

The FRONTROW



L.U. LEAGUE UNLIMITED

VOLUME 1 · ISSUE 19

Team of the year

As picked by our dedicated writers



Looking back to look forward

As NRLW kicks off, we look back to the first women's game

Are you experienced?

With the arrival of the finals series, which club will benefit most from wiser heads?

INSIDE: NRL Finals, NRLW and Super League & Challenge Cup program with squad lists, previews & head to head stats **PLUS** more features, NRL R20 wrap, ladder & stats, NSWRL Grand Final results, word jumbles & more!

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From the editor

Tim Costello

We made it! It's finals time in the NRL and there are plenty of intriguing storylines tailing into the business end of the season. Can the Roosters overcome a record loss to record a three-peat? Will Penrith set a new winning streak record to claim their third premiership? What about the evergreen Melbourne Storm - can they grab yet another title... and in all likelihood top Cameron Smith's illustrious career? That and many more questions remain to be answered. Stay tuned.

This week we have plenty to absorb in the pages that follow. From analysis of the most Finals experience among the top eight sides, to our writers' team of the year, to a look back at the first women's game in Australia some 99 years ago... not to mention our UK section headlined by the historic chance Salford have ahead of Saturday's Challenge Cup semi final double header.

A full match programme is included as always, covering the first week of NRL Finals, Round 1 of NRLW, Thursday's Round 14 Super League match and both Challenge Cup Semi Finals - so flip through and as always, happy reading!

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Our team of the year

LU's 3-2-1 votes deliver a surprising lineup

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 - and rookie - of season 2020.

Fullback of the year – Kalyn Ponga 21 votes

Surprisingly finishes in front of James Tedesco as pick of the custodians – albeit by just the one vote. The Newcastle superstar now in his third year in the Hunter has been instrumental in the Knights qualifying for their first finals appearance in seven years. An electric runner of the football with exceptional footwork and an underrated strength that has seen him bust an average 6 tackles per match, Ponga has shown a willingness to get more involved this season evidenced by his 187 running metres per game. With 10 tries and 13 try-assists in season 2020, the adopted Novocastrian has proven a constant threat with ball in hand. Fans in the Hunter will be desperately hoping he produces another five-star performance in their semi-final against the Rabbitohs on Sunday.

Next best – James Tedesco – 20 votes

Winger of the year – Brett Morris – 14 votes

Like a fine wine, Brett Morris just keeps getting better with age. Despite not being at the very top of the try-scorers tally, the former representative winger has still managed to cross the stripe for 12 tries in 15 games played – a pretty handy strike rate for a 34 year old. Also breaking the line on 18 occasions, Morris has formed a lethal partnership on the Roosters right edge with Joey Manu again this season as the tri-colours hunt their third straight title. Averaging 145 running metres per game, he continues to put his body on the line coming out of trouble. His positional awareness and commitment to never give up on a play never ceases to amaze the fans.

Next best – Sione Katoa – 10 votes

Centre of the year – Stephen Crichton – 9 votes

Sure to be in the conversation for rookie of the year honours after playing four games at the back end of last year, the Panthers strike weapon has enjoyed a breakout season in 2020. With 14 line-breaks and 15 tries in 19 games played, Crichton has been one of many X factors in the Panthers charge to the minor-premiership. A natural athlete in the purest sense, Crichton can beat you with his speed and strength, whilst his ability to be on the spot when his Panthers playmakers kick has resulted in plenty of four-pointers alone. At just 20 years of age, has the world at his feet and looms as one of the real game-breakers in this year's finals.

Next best – Peta Hiku & Jarrod Croker – 7 votes

Five-Eighth of the year – Shaun Johnson – 22 votes

Playing the majority of the season in the number six jersey, Johnson polled heavily thanks mainly to his 23 try-assists for the year – the most of any player despite playing just the 16 games. The focal point of the Sharks attack, Johnson was able to lay on tries off the boot whilst having the ability to play short to his back-rower or throw a harbour bridge pass to his winger. Playing with more control in his game these days, the Kiwi international was a standout in producing repeat seats with his deftly timed grubbers to the in-goal. His Achilles injury is a real hammer blow to the Sharks finals hopes.

Next best – Jack Wighton – 20 votes

Halfback & player of the year – Nathan Cleary – 30 votes

Despite missing rounds three and four due to his infamous Tik Tok video, the Penrith and New South Wales halfback finished three votes clear of his nearest rival in one of the more dominant individual seasons in recent memory. Guiding the Panthers around the park to lead them to the minor-premiership, Cleary has thrived in the chief playmaking role after the departure of James Maloney at the end of last year. A constant threat to the defensive line with 15 try-assists and the master of building pressure – forcing a league high 26 forced drop-outs. With the best kicking game in the competition – both in general play and off the tee, Cleary's right boot is sure to play a vital role throughout the finals.

Next best – Adam Reynolds – 22 votes

Front-rower of the year – David Klemmer – 11 votes

The New South Wales and Australian prop has led the Knights pack from the front again this season toiling away for an average 33 tackles and 175 metres per game – 73 of them post contact. The big improvement to Klemmer's game in 2020 has been his ability to offload with two and three defenders hanging off him, creating immediate space out wide for his team mates to work with. As tough as they come and never afraid to take a tough carry, the Knights enforcer has been at the forefront of all Newcastle's strong performances this season.

Next best – Josh Papalii – 9 votes

Hooker of the year – Cameron Smith – 27 votes

Yet another dominant year from the 37 year old veteran finishing second in the player of the year race. With 15 try-assists and 14 line-break assists in 16 games played, the Storm skipper continues to threaten the defensive line while continuing his unrivalled ability to control the temp of a match.

Next best – Harry Grant – 7 votes

Second-rowers of the year –

Wade Graham & Liam Martin – 7 votes

Finishing tied on 7 votes, Graham and Martin provide contrasting styles as edge forwards. Graham is well renowned for his all-round game, displaying both toughness and a skillset to threaten a defensive line with both his passing and kicking games. Also capable of running a good line to hit a hole himself and continues to develop into a great leader for the Sharks. Earning a call-up early in the year after recruit Kurt Capewell went down with injury, Martin has thrived playing on the right edge outside of Cleary and has nailed down the starting position despite the return of Capewell in recent weeks. Plays the game with a hard-nosed attitude and competes on every play. His combination with Cleary has grown with every week making his just another attacking threat for the Panthers to utilize.

Lock of the year – Jason Taumalolo – 11 votes

Despite the Cowboys finishing towards the bottom of the premiership ladder, Taumalolo has again been the dominant middle forward in the competition running for an average 206 metres per game. With the best footwork of any big man to play the game and hulk like upper body strength, the Tongan forward continues to make yards at will. At 27 years of age, Taumalolo is in the prime of his career. It will be interesting to see if incoming Coach Todd Payten alters the game plan in any way to get him more involved in attacking situations.

Next best – Isaiah Yeo – 9 votes

Rookie of the year – Jamal Fogarty – 13 votes

After playing two top grade games in season 2017, it appeared Fogarty was set for a career in the Intrust Super Cup but after guiding the Burleigh Bears to grand final glory last season his name was back on the radar and Titans Coach Justin Holbrook wasted little time in handing him another opportunity early this year. With 10 try-assists to his name, the Gold Coast local has proven a strong attacking threat in an improving Titans outfit, but it's his natural footballing instincts and the ability to guide his team around the park that has really impressed and taken loads of pressure off Ash Taylor. At 26 years of age, Fogarty now looks set to be a key figure in the Titans plans and is held in such high regard at the club, he's considered a strong chance of being handed fulltime captaincy honours next year.

Next best – Stephen Crichton – 9 votes

Rick Edgerton
Contributor



Been there before

And then there were eight...

As half the competition rue "what could have been" in 2020, the top eight teams are gearing up for a finals series set to cap off a year unlike any other.

Six of the eight teams vying to be crowned NRL premiers are back from last season, while Penrith and Newcastle have replaced Manly and Brisbane after much-improved campaigns.

With the intensity of finals football set to quickly separate the pretenders from the contenders, players with past experience in the big end-of-season matches will play an invaluable role in determining which club lifts the Provan-Summons trophy on Sunday 25 October.

Photo: NRL Images, supplied Penrith Panthers



PENRITH PANTHERS

Setting a club record of 15 straight wins throughout the home-and-away season to claim their third minor premiership, the Panthers will head into October embodying the rugby league cliché of "youth and experience". Naming five finals rookies to complement the hard yards put in by premiership winners James Tamou, Apisai Koroisau and Zane Tetevano, Penrith have opened their past four finals campaigns with a win - but haven't put back-to-back wins together at the business end of the season since 2003.

Most Experienced Player: James Tamou (left) - 17 finals appearances

Finals Fact: The Panthers fielded ten finals rookies when they last won the premiership 17 years ago.

MELBOURNE STORM

Having made the finals every year - except 2010 - during Craig Bellamy's tenure, the Storm boast more big game experience than some clubs combined. Led by Cameron Smith - the man with more finals experience than any other player in history - Melbourne have the luxury of eight premiership winners at their disposal. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui headlines a group of four players yet to feature beyond the home-and-away season.

Most Experienced Player: Cameron Smith (right) - 39 finals appearances

Finals Fact: Cameron Smith has scored a premiership record of 212 points in finals football (3 tries and 100 goals).



Photo: NRL Images, supplied Melbourne Storm

PARRAMATTA EELS

Beginning the year as competition favourites following an impressive recruitment drive, the Eels will be out to improve upon a disheartening exit in the semi-finals last September. Naming 13 players from the team that featured in finals football last year, ex-Roosters Michael Jennings, Blake Ferguson and Ryan Matterson are the only men in blue and gold to go all the way and taste the spoils of premiership victory.

Most Experienced Player: Michael Jennings - 15 finals appearances

Finals Fact: The Eels hold the record for the biggest winning margin in finals football (58-0 v Brisbane, 2019).

SYDNEY ROOSTERS

Looking to become the first club since Parramatta in the early 1980s to string together a three-peat, big match experience won't be a concern for a Roosters squad featuring 14 premiership winners. Winning 12 out of 17 finals matches during Trent Robinson's tenure, the biggest unknown for the reigning premiers will be whether Kyle Flanagan can steer the team to victory in his maiden finals campaign.

Most Experienced Player: Mitchell Aubusson - 22 finals appearances

Finals Fact: The Sydney Roosters have won their past six finals matches (2018-2019) - the record is ten consecutive finals wins held by the St George Dragons (1958-1962).

CANBERRA RAIDERS

Spending the past year waiting for a chance to have another shot at the title, the Raiders won't be overawed by the occasion of finals football. Fielding 11 members of the team that fell short to the Roosters last year, two-time Super League champion George Williams and replacement rake Tom Starling will offer a new dimension in their first NRL finals series for the Green Machine.

Most Experienced Player: Jarrod Croker - 9 finals appearances

Finals Fact: The Raiders are the only club to have two players win the Clive Churchill Medal from a losing team - Bradley Clyde (1991) and Jack Wightton (2019).

Robert Crosby

Contributor



SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

Flying under the radar for much of 2020 before surging into form with seven wins over the final nine rounds, the Rabbitohs have a healthy mix of seasoned campaigners and rookies eager to step up to the next level. Adam Reynolds, Alex Johnston and Tom Burgess are the three remaining survivors from the team that won the 2014 title. The absence of two-time premiership winner Latrell Mitchell may prove costly if the team needs a game-breaking play.

Most Experienced Player: Adam Reynolds - 15 finals appearances

Finals Fact: Adam Reynolds has an 84 per cent goal-kicking percentage in finals football (54/64).



Photo: Knights media

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

Returning to the play-offs after a seven-year absence, Sunday afternoon will be the first taste of finals football for nine players and coach Adam O'Brien. Set to rely upon experienced trio Mitchell Pearce, Aidan Guerra and David Klemmer to lead the way, former Australian international Sione Mata'utia will end the club record for most appearances without playing finals football.

Most Experienced Player: Mitchell Pearce (left) - 15 finals appearances

Finals Fact: Hymel Hunt will take the field for the first time in finals football after sitting on the bench in all three finals for South Sydney in 2018.

CRONULLA SHARKS

Failing to beat a top eight team during the regular season, the Sharks will be out to prove they aren't simply making up the numbers. Naming seven finals rookies, including many who lined up for the Newtown Jets last season, the return of halfback Chad Townsend from suspension will give coach John Morris an experienced option as he looks to settle on a combination capable of challenging the top teams.

Most Experienced Player: Andrew Fifita - 16 finals appearances

Finals Fact: Chad Townsend (right) is the only Cronulla player to kick a field-goal in finals football.



Photo: Sharks media

THE TOP 25

Check out which current players from your club have the most experience in NRL Finals.

As you'd expect - this list is dominated by the two clubs who've won the most titles in the last decade - the Storm and Roosters.

Rank	Player	Club	Finals Appearances
1	Cameron Smith	Melbourne Storm	39
2	Jesse Bromwich	Melbourne Storm	22
	Dale Finucane	Melbourne Storm	22
	Mitchell Aubusson	Sydney Roosters	22
5	Jake Friend	Sydney Roosters	18
6	James Tamou	Penrith Panthers	17
	Daniel Tupou	Sydney Roosters	17
	Jared Waerea-Hargreaves	Sydney Roosters	17
9	Kenny Bromwich	Melbourne Storm	16
	Brett Morris	Sydney Roosters	16
	Andrew Fifita	Cronulla Sharks	16
12	Michael Jennings	Parramatta Eels	15
	Boyd Cordner	Sydney Roosters	15
	Isaac Liu	Sydney Roosters	15
	Josh Morris	Sydney Roosters	15
	Mitchell Pearce	Newcastle Knights	15
	Adam Reynolds	South Sydney Rabbitohs	15
18	Cameron Munster	Melbourne Storm	14
19	Sonny Bill Williams	Sydney Roosters	13
20	Blake Ferguson	Parramatta Eels	12
	Luke Keary	Sydney Roosters	12
	Wade Graham	Cronulla Sharks	12
23	Nelson Asofa-Solomona	Melbourne Storm	11
	Suliasi Vunivalu	Melbourne Storm	11
	Sio Sua Taukieaho	Sydney Roosters	11

The roaring '20s

Women's rugby league in Australia has been around for nearly a century in some form - we take you back to where it all began some 99 years ago

The game of rugby league in Australia had just entered its teenage years when a revolutionary concept took not just the game, but society and the media by storm.

A whirlwind five-month period produced masses of opinion from all over Australia which had an impact even outside rugby league circles.

In late-May, 1921, two young ladies from North Sydney, Molly Cane and Nellie Doherty, wrote a letter to the New South Wales Rugby League (NSWRL) requesting their assistance to create a women's rugby league competition. They had been passionate and supportive of the game all their lives and were enthusiastic about playing. Their letter outlined the success of women's soccer in England and France and how this would translate to similar success in Sydney.

On May 23, just a few days after receiving the letter, the NSWRL committee determined that the timing was unsuitable for them to assist the ladies. However, on May 26 the committee had a complete change of heart and agreed to provide the ladies with all the assistance they required to form clubs and a competition.

The following day, Cane and Doherty held a meeting at the NSWRL headquarters in Philip Street, Sydney, where they elaborated further on their plans, mostly around the abandonment of the residential rule.

The ladies also had figured out suitable match attire, which was to consist of a bathing cap to contain their hair, standard football jumpers and knickers similar to those worn by the French and English female soccer players. NSWRL Secretary Horrie Miller set aside the next Friday evening to have a meeting with the ladies to further discuss and assist them with their plans. All women interested in playing were urged to attend.

On June 3, 1921 a crowd had gathered at Philip Street to hear the NSWRL officially agree to form a Women's Rugby League competition in Sydney that would comprise of at least five teams, based on the 50 women who had attended the meeting. This news brought about much cheering and excitement amongst the crowd in attendance.



The uniform proposed by the ladies the previous week was accepted, but with the inclusion of shorts as well.

A tally of the women in

attendance at the meeting was made so as to determine which districts were being represented. Balmain had two players, Easts 23, Glebe four, Newtown eight, Norths nine, Souths 11, Wests five, St. George seven and University one. After this was completed, the clubs formed were Glebe-Balmain, Newtown-South Sydney, St George-Western Suburbs-University, North Sydney and Eastern Suburbs.

The committee was then elected with Miss Molly Cane as the president, Mrs Cann Vice President, Miss Eulalie Stagpoole secretary and Miss Nellie Doherty as treasurer.

Cane, Doherty and Miller addressed the excited crowd afterwards, with Miller's comments causing great cheer and applause.

Miller said, "I have interested myself in the proposition, though at first I was not too keen. But everything has a beginning. Why should not women have football?"

Nellie Doherty added that a game was already being scheduled to be played soon, with Miller agreeing to provide a good referee, as well as considering he may have to make the Showground available, in expectation of a healthy crowd.

Miller then jokingly added, "It has been suggested that the ambulance man will have to include powder and paint in his box of tricks."

Molly Cane retorted, "It won't be wanted. We are going to play football as the men play it," which was met by much loud applause and cheers from the crowd.

On June 10, a second meeting was held which saw at least 100 women in attendance. The women provided updates on the work done by the committee to date, as well as working with Miller to organise a training routine, with the first session to take place the following Friday evening at 7.30pm at the Sports Ground.

Miller addressed some of the public outcry that rugby league was too rough for women: "You don't need to take too much notice of the opposition to the scheme, or the gloomy predictions about the ill-effects inseparable from such a strenuous game. A game is what its participants make it. If men want to make rugby rough they can turn it into a slaughter-yard. I am not going to say rugby league is the best game in the world. This is an age of changes and we must advance with the times."

He then went on to say, "I can't see how one girl's life can be ruined if she bumps into another girl. I think the girls are as hard as the men!"



THE METROPOLITAN TEAM.

Andrew Ferguson

Contributor



The women's committee had entrusted Sir Denison Miller with a sum of money for safe

The great Dally Messenger defied the NSWRL by putting on a kicking exhibition to promote his new football during the halftime break.

The two sides then took their places on the field for their historic first encounter. The teams were:

Metropolitans 'Blues': M.Neilson; M.Maloney, N.Doherty (c), D.Gray, H.Allenby; E.Gillet, A.Mathenius; S.Williams, S.Mack, E.Stagpoole, G.McCann, L.Gillet, J.Burton.

Sydney 'Reds': C.Beckett; L.Lewan, D.Ling, M.Hunt, K.Skehan; M.McGarry, G.Hoskins (c); M.Chubb, B.Beavan, L.Farman, D.Johns, A.Alderson, M.Phelps.

Referee: Ted Kerr

keeping that would be used to help get the competition started. They also produced samples of the attire they would be wearing on the field, which were inspected and approved. It was also shown that they had paid all expected fees in full which indicated that they weren't just serious, but meticulously organised.

With the new concept moving along at great speed, the NSW Soccer association decided to send out invitations to women who wished to form their own clubs and women's competition, as they believed the game was better suited to women than the more rigorous rugby league.

On June 17, the ladies have their first training run. The NSWRL had organised that no men be allowed to come and watch them train, however other women could come and watch for a small fee. Miller, a referee and two police officers guarding the premises were the only men present while over 100 women practiced ball and kicking skills. Every Friday afternoon this same routine took place for near three months.

The following week saw the shortened NSWRL season come to an end, with North Sydney claiming their first-ever title. The City Cup competition then kicked off, but halfway through saw a large squad of the code's best players set sail for another lengthy tour of Great Britain. This had a mildly negative impact on crowds. The City Cup final was held on September 10, with South Sydney beating old rivals Eastern Suburbs 21-10 in front of 15,000 fans.

In the few days after this game, Miller made it very clear to all clubs, players and officials, that the NSWRL was not affiliated with the women's game, and if anyone involved in the NSWRL or its clubs was participating or assisting the ladies, that they would be disqualified.

On September 17, the ladies match took place. There were no other matches being played on the day. There was a sprint being contested by ladies playing in the game, which was won by Maggie Maloney.

A whopping crowd of at least 20,000 people flocked to the Agricultural Ground to witness this historic game.

Miss Lottie Collins kicked off for Metropolitan. Maggie Maloney showed her blistering speed from the outset, almost scoring early on in the game. Miss Ling scored the first try and points for the game, using her sharp pace to break the line and score.

A clever piece of footwork by Miss Allenby saw her dive over to level the scores at 3-all before an exciting try by Maloney, which was fully appreciated by the crowd, was the only other scoring to take place in the half, which came to a close with the Blues up 6-3.

Metropolitan started the second half in fine form, with Miss Burton scoring a try shortly after the teams had returned to the field. Maloney then scored her second try thanks to yet another thrilling run.

When Miss E Gillet scored shortly after to give the Blues a 15-3 lead, the game threatened to become a blowout, but Miss Skehan got the Reds on the board in the second half to reduce the margin to nine points. Her effort was followed up by Miss Hunt, whose skilful effort to score and then convert closed the scores to 15-11.

Maloney then put the game beyond doubt with two more tries in very short time to give the Metropolitan team a 21-11 victory.



Red Devils' private hell

Ian Watson laments the possibility of a spotlight but no audience



Steve Mascord
Contributor

LAST time Salford won the Challenge Cup, it was presented to them by Don Bradman.

The legendary cricketer died in 2001 but at the time he handed the celebrated trophy to Salford captain Gus Risman, he was at his peak. It was 1938 and the Reds' coach at Wembley was the man after whom the Challenge Cup final man of the match would be named seven years later, Lance Todd.

Since that 7-4 win over Barrow (centre Albert Gear scoring the only try of the match), Salford have been back to the final six times, the most recently in 1969, without a victory. Last year, Ian Watson's side made it to another citadel, Old Trafford, where 64,102 fans saw them lose to St Helens.

Now they're one game away from a return to Wembley after 51 year absence. One problem though: if they beat Warrington on Saturday to go through to play the winner of Leeds-Wigan at Wembley Stadium on October 17 - in front of no-one.

"The 2020 Coral Challenge Cup Final will be played behind closed doors for the first time in the competition's long history," the Rugby Football League announced on Monday, in keeping with UK government guidelines which aborted the trialling of sports events in front of crowds at the end of September.

What if Salford won the Challenge Cup for the first time since 1938 and no-one was there to see it?

"I think supporters should have been rewarded for what they're doing," says Salford coach Ian Watson.

"There're a lot of supporters who've stuck by a lot of clubs. So if Salford or Warrington or Wigan or Leeds get to the Challenge Cup final, I think the season ticket holders and the sponsors of the clubs should have been rewarded to be allowed into Wembley.

"They could have socially distanced in that stadium. It's more than big enough. They would have got a little bit of a reward for sticking by the clubs.

"They're the ones who are keeping the game going, as well as the TV money, and I think that would have rewarded the supporters but it also would have rewarded the players by having people involved and people at the stadium.

"It's probably one of the players' proudest moments of their lives to walk out at Wembley for a Challenge Cup.

"The players, they'll be rewarded for taking all these payouts and playing all these games by getting to Wembley and being able to still walk out at Wembley. I think that's a massive plus for everyone involved.

"I just wish that the supporters of the clubs and the sponsors of the clubs would have been able to be rewarded as well."

In confirming the Challenge Cup final would be played behind closed doors, the RFL also revealed next year's final would be held on July 17.

"In what has been such a difficult year in so many ways, the confirmation that the 2020 Coral Challenge Cup Final will be played behind closed doors is a huge disappointment, after we had done everything in our power and received such committed support from everyone involved at Wembley in our efforts to allow some fans into the stadium," said RFL chief commercial officer Mark Foster

"We hope the announcement of a firm date for the Challenge Cup Final next summer will provide some compensation for rugby league supporters, with the hope of a return to something like normality, and brighter times ahead."

Knights to remember

Newcastle welcome finals underdog status

It has taken seven years, but the Newcastle Knights are finally back in the semi-finals.



Paul Jobber
Contributor

The Novocastrian faithful won't have fond memories of their team's last finals appearance when they were outgunned by a Sydney Roosters team hurtling towards the 2013 premiership.

Three members from that 2013 fixture at the Sydney Football Stadium will renew acquaintances when the Knights travel to ANZ Stadium on Sunday hoping to extend their season by at least another week.

On that fateful evening almost a decade ago, Mitchell Pearce and Aidan Guerra were among the tricolours' best while Wayne Bennett could do little more than watch on as the season came to an abrupt end.

Knights fans will hope Pearce and Guerra will again be on the right side of the semi-final scoreboard when they clash with Bennett's Rabbitohs.

Pearce is closing in on 300 first grade games, while Guerra will end his career whenever the Knights

suffer their next defeat.

Guerra told the Newcastle Herald on Monday that the competition started again when the finals commenced.

He's confident the Knights have it in them to create a boilover on Sunday afternoon.

"Just to make the finals isn't enough for us. Our aspirations go further than one week into the finals," he said.

"So hopefully we perform like that, like a side that knows we've got everything to lose this weekend."

The Knights head into the match as rank outsiders, but the red-and-blue army are fully aware that the club does their best work as underdogs.

The 1997 and 2001 grand finals spring immediately to mind along with the first two weeks of their last finals campaign.

They knocked off Canterbury and Melbourne in successive weeks seven years ago when no one gave them a chance after they finished in seventh spot - like they have in 2020.

Their best is good enough to match it with the heavyweights, but consistent performances have proven to be a major stumbling block throughout 2020.

There are no more tomorrows.

"It would be great to go all the way and pick up the trophy with this group, but first we've got to focus on putting in a tough performance this weekend, one that we can be proud of," Guerra said.



Photo: Dean Parr, supplied Newcastle Knights

Word Jumbles

These players are all recent Grand Final tryscorers. How many of the names can you unscramble?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| COOTE YEARS | 2015 | SET TRAMPER | 2012 |
| MAVIS TEETA | 2013 | CREEM JIBSHOWS | 2016 |
| MAL SILVERRS | 2019 | JENN HOLTASOX | 2014 |
| VUVU ANIMATE | 2011 | EJECT ASSDOME | 2019 |
| ROGERS EGBBUSE | 2014 | HATATA BRAINS | 2010 |
| ELITUA POUND | 2018 | NUDE LINAFACE | 2017 |

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS: Corey Thompson, Nathan Peats, Aaron Woods, Issac Luke, James Roberts, Konrad Hurrell, Robbie Farah, Blake Green, Brendan Elliot, Nate Myles, Elijah Taylor, Trent Hodkinson

Last week's crossword answers

P	E	N	R	I	T	H	P	A	N	T	H	E	R	S						
A	A					A	W	E	I					U						
P	E	T	E	R	V	L	A	N	D	Y	S		G	N						
E	H					E				I	S	A	A	C						
N	O	A	N	A	D	R	U	K	U					O						
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Happy birthday!

This round's birthday boys and girls

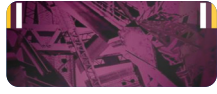
- Wednesday 30 September
- Thursday 1 October
- Friday 2 October
- Saturday 3 October
- Sunday 4 October
- Monday 5 October

- John Bateman (Raiders) - 27
- Mitch Aubusson (Roosters) - 33
- Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles) - 24
- Jaxson Paulo (Rabbitohs) - 21
- Charlie Staines (Panthers) - 20
- Nathan Peats (Titans) - 30

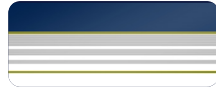
- David Gower (Eels) - 35
- Haumole Olakau'atu (Sea Eagles) - 22
- Corey Waddell (Sea Eagles) - 24
- Maika Sivo (Eels) - 27

Feldt hat-trick condemns Broncos to wooden spoon

Robert Crosby



16-32



For the first time in 33 seasons the Brisbane Broncos have finished with the wooden spoon after going down to the North Queensland Cowboys 32-16 at Suncorp Stadium on Thursday evening.

Played before a crowd of 17,174 - the largest since the opening round - the Broncos were outscored six tries to three to suffer their 17th loss of the season and a club record 11th consecutive loss.

Getting off to the perfect start with Payne Haas (3rd minute) crossing for his first try of the year, the Broncos suffered a major blow minutes later with Kotoni Staggs assisted from the field with a suspected ACL injury.

Putting aside the disappointment of losing their best attacking player, retiring fullback Darius Boyd (13th minute) burrowed over from close range to put the home side up 12-0.

Striking back through Jake Clifford (20th minute) midway through the first half, the visitors looked to have another after Scott Drinkwater audaciously kicked from inside his own ten-metre line - only for the bunker to rule Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow offside from the kick.

Taking the lead after Kyle Feldt (28th minute) touched down and Justin O'Neill (38th minute) marked his late call-up with a four-pointer, the Cowboys took a 16-12 lead to the change of ends.

Levelling the scores at 16-all after Corey Oates (54th minute) touched down for his second try of the year, the Broncos failed to rise to the Cowboys' level over the final quarter of the match.

Finishing the match in impressive form with Drinkwater firing a beautiful pass to send Feldt (64th minute) over in the corner, the leading NRL try-scorer claimed his hat-trick (70th minute) after a brilliant run from Jason Taumalolo in the lead up.

Icing the result with a length of the field effort finished off by Tabuai-Fidow (76th minute), departing second rower Gavin Cooper nailed the final conversion to give the Cowboys a 32-16 victory.

The loss sees the Broncos finish a dreadful year in last-position with three wins, while the Cowboys will have plenty to improve upon under Todd Payten in 2021 after finishing in 14th position with five wins.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Scott Drinkwater; 2 points - Kyle Feldt; 1 points - Jason Taumalolo

Brimson presses Origin claims as Knights suffer demoralising defeat

Andrew Jackson



36-6



It is a bittersweet ending to 2020 for Titans fans, both celebrating a fifth-straight win by 36-6 and wondering where this late-season form had been all year.

There is a genuine excitement that the flurry of wins isn't going to be a false dawn. The first of those five-straight wins - a 14-10 one over the Dragons - came after the Red V had over 40 possessions in the Gold Coast red zone for just the one try. Justin Holbrook has instilled a serious defensive resilience in this Titans side.

Add the confidence Ashley Taylor is playing with alongside the inspired Jamal Fogarty along with a host of star recruits and a top-eight finish will be the bare minimum expected of the Gold Coast next year.

AJ Brimson also is a near certainty to make his State of Origin debut after a starring second half, with 173 metres, eight tackle busts, two tries and two linebreaks after a relatively quiet first 40.

Based off their past month of football the Titans would be a bigger threat to South Sydney than Newcastle, who have struggled for consistency. Friday night's thumping is the worst-possible finals preparation for the Knights, who will go into next week's do-or-die clash with no confidence. Big wins over the Dragons and Sharks have papered over otherwise poor form

which proves Adam O'Brien's men to be nothing but cannon fodder even if they overcome the Bunnies.

That should not take away from a blistering effort from the Gold Coast.

The Knights were lethargic in the first half and the Titans took full advantage to run in three tries. Newcastle did cross the line a few times to have tries disallowed but they were completely outplayed.

Taylor's confidence has been restored - there is a genuine enjoyment in the way he is playing at the moment. The same can be said for the entire Titans side who threw the ball around in the opening half to tire Newcastle's forwards out. It paid dividends as Taylor threw a beautiful cut-out pass to create space out on the left before backing up in support to score.

Mitch Rein then ducked and weaved his way through for their second try of the night.

Edrick Lee, having been denied by the Bunker before, then held onto a Sione Mata'utia pass to hit back for the Knights. But Newcastle failed to gain any real ascendancy as errors cruelled their chances.

The Gold Coast, on the other hand, continued to push ahead as Treymain Spry did spectacularly well to keep a poor Fogarty pass in the field of play. Brian Kelly then showed dogged determination to power past three Knights and score.

The second half opened with both sides guilty of poor ball handling before AJ Brimson exploded for a length-of-the-field solo effort to push the lead out to 16.

It was all confidence for the Titans as Spry steamed onto a kick and raced away from deep inside his own half before linking with Taylor who raced away for his second try. It continued to get embarrassing for Newcastle as Brimson stepped his way through for his second before Kevin Proctor finished off another long-range effort.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Ashley Taylor; 2 points - Alexander Brimson; 1 points - Jarrod Wallace

Walker wonderland leads record Rabbitohs rampage

Justin Davies



60-8



South Sydney - inspired by Cody Walker - gave the Sydney Roosters their biggest defeat in their storied rivalry, running out 60-8 winners on a wild evening at Stadium Australia tonight.

If there still was Rugby League Week player ratings, Cody Walker would rate 10/10. The five-eighth was involved in nearly one of the ten tries scored and bagged two of his own in a rampage which has guaranteed a home final against the Newcastle Knights next weekend.

The Rabbitohs have shown at times this season when they turn it on, they are electric. Tonight was another level. Roosters scored the opener through Josh Morris then it was a cardinal and myrtle rampage. Souths led 26-4 at the break, it probably should've been higher. Walker orchestrated the onslaught which saw Johnston cross twice to raise his century, Campbell Graham and Walker himself all find the stripe.

Recently re-signed, Alex Johnston stormed to the NRL tryscorer title. Two in the first half got him in range then during the Rabbitohs points avalanche in the second half finished off two simple backline moves and gifted another to move past Kyle Feldt. Tonight was also the second time Johnston had scored five tries in his career.

When the Rabbitohs lost Latrell Mitchell, plenty including this writer had written their obituary. Tonight Corey Allan gave them some belief with his chiming into the attack in the first half and the makeshift fullback opened the floodgates in the second half as the Rabbitohs gear up for October.

Those at Stadium Australia tonight, will remember a record and the second half was just a festival atmosphere amongst the cardinal and myrtle. Every half break turned into points, the passes looked like the Harlem Globetrotters at points and it ended with the sweetest statistic. South Sydney Rabbitohs with their largest victory against their oldest rival Sydney Roosters just before the finals.

There were a couple of other titles going to the Rabbitohs after this game. Adam Reynolds who kicked 10 goals inched ahead of Kyle Flanagan for the top pointscorer gong alongside Johnston's tryscorer title (pending David Nofalouma going wild tomorrow).

As the tries poured in, fans furiously waited to type the well known no side has conceded 50 and won a competition stat. The Sydney Roosters, yes the back-to-back Premiers had the red pen put through them by plenty once the scoreboard ticked over to the half century. Coach Trent Robinson has plenty to chew over in the post mortem of this one.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

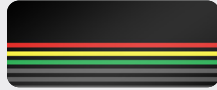
3 points - Cody Walker; 2 points - Alex Johnston; 1 points - Corey Allan

Perfect Panthers pound bullied Bulldogs

Justin Davies



0-42



Penrith Panthers celebrated their Minor Premiership in style, piling on the points in a 42-nil result against Canterbury this afternoon at a sun drenched Stadium Australia.

It was 17 years since their last trophy and the Penrith partied in style with an eight try to none thumping of the Bulldogs. Brent Naden and Kurt Capewell scored doubles as it was another star turn for Jarome Luai on the eve of the finals next weekend.

There is a spirit around this Panthers side. It showed in how they mobbed James Tamou after he scored to make it 42-nil. It also showed in the defense which blanked the Bulldogs and it showed in the points created by their backline, led by Luai and Nathan Cleary. The former had a hand in most of the tries and Cleary's kicking has helped them to this fantastic feat this season.

One sour note for the contest came in the first half. English forward Luke Thompson was put on report for a suspected eye gouge of Panthers prop James Tamou and might face an anti-climatic end to a solid first season down under.

The opening half hour was looked like an end of season contest where Brian To'o crossed for the only four-pointer. Once it clicked, the Panthers were their usual irresistible selves. Kurt Capewell touched down twice then Brent Naden added to his impressive tally to in a blink of an eye made it 22-nil.

For much of the second half, it looked like an exhibition of Panthers perfection. Josh Mansour showed acrobatics to add the first score of the second half then Naden completed his double from a kick and the Minor Premiers were in party mode.

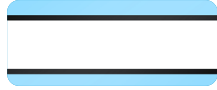
Matt Burton who hasn't seen much football since the early rounds, got himself on the field and ran a tough line to make it 36-nil. Panthers just dazzled and in one piece of play stepped past the whole Bulldogs side before captain Tamou completed the rout.

For the Bulldogs, they will be glad to see the end of the 2020 season. Their main objective was to avoid the spoon which was achieved. They will carry a pair of injury concerns to Jayden Okunbor and Raymond Faitala-Mariner into the off-season but the rebuild begins now under Trent Barrett for the once-fabled Dogs of War.

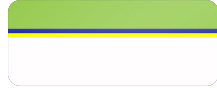
LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:
3 points - Jarome Luai; 2 points - Isiah Yeo; 1 points - Kurt Capewell

Raiders and Sharks rookies rack up the points in entertaining contest

Andrew Ferguson



28-38



The Raiders players though gave coach Ricky Stuart a handful of good headaches as many of them turned out top quality performances to possibly put themselves in contention for a game during the finals.

Canberra opened the scoring in the fifth minute when Tom Starling dished a crash ball, close to the Sharks line to Dunamis Lui, who barged over for a soft try to the left of the sticks. Sam Williams converted.

Just two minutes passed before the Sharks hit back when Ronaldo Mulitalo decided to run through Nick Cotric, before eventually getting the ball down for a try on the left side. Mawene Hiroti failed to convert from out wide.

The Raiders then scored 3 quick tries in 9 minutes to take the game away from the Sharks early. Nick Cotric crossed in the 19th minute after he cleaned up a lovely grubber by Williams. Williams converted from touch. A break by Starling 3 minutes later put the Raiders on the attack and 2 plays later, Starling from dummy half, skipped to the right, but had no runners, so he took on the line himself, burrowed down and got across the stripe to score under the posts. Williams converted from in front. In the 27th minute, the Raiders crossed again when Starling made a break down the left side, kicked back infield where Williams received a perfect bounce and scored to the left of the posts. Williams converted and Canberra led 24-4 after 28 minutes.

The Sharks snared a try 5 minutes before halftime when Connor Tracey kicked on the last

to the right wing where Nene Macdonald went up, caught the ball and half passed-half lost it backwards to Briton Nikora, who scored comfortably wide on the right side. Hiroti's conversion hit the post and went over.

Canberra kept the points flowing in the second half when Starling hit his trailing runner Kai O'Donnell, who used some lovely late footwork to dive over and score under the posts in the 46th minute. Williams added the extras. In the 52nd minute Matt Frawley received the ball on the left side, dummied left, stepped back inside, shrugged off a tackle and then fell over the line to score a good try. Williams failed to convert from out wide.

The Sharks then staged a short-lived fightback. In the 56th minute, Wade Graham recovered a loose pass, strolled past Harawira-Naera and then dived over to score on the left side. Hiroiti converted. 3 minutes later, the Sharks were in again when Scott Sorensen, at acting dummy half, darted to the short side on the left, then flicked a pass out the back to Bryson Goodwin who dived over to score a soft try. Hiroiti again converted to reduced the Sharks deficit to just 12 points.

From the restart, Jack Williams was pushed back ingoal by the Raiders defence, forcing a Sharks drop out. The Sharks opted for a short kick, which was caught by Harley Smith-Shields above his head, before racing ten metres to score untouched. Williams failed to convert again. In the 66th minute Nikora ran onto a nice, short, crash ball and he barged over for a soft try on the right edge. Hiroiti nailed the sideline conversion to make the score 38-28.

66 points scored in 66 minutes. The final 14 minutes saw Sharks chancing their arm on every play and regularly turning the ball over.

Referee Ashley Klein injured his ankle with 8 minutes remaining in the match and two minutes after he was replaced by Gerard Sutton, Corey Harawira-Naera was sent to the sin bin for 10 minutes for a professional foul, after he made a try saving tackle from an offside position.

The Sharks couldn't find any more points and the Raiders hung on for an entertaining win.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:
3 points - Tom Starling; 2 points - Sam Williams; 1 points - Dunamis Lui

Eels edge Tigers in Marshall, Lawrence farewell game

Adam Huxtable



24-28



The Parramatta Eels have just hung on 28-24 against a spirited Wests Tigers outfit at Bankwest tonight, meaning they will finish in the top 4 for the first time since 2017.

Both sides traded blows early in the piece, with outside backs Blake Ferguson and Tommy Talau scoring tries that each went unconverted in the first 11 minutes.

The scores remained deadlocked until the 22nd minute, when Maika Sivo went over for his 14th try of the season courtesy of some brilliant work in the lead-up by Moses, Gutherson and Andrew Davey. The Tigers hit back just 3 minutes later through Luciano Leilua, who went himself down as short-side and brushed 3 Parramatta defenders aside to narrow the deficit to 2.

The night was soured for fans of the joint venture after Benji Marshall succumbed to a suspected MCL injury and was forced from the field mid-first half and didn't return. The bad news kept coming, just as it appeared the Tigers had done the hard yard the Eels were able to crack them in the shadows of half time when a Clint Gutherson kick sat up for returning veteran Brad Takairangi.

The first 15 minutes of the second half belonged to the Wests Tigers. They got a penalty off the first tackle of the half and moments later scored courtesy of a bullet pass from Adam Doueihy to Tommy Talau. While Doueihy was a standout in general play, he didn't bring his goal kicking boots, missing his first 4 attempts.

The Tigers made it an uphill battle for the Eels with two tries in almost as many minutes, the first one coming due to a Blake Ferguson mistake under the high ball and the second one due to a Blake Ferguson mistake in defence, scored by Asu Kepaoa and Luke Brooks respectively. The lead was extended beyond a converted try when the Tigers kicked a penalty goal in the 57th minute.

As possession began to even up the Eels were getting more cracks at the Tigers defence, and Junior Paulo did what he often does and created something by offloading when it seemed there was nothing on. He got the ball to Reed Mahoney close to the line, who burrowed his way to the line and got the Eels within 2.

It was make or break for Parramatta when they were awarded a penalty 6 minutes later and had to decide whether to even up with a goal or back themselves for the try. They went with the latter and it payed off in that very set, with fill in five-eighth Will Smith dummying and running to score what would end up as the match winner.

The result means that the final order of the top 8 is set, with the Eels set to take on Melbourne in Queensland next week in a qualifying final. That's all she wrote for the Tigers in 2020, who have avoided 9th place, but not in a good way, and will end up in either 11th or 12th pending other results.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:
3 points - Adam Doueihy; 2 points - Junior Paulo; 1 points - Mitchell Moses

Warriors and Manly pile on the tries in high-scoring finale

Andrew Ferguson



40-28



Manly and the Warriors wound out their 2020 campaigns with an exciting display of open footy in a high scoring contest, with the Warriors finishing 40-24 winners.

The two sides scored a point per minute in an entertaining opening 40 minutes that ended with the Warriors leading 26-14 at halftime.

Manly opened the scoring in the 3rd minute when Daly Cherry-Evans fires a long ball which cut out three Warriors defenders and hit Rueben Garrick on the chest and he raced over to score in the right corner. Garrick then converted his try from the sideline.

It looked Manly were in a mood to rack up a big score when they scored again in the 8th minute when Corey Waddell used some nice late footwork at the line and he crashed over to score left of the posts. Garrick failed to convert from a relatively easy angle.

Then the tables turned and the Warriors ran in the next 5 tries in quick succession. In the 16th minute Chanel Harris-Tavita put up a rather ineffective kick, but Cherry-Evans and Tevita Funa fought over catching the ball in the Manly in-goal, neither catch the ball and Kodi Nikorima swooped in and grounded it for a try under the posts. Harris-Tavita converted.

Manly were then penalised for being offside at the restart, putting the Warriors right back on the attack and they took full advantage when Nikorima dished a nice ball to lead-runner Eliesa Katoa, who smashed through some feeble defence, stepped the cover defender and scored to the right of the sticks. Harris-Tavita converted.

In the 22nd minute, the Warriors decided to shift to the left where Peta Hiku ran to the line, held up a pass before hitting the straight-running Adam Keighran with a short ball, and he crashed over to score a good try. Harris-Tavita failed to add the extras.

Two minute later and the Warriors were in yet again, when they decide to return to the well on the left side and this time Keighran drew the winger and then sent a lovely ball to the unmarked Patrick Herbert, who strolled over to score in the corner. Harris-Tavita again failed to convert from out wide.

In the 32nd minute, the Warriors went left again through Nikorima but the defence rushed up and shut down his options, so he came back infield and linked with Harris-Tavita, who shaped to pass before putting in a lovely grubber behind the Manly defence, where Katoa came through and displayed some magnificent handling to dive, regather the bouncing ball and score all in the same motion. Harris-Tavita converted from almost in front.

Just before halftime, Manly scored off the back of a brilliant 40/20 kick by Cherry-Evans. From the next set, Cherry-Evans grubbered from inside his own half and the ball bounced perfectly for Miski, who ran downfield, stepped inside Hiku, then stepped inside Adam Pompey, to score in the left corner. Garrick failed to convert.

The second half got underway in the best way possible for Manly, as Adam Pompey dropped the restart. From the next set, Lachlan Croker fired a beautiful cut-out flat ball which hit Abbas Miski sweetly and he raced 15 metres to score in the left corner. Garrick again failed to convert from out wide.

In the 56th minute, Harris-Tavita put up a bomb to the left corner, Garrick spilled it and Keighran pounced on the ball to score. Harris-Tavita failed to convert.

The Warriors put the game to bed in the 65th minute when Nikorima ran to the left and hit Keighran running back in towards the posts, who stepped to get through the line and then evaded a cover tackle to score under the posts. Harris-Tavita added the extras from in front.

Manly hit back with just under 10 minutes remaining in the game. Taniela Paseka stormed onto a ball from Jake Trbojevic and the man mountain reached out and got the ball down for a try to the right of the sticks. Garrick converted.

The Warriors added one last try to bring up 40 when Nikorima chipped to the left wing and found Herbert, who took it cleanly and scored a good try. Garrick failed to convert right on fulltime.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Kodi Nikorima; 2 points - Chanel Harris-Tavita; 1 points - Daly Cherry-Evans

Dragons finish on a high over under-strength Melbourne

Josh Robertson



30-22



The St George Illawarra Dragons have ended the NRL season on a high with a 30-22 comeback victory over a very understrength Melbourne Storm at Jubilee Oval.

The Storm started the game strongly with three tries inside the opening twenty minutes. The first try to the visitors came after just nine minutes when Ryan Papenhuyzen got into space on the left and found Paul Momirovski who scored through an unconventional grounding.

The second Storm try came when Sandor Earl scored in the corner but some were left questioning the lead up after Chris Lewis contacted Cody Ramsey in the contest which stopped him from getting the ball. The bunker examined the play and gave it the green lights.

Chris Lewis scored his first NRL try for the Storm when the Dragons right side defence was again caught napping and the Storm took advantage. Poor goalkicking from Ryan Papenhuyzen kept the Dragons in the game. The Red 'V' closed the gap to six just minutes later when Matt Dufty scored after some good work between Dragons rookies Jayden Sullivan and Cody Ramsey which saw the latter kick the ball back inside for Zac Lomax who's second kick sat nicely for Matt Dufty who scored.

The Storm were making easy metres in attack and they took advantage when adding a fourth first half try when Isaac Lumelume got his first NRL try after Cooper Johns saw space in behind the Dragons defence which gave the Fijian international a chance to chase down the kick which he did and scored. Yet again, the inability to convert from out wide for Ryan Papenhuyzen kept the Dragons in the contest. Just after the half hour mark, Tyson Frizell took advantage of a disjointed Storm defensive line to make a charge at the line and score. Lomax's success off the boot meant that despite conceding tries, the Dragons trailed by just four points.

The second half was a true contest for the first 20 minutes but as the time went on, the Dragons started to get on top of the Storm. The first points of the second half came through a Penalty Try for the Dragons when it was ruled by referee Matt Cecchin that in his opinion that Zac Lomax would've scored had it not been for contact by Ricky Leutele. An opinion that was confirmed by Henry Perenara in the bunker and the Dragons lead for the first time despite scoring one less try.

The Dragons extended their lead not long after when Matt Dufty was backing up on a Cam McInnes burst out of dummy half and with the speed that both possess, the Storm defenders couldn't catch them as the Dragons extended their lead. Melbourne gave hopes of a fightback when Nicho Hynes scored off his own kick under the posts which saw Hynes kick the Storm's only conversion of the afternoon. The hopes of a fightback were dimmed when Tyson Frizell farewelled the Dragons in style adding a second try after debutant Jayden Sullivan's kick bounced perfectly for Frizell.

The victory caps off a poor season for the Red 'V' who look forward to 2021 under Anthony Griffin meanwhile Melbourne are yet again playing finals footy as they host Parramatta on Saturday night.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Cameron McInnes; 2 points - Matthew Dufty; 1 points - Tyson Frizell

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The Scoresheet

Scores, scorers, match details from Round 20

Cowboys 32 (Jake Clifford, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Kyle Feldt (3), Justin O'Neill tries; Valentine Holmes 3/5, Gavin Cooper 1/1 goals) def **Broncos 16** (Payne Haas, Darius Boyd, Corey Oates tries; Kotoni Staggs 1/1, Issac Luke 1/2 goals); Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Date: Thursday 24 September 2020, 7:50pm AEST; Halftime: Cowboys 16-12; Crowd: 17174; Referee: Grant Atkins; Touch Judges: Todd Smith, Peter Gough; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy

Titans 36 (Ashley Taylor (2), Mitch Rein, Brian Kelly, Alexander Brimson (2), Kevin Proctor tries; Ashley Taylor 3/5, Jamal Fogarty 1/2 goals) def **Knights 6** (Edrick Lee try; Mason Lino 1/1 goals); Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Date: Friday 25 September 2020, 6:00pm AEST; Halftime: Titans 16-6; Crowd: 9877; Referee: Chris Sutton; Touch Judges: Liam Kennedy, Drew Oultram; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell

Rabbitohs 60 (Cody Walker (2), Alex Johnston (5), Campbell Graham, Corey Allan, Cameron Murray tries; Adam Reynolds 10/12 goals) def **Roosters 8** (Josh Morris, Daniel Tupou tries; Kyle Flanagan 0/2 goals); Venue: ANZ Stadium; Date: Friday 25 September 2020, 7:55pm AEST; Halftime: Rabbitohs 26-4; Crowd: 7958; Referee: Gerard Sutton; Touch Judges: Chris Butler, Dave Munro; NRL Bunker: Ashley Klein

Panthers 42 (Brian To'o, Kurt Capewell (2), Brent Naden (2), Josh Mansour, Matt Burton, James Tamou tries; Nathan Cleary 5/8 goals) def **Bulldogs 0**; Venue: ANZ Stadium; Date: Saturday 26 September

2020, 3:00pm AEST; Halftime: Panthers 22-0; Referee: Henry Perenara; Touch Judges: Jon Stone, Gavin Badger; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy

Raiders 38 (Dunamis Lui, Sam Williams, Nick Cotric, Tom Starling, Kai O'Donnell, Matt Frawley, Harley Smith-Shields tries; Sam Williams 5/7 goals) def **Sharks 28** (Ronaldo Mulitalo, Briton Nikora (2), Wade Graham, Bryson Goodwin tries; Mawene Hiroti 4/5 goals); Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Date: Saturday 26 September 2020, 5:30pm AEST; Halftime: Raiders 24-10; Referee: Ashley Klein; Touch Judges: Todd Smith, Phil Henderson; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell

Eels 28 (Blake Ferguson, Maika Sivo, Brad Takairangi, Reed Mahoney, Will Smith tries; Mitchell Moses 4/5 goals) def **Wests Tigers 24** (Tommy Talau (2), Luciano Leilua, Asu Kepaoa, Luke Brooks tries; Adam Doueih 2/6 goals); Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Date: Saturday 26 September 2020, 7:35pm AEST; Halftime: Eels 16-8; Referee: Ben Cummins; Touch Judges: Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski, Belinda Sharpe; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy

Warriors 40 (Kodi Nikorima, Eliesa Katoa (2), Adam Keighran (3), Patrick Herbert (2) tries; Chanel Harris-Tavita 4/7, Adam Blair 0/1 goals) def **Sea Eagles 28** (Reuben Garrick, Corey Waddell, Abbas Miski (2), Taniela Paseka, Brad Parker tries; Reuben Garrick 2/6 goals); Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Date: Sunday 27 September 2020, 2:00pm AEST; Halftime: Warriors 26-14; Referee: Adam Gee; Touch Judges: Chris Sutton, Drew Oultram; NRL Bunker: Ashley Klein

Dragons 30 (Matthew Dufty (2), Zac Lomax, Tyson Frizell (2) tries; Zac Lomax 5/5 goals) def **Storm 22** (Paul Momirovski, Sandor Earl, Chris Lewis, Isaac Lumelume, Nicholas Hynes tries; Ryan Papenhuyzen 0/4, Nicho Hynes 1/1 goals); Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Date: Sunday 27 September 2020, 4:05pm AEST; Halftime: Storm 16-12; Crowd: 2738; Referee: Matt Cecchin; Touch Judges: Peter Gough, Liam Kennedy; NRL Bunker: Henry Perenara

NRL Match Review Round 20 Charge Sheet

Player	Club	Charge	Minute, on who	Base Penalty	Priors or discounts (loading)	Carry overs	Points/fine if guilty	Points/fine early plea	Plea	Suspension or fine	Carryovers accrued
Valentine HOLMES	Cowboys	Grade 1 Shoulder Charge	80', Jesse Arthars	200	None	0	200	150	Guilty - early plea	1 match	50
Luke THOMPSON	Bulldogs	Dangerous Contact - head/neck (eye gouge)	13', James Tamou	Referred	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not guilty	Guilty 4 matches	N/A
Adam DOUEIHI	Tigers	Grade 1 Shoulder Charge	8', Maika Sivo	200	None	0	200	150	Guilty - early plea	1 match	50
Ryan MATTERSON	Eels	Grade 1 Dangerous Contact (head/neck)	65', Asu Kepaoa	100	None	0	100	75	Guilty - early plea	0 matches	75
Sean KEPPIE	Sea Eagles	Grade 1 Contrary Conduct	46', Jazz Tevaga	\$750 fine	1 x non-similar (+20%)	N/A	\$900 fine	\$700 fine	Guilty - early plea	\$700 fine	N/A
Jazz TEVAGA	Warriors	Grade 1 Contrary Conduct	46', Sean Keppie	\$750 fine	None	N/A	\$750 fine	\$550 fine	Guilty - early plea	\$550 fine	N/A
Tui KAMIKAMICA	Storm	Grade 2 Dangerous Contact (other)	23', Jayden Sullivan	200	None	N/A	200	150	Guilty - early plea	1 match	50
Max KING	Storm	Dangerous Contact (other)	27', Blake Lawrie	Referred	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	Guilty	Guilty 3 matches	N/A

LeagueUnlimited Player of the Year

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

- 30 points** - Nathan Cleary (Panthers)
- 27 points** - Cameron Smith (Storm)
- 22 points** - Shaun Johnson (Sharks), Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs)
- 21 points** - Kalyn Ponga (Knights)
- 20 points** - James Tedesco (Roosters), Jack Wighton (Raiders)
- 17 points** - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs), Cameron Munster (Storm)
- 16 points** - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Luke Keary (Roosters), Jarome Luai (Panthers)
- 14 points** - Jahrome Hughes (Storm), Benji Marshall (Wests Tigers), Brett Morris (Roosters)
- 13 points** - Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles), Jamal Fogarty (Titans), Kodi Nikorima (Warriors)
- 12 points** - Ashley Taylor (Titans), George Williams (Raiders)
- 11 points** - Matthew Dufty (Dragons), Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Jason Taumalalo (Cowboys), David Klemmer (Knights)
- 10 points** - Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys), Sione Katoa (Bulldogs), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors)
- 9 points** - Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm), Mitchell Moses (Eels), Isah Yeo (Panthers), Josh Papali'i (Raiders), Mitchell Pearce (Knights), Stephen Crichton (Panthers)
- 8 points** - Junior Paulo (Eels), Dylan Brown (Eels), Kurt Mann (Knights), Alexander Brimson (Titans), Blake Green (Warriors)
- 7 points** - Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs), Harry Grant (Storm), Wade Graham (Sharks), Peta Hiku (Warriors), Jarrod Croker (Raiders), James Fisher-Harris (Panthers), David Nofalo (Wests Tigers), Liam Martin (Panthers)
- 6 points** - Eliesa Katoa (Warriors), Ben Hunt (Dragons), Reed Mahoney (Eels), Joseph Manu (Roosters), Curtis Sironen (Sea Eagles), Siosua Taukeiaho (Roosters), Zac Lomax (Dragons), Matt Burton (Panthers), Blyake Brailey (Sharks)
- 5 points** - Nathan Brown (Eels), Will Hopoate (Bulldogs), Adam Doueih (Wests Tigers), Young Tonumaipaea (Titans), Corey Norman (Dragons), Maika Sivo (Eels), Dylan Edwards (Panthers), Damien

- Cook (Rabbitohs), Josh Addo-Carr (Storm), Cade Cust (Sea Eagles), Michael Morgan (Cowboys), Daniel Saifiti (Knights), Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Eels), Luke Brooks (Wests Tigers), Apisai Korisau (Panthers)
- 4 points** - Tino Fa'asuamaleaui (Storm), Sitili Tupouniua (Roosters), Alex Johnston (Rabbitohs), Nelson Asofa-Solomona (Storm), Toby Rudolf (Sharks), Tom Starling (Raiders), Justin Olam (Storm), Hudson Young (Raiders), Josh Morris (Sharks), Moeaki Fotuauka (Titans), Kyle Flanagan (Roosters), Cameron Murray (Rabbitohs), Kotoni Staggs (Broncos), Anthony Milford (Broncos), Shaun Lane (Eels), Tevita Pangai Junior (Broncos), Jake Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Viliame Kikau (Panthers), Dalliin Watene-Zelezniak (Bulldogs)
- 3 points** - Semi Valemi (Raiders), Jack Murchie (Raiders), Kevin Proctor (Titans), Aiden Tolman (Bulldogs), Charlie Staines (Panthers), John Bateman (Raiders), Jamayne Isaako (Broncos), Valentine Holmes (Cowboys), Joseph Leilua (Wests Tigers), Bradman Best (Knights), Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Roosters), Nick Meaney (Bulldogs), Brian Kelly (Titans), Mitchell Barnett (Knights), Martin Taupau (Sea Eagles), Jake Clifford (Cowboys), Jesse Ramien (Sharks), Waqa Blake (Eels), Adam Clune (Dragons), Will Kennedy (Sharks), Chanel Harris-Tavita (Warriors), Addin Fonua-Blake (Sea Eagles)
- 2 points** - Campbell Graham (Rabbitohs), Morgan Harper (Bulldogs), Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad (Raiders), Emre Guler (Raiders), Braydon Trindall (Sharks), Kieran Foran (Bulldogs), Ryan Sutton (Raiders), David Fifita (Broncos), Christian Welch (Storm), Jake Averillo (Bulldogs), Lachlan Fitzgibbon (Knights), Thomas Burgess (Rabbitohs), Siosifa Talakai (Sharks), Beau Ffermor (Titans), Mikaele Ravalawa (Dragons), Corey Thompson (Wests Tigers), Kyle Feldt (Cowboys), Lindsay Collins (Roosters), Tyson Frizell (Dragons), Tohu Harris (Warriors), Dale Finucane (Storm), Jorge Taufua (Sea Eagles), Cameron McInnes (Dragons), Payne Haas (Broncos), Sam Williams (Raiders), Ronaldo Mulitalo (Sharks), Wayne Egan (Warriors), Braden Hamlin-Uele (Sharks), Nick Cotric (Raiders), Matt Ikuvalu (Roosters), Dane Gagai (Rabbitohs), Daniel Tupou (Roosters), Josh Jackson (Bulldogs), Ryan Matterson (Eels), Michael Jennings (Eels), Isaac Liu (Roosters)
- 1 point** - Phillip Sami (Titans), Dunamis Lui (Raiders), Adam Pompey (Warriors), Jayden Okunbor (Bulldogs), Corey Allan (Rabbitohs), Luke Thompson (Bulldogs), Joseph Tapine (Raiders), Josh Mcguire (Cowboys), Jarrod Wallace (Titans), Kurt Capewell (Panthers), Coen Hess (Cowboys), Connor Watson (Knights), Elliott Whitehead (Raiders), Tui Kamikamica (Storm), Andrew McCullough (Broncos), Billy Walters (Wests Tigers), Sam Lisone (Titans), Tom Opacic (Cowboys), Adam Elliott (Bulldogs), Josh Reynolds (Wests Tigers), Herman Ese'ese (Knights), Chad Townsend (Sharks), Jaydn Su'A (Rabbitohs), Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow (Cowboys), Brendan Elliot (Sea Eagles), Taniela Paseka (Sea Eagles), Jordan Pereira (Dragons), Luke Garner (Wests Tigers), James Tamou (Panthers), Patrick Carrigan (Broncos), Ethan Lowe (Rabbitohs), Liam Knight (Rabbitohs), Tyrell Fuimaono (Dragons), Thomas Flegler (Broncos), Darius Boyd (Broncos), Alex Twa (Wests Tigers), Caleb Aekins (Panthers), Tevita Tatola (Rabbitohs)

Premiership ladder

NRL 2020 Telstra Premiership final standings

Pos	Team	Total								Home						Away							
		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	PD
1	Penrith	20	18	1	1	537	238	37	299	10	9	-	1	239	96	143	10	9	1	-	298	142	156
2	Melbourne	20	16	4	-	528	270	32	258	10	9	1	-	330	141	189	10	7	3	-	198	129	69
3	Parramatta	20	15	5	-	392	288	30	104	10	8	2	-	188	136	52	10	7	3	-	204	152	52
4	Sydney	20	14	6	-	552	322	28	230	10	7	3	-	264	145	119	10	7	3	-	288	177	111
5	Canberra	20	14	6	-	445	317	28	128	10	6	4	-	204	162	42	10	8	2	-	241	155	86
6	South Sydney	20	12	8	-	521	352	24	169	10	7	3	-	306	154	152	10	5	5	-	215	198	17
7	Newcastle	20	11	8	1	421	374	23	47	10	7	3	-	237	116	121	10	4	5	1	184	258	-74
8	Cronulla	20	10	10	-	480	480	20	0	10	5	5	-	218	234	-16	10	5	5	-	262	246	16
9	Gold Coast	20	9	11	-	346	463	18	-117	10	5	5	-	182	221	-39	10	4	6	-	164	242	-78
10	Warriors	20	8	12	-	343	458	16	-115	10	5	5	-	213	202	11	10	3	7	-	130	256	-126
11	Wests Tigers	20	7	13	-	440	505	14	-65	10	3	7	-	239	241	-2	10	4	6	-	201	264	-63
12	St George Illawarra	20	7	13	-	372	446	14	-74	10	4	6	-	216	221	-5	10	3	7	-	156	225	-69
13	Manly Warringah	20	7	13	-	375	509	14	-134	10	3	7	-	202	258	-56	10	4	6	-	173	251	-78
14	North Queensland	20	5	15	-	368	520	10	-152	10	3	7	-	210	245	-35	10	2	8	-	158	275	-117
15	Canterbury	20	3	17	-	282	504	6	-222	10	1	9	-	124	258	-134	10	2	8	-	158	246	-88
16	Brisbane	20	3	17	-	268	624	6	-356	10	2	8	-	152	316	-164	10	1	9	-	116	308	-192

Stats leaders

Final standings after Round 20

Top Pointscorer

Pos	Player	Club	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	Adam REYNOLDS	South Sydney	20	6	83	1	191
2	Kyle FLANAGAN	Sydney	18	4	84	-	184
3	Zac LOMAX	St George Illawarra	20	12	63	-	174
4	Nathan CLEARY	Penrith	18	4	76	3	171
5	Cameron SMITH	Melbourne	16	2	70	-	148
6	Jarrod CROKER	Canberra	19	5	63	-	146
7	Kalyn PONGA	Newcastle	18	10	43	-	126
8	Kyle FELDT	North Queensland	20	19	23	-	122
9	Shaun JOHNSON	Cronulla	16	2	56	-	120
10	Mitchell MOSES	Parramatta	17	3	49	1	111
11	Reuben GARRICK	Manly Warringah	17	4	41	-	98
12	Ashley TAYLOR	Gold Coast	19	3	36	-	84
13	Alex JOHNSTON	South Sydney	19	20	-	-	80
14	Kotoni STAGGS	Brisbane	14	10	18	-	76
15	Stephen CRICHTON	Penrith	19	15	7	-	74
	Moses MBEY	Wests Tigers	15	4	29	-	74
17	Nicholas MEANEY	Canterbury	16	6	22	-	68
	David NOFOALUMA	Wests Tigers	20	17	-	-	68
19	Valentine HOLMES	North Queensland	12	4	24	1	65
20	Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA	Warriors	13	2	27	-	62
	Sione KATOA	Cronulla	18	15	1	-	62

Top Tryscorers

Pos	Player	Club	P	T
1	Alex JOHNSTON	South Sydney	19	20
2	Kyle FELDT	North Queensland	20	19
3	David NOFOALUMA	Wests Tigers	20	17
4	Stephen CRICHTON	Penrith	19	15
	Sione KATOA	Cronulla	18	15
	Josh ADDO-CARR	Melbourne	18	15
	Maika SIVO	Parramatta	20	15
8	Matthew DUFTY	St George Illawarra	18	13
	Campbell GRAHAM	South Sydney	19	13
	Mikaele RAVALAWA	St George Illawarra	16	13

Top Goalkickers

Pos	Player	Club	P	G	GA	GK%
1	Kyle FLANAGAN	Sydney	18	84	105	80%
2	Adam REYNOLDS	South Sydney	20	83	96	86%
3	Nathan CLEARY	Penrith	18	76	95	80%
4	Cameron SMITH	Melbourne	16	70	84	83%
5	Zac LOMAX	St George Illawarra	20	63	80	79%
6	Jarrod CROKER	Canberra	19	63	75	84%
7	Shaun JOHNSON	Cronulla	16	56	73	77%
8	Mitchell MOSES	Parramatta	17	49	61	80%
9	Kalyn PONGA	Newcastle	18	43	67	64%
10	Reuben GARRICK	Manly Warringah	17	41	60	68%

THE FRONT ROW

GAME DAY

NRL & NRLW MATCH PROGRAM

TEAM LISTS · MATCH DETAILS & STATS · PREVIEWS

NRL Finals Week 1



Panthers (1) v Roosters (4)

Panthers Stadium
Qualifying Final - Saturday



Raiders (5) v Sharks (8)

GIO Stadium
Elimination Final - Saturday



Storm (2) v Eels (3)

Suncorp Stadium
Qualifying Final - Saturday



Rabbitohs (6) v Knights (7)

ANZ Stadium
Elimination Final - Sunday



NRLW Round 1



Roosters v Dragons

GIO Stadium
Saturday



Broncos v Warriors

GIO Stadium
Saturday

WEEKLY TIPS Final Ladder

Andrew Jackson	103
Rick Edgerton	103
Josh Robertson	103
Jeff Dickinson-Fox	101
Justin Davies	96
Sam Bourke	96
Hamish Parker	95
Rob Crosby	93
Tim Costello	92
Adam Huxtable	89
Steven Williams	86
Andrew Ferguson	86

NSWRL GRAND FINAL RESULTS

Played at Bankwest Stadium, Sunday 27 September

PRESIDENT'S CUP GRAND FINAL

Maitland Pickers 17 (Jacob McCudden, James Bradley, Gary Anderson tries; Brock Lamb 2 goals and 1 field goal) def **Glebe-Burwood Wolves 16** (Addison Demetriou 2, Honeti Tuha tries; Addison Demetriou 2 goals)

SYDNEY SHIELD GRAND FINAL

Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks 32 (Brent Anderson 3, Daniel Perkins 2, Hayden Fepuleai tries; Kamren Cryer 4 goals) def **Ryde-Eastwood Hawks 30** (Justin Frain 2, Curtis Wilson, Liam Scolari, Tyler Seymour, Bennett Wheelhouse tries; Curtis Wilson 3 goals)

HARVEY NORMAN WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP - GRAND FINAL

Central Coast Roosters 16 (Claire Reed 2, Bobbi Law tries; Bobbi Law 1, Melanie Howard 1 goals) def **North Sydney Bears 10** (Monicqa Mo'ale, Shontelle Stowers tries; Chloe Leaupepe 1 goal)

Penrith
PANTHERS



Sydney
ROOSTERS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
11	4	-	16	Dylan EDWARDS	1	FULLBACK	1	James TEDESCO		17	8	-	32
19	10	-	40	Josh MANSOUR	2	WING	2	Daniel TUPOU		13	11	-	44
16	12	-	48	Brent NADEN	3	CENTRE	3	Josh MORRIS		17	9	-	36
19	15	7	74	Stephen CRICHTON	4	CENTRE	4	Joseph MANU		19	8	-	32
13	6	-	24	Brian TO'O	5	WING	5	Brett MORRIS		15	12	-	48
20	7	-	28	Jarome LUAI	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Luke KEARY		18	10	- ²	42
18	4	76 ³	171	Nathan CLEARY	7	HALFBACK	7	Kyle FLANAGAN		18	4	84	184
19	1	-	4	James TAMOU	8	FRONT ROW	8	Jared WAEREA-HARGREAVES		16	1	-	4
17	3	-	12	Apisai KOROISAU	9	HOOKER	9	Freddy LUSSICK		4	-	-	-
19	-	-	-	James FISHER-HARRIS	10	FRONT ROW	10	Sio Siua TAUKEIAHO		18	1	3	10
17	7	-	28	Viliame KIKAU	11	SECOND ROW	11	Boyd CORDNER		11	2	-	8
18	5	-	20	Liam MARTIN	12	SECOND ROW	12	Sitili TUPOUNIUA		18	5	-	20
20	2	-	8	Isaah YEO	13	LOCK	13	Isaac LIU		17	1	-	4
13	-	-	-	Tyrone MAY	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Lachlan LAM		7	-	-	-
6	4	-	16	Kurt CAPEWELL	15		15	Lindsay COLLINS		18	1	-	4
20	-	-	-	Moses LEOTA	16		16	Angus CRICHTON		13	4	-	16
16	-	-	-	Zane TETEVANO	17		17	Sonny Bill WILLIAMS		4	-	-	-
* includes 2 games for Cronulla													
5	-	-	-	Mitchell KENNY	18	RESERVES	18	Nat BUTCHER		17	1	-	4
8	-	-	-	Dean WHARE	19		19	Mitchell AUBUSSON		15	5	-	20
5	3	-	12	Matt BURTON	20		20	Poasa FAAMAUSILI		15 ⁺	-	-	-
12	-	-	-	Spencer LENIU	21		21	Matt IKUVALU		10	7	-	28
+ includes 4 games for Warriors													
Ivan CLEARY						COACH		Trent ROBINSON					
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16						PENALTIES		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16					
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16						SCRUMS		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16					

RLP MILESTONES The Sydney ROOSTERS need 3 more points to reach 2000 points scored in all Finals matches

#NRLPanthersRoosters

FIRST QUALIFYING FINAL (1 v 4)

DATE	Friday 2 October 2020
KICKOFF	7:50pm AEST
VENUE	Panthers Stadium Penrith, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE 4BC BNE, NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

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

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 92 MATCHES

Panthers 35 Roosters 56 Drawn 1

At Panthers Stadium: 46 matches, Panthers 20, Roosters 26

LAST TEN

Year	Round	Match	Opponent
2014	QF	Panthers 19-18	Allianz
2015	R3	Roosters 20-12	Allianz
2015	R18	Roosters 24-4	Pepper
2016	R7	Panthers 20-16	Allianz
2016	R22	Panthers 38-18	Pepper
2017	R3	Roosters 14-12	Pepper
2018	R15	Roosters 32-6	Allianz
2019	R13	Panthers 19-10	Panthers
2019	R24	Roosters 22-6	SCG
2020	R1	Panthers 20-14	Panthers

5-ALL

BIGGEST WINS

2009	R11	Panthers 48-6	CUA
2013	R21	Roosters 42-6	Centrebet

HEAD TO HEAD

FINALS 3 MATCHES

Panthers 2 Roosters 1

LAST FINALS MEETING

2014	QF	Panthers 19-18	Allianz
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SEASON FORM LINE

PANTHERS	1st, 37pts
W W D W L W W W W W W W W W W W W W W	
ROOSTERS	4th, 28pts
L L W W W W W L W L W W W L W W W W W L	

Match Preview

with Lachy MacCorquodale

The minor premiers host the defending premiers in a blockbuster to open the 2020 NRL finals.

The Penrith Panthers have defied pre-season expectations as they marched their way to the club's third minor premiership on the back of a 15-match win streak that started way back in round six.

Defence has been a hallmark of Penrith's 2020 season having conceded 238 points, the least points conceded in the competition. The Panthers have only conceded 20 points or more on two occasions this season and just once since the competition restarted after the COVID-19 break.

Not only has their defence been a big part of the club's success in 2020, but the Panthers have also scored the second most points in the competition which includes scoring 20 points or more in 13 of their past 15 matches. Their dominance has been highlighted by the fact that only five of their last 15 matches have been decided by 10 points or less.

Penrith will host the Roosters at Panthers Stadium this Friday night, a venue where they have failed to lose a single game this year which included a six-point victory over the Roosters in round one earlier this year. The Panthers have Dylan Edwards, Stephen Crichton and Villame Kikau returning into the side this week whilst Daine Laurie, Matt Burton and Spencer Leniu drop out of the 17 with Tyrone May and Kurt Capewell shifting to the bench.

After a shock 54-point loss to the Rabbitohs, the Sydney Roosters finished in fourth place as their quest to become the first team since 1983 to win three premierships in a row. The Roosters have showed throughout the season why they were the favourites entering the season, but this recent loss may put a seed of doubt in their minds on the eve of the finals. A 54-point loss isn't exactly the kind of result you'd want heading into a finals series but if there's any team that can bounce back from it, it's the Roosters, a side laden with finals experience. The defending premiers put together a string of five convincing wins prior to that loss, including wins over the Raiders, Knights and Sharks, despite routinely resting players as they prepared for an assault on the premiership.

The main worry for the Roosters is that they failed to beat both the Storm and the Panthers during the home and away season, something that'll need to be rectified if they are to capture their third straight title. The Roosters are going to be without Jake Friend this week, who is out with a concussion but will otherwise be fielding a strong side with Brett Morris, Joey Manu, Isaac Liu returning to the starting 13 and Lindsay Collins included on the bench. Freddy Lussick will start at Hooker and Mitch Aubusson, Nat Butcher, Poasa Faamasusili and Matt Ikuvalu will miss out this weekend.

Nothing in the Panthers recent performances suggest that they'll lose this fixture on Friday night, but will the finals experience of the Roosters side prove to be the deciding factor?

Who to watch: The battle of the New South Wales halves will light up the television screen on Friday Night. Incumbent New South Wales halfback Nathan Cleary will line up against his probable Origin halves partner, Luke Keary. The Panthers halfback has had an exceptional year and is a favourite to take out the Dally M medal. Cleary has recorded a career high in both try assists and forced drop outs with 15 and 26 respectively. The 22-year-old has built an incredible partnership with his halves partner, Jarome Luai as the childhood friends have guided their Panther's side to a minor premiership. They'll be a key part to the Panthers finals campaign.

Lining up in the tricolours, five-eighth Luke Keary is currently eyeing off his fourth premiership at the age of 28. Expected to make his Origin debut at the conclusion of this season, Keary has provided his side with 15 try assists and 15 forced drop outs in 18 appearances this season. He is a less controlling figure than Cleary but his value to his side is arguably the same. He was the man who created the winning try for the Roosters in last year's grand final as they beat the Raiders. Keary enters this finals series without Cooper Cronk and will take a greater load into the 2020 finals series. His short-side play will be a key weapon that he'll utilise in their qualifying final against the Panthers on Friday night.

Favourite: The Panthers enter this clash as favourites after losing just one game all year. They also defeated the Roosters in their only match this season although this did occur in the very first game of the season. The Roosters are coming off a 54-point loss last weekend, but they are the defending premiers and are equipped with invaluable finals experience which their opponents for this weekend lack.

My tip: Penrith are playing some of the best footy their club has ever seen and are tasked with taking on the Roosters as they seek a third straight premiership. On form alone, the Panthers should earn themselves a week off, but the star-studded Roosters will be fired up for this clash to turn the critics in their favour after their embarrassing loss last weekend. This is going to be a mouth-watering match and I expect it to come down to the wire, but I expect the Roosters star players and finals experience will get them over the line. **Roosters by 4.**

Canberra
RAIDERS



Cronulla-Sutherland
SHARKS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
18	7	-	28	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	1	FULLBACK	1	Will KENNEDY		16	3	-	12
7	4	-	16	Semi VALEMEI	2	WING	2	Sione KATOA		18	15	1	62
19	5	63	146	Jarrold CROKER	3	CENTRE	3	Josh DUGAN		15	4	-	16
16	2	-	8	Jordan RAPANA	4	CENTRE	4	Jesse RAMIEN		18	8	-	32
20	12	-	48	Nick COTRIC	5	WING	5	Ronaldo MULITALO		15	11	-	44
19	10	-	40	Jack WIGHTON	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Connor TRACEY		15	4	-	16
19	4	- ¹	17	George WILLIAMS	7	HALFBACK	7	Chad TOWNSEND		11	1	-	4
19	4	-	16	Josh PAPALII	8	FRONT ROW	8	Braden HAMLIN-UELE		20	6	-	24
11	4	-	16	Tom STARLING	9	HOOKER	9	Blayne BRAILEY		19	3	-	12
17	2	-	8	Dunamis LUI	10	FRONT ROW	10	Aaron WOODS		20	1	-	4
8	3	-	12	John BATEMAN	11	SECOND ROW	11	Briton NIKORA		15	6	-	24
19	4	-	16	Elliott WHITEHEAD	12	SECOND ROW	12	Wade GRAHAM		18	4	-	16
18	2	-	8	Joseph TAPINE	13	LOCK	13	Toby RUDOLF		19	1	-	4
20	-	-	-	Siliva HAVILI	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Siosifa TALAKAI		15	4	-	16
9	1	-	4	Iosia SOLIOLA	15		15	Scott SORENSEN		13	-	-	-
15	4	-	16	Hudson YOUNG	16		16	Andrew FIFITA		11	1	-	4
8	-	-	-	Corey HARAWIRA-NAERA	17		17	Jack WILLIAMS		16	2	-	8
1	1	5	14	Sam WILLIAMS	18	RESERVES	18	Teig WILTON		5	-	-	-
4	1	-	4	Kai O'DONNELL	19		19	Braydon TRINDALL		5	-	4	8
6	-	-	-	Michael OLDFIELD	20		20	Mawene HIROTI		2	1	4	12
2	-	-	-	Matthew TIMOKO	21		21	Bryson GOODWIN		7	4	1	18

Ricky STUART

COACH

John MORRIS

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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RLP MILESTONES Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD (Raiders) - 8 more points for 100 career points

#NRLRaidersSharks

FIRST ELIMINATION FINAL (5 v 8)

DATE	Saturday 3 October 2020
KICKOFF	5:40pm AEST
VENUE	GIO Stadium Canberra Bruce, ACT
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE NRL Nation MIX 106.3 Canberra
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Grant ATKINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Phil HENDERSON Ziggy PRZEKLASA-ADAMSKI
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 74 MATCHES

Raiders 35 Sharks 39

At GIO Stadium Canberra: 29 matches, Raiders 15, Sharks 14

LAST TEN

LAST TEN		5-ALL	
2016	R7	Sharks 40-16	GIO
2016	R22	Raiders 30-14	SC Group
2016	QF	Sharks 16-14	GIO
2017	R2	Sharks 42-16	GIO
2017	R22	Raiders 30-12	SC Group
2018	R10	Sharks 24-16	GIO
2018	R19	Sharks 28-24	PointsBet
2019	R14	Raiders 22-20	GIO
2019	R24	Raiders 15-14	PointsBet
2020	R20	Raiders 38-28	Netstrata Jubilee

BIGGEST WINS

1982	R10	Sharks 44-5	Seiffert
1994	R16	Raiders 56-12	Bruce

HEAD TO HEAD

FINALS 6 MATCHES

Raiders 2 Sharks 4

LAST FINALS MEETING

2016	QF	Sharks 16-14	GIO
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SEASON FORM LINE

SHARKS	8th, 20pts
L L L L W L W W W L W W W L W L W L W L L	
RAIDERS	5th, 28pts
W W W L W L L W L W W W L W W W L W W W	

Match Preview

with Robert Crosby

Rivals face off in do-or-die contest

The Canberra Raiders and the Cronulla Sharks will put their seasons on the line when they meet at GIO Stadium in an Elimination Final on Saturday evening.

Spending the past year waiting for another chance to challenge for the title, the Canberra Raiders have shown tremendous resilience to overcome the loss of co-captain Josh Hodgson and reach the finals in fifth position with 14 wins and six losses.

Welcoming back nine first-grade regulars after last week's calculated move to rest players prior to the finals, the Raiders will be looking to down their opponents in back-to-back weeks following their 38-28 win at Kogarah seven days earlier.

Holding a solid record in finals played at GIO Stadium with six wins from nine matches, the Raiders will be hoping to continue a historical trend that has seen the fifth-placed team win seven out of eight elimination finals since 2012. Ricky Stuart holds a 50 per cent finals record since beginning his coaching tenure with the club in 2014.

Set to be without English forward Ryan Sutton for the remainder of the season, veteran Iosia Soliola retains his place on the bench after a successful return from facial fractures last week.

Reaching the finals for a record sixth consecutive year, the eighth-placed Cronulla Sharks have recorded ten wins and ten losses - while failing to defeat a top eight side during the home-and-away season.

Recalling six players rested from last week's clash with the Raiders, the Sharks will receive an additional boost with premiership-winning halfback Chad Townsend returning after serving a three-match suspension for a shoulder charge.

Facing an uphill battle on Saturday evening given the track record of eighth-placed teams in Elimination Finals, coach John Morris will be hoping his side can replicate the North Queensland Cowboys (2017) in progressing through to the second week of the finals.

Holding a strong record at GIO Stadium over the past decade with six wins from their past seven visits, the Sharks will be hoping to continue a strong finals record against the Raiders having won four out of six meetings.

Who to watch: Developing into one of the best front rowers in the world over the past two years, Josh Papalii will be determined to make an impact during the business end of the season. Gaining a reputation as a hard man for taking on Paul Gallen when the two sides clashed during the 2012 finals series, the 28-year-old has only grown in stature since with 150 metres, 56 post-contact metres and 31 tackles on average in 2020. Scoring the try that propelled the Raiders into the grand final last year, expect Papalii to have a similar impact on Saturday evening as the Raiders eye off four straight wins against the Sharks.

Set to make a welcome return for the Sharks after three weeks on the sidelines, halfback Chad Townsend shapes as a pivotal figure in the visitor's bid to cause an upset. Providing a much-needed injection of experience to the youngest spine in the finals, the 29-year-old local junior has shown plenty of class when fully fit with nine try-assists in 11 matches. Enduring the difficulty of being replaced with 20 minutes to go when the Sharks travelled to Canberra during the 2016 finals series, look for Townsend to have a point to prove as he fights to keep the Sharks' season alive.

Favourite: With home teams winning 69 per cent of elimination finals since the McIntyre System was abolished, the Raiders are expected to uphold the precedent and make the cut from eight to six.

My tip: Coming into the finals with nine wins from their past 11 matches, the Raiders should send the Sharks packing with a comprehensive victory at home. **Raiders by 16.**

Melbourne STORM



Parramatta EELS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
17	7	4 ¹	37	Ryan PAPHUYZEN	1	FULLBACK	1	Clinton GUTHERSON		20	7	12 ¹	53
14	11	-	44	Suliasi VUNIVALU	2	WING	2	Maika SIVO		20	15	-	60
11	3	-	12	Brenko LEE	3	CENTRE	3	Michael JENNINGS		19	7	-	28
18	9	-	36	Justin OLAM	4	CENTRE	4	Waqa BLAKE		20	6	-	24
18	15	-	60	Josh ADDO-CARR	5	WING	5	Blake FERGUSON		19	3	-	12
15	4	6 ¹	29	Cameron MUNSTER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Dylan BROWN		16	4	-	16
16	7	-	28	Jahrome HUGHES	7	HALFBACK	7	Mitchell MOSES		17	3	49 ¹	111
16	-	-	-	Jesse BROMWICH	8	FRONT ROW	8	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD		19	1	-	4
16	2	70	148	Cameron SMITH	9	HOOKER	9	Reed MAHONEY		19	3	-	12
16	-	-	-	Christian WELCH	10	FRONT ROW	10	Junior PAULO		20	-	-	0
18	2	-	8	Felise KAUFUSI	11	SECOND ROW	11	Shaun LANE		20	2	-	8
18	3	-	12	Kenneath BROMWICH	12	SECOND ROW	12	Ryan MATTERSON		17	3	-	12
17	4	-	16	Nelson ASOFA-SOLOMONA	13	LOCK	13	Nathan BROWN		16	-	-	0
15	3	-	12	Brandon SMITH	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Will SMITH		3	1	-	4
19	7	-	28	Tino FA'ASUAMALEAUI	15		15	Andrew DAVEY		8	-	-	0
13	1	-	4	Tom EISENHUTH	16		16	Kane EVANS		14	4	-	16
9	3	4	20	Nicholas HYNES	17		17	Marata NIUKORE		16	1	-	4
6	-	-	-	Darryn SCHONIG	18	RESERVES	18	Ray STONE		11	1	-	4
3	1	-	4	Isaac LUMELUME	19		19	Brad TAKAIRANGI		9	1	-	4
6	-	-	-	Albert VETE	20		20	Oregon KAUFUSI		13	-	-	0
9	1	-	4	Ryley JACKS	21		21	Daniel ALVARO		8 [*]	-	-	0

* includes 6 games for Warriors

Craig BELLAMY

COACH

Brad ARTHUR

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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RLP MILESTONES Paul MOMIROVSKI (Storm) - 2 more points for 100 career points;
Clint GUTHERSON (Eels) - 7 more points for 300 club points; Mitchell MOSES (Eels) - 4 more points for 700 career points

#NRLStormEels

2nd QUALIFYING FINAL (2 v 3)

DATE	Saturday 3 October 2020
KICKOFF	7:50pm AEST
VENUE	Suncorp Stadium Milton, QLD
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand 2GB SYD, 4BC BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ashley KLEIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Dave MUNRO Peter GOUGH
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 37 MATCHES

Storm 23 Eels 14

At Suncorp Stadium: 1 match, Storm 1, Eels 0

LAST TEN

Year	Round	Match	Opponent
2014	R15	Storm 46-20	AAMI
2015	R9	Storm 28-10	Pirtek
2015	R14	Eels 26-22	AAMI
2016	R11	Storm 18-6	Pirtek
2017	R18	Eels 22-6	AAMI
2017	QF	Storm 18-16	AAMI
2018	R23	Storm 20-4	AAMI
2019	R9	Storm 64-10	Suncorp
2019	SF	Storm 32-0	AAMI
2020	R15	Eels 14-0	Bankwest

STORM 7-3

BIGGEST WINS

2019	R9	Storm 64-10	Suncorp
2001	R20	Eels 54-10	Colonial

HEAD TO HEAD

FINALS 6 MATCHES

Storm 6 Eels 0

LAST FINALS MEETING

2019	SF	Storm 32-0	AAMI
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SEASON FORM LINE

STORM	2nd, 32pts
W W L W W L W W W W W W W L W W W ?	
EELS	3rd, 30pts
W W W W W L W W W L W W W L W L W L W W	

Match Preview

with Jason Hosken

Eels head north to battle Storm for a coveted week off

After a helter-skelter 18 weeks since the competition resumed, a trip up north against a revitalised Storm might just be the spark Parramatta needs. Despite coming off consecutive victories, the Eels are yet to regain the intensity that rocketed them to the top of the table after nine rounds.

Having locked down second place with comfortable victories over the Cowboys and Tigers, Melbourne rested a host of stars in last week's loss to the Dragons. For the Eels there was no such luxury, forced to tackle the Tigers at near full strength just to maintain their top four billing.

Now playing back-to-back finals campaigns for the first time since 2007, Parramatta is a club clearly on the up. But after losses to Melbourne in each of their past two finals series, a strategic round-20 loss must have crossed Arthurs' mind as he worked the whiteboards for attacking solutions.

Ironically, defence was the Eels' catch cry in last month's build up against the Storm. But since the successful 14-0 shutout, along with the silky smooth Dylan Brown, Parra's attacking rhythm has vanished - including two tryless defeats against top-eight opponents.

But with Brown named to return from ankle surgery alongside fellow inclusions Reagan Campbell-Gillard and Michael Jennings, optimistic Eels fans won't be put off by Melbourne's impressive 13 from 22 finals record since 2011.

In other changes, Shaun Lane rejoins the starting pack while the slippery Will Smith moves to the bench with Kane Evans, Andrew Davey and Marata Niukore.

For Craig Bellamy, a tenth consecutive finals series is all about unfinished business. Last season's elimination a game shy of the grand final was a wasted minor premiership that now becomes an inspiration. Nearing full strength with a few minor uncharacteristic defensive lapses to mend, Melbourne's run has a cup feel about it.

Fit and firing after last week's break, nine of the Storm's best return to in this week's run on side. And in a sign of the club's depth, Brandon Smith returns to the bench with Tino Fa'asuamaleaui and the reliable Tom Eisenhuth.

Defensively, little separates the sides with Melbourne and the Eels conceding the second and third least points respectively. And while no team has more run metres than the Eels, a fumbling uncertainty with ball in hand sees them ninth for points scored. It's a clear point of difference, with the Storm's slick combinations well placed to advance the club to its 13th preliminary final since 1998.

Who to watch: On target for an eighth grand final appearance and with 39 finals matches already in the bank, nobody unpacks the pointy end of a season better than Cameron Smith. Having tasted success in his first finals match way back in 2003, the future Immortal shows no signs of slowing down. And with a viper-like instinct to strike when feared least, Smith's astute touch is guaranteed to send the Eels scrambling just when it looks like they've put the lid on the box.

Fired up Parra fans haven't missed Mitchell Moses in recent weeks, but without Clint Gutherson's spirit the Eels would already be on their knees. Better known for his attack, it was King Gutho's match saving tackle in the dying minutes that kept the Tigers out and the Eels' double shot alive.

After a mid-season fade out, the creative skipper is hitting his straps in time for just his third finals appearance in eight seasons. And with career best run metres and try assists already this year, the Storms' hitmen will be watching him like a hawk.

Favourite: Parramatta rolled a depleted Storm just six weeks ago. Now with Cameron Smith, Cameron Munster and Jerome Hughes all back on deck, Melbourne are the raging favourite.

My tip: It may not be the match Brisbane expected but it keeps Queensland league fans in the mix. For the Storm, unbeaten in their past 18 starts north of the Tweed, a stuttering Eels at Suncorp Stadium should hold no fear. Brown's return lifts the weight of Moses' shoulders but it will count for little unless the Eels pack rolls through the middle with second phase play. Last week the Eels repelled a lowly ranked Tigers, but against a primed Storm they will do well to keep it respectable. And on heavy legs with little time to recover, a straight sets exit wouldn't surprise. **Storm by 10.**

South Sydney RABBITOHS



Newcastle KNIGHTS

P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
7	3	-	12	Corey ALLAN	1	FULLBACK	1	Kalyn PONGA	18	10	43	126
19	20	-	80	Alex JOHNSTON	2	WING	2	Edrick LEE	10	6	-	24
19	13	-	52	Campbell GRAHAM	3	CENTRE	3	Enari TUALA	19	11	-	44
16	10	-	40	Dane GAGAI	4	CENTRE	4	Bradman BEST	10	7	-	28
10	2	-	8	Jaxson PAULO	5	WING	5	Hymel HUNT	19	6	-	24
18	9	-	36	Cody WALKER	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Mason LINO	5	-	15	30
20	6	83 ¹	191	Adam REYNOLDS	7	HALFBACK	7	Mitchell PEARCE	20	2	- ¹	9
18	1	-	4	Tevita TATOLA	8	FRONT ROW	8	David KLEMMER	20	-	-	-
20	3	-	12	Damien COOK	9	HOOKER	9	Kurt MANN	19	6	-	24
20	2	-	8	Thomas BURGESS	10	FRONT ROW	10	Daniel SAIFITI	13	3	-	12
18	2	-	8	Jaydn SU'A	11	SECOND ROW	11	Lachlan FITZGIBBON	16	1	-	4
16	1	-	4	Bayley SIRONEN	12	SECOND ROW	12	Aidan GUERRA	20	2	-	8
20	3	-	12	Cameron MURRAY	13	LOCK	13	Mitchell BARNETT	12	1	-	4
16	2	-	8	Mark NICHOLLS	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Chris RANDALL	6	-	-	-
16	-	-	-	Liam KNIGHT	15		15	Jacob SAIFITI	20	3	-	12
3	-	-	-	Jed CARTWRIGHT	16		16	Herman ESE'ESE	20	1	-	4
11	-	-	-	Keaon KOLOAMATANGI	17		17	Sione MATA'UTIA	11	1	-	4
5	1	-	4	Steven MARSTERS	18	RESERVES	18	Josh KING	7	1	-	4
9	-	-	-	Hame SELE	19		19	Gehamat SHIBASAKI	11	5	-	20
2	-	-	-	Troy DARGAN	20		20	Tex HOY	8	1	2	8
12	-	-	-	Patrick MAGO	21		21	Brodie JONES	7	-	-	-

Wayne BENNETT

COACH

Adam O'BRIEN

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PENALTIES

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SCRUMS

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RLP MILESTONES Liam KNIGHT (Rabbitohs) - 50th NRL match; Lachlan FITZGIBBON (Knights) - 4 more points for 100 club and career points

#NRLSouthsKnights

2nd ELIMINATION FINAL (6 v 7)

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Sunday 4 October 2020
KICKOFF	4:05pm AEDT
VENUE	ANZ Stadium Sydney Olympic Park, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9 Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand Triple M SYD, BNE NRL Nation
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ben CUMMINS
TOUCH JUDGES	Chris SUTTON Belinda SHARPE
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 43 MATCHES

Rabbitohs 16 Knights 27

At ANZ Stadium: 6 matches, Rabbitohs 4, Knights 2

LAST TEN

LAST TEN		RABBITOHS 8-2	
2012	R26	Rabbitohs 18-6	Hunter
2013	R12	Rabbitohs 25-18	ANZ
2014	R21	Rabbitohs 50-10	Barlow
2015	R20	Rabbitohs 52-6	ANZ
2016	R2	Rabbitohs 48-6	ANZ
2016	R25	Rabbitohs 34-12	Hunter
2017	R3	Rabbitohs 24-18	McDonald Jones
2018	R9	Rabbitohs 36-18	McDonald Jones
2019	R13	Knights 20-12	ANZ
2020	R10	Knights 20-18	Bankwest

BIGGEST WINS

2015	R20	Rabbitohs 52-6	ANZ
1999	R23	Knights 60-0	Marathon

HEAD TO HEAD

FINALS NEVER MET

SEASON FORM LINE

RABBITOHS	6th, 24pts
W L L L W W L W W L L W W W W L W L W	
KNIGHTS	7th, 23pts
W W D W L W L W L W L L W W W L W L W L	

Match Preview

with Andrew Jackson

Rabbitohs look to begin finals run as Knights make seven-year return

Well that was... surprising. Sure, Wayne Bennett isn't called the master coach for no reason. But plotting a 60-8 thumping of arch rivals is something not even the most fanatical Rabbitohs fan would have predicted.

Souths are riding an unbelievable high. The only problem is making sure they don't forget that last week's result means nothing if they don't back it up again on Sunday. They can't expect for the points to simply start piling up.

Those interviewed post-game last Friday were quick to point that out though and even if they didn't Bennett would be fast to make sure they re-focussed.

Newcastle were ripped apart on the edges last week against the Gold Coast which doesn't bode well given South Sydney's strike out wide. Cody Walker had seven try involvements last week - he's filling the gap left by Latrell Mitchell as the roving playmaker out the back on lots of the Bunnies' set plays. With a crisp passing game, dangerous footwork and a deft short kick in his arsenal, Walker is as unpredictable as they come and will test Newcastle's shaky defence.

Souths get a boost up front with Jaydn Su'A returning, shifting Cameron Murray to lock and Liam Knight to the bench.

After seven long years, the Newcastle Knights are back in the finals. Adam O'Brien has to receive some credit for the feat given it is his rookie season at the helm. But in all honesty, at this rate it will mean little if the men from the Hunter bow out in the opening week.

Yet that is exactly what most expect to happen. A 36-6 thumping at the hands of the Titans is hardly the ideal preparation for the finals. Last week's 30-point loss was indicative of a bigger issue at Newcastle that is yet to be fixed despite having been addressed on multiple occasions this year. It's all about attitude, particularly without the ball in hand.

After a dejecting defeat by the exact same score line to the Warriors in Tamworth, O'Brien labelled the performance as "embarrassing." A month earlier he had asked the Knights what team they wanted to be after an equally humiliating loss to the Bulldogs.

The regular season has passed and still there is no clear answer to that question.

At the moment all they look like is also-rans. Kalyn Ponga has been heavily criticised but he can only do so much. He needs more support, especially from Mitchell Pearce. Newcastle need him to lead from the front on Sunday against the high-flying Rabbitohs.

The Knights' only team change sees Lachlan Fitzgibbon start and Sione Mata'utia bumped back to the bench.

Who to watch: Both teams have centres who have enjoyed much-improved 2020 campaigns to put themselves in the Origin frame. Campbell Graham now has 10 tries from his past seven games and not all of those four-pointers have been simple put downs either. Just as crucial has been his strong carries from inside South Sydney's half to kick off their sets and build ascendancy for the pack to play off.

Meanwhile, Enari Tuala has benefited from increased game time since leaving North Queensland. He has more tackle busts and tries from his 19 games played this year than in the 18 appearances he made during his time at Townsville. The permanent role on Newcastle's edge and playing outside Ponga has given Tuala the opportunity to make a name for himself but he will need to be on his game defensively given South Sydney's ability to create indecision in the defensive line.

Favourite: Souths are in-form and the hot favourites.

My tip: The Knights can be hot and cold so their fans will be hoping it is the former this week. Unfortunately for them, it is just too hard to ignore the gulf in class and form between the two halves pairings. **Rabbitohs by 14.**



Botille VETTE-WELSH	1	FULLBACK	1	Sam BREMNER
Shanice PARKER	2	WING	2	Tiana PENITANI
Corban MCGREGOR	3	CENTRE	3	Jessica SERGIS
Yasmin MEAKES	4	CENTRE	4	Isabelle KELLY
Brydie PARKER	5	WING	5	Jaime CHAPMAN
Charlotte CASLICK	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Shakiah TUNGAI
Zahara TEMARA	7	HALFBACK	7	Maddie STUDDON
Simaima TAUFA	8	FRONT ROW	8	Ellie JOHNSTON
Nita MAYNARD	9	HOOKER	9	Keeley DAVIS
Filomina HANISI	10	FRONT ROW	10	Stephanie HANCOCK
Vanessa FOLIAKI	11	SECOND ROW	11	Kezie APPS
Kaitlyn PHILLIPS	12	SECOND ROW	12	Shaylee BENT
Hannah SOUTHWELL	13	LOCK	13	Elsie ALBERT
Quincy DODD	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Aaliayah FASAVALU-FAAMAUSILI
Kennedy CHERRINGTON	15		15	Christine PAULI
Sarah TOGATUKI	16		16	Talei HOLMES
Jocelyn KELLEHER	17		17	Mahalia MURPHY
Grace HAMILTON	18	RESERVES	18	Rikeya HORNE
Bobbi LAW	19		19	Maddison WEATHERALL
Melanie HOWARD	20		20	Jade ETHERDEN
Amelia MAFI	21		21	Teagan BERRY
Jamie FEENEY		COACH		Daniel LACEY

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PENALTIES

SCRUMS

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#NRLWRoostersDragons

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 3 October 2020
KICKOFF	11:30am AEST
VENUE	GIO Stadium Canberra Bruce, ACT
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand 2GB SYD / 4BC BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Liam KENNEDY
TOUCH JUDGES	Jon STONE Drew OULTRAM
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 2 MATCHES

Roosters 1 Dragons 1

At GIO Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TWO

2018	R3	Roosters 26-0	Allianz
2019	R3	Dragons 24-16	Leichhardt

1-ALL

BIGGEST WINS

2018	R3	Roosters 26-0	Allianz
2019	R3	Dragons 24-16	Leichhardt

Match Preview

with Josh Robertson

NRLW is back for 2020 on Saturday morning as we head to Canberra for the first time in the competition's history with the Sydney Roosters and St George Illawarra Dragons kicking the competition off.

The Sydney Roosters have had a very mixed history in the NRLW having only won the one game across the two seasons even though their sole victory in 2018 got the Roosters into the Grand Final.

Last season, the Roosters weren't able to find form across their three games after initially falling to a 4-point defeat to the Warriors. The Roosters then fell to a 20-0 defeat against the Broncos before a 24-16 defeat in the final round against the St George Illawarra Dragons.

For the 2020 season, the Roosters have kept 11 members of their squad from 2019 but have been given a big boost with the high-profile signings of Australian rugby internationals Charlotte Caslick and Grace Hamilton. They also welcome Botille Vette-Welsh who comes from the Dragons whilst Taleena Simon returns to the squad after missing 2019 due to the birth of a son.

The St George Illawarra Dragons have proven that the 2020 NRLW season has more than one contender after making the 2019 NRLW grand final and upsetting the Broncos at the Perth 9s earlier this season.

The Red 'V' won two of their three regular season games last year with a 26-6 victory over the Warriors and 24-16 victory against the Roosters. The only defeats the Dragons suffered in 2019 were to the Broncos 14-4 and 30-6 in Round 1 and Grand Finals respectively.

The Dragons have kept most of their squad but have been boosted by the signing of Isabelle Kelly who joined the Dragons at the NRL9s in February and has stayed with the Red 'V' for the NRLW season.

The Saints have boosted their middle pack with the signing of Papua New Guinea international captain Elsie Albert as well as former Broncos veteran Steph Hancock heads Souths to join the Dragons.

Who to watch: Having never played a Rugby League game before, Charlotte Caslick gets put straight into the fire being named by new Roosters Coach Jamie Feeney at five-eighth. An Olympic Gold Medallist, Caslick will be used to high pressure situations given her experience as one of the top Rugby 7s players for Australia but she will no doubt come under intense scrutiny given her reputation for the competition.

Having represented both her state and country, Maddie Studdon is one of the best-known players in the NRLW. Studdon had a less than stellar first campaign with the Roosters which saw her dropped from the side for the final round and grand final. In 2019, Studdon had more success heading to the Dragons where she helped the Dragons reach the Grand Final. It will be important for both the Dragons and Studdon that she finds form with some question marks appearing in recent times over her form.

Favourite: The St George Illawarra Dragons would head into the contest as favourites for this match as they have moved into favouritism for the NRLW competition.

My tip: The Roosters have made a number of key signings but the Dragons still look to have the stronger team on paper. The additions of Isabelle Kelly, Steph Hancock and Elsie Albert will be a big boost to the Dragons as well, Kelly in particular has the ability to swing the game on her own. The game will be tight but the Dragons should have enough to win it. **Dragons by 6.**



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Brisbane
BRONCOS



New Zealand
WARRIORS

Tamika UPTON	1	FULLBACK	1	Karina BROWN
Lauren BROWN	2	WING	2	Hilda PETERS
Julia ROBINSON	3	CENTRE	3	Shontelle STOWERS
Jayne FRESSARD	4	CENTRE	4	Evania PELITE
Meg WARD	5	WING	5	Ellia GREEN
Raecene MCGREGOR	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Kirra DIBB
Ali BRIGGINSHAW	7	HALFBACK	7	Simone SMITH
Millie BOYLE	8	FRONT ROW	8	Crystal TAMARUA
Lavinia GOULD	9	HOOKER	9	Kanyon PAUL
Chelsea LENARDUZZI	10	FRONT ROW	10	Kayla SAUVAO
Amber HALL	11	SECOND ROW	11	Madison BARTLETT
Jessika ELLISTON	12	SECOND ROW	12	Tazmin GRAY
Tarryn AIKEN	13	LOCK	13	Georgia HALE
Annette BRANDER	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Teaghan HARTIGAN
Tallisha HARDEN	15		15	Taimane LEVU
Shannon MATO	16		16	Samantha ECONOMOS
Tyler BIRCH	17		17	Brianna CLARK
Romy TEITZEL	18	RESERVES	18	Michaela PECK
Chante TEMARA	19		19	Laken PAITAI
Shenae CIESIOLKA	20		20	Naomi KARA
Zara CANFIELD	21		21	Shaniah POWER

Kelvin WRIGHT

COACH

Brad DONALD

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

#NRLWBroncosWarriors

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 3 October 2020
KICKOFF	3:00pm AEST
VENUE	GIO Stadium Canberra Bruce, ACT
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand 2GB SYD, 4BC BNE
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Henry PERENARA
TOUCH JUDGES	Jon STONE Drew OULTRAM
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 2 MATCHES

Broncos 1 Warriors 1

At GIO Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TWO

2018	R3	Broncos 32-10	AAMI
2019	R3	Warriors 10-8	SCG

1-ALL

BIGGEST WINS

2018	R3	Broncos 32-10	AAMI
2019	R3	Warriors 10-8	SCG

Match Preview

with Josh Robertson

The second of the NRLW opening double header on Saturday afternoon sees the defending champions the Brisbane Broncos taking on the New Zealand Warriors.

The Broncos have been the benchmark through the NRLW having taken both NRLW premierships having only lost one game across the two seasons. The Broncos only defeat across the two seasons came at the hands of the Warriors in a 10-8 upset in the final round of the season. The Broncos had won both their opening games with a 14-4 victory over the Dragons and a 20-0 win over the Roosters. Their dominance across the women's competition came to an end at the Perth 9s when they were comfortably defeated in the final by the Dragons.

Brisbane's squad has been kept relatively similar for 2020 with Lauren Brown and Shannon Mato coming across from Rugby Union to take part in the NRLW for this season. The Broncos have also added QLD origin representative Tallisha Harden to their side for this season after joining from the Roosters.

The New Zealand Warriors will more than likely become a fan favourite for 2020 with a patchwork team and squad for 2020. The Warriors have been inconsistent through the NRLW across two seasons with three wins across the two seasons. In 2019, the Warriors took two victories with victories over the Roosters in Round 1 with a 16-12 and then pulled off the biggest upset in

the competition's history with a 10-8 over the Brisbane Broncos.

Due to the COVID regulations, the Warriors will be made up of players from all different backgrounds due to key players unable to leave commitments in New Zealand. This has seen players such as Honey Hireme & Apii Nicholls missing the competition. The Warriors have signed Karina Brown, Kirra Dib Tazmin Gray and Shontelle Showers along with Australian Rugby duo Ellia Green and Evania Pelite.

Who to watch: Having been with the Broncos for both NRLW seasons and being a key part of the Australian and Queensland squad for well over a decade, Ali Brigginsaw is one of the most notable players across any side in the NRLW. The Brisbane half will be leading the attack yet again and her ability to create something out of nothing will challenge oppositions over the coming weeks.

New Warriors halfback Kirra Dibb will have a job ahead of her leading a side that will have had a limited amount of training and playing time together. Joining from the Roosters, Dibb has represented both NSW and Australia at the highest level and only joined the Warriors in the past few weeks, helping to fill key gaps in the lineup, to help keep the competition strong for 2020.

Favourite: The defending champions will be considered the favourites for this clash given the strength of their line up and their history in the competition.

My tip: The Warriors will no doubt put up a strong performance but given their circumstances and the disjointed nature of their squad, the Broncos will have a better preparation into the game and they look stronger. **Broncos by 18.**



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2020 Draw

NRL Telstra Premiership

ROUND 1

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

MARCH 12-15

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

Bankwest 8-2
GIO 24-6
Townsville 21-28
MJS 20-0
ANZ 22-18
Panthers 20-14
Lottoland 4-18
WIN 14-24

ROUND 2

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

MARCH 19-22

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

ANZ 16-24
Kogarah 28-32
Suncorp 22-18
Cbus Super 6-20
Leichhardt 8-9
Kogarah 10-12
Leichhardt 24-42
Cbus Super 6-46

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

ROUND 3

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

MAY 28-31

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

Suncorp 6-34
Townsville 36-6
Bankwest 28-12
Gosford 18-0
Bankwest 16-28
AAMI 6-22
C'town 14-14
Gosford 32-6

Queen's Birthday

ROUND 4

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

JUNE 4-8

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

Suncorp 0-59
C'town 26-0
AAMI 22-8
Bankwest 19-16
Townsville 16-26
C'town 18-34
Suncorp 28-23
Bankwest 22-2

ROUND 5

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

JUNE 11-15

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

Gosford 20-18
Gosford 37-26
Bankwest 16-10
Bankwest 32-12
Gosford 12-26
C'town 6-14
C'town 30-16
Bankwest 6-42

ROUND 6

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

JUNE 18-21

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

Beanies for Brain Cancer Round

Gosford 27-6
Bankwest 40-12
C'town 21-14
Suncorp 8-20
C'town 36-20
Bankwest 24-10
C'town 6-14
Bankwest 20-18

ROUND 7

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

JUNE 25-29

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

Kogarah 20-12
Kogarah 50-6
Bankwest 26-12
Townsville 32-20
Suncorp 12-30
Bankwest 25-24
Gosford 22-40
Bankwest 6-34

ROUND 8

Thu 7:50pm
Fri 6:00pm
Fri 7:55pm
Sat 3:00pm

JULY 2-5

Storm v Roosters
Raiders v Dragons
Eels v Cowboys
Titans v Sharks

Suncorp 27-25
GIO 22-16
Bankwest 42-4
Cbus Super 10-40

Sat 5:30pm
Sat 7:35pm
Sun 4:05pm
Sun 6:30pm

Warriors v Broncos
Tigers v Panthers
Sea Eagles v Knights
Bulldogs v Rabbitohs

Gosford 26-16
Bankwest 12-19
Lottoland 12-14
Bankwest 10-26

ROUND 9

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

JULY 9-12

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

Townsville 16-42
Cbus Super 16-12
Bankwest 18-10
Kogarah 24-56
Suncorp 26-8
GIO 14-20
MJS 4-10
Kogarah 34-4

ROUND 10

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

JULY 16-19

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

SCG 20-24
S. Coast 42-6
Leichhardt 48-0
WIN 28-22
Bankwest 18-20
Lottoland 22-18
Gosford 10-46
Panthers 22-10

ROUND 11

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

JULY 23-26

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

Bankwest 26-16
QCBS 12-24
Suncorp 8-46
Gosford 10-18
Kogarah 28-24
GIO 18-12
MJS 12-18
Cbus Super 14-22

Indigenous Round

ROUND 12

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

JULY 30-AUGUST 2

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

Kogarah 24-32
SCG 20-26
Suncorp 26-36
SCG 18-12
Townsville 12-14
Lottoland 12-42
ANZ 16-18
S. Coast 26-16

ROUND 13

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

AUGUST 6-9

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

WIN 16-24
Lottoland 22-26
ANZ 28-10
S. Coast 41-10
MJS 44-4
Panthers 28-12
Cbus Super 30-10
Kogarah 12-14

ROUND 14

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

AUGUST 13-16

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

SCG 6-24
Gosford 12-18
Bankwest 12-14
Kogarah 30-18
Townsville 30-31
GIO 36-8
MJS 26-24
Bankwest 29-28

ROUND 15

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

AUGUST 20-23

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

Bankwest 14-0
Panthers 38-12
Suncorp 24-26
Cbus Super 16-36
Leichhardt 16-38
ANZ 56-16
ANZ 14-20
MJS 12-0

ROUND 16

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

AUGUST 27-30

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

Bankwest 0-38
Kogarah 10-14
SCG 58-12
Tamworth 36-6
Kogarah 28-12
Panthers 30-6
S. Coast 30-6
GIO 34-20

ROUND 17

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

SEPTEMBER 3-6

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

Suncorp 12-25
 MJS 38-10
 ANZ 16-22
 ANZ 14-18
 Lottoland 32-34
 GIO 6-18
 Gosford 18-24
 QCBS 23-22

ROUND 18

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

SEPTEMBER 10-13

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

Bankwest 24-26
 ANZ 20-32
 Panthers 20-2
 WIN 8-37
 Cbus Super 18-6
 SCG 42-12
 S. Coast 36-20
 Kogarah 22-14

ROUND 19

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

SEPTEMBER 17-20

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

Women in League Round

ANZ 16-26
 QCBS 12-32
 Bankwest 26-12
 Lottoland 24-42
 S. Coast 50-22
 SCG 34-18
 GIO 26-14
 MJS 42-18

ROUND 20

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

SEPTEMBER 24-27

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

Suncorp 16-32
 Cbus Super 36-6
 ANZ 60-8
 ANZ 0-42
 Kogarah 28-38
 Bankwest 24-28
 Gosford 40-28
 Kogarah 30-22

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

Fri 7:50pm - QF 1
 Sat 5:40pm - EF 1
 Sat 7:50pm - QF 2
 Sun 4:05pm - EF 2

OCTOBER 2-4

Panthers (1) v Roosters (4)
 Raiders (5) v Sharks (8)
 Storm (2) v Eels (3)
 Rabbitohs (6) v Knights (7)

Qualifying & Elimination Finals

Panthers Stadium
 GIO Stadium
 Suncorp Stadium
 ANZ Stadium

WEEK 2

Day/Time TBC
 Day/Time TBC

OCTOBER 9-10

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

Semi Finals

Venue TBC
 Venue TBC

WEEK 3

Day/Time TBC
 Day/Time TBC

OCTOBER 16-17

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

Preliminary Finals

Venue TBC
 Venue TBC

GRAND FINAL

Sun 7:15pm

OCTOBER 25

W PF 1 v W PF 2

ANZ Stadium

2020 NRL TELSTRA WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP**ROUND 1**

Sat 11:30am
 Sat 3:00pm

OCTOBER 2-4

Roosters v Dragons
 Broncos v Warriors

GIO Stadium
 GIO Stadium

ROUND 2

Sat 12:30pm
 Sat 4:00pm

OCTOBER 9-10

TBC
 TBC

Venue TBC
 Venue TBC

ROUND 3

Sat 12:30pm
 Sat 4:00pm

OCTOBER 16-17

TBC
 TBC

Venue TBC
 Venue TBC

GRAND FINAL

Sun, Time TBC

OCTOBER 25

1st v 2nd

ANZ 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. NRL draw is subject to change - visit LeagueUnlimited.com for updated fixtures. All times are AEST, except Rounds 1, 2, NRL Finals Weeks 2-4 and NRLW Round 2, 3 and Grand Final, plus State of Origin (all AEDT).

2020 STATE OF ORIGIN SERIES**GAME 1**

Wed 8:10pm

NOVEMBER 4

NSW v QLD

Adelaide Oval

GAME 2

Wed 8:10pm

NOVEMBER 11

NSW v QLD

ANZ Stadium

WOMEN'S

Fri 8:10pm

NOVEMBER 13

QLD v NSW

Sunshine Coast Stadium

GAME 3

Wed 8:10pm

NOVEMBER 18

QLD v NSW

Suncorp Stadium

**NOT SURE WHO TO TIP?
 THEN CHECK OUT WHO TIPPED WHAT**



› ALL THE EXPERTS IN ONE PLACE

› SIGN UP TO OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

whotippedwhat.com

Castleford
TIGERS



Hull
FC

P	T	G	Pts					P	T	G	Pts
12	5	-	20	Michael SHENTON	4	1	Jamie SHAUL	11	7	-1	29
8	1	-	4	Jake TRUEMAN	6	2	Bureta FARAIMO	6	-	-	-
12	2	-	8	Paul McSHANE	9	3	Carlos TUIMAVAVE	10	5	-	20
12	1	-	4	Grant MILLINGTON	10	6	Jake CONNOR	9	1	8	20
11	2	-	8	Mike McMEEKEN	12	7	Marc SNEYD	9	2	28 ³	67
8	-	-	-	Adam MILNER	13	8	Scott TAYLOR	7	-	-	-
11	1	-	4	Nathan MASSEY	14	10	Tevita SATAE	9	-	-	-
11	-	-	-	George GRIFFIN	16	12	Manu MA'U	7	2	-	8
7	4	-	16	Cheyse BLAIR	18	13	Ligi SAO	9	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	Junior MOORS	20	15	Joe CATOR	5	-	-	-
9	4	-	16	James CLARE	21	16	Jordan JOHNSTONE	8	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	Jacques O'NEILL	22	20	Brad FASH	8	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Matt COOK	23	21	Jordan LANE	9	3	-	12
3	-	-	-	Tyla HEPI	24	22	Josh BOWDEN	11	1	-	4
4	1	-	4	Greg EDEN	25	23	Andre SAVELIO	5	2	-	8
1	-	-	-	Lewis PEACHEY	27	24	Mahe FONUA	11	4	-	16
-	-	-	-	Brad GRAHAM	28	26	Kieran BUCHANAN	5	2	-	8
-	-	-	-	Brad MARTIN	31	29	Lewis BIENEK	-	-	-	-
5	3	3+1	19	Gareth O'BRIEN	34	30	Jack BROWN	5	1	-	4
1	1	-	4	Jack SANDERSON	35	31	Cameron SCOTT	2	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Dan FLEMING	36	35	Ben McNAMARA	-	-	-	-

Daryl POWELL

COACH

Andy LAST

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

Super League Round 13 Results

Leeds 41 (Luke Briscoe, Alex Mellor, Ash Handley 2, Richie Myler, James Donaldson, Rhys Martin tries; Rhys Martin 6 goals; Luke Gale 1 field goal) def **Hull KR 16** (Shaun Kenny-Dowall, Ryan Brierley, Jimmy Keinhorst tries; Ryan Brierley 2 goals) Venue: Halliwell Jones Stadium; Date: Thursday 24 September 2020, 2:45pm BST

Salford 28 (Andy Ackers, Rhys Williams, Krisnan Inu 2, Joey Lussick tries; Krisnan Inu 4 goals) def **Hull FC 22** (Jordan Lane, Jamie Shaul 2, Andre Savelio tries; Jake Connor 3 goals) Venue: Halliwell Jones Stadium; Date: Thursday 24 September 2020, 6pm BST

Huddersfield 31 (Jermaine McGillvary 3, Aidan Sezer, Jake Wardle tries; Aidan Sezer 5 goals and 1 field goal) def **Castleford 19** (Jack Sanderson, Greg Eden, Gareth O'Brien tries; Gareth O'Brien 3 goals and 1 field goal) Venue: Halliwell Jones Stadium; Date: Thursday 24 September 2020, 8:15pm BST

Warrington 30 (Danny Walker, Blake Austin, Matt Davis, Matty Ashton, Anthony Gelling tries; Gareth Widdop 5 goals) def **Catalans 16** (Fouad Yaha, Samisoni Langi, Tom Davies tries; James Maloney 2 goals) Venue: Halliwell Jones Stadium; Date: Friday 25 September 2020, 6pm BST

Wigan 28 (Bevan French 2, Oliver Gildart, Sam Powell, Jackson Hastings tries; Zak Hardaker 4 goals) def **Wakefield 16** (Tom Johnstone, Tinirau Arona, Jacob Miller tries; Tony Gigot 2 goals) Venue: Halliwell Jones Stadium; Date: Friday 25 September 2020, 8:15pm BST

#SLCasHul

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Thursday 1 October
KICKOFF	7:45pm BST
VENUE	Mend-A-Hose Jungle, Castleford
WATCH	Sky Sports Arena

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Tom GRANT
SIDELINE OFFICIALS	Mark CRAVEN Cameron WORSLEY
VIDEO REFEREE	Scott MIKALOUSKAS

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)

OVERALL 48 MATCHES

Castleford 21 Hull 24 Drawn 3

At Mend-A-Hose Jungle: 24 matches, Castleford 13, Hull 10, Drawn 1

LAST TEN CASTLEFORD 6-4

2016	Castleford 30-16	KCOM
2017	Hull 26-24	KCOM
2017	Castleford 24-22	Mend-A-Hose
2017	Hull 48-16	Mend-A-Hose
2018	Castleford 28-18	Mend-A-Hose
2018	Hull 36-12	KCOM
2018	Castleford 28-8	KCOM
2019	Castleford 26-18	KCOM
2019	Hull 31-18	Mend-A-Hose
2019	Castleford 44-12	Mend-A-Hose

BIGGEST WINS

2013	Hull 52-0	KCOM
2019	Castleford 44-12	Mend-A-Hose

Super League Table after Round 13

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	+/-	Pts	Win %
1	Warrington	12	9	3	0	258	148	110	18	75%
2	Wigan	12	9	3	0	295	198	97	18	75%
3	St Helens	11	8	3	0	303	135	168	16	73%
4	Leeds	10	7	3	0	255	190	65	14	70%
5	Catalans	9	5	4	0	244	199	45	10	56%
6	Huddersfield	12	6	6	0	222	247	-25	12	50%
7	Castleford	12	5	7	0	232	247	-15	10	42%
8	Hull FC	12	5	7	0	254	330	-76	10	42%
9	Salford	10	3	7	0	194	275	-81	6	30%
10	Hull KR	11	2	9	0	182	321	-139	4	18%
11	Wakefield	11	2	9	0	160	309	-149	4	18%

Match Preview

with Steve Mascord

TALISMANIC Castleford playmaker Jake Trueman is back as one of six changes to coach Daryl Powell's side for this midweek Super League clash.

Adam Milner, Junior Moors, Brad Graham, Brad Martin and Dan Fleming have also been added for the Tigers' first game at home since the restart. Academy kid Graham would be making his debut if he survives the cut.

Derrell Olpherts, Danny Richardson, Liam Watts, Oliver Holmes, Jesse Senelafao and Calum Turner all drop out of the squad beaten 31-18 out last week by Huddersfield.

Hull coach Andy Last has lamented the lack of time between games to make significant changes but he nonetheless has shaken up his squad for the visit to the Mend-a-Hose Jungle.

Josh Griffin, Danny Houghton, Masi Matongo and Connor Wynne are all gone from the team beaten last week by Salford. Coming in are vice-captain and England international Scott Taylor, making his first appearance since the restart after suffering a back injury, along with Kieran Buchanan, Lewis Bienek and Ben McNamara.

Both FC and Cas' probably fell out of finals contention last week - but with no relegation this year it's an interesting study in motivation and tactics.

One school of thought posits that without the jeopardy of the drop, teams out of finals contention have nothing to play for. The other suggests that long-term planning, the natural enemy of P&R, can now come into effect.

Certainly, NRL players and clubs are far too professional to allow 'dead rubber' matches to descend into farce so why should Super League stars be any less motivated? "The players have got their own professional pride to play for to make sure they represent the club the way they should do by giving their all every week," says caretaker Hull coach Andy Last.

"I won't accept losing games where we're not putting in the maximum effort.

Last suggested his imports were intimidated by pressure at times.

"I think sometimes the external guys we sign get hit by how big a club it is," he said. "They're drawn to the club for its size, its potential and its fanbase.

"Then when they start playing the games, it's probably a bigger club than they expected it to be.

"With that comes pressure and sometimes you can argue some players have struggled to perform under that expectation.

"It's a concern and hopefully we'll be better moving forward.

"How these players have got a good reputation without consistently doing it is beyond me. I'm fed up of reading how good we are on paper because you don't win games on paper. It's on the green stuff."

For the visitors, Adam Swift, Josh Jones, Albert Kelly, Gareth Ellis and Ratu Naulago remain unavailable.

At the time of writing, Castleford centre Peter Matautia was expected to be ruled out for the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Powell has plenty to say in recent weeks about refereeing.

This game was to be part of a trial of allowing spectators back into British sporting events - a trial that has since been aborted.

Who to watch: Jake Connor is increasingly carrying all of Hull's hopes and expectations - and the responsibility is not resting well on his shoulders. If he plays to his potential, they win. However, the odds of that happening seem increasingly long.

Favourites: Cas' showed a few glimpses of their best against the Giants last week and depending on the final 17 coach Daryl Powell is able to select, they look more likely this week.

My tip: A fresh Castleford by 1.

Leeds
RHINOS



Wigan
WARRIORS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
-	-	-	-	Jack WALKER	1	1	Zak HARDAKER	1	-	4	8		
1	1	-	4	Tom BRISCOE	2	2	Liam MARSHALL	-	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Konrad HURRELL	4	3	Chris HANKINSON	-	-	-	-		
1	1	-	4	Ash HANDLEY	5	4	Oliver GILDART	1	1	-	4		
1	-	-	-	Rob LUI	6	5	Joe BURGESS	1	1	-	4		
1	-	-	-	Luke GALE	7	6	Bevan FRENCH	1	2	-	8		
1	1	-	4	Ava SEUMANUFAGAI	8	7	Thomas LEULUAI	1	-	-	-		
1	2	-	8	Kruise LEEMING	9	8	Tony CLUBB	-	-	-	-		
1	-	-	-	Matt PRIOR	10	9	Sam POWELL	1	1	-	4		
1	-	-	-	Alex MELLOR	11	10	George BURGESS	1	-	-	-		
1	1	8	20	Rhyse MARTIN	12	11	Willie ISA	1	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Brad DWYER	14	12	Liam FARRELL	1	2	-	8		
1	-	-	-	Liam SUTCLIFFE	15	13	Sean O'LOUGHLIN	1	-	-	-		
1	-	-	-	Richie MYLER	16	14	Ben FLOWER	-	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Adam CUTHBERTSON	17	15	Joe GREENWOOD	1	-	-	-		
1	-	-	-	Mikolaj OLEDZKI	19	16	Morgan SMITHIES	-	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Bodene THOMPSON	20	17	Oliver PARTINGTON	1	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Rhys EVANS	21	19	Joe BULLOCK	-	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Cameron SMITH	22	20	Liam BYRNE	-	-	-	-		
1	-	-	-	Callum McLELLAND	23	21	Dominic MANFREDI	1	-	-	-		
1	1	-	4	Luke BRISCOE	24	22	Mitch CLARK	1	-	-	-		
1	-	-	-	James DONALDSON	25	23	Jake BIBBY	-	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Alex SUTCLIFFE	26	27	Jake SHORROCKS	1	-	-	-		
1	-	-	-	Tom HOLROYD	28	28	Harry SMITH	1	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Tyler DUPREE	32	30	Ethan HAVARD	1	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Jarrold O'CONNOR	33	31	Jackson HASTINGS	1	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Jack BROADBENT	34	32	Amir BOUROUH	-	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Corey HALL	36	33	Joe SHORROCKS	-	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	James HARRISON	39	37	Harry RUSHTON	-	-	-	-		
-	-	-	-	Brett FERRES	40								

Richard AGAR

COACH

Adrian LAM

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

#CCLeeWig

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 3 October 2020
KICKOFF	2:30pm BST
VENUE	Totally Wicked Stadium, St Helens
WATCH	BBC Sport

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Chris KENDALL
SIDELINE OFFICIALS	Tom GRANT Scott MIKALOUSKAS
VIDEO REFEREE	Ben THALER

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (Challenge Cup)

OVERALL 30 MATCHES

Leeds 14 Wigan 15 Drawn 1

At Totally Wicked Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN

	WIGAN 6-4
1973	Wigan 25-11 Headingley
1988	Wigan 30-14 Central Park
1994	Wigan 26-16 Wembley
1995	Wigan 30-10 Wembley
1999	Leeds 28-18 Headingley
2007	Wigan 22-18 Headingley
2008	Leeds 23-16 Headingley
2010	Leeds 12-10 Headingley
2011	Wigan 28-18 Wembley
2012	Leeds 39-28 John Smith's

BIGGEST WINS

1938	Leeds 27-4	Headingley
1913	Wigan 38-0	Central Park

Match Preview

with Steve Mascord

WIGAN rested a host of stars on Tuesday night against St Helens - gave a debut to Ellery Hanley's son Umyla - and somewhat predictably were beaten 42-0 in the first derby with St Helens of the year.

Along those rested by coach Adrian Lam were Sean O'Loughlin, Liam Farrell, Oliver Gildart, Joe Burgess and Bevan French Prop Joe Bullock (hand) and winger Dom Manfredi (concussion) are also due back for the Challenge Cup semi-final against Leeds on Saturday.

Sadly youngster Jack Wells injured an MCL knee ligament and is set for a long stay on the sidelines

You would think glamour clubs Wigan and Leeds would have featured in many Challenge Cup finals but in fact it's only been three - and can't go to four this year.

Each had comparatively easy quarter-final assignments, the Warriors coasting past Hull FC 36-4 and Leeds having an even easier time of it against Humberside opposition, beating Hill KR 48-18.

But Rhinos coach Richard Agar was eager to point out his side was not in the same class as Adrian Lam's men yet and certainly a Rhinos win here would be a considerable upset.

The big news for Leeds on Monday was that forward Stevie Ward would miss the rest of the season due to the after-effects of concussion. So bad have been his headaches and migraines that he may not even start 2021 on time.

Talented centre Harry Newman will miss the rest of the season with a broken leg. He had to remain in Warrington and wait until Tuesday for surgery because of the Covid-19 pressure on the NHS.

Players we could see back on the pitch for this Totally Wicked Stadium Challenge Cup semi-final are Jack Walker (fractured foot), Cameron Smith (broken jaw) and Brad Dwyer (coronavirus).

But the Rhinos had a Super League game against Catalans on Wednesday to get through and that game was too late for our deadline to take into account any suspensions or injuries.

Lam points out that because of Covid-19 protocols "we can't even have massages at training so all that recovery stuff is under the microscope as well.

"You've got to rest players. We're continuously reassessing our schedule and plans. Everyone's got to do it because everyone's in the same boat."

The Warriors recently signed Brad Singleton from Toronto but that doesn't mean he'll even get a run this year, according to the coach.

Who to watch: Bevan French was a deserved man of the match in his last outing and seems to be just winding up as the big end-of-season games approach..

Favourites: Leeds are aspiring to be where Wigan are from the point of view of reliability in defence, consistency and adaptability in attack and mental toughness. But they're not there yet. The Warriors are gathering momentum

My tip: Nip and tuck throughout on the way to a **10-point Wigan win.**

WIGAN & LEEDS

JERSEYS

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Salford
RED DEVILS



Warrington
WOLVES

P T G Pts

-	-	-	-	Niall EVALDS	1
-	-	-	-	Ed CHAMBERLAIN	2
1	-	-	-	Kris WELHAM	3
1	2	-	8	*Dan SARGINSON	4
1	1	3	10	Krisnan INU	5
1	-	-	-	Tuimoala LOLOHEA	6
1	-	-	-	Kevin BROWN	7
-	-	-	-	Lee MOSSOP	8
1	-	-	-	Joey LUSSICK	9
1	-	-	-	Gil DUDSON	10
-	-	-	-	Ryan LANNON	11
1	-	-	-	Pauli PAULI	12
1	-	-	-	Tyrone McCARTHY	13
1	-	-	-	Sebastine IKAHIHIFO	14
1	-	-	-	Greg BURKE	16
1	-	-	-	*Luke YATES	17
-	-	-	-	Chris ATKIN	18
1	-	-	-	Mark FLANAGAN	19
-	-	-	-	Josh JOHNSON	20
1	1	-	4	James GREENWOOD	21
1	-	-	-	Rhys WILLIAMS	22
-	-	-	-	Ken SIO	23
1	-	-	-	Elliot KEAR	24
-	-	-	-	Connor JONES	25
1	-	-	-	Kallum WATKINS	32

* subject to judiciary

P T G Pts

1	-	2	4	Stefan RATCHFORD	1
1	1	-	4	Anthony GELLING	3
1	-	-	-	Toby KING	4
1	2	-	8	Josh CHARNLEY	5
1	-	-	-	Blake AUSTIN	6
-	-	-	-	Gareth WIDDOP	7
1	-	-	-	Chris HILL	8
1	-	-	-	Daryl CLARK	9
1	-	-	-	Mike COOPER	10
1	-	-	-	Ben CURRIE	11
1	-	-	-	Jack HUGHES	12
1	-	-	-	Ben MURDOCH-MASILA	13
1	-	-	-	Jason CLARK	14
1	-	-	-	Joe PHILBIN	15
-	-	-	-	Leilani LATU	16
1	-	-	-	Jake MAMO	17
-	-	-	-	Sitaleki AKAUOLA	18
1	-	-	-	Matt DAVIS	19
1	-	-	-	Danny WALKER	20
-	-	-	-	Declan PATTON	21
-	-	-	-	Luis JOHNSON	22
-	-	-	-	Keanan BRAND	24
-	-	-	-	Samy KIBULA	25
1	1	-	4	Matty ASHTON	26
-	-	-	-	Ellis ROBSON	27
-	-	-	-	Nathan ROEBUCK	28
-	-	-	-	Josh THEWLIS	29
-	-	-	-	Riley DEAN	30
-	-	-	-	Eribe DORO	32

Ian WATSON

COACH

Steve PRICE

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

#CCSalWar

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 3 October 2020
KICKOFF	5:00pm BST
VENUE	Totally Wicked Stadium, St Helens
WATCH	BBC Sport

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Liam MOORE
SIDELINE OFFICIALS	Marcus GRIFFITHS Jack SMITH
VIDEO REFEREE	Robert HICKS

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (Challenge Cup)

OVERALL 11 MATCHES

Salford 4 Warrington 7

At Totally Wicked Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN

YEAR	WARRINGTON 6-4
1915	Salford 11-2 Wilderspool
1936	Warrington 7-2 Central Park
1937	Warrington 10-4 The Willows
1951	Warrington 8-4 The Willows
1965	Warrington 16-2 Wilderspool
1969	Salford 15-8 Central Park
1971	Salford 20-9 The Willows
1997	Salford 29-10 The Willows
2000	Warrington 22-20 The Willows
2013	Warrington 52-6 Halliwell Jones

BIGGEST WINS

1997	Salford 29-10	The Willows
2013	Warrington 52-6	Halliwell Jones

Match Preview

with Steve Mascord

Empty stadia and the usual circumstance of the same sides meeting twice in five days has given this Challenge Cup semi some added intrigue.

On Tuesday night at AJ Bell Stadium, Salford led a dramatically under-strength Warrington for only 81 seconds - but they were the final 81 seconds as In Watson's men came from 18-0 down to score a gutsy 20-18 win in which Krisnan Inu's soaring conversions were decisive.

But Watson said there were things he heard from Wire players in the silent arena that he can use to his advantage as he prepares for the rematch.

"Me listening on the sidelines to certain things they were talking about....," Watson told Sky.

"They've obviously previewed a few of our players, which is interesting as well. We'll take a few things out of that."

Asked what he would change, Watson deadpanned: "The team".

The Red Devils had a win and a loss before kick-off with centre Dan Sarginson's two match high tackle suspension overturned but that utility forward Luke Yates (dangerous contact) upheld.

Sarginson had collected Hull fullback Jamie Shaul high and Watson argued the attacker held some responsibility for protecting himself.

'An independent tribunal decided that the tackle was 'careless' rather than 'reckless' and downgraded the offence from Grade B to A, which does not carry a suspension," the RFL said.

Since our edition last week, Salford signed Widnes pair Tom Gilmore and Ollie Ashall-Bott on loan.

"It's going to be a totally different team," said Warrington coach Steve Price after Tuesday's game showing by his youngsters.

"It will be a totally different game come Saturday."

Salford are sentimental favourites here but on paper, Warrington should march through to Wembley. Wire utility Stefan Ratchford plays his 250th game. Gareth Widdop needs one goal to reach 500 for his career.

Who to watch: Former Wire man Kevin Brown was inspirational last week and will be looking to get one over the Wolves this week. Controls play like a puppeteer at his best but up against equally illustrious playmakers in Gareth Widdop and Blake Austin this time around.

Favourites: Warrington are developing such depth that Sky pundits posited last week Widdop may not even be in their best 13. The Wolves really should win this one.

My tip: The Red Devils are on a roll at the moment and I'm tipping an upset. **Salford by one.**

WARRINGTON & SALFORD

JERSEYS

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The



LEAGUE
UNLIMITED

FRONT ROW

VOLUME 1 · ISSUE 19

Totally Wicked Irony

What if Salford made history
...and no-one was there to see it?

YOUR GLOBAL MATCH PROGRAMME

Challenge Cup Semi Finals • Super League Round 14 • NRL Finals Week 1 • NRLW Round 1