 2; Goals: Mark Kheirallah 8 **def Bradford Bulls 6** Tries: George Flanagan; Goals: Jordan Lilley 1 **at Tetley's Stadium** --/-- **Featherstone Rovers 54** Tries: Kris Welham, Dane Chisholm 2, Gareth Gale 2, Ben Blackmore 2, Connor Jones, Brett Ferres, Fa'amanu Brown; Goals: Craig Hall 7 **def Halifax Panthers 22** Tries: Zach McComb, Matty Garside, Ed Barber, James Woodburn-Hall; Goals: Connor Robinson 3 **at Millennium Stadium** --/-- **London Broncos 34** Tries: Greg Richards, Patrick Moran, Abbas Miski, Sadiq Adebisi, Gideon Bofo 2; Goals: Chris Hankinson 5 **def Swinton Lions 32** Tries: Jack Hansen, Lewis Hatton, Martyn Ridyard, Mike Butt, Ben Heyes, Luis Roberts; Goals: Martyn Ridyard 4 **at Heywood Road** --/-- **Widnes Vikings 62** Tries: Adam Lawton 2, Oliver Brookes 2, Shane Grady, Deon Cross 2, Connor Aspey, Kenny Baker, Danny Craven, Steve Tyrer; Goals: Jack Owens 9 **def Oldham RLFC 4** Tries: Ben Holcroft **at Halton Stadium** --/-- **Dewsbury Rams 24** Tries: Alex Smith, Keenen Tomlinson, Jordan Schofield, Andy Gabriel; Goals: Liam Finn 4 **def Sheffield Eagles 20** Tries: Tyler Dickinson, Anthony Thackeray, Rob Worrincy; Goals: Izaak Farrell 4 **at Keepmoat Stadium**

CURRENT LADDER

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Diff	Pts	WIN %
1	Toulouse	13	13	0	0	616	112	504	26	100.00
2	Featherstone	19	18	1	0	817	254	563	34	89.47
3	Halifax	19	13	6	0	512	323	189	26	68.42
4	Bradford	18	12	6	0	483	455	28	24	66.67
5	Batley	19	12	7	0	525	370	155	24	63.16
6	London	18	11	6	1	502	499	3	21	58.33
7	Whitehaven	20	10	9	1	447	496	-49	21	52.50
8	York	19	8	11	0	470	455	15	16	42.11
9	Widnes	19	7	11	1	458	509	-51	15	39.47
10	Sheffield	18	5	10	3	382	553	-171	13	36.11
11	Newcastle	18	6	11	1	381	521	-140	13	36.11
12	Dewsbury	19	6	12	1	308	570	-262	13	34.21
13	Oldham	19	2	16	1	270	689	-419	5	13.16
14	Swinton	20	1	18	1	354	719	-365	3	7.50

DEDUCTIONS: London Broncos: 2 points, failing to fulfil their away fixture at Toulouse in February; Featherstone Rovers: 2 points, breaching RFL Operational Rules

ROUND 21 FIXTURES all times BST UK, add 9 hours for AEST

Sun 12 Sep	3:00pm	Batley v Dewsbury	Fox's Biscuit Stadium
		London v Featherstone	Traillfinders Sports Club
		Oldham v Newcastle	Bower Fold
		Whitehaven v Halifax	Recreation Ground
		Widnes v Bradford	Halton Stadium
	4:30pm	Sheffield v Swinton	Keepmoat Stadium
		Toulouse v York	
		CANCELLED	

BETFRED WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - SHIELD

WEEK 4 RESULTS

Huddersfield Giants 78 **def Wakefield Trinity 0** at Mobile Rocket Stadium
Featherstone Rovers 28 **def Bradford Bulls 4** at Millennium Stadium

LADDER: Huddersfield 6, Featherstone 6, Warrington 4, Bradford 0, Wakefield 0

WEEK 5 FIXTURES

Sun 12 Sep	2:00pm	Bradford v Wakefield	Odsal Stadium
		Warrington v Featherstone	Victoria Park

QRL RESULTS: SEPTEMBER 4-5

QRL INTRUST SUPER CUP - ROUND 16

Tweed Seagulls 26 Tries: Treymain Spry 2, Brent Woolf, Luke Jurd, Lee Turner; Goals: Luke Jurd 2, Brayden McGrady 1 **drew with Townsville Blackhawks 26** Tries: Josh Hoffman, Jaelen Feeney, Riley Price, Bacho Salam; Goals: Shaun Nona 5 **at Pizze Park** --/-- **Brisbane Tigers 26** Tries: Kea Pere 2, Mitch Frei, Linc Port, Oliver Pascoe; Goals: Brayden Torpy 3 **drew with Souths Logan Magpies 26** Tries: Jamayne Isaako, Isaiah Tass, Benaiah Bowie, Rory Ferguson, Jacob Alick; Goals: Jamayne Isaako 2, Isaiah Tass 1 **at Totally Workwear Stadium** --/-- **PNG Hunters 22** Tries: Solo Wane 2, Junior Rau, Edwin Ipape, Judah Rimbu; Goals: Charlie Simon 1 **def CQ Capras 20** Tries: Jedidiah Simbiken 2, Lachlan Hubner, Caleb Tull; Goals: Trey Browne 1, Caleb Tull 1 **at Browne Park** --/-- **Mackay Cutters 36** Tries: Laitia Moceidreke 2, Blake Atherton, Adam Cook, Brandon Finnegan, Jesse Dee, Jack Quinn; Goals: Jack Quinn 4 **def Ipswich Jets 26** Tries: Gerome Burns 2, Ben White, Zac Hetherington, Denzel Burns; Goals: Ono So'oialo 2, Gerome Burns 1 **at BB Print Stadium Mackay** --/-- **Northern Pride 24** Tries: Mark Rosendale 2, Kenneth Fotoni, Peter Hola, Evan Child; Goals: Grant Anderson 2 **def Redcliffe Dolphins 16** Tries: Josh Beehag, Jeremy Hawkins, Jayden Nikorima; Goals: Jayden Nikorima 2 **at Moreton Daily Stadium** --/-- **Sunshine Coast Falcons 28** Tries: Paul Ulberg, Todd Murphy, Kurt Baptiste, Luke Polselli, Nat McGavin; Goals: Todd Murphy 4 **def Burleigh Bears 16** Tries: Sami Sauluma, Kurtis Rowe, Luke Page; Goals: Josh Rogers 2 **at Sunshine Coast Stadium** --/-- **Norths Devils 24** Tries: Moses Noovao-McGreal, Rashaun Denny, Bryce Donovan; Goals: Jack Miers 4, Connor Broadhurst 2 **Wynnum Manly Seagulls 16** Tries: Delouise Hoeter, Ben Shea, Issac Luke; Goals: Jack Campagnolo 2 **at BMD Kougari Oval**

QRL U21 HASTINGS DEERING COLTS - ROUND 13

Townsville Blackhawks 41 Tries: Jordan Lipp 2, Jesse Yallop 2, Tomas Chester, Aaron Moore, Dylan White; Goals: Dylan White 6; Field Goals: Jake Bourke 1 **def Tweed Seagulls 10** Tries: Brock Priestley, Tyler Han; Goals: Jaylan de Groot 1 **at Pizze Park** --/-- **Souths Logan Magpies 34** Tries: Denzel Samoa, Tyrone Harding, Vincent Sefo, Feao Maka, Cruise Ten, Edward Downing-Brown; Goals: Byron Johnson 5 **def Brisbane Tigers 26** Tries: Jonah Glover, Max Kruger, Ioane Seiuli, Rhys Sparey, Joshua Colls; Goals: Jonah Glover 3 **at Totally Workwear Stadium** --/-- **CQ Capras 32** Tries: Coby Williamson 2, Jeremy McLachlan, Tiko Hooper, Ammaron Gudgeon, Peyton Jenkins; Goals: Peyton Jenkins 4 **def Western Mustangs 22** Tries: Luke Maiden, Xander Dunemann, Lachlan Swan, Matthew Wilson; Goals: Matthew Wilson 3 **at Browne Park** --/-- **Mackay Cutters 44** Tries: Blake Paskins 2, Arthur Miller-Stephen, Jack Hoffmann, Paul Bryan, Ethan Cocco, Jedd Abbott, Hayden Brownsey; Goals: Henri Stocks 6 **def Ipswich Jets 16** Tries: Declan Buckley 2, Tate Rhea; Goals: Bradley Zampech 2 **at BB Print Stadium Mackay** --/-- **Redcliffe Dolphins 76** Tries: Cody Hunter 3, Samuel Elara 2, Kyle Barnwell, Sam Thompson, Joe Clarke, Zarrin Galea, Jesse Tu'inukuafe, Tahj Wood, Chayse Cavanagh, Jyris Glamuzina; Goals: Cody Hunter 12 **def Northern Pride 4** Tries: Ronald Lewis **at Matheson Oval** --/-- **Wynnum Manly Seagulls 42** Tries: Harrison Graham 2, Alec MacDonald 2, Jacob Sturt-Tobin, Germaine Bulsey, Will Parslow; Goals: Braden Whittaker 7 **def Norths Devils 4** Tries: Lodoviko Cokanauto **at BMD Kougari Oval** --/-- **Sunshine Coast Falcons 52** Tries: Nick Ellems 2, Jack Aiken 2, Kane Jackson 2, Sam Reid, Blake Wilson, Dylan Carolan; Goals: Jai Smoothy 8 **def Burleigh Bears 10** Tries: Brent Barnes, Damon Somerville; Goals: Tony Francis 1 **at Sunshine Coast Stadium**

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	Norths	15	14	1	0	463	278	185	28
2	Wynnum Manly	15	10	5	0	457	332	125	20
3	Burleigh	15	10	5	0	389	296	93	20
4	Tweed	15	9	4	2	406	342	64	20
5	Redcliffe	15	10	5	0	376	352	24	20
6	Pride	15	8	5	2	344	329	15	18
7	Townsville	15	8	6	1	404	317	87	17
8	Souths Logan	15	8	6	1	448	388	60	17
9	SC Falcons	15	8	7	0	406	342	64	16
10	PNG Hunters	15	5	10	0	330	429	-99	10
11	Mackay	15	4	11	0	306	484	-178	8
12	Brisbane	15	3	11	1	308	388	-80	7
13	Ipswich	15	2	12	1	307	495	-188	5
14	CQ Capras	15	1	12	2	269	441	-172	4

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts
1	Wynnum Manly	12	10	1	1	514	174	340	21
2	Townsville	12	8	4	0	441	220	221	16
3	Redcliffe	12	8	4	0	436	274	162	16
4	SC Falcons	12	8	4	0	450	290	160	16
5	Brisbane	12	8	4	0	420	306	114	16
6	Souths Logan	12	7	5	0	429	346	83	14
7	Mackay	12	6	4	2	346	304	42	14
8	Tweed	12	7	5	0	340	321	19	14
9	CQ Capras	12	6	6	0	324	446	-122	12
10	Burleigh	12	5	7	0	332	368	-36	10
11	Norths	12	4	7	1	330	354	-24	9
12	Pride	12	4	8	0	276	504	-228	8
13	Mustangs	12	1	11	0	206	614	-408	2
14	Ipswich	12	0	12	0	208	531	-323	0



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Who's celebrating this week: 8 - 14 September 2021

Wednesday 8 September
Spencer Leniu (Panthers) 21
Emry Pere (Cowboys) 23

Thursday 9 September
AJ Brimson (Titans) 23
Clint Gutherson (Eels) 27
Shaun Johnson (Sharks) 31
Jack Williams (Sharks) 25

Friday 10 September
Nick Meaney (Bulldogs) 24
Saturday 11 September
Jarrod Croker (Raiders) 31
Matthew Croker (Knights) 22

Monday 13 September
Cameron Munster (Storm) 27

Tuesday 14 September
Cade Cust (Sea Eagles) 23

2021 NRL DRAW

ROUND 1

Thursday, Mar 11
Friday, Mar 12

Saturday, Mar 13

Sunday, Mar 14

March 11-14

Melbourne v Souths	26-18	AAMI	8:05pm
Newcastle v Canterbury	32-16	McD. Jones	6:00pm
Brisbane v Parramatta	16-24	Suncorp	8:05pm
Warriors v Gold Coast	19-6	C. Coast	3:00pm
Sydney v Manly	46-4	SCG	5:30pm
Penrith v North Qld	24-0	Penrith	7:35pm
Canberra v Wests Tigers	30-12	GIO	4:05pm
St Geo Illa v Cronulla	18-32	Netstrata	6:15pm

ROUND 2

Thursday, Mar 18
Friday, Mar 19

Saturday, Mar 20

Sunday, Mar 21

March 18-21

Parramatta v Melbourne	16-12	Bankwest	8:05pm
Warriors v Newcastle	16-20	C. Coast	6:00pm
Gold Coast v Brisbane	28-16	Cbus	8:05pm
Canterbury v Penrith	0-28	Bankwest	3:00pm
Manly v Souths	12-26	Lottoland	5:30pm
North Qld v St Geo Illa	18-25	QLD CB	7:35pm
Wests Tigers v Sydney	6-40	C'town	4:05pm
Cronulla v Canberra	10-12	Netstrata	6:15pm

ROUND 3

Thursday, Mar 25
Friday, Mar 26

Saturday, Mar 27

Sunday, Mar 28

March 25-28

Penrith v Melbourne	12-10	Bluebet	8:05pm
St Geo Illa v Manly	38-12	WIN	6:00pm
Souths v Sydney	26-16	Stad. Aus.	8:05pm
Canberra v Warriors	31-34	GIO	3:00pm
Brisbane v Canterbury	24-0	Suncorp	5:30pm
Parramatta v Cronulla	28-4	Bankwest	7:35pm
Newcastle v Wests Tigers	20-24	McD. Jones	4:05pm
North Qld v Gold Coast	8-44	QLD CB	6:15pm

ROUND 4

Thursday, Apr 1
Friday, Apr 2

Saturday, Apr 3

Sunday, Apr 4

Monday, Apr 5

April 1-5

Manly v Penrith	46-6	Lottoland	8:05pm
Canterbury v Souths	0-38	Stad. Aus.	4:05pm
Melbourne v Brisbane	40-6	AAMI Park	8:05pm
Cronulla v North Qld	48-10	Netstrata	5:15pm
Gold Coast v Canberra	4-20	Netstrata	7:45pm
Newcastle v St Geo Illa	13-22	McD. Jones	4:05pm
Sydney v Warriors	32-12	SCG	6:15pm
Wests Tigers v Parramatta	22-36	Stad. Aus.	4:00pm

Easter Weekend

ROUND 5

Thursday, Apr 8
Friday, Apr 9

Saturday, Apr 10

Sunday, Apr 11

April 8-11

Souths v Brisbane	35-6	Stad. Aus.	7:50pm
Warriors v Manly	12-13	C. Coast	6:00pm
Penrith v Canberra	30-10	Bluebet	7:55pm
Gold Coast v Newcastle	42-16	Cbus	3:00pm
Canterbury v Melbourne	18-52	Stad. Aus.	5:30pm
Sydney v Cronulla	26-18	SCG	7:35pm
Wests Tigers v North Qld	30-34	Leichhardt	4:05pm
Parramatta v St Geo Illa	12-26	Bankwest	6:15pm

ROUND 6

Thursday, Apr 15
Friday, Apr 16

Saturday, Apr 17

Sunday, Apr 18

April 15-18

Brisbane v Penrith	12-20	Suncorp	7:50pm
Newcastle v Cronulla	26-22	McD. Jones	6:00pm
Melbourne v Sydney	20-4	AAMI Park	7:55pm
Manly v Gold Coast	36-0	Mudgee	3:00pm
Souths v Wests Tigers	18-14*	Stad. Aus.	5:30pm
Canberra v Parramatta	10-35	GIO	7:35pm
St Geo Illa v Warriors	14-20	Netstrata	2:00pm
North Qld v Canterbury	30-18	QLD C.B.	4:05pm

ROUND 7

Thursday, Apr 22
Friday, Apr 23

Saturday, Apr 24

Sunday, Apr 25

April 22-25

Penrith v Newcastle	24-6	Bluebet	7:50pm
Gold Coast v Souths	30-40	Cbus	6:00pm
Parramatta v Brisbane	46-6	TIO Darwin	7:55pm
Cronulla v Canterbury	12-18	Netstrata	5:30pm
North Qld v Canberra	26-24	QLD C.B.	7:35pm
Wests Tigers v Manly	6-40	Bankwest	1:45pm
Sydney v St Geo Illa	34-10	SCG	4:05pm
Melbourne v Warriors	42-20	AAMI Park	6:15pm

ANZAC Round

ROUND 8

Thursday, Apr 29
Friday, Apr 30

Saturday, May 1

Sunday, May 2

April 29-May 2

Canberra v Souths	20-34	GIO	7:50pm
Melbourne v Cronulla	40-14	AAMI Park	6:00pm
Brisbane v Gold Coast	36-28	Suncorp	7:55pm
Penrith v Manly	28-16	Bathurst	3:00pm
Canterbury v Parramatta	10-32	Stad. Aus.	5:30pm
Newcastle v Sydney	4-38	McD. Jones	7:35pm
Warriors v North Qld	24-20	C. Coast	2:00pm
St Geo Illa v Wests Tigers	8-16	WIN	4:05pm

ROUND 9

Thursday, May 6
Friday, May 7

Saturday, May 8

Sunday, May 9

May 6-9

Souths v Melbourne	0-50	Stad. Aus.	7:50pm
Penrith v Cronulla	48-0	Bluebet	6:00pm
Parramatta v Sydney	31-18	Bankwest	7:55pm
Canberra v Newcastle	16-24	Wagga	3:00pm
Wests Tigers v Gold Coast	28-36	C'belltown	5:30pm
North Qld v Brisbane	19-18	QLD C.B.	7:35pm
Manly v Warriors	38-32	Lottoland	2:00pm
St Geo Illa v Canterbury	32-12	Netstrata	4:05pm

ROUND 10

Friday, May 14

Saturday, May 15

Sunday, May 16

May 14-16

Wests Tigers v Newcastle	36-18	Suncorp	6:00pm
Manly v Brisbane	50-6	Suncorp	8:05pm
Canterbury v Canberra	18-20	Suncorp	3:00pm
Cronulla v Souths	22-32	Suncorp	5:30pm
Sydney v North Qld	30-16	Suncorp	7:45pm
Warriors v Parramatta	18-34	Suncorp	1:50pm
Melbourne v St Geo Illa	44-18	Suncorp	4:05pm
Gold Coast v Penrith	12-42	Suncorp	6:25pm

Magic Round Brisbane

ROUND 11

Thursday, May 20
Friday, May 21

Saturday, May 22

Sunday, May 23

May 20-23

North Qld v Newcastle	36-20	QLD C.B.	7:50pm
Warriors v Wests Tigers	30-26	C. Coast	6:00pm
Cronulla v St Geo Illa	13-12	Netstrata	7:55pm
Gold Coast v Canterbury	30-20	Cbus	3:00pm
Sydney v Brisbane	16-34	SCG	5:30pm
Canberra v Melbourne	10-34	GIO	7:35pm
Souths v Penrith	12-56	Apex	2:00pm
Parramatta v Manly	6-28	Bankwest	4:05pm

ROUND 12

Thursday, May 27
Friday, May 28

Saturday, May 29

Sunday, May 30

May 27-30

Brisbane v Melbourne	12-40	Suncorp	7:50pm
North Qld v Warriors	29-28	QLD C.B.	6:00pm
Wests Tigers v St Geo Illa	34-18	Bankwest	7:55pm
Penrith v Canterbury	30-4	Bluebet	3:00pm
Souths v Parramatta	38-20	Stad. Aus.	5:30pm
Sydney v Canberra	44-16	C. Coast	7:35pm
Cronulla v Gold Coast	38-10	C.EX Coffs	2:00pm
Newcastle v Manly	18-10	McD. Jones	4:05pm

Indigenous Round

ROUND 13

Thursday, Jun 3
Friday, Jun 4
Saturday, Jun 5
Sunday, Jun 6
Byes

June 3-6

St Geo Illa v Brisbane	52-24	Netstrata	7:50pm
Wests Tigers v Penrith	26-6	Leichhardt	7:55pm
Melbourne v Gold Coast	20-14	Sun. Coast	7:35pm
Newcastle v Parramatta	4-40	McD. Jones	4:05pm
Canterbury, North Qld, Souths, Canberra, Sydney, Manly, Cronulla, Warriors			

STATE OF ORIGIN 1

Wednesday, Jun 9

June 9

NSW v QLD	QLD Country Bank	8:10pm
-----------	------------------	--------

ROUND 14

Friday, Jun 11

Saturday, Jun 12

Sunday, Jun 13

Monday, Jun 14

June 11-14

Manly v North Qld	50-18	4 Pines	6:00pm
Cronulla v Penrith	19-18	Netstrata	7:55pm
Gold Coast v Sydney	34-35	Cbus Super	3:00pm
Souths v Newcastle	24-10	Stad. Aus.	5:30pm
Canberra v Brisbane	38-16	GIO	7:35pm
Warriors v Melbourne	16-42	C. Coast	2:00pm
Parramatta v Wests Tigers	40-12	Bankwest	4:05pm
Canterbury v St Geo Illa	28-6	Stad. Aus.	4:00pm

2021 NRL DRAW

ROUND 15

Thursday, Jun 17
Friday, Jun 18

Saturday, Jun 19

Sunday, Jun 20

WOMEN'S ORIGIN

Friday, Jun 25

ORIGIN 2

Sunday, Jun 27

ROUND 16

Thursday, Jul 1
Friday, Jul 2

Saturday, Jul 3

Sunday, Jul 4

ROUND 17

Thursday, Jul 8
Friday, Jul 9
Saturday, Jul 10
Sunday, Jul 11
Byes

ORIGIN 3

Wednesday, Jul 14

ROUND 18

Friday, Jul 16
Saturday, Jul 17

Sunday, Jul 18

ROUND 19

Thursday, Jul 22
Friday, Jul 23
Saturday, Jul 24

Sunday, Jul 25

ROUND 20

Thursday, Jul 29
Friday, Jul 30
Sunday, Aug 1

Monday, Aug 2

June 17-20

Brisbane v Souths
North Qld v Cronulla
Penrith v Sydney
Newcastle v Warriors
St Geo Illa v Canberra
Melbourne v Wests Tigers
Parramatta v Canterbury
Gold Coast v Manly

Beanies for Brain Cancer Round

0-46 Suncorp 7:50pm
24-26 QLD C.B. 6:00pm
38-12 Bluebet 7:55pm
10-6 McD. Jones 3:00pm
22-20 WIN 5:30pm
66-16 Sun. Coast 7:35pm
36-10 Bankwest 2:00pm
24-56 Cbus 4:05pm

June 25

QLD v NSW

8-6 Sun. Coast 7:40pm

June 27

QLD v NSW

0-26 Suncorp 7:50pm

July 1-4

Sydney v Melbourne
Warriors v St Geo Illa
Penrith v Parramatta
Canterbury v Manly
Canberra v Gold Coast
Newcastle v North Qld
Brisbane v Cronulla
Wests Tigers v Souths

0-46 McD. Jones 7:50pm
18-19* C. Coast 6:00pm
13-12 Bluebet 7:55pm
0-66 Bankwest 3:00pm
6-44 GIO 5:30pm
38-0 McD. Jones 7:35pm
26-18 Suncorp 2:00pm
22-38 Leichhardt 4:05pm

July 8-11

Manly v Canberra
Souths v North Qld
Canterbury v Sydney
Cronulla v Warriors
Brisbane, St Geo Illa, Parramatta, Newcastle,
Penrith, Melbourne, Wests Wests Tigers, Gold Coast

16-30 4 Pines 7:50pm
46-18 McD. Jones 7:55pm
16-22 Bankwest 7:35pm
20-12 Netstrata 4:05pm

July 14

NSW v QLD

18-20 Cbus Super 8:10pm

July 16-18

Gold Coast v Parramatta
Manly v St Geo Illa
North Qld v Sydney
Canberra v Cronulla
Melbourne v Newcastle
Warriors v Penrith
Brisbane v Wests Tigers
Souths v Canterbury

8-26 Cbus 6:00pm
32-18 Cbus 8:05pm
18-34 QLD C.B. 3:00pm
34-18 Cbus 5:30pm
48-4 Cbus 7:35pm
16-30 Suncorp 1:50pm
24-42 Suncorp 4:05pm
32-24 Cbus 6:15pm

July 22-25

Parramatta v Canberra
Sydney v Newcastle
North Qld v Melbourne
Souths v Warriors
Manly v Wests Tigers
Penrith v Brisbane
St Geo Illa v Gold Coast
Canterbury v Cronulla

10-12 Cbus 7:50pm
28-8 Sun Coast 6:00pm
16-20 QLD C.B. 7:55pm
60-22 Sun. Coast 3:00pm
44-24 Suncorp 5:30pm
18-12 Suncorp 7:35pm
10-32 Cbus 1:50pm
24-44 Cbus 4:05pm

July 29-August 1

Sydney v Parramatta
Wests Tigers v Warriors
Brisbane v North Qld
Newcastle v Canberra
Melbourne v Penrith
St Geo Illa v Souths
Canterbury v Gold Coast
Cronulla v Manly

28-0 Mackay 7:50pm
16-18 Suncorp 6:00pm
37-18 Suncorp 8:05pm
34-24 Suncorp 1:50pm
37-10 Suncorp 4:05pm
14-50 Suncorp 6:25pm
6-34 Suncorp 6:00pm
22-40 Suncorp 8:05pm

ROUND 21

Thursday, Aug 5
Friday, Aug 6

Saturday, Aug 7

Sunday, Aug 8

ROUND 22

Thursday, Aug 12
Friday, Aug 13

Saturday, Aug 14

Sunday, Aug 15

ROUND 23

Thursday, Aug 19
Friday, Aug 20

Saturday, Aug 21

Sunday, Aug 22

ROUND 24

Thursday, Aug 26
Friday, Aug 27

Saturday, Aug 28

Sunday, Aug 29

ROUND 25

Thursday, Sep 2
Friday, Sep 3

Saturday, Sep 4

Sunday, Sep 5

August 5-8

Newcastle v Brisbane
Canberra v St Geo Illa
Parramatta v Souths
Warriors v Cronulla
Sydney v Penrith
Manly v Melbourne
Canterbury v Wests Tigers
Gold Coast v North Qld

28-20 Suncorp 7:50pm
20-12 Cbus Super 6:00pm
12-40 Cbus Super 8:05pm
18-16 Cbus Super 3:00pm
14-20 Suncorp 5:30pm
18-28 Suncorp 7:35pm
16-28 Cbus Super 1:50pm
36-14 Cbus Super 4:05pm

August 12-15

Melbourne v Canberra
St Geo Illa v Penrith
Brisbane v Sydney
Souths v Gold Coast
North Qld v Wests Tigers
Manly v Parramatta
Warriors v Canterbury
Cronulla v Newcastle

Women in League Round

26-16 Sun. Coast 7:50pm
16-34 Suncorp 6:00pm
20-21 Suncorp 7:55pm
36-6 Cbus 3:00pm
16-24 QLD C.B. 5:30pm
56-10 Sun. Coast 7:35pm
24-10 Redcliffe 2:00pm
14-16 Redcliffe 4:05pm

August 19-22

Gold Coast v Melbourne
Canberra v Manly
Penrith v Souths
Wests Tigers v Cronulla
Canterbury v Newcastle
Parramatta v North Qld
St Geo Illa v Sydney
Brisbane v Warriors

20-34 Cbus 7:50pm
18-19 Suncorp 6:00pm
25-12 Suncorp 8:05pm
20-50 R'hampton 3:00pm
16-22 Cbus 5:30pm
32-16 Cbus 7:35pm
22-40 Toowoomba 2:00pm
24-22 Suncorp 4:05pm

August 26-29

Newcastle v Gold Coast
Warriors v Canberra
Sydney v Souths
St Geo Illa v North Qld
Cronulla v Brisbane
Melbourne v Parramatta
Manly v Canterbury
Penrith v Wests Tigers

15-14 Sun. Coast 7:50pm
16-28 Mackay 6:00pm
12-54 Suncorp 7:55pm
26-38 R'hampton 3:00pm
24-16 Suncorp 5:30pm
10-22 Suncorp 7:35pm
36-18 Redcliffe 1:50pm
30-16 Redcliffe 4:05pm

September 2-5

Canberra v Sydney
Cronulla v Melbourne
Parramatta v Penrith
Brisbane v Newcastle
North Qld v Manly
Souths v St Geo Illa
Gold Coast v Warriors
Wests Tigers v Canterbury

16-40 Mackay 7:50pm
16-28 Cbus 6:00pm
6-40 Cbus 8:05pm
35-22 Suncorp 3:00pm
18-46 QLD C.B. 5:30pm
20-16 Sun. Coast 7:35pm
44-0 Cbus 2:00pm
0-38 Redcliffe 4:05pm

2021 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP FINALS SERIES

WEEK 1

Friday, Sep 10 QF 1
Saturday, Sep 11 EF 1
QF 2
Sunday, Sep 12 EF 2

SEPTEMBER 10-12

Melbourne (1) v Manly (4)
Sydney (5) v Gold Coast (8)
Penrith (2) v Souths (3)
Parramatta (6) v Newcastle (7)

Qualifying & Elimination Finals

Sunshine Coast 7:50pm
QLD Country Bank 5:40pm
QLD Country Bank 7:50pm
Browne Park 4:05pm

WEEK 2

Day/Time TBC
Day/Time TBC

SEPTEMBER 17-18

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

Semi Finals

BB Print Stadium, Mackay
BB Print Stadium, Mackay

WEEK 3

Day/Time TBC
Day/Time TBC

SEPTEMBER 24-25

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

Preliminary Finals

Suncorp Stadium
Suncorp Stadium

WEEK 4

Sun, Time TBC

OCTOBER 3

GF W PF 1 v W PF 2

Grand Final

Suncorp Stadium

All matches except Grand Final & Origin broadcast live on Fox League & Kayo Sports. Thu 7:50pm, Fri 7:55pm and Sun 4:05pm matches, all Finals, Grand Final and Origin are broadcast live on the Nine Network. NOTE: NRL draw is subject to change - visit LeagueUnlimited.com for updated fixtures. All times listed are NSW/VIC/ACT local.

Matches marked with an *asterisk were decided in Golden Point Extra Time



JOIN THE CONVERSATION
@LEAGUEUNLIMITED

LU.

THE FRONT ROW FORUMS

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST RUGBY
LEAGUE DISCUSSION BOARDS

forums.leagueunlimited.com

THERE IS NO OFF-SEASON