

The **FRONT ROW**



VOLUME 1 · ISSUE 20

Class of 2020

*This year's rookies
chose an interesting
year to break out!*



Triple treat

Hat-trick hero Tamika Upton is ready to help the Broncos to an historic NRLW three-peat

INSIDE: NRL Finals, NRLW and Super League program with squad lists, previews & head to head stats **PLUS** more features, NRL Finals Week 1 & #NRLW R1 wrap, crossword, word jumbles & more!



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From the editor

Tim Costello

For a season that prided itself on unpredictability, the first week of the NRL Finals threw up a fairly predictable set of results. The top four teams got the choccies and the top two have set their dates for preliminary final action. The result ensured the Storm would head to their sixth consecutive year of Preliminary Final appearances, while the Panthers showed why they're a genuine title contender with a strong performance against a never-say-die Roosters. The question now - will this weekend's semis throw up similarly predictable winners or is a spanner about to be thrown in the works?

Turning focus to this week's magazine and we have a number of great feature pieces this week - Rob Crosby has identified the key contenders for 2020's Rookie of the Year as we look at the whole class of NRL newbies in this bizarre year; while Paul Jobber talks to Broncos hat-trick hero Tamika Upton after her side picked up an opening round win in the NRLW on the weekend. Steve Mascord also speaks to Darcy Lussick as the his brothers - Salford's Joey and Roosters' Freddy - find themselves headed for potential glory in the coming weeks.

Happy reading!

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Whenever a player realises their dream of debuting in first grade it is a special occasion. When it happens during a global pandemic it is all the more memorable!

In total, 69 players debuted in first grade throughout the 2020 season.

For some, the progression to first grade has been expected after impressing in junior representative teams. For others, the journey to the NRL has been paved by years of toiling away in front of crowds of friends and family.

Here are some of the stars of the future that debuted in first grade throughout the 2020 NRL Season.



Image: Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs

What an introduction to first grade!

TOBY RUDOLF (Sharks)

Conquering the NSW and QLD state leagues with back-to-back titles at Redcliffe (2018) and Newtown (2019), Toby Rudolf made the step up to the top grade with distinction. Providing a much-needed injection of youthful enthusiasm to a Sharks' pack reeling from the retirement of club stalwart Paul Gallen, the 24-year-old forward averaged 130 metres and 29 tackles in 20 appearances.

NRL Debut: Cronulla Sharks 18 v South Sydney Rabbitohs 22 - Round 1 (Interchange, #16)

CHRIS RANDALL (Knights)

It wasn't that long ago that Chris Randall was wearing the number nine jersey for Lakes United in the Newcastle Rugby League. Rising through the ranks at Newcastle to play seven matches in his rookie year - including an Elimination Final against South Sydney - the 23-year-old hooker set a record for the most tackles on debut (71) during an epic encounter with Penrith.

NRL Debut: Newcastle Knights 14 v Penrith Panthers 14 - Round 3 (Interchange, #14)

Image: Knights media



JAKE AVERILLO (Bulldogs)

Serving as a rare spark of life for the battling Bulldogs throughout 2020, Jake Averillo finished his rookie year with three tries in 13 appearances. Covering a host of positions throughout the backline, the 20-year-old Moorebank Rams junior looks set to play a prominent role in years to come as Trent Barrett plots to restore the blue and whites to their former glory.

NRL Debut: Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 16 v North Queensland Cowboys 24 - Round 2 (Interchange, #17)

ELIESA KATO A (Warriors)

Before debuting in the opening round of the season, back rower Eliesa Katoa had played just 13 games of rugby league. Earning rave reviews with six tries in 13 appearances in the top grade, the 20-year-old Tongan powerhouse looks set to become a star of the future after securing his future with the Warriors until the end of 2024.

NRL Debut: New Zealand Warriors 0 Newcastle Knights 20 - Round 1 (Interchange, #16)

Image: Gold Coast Titans



JAIMIN JOLLIFFE (Titans)

Heading to the Gold Coast in pursuit of an opportunity after toiling away at the nirvana of Sydney's Inner West (aka Henson Park), Jaimin Jolliffe finished 2020 as one of the Titans' most consistent performers. Going from a bench player to a starting front rower in a manner of weeks, the 23-year-old averaged 92 metres and 27 tackles per games to earn an upgraded deal at the Gold Coast until the end of 2022.

NRL Debut: Gold Coast Titans 6 v Canberra Raiders 24 - Round 1 (Interchange, #17)



Robert Crosby

Contributor

SEMI VALEMEI (Raiders)

Following in the footsteps of trailblazer Noa Nadruku, Fijian flyer Semi Valemei enjoyed a dazzling ascension into the top grade. Scoring a hat-trick in the Raiders' Jersey Flegg Grand Final victory last year, the 21-year-old could find himself in a first grade decider following four tries in eight appearances.

NRL Debut: Canberra Raiders 24 v Sydney Roosters 20 - Round 10 (Interchange, #21)

ADAM CLUNE (Dragons)

Coming into the top grade as a mature aged rookie, Adam Clune showed the benefits of honing his craft in the lower grades. Wearing the number seven jersey on 15 occasions throughout the year, the 25-year-old was rewarded with a new two-year deal off the back of five try-assists and eight forced restarts.

NRL Debut: St George Illawarra Dragons 2 v Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 22 - Round 4 (Halfback, #7)

CHRIS LEWIS (Storm)

Becoming the latest in a long line of diamonds in the rough to thrive under the coaching of Craig Bellamy, late bloomer Chris Lewis realised his NRL dream after years of plying his trade in NSW and QLD state leagues. Playing almost exclusively off the bench in five matches throughout 2020, the 28-year-old second rower averaged 76 metres and 19 tackles per game.

NRL Debut: Melbourne Storm 22 v South Sydney Rabbitohs 8 - Round 4 (Interchange, #21)

NRL Debutants 2020

Penrith Panthers: Charlie Staines (RD. 9); Daine Laurie (RD. 13)

Melbourne Storm: Chris Lewis (RD. 4); Darryn Schonig (RD. 9); Cooper Johns (RD. 15); Isaac Lumelume (RD. 16); Aaron Booth (RD. 20); Aaron Pene (RD. 20)

Parramatta Eels: Stefano Utoikamanu (RD. 9); Andrew Davey (RD. 10)

Sydney Roosters: Daniel Suluka-Fifita (RD. 12); Max Bailey (RD. 13); Christian Tuipulotu (RD. 14); Freddy Lussick (RD. 15)

Canberra Raiders: Kai O'Donnell (RD. 9); Semi Valemei (RD. 10); Harley Smith-Shields (RD. 11); Matt Timoko (RD. 16); Adam Cook (RD. 20); Darby Medlyn (RD. 20); Jarrett Subloo (RD. 20)

South Sydney Rabbitohs: Troy Dargan (RD. 3); Keaon Koloamatangi (RD. 4); Jaxson Paulo (RD. 10); Jack Johns (RD. 11) Steven Marsters (RD. 15)

Newcastle Knights: Tex Hoy (RD. 3); Chris Randall (RD. 3); Brodie Jones (RD. 3)

Cronulla Sharks: Toby Rudolf (RD. 1); Teig Wilton (RD. 11); Jackson Ferris (RD. 12); Braydon Trindall (RD. 12); Daniel Vasquez (RD. 20)

Gold Coast Titans: Jaimin Jolliffe (RD. 1); Beau Fermor (RD. 8); Trey main Spry (RD. 9)



Image: Cowboys media

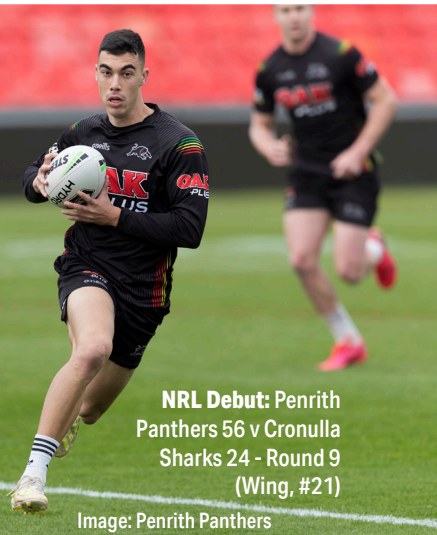
HAMISO TABUAI-FIDOW (Cowboys)

From the first time Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow lit up the Perth 9s back in February, it was only a question of "when", not "if", the speedster would feature in first grade. Scoring six tries in 14 appearances for the Cowboys after beginning the year on a development contract, the 19-year-old looks set to follow in the footsteps of Matt Bowen in dazzling opponents with footwork and speed for many years to come.

NRL Debut: North Queensland Cowboys 26 v New Zealand Warriors 37 - Round 5 (Wing, #5)

CHARLIE STAINES (Panthers)

He may have only appeared in two matches for the Panthers in 2020, but in a short space of time Charlie Staines endeared himself to the entire NRL community. Becoming only the fifth player in 113 seasons to score four tries on debut, the 20-year-old speedster enjoyed an unforgettable afternoon in July against the Sharks - made all the more memorable by a legion of friends and family making the journey from his hometown of Forbes to witness history.



NRL Debut: Penrith Panthers 56 v Cronulla Sharks 24 - Round 9 (Wing, #21)

Image: Penrith Panthers

New Zealand Warriors: Jamayne Taunoa-Brown (RD. 1); Eleisa Katoa (RD. 1); King Vuniyayawa (RD. 1); Paul Turner (RD. 15); Tom Ale (RD. 19)

Wests Tigers: Alex Seyfarth (RD. 3); Sam McIntyre (RD. 6); Reece Hoffman (RD. 9); Shawn Blore (RD. 11); Asu Kepaoa (RD. 13)

St George Illawarra Dragons: Adam Clune (RD. 4); Cody Ramsey (RD. 18); Max Feagai (RD. 19); Jayden Sullivan (RD. 20); Eddie Blacker (RD. 20)

Manly Sea Eagles: Tevita Funa (RD. 5); Albert Hopoate (RD. 16); Josh Schuster (RD. 17)

North Queensland Cowboys: Tom Gilbert (RD. 4); Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow (RD. 5); Connelly Lemuelu (RD. 6); Daejarn Asi (RD. 10); Emre Pere (RD. 13); Ben Condon (RD. 19)

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs: Jake Averillo (RD. 2); Matt Doorey (RD. 14); Tui Katoa (RD. 20)

Brisbane Broncos: Jamil Hopoate (RD. 1); Ethan Bullemor (RD. 2); Cory Paix (RD. 4); Tesi Niu (RD. 4); Jordan Riki (RD. 14)



Pride in the jersey

Broncos NRLW side aiming to give home state something to cheer about

There hasn't been much to celebrate in the Queensland capital throughout 2020.

After their National Rugby League team claimed their first-ever wooden spoon a week earlier, the focus shifted to the Brisbane Broncos' women's side last weekend.

The defending NRLW premiers gave those north of the border something to cheer about with an impressive 28-14 victory over the Warriors in the opening round.

But it was 23-year-old fullback Tamika Upton that had everyone talking after she scored a hat-trick in just 13 minutes that helped her team turn around an early 8-0 deficit.

Not only was it just the third time a player had scored a hat-trick in the competition's short history, it was the first time the Rockhampton junior had scored three tries in the same game.

But Upton said it was simply a case of being given a role and fulfilling it.

"I see it as they were all set plays and I was doing my job at the end of it and happened to be in the right place at the right time," she told *The Front Row*.

She does, however, know there is plenty of improvement required.

"There's a lot of improving to do especially with our defensive line; you have to get the splits right and push up a little bit more as a fullback," she said.

"There were a few times where we had a few breakaways but I wasn't in the picture."

Upton said the team didn't feel any added pressure despite the NRL team's lean season and the fact the women's team are defending NRLW premiers.

"I think we all want to put a bit of pride in the jersey for ourselves," she said.

"It's just expectation on our behalf, but there's definitely no outside pressure which is good."

Brisbane face St George Illawarra on Saturday at Bankwest Stadium with the Dragons looking to bounce back from a surprise first-round loss to the Roosters.



**Paul
Jobber**
Contributor

The Broncos fullback knows the star-studded Red V will be much better this week and was looking forward to the challenge.

"In the first game you're still working out combinations, so we're expecting them to bounce back," she said.

"They would have watched our game as well so they'll be ready for what we throw at them."

Broncos coach Kelvin Wright will hope his side don't start as slow as they did last weekend where they were 8-0 down within the opening 10 minutes.

Upton said it was a different gameday preparation than previous years, but one they needed to quickly become accustomed to.

"We don't want to blame anything but the warm-up we had was pretty rushed and it was our first game doing the fly in, fly out," she said.

"We got into the club at 8.30am, flew and then did the warm-up but we have to adapt to that because that's how we have to play this season."

The impressive opening-round victory was a warning shot to their rivals that the Queenslanders are again going to be difficult to stop.

Upton said they were as hungry for success as ever.

"We have very high expectations of ourselves starting with culture and every time we're training it's 100 per cent train like you want to play," she said.

"Everyone buys in really well and I think that's why it works."



Panthers clinch prelim in one-point thriller over Roosters

Sam Bourke



29-28



Panthers have made it 16 consecutive victories after they overcame a fast finishing Roosters side to win 29-28 in an absolute thriller at Panthers Stadium tonight.

The win books Ivan Cleary's side into their first Preliminary Final since 2014 following an amazing start to the 2020 NRL finals series. In a see-sawing match the lead changed several times, which saw the Roosters jump out to a 10-0 lead in as many minutes, followed by 5 unanswered Panthers tries, 2 more Roosters tries and a Nathan Cleary field goal in a pulsating match. Then just as the game seemed all over, the defending premiers found an answer with Angus Crichton crashing over late to give the Panthers a scare.

The Roosters loss was further compounded with firebrand front rower Jared Warea-Hargraves facing a nervous wait after being placed on report for a high tackle on Panthers fullback Dylan Edwards in a tackle that is sure to come under scrutiny by the Match Review Committee.

It was billed as the battle of East vs West, with the Roosters proven finals experience in comparison to their Western counterparts counting for plenty early, as the Roosters exploded out of the blocks to score two quick tries in the first ten minutes. The first was off the back off some ill discipline when Panthers custodian Dylan Edwards was penalised for dragging Josh Morris back in-goal off a kick collected on his own line. The defending premiers then marched up field and made the Panthers pay for the costly penalty. Luke Keary hit the play button, when he spotted the Panthers defensive line was lacking down the short side, and veteran centre Josh Morris crashed over to score the first try of the night. The Roosters had their tails up and again the Panthers were penalised when Villiame Kikau was singled out for a lifting tackle. The Roosters exploded downfield which saw rookie hooker Freddy Lussick crash over from dummy half to score his first NRL try and it was 10-0 following the missed conversion from Kyle Flanagan.

The Panthers were shell shocked and desperately needed a spark. As per recent performances in 2020, it was five-eighth Jarome Luai who found a struck match, when he managed to produce some early ball to Villiame Kikau who attracted three defenders. Kikau then delivered a deft pass for winger Josh Mansour who dived over in the corner to score the Panthers first try. Suddenly the swagger was back for the men in black and they struck again minutes later, when second rower Liam Martin produced a sloppy offload. The pass was however scooped up by Edwards who then found Nathan Cleary with a short ball close to the line and the NSW halfback crashed over under the posts. Cleary then converted to level the scores.

The Panthers as per their last 15 matches had suddenly found the momentum, when Luai collected the ball on the last and grubbered towards the posts. Like a magnet, Cleary then stuck to the ball to slide over for the home side and they hit the lead after trailing 10 nil after 10 minutes earlier in the half. The Roosters were starting to have flashbacks to their capitulation from last week, when yet again they gave Luai some space and he again capitalised, when the livewire number 6 was allowed to skip across field and show the ball back inside to young gun Stephen Crichton, who broke the line and then found Cleary in support to score a first half hat-trick. Cleary then converted and the Panthers led 22-10 at halftime after scoring four unanswered tries.

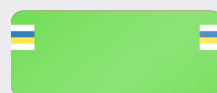
After the break, the party continued for the home fans, when hat-trick hero Cleary then kicked for Luai who managed to successfully bat the ball back for Tyrone May who then found Crichton who went over to score. Cleary converted and the Panthers were dreaming of the week off. James Tedesco then dragged his side back into the game, when the Australian fullback took the ball to the line to score a trademark try close to the line. The defending premiers then smelt a chance and that intensified when Luke Keary put the ball up in the air on the last. Brian To'o then knocked the ball back in-goal, which saw Josh Morris race through to ground the ball and get the Roosters back in the game. With the clock winding down, the Panthers took their chance to ice the game, when Cleary snapped what seemed the match winning field goal with minutes remaining to put his side in front by 7 points.

The defending premiers then managed to raise from the dead, following an error from Panthers centre Brent Naden who collected the ball in front of the 10 metre line following a short kickoff from the Roosters which opened the door for the defending premiers. They made it count when they confidently marched up field and NSW backrower Angus Crichton crashes over with just minutes remaining on the clock. Despite the late scare, the Panthers held on to secure a one point victory to give them the valuable week off next week, while the Roosters now await the winner of the Raiders vs Sharks match tomorrow afternoon.

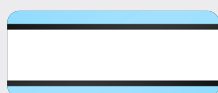
LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:
3 points - Nathan Cleary; 2 points - Jarome Luai; 1 points - Luke Keary

Raiders second half surge sinks Sharks

Andrew Ferguson



32-20



Cronulla opened the scoring in the 6th minute when Chad Townsend kicked a penalty goal.

Canberra responded with a try in the 10th minute when Joseph Tapine refused to be tackled in the middle, was initially met by 3 defenders and then a fourth joined, but he somehow slipped out and evaded 2 more cover defenders to reach out and score under the posts. Croker converted from in front.

After the Sharks dominated field position and possession, they finally converted it into points in the 19th minute when Connor Tracey received the ball on the left side, drifted further left, dummied and then threw a nice ball to Ronaldo Mulitalo who dived to score in the corner. Townsend's sideline conversion missed.

Back-to-back penalties for the Sharks resulted in Chad Townsend kicking his second penalty goal, in the 22nd minute. The Sharks scored again in the 27th minute. The Raiders were running off their own line when Elliott Whitehead spilled a pass forward into Brailey who caught it, dummied and then scored while twisting in the tackle,

getting the ball down under the posts, injuring his ankle in the process. Townsend converted. Brailey stayed on for another 3 minutes but was not getting better and eventually came off. Three minutes from halftime and the Sharks were on the attack down the left side when a Wade Graham short ball to Braden Hamlin-Uele was intercepted by George Williams who then ran 65 metres to score in the right corner. Croker failed to convert from out wide. Cronulla lead 14-10 at halftime.

7 minutes into the second half, Jack Wighton took a quick tap and strolled through the Sharks middle defence, catching them napping to score under the posts. Croker converted from in front. It was somewhat controversial as Wade Graham was requesting to challenge the decision that allowed Wighton to take the tap.

The Sharks were found to be offside from the restart and from the ensuing set George Williams chipped to the left and Wighton looked like he was shot out of a cannon as he outleapt everyone, juggled the ball and eventually planting it down for a try. Croker converted from almost in front.

In the 56th minute Hudson Young made a break before the defence pulled him down deep inside the Sharks half. On the next play, Wighton received the ball and ran back towards the posts before dishing a short ball to George Williams who barged over under the posts to score. Croker added the extras.

In the 65th minute the Raiders put the game to bed when Croker who grubbered into the Sharks in-goal before Whitehead cleaned up to score in the corner. Croker failed to convert from out wide. Cronulla got themselves a consolation try in the final 90 seconds when Sione Katoa took a neat intercept and ran 90 metres to score in the right corner. Townsend converted from touch. Canberra running out 32-20 victors.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:
3 points - Jack Wighton; 2 points - George Williams; 1 points - Chad Townsend

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Storm through to sixth straight Prelim after Eels shootout

Justin Davies



Melbourne Storm edged Parramatta Eels 36-24 to advance to their sixth straight Prelim tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

For an hour, this contest was a scrap between two quality sides but Melbourne Storm showed in a quick burst of points that they still had some extra class against a gallant Parramatta Eels side, and move within a game of another Grand Final.

It wasn't a vintage performance but led by Ryan Papenhuyzen, the Storm did enough. The fullback put together a Man of the Match which included a pair of tries and try-assists which left a marker for the seven teams left to match.

Once Blake Ferguson crossed to make it 18-all, we settled in for a showstopping finish. The Storm put paid to that - Jesse Bromwich, Brenko Lee and Papenhuyzen found the stripe - and suddenly the Storm had made it an 18-point margin and held on.

Before the contest, all the numbers pointed to an easy Storm result. The Eels produced a turn up for the books. Mitchell Moses first kick of the night saw Nathan Brown make

it 6-nil then a counter attack suited to the Premier League, saw Clint Gutherson make it 12-nil.

Melbourne were behind but had peppered the Eels left-side defense. Passes went to ground early but it clicked into gear eventually for the departing Suliasi Vunivalu to dive over then it was the left again as Papenhuyzen finished off a slick move to send it to 12-all at the break.

The Storm weren't going to be caught off guard again. It took 120 seconds for them to hit the front, again it came from the left, this time it finished off with Addo-Carr. Cameron Smith ensured the side were going up in sixes and the Storm had their first lead.

Eels struck back again through Ferguson as the Eels refused to fall over. Unfortunately for the visitors, the injuries piled up. Tryscorer Ferguson and Andrew Davey both had to leave the field and the makeshift Eels backline had a big challenge to comeback.

The Storm went to their extra gear pushed ahead by three scores and secured their sixth straight Preliminary Final as success continues to ooze out of the Storm structure despite all the rumblings of pieces going different directions. The only dampener is the possible injury to half Cameron Munster.

Credit to the Eels. They kept fighting until the finish. Shaun Lane stepped across to cut the margin to 12, but it was a bridge too far for the blue-and-gold. They now host the winner of South Sydney Rabbitohs vs Newcastle Knights tomorrow afternoon.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen; 2 points - Kenneath Bromwich; 1 points - Clinton Gutherson

Bunnies blast Knights off the park and out of the finals

Andrew Ferguson



Souths red-hot attack from last week returned to rack up 46 points in 64 minutes to romp home to a comfortable 26-point, 46-20 victory against Newcastle at ANZ Stadium.

The Knights started strongly and got out to a surprise 14-0 lead early in the game, starting in the third minute when Hymel Hunt got outside his man and dived over to score in the corner. Kalyn Ponga converted from touch.

Just three minutes later they were in again after Lachlan Fitzgibbon broke through a tackle before linking with Bradman Best, who outran the cover defender to score out wide. Ponga again nailed the difficult conversion.

Ponga added a penalty goal in the 12th minute. A minute later the Knights were on the attack again after an Adam Reynolds kick struck Fitzgibbon in the legs and the Knights forward cleaned up the loose ball. An error just a few plays later let the Bunnies off the hook and they went on the attack.

And they never stopped attacking.

In the 16th minute Souths ran it on the last, sending the ball to the left edge where Corey Allan received the ball, slipped out of a weak low tackle attempt by Enari Tuala to score a soft try. Reynolds failed to convert.

From the restart, Reynolds kicked high on the last tackle and Ponga spilled the ball into touch. Some brilliant teamwork by the Rabbitohs halves off the back of the scrum saw

Reynolds receive the ball on the left and threw a blind short ball to Cody Walker, who was running around behind Reynolds, then took the pass and strolled through a huge gap to score a stunning try. Reynolds added the extras.

In the 23rd minute, Souths levelled the scores after Walker put Alex Johnston over for a good try in the left corner which Reynolds failed to convert.

Souths took the lead just under 3 minutes before halftime when Damien Cook made his trademark dart from dummy-half before drawing Ponga and then getting a nice ball to Cameron Murray who strolled over to score under the posts. Reynolds converted and at halftime, Souths lead 20-14 despite being down 14-0 after 12 minutes.

The second half was a Rabbitohs blitz. Reynolds kicked a penalty goal in the 48th minute and then in the 61st minute, the avalanche of tries poured in.

Tevita Tatola took a crash ball into the middle and was held back short of the line, but he somehow got his arm free and got the ball down for a try despite not being able to see if he was planting it in the right place. Amazing effort. Reynolds converted.

In the 70th minute Souths again went to the left and this time Allan pulled off a lovely catch and pass to Johnston, who dived over in the corner to score his second try of the game. Reynolds converted from out wide.

In the 73rd minute Cook fired a quick flat ball to Tatola who basically took 3 steps to crash over and score under the posts. Reynolds converted.

3 minutes later, the Knights were on the attack when Mitchell Pearce dropped the ball cold and looked at it. Murray picked it up and passed to Cook who then ran 80 metres to score. Dane Gagai converted this try.

Right on fulltime, Newcastle scored a consolation try when Hymel Hunt bounced out of one tryline tackle, spun and fell over the line to score in the right corner. Aidan Guerra in his last game got to take the shot at goal and perfectly landed the sideline conversion. Souths strolling home to a 46-20 victory.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:

3 points - Damien Cook; 2 points - Corey Allan; 1 points - Cody Walker

The Scoresheet

Scores, scorers, match details from the weekend

NRL Finals Week 1

Panthers 29 (Josh Mansour, Nathan Cleary (3), Stephen Crichton tries; Nathan Cleary 4/6 goals and 1 field goal) def **Roosters 28** (Josh Morris (2), Freddy Lussick, James Tedesco, Angus Crichton tries; Kyle Flanagan 4/5 goals); Venue: Panthers Stadium; Date: Friday 2 October 2020, 7:50pm AEST; Halftime: Panthers 22-10; Crowd: 7209; Referee: Gerard Sutton; Touch Judges: Chris Butler, Todd Smith; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy

Raiders 32 (Joseph Tapine, George Williams (2), Jack Wighton (2), Elliott Whitehead tries; Jarrod Croker 4/6 goals) def **Sharks 20** (Ronaldo Mulitalo, Blayke Brailey, Sione Katoa tries; Chad Townsend 4/5 goals); Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Date: Saturday 3 October 2020, 5:40pm AEST; Halftime: Sharks 14-10; Crowd: 9602; Referee: Grant Atkins; Touch Judges: Phil Henderson, Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell

Storm 36 (Suliasi Vunivalu, Ryan Papenhuyzen (2), Josh Addo-Carr, Jesse Bromwich, Brenko Lee

tries; Cameron Smith 6/6 goals) def **Eels 24** (Nathan Brown, Clinton Gutherson, Blake Ferguson, Shaun Lane tries; Mitchell Moses 4/4 goals); Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Date: Saturday 3 October 2020, 7:50pm AEST; Halftime: 12-all; Referee: Ashley Klein; Touch Judges: Dave Munro, Peter Gough; NRL Bunker: Steve Chiddy

Rabbitohs 46 (Corey Allan, Cody Walker, Alex Johnston (2), Cameron Murray, Tevita Tatola (2), Damien Cook tries; Adam Reynolds 6/8, Dane Gagai 1/1 goals) def **Knights 20** (Hymel Hunt 2, Bradman Best tries; Kalyn Ponga 3/3, Aidan Guerra 1/1 goals); Venue: ANZ Stadium; Date: Sunday 4 October 2020, 4:05pm AEST; Halftime: Rabbitohs 20-14; Crowd: 17212; Referee: Ben Cummins; Touch Judges: Chris Sutton, Belinda Sharpe; NRL Bunker: Jared Maxwell

NRLW Round 1

Roosters 18 (Nita Maynard, Quincy Dodd, Corban McGregor tries; Zahara Temara 2/4 goals) def **Dragons 4** (Tiana Penitani try; Shakiah Tungai 0/1 goals); Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Date: Saturday 3 October 2020, 11:30am AEST; Halftime: Roosters 12-4; Referee: Liam Kennedy; Touch Judges: Jon Stone, Drew Oultram; NRL Bunker: Steve Clark

Broncos 28 (Tamika Upton (3), Julia Robinson, Chelsea Lenarduzzi tries; Meg Ward 4/5 goals) def **Warriors 14** (Simone Smith, Ellia Green, Evania Pelite tries; Kirra Dibb 1/3 goals); Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Date: Saturday 3 October 2020, 3:00pm AEST; Halftime: Broncos 22-8; Referee: Henry Perenara; Touch Judges: Jon Stone, Drew Oultram; NRL Bunker: Steve Clark

Roosters open NRLW with surprise victory

Josh Robertson



18-4



The Sydney Roosters have opened the 2020 NRLW season surprising everyone with an 18-4 victory over the St George Illawarra Dragons.

The pre-season competition favourites, the Dragons looked off the mark from the get go when the Roosters were able to open the scoring after just two minutes when Nita Maynard took advantage of split markers to dive over out of dummy half.

Neither side could control the ball in the next few minutes and it was the Dragons who took advantage when the Roosters defence jammed in and Sam Bremner saw the space on the outside when she floated a rainbow pass out to Tiana Penitani who scored in the corner.

Discipline wasn't a strong suit for the Dragons and the ill-discipline came back to hurt them when Quincy Dodd was given the green lights for her effort out of dummy half after referee Liam Kennedy wanted to make sure there was no obstructions.

The injuries continued to mount for the Dragons as Jess Sergis suffered an ankle injury, thankfully she continued to play for the Dragons although both Shakiah Tungai and Kezie Apps left the field for HIA's. The Red 'V' crossed the line for a second time but were denied by the whistle of referee Liam Kennedy who had penalised the Roosters for an infringement in the ruck.

A successful challenge from the Roosters saw Zahara Temara add a penalty goal for them to extend their lead out to 14-4 before some Rugby 7s style ingenuity from Charlotte Caslick kept the ball alive, sending Corban McGregor on the outside to score in the corner.

The Dragons had a late chance to add a try to close the gap but couldn't make their chances count again. The two sides have a wait to see who they will play next weekend and where the games are with a likely trip to Brisbane.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:
3 Points - Charlotte Caslick; 2 Points - Steph Hancock; 1 Points - Quincy Dodd

Broncos open title defence with victory over courageous Warriors

Josh Robertson



28-14



Charging towards a third successive NRLW title, the Brisbane Broncos have opened the 2020 season with a 28-14 victory over a courageous New Zealand Warriors side.

The New Zealand Warriors started the first half the more dominant of the two sides with the Broncos struggling to hold the Warriors attack early and it was through the halfback Simone Smith who spun her way out of a tackle to score.

The impact of the Australian Rugby 7s stars were on show again in this one when Ellia Green charged onto the ball with a big run out wide to score. Both conversions attempts were off-target from Kirra Dibb and the Warriors lead 8-0.

A string of penalties for the Broncos put them into good field position and momentum strong begun to swing their way when Tamika Upton crossed for the first of her three first-half tries. Upton was at the end of a left shift from the Broncos and through a show and go Upton beat the defence to score. The second of the Upton's three tries came when the Broncos made big metres off the kick-off and Millie Boyle offloaded to Upton who scored.

The third try for the Broncos came off a scrum play where they looked to shift the play back to the left and the Warriors defence was left in two minds on what was going to happen and Upton ran through to score. Meg Ward's missed conversion meant that the Broncos had a 16-8 at the break.

Momentum stuck with the Broncos to start the second half when they added a fourth try when again the Warriors right hand defence couldn't hold the Broncos out when Julia Robinson crossed.

The Warriors were denied a try when a knock-on was ruled in the lead up to a potential Hilda Peters effort by the bunker. Despite that momentary chance for the Warriors, the Broncos were able to hit the board again when Chelsea Lenarduzzi charged to the line and spun her way to the line and slammed the ball down.

Despite being down by 20, there was no drop in effort from the Warriors and off the back of three penalties, Evania Pelite got her first NRLW try when the dangerous left side for the Warriors got into attacking position and scored. The bunker again spoilt the Warriors celebrations on another try when Shaniah Power had her try rejected by the bunker who ruled that there was a knock-on at dummy half by Kanyon Paul.

The Broncos though will be waiting nervously with five-eighth Raecene McGregor taken from the field in a neck brace on the medicab.

LeagueUnlimited.com Player of the Year points:
3 points - Tamika Upton; 2 points - Amber Hall; 1 points - Ellia Green

NRLW Ladder after Round 1

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Diff	Pts
Sydney Roosters	1	1	-	-	18	4	+14	2
Brisbane Broncos	1	1	-	-	28	14	+14	2
St George Illawarra Dragons	1	-	1	-	4	18	-14	0
Warriors	1	-	1	-	14	28	-14	0

Happy birthday!

This round's birthday boys

Wednesday 7 October: Trent Merrin (Dragons) - 31

Thursday 8 October: Jahrome Hughes (Storm) - 26;

Taniela Paseka (Sea Eagles) - 23; Jason Saab (Dragons) - 20

Friday 9 October: Tyson Frizell (Dragons) - 29;

Russell Packer (Tigers) - 31

Saturday 10 October: Brenko Lee (Storm) - 25

Sunday 11 October: Rhys Kennedy (Broncos) - 26;

Tevita Tatola (Rabbitohs) - 24

Monday 12 October: Curtis Scott (Raiders) - 23

Tuesday 13 October: Ryan Matterson (Eels) - 26

2020 NRL Premiership Finals Series



LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM
 Rugby League News, Scores & Discussion

NRL & NRLW Match Review

Finals Week 1 / NRLW Round 1 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
Viliame KIKAU	Penrith	Grade 1 Dangerous Throw	8', Jared Waerea-Hargreaves	100	2 non-similar (+40%)	40	140 (+40)	105 (+40)	Not guilty	Guilty. 1 match	80
Jared WAEREA-HARGREAVES	Sydney	Grade 1 Careless High Tackle	21', Dylan Edwards	\$750 fine	1 x similar (+50%)	N/A	\$1150 fine	\$850 fine	Guilty - early plea	\$850 fine	N/A
Siosifa TALAKAI	Sharks	Grade 1 Contrary Conduct	53', Hudson Young	\$750 fine	None	N/A	\$750 fine	\$550 fine	Guilty - early plea	\$550 fine	N/A
Sione KATOA	Sharks	Grade 1 Careless High Tackle	44', Elliott Whitehead	\$750 fine	None	N/A	\$750 fine	\$550 fine	Guilty - early plea	\$550 fine	N/A
Cameron SMITH	Storm	Grade 1 Dangerous Throw	48', Dylan Brown	100	None	N/A	100	75	Guilty - early plea	None	75
Marata NIUKORE	Eels	Grade 1 Crusher Tackle	27', Tino Fa'asuamaleaui	200	1 similar (+50%)	45	300	225	Guilty - early plea	2 matches	70
Chris RANDALL	Knights	Grade 1 Crusher Tackle	69', Cody Walker	200	1 non-similar (+20%)	45	240	180	Guilty - early plea	2 matches	25

Word Jumbles

It's nudie run time! These players have all finished the 2020 season without scoring a single try. How many of the names can you unscramble?

KREEM VIPLADD
 CARKING PARTICAR
 PEPE SAIKEN
 MALA DUNCE
 RONALD MCJANE
 CREST SNOTNOSE

KNIGHTS, 21 GAMES
 BRONCOS, 19 GAMES
 SEA EAGLES, 19 GAMES
 DRAGONS, 15 GAMES
 COWBOYS, 15 GAMES
 SHARKS, 14 GAMES

RANBALL CHUR
 HOLLER FATGEMS
 CLAWN CHERRIES
 WALT AXEL
 HEADING KOOFI
 LARK RICEN

WARRIORS, 14 GAMES
 BRONCOS, 13 GAMES
 TIGERS, 13 GAMES
 TIGERS, 12 GAMES
 BULLDOGS, 11 GAMES
 TITANS, 10 GAMES

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS: Corey Oates, Steve Matai, Sam Verrills, Manu Vatuvei, George Burgess, Daniel Tupou, Sam Perrett, Jesse Bromwich, Alex Johnston, James Tedesco, Braith Anasta, Dale Finucane

A Novocastrian pioneer

Rugby league writer and historian Andrew Ferguson recaps the life of one of Newcastle's leading men when rugby league first came to the region in the early 1900's.

Jerry Bailey is widely regarded as one of the founding fathers of Rugby League in Newcastle, who dedicated his life to the game to help it get established, managing it through its tumultuous war period, helping to bring peace to the code before spending over a decade as a coach.

Bailey was a very talented junior who started playing Rugby Union in third grade for the prominent Carlton club in 1906. The following season he moved to Souths Newcastle, where he quickly rose through the ranks to make his debut in the senior grade. He then made his first senior representative appearance for the Northern Districts team against a Hunter River side in 1907.

The following month he starred in the Grand Final, scoring a magnificent 4 tries for South Newcastle as they beat East Newcastle 27-3.

Bailey was one of 15 Newcastle rebel Union players who met outside the Central Hotel on April 10, 1908, where he produced a cigarette packet with which the 15 players wrote their names on, to confirm their loyalty to the new code. A few days later and the Newcastle club was officially included in the inaugural NSWRL season, which was set to begin on April 20. None of the players knew the rules of the new game and had less than 2 weeks to prepare for their opening game.

Newcastle came up against Glebe in their first match, a side who had been the benchmark in the Sydney Rugby Union scene before switching codes. Bailey scored all of his side's 5 points as they went down narrowly in an unspectacular game 8-5.

Bailey pipped fellow Novocastrian winger George Cox for a place on the Kangaroo tour in 1908-09 and a week after Newcastle's last game of the season, he set sail for England aboard the RMS Macedonia on a 6 week journey.

The exhausting tour saw 45 games played, however despite his try scoring prowess and the Kangaroos troubles with scoring points, Bailey only appeared in 3 minor tour games, scoring 3 tries.

Upon returning home, he rejoined the Newcastle side, scoring 9 tries in 7 games as the side reached the semi-finals, only to go down to eventual premiers Souths. The Newcastle club made the decision to fold at the end of that season so as to form their own local competition. Bailey lined up for Souths Newcastle in the competitions debut season. The team were minor Premiers in 1910, but went on to lose the final to Central Newcastle 13-4.

A slowly worsening back injury which he suffered in a game in 1909 started to impact him in later seasons and by 1912, he was playing sporadically, often missing games that were played in wet weather, as the conditions would cause him significant pain.

Bailey enlisted with the Australian army in May 1916, but just 5 months

later was discharged, declared medically unfit with suspected lumbago.

He returned to Newcastle and played sporadically in the tumultuous 1917 season, where he took on administrative duties over playing duties.

1917 saw the NSWRL banning the majority of the Newcastle competition for allowing the banned player, Dan Davies, for applying in their competition. The banned parties decided to form their own rebel competition in 1918, which wasn't administered by the NSWRL. Bailey was appointed the President of the rebel league, thus creating two competitions in Newcastle. He presided over the rebel competition for each of its two years before he worked to unify the two codes in 1920, where Bailey was elected as President. He was then Vice-President for a further 5 years.

Bailey continued playing occasionally during the two rebel seasons, retiring from playing at the end of the 1919 season. After stepping down from administering the game, Bailey turned his hand to coaching in both the Newcastle local competition and the regions representative team in the late 1920's.

In 1934 he was awarded life membership of the Newcastle Rugby League. He slowly withdrew his involvement in the game to focus on his barber shop where he worked.

Poor health saw him take an early retirement and in 1952, he passed away due to an ongoing illness.

He was later inducted into the Hunter Academy of Sport Hall of Fame alongside fellow Newcastle Rugby League pioneers Stan Carpenter, Ernie Patfield and Pat Walsh



Jerry Bailey
 Born: William Mack Bailey
 27/1/1888
 at Newcastle, New South Wales
 Died: 5/11/1952
 at Soldiers Point, New South Wales

Jerry Bailey - Rugby League Playing Career

Club – Premiership Games

Newcastle (1908-09) – Played 15, 17 tries, 3 goals, 57 points

Club – Other Games

Newcastle (1908-09) – Played 4, 0 points

Representative

Newcastle (1908, 1910-12) – Played 5, 6 tries, 4 goals, 26 points

Northern Division (1908, 1910-11) – Played 4, 3 tries, 2 goals, 13 points

Probables (1908) – Played 1, 0 points

NSW (1908) – Played 2, 1 try, 3 points

Country (1911) – Played 1, 0 points

Australia (1908-09 Kangaroo tour) – Played 3, 3 tries, 9 points

TOTAL: 1908-12 – Played 35, 30 tries, 9 goals, 108 points

THE FRONT ROW

GAME DAY

GLOBAL MATCH PROGRAM

TEAM LISTS · MATCH DETAILS & STATS · PREVIEWS

NRL Finals Week 2



Roosters v Raiders

SCG
Semi Final - Friday



Eels v Rabbitohs

Bankwest Stadium
Semi Final - Saturday



NRLW Round 2



Warriors v Roosters

Bankwest
Saturday



Dragons v Broncos

Bankwest
Saturday

Super League Round 15



Giants v Red Devils

Headingley
Thursday



Rhinos v Tigers

Headingley
Thursday



Trinity v Saints

Headingley
Friday



Catalans v Rovers

Perpignan
Friday



Wolves v Warriors

Headingley
Friday



P	T	G	Pts						P	T	G	Pts
18	9	-	36	James TEDESCO	1	FULLBACK	1	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	19	7	-	28
14	11	-	44	Daniel TUPOU	2	WING	2	Semi VALEMEI	8	4	-	16
18*	11	-	44	Josh MORRIS	3	CENTRE	3	Jarrod CROKER	20	5	67	154
20	8	-	32	Joseph MANU	4	CENTRE	4	Jordan RAPANA	17	2	-	8
16	12	-	48	Brett MORRIS	5	WING	5	Nick COTRIC	21	12	-	48
19	10	- ²	42	Luke KEARY	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Jack WIGHTON	20	12	-	48
19	4	88	192	Kyle FLANAGAN	7	HALFBACK	7	George WILLIAMS	20	6	- ¹	25
17	1	-	4	Jared WAEREA-HARGREAVES	8	FRONT ROW	8	Josh PAPALII	20	4	-	16
18	1	-	4	Jake FRIEND	9	HOOKER	9	Tom STARLING	12	4	-	16
19	1	3	10	Sio Siua TAUKEIAHO	10	FRONT ROW	10	Iosia SOLIOLA	10	1	-	4
12	2	-	8	Boyd CORDNER	11	SECOND ROW	11	John BATEMAN	9	3	-	12
14	5	-	20	Angus CRICHTON	12	SECOND ROW	12	Elliott WHITEHEAD	20	5	-	20
18	1	-	4	Isaac LIU	13	LOCK	13	Joseph TAPINE	19	3	-	12
19	1	-	4	Lindsay COLLINS	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Siliva HAVILI	21	-	-	-
19	5	-	20	Sitili TUPOUNIUA	15		15	Dunamis LUI	18	2	-	8
16	5	-	20	Mitchell AUBUSSON	16		16	Hudson YOUNG	16	4	-	16
4	-	-	-	Sonny Bill WILLIAMS	17		17	Corey HARAWIRA-NAERA	9	-	-	-
18	1	-	4	Nat BUTCHER	18	RESERVES	18	Sam WILLIAMS	1	1	5	14
4	-	-	-	Daniel SULUKA-FIFITA	19		19	Matthew TIMOKO	2	-	-	-
10	7	-	28	Matt IKUVALU	20		20	Kai O'DONNELL	4	1	-	4
7	-	-	-	Lachlan LAM	21		21	Michael OLDFIELD	6	-	-	-

* includes 2 games for Cronulla

Trent ROBINSON

COACH

Ricky STUART

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Josh MORRIS (Roosters) - 1 more try for 150 career tries / 4 more points for 600 career points;
Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD (Raiders) - 8 more points for 100 career points; Joseph TAPINE (Raiders) - 100th Raiders match

#NRLRoostersRaiders

FIRST SEMI FINAL

DATE	Friday 9 October 2020
KICKOFF	7:50pm AEDT
VENUE	Sydney Cricket Ground Moore Park, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand MIX 106.3 Canberra
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ashley KLEIN
TOUCH JUDGES	Chris BUTLER Chris SUTTON
NRL BUNKER	Steve CHIDDY

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 65 MATCHES

Raiders 29 Roosters 36

At SCG: X matches, Raiders X, Roosters X

LAST TEN

LAST TEN		ROOSTERS 6-4	
2014	R12	Roosters 26-12	Allianz
2015	R4	Roosters 34-6	Allianz
2016	R2	Raiders 21-20	GIO
2017	R12	Raiders 24-16	GIO
2018	R23	Raiders 14-12	GIO
2019	R9	Roosters 30-24	Suncorp
2019	R21	Roosters 22-18	GIO
2019	GF	Roosters 14-8	ANZ
2020	R10	Raiders 24-20	SCG
2020	R17	Roosters 18-6	GIO

BIGGEST WINS

1982	R13	Roosters 55-15	SSG
1990	R5	Raiders 66-4	Bruce

HEAD TO HEAD

FINALS 5 MATCHES

Roosters 4 Raiders 1

LAST FINALS MEETING

2019	GF	Roosters 14-8	ANZ
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SEASON FORM LINE

ROOSTERS	4th, 28pts
L L W W W W W L W L W L W W W L W W W W L (Finals: L)	
RAIDERS	5th, 28pts
W W W L W L L W L W W W L W W W L W W W (Finals: W)	

Match Preview

with Robert Crosby

2019 grand finalists fight to keep 2020 dream alive

Twelve months after facing off in the premiership decider, the Sydney Roosters and the Canberra Raiders will resume their rivalry in the first semi final at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Gaining a second chance in the play-offs after finishing the regular season in fourth position, the Sydney Roosters will be determined to improve after being narrowly pipped by the Panthers 29-28 last Friday.

Establishing an early 10-0 lead, trailing by 18 midway through the second half before ultimately being denied by a field goal, coach Trent Robinson will be looking for greater consistency on Friday evening in order to avoid becoming the first Roosters' side in 12 years to bow out of the finals in back-to-back weeks.

Coming off a loss in the first week of the finals for the third time during Robinson's reign, the Roosters have form in bouncing back the following week with victories over the Cowboys (2014) and Bulldogs (2015).

Set to face the Raiders in finals football for the sixth time, the Roosters hold a historical dominance with four wins from their previous five meetings.

Regaining the services of co-captain Jake Friend (concussion) and impact forward Sonny Bill Williams (neck), Angus Crichton will start ahead of Sitili Tupouniua in the second row, while Nat Butcher drops back to the extended squad.

After missing last week through injury, veteran Sonny Bill Williams is set to make his 50th appearance for the Roosters.

Overcoming a slow start to power home 32-20 over the Sharks last Saturday, the Canberra Raiders will be raring to avenge the heartbreak of last year's grand final loss.

Starting last week well off the pace before surging to victory with five straight tries, coach Ricky Stuart will be buoyed by his side's performance at the Sydney Cricket Ground back in Round 10 where a man of the match performance from Josh Papalii saw the Raiders prevail.

Falling short against the Roosters during the Round 17 return bout, the Raiders will be hoping to achieve history as the first fifth-placed team to win a semi final since the current finals system was adopted eight years ago.

Retaining an unchanged line-up for the do-or-die clash, the Raiders will field 11 members of the team beaten in last year's decider.

Developing into one of the club's most consistent performers over the past five seasons, Joseph Tapine will play his 100th game for the Raiders on Friday evening.

Who to watch: Beginning the year at Cronulla before shifting to the Eastern Suburbs to reunite with his twin brother, Josh Morris will be determined to realise his life-long ambition of winning a premiership. Enjoying a strong year at left centre with 11 tries, 13 line breaks and 50 tackle breaks, the 34-year-old speedster also celebrated his 300th NRL appearance with a win over the Raiders when the two teams clashed a month ago. Scoring a double in last week's loss to Penrith, Morris can become the 14th man in premiership history to score 150 tries in first grade with a four-pointer on Friday evening.

Becoming a mainstay of the Raiders' pack since making the journey down under in 2016, second rower Elliott Whitehead has consistently proven to be one of the club's most valuable players. Playing 121 out of a possible 123 matches over the past five seasons, the 31-year-old English international has provided tremendous service on the left edge with 31 tackles and 75 metres each week. Possessing the versatility to shift to the centres and fill in the halves when called upon, look for Whitehead to stand up and cause the Roosters plenty of problems with and without the ball.

Favourite: Having won four out of five meetings against the Raiders since the start of last season, the Roosters are expected to bounce back on their home turf.

My tip: As one of only two teams to defeat the Roosters at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 2020, the Raiders will fancy their chances of sending the reigning premiers out in straight sets. **Raiders by 8.**

Parramatta EELS



South Sydney RABBITOHS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
21	8	12 ¹	57	Clinton GUTHERSON	1	FULLBACK	1	Corey ALLAN		8	4	-	16
7 [*]	3	-	12	George JENNINGS	2	WING	2	Alex JOHNSTON		20	22	-	88
20	7	-	28	Michael JENNINGS	3	CENTRE	3	Campbell GRAHAM		20	13	-	52
21	6	-	24	Waga BLAKE	4	CENTRE	4	Dane GAGAI		17	10	1	42
20	4	-	16	Blake FERGUSON	5	WING	5	Jaxson PAULO		11	2	-	8
17	4	-	16	Dylan BROWN	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Cody WALKER		19	10	-	40
18	3	53 ¹	119	Mitchell MOSES	7	HALFBACK	7	Adam REYNOLDS		21	6	89 ¹	203
20	1	-	4	Reagan CAMPBELL-GILLARD	8	FRONT ROW	8	Tevita TATOLA		19	3	-	12
20	3	-	12	Reed MAHONEY	9	HOOKER	9	Damien COOK		21	4	-	16
21	-	-	-	Junior PAULO	10	FRONT ROW	10	Thomas BURGESS		21	2	-	8
21	3	-	12	Shaun LANE	11	SECOND ROW	11	Jaydn SU'A		19	2	-	8
18	3	-	12	Ryan MATTERSON	12	SECOND ROW	12	Bayley SIRONEN		17	1	-	4
17	1	-	4	Nathan BROWN	13	LOCK	13	Cameron MURRAY		21	4	-	16
4	1	-	4	Will SMITH	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Mark NICHOLLS		17	2	-	8
9	-	-	-	Andrew DAVEY	15		15	Liam KNIGHT		17	-	-	-
15	4	-	16	Kane EVANS	16		16	Jed CARTWRIGHT		4	-	-	-
11	1	-	4	Ray STONE	17		17	Keaon KOLOAMATANGI		12	-	-	-
13	-	-	-	Oregon KAUFUSI	18	RESERVES	18	Steven MARSTERS		5	1	-	4
9	1	-	4	Brad TAKAIRANGI	19		19	Hame SELE		9	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Haze DUNSTER	20		20	Troy DARGAN		2	-	-	-
8 [*]	-	-	-	Daniel ALVARO	21		21	Patrick MAGO		12	-	-	-

* includes 6 games for Warriors

Brad ARTHUR

COACH

Wayne BENNETT

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

PENALTIES

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

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

SCRUMS

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

RLP MILESTONES Clint GUTHERSON (Eels) - 3 more points for 300 club points; Shaun LANE (Eels) - 8 more points for 100 career points; Mitchell MOSES (Eels) - 150th NRL match, needs 7 more points for 500 Eels points;

#NRL Eels Souths

SECOND SEMI FINAL

DATE	Saturday 10 October 2020
KICKOFF	7:50pm AEDT
VENUE	Bankwest Stadium Parramatta, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Gerard SUTTON
TOUCH JUDGES	Dave MUNRO Todd SMITH
NRL BUNKER	Jared MAXWELL

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 128 MATCHES

Eels 55 Rabbitohs 70 Drawn 3

At Bankwest Stadium: 2 matches, Eels 1, Rabbitohs 1

LAST TEN

Year	Round	Score	Opponent
2015	R4	Eels 29-16	Pirtek
2015	R11	Rabbitohs 14-12	ANZ
2016	R10	Rabbitohs 22-20	Pirtek
2016	R15	Eels 30-12	ANZ
2017	R12	Eels 22-16	ANZ
2017	R26	Eels 22-16	ANZ
2018	R15	Rabbitohs 42-24	ANZ
2018	R20	Rabbitohs 26-20	ANZ
2019	R12	Eels 26-14	Bankwest
2020	R16	Rabbitohs 38-0	Bankwest

5-ALL

BIGGEST WINS

2002	R22	Eels 54-0	Pirtek
2011	R22	Rabbitohs 56-6	ANZ

HEAD TO HEAD

FINALS 1 MATCH

Eels 0 Rabbitohs 1

LAST FINALS MEETING

1965	SF	Rabbitohs 17-2	SCG
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SEASON FORM LINE

EELS	3rd, 30pts
W W W W L W W W L W W L W L W W (Finals: L)	
RABBITOHS	6th, 24pts
W L L L W W L W L L W W W W L W L W (Finals: W)	

Match Preview

with Jason Hosken

Eels hunting Rabbitohs as early exit looms

While last week's favourites didn't have it all their own way, they all got up. Now from Maroubra to Toongabbie heads are spinning. For every Eels positive, there's a compelling reason why Souths will make a third straight preliminary final.

Up 12-0 at Suncorp Stadium, the Eels had the Storm on simmer. The next day at ANZ Stadium, down 14-0, the Rabbitohs were browning nicely on a week 1 rotisserie. In the end, the heat got to the underdogs and now at Bankwest Stadium we go again, this time with little certainty.

Since 2016, Parramatta and Souths are four apiece and with contrasting styles remain difficult to separate in what will be their first meeting in a finals series since 1965. Formidable midfield power saw the Eels surge early in a season where the Rabbitohs spluttered before finding a hypnotic groove that now threatens the competition's best.

Averaging 36 points a week since Round 15 including 18 tries in the past fortnight, the Rabbitohs' streak burns brighter by the week. And while Parramatta rattled the Storm, the loss of Maika Sivo and the suspension of Marata Niukore along with doubts over Blake Ferguson's knee all conspire to ruin the Eels' quest for a first preliminary final since 2009.

For all Parramatta's attacking prowess in Brisbane, their sloppy edge defence was ripped apart by a clinical Melbourne. With George Jennings replacing Sivo and backrower Ray Stone named on the bench, Brad Arthur will be desperate for his outside men to defend in combinations against an unchanged Rabbitohs 17.

Up front, Parramatta's engine room has hogged the headlines, but among the mountain of points the Rabbitohs pack has slipped under the radar. And with big metres from Thomas Burgess and fellow props Tevita Tatola and Liam Knight, Souths' capacity to match Parra kingpins Reagan Campbell-Gillard and Junior Paulo shouldn't be underestimated.

The return to home soil for Arthur's men in Mitch Moses' 150th NRL match will rekindle memories of last year's 58-0 finals drubbing of Brisbane, but don't try telling that to South Sydney, who will relish a return to the venue having thumped the Eels 38-0 back in Round 16.

And while little separates the teams on paper, Parra's biggest foe could be heavy legs. The Eels emptied the tank against the Storm in one of the fastest games of the season where combined run metres totalled 3,429. In comparison to the pedestrian 2,691 metres at ANZ, the Rabbitohs should arrive with an extra spring in their step.

But in a do-or-die contest, the outcome of this one could come down to a battle of the minds. Will the Eels hold their nerve in defence, and if the points don't flow as readily, can Souths keep their head?

Who to watch: Even in these uncertain times, Eels fans will be praying there's no cure for Nathan Brown's white-line fever. On the eve of his 100th NRL appearance, the pocket-rocket will be frothing at the prospect of bundling his former team into the off season. Last week's rare try was as good as it got for the 27-year-old who failed to impose himself, finishing 50 metres shy of a season average 160. Now with no tomorrow, the lock's menace and yap off the long run is sure to be compulsive viewing.

If Parramatta can't control the footy, they'll soon get sick of the sight of Cody Walker. In the five games since he carved up the Eels with three line breaks, Walker has kept Souths on the march scoring four tries and setting up another 10. Devastating in last week's man of the match performance, a rare Wayne Bennett smirk underlined the magnitude of the five-eighth's wizardry.

Favourite: The bookies reckon Parramatta are cooked and have climbed all over the Rabbitohs' penchant for cricket scores.

My tip: Parramatta took it to the Storm last week, and against any other side it probably would have won a week off. Now with injuries and the mental scars of a rampant South Sydney, Arthur might be best aligning this week to shrinks rather than Steedens. On the other side, Wayne Bennett will be desperate to remedy a month of slow starts in pursuit of a more sustainable finals formula. As for who wins, it's hard to see the Eels reducing Souths' rapid accumulation of points to an amount they can match, and sadly, a straight sets exit beckons. **Rabbitohs by 10.**

New Zealand WARRIORS



Sydney ROOSTERS

P	T	G	Pts							P	T	G	Pts
1	-	-	-	Karina BROWN	1	FULLBACK	1	Charlotte CASLICK	1	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Madison BARTLETT	2	WING	2	Shanice PARKER	1	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Shontelle STOWERS	3	CENTRE	3	Bobbi LAW	-	-	-	-	
1	1	-	4	Evania PELITE	4	CENTRE	4	Yasmine MEAKES	1	-	-	-	
1	1	-	4	Ellia GREEN	5	WING	5	Brydie PARKER	1	-	-	-	
1	-	1	2	Kirra DIBB	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Corban McGREGOR	1	1	-	4	
1	1	-	4	Simone SMITH	7	HALFBACK	7	Zahara TEMARA	1	-	3	6	
1	-	-	-	Crystal TAMARUA	8	FRONT ROW	8	Simaima TAUFA	1	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Kanyon PAUL	9	HOOKER	9	Nita MAYNARD	1	1	-	4	
1	-	-	-	Kayla SAUVAO	10	FRONT ROW	10	Filomina HANISI	1	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Hilda MARIU	11	SECOND ROW	11	Vanessa FOLIAKI	1	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Tazmin GRAY	12	SECOND ROW	12	Sarah TOGATUKI	1	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Georgia HALE	13	LOCK	13	Hannah SOUTHWELL	1	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Brianna CLARK	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Quincy DODD	1	1	-	4	
1	-	-	-	Taimane LEVU	15		15	Kennedy CHERRINGTON	1	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Samantha ECONOMOS	16		16	Grace HAMILTON	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Michaela PECK	17		17	Jocelyn KELLEHER	1	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Shaniah POWER	18	RESERVES	18	Amelia MAFI	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Laken PAITAI	20		19	Melanie HOWARD	-	-	-	-	
1	-	-	-	Teaghan HARTIGAN	21		20	Kaitlyn PHILLIPS	1	-	-	-	
-	-	-	-	Stephanie BALL	21		21	Taleena SIMON	-	-	-	-	

Brad DONALD

COACH

Jamie FEENEY

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

#NRLWWarriorsRoosters

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 10 October 2020
KICKOFF	12:30pm AEDT
VENUE	Bankwest Stadium Parramatta, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

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

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 2 MATCHES

Warriors 2 Roosters 0

At Bankwest Stadium: first meeting at this venue

LAST TWO

2018	R1	Warriors 10-4	ANZ
2019	R1	Warriors 16-12	AAMI

BIGGEST WINS

2018	R1	Warriors 10-4	ANZ
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Roosters have not beaten Warriors

Match Preview

with Josh Robertson

Another Saturday afternoon NRLW header is coming our way this weekend and it kicks off with the Warriors taking on the Sydney Roosters in the early game on Saturday afternoon.

The Warriors were gutsy last weekend when they fell to a 28-14 defeat to the Broncos despite leading 8-0 early. A strong start left many surprised early when the New Zealanders lead 8-0 after as many minutes. Despite a strong start, the Warriors couldn't maintain their pressure and eventually the Broncos stamped their class over the patchwork side for the victory. Despite falling to a 14-point defeat, the game could've been much closer for the Warriors with two efforts denied by the bunker.

Debuting in the NRLW for the first-time last weekend, Australian Rugby 7 stars Evania Pelite and Ellia Green made a relatively seamless transition into Rugby League with both players causing issues for the Broncos out wide and Green backed up her impressive attack with some very strong defence.

The Warriors have kept the same 17 that took to the field last weekend, Shontelle Stowers has been named to play in the centres after being called up late last week to replace Shaniah Power who is in the reserves.

The Sydney Roosters put aside a winless 2019 NRLW season to stun the competition favourites the St George Illawarra Dragons with an 18-4 victory over last years grand finalists. The Roosters started quickly last week with hooker Nita Maynard crossing from dummy half to open the scoring. Although the Dragons did hit back quickly, the Roosters kept their composure and dominated the Red 'V' attackers who struggled to make metres upfield.

The Roosters who had kept the majority of their 2019 squad, saw high

profile signing Charlotte Caslick impress on debut with some excellent skills and dangerous attack which saw her play a strong hand. The tricolours squad having had the experience of playing with each other will be key to their chances.

A key injury blow for the Roosters has seen Botille Vette-Welsh ruled out of the contest with an ankle injury. Charlotte Caslick has moved from the five-eight role to fullback with Corban McGregor moving from the centres to the halves with Bobbi Law coming into the squad in the centres.

Who to watch: Warriors halfback Simone Smith is no stranger to big contests having played for both NSW and Australia in the past. Joining from the Roosters for 2020, Smith had a big impact on the game last weekend scoring the opening try and looking dangerous with the ball. Her experience will be something that the Warriors need to use if they want to get past the Roosters.

Having been with the Roosters since the beginning of NRLW, QLD and Australian representative Zahara Temara has been a rover for the Roosters having played both in the halves and lock. In 2020, Temara has been given the control of the side in the halves and with key injuries forcing a reshuffle, Temara will be in charge of the attack. The Roosters will need the experience and composure of Temara to stand up against the Warriors and through the NRLW season

Favourite: The Roosters are the favourites to beat the Warriors for the clash on Saturday afternoon. The notable stat to watch for this contest is that the Warriors have won both clashes between the two sides.

My tip: The Roosters were impressive against the Dragons to the eye with their victory but the injury toll that mounted for the Dragons could've hindered them more than spoken about. The Warriors were impressive for the opening 10 minutes before they couldn't withstand the pressure of the Broncos. The pressure of the Roosters won't be as high on the Warriors and if they can fire for the full game then they are a strong chance of beating the Roosters. **Warriors by 4.**



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St George Illawarra DRAGONS



Brisbane BRONCOS

P	T	G	Pts					P	T	G	Pts	
1	-	-	-	Sam BREMNER	1	FULLBACK	1	Tamika UPTON	1	3	-	12
1	1	-	4	Tiana PENITANI	2	WING	2	Lauren BROWN	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Jessica SERGIS	3	CENTRE	3	Julia ROBINSON	1	1	-	4
1	-	-	-	Isabelle KELLY	4	CENTRE	4	Jayne FRESSARD	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Jaime CHAPMAN	5	WING	5	Meg WARD	1	-	4	8
1	-	-	-	Shakiah TUNGAI	6	FIVE-EIGHTH	6	Raecene McGREGOR	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Maddie STUDDON	7	HALFBACK	7	Ali BRIGGINSHAW	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Ellie JOHNSTON	8	FRONT ROW	8	Millie BOYLE	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Keeley DAVIS	9	HOKKER	9	Lavinia GOULD	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Steph HANCOCK	10	FRONT ROW	10	Chelsea LENARDUZZI	1	1	-	4
1	-	-	-	Kezie APPS	11	SECOND ROW	11	Amber HALL	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Shaylee BENT	12	SECOND ROW	12	Jessika ELLISTON	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Elsie ALBERT	13	LOCK	13	Tarryn AIKEN	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Aaliyah FASAVALU-FAAMAUSILI	14	INTERCHANGE	14	Annette BRANDER	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Christine PAULI	15		15	Talisha HARDEN	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Talei HOLMES	16		16	Shannon MATO	1	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Mahalia MURPHY	17		17	Shenae CIESIOLKA	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Rikeya HORNE	18	RESERVES	18	Romy TEITZEL	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Maddison WEATHERALL	19		19	Chante TEMARA	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Jade ETHERDEN	20		20	Tyler BIRCH	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Georgia PAGE	21		21	Zara CANFIELD	-	-	-	-

Daniel LACEY

COACH

Kelvin WRIGHT

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

#NRLWDragonsBroncos

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Saturday 10 October 2020
KICKOFF	4:00pm AEDT
VENUE	Bankwest Stadium Parramatta, NSW
WATCH	Nine Network & 9Now Fox League & Kayo Sports
LISTEN	ABC Grandstand
LIVE BLOG	LeagueUnlimited.com

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Belinda SHARPE
TOUCH JUDGES	Jon STONE Liam KENNEDY
NRL BUNKER	Steve CLARK

RUGBY LEAGUE project

Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD

OVERALL 3 MATCHES

Dragons 0 Broncos 3

At Bankwest Stadium: 1 match, Dragons 0, Broncos 1

LAST THREE

2018	R1	Broncos 30-4	Suncorp
2019	R1	Broncos 14-4	Bankwest
2019	GF	Broncos 30-6	ANZ

BRONCOS 3-0

BIGGEST WINS

2018	R1	Broncos 30-4	Suncorp
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Dragons have not beaten Broncos

Match Preview

with Josh Robertson

The second of Saturday afternoon's NRLW double header sees the grand final rematch between the St George Illawarra Dragons and Brisbane Broncos at Bankwest Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

The Dragons were installed as competition favourites pre-season but have lost that title following their 18-4 defeat to the Sydney Roosters last Saturday afternoon in Canberra. The Red 'V' struggled last weekend in their defeat to the Roosters which wasn't helped by a mounting injury toll to key stars including Jess Sergis and Kezie Apps. The Dragons were outplayed by the Roosters who kept them to just one try which came just seven minutes into the game.

Having had a similar squad to 2019, the Dragons have added experience to their side with veteran Steph Hancock joining the squad and made a strong impact on debut in both defence and most surprisingly one of the best torpedo kicks you'll see. The Dragons were also boosted by the return of Sam Bremner who missed last season as well as the signing of Isabelle Kelly who helped the club to win the NRLW 9s in Perth at the beginning of the year.

Despite having a mounting injury toll during last weekend's clash, the Dragons have been able to name the same 17 players that took to the field last week with the likelihood of a swap between Ellie Johnston and Aliyah Fasavalu-Fa'amausili with the latter starting after being named on the bench.

The Brisbane Broncos hopes of winning a third successive NRLW title started in the best possible fashion with a 28-14 victory over the New Zealand Warriors last week in Canberra. The Broncos had to do it the hard way having to come from 8-0 down early to take victory. A first-half hattrick to fullback Tamika Upton was the turning point with the fullback

dominating and leaving the Warriors defence in two minds.

The Broncos have again been able to keep the majority of their squad for the competition which has boosted their campaign for 2020. Despite initially signing Ellia Green before Green's move to Warriors, the Broncos' strong framework with the likes of Ali Briggingshaw and Raecene McGregor leading the attack, the Queenslanders will be hard to stop.

Despite leaving the field in a neck brace and on the medicab, Raecene McGregor was given the all clear to play this weekend and has been named in the number 6 jersey for Brisbane. The injury to McGregor was the only injury concern for the Broncos who have kept the same 1-17 from last week's clash against the Warriors.

Who to watch: A new signing for 2020, PNG international Elsie Albert made an impact instantly last week with some brutal defence against the Roosters. Albert is a strong ball runner and her first NRLW hit out will be a massive boost for the youngster who will be required by the Dragons to put pressure on the playmakers in defence and make metres out of their own end.

After scoring a hattrick last weekend, Tamika Upton will have the eyes of the NRLW world on her to see if she can replicate the performance. Upton ran for 192m last weekend against the Warriors which was a big part of the momentum that the Broncos were able to build. Brisbane will need a similar performance from Upton at the back if they want to match the Dragons.

Favourite: Deciding the favourites for this game is a toss-up, the Broncos come into the game off a victory but the Dragons came into the competition as favourites over all. The differences between the two sides on paper is minimal.

My tip: The Dragons were just plain last weekend, but the impact of losing key players through the game hurt them and if they can keep their main stars fit and on the park, they will push the Broncos. The experience of the Broncos though might be too much for the Dragons, they were impressive against the Warriors and just little aspects of their game will help them to victory. **Broncos by 6.**



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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

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

Indigenous Round

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 29-28
 GIO 32-20
 Suncorp 36-24
 ANZ 46-20

WEEK 2

Fri 7:50pm - SF 1
 Sat 7:50pm - SF 2

OCTOBER 9-10

Roosters v Raiders
 Eels v Rabbitohs

Semi Finals

Sydney Cricket Ground
 Bankwest Stadium

WEEK 3

Fri 7:50pm - PF 1
 Sat 7:50pm - PF 1

OCTOBER 16-17

Storm v W SF 1
 Panthers v W SF 2

Preliminary Finals

Suncorp Stadium
 ANZ Stadium

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 18-4
 GIO 28-14

ROUND 2

Sat 12:30pm
 Sat 4:00pm

OCTOBER 9-10

Warriors v Roosters
 Dragons v Broncos

Bankwest Stadium
 Bankwest Stadium

ROUND 3

Sat 12:30pm
 Sat 4:00pm

OCTOBER 16-17

Dragons v Warriors
 Roosters v Broncos

ANZ Stadium
 ANZ Stadium

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

GAME 2

Wed 8:10pm

WOMEN'S

Fri 8:10pm

GAME 3

Wed 8:10pm

NOVEMBER 4

NSW v QLD

NOVEMBER 11

NSW v QLD

NOVEMBER 13

QLD v NSW

NOVEMBER 18

QLD v NSW

Adelaide Oval

ANZ Stadium

Sunshine Coast Stadium

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

Huddersfield GIANTS



Salford RED DEVILS

P T G Pts

7 2 - 8

Ashton GOLDING

1

3

Kris WELHAM

10 1 - 4

12 8 - 32

Jermaine McGILLVARY

2

4

Dan SARGINSON

6 1 - 4

12 5 - 20

Jake WARDLE

3

5

Krisnan INU

4 2 13 34

10 3 - 12

Darnell McINTOSH

5

6

Tuimoala LOLOHEA

10 4 16 48

6 1 - 4

Lee GASKELL

6

8

Lee MOSSOP

7 - - -

11 3 31¹ 75

Aidan SEZER

7

9

Joey LUSSICK

10 2 - 8

11 1 - 4

James GAVET

8

10

Gil DUDSON

7 - - -

10 2 - 8

Suaia MATAGI

10

11

Ryan LANNON

8 - - -

13 - - -

Ken EDWARDS

11

12

Pauli PAULI

11 - - -

6 - - -

Joe WARDLE

12

13

Tyrone McCARTHY

9 - - -

12 - - -

Michael LAWRENCE

13

16

Greg BURKE

5 - - -

7 1 - 4

Leroy CUDJOE

21

17

Luke YATES

10 2 - 8

9 - - -

Tom HOLMES

22

18

Chris ATKIN

5 1 - 4

6 1 11 26

Oliver RUSSELL

23

19

Mark FLANAGAN

8 - - -

6 5 - 20

Louis SENIOR

24

21

James GREENWOOD

4 - - -

5 - - -

Sam HEWITT

26

22

Rhys WILLIAMS

11 5 - 20

12 - - -

Sam WOOD

27

24

Elliot KEAR

6 1 - 4

4 1 - 4

Owen TROUT

32

26

Jack ORMONDROYD

2 - - -

1 - - -

Dominic YOUNG

33

30

Andy ACKERS

3 1 - 4

4 2 - 8

Chris McQUEEN

34

32

Kallum WATKINS

1 - - -

- - - -

Brandon MOORE

37

34

Oliver ASHALL-BOTT

1 - - -

Luke ROBINSON

COACH

Ian WATSON

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

RUGBY LEAGUE

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LONG READS

#SLHudSal

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Thursday 8 October
KICKOFF	5:30pm BST
VENUE	Emerald Headingley Stadium, Leeds
WATCH	Sky Sports Arena

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Robert HICKS
SIDELINE OFFICIALS	Cameron WORSLEY Mark CRAVEN
VIDEO REFEREE	Marcus GRIFFITHS

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)

OVERALL 45 MATCHES

Huddersfield 20 Salford 25

At Emerald Headingley: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN

	SALFORD 7-3	
2016	Salford 34-12	AJ Bell
2017	Salford 30-20	John Smith's
2017	Salford 36-20	AJ Bell
2017	Salford 52-14	AJ Bell
2018	Salford 30-12	John Smith's
2018	Huddersfield 24-16	AJ Bell
2019	Salford 34-14	John Smith's
2019	Huddersfield	AJ Bell
2019	Salford 32-12	AJ Bell
2020	Huddersfield 12-10	AJ Bell

BIGGEST WINS

2010	Huddersfield 52-4	John Smith's
2017	Salford 52-14	AJ Bell

MILESTONES

Lee GASKELL (Huddersfield)

1 more game for 200 career games

Jermaine McGILLVARY (Huddersfield)

2 more tries to reach eighth place of all-time Super League tryscorers

Kris WELHAM (Salford)

1 more game for 100 Salford games

Match Preview

with Steve Mascord

HUDDERSFIELD welcome back the talented **Lee Gaskell** from a broken thumb while **Halifax** signing **Brandon Moore** might make his debut.

The Giants have made a couple of changes to their 21 for this clash with the Wembley-bound Red Devils. Moore, 24, was signed in September to cover the loss of Adam O'Brien; he scored 12 tries in 67 appearances since joining Halifax in 2016.

Salford have named a full-strength squad - but you wouldn't bet on them doing the same for the mid-week game against Hull KR. All their biggest names were picked by coach Ian Watson on Tuesday for the extended 21-man list.

It's an interesting contrast: in the UK fans and pundits laud what in Australia would be regarded merely as fielding below-strength teams.

Only when a "Baby Broncos" score an unlikely win do Australians take the team full of high schoolers to their hearts, while in Super League there seems a genuine affection for weak line-ups with a bit of fight in them.

Perhaps it's because of the history of Cup competitions - which Australia doesn't have.

All eyes here will be on the Red Devils, of course. They put out a weakened team against Warrington last week, were beaten, and then came back to snatch a famous Challenge Cup semi-final victory.

Huddersfield (7-6) are coming off a big win over Hull KR and from sixth position are still in shooting distance of the finals. New coach Luke Robinson is on a roll with two successive victories.

The Giants' success came after they were forced to change their side because of a Covid scare, with kick-off delayed. They were left with the bare minimum of 17 players.

"Unfortunately, at some point someone is going to get it," Robinson said. "Whether it is someone within the club ... I think we handled it really well."

Jermaine McGillvary is now eighth on the Giants' all-time try scoring tally, overtaking David Hodgson. His career tally now lies at 169.

Kris Welham makes his 100th appearance for Salford.

Who to watch: If allowed to have his head, Aiden Sezer can expect to have a bit of a field day. The former Raiders half and Turkey international probably makes more difference to his team than any other individual in Super League.

Favourites: Salford are on cloud nine right now after their Wembley qualification and have named a strong line-up - that makes them favourites.

My tip: The **Giants to win by 10**. Ian Watson can motivate his men enough for this, he truly is a miracle worker.

[PATREON.COM/RUGBYLEAGUELONGREADS](https://www.patreon.com/rugbyleagueelongreads)

Leeds
RHINOS



Castleford
TIGERS

P T G Pts

5 3 - 12

Jack WALKER

1

2

Derrell OLPHERTS

11 8 - 32

5 2 - 8

Tom BRISCOE

2

4

Michael SHENTON

13 6 - 24

7 5 - 20

Konrad HURRELL

4

9

Paul McSHANE

13 2 - 8

10 8 - 32

Ash HANDLEY

5

10

Grant MILLINGTON

13 2 - 8

8 1 - 4

Robert LUI

6

12

Mike McMEEKEN

12 4 - 16

10 3 13³ 41

Luke GALE

7

13

Adam MILNER

9 - - -

8 1 - 4

Ava SEUMANUFAGAI

8

14

Nathan MASSEY

12 1 - 4

6 - - -

Kruise LEEMING

9

17

Alex FOSTER

5 - - -

9 - - -

Matt PRIOR

10

18

Cheyse BLAIR

8 4 - 16

7 1 23 50

Rhyse MARTIN

12

20

Junior MOORS

4 - - -

9 1 - 4

Brad DWYER

14

21

James CLARE

10 4 - 16

6 1 - 4

Liam SUTCLIFFE

15

22

Jacques O'NEILL

8 - - -

8 6 - 24

Richard MYLER

16

23

Matt COOK

1 - - -

11 - - -

Adam CUTHBERTSON

17

24

Tyla HEPI

4 - - -

10 2 - 8

Mikolaj OLEDZKI

19

25

Greg EDEN

5 2 - 8

4 - - -

Bodene THOMPSON

20

26

Calum TURNER

4 1 - 4

7 2 - 8

Cameron SMITH

22

27

Lewis PEACHEY

- - - -

8 3 - 12

Luke BRISCOE

24

31

Brad MARTIN

- - - -

7 2 - 8

James DONALDSON

25

34

Gareth O'BRIEN

6 3 7¹ 27

5 - - -

Alex SUTCLIFFE

26

35

Jack SANDERSON

2 1 - 4

3 - - -

Tom HOLROYD

28

36

Daniel FLEMING

1 - - -

Richard AGAR

COACH

Daryl POWELL

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 Stats Leaders (after Round 14)

TOP TRYSCORERS

1	Tom DAVIES	Catalans	9
	Fouad YAHA	Catalans	9
3	Derrell OLPHERTS	Castleford	8
	Jermaine McGILLVARY	Huddersfield	8
	Ben CROOKS	Hull KR	8
	Ash HANDLEY	Leeds	8
	Niall EVALDS	Salford	8
	Ken SIO	Salford	8
	Regan GRACE	St Helens	8
	Alex WALMSLEY	St Helens	8
	Jack WELSBY	St Helens	8
	Bevan FRENCH	Wigan	8
	Sam POWELL	Wigan	8

TOP POINTSCORERS

1	Lachlan COOTE	St Helens	110
2	James MALONEY	Catalans	102
3	Zak HARDAKER	Wigan	88
4	Danny RICHARDSON	Castleford	81
5	Marc SNEYD	Hull FC	79
6	Stefan RATCHFORD	Warrington	78
7	Aidan SEZER	Huddersfield	75
8	Rhyse MARTIN	Leeds	50
9	Tui LOLOHEA	Salford	48
10	Luke GALE	Leeds	41

#SLLeeCas

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Thursday 8 October
KICKOFF	7:45pm BST
VENUE	Emerald Headingley Stadium, Leeds
WATCH	Sky Sports Arena

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Ben THALER
SIDELINE OFFICIALS	Tom GRANT Clint SHARRAD
VIDEO REFEREE	James CHILD

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)

OVERALL 58 MATCHES

Leeds 32 Castleford 23 Drawn 3

At Emerald Headingley: 28 matches, Leeds 19, Castleford 8, Drawn 1

LAST TEN

	CASTLEFORD 7-3	
2017	Castleford 29-18	St. James'
2017	Castleford 23-12	Headingley
2017	Castleford 38-24	Jungle
2017	Leeds 24-6	Old Trafford
2018	Castleford 25-24	Elland Road
2018	Castleford 38-10	St. James'
2018	Castleford 42-10	Jungle
2019	Leeds 21-20	Headingley
2019	Castleford 30-8	Headingley
2019	Leeds 18-10	Jungle

BIGGEST WINS

2009	Leeds 76-12	Headingley
2017	Castleford 66-10	Jungle

MILESTONES

Richie MYLER (Leeds): 4 more points for 500 points in Super League

Brett FERRES (Leeds): 1 more try for 100 career tries

Gareth O'BRIEN (Castleford): 5 more goals for 500 career goals

Michael SHENTON (Castleford): 8 more points for 500 points in Super League

Match Preview

with Steve Mascord

DERRELL Oipherts, Alex Foster and Calum Turner all return for troubled Castleford who play their neighbouring big city club for the first time in 2020.

Sadly for coach Daryl Powell, there is still no playmaker Jake Trueman who was named last week but didn't play. George Griffin and Brad Graham also drop out of the extended squad named for last week's match, a 32-28 loss to Hull.

With 10 days between games, Leeds really have no excuse to rest players for the Challenge Cup final - and nor have they.

Bodene Thompson, who was Cup tied against Wigan after playing for Toronto in the earlier rounds, comes back in. Alex Mellor, who has an injury the Rhinos don't seem too anxious to divulge, is rested for Wembley.

Jack Walker, Adam Cuthbertson, Alex Sutcliffe and Luke Briscoe are added to the remaining 16 who played last week.

The Rhinos (7-4) are on the cusp of the top four and have plenty to play for in the League while Castleford (5-8) coach Powell has become increasingly critical of referees as the losses have mounted.

Rhinos fullback Richie Myler needs four points to reach 500, while teammate Brett Ferres needs one try to reach 100. In the Tigers camp, drop goal specialist Gareth O'Brien requires five goals to get to 500 for his career and centre Michael Shenton is eight points off 500.

Leeds coach Richard Agar said before almost-awe-inspiring wet weather Challenge Cup shut-out of Wigan that his men were not yet breathing the same rarified air as the competition's leading sides.

Now, it must be said, they are.

"I've spoken a lot about challenging the benchmark clubs consistently and Leeds should do, too," Agar said.

"The club had a couple of difficult years. I didn't feel like I was pulling too much baggage personally but there was a realisation from me that a different style of training and a couple of different drills wouldn't fix this.

"We needed fundamental changes to the way we operate as a club.

"This time last year, we got knocked out by Bradford in what was a difficult week and day for the club," Agar said. "We stuck together and now we're in the Challenge Cup final."

Agar's father Allan coached Featherstone to one of the biggest Challenge Cup final upsets, over Hull KR, in 1983.

"I probably got the (head coach) job by accident, being in the wrong place at the wrong time," Richard said in reference to his appointment as replacement for the sacked David Furner.

"On a personal level, it's been written about a lot. The Challenge Cup holds a lot of fondness and personal memories for me, going back to my childhood.

"I've been very fortunate to experience Challenge Cup finals through my coaching career."

Who to watch: Konrad Hurrell threw one of the passes of the season in the Cup semi-final last week. If he plays against Cas - at the time of writing we weren't sure if he would - he'll be a massive handful as usual. Konrad Hurrell threw one of the passes of the season in the Cup semi-final last week. If he plays against Cas - at the time of writing we weren't sure if he would - he'll be a massive handful as usual.

Favourites: Leeds really should win this one - going to London on the back of a loss to their little brothers would leave a sour taste.

My tip: Leeds by 1.

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Wakefield
TRINITY



St
HELENS

P	T	G	Pts					P	T	G	Pts
3	-	-	-	Alex WALKER	1	1	Lachlan COOTE	9	5	42	104
7	7	-	28	Tom JOHNSTONE	2	2	Tommy MAKINSON	6	3	8	28
11	1	-	4	Bill TUPOU	3	3	Kevin NAIQAMA	12	3	-	12
10	-	-	-	Reece LYNE	4	4	Mark PERCIVAL	4	-	5	10
3	-	-	-	Ben JONES-BISHOP	5	5	Regan GRACE	12	8	-	32
9	1	- ¹	5	Jacob MILLER	6	6	Jonny LOMAX	12	-	3	6
1	-	2	4	Danny BROUGH	7	7	Théo FAGES	11	3	- ¹	13
2	-	-	-	David FIFITA	8	8	Alex WALMSLEY	11	8	-	32
10	1	-	4	Kyle WOOD	9	9	James ROBY	8	-	-	-
4	1	-	4	Tinirau ARONA	10	11	Zeb TAIA	11	2	-	8
8	1	-	4	Matty ASHURST	11	12	Dominique PEYROUX	8	1	-	4
3	-	-	-	Danny KIRMOND	12	13	Louie McCARTHY-SCARSBROOK	11	2	-	8
10	2	-	8	Joe WESTERMAN	13	14	Morgan KNOWLES	9	2	-	8
10	1	-	4	Jay PITTS	14	15	Matty LEES	11	-	-	-
9	-	-	-	Craig KOPCZAK	15	16	Kyle AMOR	9	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	Chris GREEN	17	17	Jack ASHWORTH	3	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	Adam TANGATA	18	18	Joseph PAULO	4	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	Jordan CROWTHER	19	19	Aaron SMITH	10	3	-	12
2	-	-	-	Joe ARUNDEL	20	20	James BENTLEY	10	3	-	12
8	3	7	26	Max JOWITT	21	21	Matty COSTELLO	6	2	-	8
2	-	-	-	George KING	22	22	Jack WELSBY	9	8	-	32
8	1	-	4	Josh WOOD	23	23	Joe BATCHELOR	2	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	Titus GWAZE	26	24	Josh EAVES	-	-	-	-
3	2	-	8	Ryan ATKINS	28	25	Callum HAZARD	-	-	-	-
7	-	12 ¹	25	Ryan HAMPSHIRE	29	26	Josh SIMM	3	-	-	-
10	4	-	16	Kelepi TANGINOVA	36	27	Lewis DODD	1	-	-	-
9	-	-	-	Romain NAVARRETE	37	28	Nico RIZZELLI	-	-	-	-
3	2	-	8	Liam KAY	38	29	Matthew FOSTER	-	-	-	-
5	-	4	8	Tony GIGOT	39	32	James GRAHAM	7	1	-	4
2	-	-	-	Innes SENIOR	40						

Chris CHESTER

COACH

Kristian WOOLF

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

#SLWakStH

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 9 October
KICKOFF	5:30pm BST
VENUE	Emerald Headingley Stadium, Leeds
WATCH	Sky Sports Arena

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Liam MOORE
SIDELINE OFFICIALS	James CHILD Jonathan ROBERTS
VIDEO REFEREE	Robert HICKS

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)

OVERALL 48 MATCHES

Wakefield 9 Saints 39

At Emerald Headingley: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN

Year	Score	Opposition
2016	Saints 32-12	Totally Wicked
2017	Wakefield 16-12	Totally Wicked
2017	Saints 41-16	Belle Vue
2017	Saints 18-16	Belle Vue
2018	Wakefield 24-20	Belle Vue
2018	Saints 34-20	Totally Wicked
2018	Saints 36-14	Belle Vue
2019	Saints 24-18	Belle Vue
2019	Saints 48-10	Totally Wicked
2019	Saints 26-6	Totally Wicked

BIGGEST WINS

2004	Wakefield 41-22	Belle Vue
2005	Saints 60-4	Knowsley

MILESTONES

Joe ARUNDEL (Wakefield): 1 more game for 150 Super League games

Romain NAVARETTE (Wakefield): 1 more game for 100 career games

Ben JONES-BISHOP (Wakefield): 2 more tries for 150 career tries

James ROBY (Saints): 2 more tries for 100 Super League tries

Match Preview

with Steve Mascord

WAKEFIELD have had a wretched time of it since Super League resumed with players testing positive to Covid and heavy losses.

A fortnight ago they put up a fight against Wigan and coach Chris Chester seemed to think a corner had been turned. But on Sunday it was back to square one when they were thrashed 40-8 by Catalans.

St Helens (9-3), by comparison, were tipped out of the Challenge Cup by Warrington in a thriller but remain among the competition favourites and will be expected by all and sundry to make mincemeat of Trinity (2-10).

"We're struggling to find a way out of this form that we're in," said Chester, "and there is so much inconsistency.

"It's making life difficult. It's tough going at the minute. We've got a group of players who are trying but since lockdown there has been a widening gap between the top five or six teams and those at the bottom.

"We haven't adjusted well to the new rules and we've struggled. We're not as mobile as we need to be and that puts a big emphasis on who we will recruit at the end of the season."

These sides will then meet again in the middle of next week in a rearranged fixture. Promising Saints youngster Lewis Dodd made his debut in the Cup and can expect plenty of field time during the packed schedule for the rest of the season.

One concern for Saints coach Kristian Woolf is the number of set resorts they are conceding. For a team on top of the table, it could be an Achilles heel in the big end of season games unless addressed.

"I am not worried about what our team are doing there at all, but I am not going to bother ringing anyone (in the referees department) either," Woolf said.

"But I can't quite figure out what a six again is and what isn't at the moment.

"But when one comes up you just have to defend it out and that is what we did really well."

Who to watch: Lewis Dodd is a promising half or five-eighth who keen observers have a massive wrap on. Against the team propping up Super League, he'll probably get some field time here.

Favourites: Er, the team that played in the World Club Challenge.

My tip: St Helens in a canter... let's say a margin of 36 points.

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Super League Table

Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Diff	Pts	Win %
1	St Helens	12	9	3	0	345	135	210	18	75%
2	Warrington	13	9	4	0	276	168	108	18	69%
3	Wigan	13	9	4	0	295	240	55	18	69%
4	Catalans	11	7	4	0	318	213	105	14	64%
5	Leeds	11	7	4	0	261	224	37	14	64%
6	Huddersfield	13	7	6	0	254	269	-15	14	54%
7	Hull FC	13	6	7	0	286	358	-72	12	46%
8	Castleford	13	5	8	0	260	279	-19	10	38%
9	Salford	11	4	7	0	214	293	-79	8	36%
10	Hull KR	12	2	10	0	204	353	-149	4	17%
11	Wakefield	12	2	10	0	168	349	-181	4	17%

Catalans DRAGONS



Hull Kingston ROVERS

P T G Pts

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9 1 - 4
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11 6 - 24
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9 5 2 24

David MEAD
Lewis TIERNEY
Samisoni LANGI
Israel FOLAU
Fouad YAHA
James MALONEY
Josh DRINKWATER
Rémi CASTY
Mike McLORUM
Sam MOA
Matt WHITLEY
Joel TOMKINS
Benjamin GARCIA
Julian BOUSQUET
Mickaël SIMON
Tom DAVIES
Benjamin JULLIEN
Alrix DA COSTA
Mickaël GOUEMAND
Lucas ALBERT
Paul SÉGUIER
Arthur ROMANO
Antoni MARIA
Jason BAITIERI
Arthur MOURGUE
Gavin MARGUERITE
Lambert BELMAS
Sam KASIANO
Sam TOMKINS

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Ben CROOKS
Shaun KENNY-DOWALL
Kane LINNETT
Greg MINIKIN
Jordan ABDULL
Robbie MULHERN
Matt PARCELL
Weller HAURAKI
Harvey LIVETT
Dean HADLEY
Mitch GARBUTT
George LAWLER
Daniel MURRAY
Kyle TROUT
Jez LITTEN
Will DAGGER
Mikey LEWIS
Owen HARRISON
Nick RAWSTHORNE
Ethan RYAN
Joe KEYES
Matty GEE
Will MAHER
Elliott MINCHELLA
Matty STORTON
Jamie ELLIS
Ryan BRIERLEY
Nathaniel PETERU
William TATE
Jimmy KEINHORST

P T G Pts

7 8 - 32
12 2 - 8
11 - - -
10 6 - 24
6 1 1 6
8 - - -
6 4 - 16
5 - - -
8 1 - 4
8 2 - 8
6 - - -
9 - - -
11 - - -
7 - - -
7 - - -
7 - 6 12
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6 - - -
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5 - 11 22
9 3 8 28
6 - - -
2 1 - 4
1 1 - 4

Steve McNAMARA

COACH

Tony SMITH

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

PENALTIES
SCRUMS

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

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 9 October
KICKOFF	6:15pm BST
VENUE	Stade Gilbert Brutus, Perpignan

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Jack SMITH
SIDELINE OFFICIALS	Peter BROOKE James VELLA

RUGBY LEAGUE project Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)

OVERALL 25 MATCHES

Catalans 15 Hull KR 10

At Stade Gilbert Brutus: 12 matches, Catalans 8, Hull KR 4

LAST TEN

	CATALANS	6-4
2015	Hull KR 50-20	Craven
2015	Catalans 32-24	Perpignan
2015	Hull KR 32-26	Craven
2016	Catalans 40-0	Craven
2016	Catalans 34-16	Perpignan
2017	Catalans 20-19	Craven
2018	Hull KR 23-4	Craven
2018	Catalans 18-16	Perpignan
2019	Catalans 18-16	Craven
2019	Hull KR 24-6	Perpignan

BIGGEST WINS

2011	Catalans 56-6	Perpignan
2015	Hull KR 50-20	Craven

MILESTONES

Fouad YAHA (Catalans): 1 more game for 100 Catalans games

Sam TOMKINS (Catalans): 14 more points for 1000 Super League points

Josh DRINKWATER (Catalans): 1 more game for 100 Super League games

Jamie ELLIS (Hull KR): 1 more point for 500 Super League points

Match Preview

with Steve Mascord

CATALANS exploded out of lockdown like a freight train but soon returned to their old, inconsistent ways.

Last Sunday against Wakefield aside, Israel Folau's fall from being the competition's most dangerous player has been rapid in recent weeks. Opposition defences have crowded him late in sets when James Maloney is likely to kick to him.

The Dragons' season is finely poised - they are in equal fourth and on the same winning percentage as ascendant Leeds. Are they heading up, or down? In playing Wakefield and Rovers back-to-back, for now the answer is up.

Tony Smith's Hull KR travel to Perpignan relying on Catalans' inconsistency to give them the barest sniff of victory. On paper, there's not much chance there although the last clash was in 2019, in Perpignan, and the red-and-white got up 24-6

Elliot Minchella is an absentee due to a dangerous throw. Greg Minikin (knee) is also out while Matt Storton is expected back from a knee injury. Former Kiwi international Shaun Kenny-Dowall was due to have a rest but will now play.

The club this week lost Matt Gee to Leigh in 2021.

There are a number of potential milestones in this match.

It's Fouad Yaha's 100th first grade appearance (he made his debut against the same opposition), Josh Drinkwater hits the same mark, Sam Tomkins needs 14 points to reach 1000.

For the Robins, back-rower Jamie Ellis needs one point to reach 500.

Who to watch: Israel Folau needs to come up with some "counter espionage" plan to bring back his effectiveness as an attacking force. Perhaps he needs to work closer to the ruck or pop up on the other side of the field. Theoretically, this should be a good game for him to run himself back into some sort of form.

Favourites: Catalans should win in a canter here. Hull KR's unpredictable football, though, could be effective against a team that still seems a little unsure of itself.

My tip: Les Dragons by 30.

Super League Round 14 Results

Salford 20 (Tom Gilmore, Elliot Kear, Rhys Williams tries; Krisnan Inu 4 goals) def **Warrington 18** (Riley Dean, Josh Thewlis, Nathan Roebuck tries; Declan Patton 3 goals) Venue: AJ Bell Stadium; Date: Tuesday 29 September 2020, 5:30pm BST

St Helens 42 (Regan Grace 2, Jack Welsby 2, James Bentley, Morgan Knowles, Alex Walmsley tries; Lachlan Coote 7 goals) def **Wigan 0**; Venue: AJ Bell Stadium; Date: Tuesday 29 September 2020, 7:45pm BST

Huddersfield 32 (Jake Wardle, Chris McQueen, Leroy Cudjoe, Jermaine McGillvary 2, Ashton Golding tries; Oliver Russell 3, Aidan Sezer 1 goals) def **Hull KR 22** (Matt Parcell 3, Will Tate tries; Jamie Ellis 3 goals) Venue: John Smith's Stadium; Date: Wednesday 30 September 2020, 5:30pm BST

Catalans 34 (Fouad Yaha 2, Arthur Mourgue, Tom Davies 3 tries; James Maloney 5 goals) def **Leeds 6** (Rhys Evans try; Jarrod O'Connor 1 goal) Venue: Emerald Headingley Stadium; Date: Wednesday 30 September 2020, 6pm BST

Hull FC 32 (Jake Connor, Ben McNamara, Tevita Satae, Jordan Johnstone, Cameron Scott tries; Marc Sneyd 6 goals) def **Castleford 28** (Michael Shenton, Mike McMeeken 2, Grant Millington, Greg Eden tries; Gareth O'Brien 4 goals); Venue: Mend-A-Hose Jungle; Date: Thursday 1 October 2020, 7:45pm BST

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Warrington
WOLVES



Wigan
WARRIORS

P T G Pts

11	2	35	78	Stefan RATCHFORD	1
7	4	-	16	Anthony GELLING	3
12	1	-	4	Toby KING	4
12	3	-	12	Josh CHARNLEY	5
12	7	- ⁴	32	Blake AUSTIN	6
8	4	7	30	Gareth WIDDOP	7
8	-	-	-	Chris HILL	8
11	1	-	4	Daryl CLARK	9
12	1	-	4	Mike COOPER	10
12	2	-	8	Ben CURRIE	11
4	-	-	-	Jack HUGHES	12
9	2	-	8	Ben MURDOCH-MASILA	13
10	-	-	-	Jason CLARK	14
10	-	-	-	Joe PHILBIN	15
3	1	-	4	Leilani LATU	16
8	2	-	8	Jake MAMO	17
8	1	-	4	Sitaleki AKAUOLA	18
6	1	-	4	Matt DAVIS	19
11	1	-	4	Danny WALKER	20
3	-	4	8	Declan PATTON	21
4	-	-	-	Luis JOHNSON	22
3	-	-	-	Keanan BRAND	24
2	-	-	-	Samy KIBULA	25
7	3	-	12	Matty ASHTON	26
3	-	-	-	Ellis ROBSON	27
1	1	-	4	Nathan ROEBUCK	28
1	1	-	4	Josh THEWLIS	29
1	1	-	4	Riley DEAN	30
4	-	-	-	Luther BURRELL	23

P T G Pts

11	1	42	88	Zak HARDAKER
9	6	-	24	Liam MARSHALL
3	-	3	6	Chris HANKINSON
3	2	-	8	Oliver GILDART
5	4	-	16	Joe BURGESS
12	8	-	32	Bevan FRENCH
10	-	-	-	Thomas LEULUAI
4	-	-	-	Tony CLUBB
11	8	-	32	Sam POWELL
7	1	-	4	George BURGESS
13	2	-	8	Willie ISA
12	3	-	12	Liam FARRELL
2	-	-	-	Sean O'LOUGHLIN
5	1	-	4	Ben FLOWER
4	-	-	-	Joe GREENWOOD
9	-	-	-	Morgan SMITHIES
8	1	-	4	Oliver PARTINGTON
8	1	-	4	Joe BULLOCK
11	1	-	4	Liam BYRNE
8	3	-	12	Dominic MANFREDI
7	-	-	-	Mitch CLARK
11	2	-	8	Jake BIBBY
2	-	-	-	Jake SHORROCKS
12	1	- ¹	5	Harry SMITH
6	-	-	-	Ethan HAVARD
12	6	-	24	Jackson HASTINGS
2	-	-	-	Amir BOUROUH
4	-	-	-	Joe SHORROCKS

Steve PRICE

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

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SCRUMS

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

#SLWarWig

MATCH DETAILS

DATE	Friday 9 October
KICKOFF	7:45pm BST
VENUE	Emerald Headingley Stadium, Leeds
WATCH	Sky Sports Arena

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE	Chris KENDALL
SIDELINE OFFICIALS	Scott MIKALOUSKAS Marcus GRIFFITHS
VIDEO REFEREE	Ben THALER



Match Stats

HEAD TO HEAD (SL Era)

OVERALL 65 MATCHES

Warrington 23 Wigan 39 Drawn 3

At Emerald Headingley: first meeting at this venue

LAST TEN

	WIGAN 6-4	
2018	Wigan 38-10	St. James'
2018	Warrington 23-0	Halliwel Jones
2018	Wigan 13-12	DW
2018	Wigan 26-6	DW
2018	Wigan 12-4	Old Trafford
2019	Warrington 25-12	Halliwel Jones
2019	Warrington 26-24	Halliwel Jones
2019	Warrington 26-14	Anfield
2019	Wigan 20-6	DW
2020	Wigan 16-10	DW

BIGGEST WINS

2016	Warrington 40-10	Halliwel Jones
2002	Wigan 58-4	DW

MILESTONES

Tony CLUBB (Warrington)

1 more game for 150 Wigan games

Match Preview

with Steve Mascord

WIGAN have been rocked by two Covid positives among their playing squad ahead of this clash of the vanquished.

The Warriors' training session on Tuesday was cancelled but after track and trace, no other players were required to isolate. The two players were not named although the club said one of them played against Leeds last weekend.

Warrington and Wigan were odds-on to be preparing for a Challenge Cup final next but instead they're meeting in Super League and then getting ready for a weekend off.

We often say the Cup has lost its magic but we're not going to see a Salford-Leeds grand final, are we? There is still that extra jeopardy that comes with a knock-out competition that is the opposite of rewarding consistency.

Wigan have the better of Warrington in the Super League era - especially in the big games with victories in the 2013, 2016 and 2018 grand finals and in the 2003 and 2014 play-offs.

But Saturday's defeat to Leeds left coach Adrian Lam concerned

"We have a lot of experience there and we haven't nailed a big game, so there are questions I need answering, because we'll be in a similar situation soon," he said. "We'll get to the bottom of it."

Welsh prop Tony Clubb makes his 100th appearance for Wigan.

In the Warrington camp, Stefan Ratchford made his 250th appearance for the club on Saturday.

Despite a couple of touch-and-go video refereeing decisions, coach Steve Price refused to blame the officiating for the Challenge Cup defeat.

"We were in control of the game for 73 minutes I think," Price said. "We had 14 errors for the game and I think we completed at about 64 percent."

"I'm gutted for the playing group and the whole club. We put so much effort in to get to this point."

"We had it there for 73 or 74 minutes and we just couldn't quite get it done in the end. The effort was there but it was minor things that caught up with us."

Who to watch: If Warrington are to get the required go-ahead in the middle, hooker Darryl Clark will be key. He hasn't quite hit the heights he reached before transferring from Castleford.

Favourites: This is a toss of the coin but with Blake Austin and Gareth Widdop in the halves, Warrington might offer just a little more in attack.

My tip: Warrington by 6.

Round 16 and 17 fixtures confirmed

Betfred Super League can announce the fixture schedules for Round 16 and 17.

Five matches will be played at The Halliwel Jones Stadium next week - a triple header on Tuesday 13 October and a double header on Thursday 15 October.

Four of the matches will be shown live on Sky Sports, with Hull KR versus Salford Red Devils on 13 October available to season ticket holders via the Our League app.

The Wigan Warriors versus Catalans Dragons match on 15 October is the rearranged Round 10 fixture which was affected by Covid-19.

As confirmed last week, Round 17 will be Super League's Black History Round, with UK-based matches being played on 22 and 23 October at the Totally Wicked Stadium.

All those matches will be live on Sky Sports. Catalans Dragons v Hull FC in Perpignan will be available to season ticket holders on Our League.

Tuesday 13 October (Halliwel Jones Stadium)
Hull KR v Salford Red Devils - 2pm (Our League)
Hull FC v Huddersfield - 5.30pm (Sky Sports)
Warrington Wolves v Leeds Rhinos - 7.45pm (Sky Sports)

Thursday 15 October (Halliwel Jones Stadium)
Wigan Warriors v Catalans Dragons - 5.30pm (Sky Sports)
St Helens v Wakefield Trinity - 7.45pm (Sky Sports)

Thursday 22 October (Totally Wicked Stadium)
Catalans Dragons v Hull FC (Stade Gilbert Brutus) - 18:15 (UK time, available on Our League)
Castleford Tigers v Hull KR - 17:30 (Sky Sports)
Huddersfield Giants v Wakefield Trinity - 19:45 (Sky Sports)

Friday 23 October (Totally Wicked Stadium)
Wigan Warriors v Salford Red Devils - 17:30 (Sky Sports)
St Helens v Leeds Rhinos - 19:45 (Sky Sports)

The Lussicks: Making waves across the world

FOR two of Jason and Christie Lussick's three sons, the milestones ahead this month are easily comprehensible.

Last Saturday Joey Lussick, 24, scored the late try that got Salford Red Devils into the Challenge Cup final for the first time in 51 years. The previous day, Freddy Lussick, 19, crossed for a Sydney Roosters try in their narrow qualifying final defeat to Canberra.

That touchdown equalled the entire NRL career try tally for Darcy Lussick, 31, who shares a house in Manchester with Joey and watched both his brothers' heroics on television.

The 'dates with destiny' for Joey and Freddie this months come with mouthguard and socks pulled all the way up - a possible first Challenge Cup triumph for the Red Devils since just before the Second World War and - if he's lucky - another first grade appearance for Freddy in a preliminary final or grand final (with Jake Friend back, he was not named to play against Canberra on Friday).

Darcy Lussick, all 193 cm and 110 kg of him, has a more esoteric challenge ahead - and one over which he has no control.

The third continent on which the Lussick name has influence this month is North America, where Darcy has a long-term contract with the Toronto Wolfpack.

The Canadian franchise pulled out of Super League as the competition was preparing to return from lockdown and was duly expelled and its results from earlier in the year expunged.

At the end of the month, British officials will decide whether to readmit the Wolfpack under new owners in 2021 or, effectively, kill off the club. As excited as Darcy is for his brothers, he is nervous for himself.

"I'm just sitting tight waiting on a decision," Darcy tells *The Front Row*.

"We were waiting on a decision the other week but it got put back a couple of weeks. We're waiting for the 23rd now to get a decisions.

"I've been trying to keep myself fit and at the same time it's probably been good. A year off to rest my body ... I didn't play at the start of

the year, I had surgery, so a year off to get my body right again My body feels outstanding at the moment.

"Hopefully, fingers crossed, we'll be back next year and I feel great. I'll be ready to go ... hopefully."

First thing's first, though. There's a Challenge Cup finalist sharing a house with Darcy and his partner, TV presenter Eloise Sohler next week.

"He doesn't get any free passes around here. He's still doing the dishes and the vacuuming," says Darcy. "He does all that around the house. There's getting out of that."

Of his brothers, Darcy says: "It's been a long year for everyone. They've worked hard for it all year and it's coming to fruition now.

"Freddy's only 19. To be 19 playing hooker in the middle is a pretty tough gig but he's come up good.

"I was watching Fred by myself, Joey was at training. I was screaming by myself! And obviously when Joey got over for that try in the Challenge Cup to get Salford through, that was pretty crazy to see.

"Just saying how much that means ... we live near Salford ... I've seen a lot on social media, how much that means to everyone. It was a pretty special moment to see that.

"He just came home. He just had a Chinese meal and went to bed. He wasn't really carrying on about it. I would have been carrying on. He went to sleep. He said it was pretty cold there and he was happy to get warm."

Scenes back in Sydney at the home of Christie and Jason - a world-renowned personal bodyguard for the rich and famous - were more chaotic.

"My sister's partner lives there, our grandad and a couple of kids, a couple of nephews. It's a crazy house. They all went to watch Freddie and then they were all up at 2.30, 3 o'clock to watch Joey play."

Sadly, Super League's decision on Toronto won't be televised.





Steve Mascord

Contributor



The



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Sons of October

The Lussicks make their
dates with destiny

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