

RUGBY LEAGUE 2021 ANNUAL



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FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to this second yearbook, this time brought to you as a joint venture project between two of the largest Independent Rugby League Websites in Rugby League Project and League Unlimited. I've personally been involved as a major contributor with both sites for over 15 years.

The first Annual received very positive responses, which was overwhelming given I'd never been involved in such an undertaking before. I am indebted to the glorious work of Tim Costello on both occasions, as he put all the words and numbers into this brilliant professional layout you have before you.

All of the contributors from LeagueUnlimited have had their work reproduced in this yearbook and I thank them for their efforts as well as the owners of the site for allowing us to share their content in this publication.

A huge thanks to Big T for the glorious artwork on the cover. Also thanks to prominent sports writers James Smith and Steve Mascord for their willingness to be involved this year. It is an honour to have all three of you involved in this annual.

We are and will always be - by the fans, for the fans.

Andrew Ferguson

Rugby League Project

Editor-in-chief - 2021 Annual  @rugbyleagueproj

It's an honour to once again partner with Andrew and Rugby League Project to bring you a totally independent publication which catalogues in great detail the 2021 rugby league year.

Inside you'll see a full recap of every game of every NRL round, along with full analysis of each NRL, UK Super League and Championship club's 2021 campaign.

A big thanks to Shawn and Andrew from RLP for allowing us to link up and produce this, and to Steve, James, Big T and many others, as well as all our wonderful LeagueUnlimited.com contributors who volunteer their time tirelessly all season writing match previews, live blogs and match reports, plus club reviews. You are all legends!

Tim Costello

LeagueUnlimited.com

Editor - 2021 Annual  @LeagueUnlimited

COVER IMAGE: The top five NRL players of 2021 as voted by LeagueUnlimited.com's team of dedicated volunteer writers. Player of the Year Nathan Cleary is in the centre. From L to R: Tom Trbojevic, Mitchell Moses, James Tedesco & Cody Walker. Illustration by TheBiggestTiger

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WINNING CHANGES EVERYTHING

James Smith  @JamesSmith1001

Over the past six seasons, Penrith fans have been witnessing - and quite frankly enjoying - a slow, painless death. The death of the old Panthers.

In that time the loveable, cuddly, very harmless "Penny" Panthers, who play out of Penny Park, have transformed, in the eyes of many, into a ruthless, arrogant organisation which has joined the ranks of the Roosters and Storm among the game's elites. Once you're in that club, you can wave goodbye to the rule book that everyone plays by. Welcome to NRL Platinum. Where the refs favour you, the salary cap doesn't matter and, look, we just hate your halfback, okay? Oh, and the judiciary? There's another free ride.

On the back of the setting up of the club's world-class rugby league academy, the Panthers reached the second week of the NRL finals three years running, before finishing outside the top eight the following season, ahead of their now-famous consecutive grand final appearances across 2020-21.

Success changes the identity of a club in the same ways someone losing a stack of weight or coming into a fortune can change society's approach to an individual. Who you are is really not up to you, nor is it any of your business, or so a long-held belief goes. You are who everyone else says you are. Penrith fans have experienced this, to the point these days it's quite a risky move going on social media platforms like Twitter and celebrating another win for the Mountain Men.

Most of the goodwill from opposition fans towards the Panthers has evaporated. That's explainable, to a certain extent. This is a rugby league publication, so no need to explain a chunky portion of the Wests Tigers fan base's hatred of the club, in particular towards the Panthers' coach. Other "reasons" to hate on Penrith have developed, from ref bias, NRL bias, and the perception Nathan Cleary is untouchable, especially when he's in the air, after a kick down field. Thurston enjoyed the same benefits too, apparently.

The author of this piece doesn't necessarily want anything done about the Panthers' new identity. To be honest, I've supported this

club for a very very long time, hoping one day rival supporters had a reason to be fearful of Penrith on the footy field. It's the ultimate. Rival fans' hatred comes with the territory.

To be completely honest, there was a part of me which agreed with Ricky Stuart's claims early on in 2021 that the Panthers had turned a bit arrogant, especially in light of the fact that, yes, they hadn't actually won anything at that stage, having lost to the Melbourne Storm in the 2020 decider, so until they did, they needed to grow up and stop with all of this yahoo-ing and pile-ons as part of their try celebrations. Then again, some on the club's behalf claimed Penrith had the right to show a bit of that arrogant strut. It was an interesting debate.

Those over the top try celebrations come with a lot of context. This is a group of young men who have been playing together since they were young teenagers, for a decade and a half, basically saying "how good's this, just crazy, hey?" with each ridiculous celebration. Ironically, Matt Burton and Brian To'o's calmed-down hand shake try celebration the following week was considered by many to be the most arrogant venture of all ...

The club's very own loyal, long suffering fans basically have had a

brand new club to support for the past five-six years as a result of this new identity. There were 10,000 of us supporters out at Penny Park to welcome home our grand final winning heroes in late November, each one walking around with a bit of a swagger, proud of a club which has not just won three premierships now, but finished in the finals five of the last six seasons. It's a long way from the pioneering years of the club - those supporters had to wait 20-odd seasons for Penrith's first finals foray.

On the juniors front, while always taking pride in the fact it's a development club, Penrith for too long waited and watched as a stack on junior talent performed to a certain age level on the junior rep front, before they'd somehow end up on the NSW Cup list of another team. These days, if a Panthers junior leaves, it's mostly because there simply isn't enough room to keep everyone. The Panthers Rugby League Academy no doubt plays a part when managers go shopping junior talent around approaching their first big would be NRL contract. The academy's training, gym and recovery infrastructure would take some beating when compared to many other clubs'. This is a far cry from Royce's playing days. He told your author on a podcast a few years back that one of the recovery spas/ice baths back in the day at Penny Park had sat rusted out and unusable for many years.

Whether premiership success breeds more for the Panthers remains to be seen, but whatever happens, the club, in the eyes of its supporters and critics alike, will never be the same again.

CONCUSSION AND REPETITIVE HEAD TRAUMA IN RUGBY: THE ITCH THAT CANNOT BE SCRATCHED

Alan Pearce PhD

In an era where sports medicine and sports science has been lauded as improving the welfare of athletes on and off the field, the concern around brain injuries in contact sports such as rugby league remains an issue apparently unresolved.

Despite the rhetoric rendered by organisations such as National Rugby League (NRL), and others like the Australian football league that the 'head is sacrosanct', and players who have been concussed are looked after by the 'world's leading experts' (funny how every sport says that they have the world's best), in 2021 we have not only continued to see players retiring due to too many brain injuries, but also disparity in suspected concussions (those where the players were clearly affected) to those actually diagnosed (with a number of those suspected returning to the field apparently 'not concussed'), as well as post-concussion protocols with 'loop-holes' allowing players to return earlier than expected. While not as publicly discussed as concussion, we also have seen more cases of posthumous diagnoses of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), including one individual diagnosed upon death in their 50s, who finished playing rugby league at the age of 16.

The retirements of high-profile players including Boyd Cordner, Jake Friend and others, all of whom played in an era where concussion management has been apparently more conservative and stricter than ever, highlights how far we have to go in addressing concussed athletes. Five international consensus statements over the last 20 years have not changed the status-quo, with currently accepted best practice protocols for diagnoses and clearing players to return to competition is still, like the first consensus statement back in 2001, based on symptom reporting from the athlete, and observation and clinical judgement from a medical practitioner. This is despite multitudes of papers that show there are opportunities for including objective measures, such as blood and salivary markers and brain electrical activity markers, that can help the doctor determine brain impairment following a concussion and recovery time-course.

Despite over a decade of published scientific research showing disparity in symptom resolution and neurological recovery, currently the consensus is that these techniques are 'experimental' and therefore should not be used while subjective assessment by a medical practitioner is still considered 'gold standard'. Do not

be surprised to see more premature retirements due to 'too many head-knocks' over the course of 2022.

Relating to the concern regarding concussion management and premature retirements, saw early in the 2021 season an observation not only by [@NRLPhysio](#) (Brien Seeney) but also The Roar's **Geoff Parkes** who noted that by round four despite 23 players 'failing' a Head Injury Assessment (HIA), in other words showing signs of concussion after an impact and/or not being able to complete rudimentary tests like remembering words or repeating numbers in reverse order, only 12 were diagnosed as concussed following a medical reassessment and consequently entering the 11-day stand down period. This inconsistency makes a mockery of the 'gold standard' rhetoric employed by these organisations:

"WE TAKE HITS TO THE HEAD SERIOUSLY, BUT NOT THAT SERIOUSLY, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE WANT OUR STARS TO BE BACK ON THE FIELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

But should we be so cynical? After all, when athletes report they have no symptoms, who are we to question their honesty? And if doctors can't see any overt symptoms such as headaches or dizziness during their medical assessment or on the training field, then what recourse is there when the consensus is that clearing a player to return to competition is based on symptom resolution. Except when recently retired athletes, from a variety of sports, admit that they underperformed their HIA baseline tests (what we in the business call 'sandbagging'), deceive the doctor by saying they are fine, and hide their symptoms as best they can unless they are really struggling to the surprise of the mainstream media and wider community. International research has reported that these issues (sandbagging, hiding of symptoms) continue to occur at many levels of sport, and the club doctor (or general practitioner that club players go to) can be pressured to clear a player back sooner rather than later. And the option, as per NRL policy, that players can see an 'independent' doctor is also there to return them sooner. Our sports must do better at protecting our players, because the expectation by players is that they must show commitment, not show weakness, and not let their team mates down.

While inter-related, the issue of concussion and the links to neurodegenerative diseases like CTE, has been confusing for the average rugby fan. While concussions are not good for the brain, indeed they are a brain injury and not just a 'head-knock', we equate the concussion and returning too soon as the factors for increased CTE risk. However, risk of diseases like CTE and others like motor neurone disease (MND) and Parkinson's disease, are being attributed to sub-concussive impacts; heavy bumps, hard collisions and uncompromising tackles that shake the brain inside the skull, putting stretching and shearing strain that causes micro-injury to brain cells. However, unlike a concussion, sub-concussive impacts do not affect the athlete who shows no overt signs or symptoms, allowing them to get back up and run on for more heavy impacts. Research, particularly from Boston University who are producing state-of-art research, is showing that CTE is a disease from exposure. The longer one plays contact sports, the greater the risk of having CTE as well as the severity. This is not something that we

can prevent, contact sports will cause repeated trauma to the brain. We need to acknowledge this. Currently the sports only acknowledge concussion, because it's something they can address with their rules, their umpires, and their spin-doctors to say they are making the sport safer. But the reality does not appear to fit the narrative.

Whenever there is an announcement of a player prematurely retiring, or there is a release of ground-breaking scientific research, I get asked (repeatedly by mainstream media) how can we prevent concussions and/or should we ban these sports. The answer would not be to ban these sports. That does not make sense. Boxing and Combat sports, which incidentally the Australian Medical Association opposes, continue to remain both popular as spectator and participation sports. These sports note the risk and apply strict regulations following a KO or a concussion. If sports where the aim is to impair the opponent's brain is still accepted in society, then sports such as rugby should also be able to continue. However, what the continuing evidence from the science is telling us can be summarised in three general points:

1. commentary about this injury needs to be accurate. Concussion is a brain injury, not a simple knock or a bump to the head. Commentators should not laud athletes who take silly risks which end up in a sickening head injury as “now gaining the respect of their coach, team-mates, or opposition”; nor should commentators imply that an athlete getting back up and trying to play on after being clearly concussed as a “sign of commitment”. While knee, hip or shoulder injuries may lead to arthritis later in life, this is not the same as Alzheimer's, CTE or MND which are all terrible neurodegenerative diseases where the very sense of self is taken away;

2. as symptom resolution are a poor indicator of concussion recovery, we need to allow athletes longer time to rehabilitate and use better, objective methods to determine the athlete's brain health. Loopholes aside, 11-day stand down policy is a good first start, but we know the neurological system takes closer to 30 days for full recovery and that symptom reporting/observation are not a good indicator of neurological health. What is an extra couple of weeks rest if this can extend a playing career by four or five years; and

3. rugby, and other sports like Australian football and soccer, need to seriously consider modifying these sports to reduce exposure risk in children and young adolescents. As a neuroscientist, it's not up to me to tell sports administrators how to go about this, but for the long-term health of these players from when they start to learn the sport through to playing at club or professional level, it is in the best interests to take the scientific evidence on-board.

Inevitably, the health of the players will maintain the health of the sports.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Dr Alan Pearce is the Director of Neurosports Labs, a concussion research and consultancy business, and an adjunct Associate Professor at La Trobe University. He has previously received grants from government research schemes, charity organisations, sporting organisations and also medico-legal expert opinions for concussion cases. [Follow Alan on Twitter and Instagram: @alanpearcephd](#)



TWO TRIBES

THE SUPER LEAGUE WAR

Steve Mascord  @SteveMascord

On December 19 this year, the NRL will celebrate its 25th birthday.

This will mark the day the ARL clubs met at the Sydney Football Stadium and voted 36-4 (there was a giant general committee) to accept a joint venture with News Limited which they already knew would be called the NRL.

I interviewed more than 100 people for my book *Two Tribes*, about the period that started on October 4, 1996, with News Limited's appeal being successful and ended on that day 14 months later.

In the book, which will be improved upon and spawn spin-offs throughout this year, I had a stab at what we learned about rugby league from the saga.

But in terms of the NRL, I didn't really address my own views about how this history is recorded - or not recorded.

In a recent YouTube post, the current governing body posted a video called "Knights v Sea Eagles | Grand Final 1997 | Telstra Grand Final Classic Match | NRL"

Keen historians will find plenty of irony packed into that title, given that there was a 'Telstra Cup' grand final in 1997 and that's not it! The Telstra Cup was Super League's premiership trophy and it pitted Brisbane against Cronulla.

Now, the NRL was a joint venture between the ARL and Super League, neither of which still exist. There are more stand alone Super League teams in the 2022 NRL than there are ARL teams.

So, applying the maxim that the victors write history, there were two 'official' grand finals in 1997. And yet the NRL, the product of a marriage between the ARL and Super League, seems intent on writing its dad out of history and focusing only on its mum.

What's more: 'dad' News Corp is happy to co-operate with the airbrushing of itself out of that history, with few Super League Australia games ever shown on Fox League.

Why?

In the case of News it's in the business of making money and Super League - with the expulsion of South Sydney - is unpopular. Do airlines remind customers of that time they crashed?

And in the case of the NRL, Newcastle were the Noah's Ark that carried the fans who still cared across the flood of 1995 to 1998. They were the foundation customers of the NRL in 1998.

They've understandably no interest in associating themselves with the flood.

I asked my interviewees three questions: what was it all about, who won and what did we learn from it. Here in this extract, are some answers to the all-important third question.

GRAHAM LOWE: "The whole game underestimated the value and the wisdom of blokes with broken noses and cauliflower ears."

KEVIN NEIL: "It's a tribal game, isn't it? And you can't manufacture tribalism. That was clearly demonstrated by Souths. The game can never allow that to happen again. I think there are agreements in place ... it's 20 years since I left the Raiders ... but I think the club agreements are much tighter and they don't allow that to happen. Player contracts are probably much tighter. We were foot soldiers in a bigger war but didn't realise it until afterwards."

LAURIE DALEY: "We still haven't really got to where the game needs to be here in Australia. We haven't really got a plan of what rugby league looks like in, say, five years, 10 years. I don't think we've ever had a plan to say 'this is where we're going to be', 'this is where we need to be', 'this is how we're going to do it'. I haven't seen that. I think that's the frustration of everyone. It's basically the old 'oh well, we'll see what happens, if someone goes broke we'll look at getting someone else to join, we're not going to bail them out or we'll try to bail them out as best we can.'"

JOHN LANG: "I think it shows: whoever is running a sport like rugby league, you've got to keep moving with the times. Peter V'landys says you've got to look 20 years ahead. I don't necessarily agree with everything he does but I think he's right. The lesson is: you've got to keep moving with the times or someone else will come and try to take it off you."

TOM MOCKRIDGE: "OK, it was a big - literally - shitfight at the time but the crucible of that change was that it did generate a new outlet and the best of both inputs - rugby league traditional values but a new commitment to commercialisation that recognises in the end that all these things have got to compete for people's time. There are two scarce things, time and money, which you're competing for all the time."

BILL HARRIGAN: "If anyone says to me 'oh, they wrecked the game' I say 'no, the game is what it is today because that war happened'. We got what we've got now because of that war. Now we're professional referees, we're on good money. Back then mate, we were always the afterthoughts. Things that we changed and things that we did in '97 were not perfect but it certainly opened up the door to the game as it is today with the introduction of referees becoming full-time, video refereeing, different technology as far as our communication goes on the field, some of the rule changes that were brought in ... If someone said to me '97, you can write that off', I'd say 'no way'. Ninety-seven was important for me and it kicked off my career again and so I was very happy for Super League to come along. I have no regrets about it whatsoever."

TREVOR McKEWEN (Super League executive): "It's a tough old game. How it's survived is quite incredible and shows the strength of the game itself. Can it ever achieve what they were looking to? I don't know about that. I think rugby (union) is just too powerful and

it's got too many funds. For all the issues that it's got, I think rugby (union)'s going to break through in the US before league does ... if, in fact, either of them ever do. I doubt either of them ever will. But the tribalism was underestimated by News Limited. I think News Limited were probably strongly influenced by the American model, that it is possible to create new franchises from zero and create tribalism. That's not really the Australian or the Kiwi way and there wasn't a firm enough understanding of that. I think it's in pretty good shape now though mate. I watch so much of it now. It's become the thing that keeps me going in terms of my sport interest which has waned over the years ... but it's a pretty bloody good product in my view. It continues to refuse to die and bounce back. The one thing I've learned from covering other sports is that rugby league is almost out on its own in terms of taking entrenched attitudes and refusing to waiver from them. There's people who've arguably contributed a lot to the game on different sides who still won't talk to each other. It's quite astounding. You haven't necessarily seen that in other sports where there's been a schism or a rift like this. Rugby (union) went through quite a bit when it went professional, the whole Cavaliers tour and that sort of thing. Over time they seem to be healed. Those people talk to each other. A lot of time they're working alongside each other in paid roles now. It doesn't happen in rugby league."

PAUL KIND: "My big observation out of it was: if you could have invested all that money in the game of rugby league when AFL was where it was and league was where it was, if you could reinvent that two years ... God knows where we'd be today. It really challenged the rugby league fan, young and old, who trusted the game, that what was going to be delivered in future would come back to being as kind of raw and emotional as rugby league was before. People continued to support it because they wanted to see it keep going but the passion disappeared, I reckon, on the Super League side. It felt like those teams weren't as authentic as they had been before. The people-power in that was the fans of the clubs in Super League continued to support them but there was a sense for me of there being a massive job ahead for whoever took on that challenge to really mend all those broken bridges. I've seen that first hand as a young guy. I came into the game in '92. We did Tooheys Challenges, we did Melbourne Origin in '94 and Tina and into '95 with expansion and the 747 around the four new teams. It was incredible what was going on in the game at that point. Then I lived through '95, worked on rugby (union) in '96 and by the time of '97 I was worried how it would ever get back to being what it used to be. Ninety-five, that year working in the ARL as a 22-year-old, watching players come through and Bozo (Bob Fulton) and Gus (Phil Gould) in their corner offices signing guys up, wild celebrations when Adam Ritson signed back across to us... that was awful. It was awful. You know, just a money grab and a PR war and watching poor old Quayle and Arko who had built this incredible opportunity for the game see it get ripped apart was amazing. I mean it was sad. I remember writing a press release in '94 about a \$12 million profit from the year. I remember everyone in the NRL being elated in 2014 when we made \$40 million. Now that doesn't seem like it's that much different to 12, really. I think the game would have been in an incredibly strong position (without the war). The fact that that TV deal existed with Packer on an exclusive basis ... if you could have changed that moment and News and Packer could have agreed on television, I

think the game would have been incredible. You would have gained subscription television and it would have maintained free-to-air. It would have been in expansion markets where it had support and finance behind it. Melbourne was an inevitability, regardless of whether Super League came along. Adelaide was probably the wrong decision and just a dot on the map. I don't think that would have changed but I reckon we'd have a national comp that still had lots of old archaic elements to it. It really did clean out the old ARL boards, God love them all. There was a need to clean out that old structure. They probably would have got there on their own, to a commission-type structure. I think the game would have been infinitely better if it (the war) hadn't happened. The upside of it was it did clean up that governance in the next generation of the NRL and it made it abundantly clear to everyone that from a television point of view, rugby league was always going to be a winner. It set up our TV value. It stunted our TV value because News had those last rights but when News lost their last rights in 2012 ... when Dave (Gallop) left and (subsequent NRL chairman) John Grant claimed he'd done the deal. Internationally, I don't think it would have been vastly different. It would have evolved. Super League did nothing, really, for the international game other than probably inflate the reality in the Pacific Islands and places like that by putting false money into those markets. I think at the end of the day, we'd been better off without it and I thought the game was really flying. Being inside it and seeing it operate; Quayle was an incredible leader and probably would have stuck on longer than he did. There was more downside than upside for me."

KEN ARTHURSON: "I think the game is still terrific. I really love the game. I'm probably the worst person in the world to say what their thoughts are about rugby league because it's been my life and always has and will be. It's becoming a little bit ... you sort of know what's going to happen. The ball's kicked off, someone takes it, a forward rushes out and charges ahead. Five tackles they'll take it up and then kick the ball. The opposing fullback will take the ball, the opposing forwards have rushed up and got him. They'll do the same thing five or six tackles and then they'll kick the ball. That's become a little bit repetitive. But generally, it still is a terrific game and I saw some terrific games of football last year. I really did."

GEOFF CARR: "In any upheaval out of anything, the compromise out of it may produce a lot of better things ... but it nearly killed the game. Our newspapers were full of the politics of rugby league rather than the sport itself. The easy way for a lot of people to cope was just to disengage. And they did. It could have been dreadfully, dreadfully ... it was a very painful way to bring in a couple of improvements, if you ask me. I still remember (News Limited CEO) John Hartigan asked to address the ARL clubs, as the editor of The Telegraph. And what it was about was ... Sydney was ARL, pretty much. They stopped buying the Telegraph. It was a protest against Murdoch, number one, but number two they got sick of reading about all of this crap that was happening to their game. I still remember Hartigan saying 'look, we promise you we'll give you equal coverage. We promise you we'll promote your game'. They knew. They were starting to bleed financially because people just turned away from the Telegraph. It's a pretty painful way to improve the judiciary."

GRAHAM ANNESLEY: "What you do learn is that, firstly, our game – no matter which way you look at it – does have a degree of tradition to it. We had a lot of rule changes and they were intended to make the game more attractive. In hindsight, they went too far. There was all the criticism about Super League basically turning into touch football because of the speed of the rucks and all that sort of thing. Some of those things that were innovations at the time ultimately had to be pared back a little bit. But it was the opportunity to actually do some of those things that, in some ways, were ground-breaking in terms of rugby league tradition and history. Some of it was very good, some of it was not so good. People don't like to move too far from that tradition and if you do move from that tradition people generally like to be taken on the journey slowly. You can't completely turn things on their heads and just expect people to adopt it, adapt to it. And when I say people, I don't just mean players. I mean fans and the general public. So you've got to be careful not to change the fabric of the game too much. You can at times do things that are too radical, too quickly. But temper that by saying if you do things at the right pace for the right reasons and they're well thought out, then people will come on that journey and that's been evidenced by some of the things that are still in the game now that were introduced during that period. You've got to be very careful that when you do it, (that) you've consulted widely, there is general support for it and that you've been through a process where you can confidently predict that there's going to be more support for it than opposition to it. You'll never get universal support for some of those things because there's too much passion in the game to get everyone feeling the same way. But you just have to be careful to be sure you do things a) for the right reasons and b) you've got the right levels of support to be able to do it."

WAYNE BENNETT: "Bugger all mate! We learned nothing! Absolutely nothing! We learned that greed is still the driving force in life for a lot of people. Everybody got more. The pay TV and the normal TV are now working together and getting on with life. I don't know how long that would have taken us (otherwise). Five clubs went out at the end of that debacle and clubs amalgamated. The original idea, which they couldn't agree on because of the politics of it all, was to have 12 teams. That's what they wanted. I wouldn't like to see the game do it again. I'll tell you what the fans want: they just want to see their footy team play every weekend. They don't want the politics of it all. That's their life, their life is full of politics. That's why they go to sport, that's why they gravitate towards it. That's what I learned: don't play around with what the fans love: the tribalism of their team. There'll be no administrator in the game that will survive if he disbands a team now. If the club becomes dysfunctional because they can't pay their bills, that's a different matter. But there is no-one in the game now or in the future who will ever pull a club out, whoever it may be, and say 'you're not playing in the NRL anymore'. Because, mate, they won't survive."

NIGEL WOOD: "Rugby league never misses an opportunity ... to miss an opportunity. It is difficult not to reflect upon the period between 1995 and 1997 and not see it as the greatest miss of them all. More of a miss than Don Fox's infamous so-called "sitter" in the 1968 Challenge Cup final, which squirted agonisingly and tragically wide, to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Surely, in 100 years of existence, this was our sport's moment to break out of our narrow geographical straightjacket and finally unlock the obvious potential of what everyone acknowledges is the better, quicker, safer form of running, handing contact football – before the overdue professionalisation of the other code. The question has to be asked, a full quarter of a century later: are that much further along? With the try line at our mercy, we contrived to knock on and maybe explaining that is the subject of a whole new piece of work for the sports analysts and correspondents because 1997 was fizzing with possibility and excitement. Paris, Adelaide, Perth – all new flirtations with rugby league. And since then Toronto, Ottawa, Wales and now London are either gone or limping along; a shadow or what they could be. The explanation, in my eyes if fairly is simple. Existing clubs refusing to dilute their positions of control, power and privilege in favour of the wider good, to grow the game. As recently as 2020 the European clubs ended Super League's North American experiment. With the advent of COVID in 2019 one rugby union journalist, speculated that this may turn out to be the phenomenon that would finally kill off rugby league. That was the point of pandemics he argued; to kill of the sickly and the weak. But we plough on. Often described as the sport that refuses to die, perhaps 1997 and all that since confirmed us as the sport that refuses to grow."

DAVID GALLOP: "Who knows what rugby league would have looked like if it all hadn't happened? There's perhaps a misconceived view that everything was flying at that point in time when it all happened and in fact there was lots that wasn't going well and the Super League War brought a rigour to finances and to marketing and to the game itself that we built on for the first decade of the century. We were able to build on that stuff and regenerate the game to the point where, in 2012, they did a record television deal. That was a product of where the game had come to in those years. Rigorous enforcement of the salary cap and attention to the on-field product, the rise of professional athletes playing the game ... all of those things, they may never have happened but for Super League. And as I say, it was a product of people on both sides of the fence loving the game and wanted it to be better. That's one of my takeaways from the period, is how much people loved the game and wanted it to be the greatest game of all."

JOHN QUAYLE: "Was \$800 million worth it? I don't know whether it was."

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*"Someone
said 'Holy
f***, we're
gonna die!"*



The untold story of rugby league's
divided year and the birth of the NRL

STEVE MASCORD

THE SALARY CAP AND DRAFT

Andrew Ferguson  @AndrewRLP

It seems like the salary cap has been ingrained in Rugby League's history since day one, but it's only been in place since the 1990 season. How did it come about though?

The salary cap concept, much like the State of Origin idea, both emanated from rival football code VFL. The VFL had a 'soft' salary cap in place from 1985 which was set at different levels for different clubs, in an attempt to give sides time to adjust their rosters so as to reach the 'hard' cap that was to be implemented 5 years later.

The 1988 NSWRL season began with more expansion to the competition outside of Sydney. Three new clubs were introduced into the league – Gold Coast (home to the region with the oldest country Rugby League team), Newcastle (who had a team from the region in the code's first two seasons) and Brisbane (who started their own competition in 1909, the year after the game was born in Australia). These were all good and safe looking decisions at the time.

But just a few days after the Broncos first Premiership game, which saw them destroy defending Premiers Manly 44-10, there were concerns raised that the NSWRL had given the Broncos too much of a 'fair go'.

At the end of the year, in an interview with Roy Masters, Canterbury chief Peter Moore believed that a salary cap was inevitable, stating:

“IT WON'T STOP THE BIG PAYMENTS TO THE SUPERSTARS. IF A CLUB'S CAP IS \$1.1 MILLION, THEY CAN STILL GIVE MICHAEL O'CONNOR \$1 MILLION. BUT A LOT OF PLAYERS WOULD DISAPPEAR FROM THE CLUB'S BOOKS.”

Ken Arthurson, the Australian Rugby League chief at the time added, “The VFL have just finished a five-year process where each club is moving to the same salary ceiling. I genuinely believe we will have to adopt it.”

John Fleming, secretary of the St. George Dragons and a member of the game's policy committee, added a small concern, “We invited Alan Schwab (the VFL executive director) up to talk about the salary cap. I checked its operation with the president of the North Melbourne club. He said the salary cap works very well for the clubs who adhere to it every year. But he said five clubs don't follow it and they're the ones who play in the finals.”

By the end of the 1988 season the number of players being negotiated with and signed by rival clubs despite being under contract, also known as 'tampering', was spinning out of control. Rugby League historian and journalist Ian Heads suggested that the game needed a form of collective bargaining agreement between

the players' association and the League.

The NSWRL soon after decided to introduce a salary cap for the 1990 season. In an interview in September of 1988, Ken Arthurson explained briefly how the salary cap would function:

“We tried a ceiling payment scheme before, it fell through because some clubs would sign a player then pay him an extra \$100,000 to be the leagues' club doorman or some such rort. The salary cap is not designed to limit payments to any one player, but to limit the overall expenditure of a club, so if the salary cap is \$1.5 million, for instance, they can give as much as they like to one player, but that payment reduces their expenditure in other areas. When it is introduced in 1990 we will have a panel constantly looking at all areas of a club's income and expenditure, sponsors, leagues club employment incentives and so on. It would be difficult to tell a leagues club that they can't employ a particular player. But we will want to know how much extra he is earning as, say, the doorman. Clubs found guilty of breaching the rules will be fined 75 percent of the amount they exceeded the cap.”

Arthurson also revealed that the NSWRL would be using a soft cap, just as the VFL had, but it would be in place for just 3 years – not 5 like the VFL, running from 1990 until 1992. There was even a plan to have a player draft.

The decision to introduce a salary cap saw all the clubs go on a spending spree for the 1989 season in a bid to 'beat' the system.

In November of 1988, John Quayle, the general manager of the NSWRL, held a conference with officials from all 16 clubs, where he explained that a salary cap will be in place from 1990, however the League reserves the right to impose a cap in 1989 on any club who, on audited figures, goes into deficit in 1988, a decision aimed at stopping clubs from trying to buy talent from other clubs, or potentially paying stars huge salaries to compensate for a smaller wage when the cap would be introduced.

Just before Christmas of 1988, Western Suburbs signed English test superstar Ellery Hanley, regarded as the world's best player at the time, despite recording a \$600,000 deficit for the year. Hanley's purchase was labelled as a 'Christmas present' to the Magpies by millionaire Jim Masterton, owner of Masterton Homes and sponsor of the Magpies.

John Quayle quickly pointed out that such a transaction would not escape the salary cap.

“RULES OF SALARY CAP ARE THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL, ANY ASSOCIATION CONNECTED WITH THE CLUB, IS PART OF THAT SALARY CAP.”

On March 26, 1989, the NSWRL revealed that a special, independent three-man committee will supervise the introduction of the salary cap. The committee members were George Haines, Stanley Costigan and Denis Cortese.

On May 5, the NSWRL revealed that clubs will receive a 100% penalty

fine for exceeding the cap. So whatever amount they exceed the cap by, will be the size of the fine they will pay. They also decided to introduce a soft cap ranging from \$800,000 for the poorer clubs, to \$1.5 million for the wealthiest. They decided what the cap for each individual club would be based on each club's recent financial history, balance of funds, player wages for the last 2 years and the agreed player payments for the 1989 season.

The salary caps in place for the 1990 season for each club were:

Balmain	\$1.3 million
Brisbane	\$1.5 million
Canberra	\$1.3 million
Canterbury	\$1.3 million
Cronulla	\$1 million
Eastern Suburbs	\$1.5 million
Gold Coast	\$1.3 million
Illawarra	\$800,000
Manly	\$1.5 million
Newcastle	\$1.3 million
North Sydney	\$1.3 million
Parramatta	\$1.5 million
Penrith	\$1.5 million
St.George	\$1.3 million
South Sydney	\$800,000
Western Suburbs	\$800,000

Gold Coast was the first to request that their cap be increased, followed by Wests and then minor Premiers South Sydney. Souths even sold their 11 home games for the 1990 season to the SCG Trust for a reported \$500,000 so as to bolster their books in the hope it would persuade the NSWRL to increase their cap.

The salary cap start date was listed as November 1, 1989, as that was when all player contracts come to an end.

In August 1989 it was revealed that Test captain Wally Lewis would be maintaining his current contracted value of \$120,000, however new recruit and Test star Dale Shearer would be getting paid \$50,000 a year, despite his current deal at Manly having him being paid a significantly higher salary of \$115,000.

In light of this, John Quayle suggested that Shearer's assessed value should be at \$100,000. Quayle also revealed that the salary cap committee will likely ask the Broncos why Shearer would accept an offer of \$65,000 less per year than his current deal with Manly, which he is trying to abandon before his contract ends, as an example to clubs that they cannot go around under-valuing players in order to get around the salary cap.

On October 13, all 16 clubs had to lodge their player transfer lists for the 1990 season with the NSWRL, with some clubs being forced to purge as many as 30 players in order to fit under their salary caps for the following year. This led to more criticism of the cap concept.

The following month, a small group of first grade players and coaches held an informal meeting in a Sydney hotel where they discussed their opposition to the proposed NSWRL draft system, which was set to be introduced at the start of the 1991 season,

and how they could go about opposing it, with a view of blocking it. Quayle though squashed the matter by writing to the Players Association, stating clearly:

“THE DRAFT SYSTEM IN ANY FORM WILL NOT BE INTRODUCED, AND IT WAS NEVER THE INTENTION OF THE BOARD IT BE INTRODUCED, BEFORE THERE IS FINAL CONSULTATION WITH YOUR ASSOCIATION.”

Quayle also informed all 16 club bosses and the players association that he proposed for the completion of the draft concept to be completed by March 31, 1990, with a view of implementing it in October 1990.

In February 1990, the NSWRL board decided to run their draft concept by their legal advisers before implementing it in full, amid talk of legal action from the players association.

On March 10, 1990 it was reported that defending Premiers Canberra were already \$50,000 over their cap, which had been bumped up from \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million. Western Suburbs had their cap bumped up from \$800,000 to \$1.1 million, while South Sydney saw their cap increase significantly from \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. Newcastle's cap was also increased from \$1.3 million to almost \$1.6 million.

Canberra's players agreed to take pay cuts in order to allow the club to keep stalwart Ashley Gilbert on the books, while Parramatta made the tough decision to axe 5 players, including prominent top graders Geoff Bugden and Paul Taylor, in order to fit under their cap.

In May it was reported that Newcastle looked set to have their cap slashed by \$400,000 for 1991 because they were struggling to keep their player payments down.

In August, 1990, the Canterbury Leagues Club posted a huge profit of almost \$4.4 million which allowed the Bulldogs to have their cap increased from \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million for 1991. Then, in September, Wests asked for a further increase to their salary cap. They initially had an increase from \$800,000 to \$1.1 million and then another to take it up to \$1.3 million.

In late September, the Draft was officially launched. The 16 clubs submitted their lists of players that they would be placing on the draft, with the initial number of players sitting at 57. A Second list was to be submitted in a months time, which would likely to increase the number of players in the draft to 80.

On November 16, Wests got their salary cap increased again to the maximum \$1.5 million. They then cleaned up in the first draft, as they secured the services of top quality Bulldogs forwards David Gillespie, Joe Thomas and Paul Langmack.

Illawarra had their cap increased during the year from \$800,000 to just over \$1 million and in November, it was bumped up again to \$1.15 million.

In total, 115 players were put on the first round of the draft, but just 23 were signed.

The players who found new clubs via the first round of the draft were:

Brisbane	Trevor Gillmeister
Canberra	Greg Gibson
Canterbury	Bruce McGuire, Scott Tronc
Cronulla	Les Davidson, Richard McKell, Darren Higgins
Gold Coast	Pat O'Doherty, Robin Thorne, Ray Herring
Illawarra	Alan McIndoe
Manly	Guy Meredith
Newcastle	Ian Herron, Sean Kelly
North Sydney	Peter Jackson, Phil Blake
Penrith	Paul Dunn
St.George	Wayne Collins, Jason Alchin
Western Suburbs	David Gillespie, Joe Thomas, Paul Langmack, Stephen Burns

Balmain, Easts, Parramatta and Souths did not participate in the draft.

All players who applied to be included in the draft, but were not picked by a club, became free agents and were free to negotiate with any clubs, for the salary listed on their draft application form.

On January 15, 1991, there were 82 players on the second draft list, but most clubs were at their cap limit, meaning many players would be unsigned. Wally Lewis headlined the list of players in the second draft after he was discarded by the Broncos. Gold Coast made Lewis an impressive offer and were the only club eligible to claim him under the drafts 100km travelling clause, which Lewis had invoked. This rule meant that players don't have to accept being drafted to a club more than 100kms away from their current home ground.

It was announced that the League would run a draft every month until June, in the hope that as many free agents would be signed as possible.

The players who found new clubs in the second round of the draft were:

Balmain	Craig Izzard
Canberra	Scott Gale, Glenn Ryan
Canterbury	Steve Mavin, Darren Brown, Paul Doolan
Eastern Suburbs	Steve Benkic
Gold Coast	Wally Lewis, Danny Peacock, Heath Lewis
Illawarra	Michael McRitchie
Newcastle	Jason Hoogerwerf, Bill Dart, Paul Hughes
North Sydney	David Percival, Jamie Wildash
Penrith	Graham Mackay, Max Mannix
St.George	Sean Townsend
Souths	Billy Noke, Shayne Stead, Sandy Campbell, Glen Rogers, Garry Marshall, John Tyrrell, Matthew Steele, Bill Danawe, Arthur Siambis, Greg Mannix
Western Suburbs	Tony Rampling, Peter Trevitt

Brisbane, Cronulla, Manly and Parramatta did not participate in this round of the draft.

John Quayle announced that all 16 NRL clubs would have to provide a team in all three grades (First grade, reserves and Presidents Cup). This would provide clubs the ability to sign more of the players on the draft list. Clubs though saw it purely as a financial burden.

On February 3, Penrith suggested that the 16 Premiership sides should only have to worry about fielding their top side and not the 2 lower grade sides as well.

The legal action initiated by players against the NSWRL, suggesting that the draft was a restraint of trade on the players, was defeated in the courts, when Justice Hill sides with the League in early 1991.

On February 19, 1991, the Third round of the draft took place, with one majorly contentious signing.

62 players were on the draft and 21 were signed, one of whom was 19 year-old Terry Hill, who had been released by Souths and had then signed a playing and employment deal with Wests, however he was drafted by Easts.

Hill had been training with Wests and even appealed to Roosters coach Jack Gibson to overlook him in the draft, but Gibson picked him anyway. Hill even attached an exorbitant travel fee to his salary demands, which would see the Roosters fork out near \$600 every day Hill attended training. This was done by Hill in an effort to ensure he made himself as unattractive a signing as possible for the Roosters. Hill said he'd rather play in England or sit out his contract with Easts entirely, than play for the Bondi club. He stated his reason was simply finances

"I HAVE A FIANCÉE, AND I CANNOT AFFORD A HOUSE IN THE EASTERN SUBURBS AREA. I WAS IN THE PROCESS OF BUYING SOMETHING IN CAMPBELLTOWN, WHERE I'M LIVING NOW."

Terry Hill appealed the decision however it was overturned by the courts and he reluctantly signed a 3 year deal with the Roosters in early April.

The overwhelming number of unsigned players in the draft and the complaints of costs by clubs appeared to force the NSWRL into adding two new teams into the competition. In 1993, they decided to add another 2 sides, with Auckland and North Queensland the favourites, while further expansion to Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide was also on the cards.

In the fourth draft, held in May, The Bulldogs secured English half Gareth Stephens for the princely sum of \$1, a deal that made a mockery of the system.

On July 26, 1991, it was reported that the Canberra Raiders exceeded their 1990 salary cap by at least \$600,000. John Quayle rebuked the figure and said it was more like \$100,000.

In August, Canberra received their punishment for exceeding the salary cap in 1990 and 1991, a reduced salary cap in 1992, which saw the Raiders players accepting 15% pay cuts, while others were being allowed to seek transfers to rival clubs. Their cap was to be reduced to \$1.3 million in 1992, \$300,000 less than the other 15 sides. They got to keep their 1990 Premiership though, despite being over the cap when they beat Penrith in the 1990 Grand Final.

In September, the Federal Court agreed that the NSWRL draft was a restraint of trade on players and thus deemed it illegal, forcing the League to end the draft concept immediately.

In October the High Court officially ruled the Draft system illegal and it was immediately ended. For Terry Hill, this meant he was granted a release from his Roosters contract, allowing him to sign with the Magpies. Oddly enough, after 2 seasons at Wests, Hill would then relocate to Manly.

Many players had their contracts ratified as they were signed in the period between the High Court decision and when the Federal Court handed down their ruling in September. This saw the following player transfers take place with immediate effect (their current club in brackets): 6 of the 21 players listed were from the Raiders, as they were in a huge roster shedding campaign so as to comply with their reduced salary cap in 1992.

Brisbane	Glenn Lazarus (Canberra)
Canberra	Paul Osborne (St.George)
Cronulla	David Trehwella (Easts)
Easts	Gary Freeman (Balmain), Nigel Gaffey (Canberra)
Gold Coast	Brent Todd (Canberra), Paul Martin (Canberra), Steve Jackson (Wests), Dale Shearer (Brisbane)
Manly	Phil Daley (Gold Coast)
Norths	Greg Barwick (Penrith), Jeff Doyle (Newcastle)
Newcastle	Jamie Ainscough (Wests)
Penrith	Mark Robinson (Canterbury), Darren South (St.George), Brett Boyd (Canberra), Graham Lyons (Souths)
Souths	Matt Goodwin (Parramatta) Peter Johnston (Parramatta)
Western Suburbs	Terry Hill (Easts), Mark Bell (Canberra)

And so, after a tumultuous 3 year period, the League managed to push through arguably the best functioning salary cap in World Sport and contrastingly, one of the worst drafts which was ultimately destroyed by a teenager.

Yet curiously, the largely successful salary cap has been criticised ever since while the woeful draft concept has been constantly suggested as a concept that the NRL needs to implement.

Hell no, I won't go, says Easts' draft man

Terry Hill, the former South Sydney utility player, last night insisted he would not train let alone play with Eastern Suburbs, the club to which he was allocated in yesterday's third draft session.

Hill, 19, wants to play for Western Suburbs, with whom he has been training since last October. He said yesterday that despite Easts' decision to draft him - after an appeal to Jack Gibson to overlook him was ignored - he would continue to train with Wests.

His manager, Tony Kelso, said the case would be appealed. Kelso said Hill would prefer to play in England or sit out the season than play for the Roosters.

Among 20 other players picked in yesterday's draft were former

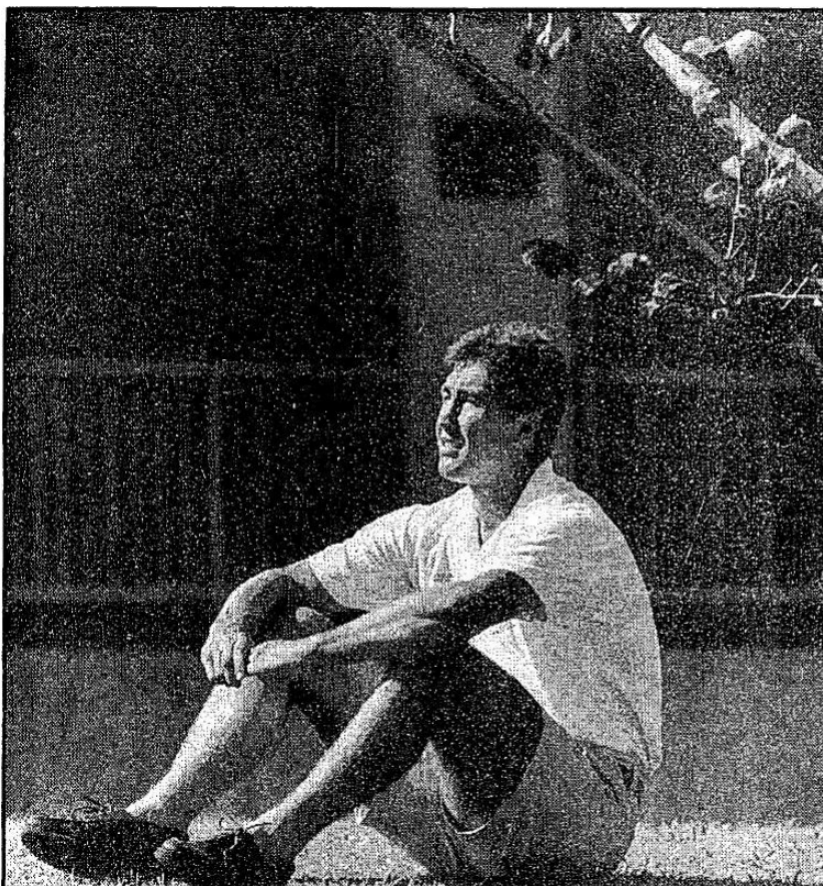
LEAGUE

DANIEL WILLIAMS
and ROY MASTERS

cannot afford a house in the Eastern Suburbs area. I was in the process of buying something in Campbelltown, where I'm living now."

In an attempt to discourage Easts, Hill had a clause put in his draft application requiring any club he joins to pay a \$5-a-kilometre allowance for travel to and from training. This will cost Easts about \$600 a training session.

Wests coach Warren Ryan said Hill's case was the first example of what could happen under the



Article about Terry Hill fighting the draft system from the Sydney Morning Herald Feb 20, 1991

NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE 2021

Match statistics compiled by **Rugby League Project**

Match reports from **LeagueUnlimited.com**

ROUND 1 March 11 to 14

MELBOURNE 26 SOUTH SYDNEY 18

A blistering first half has seen the Melbourne Storm continue their remarkable opening round record with a 26-18 win over the South Sydney Rabbitohs.

Winning in Round 1 for the 19th time in a row, the reigning premiers led from start to finish in their return to AAMI Park played before 11,812 supporters. Fielding 11 members of the team that triumphed in the grand final last October, fullback Ryan Papenhuyzen was a stand out with two tries, five goals and an assist. Wasting little time in asserting their premiership credentials, a show-and-go from Cameron Munster (2nd minute) saw the five-eighth slice through for the first try of the season.

Showcasing an attacking mindset with Josh Addo-Carr making a break from inside his own half, Papua New Guinean powerhouse Justin Olam (10th minute) finished off the play, while Papenhuyzen (18th minute) put Kenny Bromwich into space before supporting to put the home side up 18-0 in equal time. Papenhuyzen (29th minute) added a second four pointer after backing his pace to cross in the corner. Needing to stem the flow of points to have any chance of remaining in the contest, the introduction of Benji Marshall yielded immediate dividends with Alex Johnston (33rd minute) touching down prior to halftime.

Coming out of the sheds with a renewed mentality, a beautiful cut out pass from Cody Walker saw Johnston (43rd minute) bag his second. Re-establishing a 12 point buffer with a Papenhuyzen penalty goal, the Storm looked on shaky ground when Latrell Mitchell (56th minute) took on the line to narrow the margin to a converted try. Slotting a second penalty goal on the hour mark after Jahrome Hughes was tackled in mid air, the Storm regained composure during the final quarter to walk away with a 26-18 victory.

Adding to the Rabbitohs' woes, front-rower Tom Burgess was stretched from the field shortly before fulltime. **Robert Crosby**

MELBOURNE STORM (26) Tries: Cameron Munster, Ryan Papenhuyzen (2), Justin Olam; Conversions: Ryan Papenhuyzen (3/4); Penalty Goals: Ryan Papenhuyzen (2/2)
SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (18) Tries: Alex Johnston (2), Latrell Mitchell; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (3/3)
Venue: AAMI Park; Crowd: 11812; Halftime: Melbourne 22 South Sydney 6; Referee: Grant Atkins

NEWCASTLE 32 CANTERBURY 16

Newcastle Knights gave the 19,555 fans who turned out in rainy conditions a treat in their 32-16 success against Canterbury Bulldogs at McDonald Jones Stadium.

The rain came just before kick-off then the points poured for the Newcastle Knights, as they put away the error-riddled Canterbury Bulldogs side. The forward pack led by two try hero Daniel Saifiti rolled over their opponents and helped establish a rare win against the Bulldogs in the Hunter. It was a disjointed off-season for Newcastle with the Mitch Pearce drama but back on home turf, the Knights were slick in attack and stern in defense. Pearce set up Daniel Saifiti's first to lead 6-4 then tries in the final ten minutes to Starford To'a and Mitchell Barnett gave them an 18-10 advantage. For the Bulldogs, their handling was their downfall. Tries to Dallin Watene-Zelezniak in the opening five minutes and Adam Elliott in the 20th gave the Bulldogs lead twice but constant errors gave the Knights prime field position and they were put to the sword. It was a quiet start to their new life under Trent Barrett who has plenty to work on.

Newcastle will be glad to see new signing Tyson Frizell rumble for over 150 metres in his club debut. It was a real showcase for the Knights forwards. Mitchell Barnett kicked six from 7 alongside a four pointer and worked tirelessly to terrorise the Bulldogs. In his 100th game, Daniel Saifiti brought his try tally to 10 after he crossed for his double in the second half. Saifiti is in the Knights captaincy 'rotation' and if he continues this form, may take the spot for himself before long.

The only sour note for the Knights is a pair of injuries. Kurt Mann was forced from the field early with an MCL injury which thrust Connor Watson into the halves. Also Bradman Best didn't finish the contest with an injury. There were some positive signs for the Bulldogs. Corey Allan was solid under the high ball and high profile signing Nick Cotric was strong carrying the ball. The halves were solid but unspectacular which showed a lack of punch once the Knights went into second gear. **Justin Davies**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (32) Tries: Daniel Saifiti (2), Mitchell Barnett, Starford To'a, Bradman Best; Conversions: Mitchell Barnett (4/5); Penalty Goals: Mitchell Barnett (2/2)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (16) Tries: Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (2), Adam Elliott; Conversions: Kyle Flanagan (1/2), Nick Meaney (1/1)
Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 19555; Halftime: Newcastle 18 Canterbury 10; Referee: Ben Cummins

PARRAMATTA 24 BRISBANE 16

Parramatta has survived a first-round shock by piling on 24 unanswered points in the second half to run down a much-improved Broncos side by 24-16 at Suncorp Stadium.

Broncos five-eighth Anthony Milford responded to his nay-sayers creating two first half tries for Queensland winger Xavier Coates in a dynamic first half display. However, Parramatta were a different side after the break, with Eels' hooker Reed Mahoney sparking his sides comeback. The Eels rake scored a crucial try after halftime that created the momentum for the Parramatta onslaught, which will give coach Brad Arthur a lot of confidence that his side have the attacking arsenal to again be a threat in this year's premiership race. The loss for the Broncos was further soured by injuries to prop Matt Lodge with a hamstring strain, utility John Asiata with a serious shoulder concern, as well as winger Xavier Coates who failed his HIA after colliding with Clint Gutherson in scoring his second try. Having just one player left on the bench for the majority of the second half just proved far too difficult for the home side under the new NRL rules designed for a faster game.

It was last year's wooden spooners who struck first, when first choice halfback Brodie Croft combined with his outside man Herbie Farnworth to suck in the Eels edge defence on the left-hand side. Prodigal son David Mead then cut back on an angle to score the first try for the night. Jamayne Isaako converted and it was Brisbane with an early lead. Costly handling errors were starving the Eels of possession and the Broncos again made them pay when Anthony Milford kicked over the top early in the tackle count and found his winger Coates who easily collected the ball on the full to score in the corner to extend the margin to 10-0. The unforced errors continued to mount for the Eels, when winger Maika Sivo made a crucial error just 10m from his own line to give the home side a chance before the break. Anthony Milford then threw a superb cut out pass close to the line, which hit his winger Coates on the chest to score his second try. Isaako then converted from out wide and it was Brisbane leading 16-0 at halftime in a stunning first half performance to begin Kevin Walters' tenure at Red Hill.

The Eels were clearly stunned and whatever coach Brad Arthur said at halftime worked as the Eels scored two tries in a matter of minutes. Hooker Reed Mahoney lit the fuse for the visitors, forcing a David Mead error and then from the next set the nuggetty hooker caught the Broncos markers napping close to the line to scoot over to score beside the posts. Eels winger Blake Ferguson then picked up a loose pass and then managed to tip toe down the right touchline. Ferguson then delivered a beautifully poised kick inside to find his skipper Gutherson jogging on the spot in support to narrow the Broncos lead to 16-12. Parramatta then took the lead for the first time in the match when Dylan Brown and Gutherson combined off a scrum play to unleash Blake Ferguson for the corner and the former NSW winger bulldozed his way over the cover defence to score. Moses converted and the Eels were ahead by 18-16.

Parramatta then continued to delay the knock out punch in the final quarter, before fittingly heavyweight prop Junior Paulo sealed the win when he crashed over for the match winner off a superb Reed Mahoney pass close to the line. While the Broncos and their fans will be disappointed in yet again falling away terribly in the second half, the performance and attitude looked more positive. **Sam Bourke**

PARRAMATTA EELS (24) Tries: Reed Mahoney, Clinton Gutherson, Blake Ferguson, Junior Paulo; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (4/4)
BRISBANE BRONCOS (16) Tries: David Mead, Xavier Coates (2); Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (2/3)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 28313; Halftime Score: Brisbane 16 Parramatta 0; Referee: Adam Gee

WARRIORS 19 GOLD COAST 6

The Nathan Brown era began with victory for the Warriors, the men from across the Tasman (temporarily calling Gosford home) claiming a 19-6 victory over the Titans at Central Coast Stadium.

The winning side's three tries all came from relatively easy plays, offloads before the line giving forwards Bayley Sironen (first half) and Leeson Ah Mau (second half) four pointers, while Bunty Afoa turned provider for five-eighth Kodi Nikorima in a similar fashion at the 70th minute to seal the game. It wasn't a great day for the Titans, who struggled for cohesion in attack. They failed to crack the scoreboard until after the Warriors were 18-0 up, a 73rd-minute Corey Thompson try out wide their only shining moment in an otherwise dour contest.

In fairness - it was a hot one in Gosford. The first match played under the NRL's heat policy for the season, fatigue was evident even in the first half among both playing groups. Drinks breaks enforced at the 20 minute intervals of each half gave each side a bit of pep in their step but ultimately poor handling and discipline increased as the match went on.

The result will be disappointing for the Titans and their fans, who would've expected big things from new back-rowers Tino Fa'asuamaleaui and David Fifita among a raft of other key signings. While neither played poorly, they didn't set the world on fire and ultimately the visitors' attack didn't gel the way Justin Holbrook would've wanted.

On the winning side, union-bound captain and fullback Roger Tuivasa-Sheck was a standout as usual, one highlight being a trysaver on Titans halfback Ash Taylor in the first half - a try that if scored, would've allowed the visitors to draw first blood.

Tim Costello

WARRIORS (19) Tries: Bayley Sironen, Kodi Nikorima, Leeson Ah Mau; Field Goals: Chanel Harris-Tavita (1/1); Conversions: Kodi Nikorima (3/3)

GOLD COAST TITANS (6) Tries: Corey Thompson; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (1/1)

Venue: Central Coast Stadium Crowd: 3771; Halftime: Warriors 6 Gold Coast 0; Referee: Ashley Klein

SYDNEY 46 MANLY 4

It took the Roosters 17 minutes to click, but when they did, they were simply unbeatable in putting Manly through the cleaners, finishing 46-4 winners at home.

The Tricolours opened the scoring in just their second set of the game, after Luke Keary, on the short side, put up a bomb which James Tedesco followed through, caught cleanly, beat Reuben Garrick before falling over the line to score. Siosuia Taukeiaho hooked the conversion attempt from out wide. Just 8 minutes later, Manly hit back thanks to a great piece of work by their returned champion Kieran Foran, who held up a pass to create the extra man on the short side, which allowed Garrick to dive over in the left corner. Garrick was unable to convert his try. The turning point of the first half came in the 17th minute when Manly gave the Roosters a 7 tackle set. The Roosters marched upfield where Keary sent a brilliant short ball to the lead running Sitili Tupouniua, who stepped between two defenders on the right side, and then stepped back infield to beat Dylan Walker and score. Taukeiaho converted. The Roosters crossed again five minutes later, when Jake Friend, who was 2 metres from the Manly line, passed long from dummy half to Tedesco, who stepped inside to beat 2 defenders, then stepped right to get between another two defenders and crash over to score to the right of the posts. Taukeiaho converted again.

Another 6 minutes passed before another Roosters try was added, after they put the ball through the hands on the right side, where Daniel Tupou held up a pass for Brett Morris, who then bumped out of two tackles to score in the corner. Adam Keighran failed to convert from touch. Right on halftime, the Roosters scored again when some perfect draw, catch and passing resulted in Brett Morris reaching out to score a good try in the right corner. Keighran nailed the sideline conversion, to give the Roosters a 26-4 lead at halftime. An energetic start to the first half saw neither side getting the upper hand. In the 44th minute Jared Waerea-Hargreaves was put on report for striking with his elbow at Curtis Sironen. A few minutes later and Jake Friend copped a head knock while attempting to tackle Andrew Davey, later failing to pass his HIA. In the 52nd minute, the Roosters extended their lead after Tupou got outside his man and ran down the right touchline before passing inside to Keary who sent the ball along to Tedesco, who scored his third try. Tedesco then attempted to convert but sprayed it a long way wide.

Just after an hour into the game, Manly finally got an attacking set, but an intercept by Brett Morris saw him run 80 metres to score his third try of the game. Tedesco's sideline conversion attempt was much better than his first, but still missed. The Roosters lead remaining at 30 points. In the 71st minute, the Roosters crossed again after Taukeiaho drifted left and dropped a short ball to Angus Crichton, who was running straight and he smashed through the weak Manly goal-line defence to score to the left of the posts. Taukeiaho converted to bring up the 40 point mark. With just two minutes remaining in the game, the Roosters added yet another try, when Josh Morris straightened and ran back infield onto a Tedesco pass, then blasted through the feeble edge defence to race 30 metres and score. Taukeiaho converted. **Andrew Ferguson**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (46) Tries: James Tedesco (3), Sitili Tupouniua, Brett Morris (3), Angus Crichton, Josh Morris; Conversions: James Tedesco (0/2), Siosuia Taukeiaho (4/5), Adam Keighran (1/2)

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (4) Tries: Reuben Garrick; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (0/1)

Venue: Sydney Cricket Ground; Crowd: 15097; Halftime: Sydney 26 Manly 4; Referee: Chris Sutton

PENRITH 24 NORTH QUEENSLAND 0

At the foot of the mountains the Panthers continued their outstanding defensive display to execute a 24-0 defeat of visiting North Queensland at Panthers Stadium tonight, with a crowd of 14,077 on hand.

Penrith went back to what they know from last year - not always spectacular in attack but doing absolutely everything right without the ball, preventing their line from being breached. While they arguably should've had more points in that first forty, they'd have gone to halftime 8-0 (following a quality bump and roll effort from back-rower Kurt Capewell for their sole try) pretty happy with the fact the Cowboys failed to score.

It took another fifteen minutes post-half-time for the home team to breach the Cowboys' line a second time, Dylan Edwards with a sound effort to extend the Penrith lead to the dreaded 14-0, but they pushed it further just five minutes later when Brian To'o went over out wide.

Suddenly up 18-0, there was a sniff of a rout in the air as the Cowboys looked less and less likely to score. Liam Martin tried to make that reality by setting up Isaah Yeo after 63 minutes and Yeo's try and the subsequent Cleary conversion allowed the home side to push into the 20's, with a 24-0 lead.

Somehow Todd Payten's men managed to stop the haemorrhaging - Penrith didn't score anymore points after the Yeo try and the visitors even troubled the Penrith line several times in the fifteen or so minutes that were left, but the 2020 Grand Finalists didn't really look too challenged for that final quarter of the match. **Tim Costello**

PENRITH PANTHERS (24) Tries: Kurt Capewell, Brian To'o, Dylan Edwards, Isaah Yeo; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (3/4); Penalty Goals: Nathan Cleary (1/1)

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (0)

Venue: BlueBet Stadium; Crowd: 14077; Halftime: Penrith 8 North Qld 0; Referee: Matt Cecchin

CANBERRA 30 WESTS TIGERS 12

The Canberra Raiders have put in a dominant second half performance to score an impressive 30-12 victory over the Wests Tigers at GIO Stadium.

The opening 40 minutes of action in Canberra was an error-riddled but entertaining affair, with both sides having more than enough chances to get over the line. The Raiders dominated most of the first half field position and possession, but they weren't able to cross the stripe for the most part. They were initially able to get across in the 10th minute when Sebastian Kris scored, to the jubilation of the home fans. However, the jubilation was short lived when the NRL Bunker stepped in to overturn Gerard Sutton's live call of 'try', with Elliott Whitehead ruled to have knocked on providing the offload for Kris. The first points of the game ultimately came for the Tigers, 26 minutes into the game when Luke Brooks ran to the line, attracting the Raiders defenders before putting the pass through to Jacob Liddle. Despite having a battering ram on the Tigers defensive line, it was pure luck that got the Raiders their opening four-pointer of the afternoon - a grubber kick from Jack Wighton took a deflection off a Tigers player and sat nicely for Jordan Rapana to get through first to ground the ball. The conversion from George Williams levelled the scores at 6-all.

The second half was a forgettable one for the Tigers, with all their efforts during the first half amounting to nothing, everything falling to pieces as the clock got closer to 80:00. Canberra opened the scoring in the second half when Ryan James was able to use his size to spin his way to the line and get over the top of little man Daine Laurie to get the ball down. A lack of possession was hurting the Tigers and when they did get possession, it was a basket case of play. Errors, forward passes - you name it. The Raiders added a penalty goal shortly after the James try before having another four-pointer overruled by the bunker. This occasion saw George Williams have a long-range effort knocked back after Daine Laurie was ruled to have been taken out as the ball was put down.

The visitors started to gain more possession but there was a complete lack of direction or idea in attack and it was the Raiders who took that to their advantage, heading up the other end and capitalising on those errors.

Canberra were able to put two tries on in the final 10 minutes, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad completing a long range effort after Curtis Scott picked up a wayward pass from Tigers winger Asu Kepaoo.

The last one came just four minutes from full time when the Tigers defence twice could not complete a tackle on Raiders big man Joseph Tapine before finding Rapana who went over.

The two Raiders tries were sandwiched around some James Roberts magic where the new Tigers recruit was able to send out a miracle flick offload out to an unmarked David Nofoaaluma who scored a consolation try for the visitors. **Josh Robertson**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (30) Tries: Jordan Rapana (2), Ryan James, Hudson Young, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad; **Conversions:** George Williams (4/4), Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad (0/1); **Penalty Goals:** George Williams (1/1)

WESTS TIGERS (12) Tries: Jacob Liddle, David Nofoaaluma; **Conversions:** Luke Brooks (2/2)

Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; **Crowd:** 15680; **Halftime:** Canberra 6 Wests Tigers 6; **Referee:** Gerard Sutton

CRONULLA 32 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 18

It was a much more composed and methodical Sharks side though that got the biscuits against a largely sloppy yet at times spirited Dragons side, Cronulla finishing 32-18 winners at Kogarah.

The Dragons turned the ball over in just their third tackle of the game, which set the tone for their first half. In the next set, Chad Townsend put in a clever grubber that curled to the left, avoiding Matt Dufty, before Josh Dugan followed through and pounced on the loose ball to score under the posts. Townsend converted. Both sides struggled to threaten over the next ten minutes, however the Sharks were winning the battle purely through good set completion and yardage through the middle. In the 12th minute, William Kennedy put in a short grubber just seven metres from the Dragons line on the right edge. Two Dragons players fell over trying to defend it and Kennedy followed through and fell on the loose ball to score. Townsend converted from near the sideline. Four minutes later, Jesse Ramien was given ten minutes in the sin bin for a swinging arm on Matt Dufty, which led to a brief embrace by both sides. Chad Townsend kicked a penalty goal several minutes later to extend the Sharks lead beyond two converted tries. The Dragons found silly ways to turn the ball over at dummy half and while the Sharks managed to build pressure with a number of repeat sets, especially via good short kicking, they couldn't trouble the scorers any further. On the halftime bell, Matt Moylan had a crack at a field goal, but it was waved away. The Red V finally got on the board seven minutes into the second half after Ben Hunt's bomb was allowed to bounce by Kennedy and Mulitalo, it then bounced backwards into the hands of Adam Clune, who just got across the line to score under the posts. Zac Lomax converted. In the 54th minute, Ben Hunt received the ball on the left, drifted sideways and then hit a charging Matt Dufty with a nice pass and Dufty exploded through a small gap, brushed out of a tackle attempt by Kennedy to score under the posts. Lomax converted to reduce the margin to just two. In the 61st minute Hunt put up a cross-field bomb from a long way out. Katoa lets it bounce and is tackled around the collar just after he grabs it. The balls spilled out and Ramsay cleaned it up and dived over the line to score, injuring his ankle in the process. The video ref overrules the decision of a try after finding a tiny knock-on by Jack Bird.

Just a few minutes later, Townsend put up a bomb of his own, which was tapped back by Wade Graham. Matt Moylan picked up the ball and quickly kicked to the left where it bounced once before Ronaldo Mulitalo cleaned it up and dived over to score untouched to the left of the posts. Townsend added the extras to take the lead back out to 8 points. Just two minutes passed before the Sharks crossed again. From a scrum, the Sharks sent it left to Townsend, then onto Moylan, who hits the trailing runner Kennedy with a lovely short ball. Kennedy then sent it along to Mulitalo, who drew the cover defender before passing back in to Kennedy who scored a brilliant try. Townsend then converted from near touch. The Dragons kept the game alive with six minutes remaining when Hunt kicked from the left to the right. The ball evaded the grabbing attempts by Lomax and Dugan, before bouncing into the waiting arms of Mikaele Ravalawa who scored in the corner. Lomax's sideline conversion was an absolute beauty. The Sharks hit back just minutes later when Aaron Woods spun out of a tackle and bounced onto the stripe to score a try to the right of the posts. Townsend converted to give the Sharks a 32-18 victory. **Andrew Ferguson**

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (32) Tries: Ronaldo Mulitalo, Josh Dugan, Will Kennedy (2), Aaron Woods; **Field Goals:** Matt Moylan (0/1); **Conversions:** Chad Townsend (5/5); **Penalty Goals:** Chad Townsend (1/1)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (18) Tries: Mikaele Ravalawa, Adam Clune, Matthew Dufty; **Conversions:** Zac Lomax (3/3) **Venue:** Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; **Crowd:** 7636; **Halftime:** St Geo Illa 0 Cronulla 14; **Referee:** Peter Gough

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 1

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Sydney	1 - 0 - 0	42	2
2. Penrith	1 - 0 - 0	24	2
3. Canberra	1 - 0 - 0	18	2
4. Newcastle	1 - 0 - 0	16	2
5. Cronulla	1 - 0 - 0	14	2
6. Warriors	1 - 0 - 0	13	2
7. Parramatta	1 - 0 - 0	8	2
8. Melbourne	1 - 0 - 0	8	2
9. Brisbane	0 - 0 - 1	-8	0
10. Souths	0 - 0 - 1	-8	0
11. Gold Coast	0 - 0 - 1	-13	0
12. St Geo Illa	0 - 0 - 1	-14	0
13. Canterbury	0 - 0 - 1	-16	0
14. Wests Tigers	0 - 0 - 1	-18	0
15. North Qld	0 - 0 - 1	-24	0
16. Manly	0 - 0 - 1	-42	0

MATCH REVIEW

Jesse Ramien	Cronulla	3 matches
Angus Crichton	Sydney	1 match
Jared Waerea-Hargreaves	Sydney	\$1600
Jake Friend	Sydney	\$1350
Nick Cotric	Canterbury	\$1350
Chanel Harris-Tavita	Warriors	\$1150
Aiden Tolman	Cronulla	\$1150

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Melbourne v South Sydney
3 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen
2 points - Tui Kamikamica
1 points - Jai Arrow

Newcastle v Canterbury
3 points - Daniel Saifiti
2 points - Tyson Frizell
1 points - Connor Watson

Brisbane v Parramatta
3 points - Reed Mahoney
2 points - Blake Ferguson
1 points - Isaiah Papali'i

Warriors v Gold Coast
3 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck
2 points - Bayley Sironen
1 points - Addin Fonua-Blake

Sydney v Manly
3 points - James Tedesco
2 points - Luke Keary
1 points - Siosia Taukeiaho

Penrith v North Queensland
3 points - Nathan Cleary
2 points - Isaah Yeary
1 points - Brian To'o

Canberra v Wests Tigers
3 points - George Williams
2 points - Hudson Young
1 points - Ryan James

Cronulla v St George Illawarra
3 points - Will Kennedy
2 points - Chad Townsend
1 points - Toby Rudolf

LEADERBOARD

3 points: James Tedesco (Roosters), Nathan Cleary (Panthers), George Williams (Raiders), Will Kennedy (Sharks), Reed Mahoney (Eels), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors), Daniel Saifiti (Knights), Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm)

ROUND 2 March 18 to 21

PARRAMATTA 16 MELBOURNE 12

A late try to Maika Sivo has seen the Parramatta Eels record a 16-12 victory over the Melbourne Storm in an absorbing affair on Thursday evening.

Played in rain-affected conditions, which both teams managed effectively, the Eels showed significant improvement from their opening round performance much to the delight of 10,416 supporters at Bankwest Stadium.

In a match dictated by defence before a late flow of points, Eels fullback Clinton Gutherson laid the platform for the win with three try-saving efforts to deny Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Tui Kamikamica and Cameron Munster certain tries.

Posting first points through Sivo (21st minute) midway through proceedings, the Fijian favourite latched onto a nicely weighted kick from Mitchell Moses before powering his way to the line.

Locking the scores up at 6-all shortly before the change of ends, former Canterbury outside back Reimis Smith (37th minute) slid over for his first try in Melbourne colours after sustained pressure from the visitors.

In a moment set to court plenty of scrutiny in the days to come, Melbourne forward Felise Kaufusi was placed on report early in the second half for slamming Ryan Matterson into the ground with his elbow.

Gaining the ascendancy with a style of play belying the conditions, a flat pass from Reed Mahoney sent Junior Paulo (67th minute) crashing over to break the deadlock.

Taking advantage of an ill-fated intercept attempt from Blake Ferguson, the Storm responded with Ryan Papenhuyzen's ricochet kick allowing Justin Olam (73rd minute) to crash over for his second try of 2021.

With the match seemingly headed for golden point after Papenhuyzen locked the scores up at 12-all, an inspired piece of play saw Sivo (77th minute) leap above George Jennings to seal the result with his second of the night.

While the final result, Kaufusi's tackle and a potential sternum injury to Asofa-Solomona will leave the visitors with much to lament, the match also marked a milestone for Melbourne captain Jesse Bromwich who played his 250th NRL game, becoming only the sixth Storm player to achieve the milestone.

Robert Crosby

PARRAMATTA EELS (16) Tries: Maika Sivo (2), Junior Paulo; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (2/3)

MELBOURNE STORM (12) Tries: Reimis Smith, Justin Olam;

Conversions: Ryan Papenhuyzen (2/2)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Crowd: 10416; Halftime: Parramatta 6 Melbourne 6; Referee: Ashley Klein

NEWCASTLE 20 WARRIORS 16

Newcastle Knights remain unbeaten in the 2021 campaign after a tense 20-16 success against New Zealand Warriors tonight at Central Coast stadium.

Two sides who were first-up winners clashed at the drenched Central Coast Stadium, the Knights weren't flash but did enough to get their second win of the season. Two moments of brilliance from young centre Bradman Best saw them topple the Warriors.

Tonight was the first time Warriors coach Nathan Brown had come up against his former side. His side showed flashes of last weekend's work but some poor errors in the first half and tired defending put them on the losing side. For the Knights, they will be happy to get one back on their former mentor.

Coming off their season opener, the Knights headed the short distance to Gosford and look to keep their run up. The first half was tight, both sides were understandably safe in the wet conditions. Jayden Brailey broke the deadlock with a dart from dummy-half for 6-nil.

It looked like Warriors rake, Wayne Egan had responded with his own burrowed effort which was denied. New Zealand quickly made amends with Ben Murdoch-Masila steaming over for his first four pointer since 2013. Kodi Nikorima raised the flags for 6-6.

The Knights edged ahead 8-6 at the break due to a late Mitch Barnett penalty goal then extended that to an eight-point lead in the 49th minute. Best drew in his defender and produced a fantastic flick pass to send Hymel Hunt across.

There was plenty of fight left in the Warriors side. Departing fullback, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck turned playmaker twice to send Adam Pompey across in the 57th then after another period of the arm wrestle, gave the Warriors the lead with his slick pass to winger Ken Maumalo, making it 16-14.

As time ticked down, it looked like the Warriors would edge the contest. They rolled through their sets and found the kick well. It came down to another bit of Best brilliance. Early ball from interchange utility Connor Watson opened up the space for Best to stride free then again, Hunt finished off to send the hearty Novocastrian contingent home happy, 20-16.

The Warriors will have a few restless nights with both backrower Eliasa Katoa and firebrand Jazz Tevaga put on report for incidents. Newcastle got through the game unscathed and will welcome back superstar fullback Kalyn Ponga soon. **Justin Davies**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (20) Tries: Jayden Brailey, Hymel Hunt (2); Conversions: Mitchell Barnett (3/3); Penalty Goals: Mitchell Barnett (1/1)

WARRIORS (16) Tries: Ben Murdoch-Masila, Adam Pompey, Ken Maumalo; Conversions: Kodi Nikorima (2/2), Adam Pompey (0/1)

Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Crowd: 4595; Halftime: Warriors 6 Newcastle 8; Referee: Grant Atkins

GOLD COAST 28 BRISBANE 16

The first instalment of the South East Queensland Derby between the Gold Coast Titans and Brisbane Broncos for 2021 has ended with "little brother" the Titans getting the spoils winning 28-16 at CBus Stadium tonight.

Bronco-turned-Titan David Fifita was almost predictably the star scoring two trademark tries to give the home side the ascendancy, which provided his side with their first win in 2021. Despite some stand out performances by a number of Titans players, the Gold Coast will still need to improve their completion rate if they are to compete with the top sides this season.

The Broncos were in the match early but simply fell apart in devastating fashion ten minutes before halftime, where last year's Wooden Spooners let in three successive tries. Despite a huge effort from Broncos firebrand Tevita Pangai to try and get his side back in the contest, the amount of unforced handling errors at crucial times would be alarming for Kevin Walters and his coaching staff moving forward. All the pre-match talk revolved around big money Titans signing Fifita coming up against his former club, however it was former Bronco Jarrod Wallace who flipped the script when he crashed over for the first try following a neat short pass from Mitch Rein at dummy half. Jamal Fogarty converted and the home side led 6-0 after 20 minutes.

Brisbane to their credit hit back almost immediately, when halfback Brodie Croft kicked high for his wingman in Xavier Coates who leapt high and offloaded in the one motion to find Tesi Niu, who did amazingly well to plant the ball over the stripe despite the attention of Titans winger Corey Thompson. Jamayne Isaako failed to convert from out wide and the Titans lead was narrowed to 6-4. Crucial back-to-back handling errors from both Coates and Isaako then cost the Broncos big time, when David Fifita crashed over for his first try. After managing to get a good run on the back of a scrum, the giant 20-year-old swatted away former teammates Anthony Milford and Tesi Niu to score and extend the lead to 10-4.

The Broncos ghosts of the season past then returned as they simply capitulated prior to halftime following the Fifita try, letting in back-to-back tries firstly to Titans utility Erin Clark which was swiftly followed by prop Jaimin Jolliffe who scored his first try in the NRL off a neat pass from dummy half off Clark and all of the sudden it was 22-4 at the break. David Fifita continued his dream run against the Broncos when play resumed, with the giant backrower again running straight through Milford and Niu's corridor down the left-hand side to crash over for his second try. Fogarty converted and it was 28-4.

Brisbane then tried to claw their way back into the match, when Tesi Niu looked to all but certain to score after making a break to the corner post but the ball was then stripped by AJ Brimson. Fortunately for the Broncos the ball was ruled to have gone back by the Bunker and Xavier Coates grounded the ball for a try. Isaako's conversion narrowed the score to 28-10 with less than 20 minutes remaining. While the comeback never gained momentum, Broncos prop Tevita Pangai managed to crash over late for a consolation try late to narrow the defeat to 28-16 for the visitors in what was ultimately another disappointing night for Brisbane fans. **Sam Bourke**

GOLD COAST TITANS (28) Tries: Jarrod Wallace, David Fifita (2), Erin Clark, Jaimin Jolliffe; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (4/5)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (16) Tries: Tesi Niu, Xavier Coates, Tevita Pangai Junior; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (2/3)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 17822; Halftime: Gold Coast 22 Brisbane 4; Referee: Matt Cecchin

PENRITH 28 CANTERBURY 0

The Penrith Panthers have improved to 2-0 after easily accounting for an average Bulldogs side by 28 points at a very wet Bankwest Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

The game started with both sides looking relatively competitive, with Penrith scoring a try in the opening 5 minutes through Kikau, however a dry spell followed as a stalemate ensued for the next 35 minutes.

The Bulldogs looked to have gotten on the board courtesy of an exciting passage of play that started in Watene-Zelezniak retrieving a midfield bomb and ended with a pinpoint kick from Nick Cotric to find Corey Allan, however further inspection from the bunker revealed a knock on at the very start of the play.

The Bulldogs defence did well to hold strong for most of the first half, however Penrith crossed the line with about 2 minutes to go. Jarome Luai scampered around the field before realising that he was out of options and put in a superb grubber to find Tyrone May. The Panthers went into the sheds with a 10 point lead.

The opening stages of the second half played out much the same as the bulk of the first, with both sides failing to capitalise on ample opportunity and the Bulldogs defence bending but never breaking.

However, Kikau eventually got over in the 59th minute, a try which didn't open the floodgates, but they definitely started leaking. Mitch Kenny put aside a period in which he made 2 simple errors in about 5 minutes to execute a dummy from dummy half which was bought by the Bulldogs and allowed Kenny to put Kikau over for his second.

The Bulldogs finally got their first penalty of 2021 in the 70th minute of their second game, however were unable to capitalise on the field position as Kyle Flanagan's grubber went straight to Nathan Cleary, who sprinted 50 metres downfield before a high shot from Dallin Watene-Zelezniak landed Cleary in the HIA ward and DWZ in the sin bin.

The Panthers took full advantage of the opportunity to attack against 12 men. Tyrone May grubbered and Nick Cotric made a rare mistake at the back, failing to take possession and Momirovski was there to score his first try as a Panther.

5 minutes later, it was Momirovski scoring again, this time through a solo effort that involved him beating 4 or 5 Bulldogs defenders.

The win for Penrith means they are the first side to ever not concede a point in the first two weeks of the season. **Adam Huxtable**

PENRITH PANTHERS (28) Tries: Viliame Kikau (2), Tyrone May, Paul Momirovski (2); Field Goals: Nathan Cleary (0/1); Conversions: Nathan Cleary (2/3), Stephen Crichton (2/2)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (0)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Crowd: 5062; Halftime: Canterbury 0 Penrith 10; Referee: Peter Gough

SOUTH SYDNEY 26 MANLY 12

Manly's run of games where they conceded 20 points or more was extended to eleven today, when they were outclassed by Souths 26-12 in the wet at Brookvale.

Souths opened the scoring in the 7th minute after they shifted the ball beautifully to the right to Cody Walker, who passed to Latrell Mitchell who tipped it on so smoothly that it looked like he didn't even touch it, onto Alex Johnston who sprinted down the sideline before drawing Dylan Walker and passing back inside to Cody Walker in support who scored. Adam Reynolds failed to convert. The Bunnies crossed again in the 14th minute when Reynolds, on the left side, noticing that the Manly defence had rushed up off their line, grubbered for Damian Cook, who fell over, but Reynolds followed through and planted his own grubber to score to the left of the posts. He then converted his own try. Damian Cook looked to have scored in the 25th minute but the bunker ruled that he fell just short of the line. A minute later Manly were on the attack, when Daly Cherry-Evans grubbered through the line, followed through and kicked it ahead before Latrell Mitchell's elbow brushed the Manly halfback in the hip, which results in him falling over. The bunker was asked to see if a penalty try should be awarded, which they declined to award, but Mitchell was ordered to spend ten minutes in the sin bin for his infringement.

A minute later and Manly finally got points when Lachlan Croker stepped back and to the left from dummy half on the Souths line, dummied a crash ball and then ran himself at the line and crashed over to the right of the sticks. Reuben Garrick converted. Three minutes before halftime saw Jai Arrow forcing his way across the line but the bunker again ruled no try. Souths weren't going to be denied the next time though, as they scored right on halftime, courtesy of a somewhat opportunistic try. Cody Walker on the left side attempted to grubber into the Manly in-goal, but it hit a Manly defender and ricocheted off Dane Gagai and rolled into the Manly in goal where Mitchell pounced on it to score. Reynolds converted to give Souths a 14-6 lead at the break.

The second half was played in very slippery conditions as the rain started to bucket down during the break. Souths looked set to score in the opening minute of the second half when a kick deflection by Souths was caught by Jayden Su'A, who then passed to Cody Walker, who dropped the ball. Adam Reynolds came off the field for an HIA. The 50th minute saw Jason Saab make a break and run 55 metres down field before he was tackled after a great chase by Damian Cook. Manly narrowed the margin to 2 points in the 59th minute when their big men combined in a smart play. Taniela Paseka received a crash ball while flat footed, 3m from the Souths line, he turned and offloaded the ball to Taupau who fell over the line to the right of the posts for a good try. Garrick converted. Just a few minutes later, the Bunnies struck back superbly. A line break by Benji Marshall put Graham into space before he was brought down 12m from the Manly. Cook at dummy half double pumped a dummy. The Manly defenders took a big bite on the second pump and Cook strolled over to score a clever try. Mitchell converted from wide on the right side. With just 5 minutes remaining, Souths put on another try when Souths ran a pet play - close to the line, they sent the ball left to Mitchell whose quickfire draw and pass allowed Alex Johnston to score in the corner untouched. Mitchell converted it from the left sideline. The match ended with some nonsense scuffling. Jayden Su'A was sin binned for ten minutes with 1 second left on the clock. Latrell Mitchell's attempt to kick a penalty goal just shaved the posts and was waved away. **Andrew Ferguson**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (26) Tries: Cody Walker, Adam Reynolds, Latrell Mitchell, Damien Cook, Alex Johnston; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (1/3), Latrell Mitchell (2/2); Penalty Goals: Latrell Mitchell (0/1)

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (12) Tries: Lachlan Croker, Martin Taupau; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (2/2)
Venue: 4 Pines Park; Crowd: 3218; Halftime: Manly 6 South Sydney 14; Referee: Gerard Sutton

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 25 NORTH QUEENSLAND 18

Townsville might not have a rollercoaster but it was definitely a rollercoaster ride for everyone watching as the St George Illawarra Dragons got their first victory for Anthony Griffin with a 25-18 victory over the Cowboys at QCB Stadium.

The Dragons started the game shakily with some very basic errors early on which gave the Cowboys a strong opportunity. The Cowboys put their first points of the season on the board in just the second minute of the game when Coen Hess was given a clean jump to the ball to score. Valentine Holmes converted to give the home side a 6-0 lead.

Errors came into both teams' games but the Dragons were able to hold on to the ball long enough as they sent Mikaele Ravalawa over in the corner to score. Zac Lomax from the sideline nailed the conversion perfectly to level the scores.

As the game continued on, the error rate didn't decrease for both sides but the Dragons were able to take advantage of the field position when Josh Kerr charged his way at the line and over the line to score. Another Lomax conversion this time from close range put the Dragons six ahead. A Corey Norman field goal on the stroke of half time gave the Red 'V' a seven-point lead at the break.

Cowboys coach Todd Payten would be glad he doesn't have any hair left after some shocking play by his side during the second half especially in attack. The home side opened the scoring of the second half when Valentine Holmes was able to get his way over the line after chasing down his own kick after a miracle offload from Corey Jensen.

Despite getting the margin back to just a point, the Cowboys couldn't land the killer blow to get in front and it was the Dragons who were able to push the lead back to seven when Ben Hunt charged at the line and had too much strength for a soft Cowboys defence.

The home side were able to hit back not long afterwards when Jake Granville was able to fight his way over the line to score. The Cowboys were back within a point after the conversion from Valentine Holmes.

Errors continued to bite in the contest and it was the Dragons who hit back next when Zac Lomax was able to outjump the Cowboys defenders to score and push the margin back out to seven following the conversion of his own try.

The Cowboys then started to win the field position battle but just like last week against the Panthers, there was a directionless attack and despite forcing three repeat sets, there was no real threat to the Dragons defence and ultimate the Red 'V' held on for a 25-18 victory. **Josh Robertson**

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (25) Tries: Mikaele Ravalawa, Zac Lomax, Josh Kerr, Ben Hunt; Field Goals: Corey Norman (1/1); Conversions: Zac Lomax (4/4)

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (18) Tries: Coen Hess, Valentine Holmes, Jake Granville; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (3/3)

Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 15120; Halftime: North Qld 6 St Geo Illa 13

SYDNEY 40 WESTS TIGERS 6

The Sydney Roosters have flexed their attacking muscles in an emphatic 40-6 win over the Wests Tigers at Campbelltown Sports Stadium.

Posting 40 points for the second straight week, James Tedesco and Brett Morris continued their impressive try-scoring feats, crossing for five tries combined, in a match played before a committed crowd of 6,107 who braved rain-affected conditions.

Picking right up from their respective hat-tricks last week, Morris and Tedesco (6th minute) combined for the opening try after Morris kicked in-field for his fullback to score.

Missing an opportunity to collect one of his own minutes later only for his hands to fail him, Morris (12th minute) made amends with a dashing display of speed and footwork that left the Tigers' left edge gasping for answers.

The home side posted a much-needed response through Jacob Liddle (17th minute), but that was as close as it got with the visitors restoring a 12-point margin after Sitili Tupouniua (33rd minute) powered over the top of Luke Brooks - playing his 150th appearance for the club - minutes before halftime.

Securing the victory with a blistering opening to the second half, two brilliant pieces of play from Luke Keary allowed Morris (46th minute) and Tedesco (49th minute) to claim their second tries of the afternoon.

Fletcher Baker, a 21-year-old Muswellbrook junior, capped his NRL debut with a try (68th minute) after Lindsay Collins made a bullocking run through the middle.

Completing his second hat-trick in as many weeks, Morris (74th minute) finished off a beautiful exchange featuring a Keary kick and passes from Joseph Manu and Collins. **Rob Crosby**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (40) Tries: James Tedesco (2), Brett Morris (3), Sitili Tupouniua, Fletcher Baker; Conversions: James Tedesco (2/2), Siosiuau Taukelaho (4/5)

WESTS TIGERS (6) Tries: Jacob Liddle; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (1/1)

Venue: Campbelltown Stadium; Crowd: 6107; Halftime: Wests Tigers 6 Sydney 18; Referee: Adam Gee

CANBERRA 12 CRONULLA 10

Canberra held off a fast finishing Sharks outfit to secure an unconvincing 12-10 win at Kogarah tonight to close Round 2 of the NRL.

Greasy conditions were not enough to stop the Raiders and Sharks from throwing the ball around and playing some high energy football.

The first half saw the Raiders dominate possession and field position, however the Sharks defence was largely brilliant, keeping them to just 2 tries in a remarkable defensive effort. The first score of the game happened in the 23rd minute when George Williams straightened, stopped and then passed to Sebastian Kris, who stepped out of the low tackle attempt by Chad Townsend and then fell over the line for a try to the left of the sticks. Williams converted the try. The weight of possession finally took its toll on the Sharks right on halftime after a scrappy last 10 minutes by both sides. Josh Hodgson held up a crash ball for Hudson Young close to the line and the back rower barged his way over the line to score a rather soft try. Williams converted to give the Raiders a 12-0 lead at the break.

The second half saw a completely different Raiders team run out. They were panicky, clumsy, far less disciplined and subsequently, they let the stubborn Sharks get back into the game. Cronulla finally got on the board in the 54th minute when Chad Townsend ran to the line and dropped the ball on his toe, putting in a delicate grubber which found William Kennedy flying through before he cleaned up the loose ball and scored to the right of the posts. Townsend's conversion attempt from almost in front was waved away.

From here play was very sloppy, moreso from the Raiders, who were at times clumsy and making silly errors which only served to put themselves under pressure and allow the Sharks to get back into the game. In the 64th minute, Toby Rudolf was tackled without the ball while running in support and Chad Townsend slotted the penalty goal to reduce the margin to 6 points. A scuffle broke out with ten minutes remaining which saw the Sharks receive a penalty and shortly after, they scored a determined yet typically sloppy, wet weather try. Townsend kicked to the left corner where Ronaldo Mulitalo and Bailey Simonsson grabbed at the ball almost simultaneously, however it was Simonsson who had it first. As they hit the ground, Simonsson lost the ball, which then bounced off the knee of Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad before Josh Dugan got his hand on it to score. Townsend's sideline conversion was unsuccessful. Raiders hung grimly onto a 2 point lead.

With just a minute to go, the Sharks received a penalty after the Raiders ran one of the Sharks players out of play. Townsend had a chance to level the scores again but his sideline penalty goal attempt was again waved away. With two seconds on the clock, Matt Moylan attempted to kick a 2 point field goal from inside his own half, but he failed to kick the ball more than 15 metres and the Raiders hung on to score an unimpressive victory. **Andrew Ferguson**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (12) Tries: Sebastian Kris, Hudson Young; Conversions: George Williams (2/2)

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (10) Tries: Will Kennedy, Josh Dugan; Conversions: Chad Townsend (0/2); Penalty Goals: Chad Townsend (1/2)

Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Crowd: 3145; Halftime: Cronulla 0 Canberra 12; Referee: Chris Sutton

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 2

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Sydney	2 - 0 - 0	76	4
2. Penrith	2 - 0 - 0	52	4
3. Canberra	2 - 0 - 0	20	4
4. Newcastle	2 - 0 - 0	20	4
5. Parramatta	2 - 0 - 0	12	4
6. Cronulla	1 - 0 - 1	12	2
7. Warriors	1 - 0 - 1	9	2
8. Souths	1 - 0 - 1	6	2
9. Melbourne	1 - 0 - 1	4	2
10. Gold Coast	1 - 0 - 1	-1	2
11. St Geo Illa	1 - 0 - 1	-7	2
12. Brisbane	0 - 0 - 2	-20	0
13. North Qld	0 - 0 - 2	-31	0
14. Canterbury	0 - 0 - 2	-44	0
15. Wests Tigers	0 - 0 - 2	-52	0
16. Manly	0 - 0 - 2	-56	0

MATCH REVIEW

Jamayne Taunoa-Brown	Warriors	3 matches
Felise Kaufusi	Melbourne	2 matches
Phoenix Crossland	Newcastle	2 matches
Dallin Watene-Zelezniak	Canterbury	2 matches
Kyle Feldt	North Qld	2 matches
Christian Welch	Melbourne	\$1350
Tyson Frizell	Newcastle	\$1150

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS

Parramatta v Melbourne
3 points - Clinton Gutherson
2 points - Maika Sivo
1 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen

Warriors v Newcastle
3 points - Bradman Best
2 points - Jayden Brailey
1 points - Kodi Nikorima

Gold Coast v Brisbane
3 points - David Fifita
2 points - Alexander Brimson
1 points - Tino Fa'asuamaleaui

Penrith v Canterbury
3 points - Jarome Luai
2 points - Viliame Kikau
1 points - Paul Momirovski

Manly v South Sydney
3 points - Damien Cook
2 points - Latrell Mitchell
1 points - Cameron Murray

North Queensland v St George Illawarra
3 points - Ben Hunt
2 points - Josh Kerr
1 points - Andrew McCullough

Wests Tigers v Sydney
3 points - Luke Keary
2 points - Brett Morris
1 points - Lindsay Collins

Cronulla v Canberra
3 points - George Williams
2 points - Will Kennedy
1 points - Sebastian Kris

LEADERBOARD

6 points - George Williams (Raiders)
5 points - Luke Keary (Roosters), Will Kennedy (Sharks)
4 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm)



ROUND 3 March 25 to 28

PENRITH 12 MELBOURNE 10

A 78th minute try to Kurt Capewell has seen the Penrith Panthers claim a hard-fought 12-10 victory over the Melbourne Storm in the grand final rematch on Thursday evening.

In a match where neither side could be separated for most of the proceedings, the Panthers produced three inspirational plays in the closing stages to the delight of 14,077 supporters - many of whom had endured the impacts of flooding in the days leading up to the match.

Trailing by four points with two minutes left on the clock, Capewell broke free of several Melbourne defenders to level the scores. Stepping up as goal kicker in the absence of Nathan Cleary, young gun Stephen Crichton put the home side ahead for the first time in the match with a successful conversion.

Adding to the theatrics of the contest, the Storm regained possession from the kick-off and almost spoiled Penrith's party as Justin Olam got over the line, only for Viliame Kikau to prevent the ball from touching the grass in a display of effort set to be revered for years to come.

Confirming their premiership credentials by downing last year's premiers, the Panthers were directed around the park effectively by highly publicised replacement Matt Burton.

The visitors crossed for the opening try after former Panther Tom Eisenhuth stripped Brian To'o close to the line, allowing Brandon Smith (10th minute) to burrow over from close range moments later.

Coming close to responding through To'o, only for the Samoan winger to put a foot on the sideline while grounding the ball, the Panthers took advantage of a repeat set with Charlie Staines (30th minute) displaying fancy footwork to score his first of the season.

The Storm appeared to strike a pivotal blow on the stroke of halftime with Olam powering over, only for the call to be overturned due to an obstruction involving Kenny Bromwich impeding Dylan Edwards on the try line.

Forced to play the second half with Tyrone May at fullback after Edwards succumbed to a broken hand, a missed penalty goal attempt from Stephen Crichton saw the scores remain locked at 6-all for much of the second half.

Making the most of a scrum play close to the Panthers' goal line, a left side shift saw Josh Addo-Carr (65th minute) outpace Staines to the line.

Determined to make amends for their horror showing in last year's grand final, the Panthers rallied late to get the result off their perseverance with and without the ball. **Robert Crosby**

PENRITH PANTHERS (12) Tries: Charlie Staines, Kurt Capewell; Conversions: Stephen Crichton (2/2); Penalty Goals: Stephen Crichton (0/1)

MELBOURNE STORM (10) Tries: Brandon Smith, Josh Addo-Carr; Conversions: Cameron Munster (1/2)

Venue: BlueBet Stadium; Crowd: 14077; Halftime: Penrith 6 Melbourne 6; Referee: Grant Atkins

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 38 MANLY 12

St George Illawarra piled on the misery in a 38-12 success against the lowly Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles tonight in front of 9,253 fans at WIN Stadium.

The Wollongong hoodoo continues for the Sea Eagles. St George Illawarra dealt in doubles tonight, Zac Lomax and Matt Dufty, both scored twice alongside tries from Cody Ramsay and Brayden Williams late gave the joint venture side a two and one start to the season.

Coming off their result in Townsville, Dragons were hot early. Lomax leapt high to open the scoring then some sublime touches from Tariq Sims and Corey Norman sent Matt Dufty across for 12-nil. Youngster Cody Ramsay profited off a good set play from Ben Hunt to make it three tries to none after a half hour.

Dragons based their game on defense tonight, the home side were forced to repel the Sea Eagles from their line several times either side of the break. Like last week, the Sea Eagles handling let them down and there wasn't the wet conditions to excuse them this week.

The Sea Eagles scored through Reuben Garrick late in the first half to bring it back to 18-6 then a late consolation to Daly Cherry-Evans from some smart work got them into double figures. It will be another week of intense scrutiny on the club as they remain on the duck egg.

Once they quelled the storm, Dragons set about putting the finishing touches on the contest. Lomax's penalty goal put them up 14 points before Dufty continued his golden run down in the 'gong with his second try, again from the hand of Norman.

From there, it was celebration time down by the city that meets the sea. Lomax completed his double from a Hunt grubber then a hard line from Brayden Williams gave the Dragons their sixth four-pointer of the evening. Early signs but the Dragons look far from the predicted spoon through three weeks.

Much of that comes from Ben Hunt. The halfback looks rejuvenated under the leadership of Anthony Griffin. He has the captaincy, steered the side around and provided a pair of try-assists for another Man of the Match performance. He even earned an early rest to avoid further aggravating his cork.

Young Dragons centre Zac Lomax produced a personal tally of 22 points from his double and seven goals which took his streak to 22 straight goals kicked. Lomax was on the fringe of representative football last season and might make the leap in 2021 if he continues this form. On a whole, the Dragons backline which has been a worry in previous seasons, has found their edge. **Justin Davies**

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (38) Tries: Zac Lomax (2), Matthew Dufty (2), Cody Ramsay, Brayden Williams; Conversions: Zac Lomax (6/6); Penalty Goals: Zac Lomax (1/1)
MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (12) Tries: Reuben Garrick, Daly Cherry-Evans; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (2/2)
Venue: WIN Stadium; Crowd: 9253; Halftime: St Geo Illa 18 Manly 6; Referee: Chris Sutton

SOUTH SYDNEY 26 SYDNEY 16

The Sydney Roosters have absolutely imploded with ill-discipline and heavy injuries hurting as the South Sydney Rabbitohs took a 26-16 victory in front of 22,000 fans at Stadium Australia.

The Roosters were a step below the Rabbitohs with plenty of errors during the first half and a lack of discipline really hurting the Eastern Suburbs boys. Souths left-side attack was the focal point of their efforts and it paid off early on when Cody Walker was able to get through after some good work by Latrell Mitchell.

Errors and ill-discipline continued to hurt the Roosters and it was down the clinical left-hand side as Latrell Mitchell again drew in the Roosters defence which left a 2-on-1 overlap which Dane Gagai took advantage of to score.

If Trent Robinson thought things couldn't get any worse for his side, they were certainly going to get worse as discipline continued to slide. The Roosters were penalised for a high tackle from which the Rabbitohs added a penalty goal. The ill-discipline somehow still disintegrated when Daniel Suluka-Fifita was sent to the sin bin for a coward punch on Jai Arrow when the second rower was on the ground.

The Rabbitohs added another four-pointer as the Roosters continued to give away set restarts to slow things down but the lack of numbers hurt when they couldn't slide out and Josh Mansour got on the board for the Rabbitohs.

Souths opened the scoring in the second half and it looked as if the floodgates were going to be well and truly open for the Bunnies attack. Cody Walker added his second try of the night when Dane Gagai got through the line before offloading to Walker who scored.

The Roosters added their first points of the night as James Tedesco swooped on an error from the Rabbitohs and just charged away for the Roosters first try of the night.

Injuries then became the biggest issue for the Roosters with Lindsay Collins suffering a heavy concussion which saw him taken to Hospital whilst Lachlan Lam and Luke Keary both suffered potentially serious leg injuries which could derail the season for the Roosters.

The Roosters added two consolation tries following the Rabbitohs putting the cue in the rack with the Morris twins scoring either side of a Latrell Mitchell penalty goal. Brett Morris scored after outleaping Alex Johnston to get the ball to the ground. The final try of the night came as a consolation try to the Josh Morris who chased through a grubber to score. **Josh Robertson**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (26) Tries: Cody Walker (2), Dane Gagai, Josh Mansour; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (3/4); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (1/1), Latrell Mitchell (1/2)
SYDNEY ROOSTERS (16) Tries: James Tedesco, Brett Morris, Josh Morris; Conversions: James Tedesco (1/2), Siosua Taukeiaho (1/1)
Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 22838; Halftime: South Sydney 18 Sydney 0; Referee: Ashley Klein

WARRIORS 34 CANBERRA 31

The New Zealand Warriors produced a remarkable comeback to snatch the game from the Canberra Raiders 34-31 this afternoon at Canberra Stadium.

It was the game that had it all today in the nation's capital. A 21-point comeback from the Warriors led by the talismanic fullback Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, a gritty and gutsy effort from the Canberra Raiders who lost three players in the first half but ultimately wilted when a late Adam Pompey try completed the Warriors' comeback.

Down 19 points heading into halftime, the Warriors could be afforded the chance to look to next week. Add further that Elliot Whitehead finished off a smooth move from the Raiders own half after Nikorima scored to make it 19 points the difference again. It seemed like the game was over.

Enter Roger Tuivasa-Sheck. The Warriors captain who is headed to rugby union next season, led from the front to get his side back into the contest. He was at every offload and spun the Raiders defenders out of their boots at times. Fitting that he scored to get them within striking distance then provided the match-winner, knocking the ball out of a diving Jordan Rapanā's hands with seconds left.

An able deputy, Kodi Nikorima got one back in the 42nd minute with a slicing effort. He started the move and finished the four-pointer with pace. Returning from the Super League, Ben Murdoch-Masila has been powerful in his stints this season. He got a four-pointer which will much debated after the pass was close. Murdoch-Masila also provided the platform for Bayley Sironen to kickstart the comeback.

Raiders were the walking wounded and were in a white knuckle ride to finish with the two points. They built a huge lead with a superb first half display, tries to Jack Wighton, Ryan Sutton, Iosia Soliola and George Williams had them up 24-6. Williams added a field goal right on half-time to give them a 19-point advantage.

Losing firstly Joseph Tapine to a leg injury then a sickening head clash between Ryan James and Sebastian Kris left the Raiders down on numbers in the first half. Curtis Scott struggled through the second half with a rib issue and in the end, it tolled on the wounded Raiders. They held out for 78 minutes before the Warriors hit the front for the second time after scoring the opener through centurion Addin Fonua-Blake.

It will be a dangerous time to be any lawn furniture near Ricky Stuart after that game. He will be fuming about a few decisions but also proud of his side, despite the injuries, were right in the contest until the end. Now they lick their wounds and face the Titans next Saturday night. For the Warriors, they go to the SCG to face the Roosters. **Justin Davies**

WARRIORS (34) Tries: Addin Fonua-Blake, Kodi Nikorima, Bayley Sironen, Ben Murdoch-Masila, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Adam Pompey; **Conversions:** Kodi Nikorima (5/6)
CANBERRA RAIDERS (31) Tries: Jack Wighton, Ryan Sutton, Iosia Soliola, George Williams, Elliott Whitehead; **Field Goals:** George Williams (1/1); **Conversions:** Jarrod Croker (5/5)
Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Crowd: 13456; Halftime: Canberra 25 Warriors 6; Referee: Matt Cecchin

BRISBANE 24 CANTERBURY 0

Jamayne Isaako single-handedly sparked the Broncos attack into action and to their first win in 14 games, a 24-0 drubbing of Canterbury at Suncorp Stadium.

Almost an hour of dire football between the Broncos and Bulldogs was broken by a great solo effort by Jamayne Isaako which saw the Broncos lift a few notches to run away with a comfortable 24 point, shut-out victory.

The first half was nothing more than a mess, despite the game being played in perfect conditions. Both sides producing a plethora of missed tackles, dropped ball and woeful last play execution.

The only points in the first half was a solitary penalty goal from the boot of Isaako in the 33rd minute.

The Bulldogs had an opportunity to level the scores with a penalty goal just before halftime, but instead chose to take the tap, with the set ending meekly. Brisbane went into the break with a 2-0 lead.

The second half continued where the first half left off, but in the 59th minute Isaako made a break out on the left side and then put on a left and a right step to beat Corey Allan and score a brilliant solo try to the left of the posts. He then converted his own try.

The Broncos instantly lifted and improved their performance and 8 minutes later, they scored again after Isaako broke out of a tackle on the right side, drew Nick Meaney before passing to Xavier Coates, who raced away to score in the right corner. Isaako was unable to convert from touch.

Two minutes later, Isaako landed a penalty goal to extend the Broncos lead to 14 points.

From the Bulldogs short kick off, Coates flew high and took the ball before explodes into open space, running 65 metres to score untouched. Isaako failed to convert from the difficult angle.

The Broncos crossed again with just two minutes remaining on the clock when David Mead found himself in space, passed inside to Herbie Farnworth who then grubbered ahead towards the posts where Tom Dearden regathered the bouncing ball, to score next to the posts. Isaako added the extras to give the Broncos a comfortable 24-0 victory, ending their losing streak at 13 games, while the Bulldogs are now scoreless in their last 164 minutes. **Andrew Ferguson**

BRISBANE BRONCOS (24) Tries: Jamayne Isaako, Xavier Coates (2), Tom Dearden; **Conversions:** Jamayne Isaako (2/4); **Penalty Goals:** Jamayne Isaako (2/2)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (0)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 22509; Halftime: Brisbane 2 Bulldogs 0; Referee: Ben Cummins

PARRAMATTA 28 CRONULLA 4

Just hours after the NRL's new rules came under fire for their impact on injuries, debate only intensified tonight as the Cronulla Sharks were reduced to 13 men - exhaustion getting the better of them in the second half with the Eels taking a 28-4 victory at Bankwest Stadium.

The Sharks started the faster of the two sides and dominated the field position early on and were able to cross first when Sione Katoa got over the line after some good work from Will Kennedy. Chad Townsend's kicking woes continued as he missed the conversion from the sideline,

Hitting back soon after, the Eels got on the board with Blake Ferguson getting the first of his double after some strong work down the short-side on the last tackle by the Eels with Ferguson being put through by Marata Niukore.

Injuries started to take their toll for both sides with Wade Graham and Briton Nikora both failing HIA's just minutes apart from each other whilst the Eels weren't immune as Mitch Moses also failed a HIA as well.

On the stroke of half-time the Eels were able to extend their lead when the Sharks defence was caught short and Maika Sivo was able to charge over the line after some good lead-up work by Will Smith which had caught the Sharks defence napping on the outside.

The night didn't improve for the Sharks with a knee injury to Sione Katoa and then a failed HIA by Will Kennedy meant that the Sharks had just 13 fit players to play with for the second half.

Despite the shortage of personnel, the Sharks were extremely gutsy to stay in the contest and it was a controversial penalty goal that extended the Parramatta lead after referee Adam Gee penalised Cronulla for not being square at marker and playing at the arm of Reed Mahoney despite replays showing Mahoney had already stepped away from the ruck. The heavy defensive effort of the Sharks began to take its toll, and the points began to flow for the Eels when Blake Ferguson crossed after errors by Ronaldo Mulitalo and Matt Moylan off a cross-field kick saw the ball land nicely for Ferguson who scored.

The Eels took advantage of the exhaustion of the Sharks as they were able to run in two long range tries with Reagan Campbell-Gillard getting over after a good run from centre field before the big man played try assistant when he put Ray Stone in for a rare four-pointer. **Josh Robertson**

PARRAMATTA EELS (28) Tries: Blake Ferguson (2), Maika Sivo, Reagan Campbell-Gillard, Ray Stone; **Conversions:** Mitchell Moses (0/1), Clinton Gutherson (3/4); **Penalty Goals:** Clinton Gutherson (1/1)

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (4) Tries:

Sione Katoa;

Conversions: Chad Townsend (0/1)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Crowd: 19236; Halftime: Parramatta 10 Cronulla 4; Referee: Adam Gee

WESTS TIGERS 24 NEWCASTLE 20

The Wests Tigers have secured their first win of 2021 with a close 20-24 win over the Newcastle Knights at McDonald Jones Stadium.

Newcastle will be kicking themselves after errors ultimately cost them the game this afternoon. The Tigers on the other hand, would be delighted to have their first two points of the season and avoid an 0-3 start. The win also means that the Tigers were able to spoil the party for Mitchell Pearce's 300th NRL game.

Wests Tigers had all the early opportunity in this one, with an early onslaught on the Newcastle line. The pressure finally payed dividends in the ninth minute with Tommy Talau scoring the first try of the afternoon. Adam Doueihi converted to make it 0-6 in favour of the Tigers, a start not many saw coming.

The Knights answered back in the fifteenth minute through Tex Hoy, who threw a dummy that was fallen for to go over and make the scoreline 4-6. However, the Knights' momentum was short-lived with Adam Doueihi plucking a ball out of the air from a cross-field kick by Luke Brooks. The five-eighth was able to convert his own try and make the score 4-10 in favour of the Tigers.

Newcastle were able to answer back through Mitch Barnett in the thirty-fourth minute, with the back-rower unable to be stopped close to the line. His goal-kicking let him down again though, something that was not reminiscent of his form off the boot in Newcastle's previous game, with Newcastle still trailing 8-12.

Shortly following the break, a nice ball from Luke Brooks saw young Stefano Utoikamanu score his first try in the NRL after beating Tex Hoy to get to the line and give us a glimpse of what he can do.

The Knights answered back in the sixty-second minute after mounting some pressure on the Tigers. A break for Connor Watson off a Daniel Saifiti offload saw Mitchell Pearce go over under the posts in his 300th game and fittingly get the Knights right back in it. The Knights then took the lead for the first time in the game through a try to back-rower Tyson Frizell. The try was Frizell's first in Newcastle colours as Newcastle went up 20-18 following a conversion from Tex Hoy.

The excitement of a lead lasted less than five minutes for Newcastle fans, with David Nofoaluma going over in the right hand corner off a scrum play. This try again followed a Newcastle error, which was the story of their afternoon. Doueihi kept his perfect kicking for the afternoon intact, with a conversion being landed from the sideline to round out the scoring at 20-24.

The Knights will be disappointed that errors cost them in this one and they will need to fix up the stat of eighteen of them if they are to win against any opposition. They will also be disappointed that they couldn't deliver a win for halfback Mitchell Pearce in his 300th game. They will need to be better against an in form Dragons side next week if they are to do any better.

The Tigers will just be happy to be in the winner's column for the first time this season. They will still need to improve as they shouldn't have let the Knights go anywhere near winning given the amount of errors that were made by their opposition.
Hamish Parker

WESTS TIGERS (24) Tries: Tommy Talau, Adam Doueihi, Stefano Utoikamanu, David Nofoaluma; **Conversions:** Adam Doueihi (4/4)
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (20) Tries: Tex Hoy, Mitchell Barnett, Mitchell Pearce, Tyson Frizell; **Conversions:** Tex Hoy (2/2), Mitchell Barnett (0/2)
Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 20239; Halftime: Newcastle 8 Wests Tigers 12; Referee: Gerard Sutton

GOLD COAST 44 NORTH QUEENSLAND 8

The North Queensland Cowboys are still yet to pick up a win after falling to a much improved Gold Coast Titans outfit 44-8 at Queensland Country Bank Stadium

It was the Titans however who started the game off in the worst possible fashion, with Patrick Herbert kicking off out on the full for the second time in 2021.

The Cowboys weren't able to take advantage of the gift field position, and it was instead the Titans who opened the scoring 10 minutes in through AJ Brimson. Anthony Don batted the ball back in and Brimson backed himself to grubber for himself and it ended up paying off.

Both sides went blow for blow for 14 minutes after that; Tino Fa'asuamaleaui dropped the ball twice within about 5 minutes, but it was third time lucky as his successful completion of a play the ball saw Phillip Sami get set up by AJ Brimson.

33 minutes into the first half, the score was 12-0, however the next 7 minutes saw the floodgates begin to open. Mitch Rein scurried down a short side and set up Phillip Sami 2 on 1 against Val Holmes, before passing to Corey Thompson who went over untouched.

4 minutes later, big Mo Fotuauka crashed over directly under the posts, while a Jamal Fogarty penalty goal right on half time meant the scoreline would blow out to 26-0 at the break.

The Cowboys were the first to score in the second half, with a good hit up from Josh McGuire setting up acres of room on the left for the Cowboys, and Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow subsequently scored his first of the year.

The Titans made sure no comeback of any kind would be happening 10 minutes later, with Jaimin Jolliffe exposing some soft Cowboys defence to break right through and set up Brimson under the posts for his second of the night.

The Cowboys would hit back 3 minutes later, this time scoring due to some slick attacking shape in what was one of very few positives of the night. Murray Taulagi was on the end of it all, making the score 32-8.

Both sides then had tries disallowed in quick succession due to obstruction. At one end, Tanah Boyd was denied, while the Cowboys looked to have used their penalty to perfection by sending Murray Taulagi over for his second. Upon further review by the bunker however, it was revealed Corey Thompson had been obstructed.

The Titans then made full use of the resulting penalty, with Tyrone Peachey reminding everyone of what he's capable of and breaking through the defensive line before sending David Fifita over for his third try as a Titan.

Corey Thompson showed some tremendous strength to remain in the field of play and get the ball down right on the full time siren, while Jamal Fogarty's sideline conversion ensured his goal kicking record was a perfect 7/7 as well as giving the Titans their 44th point, their most in franchise history. **Adam Huxtable**

GOLD COAST TITANS (44) Tries: Alexander Brimson (2), Phillip Sami, Corey Thompson (2), Moeaki Fotuauka, David Fifita; **Conversions:** Jamal Fogarty (7/7); **Penalty Goals:** Jamal Fogarty (1/1)

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (8) Tries: Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Murray Taulagi; **Conversions:** Valentine Holmes (0/2)
Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 12627; Halftime: North Qld 0 Gold Coast 26; Referee: Peter Gough

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 3

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	3 - 0 - 0	54	6
2. Parramatta	3 - 0 - 0	36	6
3. Sydney	2 - 0 - 1	66	4
4. Gold Coast	2 - 0 - 1	35	4
5. St Geo Illa	2 - 0 - 1	19	4
6. Canberra	2 - 0 - 1	17	4
7. South Sydney	2 - 0 - 1	16	4
8. Newcastle	2 - 0 - 1	16	4
9. Warriors	2 - 0 - 1	12	4
10. Brisbane	1 - 0 - 2	4	2
11. Melbourne	1 - 0 - 2	2	2
12. Cronulla	1 - 0 - 2	-12	2
13. Wests Tigers	1 - 0 - 2	-48	2
14. North Qld	0 - 0 - 3	-67	0
15. Canterbury	0 - 0 - 3	-68	0
16. Manly	0 - 0 - 3	-82	0

MATCH REVIEW

Briton Nikora	Cronulla	2 matches
Jack Bird	St Geo Illa	1 match
Daniel Suluka-Fifita	Sydney	1 match
Josh Jackson	Canterbury	1 match
Alex Twal	Wests Tigers	\$2550
Stephen Crichton	Penrith	\$1150
Freddy Lussick	Sydney	\$1150
Renouf Atoni	Canterbury	\$1150

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Penrith v Melbourne
3 points - Brian To'o
2 points - Cameron Munster
1 points - Viliame Kikau

St George Illawarra v Manly
3 points - Ben Hunt
2 points - Paul Vaughan
1 points - Zac Lomax

South Sydney v Sydney
3 points - Cody Walker
2 points - Latrell Mitchell
1 points - Dane Gagai

Warriors v Canberra
3 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck
2 points - Jack Wightton
1 points - Ben Murdoch-Masila

Brisbane v Canterbury
3 points - Jamayne Isaako
2 points - Herbie Farnworth
1 points - Xavier Coates

Parramatta v Cronulla
3 points - Clinton Gutherson
2 points - Marata Niukore
1 points - Toby Rudolf

Newcastle v Wests Tigers
3 points - Daine Laurie
2 points - Adam Doueihi
1 points - Connor Watson

Gold Coast v North Queensland
3 points - David Fifita
2 points - Alexander Brimson
1 points - Phillip Sami

LEADERBOARD

6 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors), George Williams (Raiders), David Fifita (Titans), Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Ben Hunt (Dragons)
5 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks), Luke Keary (Roosters)
4 points - Alexander Brimson (Titans), Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs), Brian To'o (Panthers), Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm)

ROUND 4 April 1 to 5 (Easter)

PENRITH 46 MANLY-WARRINGAH 6

The Penrith Panthers have not wavered from the script in the slightest, smashing the Sea Eagles by 40 points in front of just over 6000 fans at Lottoland.

The writing was on the wall early on for the Northern Beaches side, with Brad Parker coughing up Cleary's kick in the 4th minute and the Panthers immediately capitalising off the scrum win through Brian To'o.

The Penrith forwards were dominant early on, rolling upfield with extreme ease in a set that ended with Isiah Yeo putting some sublime passing skills on display to send James Fisher-Harris through a small gap, while Moses Leota was there to receive the offload.

It was a mixed night for Viliame Kikau, who scored two tries in the 17th and 48th minute respectively, but in between that time was forced off the field due to a nasty looking head knock, but was allowed to return after passing his HIA. The second rower was then given a rest at the end of the match by Ivan Cleary.

The small crowd was given a smidgen of hope before the break, when Cade Cust showed some excellent speed and strength to streak over the line and touch down beneath the uprights, however it was soon dashed when it took the Panthers just 8 minutes of the second half to get over the stripe again.

There were some bizarre scenes midway through the second 40, when Penrith were originally awarded a penalty at the end of a Manly set, but the bunker told the on field referee of a crusher tackle at the very start of the set committed by Mitch Kenny and play came all the way back so Manly could kick for touch, disregarding an entire set of 6. It mattered little in the end, although Mitch Kenny will be sweating on the decision of the match review committee as he was placed on report.

The Panthers then scored two tries in 5 minutes, with Matt Burton proving quite the all-rounder, backing up his sublime kicking display last week with a strong run to beat Jason Saab and score. Kurt Capewell then made it a 30 point ball game, grounding the ball in goal after a deft kick from Nathan Cleary.

Charlie Staines then stole the show in the last two minutes, creating an overlap for Paul Momirovski to score, while another effort to set up a try went under-rewarded as Nathan Cleary was taken out illegally by Daly Cherry-Evans and the Panthers were forced to settle for a penalty goal, making the final score 46-6. **Adam Huxtable**

PENRITH PANTHERS (46) Tries: Brian To'o (2), Moses Leota, Viliame Kikau (2), Matt Burton, Kurt Capewell, Paul Momirovski; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (6/8); Penalty Goals: Nathan Cleary (1/1)

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (6) Tries: Cade Cust;

Conversions: Reuben Garrick (1/1)

Venue: 4 Pines Park; Crowd: 6076; Halftime: Manly 6 Penrith 22; Referee: Matt Cecchin

SOUTH SYDNEY 38 CANTERBURY 0

The South Sydney Rabbitohs have held the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs scoreless in a 38-0 rout at Stadium Australia on Good Friday.

Scoring six tries to nil in a match played before an unrestricted crowd of 23,240 supporters, a late flurry of tries saw the Rabbitohs run away with the match.

Opening a season with four straight losses for the first time since 1971, the loss saw the Bulldogs join the 2014 Sharks as the only teams in premiership history to be held scoreless in three consecutive matches.

Beginning the contest with plenty of enthusiasm during the opening exchanges, the Bulldogs were dealt a blow with Lachlan Lewis suffering a head knock that ruled him out for the remainder of the match.

Striking first through Josh Mansour (17th minute) after the Rabbitohs identified an opportunity on the right edge, captain Adam Reynolds added a further two points following a tackle from Jack Hetherington that was placed on report.

Taking the score out to 14-0 shortly before the change of ends, Damien Cook exposed the Bulldogs with speed through the middle of the field before linking with Cody Walker (30th minute) who touched down underneath the posts.

Withstanding a spirited start from the Bulldogs who came narrowly close to points, Cook secured the result with a blistering break from inside his own half to set up Walker (55th minute) for his second.

Breaking the shackles to post points at will over the final quarter, tries to Alex Johnston (59th minute), Latrell Mitchell (70th minute) and Adam Reynolds (80th minute) saw the Rabbitohs post their biggest ever win over the blue and whites. **Rob Crosby**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (38) Tries: Josh Mansour, Adam Reynolds, Cody Walker (2), Alex Johnston, Latrell Mitchell; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (6/6); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (1/1)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (0)

Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 23240; Halftime: Canterbury 0 South Sydney 14; Referee: Grant Atkins

MELBOURNE 40 BRISBANE 6

The Melbourne Storm has snapped a two-game losing streak to defeat the Broncos by 40-6 at AAMI Park tonight to remind the competition that the defending champions are still the team to beat in 2021.

A blistering performance from Ryan Papenhuyzen was the absolute highlight, with the 2020 Clive Churchill Medallist scoring a stunning 4 tries in 11 minutes before halftime to destroy any hope Kevin Walters men keeping pace with the defending premiers. Papenhuyzen also kicked five goals and a further two try assists in the best individual performance of 2021 so far.

Coming into the game it was an unfamiliar feeling for Melbourne who were looking to bounce back from two straight losses, while the Broncos were feeling ok after collecting their first win against the Bulldogs last week.

It was Melbourne who looked certain to score early in the match, first Josh Addo-Carr was denied just brushing the sideline in the right-hand corner and then minutes later centre Justin Olam lost the ball with the line at his mercy. Broncos winger Xavier Coates then picked up the loose pass that Olam left behind to counter and run length of the field to stun the home side and jump out to an early 6-0 lead.

It was an uncharacteristic effort from Melbourne in the first 20 minutes, with unforced errors and clunky finishes to their sets. The defending premiers then finally got it right when Addo-Carr found some space on the outside and made a break down the right-hand side. Addo-Carr then found a flying Ryan Papenhuyzen in support, who scored under the posts to tie up the scores at 6-6.

Papenhuyzen then scored his second try in as many minutes, when blockbusting PNG International Justin Olam steamrolled his way through the middle of the field and found his fullback in support and it was 12-6 with halftime looming.

Ryan Papenhuyzen then made it a hat-trick, when the Storm fullback collected an offload off Nelson Asofa-Solomona close to the line and accelerated towards the line to score. Minutes later he incredibly had a fourth try, after Jahrome Hughes made a break and again in support was that man Papenhuyzen who raced away for his fourth try in an astounding display to score all the points for Melbourne to lead 24-6 at halftime.

Brisbane never recovered as the Storm kept rolling in the second half, when Broncos winger David Mead allowed a bomb to bounce. This saw Storm backrower Tom Eisenhuth stroll through and collect the ball with the backrower then distributing the ball to his winger George Jennings to score in the corner and extend the lead to 28-6.

Jennings then scored his second try after a Storm set play from a scrum allowed Papenhuyzen to put his wingman over in the corner and extend the lead to 32-6 with 15 minutes remaining.

Cameron Munster then got in on the act when he skillfully dribbled the ball along the ground to then regather and dive on the ball to score the final try, which saw the score line blow out to 38-6 with minutes remaining.

Just as the siren was about to sound, the Storm were awarded a penalty in front of the posts, which saw Josh Addo-Carr in his 100th match for the club kick the penalty to put a cherry on top of his sides memorable 40-6 victory. **Sam Bourke**

MELBOURNE STORM (40) Tries: Ryan Papenhuyzen (4), George Jennings (2), Cameron Munster; Conversions: Ryan Papenhuyzen (5/7); Penalty Goals: Josh Addo-Carr (1/1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (6) Tries: Xavier Coates; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (1/1)

Venue: AAMI Park; Crowd: 14135; Halftime: Melbourne 24 Brisbane 6; Referee: Gerard Sutton

CRONULLA 48 NORTH QUEENSLAND 10

The Sharks racked up 30 points in the final 24 minutes of the first half to set up an unassailable 36-6 lead at half-time, setting up a comfortable 48-10 victory over the Cowboys at Kogarah tonight.

Both sides were playing with plenty of vigour to start the match, which resulted in Cronulla crossing early for a try. In just the third minute, the Sharks passed from the right side to the left, where Will Kennedy slotted in to create the extra man, linked with Connor Treacy, who produced a neat draw and pass to Mawene Hiroti who dived over in the left corner to score. Chad Townsend converted from touch.

In the 8th minute, the Sharks were again on the attack when Townsend sent a pass out the back to no one. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow swapped on the loose ball and ran 80 metres to score untouched. Valentine Holmes converted to level the scores.

The Sharks reclaimed the lead in the 14th minute when Townsend, out on the left side with a bunch of players standing around, saw Josh Dugan running a nice line outside the Cowboys winger, so he grubbered through the line and the ball bounced beautifully for Dugan, who regathered and scored in the right corner. Townsend nailed the difficult conversion.

Then with 12 minutes to go in the first half, the Sharks went on a rampage. Tracey crossed for a try when he spun out of a woeful tackle attempt and dived over in the left corner. Townsend again converted. In the 34th minute, after the Sharks earned a repeat set courtesy of a brilliant 40/20 by Blake Brailey, Chad Townsend got a nice ball to his lead runner Braden Hamlin-Uele, who then got a stunning offload away into the waiting hands of Matt Moylan, who strolled over to score untouched by the sticks. Townsend again converted. Two minutes later and the Sharks were in again, when Kennedy received the ball wide on the right, ran to the line and passed to Hiroti, who then ran before passing back inside to Kennedy in the clear and he ran 20 metres to score a lovely try. Townsend added the two.

Right on halftime, the Sharks added more points when Townsend's bomb was tapped back by Moylan. Blake Brailey regathered and quickly toed it ahead to the left corner where Tracey planted the ball for his second try. Townsend converted yet again to give the Sharks a 36-6 lead at the break.

The Cowboys came out looking a little better, albeit briefly, but it was the Sharks who scored first in the 57th minute, when the Cowboys let a Townsend chip bounce and it landed in Teig Wilton's waiting hands before he dived over to score on the left side. Townsend converted.

Just after the hour mark had passed, Cronulla crossed again when Townsend on the right side held up a lovely short ball for Kennedy, who ran onto it at pace and stepped out of a tackle to score again. Townsend kicked his 8th goal of the game from as many attempts.

The Cowboys snared a consolation try with just 3 minutes remaining when Holmes received the ball on the right side, dummied, stepped back in-field and then twisted in the tackle to slam the ball down for a try. Holmes failed to convert his own try. **Andrew Ferguson**

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (48) Tries: Mawene Hiroti, Josh Dugan, Connor Tracey (2), Matt Moylan, Will Kennedy (2), Teig Wilton; **Conversions:** Chad Townsend (8/8)

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (10) Tries: Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Valentine Holmes; **Conversions:** Valentine Holmes (1/2)
Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Crowd: 5119; Halftime: Cronulla 36 North Qld 6; Referee: Chris Sutton

CANBERRA 20 GOLD COAST 4

A defensive masterclass from the Canberra Raiders has seen the Green Machine take a 20-4 victory over the Gold Coast Titans at Kogarah.

The two sides were testing each other out in the early stages with both sides looking to put their opposing defence under pressure but neither side could get over from close range. The Raiders opened the scoring after just seven minutes when George Williams' deception saw the Titans think the Englishman was going out the back with the play instead going short to Elliott Whitehead who went through the middle before linking with Jarrod Croker who put his own magic on with a flick to Jordan Rapana to score.

Some strong cover defence from Jack Wighton saved the Raiders from conceding the next points when a brilliant effort from Wighton forced Anthony Don into an error as the Titans flyer was diving across to try and score. The Raiders then added a penalty goal soon after to extend their lead out to 8-0.

Anthony Don had a second try disallowed this time by the Bunker after again Don lost possession of the ball as he was trying to get the ball over the line in a strong tackle. The Titans finally got on the board in the final stages of the first half when Corey Thompson was able to fight his way over the line and did a remarkable job to keep his feet in the air to stay in the field of play. The missed conversion from Patrick Herbert meant the Titans would go to half time trailing 8-4.

The early stages of the second half saw the Raiders defence come under plenty of pressure from the Titans who couldn't land the blow to get onto the scoreboard again. An error from an injury-affected Jamal Fogarty put the Titans under pressure and the Raiders took advantage as Papali'i was too big and too strong to stop from close range to extend the lead out to 14-4.

The defensive pressure continued to mount on the Raiders but as exhaustion started to creep into the Titans attack, it began to fall to pieces as they just couldn't break through the Canberra defensive line and the attacking structure became non-existent which didn't help.

Despite spending most of the half defending, the Raiders were able to add a try on the stroke of full time when Ryan Sutton fought his way over the line from short-range to score. The conversion from Jarrod Croker put the Canberra captain into equal fourth on the all-time points scorers list. **Josh Robertson**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (20) Tries: Jordan Rapana, Josh Papali'i, Ryan Sutton; **Conversions:** Jarrod Croker (3/3); **Penalty Goals:** Jarrod Croker (1/1)

GOLD COAST TITANS (4) Tries: Corey Thompson; **Conversions:** Patrick Herbert (0/1)

Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Crowd: 5117; Halftime: Gold Coast 4 Canberra 8; Referee: Adam Gee

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 22 NEWCASTLE 13

A rampaging second half double from Tariq Sims has seen the St George Illawarra Dragons claim a 22-13 victory over the Newcastle Knights at McDonald Jones Stadium.

Fighting back from a 13-6 deficit midway through the second half, the Dragons second-rower put in a Man of the Match performance against a Knights side decimated by injuries.

Losing Mitchell Pearce (pectoral), Tex Hoy (hamstring) and Kurt Mann (concussion) during play, David Klemmer soldiered through a knee injury but could be in trouble after being placed on report twice in first half.

In a physical and occasionally spiteful opening, the Dragons looked to score first through Mikaele Ravalawa after Klemmer conceded a penalty for striking while in possession. Replays from the bunker subsequently overturned the decision due to an infringement from Josh Kerr in the lead up.

Making the most of the fortuitous call by striking back in the following set, Gehamat Shibusaki (9th minute) was on the spot to capitalise on a knock on from Cody Ramsey.

Losing Pearce midway through the first half with a suspected pectoral tear, the Dragons levelled the scores through interchange forward Trent Merrin (32nd minute), who took advantage of an error from Tex Hoy.

The Knights regained the lead on the stoke of halftime courtesy of a Kurt Mann one-pointer, however it came at a cost with Hoy forced from the match with an injured hamstring.

Appearing to defy their circumstances with a powerhouse effort from interchange forward Josh King (47th minute) close to the line, Sims (51st minute) stepped up moments later after by running onto a beautiful pass from replacement halfback Adam Clune.

Reduced to a one-man bench for the final quarter after a heavy collision from Ravalawa saw Mann exit the match early, a charge down from Sims (60th minute) after the resumption of play put the visitors in front for the first time.

Securing the result courtesy of a Brayden Williams (67th minute) try, a questionable forward pass ruling denied Hymel Hunt to the chagrin of 21,770 home fans and allowed the Dragons to hold on for their third consecutive win. **Rob Crosby**

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (22) Tries: Trent Merrin, Tariq Sims (2), Brayden Williams; **Conversions:** Zac Lomax (3/4)
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (13) Tries: Gehamat Shibusaki, Josh King; **Field Goals:** Kurt Mann (1/1); **Conversions:** Tex Hoy (1/1), Mitchell Barnett (1/1)

Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 21770; Halftime: Newcastle 7 St Geo Illa 6; Referee: Peter Gough

SYDNEY 32 WARRIORS 12

The Morris twins and James Tedesco have led a much younger Roosters outfit to a 20-point win tonight, the home side 32-12 victors over the Warriors at the SCG.

With two debutants on the teamsheet for the Tricolours - one of them playing halfback - it was thought they might struggle - and to start, that was certainly how it was playing out. Seven minutes in the Warriors cracked the scoreboard first, Adam Pompey pouncing on a deflection from Eliesa Katoa.

The 6-0 lead nearly went to 12-0 shortly after when Roger Tuivasa-Sheck put Kodi Nikorima into space for the visitors, but a Brett Morris tackle from nowhere stopped that effort. Instead, the margin was narrowed to 6-4 after 18 minutes when the Roosters' fullback James Tedesco palmed off Wayde Egan and rampaged to the goalline out wide.

Urged into action, the Warriors hit back within minutes, Tohu Harris pouncing on a Nikorima grubber and 12-4 was their lead, much to the chagrin of the Moore Park crowd.

Come the 27th minute, the game turned on its head. Nat Butcher crashed over after a solid lateral run from rookie half Sam Walker, then a couple of minutes later Brett Morris was on the end of a backline move to continue his vintage tryscoring form and allow the home team to take the lead. Taukeiaho's conversion ensured the Roosters led 16-12 - a lead they'd take to halftime. It could've been more shortly after the Morris four-pointer after Crichton was denied for obstruction earlier in the play after going over himself.

Sadly for the New Zealand side, they weren't to grace the scoreboard again. After halftime the Roosters extended the lead to 20-12 when Brett Morris got his second just minutes after appearing to pick up a calf injury, while Drew Hutchison scored on the hour mark after a Warriors passing movement in their own half went awry.

Not content with letting his brother star, Josh Morris capped the victory for the home team in the final ten minutes, scoring a try of his own and extending the margin to 20 points and lifting his side to second on the NRL table with one match left this round. **Tim Costello**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (32) Tries: James Tedesco, Nat Butcher, Brett Morris (2), Drew Hutchison, Josh Morris; Conversions: Siosiaua Taukeiaho (3/4), Drew Hutchison (0/1), Sam Walker (1/1)

WARRIORS (12) Tries: Adam Pompey, Tohu Harris; Conversions: Kodi Nikorima (2/2)

Venue: Sydney Cricket Ground; Crowd: 12210; Halftime: Sydney 16 Warriors 12; Referee: Ben Cummins

PARRAMATTA 36 WESTS TIGERS 22

The Parramatta Eels have continued their undefeated start to the season with a hard-fought 36-22 win over the Wests Tigers at Stadium Australia.

Adam Doueihi terrorised Parramatta's outside backs with his kicking game and scored a try in defeat but the power game up front, orchestrated by Reed Mahoney was crucial for the away side. The Eels were helped by a dominant first 40 minutes from their forward pack, with Reagan Campbell-Gillard, Nathan Brown, Isaiah Papali'i and Junior Paulo all topping 70 metres by the break. The Tigers were guilty of sitting back and not playing with enough line speed to shut down the forward momentum which powered Parramatta to an early 16-0 lead. Reed Mahoney's crash balls to big men close to the line proved one of their biggest assets, drawing in multiple defenders often and leaving the Tigers exposed out wide.

The opening try though was all Mitchell Moses, who danced around near the Tigers' line before putting in a deft kick to set up Marata Niukore. A set restart five minutes later heaped more pressure on Michael Maguire's men and a late offload from Brown saw Mahoney put Papali'i crashing over. Mahoney again was involved shortly after when he put Tom Opacic through and the Tigers' line defence was once again left exposed.

The only real opportunities the Tigers had early was on the back of towering Adam Doueihi bombs and it was the five-eighth's kicking game that proved Parramatta's downfall late in the opening half. Clinton Gutherson was first to fumble a Doueihi kick, handing the Tigers a full set on Parramatta's line. It would end with Luciano Leilua tapping the ball back to Daine Laurie for their first try of the afternoon.

Only four minutes later the Tigers had their second with Blake Ferguson the latest victim of a Doueihi special. It was the quick thinking of Moses Mbye though, who flicked it up for Luke Brooks, that saw Stefano Utoikamanu surge over for a try against his former side.

A late error from Asu Kepaoa off a Shaun Lane kick spoiled their late fightback though. The foundations for the try were set by a Mahoney short ball to Oregon Kaufusi, dragging defenders in and leaving the outside men exposed on the following play. Opacic was the beneficiary, scoring his second after Gutherson did well to get the kick through.

The first try in the second half would be crucial in determining whether this would go on to be a back-and-forth thriller or comfortable Parramatta victory. It looked like it would be the latter as Ferguson charged over in the corner to extend Parramatta's lead to 14 in the 45th minute. Doueihi though, who was the Tigers' best in defeat, had something to say about that.

Errors crept into both team's game and proved costly for Parramatta when Doueihi stepped through to score and reduce the deficit to eight heading into the final 15 minutes. A thrilling finish well and truly ensued when a Leilua offload saw Luke Brooks link with Jacob Liddle to make it a two-point contest. In the end it would be the boot of Ferguson that proved the difference, with the Eels winger toeing it ahead for Gutherson, who as always had made the effort to be there in support and he was rewarded. Ferguson scored a try right before the siren as the Tigers tried a late crossfield kick, making the final score 36-22. **Andrew Jackson**

PARRAMATTA EELS (36) Tries: Marata Niukore, Isaiah Papali'i, Tom Opacic (2), Blake Ferguson (2), Clinton Gutherson; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (4/7)

WESTS TIGERS (22) Tries: Daine Laurie, Adam Doueihi, Stefano Utoikamanu, Jacob Liddle; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (3/4)

Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 29056; Halftime: Wests Tigers 10 Parramatta 20; Referee: Ashley Klein

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 4

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	4 - 0 - 0	94	8
2. Parramatta	4 - 0 - 0	50	8
3. Sydney	3 - 0 - 1	86	6
4. South Sydney	3 - 0 - 1	54	6
5. Canberra	3 - 0 - 1	33	6
6. St Geo Illa	3 - 0 - 1	28	6
7. Melbourne	2 - 0 - 2	36	4
8. Cronulla	2 - 0 - 2	26	4
9. Gold Coast	2 - 0 - 2	19	4
10. Newcastle	2 - 0 - 2	7	4
11. Warriors	2 - 0 - 2	-8	4
12. Brisbane	1 - 0 - 3	-30	2
13. Wests Tigers	1 - 0 - 3	-62	2
14. North Qld	0 - 0 - 4	-105	0
15. Canterbury	0 - 0 - 4	-106	0
16. Manly	0 - 0 - 4	-122	0

MATCH REVIEW

Morgan Boyle	Manly	2 matches
Keon Koloamatangi	Souths	2 matches
Cody Walker	Souths	1 match + \$1150
Patrick Carrigan	Brisbane	1 match
Jacob Saifiti	Newcastle	1 match
Bunty Afoa	Warriors	1 match
Victor Radley	Sydney	\$1800
Sam Lisone	Gold Coast	\$1700
Andrew McCullough	St Geo Illa	\$1150

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Manly v Penrith
3 points - Jarome Luai
2 points - Viliame Kikau
1 points - Nathan Cleary

Canterbury v South Sydney
3 points - Damien Cook
2 points - Cody Walker
1 points - Jai Arrow

Melbourne v Brisbane
3 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen
2 points - Cameron Munster
1 points - Christian Welch

Cronulla v North Queensland
3 points - Chad Townsend
2 points - Blayke Brailey
1 points - Will Kennedy

Canberra v Gold Coast
3 points - Ryan Sutton
2 points - Tino Fa'asuamaleaui
1 points - Josh Papali'i

Newcastle v St George Illawarra
3 points - Tariq Sims
2 points - Blake Lawrie
1 points - Jayden Brailey

Sydney v Warriors
3 points - Brett Morris
2 points - Angus Crichton
1 points - James Tedesco

Wests Tigers v Parramatta
3 points - Reed Mahoney
2 points - Nathan Brown
1 points - Adam Doueihi

LEADERBOARD

7 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm)
6 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks), George Williams (Raiders), David Fifita (Titans), Damien Cook (Rabbitohs), Ben Hunt (Dragons), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors), Jarome Luai (Panthers), Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Reed Mahoney (Eels)

ROUND 5 April 8 to 11

SOUTH SYDNEY 35 BRISBANE 6

The South Sydney Rabbitohs have continued their strong start to 2021 by overpowering the Brisbane Broncos 35-6 at Stadium Australia.

Scoring six tries to one in a match where Adam Reynolds became the first NRL player to kick a two-point field goal, the Rabbitohs led from start to finish against an improving Broncos side unable to go the distance.

Picking right up from where they left off last week, the Rabbitohs opened the scoring with an enterprising try involving a cross-field kick, a flick pass and an offload to send Benji Marshall (7th minute) over for his first four-pointer in red and green colours.

The home side continued their strong start after Latrell Mitchell fired a superb pass to Alex Johnston (15th minute), who touched down for his fifth try in as many matches.

Striking back with an important try midway through the first half, Broncos fullback Jamayne Isaako (20th minute) demonstrated crafty footwork to put the visitors back in the contest.

Scoring an important try shortly before halftime, Dane Gagai sent Adam Reynolds (37th minute) underneath the posts, before the Rabbitohs number seven created history by kicking the first two-point field goal from 43 metres out to send the home side to the sheds leading 18-6.

Taking advantage of good field possession resulting from a penalty, Mitchell (51st minute) showcased his talents to power over for his fourth of the season.

Securing the result on the hour mark, Campbell Graham (61st minute) crashed over from a scrum, before Mitchell (76th minute) collected his second and added a late field goal in the shadows of fulltime. **Rob Crossby**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (35) Tries: Benji Marshall, Adam Reynolds, Alex Johnston, Latrell Mitchell (2), Campbell Graham; **Field Goals:** Latrell Mitchell (1/1); **Two Point Field Goals:** Adam Reynolds (1/1); **Conversions:** Adam Reynolds (3/6); **Penalty Goals:** Adam Reynolds (1/1);

BRISBANE BRONCOS (6) Tries: Jamayne Isaako; **Conversions:** Jamayne Isaako (1/1)
Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 9142; Halftime: South Sydney 18 Brisbane 6; Referee: Ben Cummins

MANLY 13 WARRIORS 12

Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles got off the duck egg for the season with a tense 13-12 win against New Zealand Warriors tonight at Central Coast Stadium.

It was more gritty than pretty but those in maroon-and-white won't care. Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles have their first win of the season, thanks to Daly Cherry-Evans field goal right on the siren to continue their good recent record against the New Zealand Warriors.

The final ten felt like a pressure cooker for both sides, desperate to not be in the losing side again. Warriors had one opportunity through Sean O'Sullivan who sprayed it wide and were unable to set up again. They were gifted a prime chance with a late error from the Sea Eagles but Kodi Nikorima was rushed and kicked behind.

The Sea Eagles had one shot and it fell to Cherry-Evans who has kicked field goals for fun against the Warriors in recent years. The Captain put one over the upright to release the pressure on the side. That showed in the outpouring of relief from the Sea Eagles celebration after the full-time whistle.

Coming into the contest, the Sea Eagles hadn't led at any point this season. Cherry-Evans made it a tactic to constantly kick on third and fourth which paid dividends from the 27th minute scrum. The halfback booted it deep, Jason Saab showing some impressive toe to beat the Warriors to the ball and give the Sea Eagles their first lead of the season at 6-nil.

The way the Warriors levelled was a symptom of the Sea Eagles season. RTS cut through, passed well to Jack Murchie whose ball to 100-gamer Ken Maumalo was knocked by Saab right into the winger's path for 6-6.

Errors had been a fixture of the Sea Eagles demise this season, plenty of times they offered up the Warriors field position. The Warriors though, were clunky in their own attack and despite having the advantage weren't able to break down the Sea Eagles defense.

Warriors have a simple game-plan in 2021. Complete their sets, kick well and they forced enough errors to score more than 12 points. Their only other four-pointer came through former Bronco Sean O'Sullivan, who has settled into his role since Chanel Harris-Tavita's injury, sliced through to make it 12-6.

Much of the contest was played between the halfway, both sides unable to get a handle on the ball. The game turned into a grind between two sides looking not to lose, the Warriors who have higher ambitions will be disappointed to lose back-to-back contests. Coach Nathan Brown will have to get his side ready for the Dragons next weekend down in the 'gong. **Justin Davies**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (13) Tries: Jason Saab, Josh Schuster; **Field Goals:** Daly Cherry-Evans (1/1); **Conversions:** Reuben Garrick (2/2)

WARRIORS (12) Tries: Ken Maumalo, Sean O'Sullivan; **Field Goals:** Sean O'Sullivan (0/1); **Conversions:** Kodi Nikorima (2/2)
Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Crowd: 4982; Halftime: Warriors 6 Manly-Warringah 6; Referee: Chris Butler

PENRITH 30 CANBERRA 10

Penrith have continued on their unbeaten run in 2021, defeating the Canberra Raiders by 30-10 in front of a sell-out crowd at Blue Bet Stadium tonight.

The win creates more history for Ivan Cleary's young side, as they become the first Panthers side in history to win their opening five games to start the season. Panthers five-eighth Jarome Luai was the hero, with the Samoan international grabbing the game by the scruff of the neck at the back end of the first half, where his side ran in three successive tries to give Penrith the momentum to go on with a commanding win. Canberra will lament some missed opportunities that came their way with some poor handling and poor discipline at times just when they needed to claw back momentum off the enthusiastic Panthers outfit.

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the club's first premiership, the Panthers were provided with a guard of honour from the successful 1991 side in front of a packed house which set the scene for a historic night in front of their parochial home base. However just like a year earlier in 1990, it was the Raiders who spoiled the party early when they drew first blood, when Jack Wighton ran a strong line stepping off his left foot to crash over for what has become a trademark try from the 2020 Dally M Medallist. Jarrod Croker converted and the Raiders led 6-0.

Wighton was terrorising the Panthers inside the opening twenty minutes, when he again threatened to take on the Panthers defensive line, before delivering a deft grubber for his skipper Croker who unfortunately could not ground the ball in goal in what proved a crucial missed chance.

Raiders winger Jordan Rapana then committed a cardinal sin when he gave away a penalty while in possession, which gave Penrith an invitation to get back into the game. Nathan Cleary then returned his RSVP, when he demanded the ball out the back and found his fullback Stephen Crichton off a set play. Crichton then delivered a beautiful flick pass out the back for Charlie Staines to score in the corner. Cleary nailed the conversion from the sideline to tie up the scoreline. Penrith then scored back-to-back tries, when Matt Burton scored off a delicious pass from Jerome Luai close to the line to take the lead. Cleary then again converted from out wide and it was 12-6 as halftime loomed.

Luai continued to return serve to his opposite Wighton in the back half of the first stanza, when the mercurial Panthers five-eighth grubbered for himself to score a brilliant individual try before the siren. Cleary again converted the try to give the Panthers a sudden 18-6 lead at halftime. The game continued to see-saw in the Second Half until Jack Wighton called for the ball out wide following a Hudson Young bust and produced a lovely pass from Elliott Whitehead to allow the skipper Jarrod Croker to touch down in the corner and get the Raiders back in the match and narrow the score to 18-10 with 20 minutes remaining.

Penrith put themselves back in the driver's seat when Charlie Staines scored his second try of the night after some superb service from his centre Paul Momirovski to give the home side the biggest lead of the match when Cleary converted from the stripe to make it 24-10. Nathan Cleary then snatched an intercept late in the game to race 70 metres to ice the game for the Panthers and give his side their best victory of 2021 so far. **Sam Bourke**

PENRITH PANTHERS (30) Tries: Charlie Staines (2), Nathan Cleary, Matt Burton, Jarome Luai; **Conversions:** Nathan Cleary (5/5)

CANBERRA RAIDERS (10) Tries: Jack Wighton, Jarrod Croker; **Conversions:** Jarrod Croker (1/2)
Venue: BlueBet Stadium; Crowd: 20890; Halftime: Penrith 18 Canberra 6; Referee: Gerard Sutton

GOLD COAST 42 NEWCASTLE 16

The Gold Coast Titans have won their 4th straight match at home for the first time since 2016, beating the Newcastle Knights by 26 points at CBus Super Stadium on Saturday Afternoon.

Before play started, the crowd observed a moments silence in memory of Tommy Raudonikis, with the great man's family in attendance on the field.

Things looked ominous for the visitors early, with Kevin Proctor the beneficiary of some Tyrone Peachey magic and the Titans going up 6-0 within 2 minutes.

The Titans defence wasn't letting the Knights get anything going, with Gold Coast winning the field position battle early. Patrick Herbert took full advantage, making the Knights left edge defence look silly as he charged his way over the line.

Chris Randall experienced an up and down couple of minutes, scoring a try to keep the Knights in the game, before being assessed to have dislocated his shoulder in the sheds.

It was a false dawn for the Knights, who would be well and truly punished over the next 10 minutes, with David Fifita showing great strength to score two tries either side of Corey Thompson chasing through a Brian Kelly grubber.

The Titans were up 26-6, however Patrick Herbert was sent to the sin bin for a professional foul and the Knights were able to capitalise before half time through Starford To'a.

A brilliant play from the Knights early in the second half went unrewarded, with Ponga breaking through the line and creating a broken field situation for Tuala, who ended up being held up by the Titans defence.

David Fifita was then put through a hole and burned Kalyn Ponga over 20 metres, scoring his first ever career hat-trick and putting his side up 30-12.

A dream 5 minutes for Titans fans came around the hour mark, with Corey Thompson beating a handful of Knights defenders to score, before some razzle-dazzle play off the kickoff followed. The Titans decided to shift it wide on the first play off the kickoff and AJ Brimson was able to break through a very soft defensive line. He opted to take Ponga on and looked to have him covered, but was eventually forced to pass back inside to Herbert, who scored his second try of the day.

A late consolation try to Kalyn Ponga made the final score 42-16.
Adam Huxtable

GOLD COAST TITANS (42) Tries: Kevin Proctor, Patrick Herbert (2), David Fifita (3), Corey Thompson (2); Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (5/8)

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (16) Tries: Chris Randall, Kalyn Ponga, Starford To'a; Conversions: Kalyn Ponga (2/3)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 12492; Halftime: Gold Coast 26 Newcastle 12; Referee: Ashley Klein

MELBOURNE 52 CANTERBURY 18

The Bulldogs may have shown life in attack but were thoroughly outclassed in a 52-18 loss to the Storm on Saturday night.

There were immediate signs for concern as Felise Kaufusi went over out of dummy-half, with Fox League's Braith Anasta describing it as "so painfully easy" it was "not a first-grade try."

So much has been made of the Bulldogs' woes in attack but a lack of resilience in defence is just as concerning, with the Storm running in five tries in the first half.

Jake Averillo showed the way forward when he came up with a crucial tackle on Ryan Papenhuyzen just as the Storm fullback threatened to race through the line.

It was all in vain though as the two halves Cameron Munster and Jahrome Hughes combined for a try shortly after.

Christian Welch was the next to embarrass the Bulldogs defence but the home side eventually broke their 265-minute drought without point when Luke Thompson crashed over.

It did not spark a comeback though as Tui Kamikamica and George Jennings scored before the break to make it 30-6 at halftime.

Ryan Papenhuyzen backed up his four-try heroics from the week prior to score another stunner, this time tracking down a Jennings kick early after play resumed in the second half.

It was five-eighth Jake Averillo who sparked a Bulldogs fightback though, reducing the deficit to 18 points with 20 minutes remaining.

First he put Adam Elliott charging through towards the line, with the second rower drawing in defenders and then finding Averillo back in support.

The crafty five-eighth then put a pinpoint kick in for Dallin Watene-Zelezniak to score, although there were doubts over whether he was onside.

Averillo then kicked the ball out on the full but backed himself minutes later to nail a 40-20.

It did not end up leading to points though with Tui Katoa being bundled into touch shortly after.

Melbourne then exploded with two quick tries off kicks - the first from the boot of Kenneath Bromwich with Justin Olam the scorer.

Munster then put in an early kick for Josh Addo-Carr and it sat up perfectly for the speedster.

The classy five-eighth was at it again to put Papenhuyzen through and set up Nicholas Hynes for the final try of the night.
Andrew Jackson

MELBOURNE STORM (52) Tries: Felise Kaufusi, Ryan Papenhuyzen, Jahrome Hughes, Christian Welch, Tui Kamikamica, George Jennings, Justin Olam, Josh Addo-Carr, Nicholas Hynes; Conversions: Ryan Papenhuyzen (8/9)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (18) Tries: Luke Thompson, Jake Averillo, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak; Conversions: Kyle Flanagan (3/3)
Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 5104; Halftime: Canterbury 6 Melbourne 30; Referee: Chris Sutton

SYDNEY 26 CRONULLA 18

Sam Walker has shown why there is a big future ahead of him as the Sydney Roosters scored a 26-18 come from behind victory over the Cronulla Sharks at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The Cronulla Sharks started the faster of the two sides as they targeted the Roosters right-hand defence which brought success very early. The Sharks opened the scoring just four minutes into the contest when Mawene Hiroti was able to get over the line in the corner. Chad Townsend's conversion gave the Sharks an early 6-0 lead.

Things looked shaky for the Roosters as the Sharks continued to mount attacking pressure and the boys from the Shire were able to get across the stripe when Will Kennedy went at the line and managed to carry three players over the line to score. Chad Townsend's conversion was a poor one and couldn't add the extras.

The negatives came for the Sharks as Wade Graham was forced from the field after a head knock for which he subsequently failed his HIA. The Roosters were able to get over with the first piece of magic by Sam Walker with a floating pass out to Brett Morris gave the veteran a 1-on-1 against Mawene Hiroti for which the veteran had too much strength to score. A brain snap from Jared Waerea-Hargreaves gave the Sharks an opportunity to extend their lead out to 8 points on the stroke of half-time which they took advantage of and the Sharks went into the break leading 12-4.

The injury news hit both sides with Freddy Lussick suffering a suspected fractured arm during the first half whilst for the Sharks things went further downhill on the injury front as they lost Josh Dugan who had also failed his HIA.

Cronulla despite their injury toll added another try to open a 14-point lead when some cross-field play from the Sharks saw the ball go right through Toby Rudolf and Mawene Hiroti before coming back centre-field where Chad Townsend kicked for Jesse Ramien who took a good catch and somehow got an offload away for Jack Williams to score. Townsend's conversion gave the Sharks an 18-4 lead.

The Roosters needed to find a spark if they wanted to come back into the game and it was Drew Hutchison who found it for the Bondi boys as he ran through some poor defence to score. The conversion was successful and the lead was still 8 for the Sharks.

Sam Walker stepped up for the Roosters with some pure magic as he set Daniel Tupou up with a beautiful floating pass and the NSW winger scored. The conversion was waved away and the Roosters trailed by 4.

After setting-up the previous play, Sam Walker put his side level when he charged for the line through some poor defence as the Sharks defence was again caught in no-mans land as Walker was able to slide through. The conversion from Siosua Taukeiaho put the Roosters in front to score.

The Sharks looked gassed by this point and again Sam Walker's skill was on show as he again floated a magical ball out to Brett Morris under the pressure of three Sharks defenders for Morris to get a second. The conversion from Taukeiaho sealed the victory for the Roosters. **Josh Robertson**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (26) Tries: Brett Morris (2), Drew Hutchison, Daniel Tupou, Sam Walker; Conversions: Siosua Taukeiaho (3/5)
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (18) Tries: Mawene Hiroti, Will Kennedy, Jack Williams; Conversions: Chad Townsend (2/3); Penalty Goals: Chad Townsend (1/1)
Venue: Sydney Cricket Ground; Crowd: 10739; Halftime: Sydney 4 Cronulla 12; Referee: Adam Gee

NORTH QUEENSLAND 34 WESTS TIGERS 30

A game of two very different halves has seen the North Queensland Cowboys take their first victory of 2021 with a 34-30 victory over the Wests Tigers at Leichhardt Oval.

The opening 40 minutes from the Tigers could only be described as embarrassing as the North Queensland Cowboys racked up the points with some magical football. The visitors opened the scoring after just three minutes through some individual brilliance by Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow as the Cowboys winger chipped and chased through to score. The Wests Tigers were able to hit back soon after when Daine Laurie was on the spot to clean up a spilled kick from Kyle Feldt and the Tigers were level. The Daine Laurie four-pointer was the only highlight for the Tigers as their right-side defence was ripped apart by the Cowboys and Murray Tualagi was the beneficiary of the Tigers poor defence when Scott Drinkwater's kick in behind the line was cleaned up by Tualagi to score.

Things weren't going to get better for the Tigers as some individual brilliance from Scott Drinkwater to chip and chase after regathering his own ricocheted kick to score the Cowboys third try of the afternoon. The first half continued to go from bad to worse for the Tigers as a David Nofaluma error gave the Cowboys more field position which they took advantage of when Ben Condon was able to crash his way over the try line.

A poor afternoon for David Nofaluma continued on the Cowboys fifth try of the afternoon when Murray Tualagi chased through and pinched the ball out of a lazy Nofaluma's grasp to score and following Holmes conversion, the Cowboys lead 28-6 at the break. For the second half, the Tigers needed to find a spark and it may have come as the Tigers were leaving the field with the Leichhardt faithful collectively booing their side off the field as they went into the sheds.

The Tigers turned their first half misfortunes around in the second half when the home-side were able to bring themselves well and truly back into the contest. The Tigers were able to cross through David Nofaluma after Adam Doueihi was able to create space for his winger to stroll over. Not being able to touch the ball, the Cowboys just couldn't muscle up in defence with the Tigers attack coming at them as Luciano Leilua used some top-quality skill to grab a Luke Brooks grubber kick to score. The Tigers again scored in quick succession when Adam Doueihi was able to drag the Cowboys defence in before putting Luke Garner over from close range.

The bunker then spoiled the hopes of the Tigers when David Nofaluma's second effort for a try was chalked off by Alan Shortall after it was ruled that James Roberts stopped in the defensive line denying the Cowboys a chance to tackle the Tigers winger despite it being initially awarded by Matt Cecchin onfield. The salt was truly rubbed into the wounds of the Tigers up the other end of the field when Lachlan Burr was able to cross for the Cowboys which pushed the lead back out for the Cowboys.

The Tigers again were able to cross twice in the final 10 minutes first through Tommy Talau after some good work from Luciano Leilua who set up Talau to score in the corner before Joe Ofahengaue crossed in the final 60 seconds to give the Tigers one or two plays to steal victory. An error from Luke Brooks off the kick-off sealed the Tigers afternoon and the Cowboys took their first victory. **Josh Robertson**

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (34) Tries: Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Murray Tualagi (2), Scott Drinkwater, Ben Condon, Lachlan Burr; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (5/6)

WESTS TIGERS (30) Tries: Daine Laurie, David Nofaluma, Luciano Leilua, Luke Garner, Tommy Talau, Joe Ofahengaue; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (3/6)

Venue: Leichhardt Oval; Crowd: 9433; Halftime: Wests Tigers 6 North Qld 28; Referee: Matt Cecchin

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 26 PARRAMATTA 12

In a fortnight where point scoring has been prominent, it was the brilliant Dragons defence that was the talking point and the deciding factor in the final game of Round 5, as they downed the Eels 26-12 at Bankwest Stadium.

Blake Lawrie was held up in the 7th minute in an ominous start for the Dragons and just a few moments later Jack Bird scored a soft try on the left side. Zac Lomax converted

In the 12th minute Matt Dufty broke through the line, grubbered for himself and looked likely to win the race to the ball but he was taken out by Nathan Brown. The Bunker determined that Dufty would've won the race to the ball and he was awarded a penalty try. Lomax converted from in front.

Both sides struggled to mount any pressure over the next 20 minutes, but in the 32nd minute the Dragons shifted to the right to Dufty, who sent a perfect catch and long pass, while under pressure, to Mikaele Ravalawa who scored comfortably in the corner. Lomax nailed the sideline conversion with a perfect kick. AT halftime the Dragons had an impressive 18-0 lead.

The second half was basically a bunch of set restarts, mostly in the Eels favour.

In the 43rd minute, after conceding 4 set restarts in almost 3 minutes, Tariq Sims was sent to the sin bin for ten minutes. This immediately saw Parramatta get on the scoreboard in the 44th minute when Isaiah Papali'i ran hard and straight onto a pass from Nathan Brown, close to the Dragons line, and he barged over near the posts to score a strong try. Mitch Moses converted.

A silly penalty conceded by Tom Opacic in the 56th minute saw Lomax score a gift penalty goal to give the Dragons a 14 point buffer.

It didn't deter the Eels, because 7 minutes later it appeared that they had scored a good try through Clint Gutherson, however it was called back after the bunker found that Junior Paulo had obstructed Tyrell Fuimaono.

With ten minutes remaining, the Dragons extended their lead further with some lovely play by Adam Clune, when dummied right to get past Moses, then he stepped out of a weak tackle by Bryce Cartwright, before passing back inside to Dufty in support, who raced away to score. Lomax converted.

With 4 minutes remaining in the match, Gutherson scored a brilliant individual try when he stepped back infield through some scattered defence, before barging over through 3 defenders to get the ball down for a try. Moses converted.

The Eels though were unable to complete a miracle comeback. The Dragons well deserved winners 26-12. **Andrew Ferguson**

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (26) Tries: Jack Bird, Matthew Dufty (2), Mikaele Ravalawa; Conversions: Zac Lomax (4/4); Penalty Goals: Zac Lomax (1/1)

PARRAMATTA EELS (12) Tries: Isaiah Papali'i, Clinton Gutherson; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (2/2)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Crowd: 24384; Halftime: Parramatta 0 St Geo Illa 18; Referee: Grant Atkins

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 5

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	5 - 0 - 0	114	10
2. Sydney	4 - 0 - 1	94	8
3. South Sydney	4 - 0 - 1	83	8
4. St Geo Illa	4 - 0 - 1	42	8
5. Parramatta	4 - 0 - 1	36	8
6. Melbourne	3 - 0 - 2	70	6
7. Gold Coast	3 - 0 - 2	45	6
8. Canberra	3 - 0 - 2	13	6
9. Cronulla	2 - 0 - 3	18	4
10. Warriors	2 - 0 - 3	-9	4
11. Newcastle	2 - 0 - 3	-19	4
12. Brisbane	1 - 0 - 4	-59	2
13. Wests Tigers	1 - 0 - 4	-66	2
14. North Qld	1 - 0 - 4	-101	2
15. Manly	1 - 0 - 4	-121	2
16. Canterbury	0 - 0 - 5	-140	0

MATCH REVIEW

Player	Team	Points
Dylan Brown	Parramatta	1 match
Alex Glenn	Brisbane	\$1700
Nelson Asofa-Solomona	Melbourne	\$1600
Stephen Crichton	Penrith	\$1350
Ofahiki Ogden	Canterbury	\$1150
Clint Gutherson	Parramatta	\$1150
Ben Marschke	Sydney	Not guilty

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



South Sydney v Brisbane
3 points - Adam Reynolds
2 points - Latrell Mitchell
1 points - Jaydn Su'A

Warriors v Manly
3 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck
2 points - Josh Aloiai
1 points - Daly Cherry-Evans

Penrith v Canberra
3 points - Jarome Luai
2 points - Brian To'o
1 points - James Fisher-Harris

Gold Coast v Newcastle
3 points - David Fifita
2 points - Alexander Brimson
1 points - Corey Thompson

Melbourne v Canterbury
3 points - Cameron Munster
2 points - Christian Welch
1 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen

Sydney v Cronulla
3 points - Sam Walker
2 points - Will Kennedy
1 points - Jared Waerea-Hargreaves

North Queensland v Wests Tigers
3 points - Scott Drinkwater
2 points - Adam Doueihi
1 points - Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow

St George Illawarra v Parramatta
3 points - Adam Clune
2 points - Mikaele Ravalawa
1 points - Zac Lomax

LEADERBOARD

9 points: Jarome Luai (Panthers), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors), David Fifita (Titans)
8 points: Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm), Will Kennedy (Sharks)
7 points: Cameron Munster (Storm)

ROUND 6 April 15 to 18

PENRITH 20 BRISBANE 12

Penrith Panthers won their sixth game of the season, 20-12, against an enthusiastic Brisbane Broncos side tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

Cue the Great Escape music - because the Panthers got away with that tonight. Some late Cleary heroics with both the boot and hand helped the ladder leaders past a gallant but still naive Broncos side that showed up for their coach and fans tonight.

In a week where the Panthers were labeled arrogant by plenty, this was definitely not a boastful performance. They looked lethargic on both sides of the field and escaped with the result against a Broncos outfit that gave them a tough tussle tonight. Ultimately, the Panthers remain undefeated and had a cheeky dig with their handshake post-try celebration.

From the kick-off, the Broncos looked much more energised against the leaders. They were first on the scoreboard through Jamayne Isaako's penalty goal and showed some thrust in defense to keep the Panthers quiet. Maybe the bake the side got in the pre-match from coach Kevin Walters worked a treat.

The only frailty in the Broncos defense was when Luke Capewell strolled through for the opening try to make it 4-2. They did fall off some tackles late for Nathan Cleary to stretch the margin to eight but that can be forgiven after being in the tussle with the Panthers for the whole contest.

Half turned centre Matt Burton continued to show his wide array of talents, finishing off a backline move for the Panthers second. Burton has done well stepping in for Stephen Crichton on the left edge and shows the depth last year's runners-up have.

Brisbane never stopped turning up though. Man of the Match Tevita Pangai Junior showed some grace to dive over to make it 8-6. Pangai Junior was involved in much of the positive aspects of the Broncos play tonight and tried to will the side to the result. He had able deputies in props Payne Haas and Matthew Lodge, who bent the line with each run.

Panthers showed some grit which they haven't had to resort to often thus far in 2021. The game went set for set and the Broncos matched them for 70 minutes. It took class from both of the halves for the Panthers to seal the contest. First, Nathan Cleary nailed the second two-point field goal of the season to make it 14-12 then Jarome Luai danced through defenders before putting Cleary over.

Yes - it is another loss for the Broncos but there was a small sense of hope for them coming out of tonight's game. The defence to keep them in the contest was good and a few moments of class including the pass from the recalled Brodie Croft to Ethan Bullemor making it 12-10 showed Croft might have a future in the six jumper. **Justin Davies**

PENRITH PANTHERS (20) Tries: Kurt Capewell, Nathan Cleary, Matt Burton; Two Point Field Goals: Nathan Cleary (1/1); Conversions: Nathan Cleary (2/3); Penalty Goals: Nathan Cleary (1/1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (12) Tries: Tevita Pangai Junior, Ethan Bullemor; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (1/2); Penalty Goals: Jamayne Isaako (1/1)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 21224; Halftime: Brisbane 12 Penrith 10; Referee: Grant Atkins

NEWCASTLE 26 CRONULLA 22

The Ponga party took center stage in the first battle between the Brayley siblings as the Newcastle Knights won 26-22 against the Cronulla Sharks in front of 17,039 fans in the Hunter.

Friday's marquee match was dubbed the battle of the star fullbacks - and Kalyn Ponga and William Kennedy stole the show in a see-sawing battle in the Hunter. Ponga took the chocolates with the match winner for Newcastle in a pulsating contest.

Knights fullback Ponga dealt with an stomach virus but he left the Sharks with a headache after full-time. Ponga scored twice including the match-winner and was involved in the Knights three other tries to put a tough stretch behind the novacastrains with a stirring win.

Thrust into the game in the early exchanges after Hymel Hunt's injury, interchange forward Bordie Jones typified the effort from the Knights tonight. He cleaned up several attacking kicks from the Sharks and got a well deserved four pointer. Coach Adam O'Brien will be delighted to be able to sing the song after three straight defeats which had them on the brink of their season being in danger.

It had been a turbulent week for the Sharks with the John Morris saga but there was plenty to enjoy from the shire side tonight. William Kennedy and Matt Moylan ran the show in attack and Kennedy showed off his passing skills to match it with his fullback opposite him. Unfortunately, it was another close loss for Josh Hannay in his first game as Sharks interim boss.

Trailing by eight at one point, the Sharks dominated the second half. They completed every set which saw them overturn the deficit through Mawene Hiroti, makeshift winger Connor Tracey and the returning Briton Nikora combined with a superb conversion from Chad Townsend had them ahead 22-20.

For the majority of the contest though, the Knights threatened to bust open the contest. Ponga with some silky touches to put Mitch Barnett after the fullback had opened the scoring himself with a sweep play. Kurt Mann showed some grit to beat the chasing Sharks back to have them up 14-6 at the break.

When Ponga put Jones across for their fourth to make it 20-16, it seemed like the home side were strolling to the win tonight. Sharks showed heart to stay in the contest and push the Knights but the home side through their star fullback got their third win of the season.

The only blight for Ponga all night was his mis-timed leap which gave the Sharks their opening four-pointer through Jesse Ramien. Otherwise, Ponga deserved his Man of the Match award in the win. **Justin Davies**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (26) Tries: Kalyn Ponga (2), Mitchell Barnett, Kurt Mann, Bordie Jones; Conversions: Kalyn Ponga (3/5)

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (22) Tries: Jesse Ramien, Briton Nikora, Connor Tracey, Mawene Hiroti; Conversions: Chad Townsend (3/4)

Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 17039; Halftime: Newcastle 14 Cronulla 6; Referee: Matt Cecchin

MELBOURNE 20 SYDNEY 4

Melbourne have defeated the Sydney Roosters 20-4 in a dominant display at AAMI Park tonight to further flex their premiership credentials for 2021.

Storm hooker Harry Grant who started from the bench ignited his side in a dominant performance from the Queensland number 9, scoring a try and having a hand in two more in just his fourth game in Storm colours.

The Roosters will be disappointed with their second half performance, after a brave effort in the first period managing to hold onto a 4-0 deficit at the break despite being starved of possession. It was tough going in the second half however for the Tricolours with Trent Robinson's side desperately missing the big match experience in the halves that they have enjoyed for many seasons.

The match between two of the competition heavyweights promised to add another colourful chapter to the recent fierce rivalry between both clubs. Minutes into the match it did just that, when rookie halfback Sam Walker rolled a kick in goal for a flying Josh Morris who failed to ground the ball and in the process his elbow accidentally collected Storm fullback Ryan Papenhuyzen's head. The in-form back Papenhuyzen was then sent from the field for a HIA.

With their goalkicker off the field, the Storm were offered a gift two points with the Roosters on the back foot, but Storm five-eighth Cameron Munster took the kick and missed an easy chance to take the lead.

The game then hit a flashpoint, when Roosters lock Victor Radley was sent to the Sin Bin for a high shot on Munster which had the Storm on edge with Papenhuyzen already on the sideline. Fortunately for the home side, Papenhuyzen passed his HIA and returned in time to get his side on the scoreboard first. Melbourne were then awarded a gift two points when Roosters backrower Sitili Tupouniua was penalised for holding on too long to Nelson Asofa-Solomona in the ruck.

The Tricolours were making some uncharacteristic errors and they were on the ropes as the halftime siren neared. Melbourne then doubled their lead when Radley returned to the field and gave away a penalty for an illegal strip and Papenhuyzen doubled his side's lead to 4-0 at halftime in a brutal opening stanza.

After the break, the Storm continued with the relentless wave of attack towards the Roosters line and it was Harry Grant who pulled the trigger from dummy half when he found his number seven Jahrome Hughes out the back for the Storm halfback to score the first try of the night. Papenhuyzen converted and it was 10-0 to the home side.

The Storm again charged downfield and with Grant and Brandon Smith interchanging at dummy half, Ryan Papenhuyzen then hit a great line to score next to the posts and give Melbourne a 14-point lead with 20 minutes remaining. Harry Grant continued his outstanding cameo from the bench when the nuggety hooker crashed over from dummy half close to the line to ice the game for the Storm as they jumped out to a 20-0 lead with 10 minutes remaining following the conversion from Papenhuyzen. Roosters winger Matt Ikuvalu then scored a consolation try off a clever kick from James Tedesco to get the Roosters on the scoreboard as the siren sounded to round out a 20-4 win for Melbourne. **Sam Bourke**

MELBOURNE STORM (20) Tries: Ryan Papenhuyzen, Jahrome Hughes, Harry Grant; Conversions: Ryan Papenhuyzen (2/3); Penalty Goals: Cameron Munster (0/1), Ryan Papenhuyzen (2/2)
SYDNEY ROOSTERS (4) Tries: Matt Ikuvalu; Conversions: James Tedesco (0/1)

Venue: AAMI Park; Crowd: 15087; Halftime: Melbourne 4 Sydney 0; Referee: Adam Gee

MANLY 36 GOLD COAST 0

The Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles have won their second consecutive match in 2021, beating the Gold Coast Titans by 36 points to nil in one of the biggest upsets of the season.

The Sea Eagles opened the scoring at the 6 minute mark courtesy of a penalty goal, and the defensive pressure applied to the Titans in their next set saw Manly in prime position to extend that lead. They did just that through Brad Parker, who went straight through the Titans defence, while Garrick's conversion made it 8-0.

It was ominous for the Titans later on, with Lachlan Croker making a clean break up the middle of the field and the Gold Coast defence unable to scramble sufficiently, with Reuben Garrick scoring himself in the next couple of plays.

That try was the start of a 5 minute period of death for the Titans, with Tom Trbojevic dummied his way through the defensive line and burning AJ Brimson on the outside to score, while just 2 minutes later on the first set off the kickoff he went right through again and linked up with Jason Saab who scored the try that made it 26-0 in 26 minutes.

There were no points scored for the rest of the half and the Titans looked like they might put up a bit more of a fight in the second 40 than the first one, getting on the attack early courtesy of a shift to the left where David Fifita was looking dangerous, while the pressure was compounded after Brimson was taken out by Jake Trbojevic off the ball in back play.

They had all the ball and field position in the first 5 minutes, however the Titans did not look threatening in the slightest and failed to put any points on the board over 14 or 15 tackles in opposition territory. Their grubber on the last tackle was trapped by Morgan Harper who took off into open space and set up Jason Saab for his second of the afternoon, with Manly scoring the first points of the half with their first touch of the half.

It was a scrappy period that followed, with both sides struggling to complete sets. At one point Kevin Proctor looked to be over for all money, but he dropped it cold and gave Manly a 7 tackle set.

Manly eventually got the ball in good attacking position and a superb cutout ball from Kieran Foran found Reuben Garrick, who put the foot down to go in for his second try of the day.

Sean Keppie thought that he had his first try in the NRL, however the bunker intervened and determined that Brad Parker had knocked on in the lead-up. **Adam Huxtable**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (36) Tries: Reuben Garrick (2), Brad Parker, Tom Trbojevic, Jason Saab (2); Conversions: Reuben Garrick (5/6); Penalty Goals: Reuben Garrick (1/1)
GOLD COAST TITANS (0)

Venue: Glen Willow Regional Sports Stadium, Mudgee; Crowd: 6380; Halftime: Manly 26 Gold Coast 0; Referee: Chris Butler

SOUTH SYDNEY 18 WESTS TIGERS 14

A Thomas Burgess try has broken the hearts of the Tigers in a 18-14 golden point thriller at Stadium Australia.

Burgess charged right through the middle and seemed to have stole the victory, swamped on by teammates. Gerard Sutton though called play on as Luke Brooks raced away to score under the posts. Chaos ensued as the call went upstairs but in heartbreaking scenes for the Tigers the replay would show Burgess had grounded the ball, with coach Michael Maguire left dejected afterwards in the box.

It was a devastating finish for the Tigers, who were vastly improved from last week's loss to the Cowboys. Doueihi impressed early with a pinpoint kicking game that earned the Tigers three-straight dropouts. It did not lead to any points though, with Michael Maguire's men lacking any real variation or imagination in attack.

Doueihi then was guilty of rushing out in defence in the lead-up to the first try which saw Cameron Murray burst through and score. A slick left-edge play looked to have put Alex Johnston over for the home side's second but replays would later show his hand went into touch before grounding the ball. It proved a critical turning point with the Tigers hitting back soon after.

David Nofoaluma raced down the left touchline after Luke Brooks cleverly brought the defence coming in after shaping to pass to decoy runner Asu Kepaoa. The Tigers winger then kicked inside for Daine Laurie. It saw both sides locked at 6-all heading into the sheds at halftime.

The Tigers carried their confidence into the second and it was Laurie threatening early with slicing runs. Doueihi then turned creator once more, feigning to kick then pass long before playing it short to put Luke Garner through a gaping hole. The Tigers were much-improved from last week's Leichhardt embarrassment but could not hold out the Rabbitohs with Cody Walker surging through off a lovely short ball from Tevita Tatola. He then slowed down for support, finding Dane Gagai out wide.

Adam Reynolds later nailed a two-point field goal to level the scores but missed a crucial chance at the one point to see the game go to golden point. The Tigers entered the extra stanza down a man after Tommy Talau pulled at Walker's legs from an offside position in the dying stages of the second half.

Burgess would go on to score the match-winner. **Andrew Jackson**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (18) Tries: Cameron Murray, Dane Gagai, Thomas Burgess; Field Goals: Adam Reynolds (0/1); Two Point Field Goals: Adam Reynolds (1/2); Conversions: Adam Reynolds (2/2); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (0/1)
WESTS TIGERS (14) Tries: Daine Laurie, Luke Garner; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (2/2); Penalty Goals: Adam Doueihi (1/1)

Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 16134; Halftime: South Sydney 6 Wests Tigers 6; Referee: Gerard Sutton

PARRAMATTA 35 CANBERRA 10

The Parramatta Eels have wiped out last weeks poor performance after taking a dominant 35-10 victory over the Canberra Raiders at GIO Stadium.

Two sides that were dominated last weekend were looking to make a big impact early in the contest which is exactly what the Parramatta Eels did when they were able to score inside just three minutes. The Eels were gifted field position after a Jordan Rapana error and in the ensuing set, Reed Mahoney's decision to go short side on tackle 5 worked a treat as Isaiah Papali'i crossed over to score.

The Green Machine were able to hit back soon after when Jordan Rapana went from Zero to Hero when he was able to get on the outside of Blake Ferguson to score in the corner. The conversion attempt from Croker went across the face of the posts.

Isaiah Papali'i was causing problems for the Raiders all night and it was his efforts on the right that created space for Maika Sivo to cross after a good ball from Clint Gutherson. Mitch Moses' conversion from the sideline pushed the margin out to 8 points for the Eels.

Going straight through the middle of the park put the Raiders in good field position and Josh Hodgson's efforts to go through the middle, created space as the Eels defenders were left grasping at air before Hodgson found his English compatriot George Williams to score. The conversion from Jarrod Croker closed the gap to within two points.

The second half was a totally one-sided affair with the Parramatta Eels dominating and it was Isaiah Papali'i who got scoring going once again. The Eels shifted left and a pass from Gutherson to Opacic was plucked out of the air by Papali'i who got over to score his second try of the game.

A piece of brilliance from Mitchell Moses extended the lead for the Eels when Moses started a top-quality sequence of play when he spread the ball wide before getting it back and stepping his way through the middle before the ball ended up with Shaun Lane who scored.

The final ten minutes was when Parramatta really put the Raiders to the sword with Reed Mahoney crossing after some more Mitch Moses skill when his pinpoint kick was tapped back by Shaun Lane to Nathan Brown before finding Reed Mahoney who was backing up to score.

Mitch Moses added a field goal to push the score out to 29-10 after Ben Cummins needed the bunker to confirm that after his attempt hit the post, it dropped over the crossbar. The Eels then added a try on the stroke of full time when Clint Gutherson went through some flimsy Raiders defence to score. Mitch Moses sealed the victory with his fifth conversion of the night and the Eels took a 35-10 victory. **Josh Robertson**

PARRAMATTA EELS (35) Tries: Isaiah Papali'i (2), Maika Sivo, Shaun Lane, Reed Mahoney, Clinton Gutherson; Field Goals: Mitchell Moses (1/1); Conversions: Mitchell Moses (5/6)
CANBERRA RAIDERS (10) Tries: Jordan Rapana, George Williams; Conversions: Jarrod Croker (1/2)
Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Crowd: 20089; Halftime: Canberra 10 Parramatta 12; Referee: Ben Cummins

WARRIORS 20 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 14

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck celebrated his 100th game for the Warriors with a starring role in a hard fought 20-14 Warriors win over the red-hot Dragons.

Both sides started the game running with power and playing at a top speed. Completion rates for both sides were very near perfect for the whole game.

In the 8th minute the Dragons put the ball through the hands on the left side - Adam Clune to Corey Norman then onto Matt Dufty, who held up a nice pass for Cody Ramsay who then scored in the corner. Zac Lomax's sideline conversion hit the upright and was waved away.

The Warriors hit back just five minutes later after some nice play by Wayne Egan at dummy half and 5 metres shy of the tryline. He shaped to pass right and then ran left before dishing a beautiful short ball to Tohu Harris who twisted in the goal line tackle and fell over the line for a good try next to the uprights. Kodi Nikorima converted.

Less than 2 minutes later, the Warriors extended their lead when Nikorima grubbered into the Dragon's ingoal, where the ball bounced awkwardly for Dufty, who almost grounded the ball, but it was Paul Turner following through who did force the ball for a try. Nikorima converted.

Ten minutes before halftime, the Dragons attacked down the right side, where Dufty threw a lovely cut-out pass to Mikaele Ravalawa who channelled his inner Eric Grothe to get the ball down despite having defenders smashing into him and trying to push him into touch. Lomax just missed the sideline conversion attempt. At halftime, it was 2 tries apiece, but the Warriors led 12-8.

The Bunker denied both sides a try in the opening 6 minutes of the second half. In the 43rd minute, a Nikorima grubber was grounded by Egan on the Dragons dead ball line and three minutes later Ramsay tapped a cross-field kick to Paul Vaughan who scored, only for the pass from Ramsay ruled to have gone forward.

Right on the hour mark, the Dragons scored again when Clune ran up to the line and grubbered between the posts before Matt Dufty came flying through and grounded the ball before it rolled dead to score. Lomax converted from almost in front to give the Dragons a 14-12 lead.

The Warriors hit back in the 67th minute when Tuivasa-Sheck received the ball out the back on the right side, shrugged off the tackle by Jack Bird and then burst through the gap in the Dragons edge defence to slam the ball down for a well-deserved try. Nikorima converted from out wide.

Nikorima added a penalty goal in the 70th minute. The Warriors closed out the game to win 20-14 in a very good game of football from both sides. **Andrew Ferguson**

WARRIORS (20) Tries: Tohu Harris, Paul Turner, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck; Conversions: Kodi Nikorima (3/3); Penalty Goals: Kodi Nikorima (1/1)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (14) Tries: Cody Ramsey, Mikaele Ravalawa, Matthew Dufty; Conversions: Zac Lomax (1/3) Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Crowd: 11222; Halftime: St Geo Illa 8 Warriors 12; Referee: Chris Sutton

NORTH QUEENSLAND 30 CANTERBURY 18

The North Queensland Cowboys have posted back-to-back wins for the first time in 11 months after holding off the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 30-18 at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

Establishing a match-winning lead with a strong start to the second half, the Cowboys proved too strong for a Bulldogs side reduced to 12 men after Jack Hetherington was sent from the field for a high tackle.

In a first half littered with errors from both sides, the Cowboys opened the scoring through Kyle Feldt (6th minute) who leapt above his opposite winger to touch down in the corner.

Responding a few minutes later after a nicely-timed offload from Hetherington, front-rower Renouf Atoni (12th minute) made the most of his starting opportunity to power over underneath the posts.

With both teams squandering opportunities close to the line due to a lack of patience and execution, the score remained locked at 6-all at the change of ends.

Coming out of the sheds with a renewed sense of energy, Reece Robson (44th minute) darted out from dummy half to put the home side back in front.

Extending their lead following the introduction of Jake Granville early in the second half, the replacement hooker sent Ben Condon (52nd minute) over for his second try in as many weeks.

With 25 minutes remaining, Hetherington became the first player sent off this season after collecting Valentine Holmes around the throat on a kick-return.

Taking advantage of their opponent's 12-man defensive line, Holmes showed no ill effects of being collected high to send Granville (59th minute) over for the match-clinching try.

Reducing the deficit to 24-12 after Sione Katoa put in a beautiful grubber for Kyle Flanagan (63rd minute), a try to Tui Katoa (69th minute) a few sets later saw the Bulldogs come right back into the contest.

Coming close to tying the game up only for Nick Cotric to be ruled offside from a kick, the Bulldogs fight back amounted to little as Mitch Dunn (78th minute) used his footwork to ice the win for the home side. **Rob Crosby**

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (30) Tries: Kyle Feldt, Reece Robson, Ben Condon, Jake Granville, Mitchell Dunn; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (5/5)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (18) Tries: Renouf Atoni, Kyle Flanagan, Tui Katoa; Conversions: Kyle Flanagan (1/1), Jake Averillo (2/2)

Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 11965; Halftime: North Qld 6 Canterbury 6; Referee: Ashley Klein

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 6

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	6 - 0 - 0	122	12
2. South Sydney	5 - 0 - 1	87	10
3. Parramatta	5 - 0 - 1	61	10
4. Melbourne	4 - 0 - 2	86	8
5. Sydney	4 - 0 - 2	78	8
6. St Geo Illa	4 - 0 - 2	36	8
7. Gold Coast	3 - 0 - 3	9	6
8. Warriors	3 - 0 - 3	-3	6
9. Canberra	3 - 0 - 3	-12	6
10. Newcastle	3 - 0 - 3	-15	6
11. Cronulla	2 - 0 - 4	14	4
12. Manly	2 - 0 - 4	-85	4
13. North Qld	2 - 0 - 4	-89	4
14. Brisbane	1 - 0 - 5	-67	2
15. Wests Tigers	1 - 0 - 5	-70	2
16. Canterbury	0 - 0 - 6	-152	0

MATCH REVIEW

Jack Hetherington	Canterbury	5 matches
Latrell Mitchell	Souths	4 matches [^] + \$3200
Paul Momirovski	Sydney	3 matches [^]
Tino Fa'asuamaleau	Gold Coast	2 matches
Aiden Tolman	Cronulla	1 match
Victor Radley	Sydney	\$1900*
Zane Musgrove	Wests Tigers	\$1350
Jack Williams	Cronulla	\$1150

[^] = unsuccessful judiciary hearing

* = successful judiciary hearing, charge downgraded

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Brisbane v Penrith
3 points - Tevita Pangai Junior
2 points - Nathan Cleary
1 points - Payne Haas

Newcastle v Cronulla
3 points - Kalyn Ponga
2 points - Will Kennedy
1 points - Brodie Jones

Melbourne v Sydney
3 points - Harry Grant
2 points - Christian Welch
1 points - Jahrome Hughes

Manly v Gold Coast
3 points - Tom Trbojevic
2 points - Kieran Foran
1 points - Josh Schuster

South Sydney v Wests Tigers
3 points - Adam Reynolds
2 points - Daine Laurie
1 points - Thomas Burgess

Canberra v Parramatta
3 points - Isaiah Papali'i
2 points - Mitchell Moses
1 points - Reed Mahoney

Warriors v St George Illawarra
3 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck
2 points - Matthew Dufty
1 points - Tohu Harris

North Queensland v Canterbury
3 points - Jake Granville
2 points - Valentine Holmes
1 points - Francis Molo

LEADERBOARD

12 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors)
10 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks)
9 points - David Fifita (Titans), Jarome Luai (Panthers)
8 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm)
7 points - Reed Mahoney (Eels), Cameron Munster (Storm)

ROUND 7 April 22 to 25 (ANZAC Round)

PENRITH 24 NEWCASTLE 6

The Penrith Panthers have won their seventh straight game, coming out over the top of the Knights 24-6 at Bluebet Stadium tonight.

The Knights were valiant in their effort, but the pressure from the Panthers proved too much as the Novacastrians fell away towards the latter stages of the match.

The Panthers started well, turning away some early pressure and scoring when given their first opportunity close to the Newcastle line. Nathan Cleary's kick in behind the line was perfect for Stephen Crichton to squeeze his way in between two defenders to score the first try of the game.

Penrith were in again just under a quarter of an hour later, with a brilliant pass from Jarome Luai seeing Matt Burton go over virtually untouched. This gave the Panthers a 10-0 jump on their opponents less than 20 minutes in.

Probably the Knights' best performer tonight, five-eighth Kurt Mann, broke the line before finding Starford To'a in space. To'a then put a great fend on Penrith fullback Dylan Edwards to score out wide and get the Knights right back into the game.

A Nathan Cleary penalty goal broke the second half deadlock to make it 12-6 to Penrith. The Panthers' relentless attack on Newcastle then broke the shackles, with a scrum-base play seeing a try scored by returning fullback Dylan Edwards. Minutes later, in form winger Brian To'o scored in the corner to seal the deal for the men from the foot of the mountain. A Nathan Cleary sideline conversion rounded out the scoring at 24-6.

Both coaches will ultimately be quite happy with their side's completion rate, with the teams not gifting their opposition too much easy ground.

Newcastle didn't get the win, but there can certainly be some positives to be found in that they really stood up to Penrith, before falling away late. Kalyn Ponga and Kurt Mann both starred for their team and will look to replicate their form next week against the Roosters.

The Panthers were no doubt challenged tonight, but that didn't trouble them too much as they stuck out the game, were willing to do the hard work and got the job done in the end. They face Manly next week. **Hamish Parker**

PENRITH PANTHERS (24) Tries: Stephen Crichton, Matt Burton, Dylan Edwards, Brian To'o; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (3/4); Penalty Goals: Nathan Cleary (1/1)

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (6) Tries: Starford To'a; Conversions: Kalyn Ponga (1/1)

Venue: BlueBet Stadium Crowd: 16110; Halftime: Penrith 10 Newcastle 6; Referee: Gerard Sutton

SOUTH SYDNEY 40 GOLD COAST 30

The South Sydney Rabbitohs have survived an early scare against a Titans side not afraid to throw the ball around, coming back from a 14-point deficit at half time to win 40-30 at Cbus Super Stadium.

The Titans got on the board early with an outstanding solo David Fifita effort, with Souths taking about 15 minutes to hit back courtesy of some lovely running and kicking from Campbell Graham to set up Jaxson Paulo.

It looked as if Souths may run away with it when Cody Walker crossed just two minutes later, however David Fifita would have something to say about that, initially shrugging off two Souths defenders before beating 3 or 4 more to score his second try of the night, equally as brilliant as his first.

The Titans would be gifted field position after Damien Cook made contact high, and they made full use of it when Kelly would get a great offload away close to the line to set up David Fifita for his third try.

What followed is a contender for try of the season by the Titans. Ash Taylor showed no fear and swung it all the way to the left, with Corey Thompson streaking away downfield and beating about 5 Souths defenders before getting an amazing flick pass away to Jamal Fogarty, who had nothing but daylight in front of him and made it an imposing 24-10 scoreline at half time.

Souths absolutely blew the Titans out of the water in the 2nd half, executing a simple sweeping play in the 46th minute with Dane Gagai the beneficiary. 5 minutes later, Keaon Koloamatangi would go right through the Titans defence and link up with Benji Marshall who scored the try.

Reynolds would level the scores through a penalty goal in the 54th minute, before Alex Johnston would be on the end of a miracle pass by Marshall and score the try that gave Souths the lead.

Tyrone Peachey would scurry over from dummy half 10 minutes later and give the Titans some hope, however it was soon extinguished when a brilliant cutout play from Marshall to Johnston saw the veteran half score his second try of the night.

Souths would put the result beyond doubt with two late penalty goals. **Adam Huxtable**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (40) Tries: Jaxson Paulo, Cody Walker, Dane Gagai, Benji Marshall (2), Alex Johnston; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (5/6); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (3/3)

GOLD COAST TITANS (30) Tries: David Fifita (3), Jamal Fogarty, Tyrone Peachey; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (5/5)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 17383; Halftime: Gold Coast 24 South Sydney 10; Referee: Chris Sutton

PARRAMATTA 46 BRISBANE 6

Maika Sivo's first minute try was a precursor of what was to come on an awful night for Brisbane, with Parramatta thumping last year's wooden spooners 46-6 at TIO Stadium in Darwin tonight.

A Xavier Coates drop-ball from the kickoff delivered the Eels gift footy in the opening moments of tonight's contest in a hot, sweaty Northern Territory capital, and with Sivo scoring out wide at the end of that first set, they took full advantage early.

After Brisbane retaliated through Tevita Pangai Junior at the tenth minute, the first half tussle went back-and-forward before a blitz from the Eels starting in the 28th minute blew Brisbane off the park.

Sivo picked up his second at that point to push the home side four points clear, and was soon backed up by Isaiah Papali'i who continued his impressive try-scoring record this season after running well in support play from a Oregon Kaufusi offload which found Mahoney onto Papali'i.

Kaufusi added one more before the halftime siren would sound, pushing the lead to 22-6; a penalty goal in the shadows of the break ensuring a full three converted try advantage for Parramatta as the teams retired to the sheds.

While coach Kevin Walters managed to stir his troops last week to compete with ladder leaders Penrith during his halftime address last week, there was no success with any words this week as the Eels continued on their merry way in the second half of this week's contest. Fresh Eels Tom Opacic and Bryce Cartwright - both signings from Queensland clubs new this season - picked up tries in the fifteen minutes following the halftime break.

The lead stretched to 36-6 and the game looked ready to wind down until Sivo bagged his third try ten minutes from time, followed by a later effort from Clint Gutherson, set up by a superb risky sideline kick from Mitch Moses who kept his body in to set it up for the Eels' fullback.

The margin sent the Parramatta differential beyond that of the Rabbitohs and into second place as the chasing pack aims to run down the undefeated Panthers; and they'll get another chance for a for-and-against boost next Saturday when they head to Sydney Olympic Park to meet Canterbury.

Meanwhile, Brisbane will not be looking forward to a clash with the Gold Coast Titans at home next Friday, with their visitors next week keen to shake off some poor losses over the last fortnight. Kewy Walters has his work cut out for him. **Tim Costello**

PARRAMATTA EELS (46) Tries: Maika Sivo (3), Isaiah Papali'i, Oregon Kaufusi, Tom Opacic, Bryce Cartwright, Clinton Gutherson; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (6/8); Penalty Goals: Mitchell Moses (1/1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (6) Tries: Tevita Pangai Junior; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (1/1)

Venue: TIO Stadium; Crowd: 12056; Halftime: Parramatta 24 Brisbane 6; Referee: Grant Atkins

CANTERBURY 18 CRONULLA 12

The Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs are no longer the only team yet to score a victory in 2021, beating a poor Sharks side 18 points to 12 at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium on Saturday evening.

Right from the start the Bulldogs made their intentions clear, with Dylan Napa making a strong run from the kickoff and going on to run more times in the first 20 minutes than he had averaged per game this year.

The Bulldogs were able to ride this momentum all the way to the scoreboard in just the 5th minute, with Will Hopoate fending away from Dugan and beating Kennedy and Williams to put the Blue and White's in front early on.

A successful captain's challenge in the 10th minute from the Bulldogs proved a great one as they were able to take advantage of the field position generated from the penalty to extend their lead in the 11th minute. Averillo's kick went right through the hands of Dugan and Nick Cotric was there to capitalise and score his first try as a Bulldog.

The Dogs were disallowed by the bunker just 7 minutes later, however a Sharks knock on would put them right back on the attack and they made no mistake with the next opportunity, with Nick Meaney executing a set play to perfection and exposing some poor Sharks defence to make the score 18-0 after just 23 minutes.

The Sharks weren't without their opportunities in the first half, with Mawene Hiroti having a shocker on the wing and failing to ground the ball and/or stay in the field of play at least 4 times throughout the night, including one that saw a potential top 5 team try of the year overturned.

It took the Sharks just 6 minutes of the second half to get on the board though, with Blayke Brailey putting in a grubber that bounced off the upright. Brailey had chased his own kick through and grounded the ball milliseconds before the Bulldogs player.

It would be an extremely scrappy next half hour, with both sides making basic handling errors and the Sharks unable to penetrate the Bulldogs defensive line despite ample opportunity.

When it seemed like the comeback would be a bridge too far for the Sharks, Mawene Hiroti finally got one down after finishing off a sweeping set play to the right. Chad Townsend made the pressure conversion from the sideline and reduced the deficit to a manageable 6 points.

What followed was an extremely frantic ending, with the Sharks' strong defence restricting the Bulldogs to just 20 metres and setting up a grandstand finish. The Sharks threw it around for an entire set of 6, but just as it had all game, the Bulldogs goal line defence held strong and didn't allow the Sharks to cross for a potential equaliser. **Adam Huxtable**

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (18) Tries: Will Hopoate, Nick Cotric, Nick Meaney; Conversions: Kyle Flanagan (3/3)
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (12) Tries: Blayke Brailey, Mawene Hiroti; Conversions: Chad Townsend (2/2)
Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Crowd: 7420; Halftime: Cronulla 0 Canterbury 18; Referee: Chris Butler

NORTH QUEENSLAND 26 CANBERRA 24

The North Queensland Cowboys have overturned an 18-point deficit to defeat the Canberra Raiders 26-24 at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

The game started relatively evenly but it was the Raiders who were able to cross first when the Cowboys outside defence was caught short after Canberra swung the play from the right back over to the left and gave Jordan Rapana space on the outside. Jarrod Croker's conversion from out wide gave the Raiders a 6-0 lead. Just a matter of minutes later, the Cowboys hit back through Kyle Feldt after he was able to get space on the outside of the Raiders defence before stepping back inside to see the Cowboys score. Valentine Holmes' conversion success rate continued to improve with a sideline conversion from outwide.

The game might have been even on the stats but the scoreboard would tell a different story as the Canberra Raiders would score three tries in quick succession. The second of the Raiders tries came through Emre Guler who ran a good line through the middle of the park after there was a gaping hole for him to run through after Josh Papalii was able to force an offload away and Tom Starling found Guler who scored. The Cowboys defence had already been caught out once and they were caught out again when Jordan Rapana was able to score after the Cowboys right-side defence was caught struggling to man up and the Raiders had a 4-on-2 overlap which they used to success and Rapana scored.

Poor defence in the centre of the park was what cost the Raiders when hooker Tom Starling charged through the middle of the park and found George Williams who coasted away for an easy try. Jarrod Croker added his fourth successful conversion and Canberra lead 24-6. On the stroke of half-time, the Cowboys put some balance back into the scoreboard when Ben Condon was able to chase through a Scott Drinkwater kick to score. Valentine Holmes' conversion pushed the margin back to 12 points.

The Second half has been a problem area for the Raiders over the past few weeks and they were hoping to fix the issues of recent weeks. Things though didn't work out that way for the Raiders as North Queensland started to dominate early on. The home-side crossed just four minutes into the second half when Reece Robson darted from dummy half and was able to get his way down low to score. The conversion from Valentine Holmes pushed the margin back to just six points.

Canberra fans would be left frustrated by the Cowboys equaliser when Justin O'Neill chased through a Scott Drinkwater kick to scores. It was a well worked try by the Cowboys but replays suggested that O'Neill may have been offside on the kick chase with the Bunker electing not to step in and overturn the decision. The Raiders were able to get momentum but despite that a late tackle on Ben Hampton sealed the defeat for Canberra. The decision to take the penalty goal from the Cowboys was the decisive move as Valentine Holmes slotted the conversion to give the Cowboys the lead for the first time.

A string of penalties to the Raiders gave them good field position but they couldn't work the plays to pull off the match-winning play including a poor pass over the sideline that sealed their fate. **Josh Robertson**

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (26) Tries: Kyle Feldt, Ben Condon, Reece Robson, Justin O'Neill; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (4/4); Penalty Goals: Valentine Holmes (1/1)
CANBERRA RAIDERS (24) Tries: Jordan Rapana (2), Emre Guler, George Williams; Conversions: Jarrod Croker (4/4)
Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 13791; Halftime: North Qld 12 Canberra 24; Referee: Peter Gough

MANLY 40 WESTS TIGERS 6

The Manly Sea Eagles have put on a show at Bankwest Stadium following their 40-6 demolition of a poor Wests Tigers side at Bankwest Stadium.

Despite the score line, it was actually the Tigers who were the dominant team across the first half hour of the contest and they opened the scoring after ten minutes when Luciano Leilua crawled his way to a loose ball in the in-goal area after a Luke Brooks kick was deflected. The Tigers actually could've extended their lead just shy of the half-hour mark when David Nofaluma was denied for a clear obstruction when he had the chance to score in the corner instead deciding to come back inside but ran behind Luciano Leilua.

That was a major turning point because from there the Manly just dominated, with Daly Cherry-Evans and Tom Trbojevic starring for the maroon-and-whites. The first of Manly's four-minute treble came when Josh Schuster picked up a loose ball for the Sea Eagles and went through some poor defence before finding DCE who went through to score under the posts relatively untouched.

The fragility of the Wests Tigers middle defence was something that the Sea Eagles continued to exploit when Tom Trbojevic went through some poor defence and found DCE who was backing up in the middle to score untouched again. The Manly third try was almost a repeat of the second when Tom Trbojevic charged through the middle and found Daly Cherry-Evans who was set to score his third until he juggled the ball which gave the Tigers defence the opportunity to catch him so he found the unmarked Martin Taupau to score. Reuben Garrick had no issues converting all three tries from in front.

The Tigers needed to find answers in the second half but they continued to struggle right throughout the second half as the Sea Eagles kept up their dominance. Manly opened the second half scoring through a Reuben Garrick penalty goal to push the lead out to 14 points. The tries soon continued and it was the Tigers weak defence that continued to stutter.

Tom Trbojevic scored the opening try of the half when Daly Cherry-Evans again was able to find space in the Tigers defence and after finding Haumole Olakau'atu backing up, Tom Trbojevic took the final pass to score under the posts.

The edges of the Tigers defence were just as fragile as Manly took advantage with Reuben Garrick strolling over out wide after the Tigers right side were caught napping before Jason Saab flew through the air to score over David Nofaluma. Reuben Garrick's only misses off the boot came from the two tries out wide.

The final try for the Sea Eagles continued the Tigers defensive woes when a massive gap opened up for Kieran Foran to go through and score. Reuben Garrick's conversion pushed the score out to 40-6. **Josh Robertson**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (40) Tries: Daly Cherry-Evans (2), Reuben Garrick, Martin Taupau, Tom Trbojevic, Jason Saab, Kieran Foran; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (5/7); Penalty Goals: Reuben Garrick (1/1)
WESTS TIGERS (6) Tries: Luciano Leilua; Conversions: Adam Doue'ih'i (1/1)
Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Crowd: 14095; Halftime: Wests Tigers 6 Manly 18; Referee: Adam Gee

SYDNEY 34 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 10

A breakout performance from Sam Walker has seen the Sydney Roosters humble the St George Illawarra Dragons 34-10 on ANZAC Day.

Scoring a try, kicking five goals and showing plenty of class with the ball in hand, the 18-year-old halfback defied his inexperience to give the Roosters back-to-back ANZAC Day wins for the first time since 2014.

Despite conceding the first and last tries of the match, the home side - playing in a strip worn by the club during wartime - proved far too strong to post six tries to two in a fixture played before 37,620 supporters at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Denied first points by the bunker after Jack Bird was ruled to have knocked-on in the contest, the Dragons opened the scoring through a powerhouse charge from Tariq Sims (10th minute) close to the try line.

Taking advantage of good field position after Mikaele Ravalawa was placed on report for a shoulder charge on Josh Morris, the Roosters' centre showed no signs of ill effect to put Daniel Tupou (14th minute) over in the corner.

With both sides exchanging sets for much of the first half, the Roosters were able to capitalise on Dragons winger Jordan Pereira being sent to the sin bin for a high shot on James Tedesco.

Wasting little time playing against 12 men, Sitili Tupouniua (34th minute) broke through the Dragons' defence before Walker demonstrated confidence belying his age to send Nat Butcher (39th minute) over on the stroke of halftime.

With Tedesco failing to complete his HIA, Matt Ikuvalu, the second 18th man to be used in the NRL, came into the contest following the resumption of play.

Despite losing Ben Marschke to the sin bin early in the second half, the Roosters continued their dominance with Walker (48th minute) taking on the line and Lindsay Collins (55th minute) charging into a gap created by Sam Verrills in his first match back in the NRL.

Shattering the Dragons' spirits after Joey Manu (66th minute) broke through feeble defence, a late consolation effort from Mikaele Ravalawa (73rd minute) saw the Roosters run out 34-10 victors. **Rob Crosby**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (34) Tries: Sam Walker, Daniel Tupou, Sitili Tupouniua, Nat Butcher, Lindsay Collins, Joseph Manu; **Conversions:** Sam Walker (5/7)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (10) Tries: Tariq Sims, Mikaele Ravalawa; **Conversions:** Zac Lomax (1/2)

Venue: Sydney Cricket Ground; Crowd: 37620; Halftime: Sydney 16 St Geo Illa 6; Referee: Ashley Klein

MELBOURNE 42 WARRIORS 20

Jahrome Hughes has put on an attacking clinic, playing a starring role in the Storm's big 42-20 win on Anzac Day over the Warriors at AAMI Park.

The Storm made their intentions clear from the outset when they scored in just the second minute of the game, off the back of some quick play-the-balls. The scattered Warriors defence were unable to stop the roving Hughes, who made a good break and then grubbered amazingly off the side of his boot to the right wing, where George Jennings regathered and scored with no one near him. Cameron Munster converted from touch. The Warriors hit back 6 minutes later with a short-side play where Josh Curran sent a lovely long ball to Ken Maumalo, who made a wobbly run down the sideline, but stayed infield before diving over to score in the corner. Kodi Nikorima failed to add the extras.

In the 12th minute Josh Curran was given ten minutes in the sin bin for a collision with Jennings, which saw the Storm winger come off for an HIA and failed to return.

The Storm went on an attacking spree shortly after, bagging three tries in six minutes. In the 20th minute Hughes ran to the line and then popped a nice short ball to Felise Kaufusi, who ran into a big gap and scored to the right of the posts. Munster converted. Three minutes later, Hughes was at first receiver on the right side, stepped in towards the posts and then darted back left before passing to Nicho Hynes close to the line and he slammed the ball down for a good try. Munster's conversion attempt hit the upright and was waved away. In the 26th minute Hughes made a break in the middle, 10 metres shy of halfway and then sent a lovely ball to Reimis Smith who raced 25 metres to score in the right corner. Munster again failed to convert from the difficult angle.

The Storm had a try disallowed in the 32nd minute, but weren't to be denied 4 minutes later when some lovely quick passing by Munster, Hughes, Kaufusi and then Hynes, who held up a nice ball for Reimis Smith to score another try. Munster converted the try to give the Storm a 26-4 lead at halftime.

The Warriors scored first in the second half when Wayde Egan at dummy half, threw a ball to Ben Murdoch-Masila, who spun as he caught the ball close to the Storm line and then crashed over next to the posts to score. Nikorima converted. The Storm hit back in the 52nd minute when Justin Olam stormed onto a ball from Hynes at top speed and crashed over for a try. Munster again failed to convert.

Both sides had a try disallowed by the bunker over the next 8 minutes, but the Storm managed to cross again in the 64th minute when a long ball from Munster finds Josh Addo-Carr, who then scored in the left corner. Munster nailed the sideline conversion. Two minutes later and Addo-Carr was in for another try, this time due to his own individual brilliance. He collected a loose pass off the ground and then stood up Roger Tuivasa-Sheck with brilliant footwork and explosive speed, he then changed direction and ran in towards the posts to evade debutant Reece Walsh who can only watch as Addo-Carr scores near the posts. Munster converted. Ken Maumalo snared two late tries in the final five minutes, the last of which was converted by Nikorima to add some respectability to the scoreboard, sort of. Melbourne comfortable winners 42-20.

Andrew Ferguson

MELBOURNE STORM (42) Tries: George Jennings, Felise Kaufusi, Nicholas Hynes, Reimis Smith (2), Justin Olam, Josh Addo-Carr (2); **Conversions:** Cameron Munster (5/8)

WARRIORS (20) Tries: Ken Maumalo (3), Ben Murdoch-Masila; **Conversions:** Kodi Nikorima (2/4)

Venue: AAMI Park; Crowd: 20320; Halftime: Melbourne 26 Warriors 4; Referee: Matt Cecchin

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 7

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	7 - 0 - 0	140	14
2. Parramatta	6 - 0 - 1	101	12
3. South Sydney	6 - 0 - 1	97	12
4. Melbourne	5 - 0 - 2	108	10
5. Sydney	5 - 0 - 2	102	10
6. St Geo Illa	4 - 0 - 3	12	8
7. Gold Coast	3 - 0 - 4	-1	6
8. Canberra	3 - 0 - 4	-14	6
9. Warriors	3 - 0 - 4	-25	6
10. Newcastle	3 - 0 - 4	-33	6
11. Manly	3 - 0 - 4	-51	6
12. North Qld	3 - 0 - 4	-87	6
13. Cronulla	2 - 0 - 5	8	4
14. Wests Tigers	1 - 0 - 6	-104	2
15. Brisbane	1 - 0 - 6	-107	2
16. Canterbury	1 - 0 - 6	-146	2

MATCH REVIEW

Siosifa Talakai	Cronulla	4 matches
Jordan Pereira	St Geo Illa	3 matches
Mikaele Ravalawa	St Geo Illa	2 matches
Mitch Dunn	North Qld	1 match
David Klemmer	Newcastle	\$1600
Moeaki Fotuauka	Gold Coast	\$1350
Tyrell Fuimaono	St Geo Illa	\$1350
Josh Curran	Warriors	\$1350*

* = successful judiciary hearing, charge downgraded

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Penrith v Newcastle
3 points - Nathan Cleary
2 points - Isiah Yeo
1 points - Kurt Mann

Gold Coast v South Sydney
3 points - David Fifita
2 points - Benji Marshall
1 points - Adam Reynolds

Parramatta v Brisbane
3 points - Clinton Gutherson
2 points - Maika Sivo
1 points - Isaiah Papalii

Cronulla v Canterbury
3 points - Luke Thompson
2 points - Dylan Napa
1 points - Will Hopoate

North Queensland v Canberra
3 points - Valentine Holmes
2 points - Scott Drinkwater
1 points - Tom Starling

Wests Tigers v Manly
3 points - Daly Cherry-Evans
2 points - Tom Trbojevic
1 points - Josh Schuster

Sydney 34 St George Illawarra 10
3 points - Sam Walker
2 points - Jared Waerea-Hargreaves
1 points - Joseph Manu

Melbourne 42 Warriors 20
3 points - Jahrome Hughes
2 points - Nicholas Hynes
1 points - Felise Kaufusi

LEADERBOARD

12 points - David Fifita (Titans), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors)
10 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks)
9 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Jarome Luai (Panthers), Nathan Cleary (Panthers)
8 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm)

ROUND 8 April 29 to May 2

SOUTH SYDNEY 34 CANBERRA 20

A strong second half has seen the South Sydney Rabbitohs outlast the Canberra Raiders 34-20 at GIO Stadium on Thursday evening.

Recovering from a 14-16 halftime deficit the visitors showed plenty of class to claim their seventh consecutive win for the first time since 2019, while the Raiders slumped to their fourth straight loss.

Suffering a huge blow mere minutes before kick-off with halfback George Williams ruled out with a groin injury, the Raiders defied an early Adam Reynolds penalty goal to post the first try after fullback Caleb Aekins combined to send Jordan Rapana (7th minute) over in the corner.

The Rabbitohs responded with Benji Marshall firing a beautiful cut-out pass to Alex Johnston (18th minute), before Elliott Whitehead (21st minute) - filling in as captain in the absence of Jarrod Croker - broke the Rabbitohs defence to regain the lead.

Taking advantage of a fumble from Jaxson Paulo in-goal, emerging centre Seb Kris (26th minute) touched down only for Campbell Graham (34th minute) to respond shortly before halftime.

Starting the second half on a positive note with Dane Gagai (45th minute) finishing off a pass from Cody Walker, the Rabbitohs established a ten points lead with Johnston (55th minute) collecting his eighth try in as many matches.

Securing the result on the hour mark with Keano Koloamatangi linking with Jadya Su'A (59th minute) on the right edge, a brilliant run from Curtis Scott to send Rapana (66th minute) over for his second threatened to inspire a comeback from the home side.

Playing against 12 men during the closing stages with Jacob Host sent to the sin bin for a professional foul, Canberra playmaker Jack Wighton was denied two tries for obstructions much to the dismay of the home crowd.

Reynolds concluded proceedings with his seventh successful kick of the night to give the Rabbitohs a deserved 34-20 win.
Rob Crosby

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (34) Tries: Alex Johnston (2), Campbell Graham, Dane Gagai, Jaydn Su'A; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (5/5); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (2/2)
CANBERRA RAIDERS (20) Tries: Jordan Rapana (2), Elliott Whitehead, Sebastian Kris; Conversions: Jordan Rapana (2/4)
Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Crowd: 14260; Halftime: Canberra 16 South Sydney 14; Referee: Ben Cummins

MELBOURNE 40 CRONULLA 14

A hat-trick from Reimis Smith in a second half point avalanche has helped Melbourne Storm to a 40-14 success against a supine Cronulla Sharks side tonight in front of 10,069 fans tonight at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium.

Despite their changes, the Storm machine kept chugging along headlined by centre Reimis Smith's hat-trick in the eight-try success to maintain their spot in the top four on the ladder.

It was the Storm spine which weaved the magic in the second half. Harry Grant's work in his first start at hooker for the season was slick and gave the platform for Jarome Hughes and Cameron Munster to work. Hughes got himself a four-pointer and was involved heavily as they finished on top of the Sharks.

For 40 minutes, it looked like the ambush was on. Sharks led 8-6 at the break, Briton Nikora crossing from a slick Shaun Johnson pass with a pair of goals from Chad Townsend sent the alarm bells ringing for the home side. The Sharks found joy on the edges but again, errors cruelled them.

Once the Storm kicked into gear, the game was headed one way. The home side followed a simple formula for their scores - Tom Eisenhuth and Tui Kamikamica both crossed from short passes - which put the Storm ahead 18-8 quickly after the break.

Enter the Smith - Reimis that is. The former Bulldog got his first hat-trick since 2018 as the Storm piled on the points. All three were from short range but it has showed how quickly the improvement has been under the coaching of Craig Bellamy.

Despite having a series of changes which saw local product Dean Ieremia make his debut and Brandon Smith at lock, the Storm just kept swimming along. Brandon Smith got himself on the scoresheet in probably the most celebrated try in the 67th minute to cap another strong performance.

It has been a horror fortnight for the Sharks. Since the sacking of John Morris, the side has registered three straight losses and see the season rapidly going down the drain. It will take something monumental from interim coach Josh Hannay to turn this around. **Justin Davies**

MELBOURNE STORM (40) Tries: Josh Addo-Carr, Tom Eisenhuth, Tui Kamikamica, Reimis Smith (3), Jarome Hughes, Brandon Smith; Conversions: Cameron Munster (3/7), Nicholas Hynes (0/1); Penalty Goals: Cameron Munster (1/1)
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (14) Tries: Briton Nikora, Connor Tracey; Conversions: Chad Townsend (2/2); Penalty Goals: Chad Townsend (1/1)
Venue: AAMI Park; Crowd: 10069; Halftime: Melbourne 6 Cronulla 8; Referee: Gerard Sutton

BRISBANE 36 GOLD COAST 28

Brisbane have registered their second win of the season after at one stage being down by 22 points in an extraordinary game of rugby league at Suncorp Stadium tonight to win 36-28 over the Titans.

The Broncos were simply blown off the park by their neighbours early conceding four Titans tries before running riot from the back end of the first half to score 6 tries in the definition of a see-sawing affair. Brisbane fullback Jamayne Isaako was the standout for the visitors, amassing 24 points which included 2 tries and 2 assists in a career best performance. Big name forwards Payne Hass and Tevita Pangai were also outstanding for the home side and laid the platform for a potentially season defining win.

All the pre-match hype for the South Queensland derby was surrounding Titans marquee signing David Fifita who came up against his former club and it was the Titans who got off to a dream start, when Ash Taylor provided a lovely deft kick at the line, which saw skipper Kevin Proctor easily collect the ball to score under the posts to get the visitors flying out of the blocks. In horrible scenes for coach Kevin Walters, the Broncos then gave away a penalty off the kickoff, when Jamayne Isaako kicked the ball dead from the re-start. Jamal Fogarty then drifted across field on the last and placed a beautiful kick out wide for his winger Corey Thompson who scored to extend the visitors lead to 10-0 in as many minutes. Gold Coast again marched up field and it was Fogarty again with a neat kick on the last which this time found a flying AJ Brimson to score the third try of the night to make it 16-0 following Fogarty's easy conversion.

The Titans continued the rampage just minutes later when Brimson and Tyrone Peachey then combined in the middle of the field, which led to Peachey racing away to embarrass the home side and extend their dominance to a 22-0 lead. The Broncos then finally came to the party, when centre Herbie Farnworth blew past a few Titans would-be defenders to finally get his side on the scoreboard after a dire opening 20 minutes. Isaako thankfully nailed the conversion from the sideline to give the Broncos a pulse. Pulses of the home crowd were then racing when Brisbane five-eighth Anthony Milford laid on a superb pass for Isaako off a set piece and the Broncos out of nowhere were back in the game with back-to-back tries narrowing the Titans lead to 22-12. The game then turned on its head when AJ Brimson then was then sent to the Sin Bin, after Tyson Gamble made a break and Brimson couldn't resist in making a second effort in slowing down the play the ball. Xavier Coates then made the extra man advantage count, when he scored the Broncos third just before the break. This was followed by Broncos backrower Tevita Pangai Jr creating a chance down the right hand side. The big forward then found Isaako backing up on the inside to score and incredibly get the game back on an even keel at 22 all at halftime.

Brisbane then hit the front after the break when Corey Oates snatched an intercept off Ash Taylor with the rangy winger racing the length of the field to score a superb try. The Broncos then scored again when Jesse Arthurs scored in the corner after a set play from Gamble and Isaako. Jamal Fogarty then made a crucial error by floating a Titans dropout over the sideline on the full. Jamayne Isaako took the two points on offer to make it 36-22 with less than 20 to go. The Titans were then sensationally denied two tries by the Video Referee before hooker Mitch Rein darted out of dummy half to just scrape the tryline and narrow the lead to 36-28. Incredibly the Titans were again denied by the Video Referee for a third time when David Fifita (who was denied twice), grounded the ball on the dead ball line from a Mitch Rein bat back. The decision summed up the second half for the visitors, where they just couldn't find any luck to claw their way back into the match, eventually going down 36-28. **Sam Bourke**

BRISBANE BRONCOS (36) Tries: Herbie Farnworth, Jamayne Isaako (2), Xavier Coates, Corey Oates, Jesse Arthurs; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (5/5); Penalty Goals: Jamayne Isaako (1/1)
GOLD COAST TITANS (28) Tries: Kevin Proctor, Corey Thompson, Alexander Brimson, Tyrone Peachey, Mitch Rein; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (4/5)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 21322; Halftime: Brisbane 22 Gold Coast 22; Referee: Adam Gee

PENRITH 28 MANLY 16

Penrith won their 8th straight game to start the season for the first time in their history after an impressive performance against a spirited Manly outfit, finishing 28-16 winners in Bathurst.

Perfect conditions met both sides when they ran out on Carrington Park on Saturday and after several set restarts in the opening 4 minutes, it was Manly who opened the scoring in the fifth minute off the boot of Reuben Garrick who kicked a penalty goal.

Four minutes later, Manly were pressing again, when they put up a kick to the Panthers left corner, where Dylan Edwards took the ball cleanly. Edwards then passed to Brian To'o, who ducked under one tackle and barged out of another before kicking over the top, where he found Edwards following through, receiving a lovely bounce and he scored under the posts. Nathan Cleary converted.

Penrith scored again just 2 minutes later, when they spread the ball left to Jarome Luai, who threw a gorgeous long ball to To'o who scored untouched in the corner. Cleary's sideline conversion attempt was waved away.

In the 25th minute Penrith were on the attack again, when on the last tackle they sent the ball left where Luai linked with James Fisher-Harris, who is tackled before managing to get an offload away, however it was intercepted by Tom Trbojevic who then ran 70 metres to score. Garrick failed to convert from the awkward angle.

Penrith responded just 7 minutes later when Cleary dummied long and then dished a short ball to the lead runner Liam Martin, who hit the gap on the right and he slipped through to score. Cleary added the extras to give Penrith a 16-6 lead which they took to the break.

Manly opened the scoring just 6 minutes after the break to make it clear that they weren't going away quietly. Daly Cherry-Evans grubbered and the ball hit the padding of the upright. The ball bounced backwards off Tom Trbojevic and Cherry-Evans followed through, cleaned up and scored under the posts. Cherry-Evans converted his own try, reducing the deficit to 4 points.

Manly had 4 straight sets camped on the Penrith line but could not crack them. Penrith's first set attacking the Manly line after their impressive defensive effort and they scored when Cleary drifted to the left and grubbered through the line. Tyrone May followed the kick through and grounded the ball for a try to the left of the sticks. Cleary converted.

With 7 minutes remaining in the game, Manly clawed their way back into the match when Jason Saab scored a brilliant runaway try, racing 75 metres to score untouched. Cherry-Evans failed to convert.

Penrith put the game beyond doubt with just 3 minutes remaining when Edwards grubbered into the Manly in-goal and Liam Martin flew through and batted the ball back into the field of play where it landed at the feet of Stephen Crichton who planted it for an amazing try. Cleary converted to give the Panthers an impressive 28-16 victory. **Andrew Ferguson**

PENRITH PANTHERS (28) Tries: Dylan Edwards, Brian To'o, Liam Martin, Stephen Crichton, Tyrone May; Field Goals: Stephen Crichton (0/1); Conversions: Nathan Cleary (4/5)

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (16) Tries: Tom Trbojevic, Daly Cherry-Evans, Jason Saab; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (0/1), Daly Cherry-Evans (1/2); Penalty Goals: Reuben Garrick (1/1) Venue: Carrington Park, Bathurst; Crowd: 5798; Halftime: Penrith 16 Manly 6; Referee: Ashley Klein

PARRAMATTA 32 CANTERBURY 10

The Parramatta Eels stormed to a big 32-10 win over the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs at Stadium Australia, but it may have come at a cost, losing lock forward Nathan Brown to injury.

Brown limped off in the first half after crumbling to the ground when running back in cover defence.

The initial diagnosis is a potential hip pointer injury with the extent of the issue unknown at this point.

Brown is off-contract at the end of the year, making any potential injury a cruel setback for his immediate future.

The Bulldogs also lost Dylan Napa, who failed to finish the game after picking up a suspected shoulder injury.

For the time being though the Eels are charging towards another top-four finish this season, running riot against the Bulldogs who failed to back up last week's effort against Cronulla.

Reed Mahoney was brilliant early, scheming out of dummy-half to set up fullback Clinton Gutherson.

The return of Ryan Matterson could not knock Isaiah Papali'i out of the starting side and he played a crucial role in the next try, attracting defenders with a strong run before hurling the ball to Maika Sivo who charged over.

The Bulldogs were brave defending their own goal in their last-start win over the Sharks but that resilience was non-existent as Gutherson stepped back inside to score Parramatta's third.

Any chance of a fightback from Trent Barrett's men appeared to have been quickly extinguished when Bryce Cartwright caught a Mitchell Moses kick and sent Shaun Lane over in the 42nd minute.

Jake Averillo though hit back with the home side's first try when he stepped past Dylan Brown and Mahoney to score in the 48th minute.

The Bulldogs suddenly came to life, running with energy and tackling with intent.

It then translated to more points as Dallin Watene-Zelezniak went over out wide.

A charging run from Sivo and six-again call proved costly for the Bulldogs shortly after though, seeing Cartwright put Marata Niukore over.

The slick Eels put Sivo over for his second in the 68th minute, this time Gutherson providing the tap-on pass. **Andrew Jackson**

PARRAMATTA EELS (32) Tries: Clinton Gutherson (2), Maika Sivo (2), Shaun Lane, Marata Niukore; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (4/6)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (10) Tries: Jake Averillo, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak; Conversions: Kyle Flanagan (1/2) Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 13273; Halftime: Canterbury 0 Parramatta 16; Referee: Peter Gough

SYDNEY 38 NEWCASTLE 4

Sam Walker has stolen the show in a big Roosters win over Newcastle tonight at McDonald Jones Stadium, the Tricolours 38-4 victors on a night centre Josh Morris bagged a hat-trick.

While the Roosters won big to maintain their status among the top group of premiership heavyweights - minus injured star James Tedesco no less - they have more injury drama to contend with, both Brett Morris and Lindsay Collins being carried off late in the contest.

For Newcastle, the loss keeps them firmly outside the top eight, sitting in tenth place after eight rounds. They looked like they could overturn a slow start close to halftime after Brayden Musgrove posted what would be the side's only points.

Trailing 20-4 at the break, the Knights showed little resolve upon play resuming - tries either side of the hour mark ensuring the home team would have no sniff of a comeback win.

Tricolours fans would've been impressed with their side's start, with only some patchy early goalkicking from Walker slowing the side's chances of beating the clock over the first 20 minutes. Daniel Tupou opened the scoring out wide up first before Josh Morris, Angus Crichton and Matt Ikuvalu all got in on the action, beating some fairly ordinary Newcastle defence to post a strong early lead.

While the Musgrove try gave the Novocastrians some kind of hope, the second half saw much of the same in terms of sketchy Newcastle defence. Ultimately the away side grabbed tries through Walker and Josh Morris to push the lead out to 28 points and were well and truly home.

It was then that the Roosters' injury crisis deepened - already missing a swathe of key players, both Collins and Brett Morris hobbled off in the last ten. The medical department at Bondi will no doubt have their work cut out for them ahead of their side's visit to Bankwest Stadium next Friday.

Newcastle on the other hand will need to regroup before heading out west - south-west in fact, as they visit the Raiders' home-away-from-home in Wagga Wagga next Saturday afternoon. While another loss isn't ideal, they're certainly still within reach of the eight and will want to take advantage of a Raiders side who are also struggling for form. **Tim Costello**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (38) Tries: Daniel Tupou, Sam Walker, Josh Morris (3), Angus Crichton, Matt Ikuvalu; Conversions: Sam Walker (5/7)

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (4) Tries: Brayden Musgrove; Conversions: Kalyn Ponga (0/1)

Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 22172; Halftime: Newcastle 4 Sydney 20; Referee: Matt Cecchin

WARRIORS 24 NORTH QUEENSLAND 20

A genuine game of two halves. The Warriors dominated the first half before a resurgent Cowboys went very close to running them down in the second. The hosts ultimately won 24-20.

The Warriors were denied a try in the third minute when Josh Curran knocked on over the line. They weren't to be denied 5 minutes later though when Roger Tuivasa-Sheck changed direction 30 metres from the Cowboys line, running from the left edge to the middle. He then passed to Kodi Nikorima who drifted right, shaped to send out a long ball and then slipped into a gap in the Cowboys line before racing away to score on the right side. Nikorima converted his own try.

Five minutes later and Nikorima struck again, this time taking the ball to the line on the right before hitting Tuivasa-Sheck at pace with a lovely ball. The Warriors fullback set sail for the red corner before passing back inside to Rocco Berry who scored a good debut try. Nikorima failed to convert from the wide angle. A late and high challenge on Reece Walsh after he kicked by Coen Hess gave the Warriors a penalty and Nikorima slotted a penalty goal. In the 16th minute. The Warriors scored yet again from the next set, after Walsh got caught on the last after trying to dance his way past the defence. He was caught but offloaded to no one, however the ball was picked up by Tohu Harris, who dishes it out the back quickly to Nikorima, who made a break ever so easily, found Walsh in support who was caught 3 metres shy of the line, but managed to flick an offload to Ben Murdoch-Masila and he scored under the posts. Nikorima added the extras.

The Cowboys finally got on the board in the 32nd minute when Reece Robson crashed over from dummy after selling a dummy that half the Warriors side fell for. Holmes failed to convert from out wide. Right on halftime the Warriors scored yet again when Nikorima linked with Walsh who then hit Curran with a short ball. He then passed on quickly to Adam Pompey who hit a gap at speed and ran away to score under the posts. Nikorima converted and the Warriors lead 24-4 at the break.

The Cowboys opened the scoring seven minutes into the second half when Scott Drinkwater put in a deft grubber to the left corner and Murray Taulagi got a nice bounce and he planted the ball just before the dead ball line. Holmes converted from touch. Cowboys trailed by 14.

The Cowboys scored from the next set after they sent the ball left before Taulagi gets put into space, where he positions his inside man nicely and times a lovely ball back inside to Drinkwater who ran 30 metres to score. Holmes converted again and the Cowboys reduced the deficit from 20 points to 8 in the space of 4 minutes. Walsh very nearly set up an impressive try for Ken Maumalo but it was denied due to a knock on in the lead-up. Eight minutes later Walsh made a break and ran 30 metres before stumbling as he approached Holmes, he got to his feet but his attempt to pass to a support player went well forward.

In the 65th minute the Cowboys crossed yet again when they sent the ball left where Holmes held up a nice ball for Taulagi who scored untouched in the corner. Holmes was unable to convert. The Cowboys and Warriors struggled to complete their sets or put any pressure on either side in the remaining 10 minutes and the Warriors held on to a grim 4 point victory.
Andrew Ferguson

WARRIORS (24) Tries: Kodi Nikorima, Rocco Berry, Ben Murdoch-Masila, Adam Pompey; Conversions: Kodi Nikorima (3/4); Penalty Goals: Kodi Nikorima (1/1)
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (20) Tries: Reece Robson, Murray Taulagi (2), Scott Drinkwater; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (2/4)
Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Crowd: 3692; Halftime: Warriors 24 North Qld 4; Referee: Chris Butler

WESTS TIGERS 16 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 8

Adam Doueihii was at the centre of it all as the Wests Tigers recorded their first win since round three against Newcastle, today downing the Dragons 16-8 at WIN Stadium.

The Tigers proved to be too good in the end for St George Illawarra on Sunday afternoon in Wollongong. It was a game in which the Dragons would've been expecting to come away with the two points, especially given the Tigers performance last week against the Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles. The loss extends the Dragons' current losing streak to three games now and they'll view it as a missed opportunity to establish themselves in sixth place and now are on the same points as the seventh placed Warriors. It was the perfect start for the home team, with rookie winger Cody Ramsey scoring in the eighth minute. The try would've had Tigers' fans moaning all over the country and preparing for what looked like it was going to be another tough afternoon for the joint venture. The Tigers looked non-threatening in the opening half. An earlier penalty goal allowed the Dragons to lead by six for the first twenty-odd minutes of the clash until the Tigers struck back thanks to a nice bit of work from David Nofoaluma, who batted back a Luke Brooks bomb to Tommy Talau, who strolled over untouched to level the scores. It only took the Dragons five minutes after that to take back the lead, after the ill-disciplined Tigers gave another penalty away in front of their goals which Corey Norman converted with ease. The remainder of the half was quite underwhelming and to be honest, wasn't the greatest half of football we've seen this year - nonetheless the Dragons entered break with a two point lead. It did feel like they'd missed an opportunity to pile more points on the Tigers who coughed the ball up five times and gave away a further six combined penalties and set restarts. St George Illawarra also failed to capitalise on the wind that they were playing with behind their back and it felt like they've left the door open for the visitors to come back in the second half.

The second half began in empathic fashion for the Tigers, who thought they'd scored earlier on in the half through debutant Zac Cini but it was ruled a knock-on in the aerial contest. However, it was only a few moments later that Cini would get another chance to score his first NRL try after capitalising from a scrum just 10 metres out from their own try line. It will be a special memory from the debutant who scored in front of his home-town mates in what was an impressive debut. The Tigers started to get the ball moving after they took the lead. The Red V did well to hang on at stages during the second half, but the away team were too strong through the middle, thanks to their outside backs and an extremely good 20-minute stint from Thomas Miale who ran for 68 metres - half of those post-contact - and was able to offload twice whilst also breaking two tackles. The Dragons had no answers for the Tigers once they'd taken the lead, and where the visiting side were able to clean up their act in the second half, the Dragons failed to do so - making eight errors and giving away five penalties in the second half.

It wasn't until the 65th minute when Joey Leilua scored for the Tigers that it felt like the game was out of reach for the home side. Daine Laurie did a brilliant job to isolate Leilua one-on-one with Jack Bird in their own 10 metres and Leilua shrugged Bird's attempted tackle as he cruised over to extend the Tigers lead. The successful conversion made it a two score lead which seemed to be enough to put the Dragons to bed. Ahead by eight, they managed the game well in the closing stages, Luke Brooks able to come up with a repeat set late in the game and Doueihii was excellent kicking into the corners. **Lachy MacCorquodale**

WESTS TIGERS (16) Tries: Tommy Talau, Zac Cini, Joseph Leilua; Conversions: Adam Doueihii (2/3); Penalty Goals: Adam Doueihii (0/1)
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (8) Tries: Cody Ramsey; Conversions: Zac Lomax (0/1); Penalty Goals: Zac Lomax (1/1), Corey Norman (1/1)
Venue: WIN Stadium; Crowd: 12323; Halftime: St Geo Illa 8 Wests Tigers 6; Referee: Chris Sutton

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 8

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	8 - 0 - 0	152	16
2. Parramatta	7 - 0 - 1	123	14
3. South Sydney	7 - 0 - 1	111	14
4. Sydney	6 - 0 - 2	136	12
5. Melbourne	6 - 0 - 2	134	12
6. St Geo Illa	4 - 0 - 4	4	8
7. Warriors	4 - 0 - 4	-21	8
8. Gold Coast	3 - 0 - 5	-9	6
9. Canberra	3 - 0 - 5	-28	6
10. Manly	3 - 0 - 5	-63	6
11. Newcastle	3 - 0 - 5	-67	6
12. North Qld	3 - 0 - 5	-91	6
13. Cronulla	2 - 0 - 6	-18	4
14. Wests Tigers	2 - 0 - 6	-96	4
15. Brisbane	2 - 0 - 6	-99	4
16. Canterbury	1 - 0 - 7	-168	2

MATCH REVIEW

Sitili Tupouniua	Sydney	1 match
Tommy Talau	Wests Tigers	1 match
Matt Ikuvalu	Sydney	\$1700
Jordan Riki	Brisbane	\$1350
Coen Hess	North Qld	\$1350
Matt Lodge	Brisbane	\$1150
Matt Burton	Penrith	\$1150
Ava Seumanufagai	Canterbury	\$750

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Canberra v South Sydney
3 points - Keaton Koloamatangi
2 points - Cody Walker
1 points - Caleb Aekins

Melbourne v Cronulla
3 points - Harry Grant
2 points - Tui Kamikamica
1 points - Jahrome Hughes

Brisbane v Gold Coast
3 points - Jamayne Isaako
2 points - Payne Haas
1 points - Tyrone Peachey

Penrith v Manly
3 points - Nathan Cleary
2 points - Dylan Edwards
1 points - Tom Trbojevic

Canterbury v Parramatta
3 points - Clinton Gutherson
2 points - Isaiah Papali'i
1 points - Reed Mahoney

Newcastle v Sydney
3 points - Sam Walker
2 points - Josh Morris
1 points - Angus Crichton

Warriors v North Queensland
3 points - Kodi Nikorima
2 points - Scott Drinkwater
1 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck

St George Illawarra v Wests Tigers
3 points - Adam Doueihii
2 points - Daine Laurie
1 points - David Nofoaluma

LEADERBOARD

13 points: Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors)
12 points: Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Nathan Cleary (Panthers), David Fifita (Titans)
10 points: Will Kennedy (Sharks)
9 points: Sam Walker (Roosters), Jarome Luai (Panthers)

ROUND 9 May 6 to 9

MELBOURNE 50 SOUTH SYDNEY 0

The Melbourne Storm have eviscerated the South Sydney Rabbitohs 50-0 in a match where Josh Addo-Carr became the first player in 71 years to score six tries in first grade

Equalling the record set by Newtown winger Jack Troy in 1950, the man affectionately known as 'The Foxx' had a night to remember as the Storm posted 10 tries in a match played before 7,501 supporters at Stadium Australia.

Weathering an early Rabbitohs' attacking raid that almost led to points only for Cody Walker's pass to Alex Johnston to be ruled forward, a skilful left foot kick from Justin Olam allowed Addo-Carr (11th minute) to open the scoring.

Taking advantage of a seven-tackle set, Nicho Hynes broke through the Rabbitohs' defence before linking with Addo-Carr (22nd minute) who used the wet conditions to slide over for his second.

Breaking their opponents resolve with Cameron Munster and Harry Grant combining from inside their own half to put Addo-Carr (27th minute) over for his third of the night, a strip from Munster enabled Jahrome Hughes (31st minute) to sprint 50 metres with barely a hand laid on him...

Following in the footsteps of Ryan Papenhuyzen earlier this season with four first half tries, Addo-Carr (39th minute) completed a left side shift to send the Storm to the sheds up 26-0.

Continuing the rout following the resumption of play, Brandon Smith (46th minute) powered over with a great burst that exposed the Rabbitohs' retreating defence, while a beautiful cut-out ball from Hughes allowed George Jennings (50th minute) to get on the scoresheet minutes later.

Taking the score past 40 with Jennings (57th minute) bagging his second, Addo-Carr (67th minute) created history by becoming the first Melbourne Storm player to score five tries in a match.

Completing the ten-try demolition as it began, Addo-Carr (72nd minute) scored in the corner to bring up the final 50-0 scoreline. **Rob Crosby**

MELBOURNE STORM (50) Tries: Josh Addo-Carr (6), Jahrome Hughes, Brandon Smith, George Jennings (2); **Conversions:** Cameron Munster (5/10)

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (0)

Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 7501; Halftime: South Sydney 0 Melbourne 26; Referee: Grant Atkins

PENRITH 48 CRONULLA 0

Penrith Panthers continued their perfect start to the 2021 NRL season with a 48-nil thumping of the listless Cronulla Sharks tonight at Penrith Stadium.

The Panthers flexed their Premiership credentials again with an eight tries to none thrashing of the Sharks. Youngster Charlie Staines scored a hat-trick to make it seven tries in three games against them and again, another fantastic night at the foot of the mountains.

Through the first 160 minutes of Round 9, both last year's Grand Finalists have shown their desire to tangle once again in the big dance. From the first hit up by James Fisher-Harris, the Panthers showed no mercy against the toothless Sharks.

It was another fine performance from the Panthers halves - Nathan Cleary and Jarome Luai - who orchestrated the demolition. Cleary showed off with some fantastic no-look passes to help the Panthers to a 24-nil half-time lead.

Known as the Forbes Ferrari, Charlie Staines has a knack of four-pointers against the Sharks. He debuted in spectacular fashion, scoring four tries at Kogarah Oval last season, his mates cheering on put on another match race tonight. His three tries all came from simple and structured plays before the youngster burned his defender to cost his local pub - The Post Office hotel - in Forbes more schnooners.

Fisher-Harris was an unlikely first try scorer when he barged over from a Apisai Koroisau short ball but it set the tone for the first half. Next, it was the Panthers backline who got involved in the points. Staines crossing before Stephen Crichton back in his favoured centre position mopped up for 18-nil. Half turned centre Matt Burton swept onto the ball to make it 24-nil at the break.

In the second half, the Panthers kept getting stronger while the Sharks surrendered from their first set. They looked for the sideline, the dead-ball line anywhere which would help them inch closer to the full-time siren. The home side didn't want the Friday night lights to go out as they continue to pack out Penrith stadium and treat their fans to some first class football each week.

2021 looks to be a gap year for the Sharks after John Morris' dismissal. There was no energy in the side who never looked like troubling the scorers and it showed with interim coach Josh Hannay hooking Chad Townsend midway through the second half. Now, they need to find something to salvage anything and appease their fanbase who are rightfully unamused.

Second half tries for Staines to complete his hat-trick alongside Villiame Kikau getting a generous call from the bunker alongside a first four-pointer in Panthers colours for Matt Eisenhuth completed the 48-nil scoreline. Nathan Cleary also put on a goal-kicking clinic potted eight from eight to motor up the top pointscorer ladder.

That also makes it 14 straight wins at home for Penrith and takes their regular season winning streak to 24 games. It will take something spectacular to beat the defending Minor Premiers who round off Magic Round next weekend against the inconsistent Gold Coast Titans. **Justin Davies**

PENRITH PANTHERS (48) Tries: James Fisher-Harris, Charlie Staines (3), Stephen Crichton, Matt Burton, Villiame Kikau, Matthew Eisenhuth; **Conversions:** Nathan Cleary (8/8)

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (0)

Venue: BlueBet Stadium; Crowd: 16110; Halftime: Penrith 24 Cronulla 0; Referee: Chris Butler

PARRAMATTA 31 SYDNEY 18

Parramatta have defeated a resilient Roosters side by 31-18 in a brutal match at Bankwest Stadium tonight.

The match was overshadowed by several incidents that the Match Review Committee will be busy investigating tomorrow morning, with Eels stars Dylan Brown and Marata Niukore sure to be the most nervous. Both players are likely to be charged in the lead up to a disallowed try at halftime by Roosters five-eighth Drew Hutchinson. Hutchinson copped knees in the back from Brown and was immediately rushed to hospital with broken ribs and a suspected punctured lung. Niukore also collected James Tedesco high in the lead up, along with a suspected shoulder charge which luckily for the home side only led to a penalty. Both sides earlier lost key players to head injury assessments, with Eels hooker Reed Mahoney coming off second best in defence, which was offset by the Roosters losing Victor Radley in the similar circumstances. The Tricolours were welcoming back their superstar fullback James Tedesco, who managed to make an immediate impact when he found some space down the right-hand side and produced a superb pass for Matt Ikuvalu, who managed a spectacular touch down to open the scoring and the Roosters jumped out 4-0 lead. Parramatta has managed to turn Bankwest Stadium into a fortress in recent times and they predictably hit back, when Mitchell Moses kicked across field for his backrower in Ryan Matterson. Matterson made the catch and shifted the ball wide to Blake Ferguson who showed tremendous strength to carry two Roosters defenders over the line in the corner to score. Moses converted from out wide and the Eels lead 6-4 after 20 minutes.

Parramatta looked likely again minutes later, before they put down a loose pass and the ball was picked up by Roosters backrower Nat Butcher, who managed to find Ikuvalu in support. The Roosters winger then accelerated away from the Eels cover defence to score under the posts and regain the lead for the visitors. The Eels then regained the lead when Mitchell Moses kicked again for Matterson on the last and he then produces a neat offload for super sub Bryce Cartwright who scooped up the pass and slam the ball down for a try just minutes after entering the field of play. Parramatta then kicked away when hooker Reed Mahoney darted out of dummy half close to the line and put on an old school run around play with his prop Junior Paulo which saw Cartwright steam onto the ball to score his second try. Moses converted and the Eels lead 18-10 and looked to have the match in their control. Minutes before the half time break however the Roosters looked to have scored through five-eighth Drew Hutchison, however replays showed a knock on in the lead up. The Tricolours didn't come away empty handed with Eels centre Marata Niukore penalised for a shoulder charge on Tedesco, which will surely come under more scrutiny this week. With Hutchison assisted from the field, Adam Keighran kicked the penalty goal to narrow the Parramatta lead to 18-12 at the break.

It was a shocking start to the second half from the Roosters, when two try hero Matt Ikuvalu turned villain, when he dropped a Moses bomb and Tom Opacic collected the loose ball for a gift wrapped try to score next to the posts to extend the Eels lead 24-12. The Roosters needed something special to get back into the match and they got just that, when Ikuvalu scored his hat trick, after rookie number seven Sam Walker threw a superb floating pass over the top of hit the stocky winger on the chest for him to score in the corner. Keighran then nailed the conversion from the sideline and the Roosters revival was on with 15 minutes remaining. Parramatta just couldn't manage to put the resilient Roosters away until with six minutes remaining, Moses kicked a field goal to give his side a seven-point lead. Minutes later they well and truly iced the match when Dylan Brown stepped through a number of exhausted defenders clinching a brutal victory. **Sam Bourke**

PARRAMATTA EELS (31) Tries: Blake Ferguson, Bryce Cartwright (2), Tom Opacic, Dylan Brown; **Field Goals:** Mitchell Moses (1/1); **Conversions:** Mitchell Moses (5/5)

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (18) Tries: Matt Ikuvalu (3); **Conversions:** Sam Walker (1/2), Adam Keighran (1/1); **Penalty Goals:** Adam Keighran (1/1)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Crowd: 25118; Halftime: Parramatta 18 Sydney 12; Referee: Matt Cecchin

NEWCASTLE 24 CANBERRA 16

Newcastle Knights won the battle of the struggling sides, 24-16 against Canberra Raiders in Wagga Wagga this afternoon.

It was billed as desperation stakes between two struggling sides and it showed in the game tonight. Newcastle scored 24 straight points to overcome a Canberra side rapidly running out of excuses for their fadeouts this season.

The old saying goes it was a game of two halves but this game was dictionary definition of the phrase. Canberra strode out a 16-nil lead and looked ready to go back into the top eight before a Ponga powered comeback helped Newcastle to their first win in three weeks.

Canberra have been accused of coming out dreaming after half-time but being caught from the kick-off from a Ponga kick is another level. Connor Watson sent a nice pass to youngster Phoenix Crossland to make it 16-6.

From there, the Knights just surged back into the contest. Ponga went himself to make it 16-12 then Tyson Frizell became a one-man wrecking crew to put the Knights ahead for the first time on 68 minutes. Captain Jayden Brailey put the stamp on the comeback with his late four-pointer off Ponga for the 24-16 scoreline.

In the first half, the Raiders were in ominous form. Josh Papali'i was striding through the middle and found plenty of space. That allowed George Williams to unfurl some magnificent passes including the opener to Bailey Simonsson to make it 6-nil.

Williams had his kicking boots on tonight. He kicked well in general play alongside his four goals to dominate the first half. Williams has been subject to attention for wanting to return home to his pregnant girlfriend in England but the halfback was dialed in tonight.

Jordan Rapana helped the Raiders to build on their dominant first half. The winger drifted across field for Joseph Tapine to steam onto the ball for the Green Machine's first four-pointer of the game in the 31st minute. It was the perfect antidote after some social media issues post-match last weekend.

That makes five straight losses for the Raiders. The one-time Premiership contender have fallen in a heap in the last month or so, and it will take a mammoth effort from coach Ricky Stuart to get his side into the top eight again, this season.

For the Knights, it was a welcome relief today. Coach Adam O'Brien has been under the blowtorch and it was dialing up after their torrid first half but the Knights exploited the Raiders second half foibles to move into eighth position - for now.

Justin Davies

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (24) Tries: Phoenix Crossland, Kalyn Ponga, Tyson Frizell, Jayden Brailey; Conversions: Kalyn Ponga (4/4)

CANBERRA RAIDERS (16) Tries: Joseph Tapine, Bailey Simonsson; Conversions: George Williams (2/2); Penalty Goals: George Williams (2/2)

Venue: McDonalds Park; Crowd: 6642; Halftime: Canberra 16 Newcastle 0; Referee: Adam Gee

GOLD COAST 36 WESTS TIGERS 28

The Titans opened the scoring in the 7th minute when Tanah Boyd put in a grubber, the Tigers defenders fall over like skittles and Philip Sami scored in the corner. Jamal Fogarty converted.

On the first tackle from the kick-off AJ Brimson made a break from his own line, gets to halfway and passes to Tyrone Peachey who raced 45 metres to score. Fogarty converted from in front.

A minute later, David Fifita spins out of a tackle on halfway, passed to Brian Kelly who raced away to score. Fogarty added the extras and the Titans lead 18-0 after 14 minutes.

The Tigers finally got on the board in the 20th minute with a nice play off the back of a scrum, which ended with Joey Leilua running a strong straight line, to barge over and score a try. Adam Doueihi converted the try.

The Tigers continued the fightback a few minutes later when Jake Simpkin barged over from dummy half, and just got the ball down for a try. Doueihi added the conversion to get the Tigers within 6 points of the Cowboys.

The Titans took just two minutes to reply, when Anthony Don casually caught a bomb, despite being surrounded by Tigers defenders. Don then got an offload over the top to Beau Fermor who was unmarked on the wing and he scored in the corner. Fogarty nailed the sideline conversion to give the Titans a 24-12 lead at halftime.

Gold Coast continued the scoring in the second half when Philip Sami scored in the left corner after a great breakaway against the run of play in the previous tackle.

In the 65th minute Tanah Boyd scored an opportunistic try after the ball got soccered around several times in the lead up. Fogarty converted.

Then along came David Nofualuma. In the space of 3 minutes the Tigers winger bagged two tries to keep the game alive. In the 69th minute James Tamou forced a knock on and then earned his side a penalty, Nofualuma took a quick tap 20m from the Titans' line and scored under the posts. Doueihi converted.

The Tigers were on the attack again just 2 minutes later where Doueihi held up a lovely long ball to Nofualuma who scored in the corner. Doueihi again converted from out wide, to reduce the Tigers deficit to 12 points.

With just a minute left, Adam Doueihi crossed for a well-deserved try, however it was too little too late as the Titans won 36-28. **Andrew Ferguson**

GOLD COAST TITANS (36) Tries: Phillip Sami (2), Tyrone Peachey, Brian Kelly, Beau Fermor, Tanah Boyd; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (6/6)

WESTS TIGERS (28) Tries: Joseph Leilua, Adam Doueihi, Jake Simpkin, David Nofualuma (2); Conversions: Adam Doueihi (4/5) Venue: Campbelltown Stadium; Crowd: 8411; Halftime: Wests Tigers 12 Gold Coast 24; Referee: Ashley Klein

NORTH QUEENSLAND 19 BRISBANE 18

The North Queensland Cowboys have turned back the clock as they managed to take a 19-18 victory over the Brisbane Broncos at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

The game looked as if it was going to be a high scoring affair early on and in an eventful night it was the first try from Kyle Feldt that left many in awe and questioning how. Feldt looked to have been wrapped up completely in a tackle before an elastic arm came out to ground the ball.

The Broncos hit back just one set later when Xavier Coates got over the line after some deception from Jamayne Isaako to draw in defenders before finding Coates who scored. Isaako converting from out wide levelled the scores at 6-6.

Both sides came under pressure but it was the Broncos who came closest next when Thomas Flegler was held up short of the line after the Cowboys didn't want anything to do with an Anthony Milford bomb and a Tevita Pangai junior miracle offload sent Flegler close. The Broncos though were the next to get over the line when Rhys Kennedy went over after Tyson Gamble deceived the defence into thinking he was going out the back instead of the short ball which sent Kennedy over. Isaako converted to give the Broncos a 12-6 lead.

On the stroke of halftime, the Broncos were lucky not to go down to 12 men as Matt Lodge slowed play down and the Cowboys took the penalty goal to close the score to 12-8 at the break.

The second half saw the Cowboys have some more dominance and they scored fifteen minutes into the second half when Scott Drinkwater was able to dink a little kick through and Connelly Lemuelu chased through to the ball and got it first. Valentine Holmes couldn't put the Cowboys into the lead with his conversion attempt.

Brisbane weren't going to go down without throwing another punch and creating something out of nothing the Broncos were able to cross through Jesse Arthars. Jamayne Isaako put the conversion over from 9m in from touch to give the Broncos a six-point lead.

Errors cost the Cowboys good field position but eventually the pressure they applied became too much when Jason Taumalolo charged his way over the line to score under the posts and the Cowboys were back level.

Valentine Holmes became the hero for the Cowboys as he sealed the match-winning field goal but it wasn't a conventional lead up for the North Queenslanders who initially set up for Jake Clifford to kick the one-pointer but he juggled the ball and it was left to Holmes to seal the game.

Both sides will have a nervous wait before Magic Round with no less than 5 players put on report by referee Chris Sutton for varying incidents throughout the contest. **Josh Robertson**

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (19) Tries: Kyle Feldt, Connelly Lemuelu, Jason Taumalolo; Field Goals: Valentine Holmes (1/1); Conversions: Valentine Holmes (2/3); Penalty Goals: Valentine Holmes (1/1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (18) Tries: Xavier Coates, Rhys Kennedy, Jesse Arthars; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (3/3)

Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 22222; Halftime: North Qld 8 Brisbane 12; Referee: Chris Sutton

MANLY 38 WARRIORS 32

The Manly Warringah Sea Eagles have come back from an 8 point half-time deficit to defeat the New Zealand Warriors by the unique scoreline of 38-32.

The tone was set for a high scoring game when Chanel Harris-Tavita scored for the Warriors just 4 minutes into his return from injury. Kodi Nikorima didn't see anything on the left side of the field and threw a nice pass to set Harris-Tavita up.

The Manly side hit back just 5 minutes later, when Jake Trbojevic got a quick play the ball that saw Lachlan Croker scurry out of dummy half and set Tom Trbojevic up for his first of two tries. Manly hit the front just 3 minutes later again through T. Trbojevic, who took advantage of some poor Warriors defence to crash over.

The Warriors weren't behind for long, with Wayne Egan performing some enterprising play from dummy half to set up Tohu Harris, before Nikorima gave them the lead with a penalty goal in the 35th minute.

The Warriors would go into half-time up by 8 when a Kodi Nikorima kick was knocked on by Jason Saab and Josh Curran was there to clean up the ball and score.

It was all the Warriors for the first part of the second half and they looked all but certain to extend their lead even further, when Kodi Nikorima had the ball with a 3-on-0 overlap. What followed was one of the worst bombed tries in history, with Nikorima poorly executing an unnecessary cutout pass that went over the sideline.

That bit of play would prove to be the turning point in the match, with Manly going 90 metres upfield to score through Morgan Harper.

Manly looked to have compounded the Warriors pain when Haumole Olakau'atu crashed over just a minute later, however the bunker found he had knocked on.

The Warriors couldn't take advantage of the reprieve however, with Josh Curran knocking on on tackle 2 and Manly scoring through Jason Saab in the set that followed.

Manly's defence was the main reason for their next try, with Reuben Garrick scoring after the Warriors were forced to kick from inside their own 20 metre line. They looked to have completely thrown in the towel when Manly scored twice more in the next 5 minutes - both finished by Jason Saab.

However, the Warriors weren't completely done, with Chanel Harris-Tavita scoring his second try after Brad Parker knocked on and Reece Walsh burrowing his way in after a Manly penalty goal to make the score 38-32 with 4 minutes to go.

The Warriors looked certain to tie it up with a minute left when Ken Maumalo got the ball with daylight in front of him, however he wasn't fast enough and ended up being bundled into touch by Saab. **Adam Huxtable**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (38) Tries: Tom Trbojevic (2), Reuben Garrick, Morgan Harper, Jason Saab (3); Conversions: Reuben Garrick (4/7); Penalty Goals: Reuben Garrick (1/1)
WARRIORS (32) Tries: Chanel Harris-Tavita (2), Tohu Harris, Josh Curran, Reece Walsh; Conversions: Kodi Nikorima (5/5); Penalty Goals: Kodi Nikorima (1/1)
Venue: 4 Pines Park; Crowd: 6726; Halftime: Manly 12 Warriors 20; Referee: Peter Gough

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 32 CANTERBURY 12

It wasn't pretty - in fact it was downright awful at times - but the St George Illawarra Dragons have downed the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 32-12 at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium.

In a match unlikely to linger in the annals of rugby league history, the home side - wearing heritage jerseys in recognition of the inaugural 1921 St George Dragons team - scored six tries to two with debutants Mat Feagai and Junior Amone crossing for four-pointers in the second half.

In one of the most punishing spectacles of football seen this season, errors and missed tackles plagued both teams during the opening half with the Dragons committing eight errors and 17 missed tackles, while the Bulldogs fared even worse with six errors, 21 missed tackles and producing a string of dismal attacking options epitomised by Kyle Flanagan overpowering a kick on the first tackle ten metres out from the try line.

In the only scoring play of the opening 40 minutes, the Dragons took advantage of good field position with Jack Bird delivering a nice inside pass that allowed Matt Dufty (22nd minute) to use his speed and footwork to cross underneath the posts.

Coming out of the sheds with improved discipline and ball handling, the Dragons gave Mat Feagai (51st minute) a debut to remember alongside his twin brother, Max, as Ben Hunt sent the 20-year-old winger over for a try.

Appearing to deliver the knock-out blow with Bird showing determination to pounce on a Hunt grubber, the bunker overturned the try after replays showed the centre failed to properly ground the ball - however the respite was short lived for the Bulldogs with Will Hopoate sent to the sin bin for a professional foul.

Delivering a belated knock-out through Paul Vaughan (55th minute), the flood gates opened with Norman (61st minute) and Dufty (63rd minute) taking the scoreline from 10-0 to 28-0 in Hopoate's absence.

The Bulldogs managed to avoid another shutout with an unexpected consolation try to Renouf Atoni (67th minute), however the home side finished with a bang as Junior Amone (70th minute) put himself in the right spot to cross for a try on debut.

A late intercept to Nick Meaney (73rd minute) rounded out the scoring as the Dragons ran out 32-12 winners to move into outright sixth position on 10 competition points. **Rob Crosby**

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (32) Tries: Matthew Dufty (2), Corey Norman, Mathew Feagai, Paul Vaughan, Junior Amone; Conversions: Corey Norman (4/6)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (12) Tries: Renouf Atoni, Nick Meaney; Conversions: Kyle Flanagan (2/2)
Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Crowd: 7253; Halftime: St Geo Illa 6 Canterbury 0; Referee: Ben Cummins

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 9

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	9 - 0 - 0	200	18
2. Parramatta	8 - 0 - 1	136	16
3. Melbourne	7 - 0 - 2	184	14
4. South Sydney	7 - 0 - 2	61	14
5. Sydney	6 - 0 - 3	123	12
6. St Geo Illa	5 - 0 - 4	24	10
7. Gold Coast	4 - 0 - 5	-1	8
8. Warriors	4 - 0 - 5	-27	8
9. Manly	4 - 0 - 5	-57	8
10. Newcastle	4 - 0 - 5	-59	8
11. North Qld	4 - 0 - 5	-90	8
12. Canberra	3 - 0 - 6	-36	6
13. Cronulla	2 - 0 - 7	-66	4
14. Brisbane	2 - 0 - 7	-100	4
15. Wests Tigers	2 - 0 - 7	-104	4
16. Canterbury	1 - 0 - 8	-188	2

MATCH REVIEW

Dylan Brown	Parramatta	3 matches
Marata Niukore	Parramatta	2 matches
David Fifita	Gold Coast	2 matches ^A
Brandon Smith	Melbourne	1 match
Mitch Dunn	North Qld	\$2100 ^A
Josh McGuire	St Geo Illa	\$2050
Matt Lodge	Brisbane	\$1700
Felise Kaufusi	Melbourne	\$1700
Paul Vaughan	St Geo Illa	\$1350
Liam Martin	Penrith	\$1150
James Tamou	Wests Tigers	\$1150
Tyrone Peachey	Gold Coast	\$1150
Lachlan Burr	North Qld	\$1150
Siosiaua Tauekiahia	Sydney	\$750

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



South Sydney v Melbourne
3 points - Josh Addo-Carr
2 points - Jahrome Hughes
1 points - Christian Welch

Penrith v Cronulla
3 points - Nathan Cleary
2 points - James Fisher-Harris
1 points - Stephen Crichton

Parramatta v Sydney
3 points - Mitchell Moses
2 points - Junior Paulo
1 points - Nat Butcher

Canberra v Newcastle
3 points - Kalya Ponga
2 points - George Williams
1 points - Jayden Brailey

Wests Tigers v Gold Coast
3 points - Tyrone Peachey
2 points - Adam Doueihi
1 points - Phillip Sami

North Queensland v Brisbane
3 points - Jake Clifford
2 points - Jason Taumalolo
1 points - Payne Haas

Manly v Warriors
3 points - Tom Trbojevic
2 points - Jason Saab
1 points - Tohu Harris

St George Illawarra v Canterbury
3 points - Ben Hunt
2 points - Matthew Dufty
1 points - Mathew Feagai

LEADERBOARD

15 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers)
13 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheek (Warriors)
12 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), David Fifita (Titans)
10 points - Adam Doueihi (Tigers), Will Kennedy (Sharks)

MAGIC ROUND

Round 10, May 14 to 16

WESTS TIGERS 36 NEWCASTLE 18

Michael Maguire was heavily criticised during the week for his decision to shift one of the side's few shining lights - Adam Doueihi - away from five-eighth and into the centres.

Yet it could well be a masterstroke after the Wests Tigers lit up Magic Round to run away 36-18 winners over the Newcastle Knights.

Moses Mbye starred in the No. 6 jersey with a few classy touches early while Luke Brooks also looked to have a clear understanding of his role in the team, taking the line on and completing sets with a new-found confidence.

Mbye sparked the opening try of the night when he put Tommy Talau streaming through the middle of the field, racing away to put Brooks over under the posts. It was a late offload from David Nofaloaluma though that was the catalyst of that try.

Nothing was going right for Newcastle as miscommunication between Tex Hoy and Kurt Mann saw James Tamou clean up the scraps on an Adam Doueihi kick. Brooks then put in a perfect crossfield kick which was batted back by Doueihi with Mbye again there to put Nofaloaluma over in the corner.

A penalty against the run of play proved costly for the Tigers as Hymel Hunt capitalised on a few nice touches from Phoenix Crossland on the left edge. It was a brief moment of joy for the Knights though as Hoy was sent to the sin bin five minutes later for repeat infringements with Doueihi scoring his' first soon after.

Newcastle almost hit back in extraordinary fashion when Talau flung the ball back towards his own line and into the hands of Starford To'a but replays would show he lost possession. The Knights did though dodge a bullet earlier in the game when Joey Leilua had his own try disallowed in similar circumstances.

The Tigers headed into the sheds with a 24-4 lead but having run down Canberra last week, Newcastle would have rated their chances with a fair share of possession.

In a big confidence boost Brodie Jones charged over in the opening minutes of the half as Newcastle reduced the deficit to 16. The Knights though gave themselves little chance of launching a fightback as errors piled up and a Leilua flick put Talau over to extend the Tigers' lead to 22.

Brooks continued his stellar outing with a testing kick that was fumbled by Hoy and Doueihi was on the spot to score his second.

Joe Ofahengaue was later binned for repeated ruck infringements and Jayden Brailey took advantage to stroll through shortly after but it was too late.

Errors continued to cruel Newcastle late before Tyson Frizell surged through off a lovely Connor Watson ball to make the final scoreline 36-18. **Andrew Jackson**

WESTS TIGERS (36) Tries: Luke Brooks, Adam Doueihi (2), James Tamou, David Nofaloaluma, Tommy Talau; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (5/6); Penalty Goals: Adam Doueihi (1/1)
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (18) Tries: Hymel Hunt, Brodie Jones, Jayden Brailey, Tyson Frizell; Conversions: Tex Hoy (1/4)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 41367; Halftime: Wests Tigers 24 Newcastle 4; Referee: Grant Atkins

MANLY 50 BRISBANE 6

The Manly Warringah Sea Eagles have easily accounted for the Brisbane Broncos in the 2nd game of the 2nd ever NRL Magic Round, winning by a score of 50-6 that included 3 tries scored within six minutes of each other against a Broncos team of 11 men.

The Sea Eagles had all the ball to begin with and looked to have scored through Brad Parker, however the bunker deemed that the tackle had been completed before he grounded the ball.

It wouldn't matter however, with Tom Trbojevic scoring courtesy of an early shift to the right by Cherry-Evans to Saab.

Manly would sustain the pressure and the Broncos would crack, with Martin Taupau throwing a pass a halfback would be proud of to set Sean Keppie up under the posts with the second try of the night.

All the defending would take a toll on the Broncos who had been doing their best to hold Manly out despite limited possession, however the Sea Eagles executed a basic sweeping play to perfection and Brisbane were out of ideas defensively as they allowed Jason Saab to stroll over for his first try of the game.

Right on half time, Jamayne Isaako would give the "visitors" some hope when he showed some great strength to burrow his way through Brad Parker and Keppie's tackle attempt to get his side on the board before half time, making the score 20-6.

The Broncos came out firing to start the second half, however any hope was soon extinguished as Cherry-Evans put in a pinpoint kick that Jason Saab leapt up for to score his second.

In the 53rd minute, Tyson Gamble was sent to the sin bin controversially for a high tackle on Reuben Garrick, before he was joined just a minute later by Jordan Riki for an equally questionable offence.

Manly were able to make full use of their time against 11 men, scoring 3 tries in just 6 minutes. Tom Trbojevic put his brother Jake through a gaping hole close to the line, while in the next set Lachlan Croker dived over from dummy half. The pain of Broncos fans was compounded when on the next set Garrick came up with a magical flick pass to Schuster, who found Tom Trbojevic on his inside who went over for his second.

Manly would raise the bat for 50 in the 74th minute, when Schuster was there in support of Cade Cust's line break.

In the final minute, Schuster and Croker would both be sin-binned for professional fouls. **Adam Huxtable**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (50) Tries: Tom Trbojevic (2), Sean Keppie, Jason Saab (2), Jake Trbojevic, Lachlan Croker, Josh Schuster; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (8/8); Penalty Goals: Reuben Garrick (1/1)
BRISBANE BRONCOS (6) Tries: Jamayne Isaako; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (1/1)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 41367; Halftime: Manly 20 Brisbane 6; Referee: Gerard Sutton

CANBERRA 20 CANTERBURY 18

Canberra Raiders did it tough but arrested their slide in a 20-18 success against Canterbury Bulldogs this afternoon at Lang Park to start day two of Magic Round.

Second half fades had haunted the Canberra Raiders this season but two late tries to Sebastian Kris and Curtis Scott after the Raiders were reduced 12 men after Josh Papali'i's send off gave them a first win in six weeks to move into tenth.

The Raiders were clunky but looked assured in the first half. Corey Harawira-Naera came back to haunt his former club with the opener after some impressive work from George Williams and Caleb Aekins. Williams added a further penalty goal to make it 8-nil at the interval.

It looked like the game was going to the script after the resumption. Nick Cotric found the line against his old club to make it 8-6 as the Raiders found the self destruct button. Nick Meaney put the Bulldogs ahead 12-8 after his line run and Ricky Stuart must've thought he was in Groundhog Day.

His headache only intensified as Josh Papali' - trying to fire up - made direct contact with the head and was sent off. From there, the Dogs should've closed out the contest but again, they showed a lack of smarts with errors, penalties and set restarts to give the Raiders life.

Given the opportunity, the Raiders put together some slick work to take the lead back despite being reduced to 12. Curtis Scott steamed onto the ball to level the scores then a fantastic kick from Williams put the Green Machine ahead.

It looked at times, the Raiders were the side with 13 as they stripped the numbers again to put them ahead 20-12. Sebastian Kris found the four-pointer after a quick interchange of passes to breath new life into a season which was rapidly fading for the Raiders.

Canterbury once again will wonder how they conspired to lose that. The Bulldogs showed glimpses of promising attack but it was rare between their errors and poor finishes to sets which never gave them a chance in the first half and a lack of composure after the Papali'i send off to see the game out.

Once again, the big talking point will be the new interpretation of the dangerous contact rule. Canberra had Jack Wighton sin-binned for his cannonball tackle while Josh Papali'i was the first to be sent off after his direct contact to the head. After three games, there has been nine bins and one send off as players adjust to the new normal in the National Rugby League in 2021. **Justin Davies**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (20) Tries: Corey Harawira-Naera, Curtis Scott, Sebastian Kris; Conversions: George Williams (3/3); Penalty Goals: George Williams (1/1)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (18) Tries: Nick Cotric, Nick Meaney, Dailin Watene-Zelezniak; Conversions: Jake Averillo (3/3)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 45155; Halftime: Canterbury 0 Canberra 8; Referee: Chris Butler

SOUTH SYDNEY 32 CRONULLA 22

Souths exploded out of the blocks to take a 20-0 lead before the Sharks spirited second half almost turned the match on its head, but the Bunnies held on for a 32-22 victory in the fourth match of NRL Magic Round at Suncorp Stadium.

Benji Marshall earnt Souths a repeat set in the 5th minute and in the next set he produced his trademark goosetep and then popped a short ball in the defensive line to Keaton Koloamatangi who strolled through a gap to score on the left edge. Adam Reynolds converted.

Benji's kicking game forced two more repeat sets for the Bunnies, the second of which caught Chad Townsend offside. Souths were awarded a penalty and Reynolds kicked a penalty goal.

In the 18th minute Marshall again was involved as he produced another of his trademark moves, the drift sideways, straighten with a step and then throw a no-look cut-out pass, which found Alex Johnston, who dived over to score in the left corner. Reynolds sideline conversion was perfect.

In the 27th minute Jayden Su'A was sent to the sin bin for high contact on Aaron Woods. Despite being short in numbers, the Rabbitohs added another try just a minute later. Dane Gagai got outside Josh Dugan, skipped clear of his diving tackle attempt and then turned the ball back inside to Cody Walker in support who raced 30 metres to score. Reynolds converted and after 31 minutes, Souths lead 20-0.

Four minutes prior to the break, Cronulla got themselves on the board when Chad Townsend ran to the line and held up a nice ball for Will Kennedy, who ran into a gap at pace and raced 30 metres to score under the posts. Townsend converted to reduce the deficit to 14 points at halftime.

The Sharks scored again in the 60th minute when Andrew Fifita picked up a loose ball on the Souths line and flicked a lovely ball to Aaron Woods who fell over the line to score. Townsend converted to reduce the margin to 8 points.

Seven minutes later, Matt Moylan running freely, drifted left and hit Briton Nikora running a gorgeous line back in towards the posts and he scored a lovely try. Townsend's conversion attempt was waved away.

The final 6 minutes was a frenzy of points. In the 74th minute, Tevita Tatola attempted to barge over for a try but was held short, however he somehow got a ball to Walker who scored under the posts. Reynolds converted.

With 3 minutes left in the game, Souths crossed again when Jai Arrow taking a ruck run back in towards the posts, managed to push out of some tired tackles before crashing over for a try to the left of the uprights. Reynolds added the extras.

Finally, with fulltime looming, the Sharks produced a lovely play off the back of a scrum which resulted in Kennedy sending Mawene Hiroti over for a clever try in the left corner. Townsend's sideline conversion shaved the posts but still went over the crossbar, to reduce the deficit to 10. **Andrew Ferguson**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (32) Tries: Keaton Koloamatangi, Alex Johnston, Cody Walker (2), Jai Arrow; **Conversions:** Adam Reynolds (5/5); **Penalty Goals:** Adam Reynolds (1/1)
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (22) Tries: Will Kennedy, Aaron Woods, Briton Nikora, Mawene Hiroti; **Conversions:** Chad Townsend (3/4)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 45155; Halftime: Cronulla 6 South Sydney 20; Referee: Chris Sutton

SYDNEY 30 NORTH QUEENSLAND 16

The NRL crackdown has come into focus yet again following the Roosters 30-16 victory over the North Queensland Cowboys in the final Saturday match of Magic Round.

The Roosters scored in just the sixth minute when Daniel Tupou crossed after the Roosters took advantage space on the outside and the Roosters winger scored. The Roosters were able to double their lead soon after when Sam Walker was able to turn on the magic when he ran through the middle of the field before giving it to Victor Radley who passed it back to Walker who scored and converted his own try.

A third try for the Roosters came after 25 minutes when the Roosters spread the ball from the left out to the right, catching the Cowboys defence short and Matt Ikavalu was able to cross over to score out wide. The goal kicking woes for the Roosters continued on their fifth try within the half hour mark when Angus Crichton scored after the Cowboys defence were just passengers in his crusade to the line.

Momentum turned for the Cowboys when Sitili Tupouniua became sin bin number 11 for the weekend after high contact. The Cowboys scored through Javid Bowen as the North Queenslanders were able to take advantage of the extra man. The Cowboys continued to take advantage of the extra man when Reece Robson who had been causing issues for the Roosters all night went through the middle and gave Scott Drinkwater an easy passage to the line.

The Cowboys were able to continue their momentum after half time when Valentine Holmes steamrolled Sam Walker and drew in James Tedesco to put Scott Drinkwater over for his second try of the game. Following the conversion, The Cowboys were back within two.

Goal kicking woes hurt the Cowboys when they elected to take a tough penalty goal attempt to level the scores but Valentine Holmes couldn't. The miss from Holmes was costly as the Roosters regained the momentum and it was more magic from James Tedesco to evade no less than 5 tacklers to put Angus Crichton over the line.

The NRL's sin bin crackdown hit its most farcical point of the round so far when Lachlan Burr was sent to the sin bin by Ben Cummins for "Forceful contact with the head" despite Burr being a victim of James Tedesco falling to the ground as Burr was moving into make the tackle and couldn't pull out.

The Roosters added a penalty goal to push the margin out to eight points before in the final ten minutes, the Cowboys attack capitulated and the Roosters took advantage of the extra man and Daniel Tupou scored his second try of the night. **Josh Robertson**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (30) Tries: Daniel Tupou (2), Sam Walker, Matt Ikavalu, Angus Crichton (2); **Conversions:** Sam Walker (2/5), Adam Keighran (0/1); **Penalty Goals:** Adam Keighran (1/1)
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (16) Tries: Javid Bowen, Scott Drinkwater (2); **Conversions:** Valentine Holmes (2/3); **Penalty Goals:** Valentine Holmes (0/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 45155; Halftime: Sydney 18 North Qld 10; Referee: Ben Cummins

PARRAMATTA 34 WARRIORS 18

A try on debut to Jakob Arthur and a fast start have helped the Parramatta Eels to a comfortable 34-18 victory at Suncorp as day three of NRL Magic Round got underway against the Warriors.

The first 20 minutes saw the Eels keep pace with the clock - Nathan Brown opening the scoring off a superb flick ball from Mitch Moses. Next to power over the line was prolific winger Maika Sivo, using his size and strength to go over in the corner.

What followed was an incredible five-minute double from prop Reagan Campbell-Gillard - the first seeing him force his way over from short range before the other saw Moses break into the backfield, eventually finding RCG in support to put the Eels up 24-0 by the quarter-match mark at 20 minutes.

Starved of possession - just 26% to that point - the Warriors recalibrated and were eventually rewarded through Josh Curran scoring in the 33rd minute, the Nikorima conversion ensuring a 24-6 scoreline which would be kept the same until the siren sounded for halftime.

After the break, Ryan Matterson was there off the back of a wide play which followed a tap back - debutant Arthur finding Matto out wide to get the Eels off to a great start after the break. While Moses' conversion attempt was wayward for the first time in the match, the 28-6 lead had the Eels looking solid.

The injection of Reece Walsh provided a bounce-back factor for the Warriors - between the 50th and 60th minute both Ben Murdoch-Masila and Reece Walsh got over the stripe to close the margin to just 28-18.

After a half-hour try drought, the Eels got into celebration mode inside the last ten minutes, with Arthur scoring his much-publicised try, taking on the line before climbing past defenders to slam it down. A late injury to Moses meant Gutherson nailed the extras to finalise the 34-18 scoreline.

The win is Parramatta's fifth on the run, while the Warriors sink out of the top eight after that loss. **Tim Costello**

PARRAMATTA EELS (34) Tries: Nathan Brown, Maika Sivo, Reagan Campbell-Gillard (2), Ryan Matterson, Jakob Arthur; **Conversions:** Mitchell Moses (4/5), Clinton Gutherson (1/1)
WARRIORS (18) Tries: Josh Curran, Ben Murdoch-Masila, Reece Walsh; **Conversions:** Kodi Nikorima (3/3)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 43537; Halftime: Warriors 6 Parramatta 24; Referee: Ashley Klein

MELBOURNE 44 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 18

The Melbourne Storm have posted their seventh win in a row after defeating the St George Illawarra Dragons 44-18 in the penultimate match of Magic Round.

Scoring nine tries to four in a fixture impacted by the NRL's reactionary crackdown on contact around the head, the Storm capitalised on Dragons' centre Tyrell Fuimaono being sent off early in the first half to retain their place in third position.

Scoring the first try of the afternoon after returning fullback Ryan Papenhuyzen fired the final pass to send Josh Addo-Carr (11th minute) over for his 12th try of the season, the Storm's joy was short-lived as Papenhuyzen was taken from the field by medicab due to Fuimaono making direct and forceful contact to the head.

Wasting little time in extending their lead with Josh McGuire also in the sin bin prior to Fuimaono's dismissal, Kenny Bromwich (16th minute) exposed the Dragons' left edge defence to give the 'home side' a 10-0 lead.

Playing a man down and needing to be the next to score to remain in the contest, Matt Dufty stepped up with his favoured cut-out pass to put Mikaele Ravalawa (20th minute) over in his first game back from suspension.

Going close to levelling the scores minutes later only for Cody Ramsey to put a foot on the touchline while grounding, the Dragons were made to pay with Melbourne 18th man Dean Ieremia (30th minute) being on the spot to score his first try in the top grade as Addo-Carr received treatment for a hip-drop tackle committed by McGuire.

Refusing to lose contact with the contest, Dufty and Ravalawa (34th minute) combined once again to reduce the Storm's lead to 14-10 at the change of ends.

Taking advantage of Dufty injuring his AC joint minutes into the second half, Nelson Asofa-Solomona (47th minute) powered over next to the posts before Jahrome Hughes (51st minute) finished off a 50 metre bust to secure the win.

Producing a length of the field try from the ensuing kick-off, a break from Hynes, kick from Hughes and unselfish pass from Kenny Bromwich allowed Addo-Carr (54th minute) to bag his second of the afternoon.

Taking the score out to 34-10 after Justin Olam (58th minute) powered over from a scrum, Ravalawa (61st minute) scored his third against the run of play, only for the Storm to resume regular transmission with George Jennings (69th minute) and Addo-Carr (72nd minute) pushing the score out beyond 40 points for the fourth consecutive week.

The Dragons crossed for a consolation try in the shadows of fulltime with Ramsey (79th minute) finishing off a Josh Kerr break beginning from within his own half. **Rob Crosby**

MELBOURNE STORM (44) Tries: Josh Addo-Carr (3), Kenneath Bromwich, Dean Ieremia, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Jahrome Hughes, Justin Olam, George Jennings; Conversions: Tyson Smoothy (3/5), Nicholas Hynes (1/4)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (18) Tries: Mikaele Ravalawa (3), Cody Ramsey; Conversions: Corey Norman (1/4)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 43537; Halftime: Melbourne 14 St Geo Illa 10; Referee: Peter Gough

PENRITH 48 GOLD COAST 12

The Penrith Panthers have turned on the magic to finish the NRL Magic Round with a 48-12 victory over the Gold Coast Titans at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday night.

Looking pretty in pink, the Panthers looked 'on' from the get go but it took some time for them to get on the board, with an early claim by Brian To'o - but an obstruction on Kevin Proctor had chalked that one off. The Titans also had a try knocked back by the bunker after Nathan Cleary was taken out. The Panthers crossed just after the 10-minute mark when Nathan Cleary kept the ball alive and charged at the line after Isaah Yeo was able to force an offload away and Cleary got to the line to score. The Panthers were down to 12 men when Moses Leota was sin binned for a dumb shot on Jamal Fogarty as he kicked the ball.

The sin bin period didn't hurt the Panthers at all as they dominated possession - Cleary was able to cross for a second try after running a dangerous line as Dylan Edwards drew in defenders, and allowing the halfback a free passage to the line. It took James Fisher-Harris almost two years to score a try when he broke his drought last weekend, but it was just 9 days between meat pies this time around, when the 'Fish' charged at the line to score off a good short ball from Cleary. The man who set up the try then slotted the conversion and the Panthers were leading 18-0. Penrith continued their flair when Leota went from villain to hero, after Edwards ran 90m to put the Panthers into field position and it was Leota the unlikely man to get the ball and charge at the line to score.

Things then went from bad to worse for the Titans when Herman Ese'ese was sent off for a tackle that could only be described as careless and silly, when he took off extremely early out of the line and collected Brian To'o high. There was very little hesitation from Adam Gee to dismiss the Titans forward. The Panthers were able to add one more try before the break, creating space with Stephen Crichton who sent Charlie Staines over to score. Cleary converted from the sideline to give his side a 30-0 lead at the half time break.

Coming out of the half-time break, Penrith continued their momentum when Staines crossed for his second try of the night after Cleary read that the Titans defence would rush up - leaving Staines unmarked after to cross for his second four-pointer. They were able to cross soon after, with some good hands from Fisher-Harris who found Cleary, who in turn found Liam Martin to score untouched. Cleary's conversion put the Panthers up 42-0 with 25 to play.

The Titans then crossed the line twice only to be denied by the bunker for knock ons, then off repeat sets from ensuing penalties, the Panthers were able to hold them out. In what looked to be the one of the more bizarre calls of the weekend, Viliame Kikau was denied a try by the Bunker after Perenara ruled that in the lead up to the try there was foul play by Liam Martin with a high fend and the four-pointer was knocked back - the Titans awarded a penalty and Martin placed on report.

From the ensuing penalty, the Titans were able to get into good field position and were able to finally cross through Beau Fermano. Jamal Fogarty added the conversion and the Titans trailed by 36. The Titans were able to take advantage of a Panthers side that had switched off, and A.J. Brimson had dashed through to score Gold Coast's second not long after. Penrith were able to get the last laugh when they crossed on the stroke of full time, Cleary sealing his hatrick when he fought his way to the line to score. The conversion from the near the uprights sealed the 48-12 victory. **Josh Robertson**

PENRITH PANTHERS (48) Tries: Nathan Cleary (3), Moses Leota, James Fisher-Harris, Charlie Staines (2), Liam Martin; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (8/8)

GOLD COAST TITANS (12) Tries: Beau Fermano, Alexander Brimson; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (2/2)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 43537; Halftime: Gold Coast 0 Penrith 30; Referee: Adam Gee

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 10

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	10 - 0 - 0	236	20
2. Parramatta	9 - 0 - 1	152	18
3. Melbourne	8 - 0 - 2	210	16
4. South Sydney	8 - 0 - 2	71	16
5. Sydney	7 - 0 - 3	137	14
6. St Geo Illa	5 - 0 - 5	-2	10
7. Manly	5 - 0 - 5	-13	10
8. Canberra	4 - 0 - 6	-34	8
9. Gold Coast	4 - 0 - 6	-37	8
10. Warriors	4 - 0 - 6	-43	8
11. Newcastle	4 - 0 - 6	-77	8
12. North Qld	4 - 0 - 6	-104	8
13. Wests Tigers	3 - 0 - 7	-86	6
14. Cronulla	2 - 0 - 8	-76	4
15. Brisbane	2 - 0 - 8	-144	4
16. Canterbury	1 - 0 - 9	-190	2

MATCH REVIEW

5 matches: Josh McGuire (St Geo Illa) + \$2600, Tyrell Fuimaono (St Geo Illa); 3 matches: Herman Ese'ese (Gold Coast), Josh Papali'i (Canberra); 2 matches: Tyrone Peachey (Gold Coast), Mikaele Ravalawa (St Geo Illa), Jordan Riki (Brisbane) + \$1600; 1 match: Jack Wightton (Canberra), Josh Hodgson (Canberra), Tariq Sims (St Geo Illa); \$2150: Tevita Pangai Junior (Brisbane); \$1900: Angus Crichton (Sydney), Christian Welch (Melbourne), Jaydn Su'A (Souths); \$1700: Lachlan Burr (North Qld), Ava Seumanufagai (Canterbury); \$1350: Dane Gagai (Souths), Sitili Tupouniua (Sydney); \$1150: Tyson Gamble (Brisbane), Sione Katoa (Canterbury), Moses Leota (Penrith), Dylan Edwards (Penrith)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Wests Tigers v Newcastle
3 points - Luke Brooks
2 points - Moses Mbye
1 points - Adam Doueihi

Manly v Brisbane
3 points - Daly Cherry-Evans
2 points - Martin Taupau
1 points - Jason Saab

Canterbury v Canberra
3 points - Corey Harawira-Naera
2 points - Dallin Watene-Zelezniak
1 points - Josh Hodgson

Cronulla v South Sydney
3 points - Cody Walker
2 points - Benji Marshall
1 points - Matt Moylan

Sydney v North Queensland
3 points - James Tedesco
2 points - Daniel Tupou
1 points - Reece Robson

Warriors v Parramatta
3 points - Mitchell Moses
2 points - Reece Walsh
1 points - Ryan Matterson

Melbourne v St George Illawarra
3 points - Nicholas Hynes
2 points - Josh Addo-Carr
1 points - Jahrome Hughes

Gold Coast v Penrith
3 points - Nathan Cleary
2 points - James Fisher-Harris
1 points - Moses Leota

LEADERBOARD

18 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers)
13 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors)
12 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), David Fifita (Titans)
11 points - Adam Doueihi (Wests Tigers)

ROUND 11 May 20 to 23

NORTH QUEENSLAND 36 NEWCASTLE 20

The North Queensland Cowboys have overcome two players being sent to the sin bin to defeat the Newcastle Knights 36-20 at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

In a match unlikely to be remembered by defensive purists, the Cowboys defied playing with 11 men midway through the first half to post their fourth consecutive win at home.

Posting the first 16 points before trailing early in the second half, the Cowboys piled on four second half tries to condemn the Knights to their seventh loss of the season.

Identifying a weakness in the Knights' inexperienced right edge pairing of Simi Sasagi and Starford To'a, North Queensland winger Murray Taulagi (7th minute) showed great speed and footwork to touch down for the opening try of the night.

Adding a second four-pointer in the following set, an offload from Shane Wright close to the line allowed Reece Robson (11th minute) to stroll over untouched.

Avoiding a scare after To'a was denied a four-pointer for an obstruction, the home side wasted little time in heaping further pain on the visitors with Taulagi (17th minute) bagging his second of the night.

Seemingly destined for another tough night at the office, the Knights sparked into action midway through the first half courtesy of a try to interchange forward Sauaso Sue (23rd minute) just moments after coming onto the field.

Taking advantage of Jason Taumalolo being sent to the sin bin for making contact with Tyson Frizell's head, former Cowboy Enari Tuala (28th minute) came back to haunt his former club after running a beautiful line created by Phoenix Crossland.

Playing with a two-man advantage after Lachlan Burr joined Taumalolo in the sin bin for a high tackle on Jayden Brailey, the Knights completed a remarkable fightback with Lachlan Fitzgibbon (31st minute) locking the scores up at 16-all at the change of ends.

Hitting the front after Sasagi - making his NRL debut - produced a flick pass reminiscent of Matthew Gidley to put To'a (46th minute) over in the corner, the Knights slowly lost touch with the contest over the course of the second half.

The Cowboys continued to target the Knights' edge defence as Taulagi (52nd minute) claimed his first career hat-trick before Valentine Holmes (60th minute) put the home side back in front.

Unable to show the composure needed to stay in the contest, a mix up in-goal between Kurt Mann and Brayden Musgrove allowed Mitch Dunn (69th minute) to secure the victory.

Cairns junior Heilum Luki (76th minute) marked his NRL debut with a late try to push the final score out to 36-20. **Rob Crosby**

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (36) Tries: Murray Taulagi (3), Valentine Holmes, Reece Robson, Mitchell Dunn, Heilum Luki; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (4/7)
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (20) Tries: Sauaso Sue, Enari Tuala, Lachlan Fitzgibbon, Starford To'a; Conversions: Mitchell Barnett (1/1), Phoenix Crossland (1/3)
Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 11208; Halftime: North Qld 16 Newcastle 16; Referee: Ashley Klein

WARRIORS 30 WESTS TIGERS 26

Reece Walsh has lit up Central Coast Stadium with a scintillating individual performance that stunned the Tigers in a 30-26 thriller.

Nathan Brown told media earlier in the week he was happy to look a 'dumbo' if it meant doing what was best by teen sensation Reece Walsh.

His time will come, Brown said.

Well, his time has well and truly come after the fearless rookie played a starring role with one try, three try assists and four linebreak assists in a 30-26 win over the Wests Tigers.

He had thrown so many cutout passes and yet every time Walsh did it, he made the expected unexpected.

Walsh though was taught an early lesson when he failed to take a Joseph Leilua kick dead with Luke Garner pouncing.

Garner would go on to score the Tigers' second of the night too and impressed for the away side while Luke Brooks' kicking game was on song.

It was all about Walsh though who put Marcelo Montoya over for the Warriors' first.

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck - the man who selflessly moved to the wing to make room for Walsh - then burst through and popped a late pass to put Jack Murchie through for their second.

The next two tries were all Walsh - the first a looping ball for Tuivasa-Sheck only minutes after a similar attempt almost led to a Tigers intercept.

Then Kodi Nikorima gave him early ball and the fullback burned the Tigers to dive over in the corner.

Going back to Brooks' kicking game though - he made another statement in the second half as Montoya fumbled his grubber with David Nofaaluma scoring in his 150th game.

The Warriors' ill-discipline proved costly with both Ben Murdoch-Masila and Eliesa Katoa binned in the second half.

The Tigers though only added two penalty goals before the home side responded with two tries while down a man.

The first saw Nikorima kick through for Egan who showed great determination to get to the ball first.

Then Walsh again turned magician to pop a beautiful pass through for Montoya.

The Tigers threatened to cause a late boilover when James Tamou reached over to score but they left it too late, ruing the conservative calls to opt for penalty goals against the undermanned opposition. **Andrew Jackson**

WARRIORS (30) Tries: Marcelo Montoya (2), Jack Murchie, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Reece Walsh, Wayne Egan; Conversions: Kodi Nikorima (3/6)
WESTS TIGERS (26) Tries: Luke Garner (2), David Nofaaluma, James Tamou; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (3/4); Penalty Goals: Adam Doueihi (2/2)
Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Crowd: 7009; Halftime: Warriors 18 Wests Tigers 10; Referee: Matt Noyen

CRONULLA 13 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 12

Cronulla has snapped a six-game losing streak to defeat St George-Illawarra by 13-12 in a Golden Point thriller at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium tonight.

Sharks halfback Chad Townsend was the hero, kicking a field goal following a see-sawing battle in the local derby, where the Sharks were extremely fortunate to get the win after St George failed to go away despite Cronulla dominating large periods of the match. Cronulla however gave the Red V not one but two unlikely opportunities to snatch a remarkable victory, however five-eighth Corey Norman failed to convert either of his field goal attempts.

Cronulla dominated early proceedings, camping themselves on the Dragons line early, when winger Connor Tracey crashed over for the first try of the match following some neat work from Chad Townsend and Will Kennedy off a set play. Townsend converted and the Sharks jumped out to an early lead. Dragons prop Paul Vaughan was then sent to the Sin Bin following a high shot on Sharks centre Will Chambers. Cronulla however made multiple handling errors during this period and failed to capitalise on the Dragons being down to 12 men. Both sides were sloppy in the first half, but the Dragons looked likely to hit back when fullback Cody Ramsey beat multiple defenders to break the line. Sharks winger Mawene Hiroti then came across in cover defence and collected Ramsey high and was sent to the Sin Bin. Norman then kicked the penalty goal to get his side on the scoreboard and narrow the Sharks lead to 6-2 at halftime.

The Dragons got on the board first in the Second Half however, when Hunt and Norman combined in midfield to send rookie winger Max Feagai over to score in the corner. Norman missed the conversion from out wide and it was 6 all at halftime in the local derby. The high tackles continued after the break, when Sharks centre Josh Dugan was marched to the Sin Bin following a very lazy swinging arm that collected Dragons centre Billy Burns across the nose. The Dragons took advantage of the extra man almost immediately, when Ben Hunt kicked high for his winger Max Feagai on the last and the rookie winger leapt high over the Sharks defence to score his second try. Norman again missed from out wide and it was 10-6 with 20 minutes remaining.

With the game poised, it was Matt Moylan and Will Kennedy who combined, to first force a repeat set and then secondly put the Sharks in front when Kennedy slid over in the corner of a neat Moylan pass to tie up the scores. Townsend then converted from out wide to give his side a 12-10 lead. The game again turned when Sharks backrower Teig Wilton was penalised for a crusher tackle on Dragons prop Paul Vaughan with six minutes remaining and Jack Bird converted the penalty to tie things up at 12 all and it looked likely to go down to the wire. The Sharks then looked set to ice the game with minutes remaining before Chad Townsend saw his field goal attempt charged down and regathered by Dragons hooker Andrew McCullough. The Dragons then made their way upfield, however Corey Norman's shot to win the game went wide.

Cronulla then got ultimate stage fright when winger Mawane Hiroti knocked on off the first tackle deep inside their own half. This gave the Dragons another chance to seal an unlikely victory, however again Norman sprayed his shot wide and the game then went to Golden Point. Sharks winger Hiroti then turned villain to hero when he made a 50 metre dash upfield. Redemption was then sealed for the Sharks winger, when Chad Townsend then nailed the match winning field goal to seal a dramatic Golden Point win. **Sam Bourke**

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (13) Tries: Connor Tracey, Will Kennedy; Field Goals: Chad Townsend (1/1); Conversions: Chad Townsend (2/2)
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (12) Tries: Max Feagai (2); Conversions: Corey Norman (0/2); Penalty Goals: Corey Norman (1/1), Jack Bird (1/1)
Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Crowd: 8947; Halftime: Cronulla 6 St Geo Illa 2; Referee: Ben Cummins

GOLD COAST 30 CANTERBURY 20

Gold Coast Titans picked up their fifth win of the season in a 30-20 success against Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs this afternoon at Robina.

It wasn't a vintage performance but after being flogged last week, Gold Coast Titans survived a late Bulldogs raid to get themselves back in the winner's circle with recently re-signed AJ Brimson the headliner with a double.

Livewire fullback AJ Brimson re-signed at the Titans for five years during the week and he showed his worth tonight. Brimson opened the scoring off a wonderful Brian Kelly grubber then bookended the win supporting Moeaki Fotuauka to make it 30-20.

Looking at the scoreline, it seems a standard win for the home side. Gold Coast Titans were forced to dig deep when Beau Farmor was sent to the sin-bin. Bulldogs pulled themselves back within four points through Luke Thompson but the Titans held on in another chaotic game.

When Tino Fa'asuamaleaui steamed over for the Titans second for 12-nil, it looked another long day for the visitors. They only scored once more in the first half through Phillip Sami after a sublime Kelly flick pass, taking an eight point lead into the break.

Bulldogs were their own worst enemy again at times today but there were some positive signs. Chris Smith got them on the board off some quick hands then just before half-time marquee signing Nick Cotric powered over to give the cellar dwellers hope.

Sin bins loomed large in the second half, Dylan Napa clipped Jarrod Wallace high and was marched in the 45th minute. From the resulting set, Wallace twisted over to extend the Titans lead to 24-10 but the home side were unable to make any further inroads with the advantage.

Canterbury did similar when Farmor was binned for another innocuous shot on a Bulldog. Nick Meaney was left in acres of space on the left wing and strolled across for 24-14 then Thompson gave them some late drama when he reduced the deficit to four. It was another loss for the Bulldogs who remain rock bottom.

The Titans added some late gloss through Brimson but it was an average performance from a side with higher ambitions in 2021. Gold Coast sit in eighth position and travel to Coffs Harbour next week to face the Cronulla while the Bulldogs have the unenviable task of facing Penrith. **Justin Davies**

GOLD COAST TITANS (30) Tries: Alexander Brimson (2), Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Phillip Sami, Jarrod Wallace; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (5/5)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (20) Tries: Chris Smith, Nick Cotric, Nick Meaney, Luke Thompson; Conversions: Jake Averillo (2/4)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 11315; Halftime: Gold Coast 18 Canterbury 10; Referee: Matt Cecchin

BRISBANE 34 SYDNEY 16

Brisbane Broncos produced the upset of the season, defeating the Sydney Roosters 34-16 in a spiteful encounter tonight at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

While the game will be remembered for sin bins and reports, the Broncos came with a plan and got their third win of the year. It was headlined by a David Mead hat-trick alongside tries to Dale Copley, John Asiata and Keenan Palasia in the memorable win.

It will be a night to forget for Victor Radley. The fire brand lock was binned twice and put on report four times which will see him spent some time on the sidelines alongside Joseph Manu who was also reported twice. For Brisbane, Matt Lodge and Tyson Gamble were given early showers in the fiery clash.

On a night full of emotion, the Roosters got caught up in that early. Victor Radley was sin-binned for a hit to the head while Broncos enforcer Tavita Pangai Junior was involved in some heated exchanges with the Roosters pack.

Broncos showed some superb skill and got themselves out to a 10-nil lead. Pangai Junior flicked one to a returning Dale Copley then veteran winger David Mead finished off a slick backline play as the upset was on the cards.

Roosters found their way and settled into the contest and piled on the points. The left side worked like a well-oiled machine firstly for Angus Crichton then Daniel Tupou to make it 10-all. It was over to the right for Sitali Tupouniua to stride across after some James Tedesco magic.

These two traded blows all half and the Broncos landed one final blow before the break. Sam Walker has dazzled with his harbour bridge passes but got one wrong which allowed Mead to streak away, making it 16-14 at the break.

Radley spent more time in the bin after another hit to the head which the officials came back to. Broncos profited immediately with John Asiata pounced on a grubber to make it 22-14. Broncos kept the foot on the throat with Keenan Palasia charging onto a short ball to take them past 30 points. **Justin Davies**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (16) Tries: Angus Crichton, Daniel Tupou, Sitali Tupouniua; Conversions: Sam Walker (1/3); Penalty Goals: Sam Walker (1/1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (34) Tries: Dale Copley, David Mead (3), John Asiata, Keenan Palasia; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (5/6)

Venue: Sydney Cricket Ground; Crowd: 13186; Halftime: Sydney 14 Brisbane 16; Referee: Peter Gough

MELBOURNE 34 CANBERRA 10

A patchwork Melbourne Storm side has turned on the style in the nations capital in their 34-10 victory over the Canberra Raiders at GIO Stadium.

The match could not have started any better for the Raiders as they were able to score in the opening minute when a Sam Williams miskick bounced back perfectly for the Raiders. The bounce found the hands of the Raiders and George Williams saw space on the outside and put in the kick that found Bailey Simonsson who scored.

Despite having a lack of territory, the Raiders were able to extend their lead just under 15 minutes later when Sam Williams ran to the line before putting boot to ball in behind the defensive line which sat perfectly for Elliott Whitehead to chase through and score. The conversion from George Williams pushed the Raiders to a 10-0 lead.

On the half-hour mark, the Storm were denied a try for an obstruction but it didn't matter much as they were able to cross just four minutes later when Nelson Asofa-Solomona was unstoppable from close range to score his first of the night. The visitors added a second try on the stroke of half-time when Chris Lewis was on the spot to pick up the ball which was knocked out of Brandon Smith's hands.

The second half was a one-way affair with the Storm just dominating throughout the second 40 minutes. The Storm scored eight minutes into the second half when Nelson Asofa-Solomona was able to score his second try of the night when the Bunker ruled that NAS held onto possession before grounding it.

The Storm added another try almost instantly when the Storm got into attacking position and the Raiders defence didn't have enough to match the Storm as Reimis Smith scored. The Storm were the beneficiary of a second bunker overturn, when Tom Eisenhuth crossed just after the hour mark. Referee Gerard Sutton on-field sent the call to the bunker on no try ruling Eisenhuth offside and despite it looking live like he was offside, replays showed he was onside and the try was awarded.

Despite getting possession, the Raiders couldn't do anything with it and inside the final five minutes, Storm rookie Trent Loiero bagged his maiden NRL try after the Storm were able to keep the ball alive and Loiero was able to get over to score. Nicho Hynes' only miss of the night meant that the Storm would take a 34-10 victory. **Josh Robertson**

MELBOURNE STORM (34) Tries: Nelson Asofa-Solomona (2), Chris Lewis, Reimis Smith, Tom Eisenhuth, Trent Loiero; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (5/6)

CANBERRA RAIDERS (10) Tries: Bailey Simonsson, Elliott Whitehead; Conversions: George Williams (1/2)

Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Crowd: 14120; Halftime: Canberra 10 Melbourne 12; Referee: Gerard Sutton

PENRITH 56 SOUTH SYDNEY 12

Penrith were unstoppable in the opening term on a beautiful day in Dubbo. Five tries were scored in the opening 30 minutes by the league leaders and they kept finding ways to break through the Rabbitohs defence.

Three of the five tries were scored against the Rabbitohs right edge defence as Viliame Kikau, Matt Burton and Brian To'o proved to be a handful for South Sydney's defence. Nathan Cleary got his side off to the perfect start as he managed to find his way over as he out wrestled Latrell Mitchell on the goal line in the third minute.

The Panthers continued their excellent start as Viliame Kikau and Kurt Capewell scored in the 12th and 14th minutes respectively. The hometown hero, Matt Burton, was the next to get in on the action scoring the first of his three tries in the 25th minute after he burst past Mansour on the left edge to score in the corner.

Just minutes later, Burton was to score his second try of the afternoon in a poor display of defence and effort from the Rabbitohs as Burton was allowed to catch a Nathan Cleary bomb and ground the football without being challenged in the air.

This took the Panthers score to 28 points in just 31 minutes of football. The Rabbitohs were next to score as Josh Mansour found his way over in the corner after Brian To'o failed to hold his wing, giving the Rabbitohs a glimpse of hope as they brought the deficit back to 22 points. Nathan Cleary would add two points to the lead on the half-time break after the Rabbitohs gave away a penalty on half-time.

It took a little longer than during the first half for the Panthers to start piling the points on, but when they did, they made it hurt the Rabbitohs.

Nathan Cleary scored the first points of the second half during the 49th minute with a penalty goal and over the course of the next 24 minutes the Panthers would add four converted tries to the total as the compiled 56 points for the match. Burton was the first try scorer of the half and in the process scored his first career hat trick in his hometown. Nathan Cleary would score his second in the 57th minute as he once again barged his way over from 10 metres out.

In the 70th and 73rd minute Brian To'o and Stephen Crichton got in on the action as they score their first four pointers for the afternoon. The Rabbitohs had another quiet half scoring just the one try with Cody Walker crossing in the 61st minutes with a brilliant piece of individual skill as he stepped on his inside to score near the posts.

This result was a massive wake up call for the Rabbitohs who had been labelled as premiership contenders and have now been beaten comfortably by both Penrith and Melbourne in three matches so far this year. South Sydney will have to bounce back as they face the third placed Parramatta Eels who are also coming off a loss and the league leaders Penrith will face the last placed Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs. **Lachy MacCorquodale**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (12) Tries: Josh Mansour, Cody Walker; **Conversions:** Adam Reynolds (2/2)

PENRITH PANTHERS (56) Tries: Nathan Cleary (2), Viliame Kikau, Kurt Capewell, Matt Burton (3), Brian To'o, Stephen Crichton; **Conversions:** Nathan Cleary (8/9); **Penalty Goals:** Nathan Cleary (2/2)

Venue: Apex Oval, Dubbo; **Crowd:** 10824; **Halftime:** South Sydney 6 Penrith 30; **Referee:** Grant Atkins

MANLY 28 PARRAMATTA 6

The Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles have announced themselves as a top team in the NRL, easily disposing of the Parramatta Eels by 22 points at Bankwest Stadium.

The game was marked by the saddening news that Manly legend Bob Fulton had passed away, with the two teams and those in attendance observing a minutes silence in memory of the great man.

Manly would show great spirit throughout the day, encapsulated in the first 10 minutes when they turned away a determined Parramatta attack. They would then streak up the field off a set restart before swinging it left and exposing the Parramatta right side defence, namely Waqa Blake, for the first of many times. Brad Parker was the tryscorer.

The Eels would give their fans some false hope at the 15 minute mark when they hit straight back through Clint Gutherson, who took advantage of an innovative offload from cult hero Isaiah Papali'i to streak over and level the scores.

The Eels had an opportunity to hit the front, but made too many relieving mistakes and allowed Manly to get a roll on. Karl Lawton made an immediate impact in his first game as a Sea Eagle, muscling his way over close to the line to make it 12-6 after the conversion.

The rest of the half was an arm wrestle, with Manly doing well to defend with 12 men after Lawton was sent to the bin for a high shot.

Then, right on half time, Manly scored through some expansive play early in the tackle count, with Garrick putting in a kick that bounced favourably for Brad Parker, who after executing an outstanding pickup had his second try of the day.

Early in the second half, both teams claimed tries, with Ferguson making a try saver on Garrick before Mahoney was denied due to being offside.

Garrick wouldn't be denied a second time, finishing off a sweeping play that included a peach of a pass from Schuster.

The Eels were never really a chance after that, getting frustrated in attack on multiple occasions and allowing themselves to be dominated by the opposing forward pack.

Manly scored another try right on full time to make the final scoreline 28-6. **Josh Robertson**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (28) Tries: Brad Parker (2), Reuben Garrick, Karl Lawton, Tom Trbojevic; **Conversions:** Reuben Garrick (4/5)

PARRAMATTA EELS (6) Tries: Clinton Gutherson; **Conversions:** Mitchell Moses (1/1)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; **Crowd:** 24411; **Halftime:** Parramatta 6 Manly 16; **Referee:** Adam Gee

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 11

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	11 - 0 - 0	280	22
2. Melbourne	9 - 0 - 2	234	18
3. Parramatta	9 - 0 - 2	130	18
4. South Sydney	8 - 0 - 3	27	16
5. Sydney	7 - 0 - 4	119	14
6. Manly	6 - 0 - 5	9	12
7. St Geo Illa	5 - 0 - 6	-3	10
8. Gold Coast	5 - 0 - 6	-27	10
9. Warriors	5 - 0 - 6	-39	10
10. North Qld	5 - 0 - 6	-88	10
11. Canberra	4 - 0 - 7	-58	8
12. Newcastle	4 - 0 - 7	-93	8
13. Cronulla	3 - 0 - 8	-75	6
14. Wests Tigers	3 - 0 - 8	-90	6
15. Brisbane	3 - 0 - 8	-126	6
16. Canterbury	1 - 0 - 10	-200	2

MATCH REVIEW

5 matches: Victor Radley (Sydney); 2 matches: Angus Crichton (Sydney) | 1 match: Jason Taumalolo (North Qld), Lachlan Burr (North Qld), Mawene Hiroti (Cronulla), Josh Dugan (Cronulla), Josh Kerr (St Geo Illa), Teig Wilton (Cronulla), Chris Smith (Canterbury), Sione Katoa (Canterbury), Tyson Gamble (Brisbane), Matt Lodge (Brisbane), Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Parramatta), Kurt Capewell (Penrith) | \$3400: Waqa Blake (Parramatta) | \$1600: Eliesa Katoa (Warriors), Paul Vaughan (St Geo Illa) | \$1500: Elliott Whitehead (Canberra) | \$1350: Dylan Napa (Canterbury) | \$1150: Esan Marsters (Gold Coast), Beau Fermor (Gold Coast), Jamal Fogarty (Gold Coast), Corey Waddell (Canterbury), Joey Manu (Sydney), David Mead (Brisbane), Toff Siple (Manly), Karl Lawton (Manly)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



North Queensland v Newcastle
3 points - Scott Drinkwater
2 points - Murray Taulagi
1 points - Shane Wright

Warriors v Wests Tigers
3 points - Reece Walsh
2 points - Tohu Harris
1 points - Luke Brooks

Cronulla v St George Illawarra
3 points - Will Kennedy
2 points - Toby Rudolf
1 points - Ben Hunt

Gold Coast v Canterbury
3 points - Alexander Brimson
2 points - Moeaki Fotuauka
1 points - Dallin Watene-Zeleznjak

Sydney v Brisbane
3 points - Tevita Pangai Junior
2 points - Matthew Lodge
1 points - James Tedesco

Melbourne v Canberra
3 points - Nicholas Hynes
2 points - Nelson Asofa-Solomona
1 points - Brandon Smith

Penrith v South Sydney
3 points - Nathan Cleary
2 points - Matt Burton
1 points - James Fisher-Harris

Manly v Parramatta
3 points - Reuben Garrick
2 points - Tom Trbojevic
1 points - Josh Schuster

LEADERBOARD

21 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers); 13 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors); 12 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), David Fifita (Titans)

INDIGENOUS ROUND

Round 12- May 27 to 30

MELBOURNE 40 BRISBANE 12

A rare double to Brandon Smith has seen the Melbourne Storm thump the Brisbane Broncos 40-12 on the opening night of Indigenous Round.

Continuing their love affair with the lands of the Yuggera and Turrbal Peoples, the Storm posted their 23rd win from 27 visits to Suncorp Stadium in a match where both teams were guilty of committing errors.

In a first half that alluded to a competitive contest that failed to eventuate, Brandon Smith (17th minute) was able to open the scoring by spinning through the Broncos' defence before racing underneath the posts.

Called into the starting team after impressing in last week's victory against the Raiders, Cooper Johns put a well-weighted grubber in-goal for Tui Kamikamica (32nd minute) to pounce on.

Blowing the score out to 16-0 shortly before halftime, an awful pass from Anthony Milford out of dummy half provided the Storm with the field position needed to send Josh Addo-Carr (36th minute) over for his 11th try in as many matches against the Broncos.

Continuing the trend of capitalising on errors, George Jennings (41st minute) raced away untouched after David Mead fumbled an offload inside his own half.

Taking the score out to 28-0 after Johns (44th minute) crossed for his first try in the top grade, a rare error from the Storm allowed Kobe Hetherington (47th minute) to spare the Broncos the ignominy of being held scoreless.

Embarrassing the Broncos defence with further tries to Nicho Hynes (52nd minute) and a second to Smith (62nd minute), a try against the run of play to Jesse Arthars (57th minute) in between the final two Melbourne tries saw the match finish 40-12 in favour of the visitors. **Rob Crosby**

MELBOURNE STORM (40) Tries: Brandon Smith (2), Nicholas Hynes, Tui Kamikamica, Josh Addo-Carr, George Jennings, Cooper Johns; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (6/7)
BRISBANE BRONCOS (12) Tries: Kobe Hetherington, Jesse Arthars; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (2/2)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 23600; Halftime: Brisbane 0 Melbourne 0; Referee: Ashley Klein

NORTH QUEENSLAND 29 WARRIORS 28

Valentine Holmes nailed an 80th minute field goal for the North Queensland Cowboys to down a resurgent New Zealand Warriors 29-28 tonight in Townsville.

Cowboys did their best to throw away the contest but Valentine Holmes kicked his second field goal of the year to get them home after a second half surge had put New Zealand Warriors ahead 28-22 in the final five minutes.

The new home stadium has become a fortress for North Queensland Cowboys. Tonight was their fifth straight win at the venue, but they were made to dig deep despite leading 22-6 at the break after Murray Tuilagi, Jake Clifford and Josh Drinkwater found the tryline while Jazz Tevaga was in the sin bin for a late shot. They had to rally late and gave Holmes the chance to kick the game winner.

Warriors showed when it was 13-on-13 they were the better side. Youngster Reece Walsh put together another starring performance which included setting up a pair of tries before the fullback streaked away from a drop ball to make it 22-all. Walsh has made the fullback position his own since the switch with the outgoing Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and has firmed as a future Origin star.

New Zealand came to North Queensland with a good record and started the contest well. Euan Aitken who was hampered with injury earlier this season finished off a set move to make it 6-nil as the Warriors looked to keep their record intact.

Cowboys hit back through Kyle Feldt to make it 6-6 then took control thanks to the Tevaga sin bin. Clifford and Drinkwater both found the stripe alongside hat-trick hero from last weekend Murray Tuilagi to make it 22-6 at the break. Coach Todd Payten on the road to victory against his former club.

It was Walsh wonderland in the second half. He supplied the pass for Aitken to steam over for his second from the scrum then a wonderful cutout put Marcelo Montoya over to level things up at 22-all. Between that, he scooped up a loose ball and outran Cowboys interchange forward Heilum Luki to get his own four-pointer.

The game looked dead and buried but the Cowboys found some resolve. They spread it wide on their right before Tabuai-Fidow who locked it up again at 28-all before they were pinged for an incorrect play-the-ball which led to Chanel Harris-Tavita's missed field goal.

When the Cowboys need a game winner, they look to their fullback. Holmes has already kicked a game-winning field goal back in Round 9 against Brisbane and it was set up just like a gridiron special teams play. Holmes stood on the 40-metre line and drilled the kick to send North Queensland Cowboys into the top eight in a thriller. **Justin Davies**

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (29) Tries: Kyle Feldt, Murray Tuilagi, Jake Clifford, Scott Drinkwater, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow; Field Goals: Valentine Holmes (1/1); Conversions: Valentine Holmes (4/5)
WARRIORS (28) Tries: Euan Aitken (2), Reece Walsh, Marcelo Montoya, Ben Murdoch-Masila; Field Goals: Chanel Harris-Tavita (0/1); Conversions: Kodi Nikorima (4/5)
Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 14951; Halftime: North Qld 22 Warriors 6; Referee: Matt Cecchin

WESTS TIGERS 34

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 18

The Wests Tigers have collected their fourth win of the season defeating St George-Illawarra by 34-18 at Bankwest Stadium tonight to give their finals hopes a big boost in front of their home fans.

It was a controlled performance from star halfback Luke Brooks who made the difference, having a hand in two tries and controlling the game with a superb kicking performance from the under-pressure halfback. Brooks was ably supported by the scintillating Daine Laurie, who was a constant threat in attack for the Tigers and continues to push as the buy of the season after his move from the high-flying Panthers in the off season.

St George on the other hand will rue a high error rate and blew multiple opportunities to get back in the game as they now risk slipping out of the Top 8 following results from Round 12. Halfback Ben Hunt was easily the best player for his side, but he had few allies in a very disappointing performance from Anthony Griffin's men.

Wests Tigers struck first when fullback Laurie produced a superb cut out ball for Adam Doueihi and the Tigers form player delivered the ball onto the chest of his speedster winger in James Roberts who fittingly touched down in Indigenous Round and the Tigers led 6-0.

The Tigers continued with their momentum, when Luke Brooks kicked high on the last with Tommy Talau who leaped highest, to then offload in the one motion and the ball goes wide for David Nofoaluma to score and it was 12-0 after 25 minutes. Luke Brooks continued his sides dominance, when he and Talau combined down the left-hand side to send Daine Laurie away to score next to the posts to extend the lead to 18-0 at the break in a superb first half performance by Michael Maguire's men.

The Dragons needed to score first after the break, and they did so when Tigers centre Talau put down a cross field kick. Dragons winger Brayden Wiliame was on the spot to score an easy try and get his side back in the game.

The Tigers however hit back when Alex Seyfarth scored his first NRL try following a cross field bomb from Adam Doueihi, with the Tigers interchange forward showing more determination to leap high to score and extend his sides lead to 24-6 following Douehi's conversion from out wide.

Wests Tigers then made it back-to-back tries, when on the attack close to the line, Daine Laurie nailed a superb cut out pass onto the chest of Tommy Talau to score. Doueihi missed the conversion but the Tigers were away at 28-6 with 20 minutes remaining.

James Roberts then scored his second try, following a neat ball down the short side from Moses Mbye close to the line. Doueihi converted and it was 34-6.

St George then fought back late in the match with consolation tries to Ben Hunt and through rookie Talatau Amone to save face in a disappointing 34-18 loss. **Sam Bourke**

WESTS TIGERS (34) Tries: James Roberts (2), David Nofoaluma, Daine Laurie, Alex Seyfarth, Tommy Talau; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (4/5); Penalty Goals: Adam Doueihi (1/1)
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (18) Tries: Brayden Wiliame, Ben Hunt, Talatau Amone; Conversions: Corey Norman (3/3)
Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Crowd: 9982; Halftime: Wests Tigers 18 St Geo Illa 0; Referee: Adam Gee

PENRITH 30 CANTERBURY 4

The Penrith Panthers have wound up doing it easily against the Bulldogs, winning 30 points to 4 to maintain their perfect record in 2021.

The game started off going exactly to script, with the Dogs almost making a mess of the kickoff before Jack Hetherington got penalised twice in two minutes for high tackles. The Panthers then scored with their first opportunity in Bulldog territory, spreading it wide to put Charlie Staines over the line.

The viewer would've been forgiven for thinking the Panthers would begin running away with it there and then, however the Bulldogs dug in and looked like scoring on multiple occasions.

The Penrith defence didn't really look like breaking however, and the Bulldogs ended up with nothing to show for a persistent attacking raid.

It seemed as if it'd only be 4-0 going into half time, however Dallin Watene-Zelezniak made a rare mistake by offloading to no one while coming out of his own end. Spencer Leniu was there to pick it off and he streaked away to score right on the siren, making it a 10 point lead for Penrith at the break.

The second half began and continued much like the first, with both sides in an arm wrestle right up until about the 55th minute. The Panthers then shifted it right again for Charlie Staines to score untouched for the second time.

That was the try that pried the floodgates somewhat open. Five minutes later, Stephen Crichton put in a deft little grubber kick that was collected by Paul Momirovski who scored the try.

In the 68th minute, the Panthers made something out of nothing, with Cleary stripping the ball one-on-one before getting an offload away that saw his side take advantage of a huge overlap and send Matt Burton over for his 9th try in his last nine games.

What followed was a contender for team try of the year. Matt Burton took an intercept and looked like he'd get run down before linking up with Brian To'o. To'o found Burton back on the outside, before he linked up with Crichton who scored. It sounds a bit bland when reading it, but it got the crowd well and truly on their feet.

The Bulldogs were able to score a late consolation try against 12 men to avoid going 3 straight games against Penrith without scoring. **Adam Huxtable**

PENRITH PANTHERS (30) Tries: Charlie Staines (2), Spencer Leniu, Paul Momirovski, Matt Burton, Stephen Crichton; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (3/5), Stephen Crichton (0/1)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (4) Tries: Aaron Schoupp; Conversions: Nick Meaney (0/1)
Venue: BlueBet Stadium; Crowd: 16110; Halftime: Penrith 10 Canterbury 0; Referee: Matt Noyen

SOUTH SYDNEY 38 PARRAMATTA 20

Hat tricks for both Dane Gagai and Alex Johnston have headlined an 18-point win for the South Sydney club tonight, the Rabbitohs finishing 38-20 winners over Parramatta at Stadium Australia.

The opening minutes set the scene for the Bunnies - opposition forward Oregon Kaufusi copped an early knock in the first set trying to defend, and that put the Eels on the back foot. Souths bagged the opening try a minute later, forcing an error from fullback Clint Gutherson before Damien Cook busted out from the scrumbase from the ensuing scrum, scoring under the sticks.

After opening up like Sydney Heads for the first try, Parramatta's right edge was exposed at the ten minute mark, with Johnston scoring his first try of the night.

The Eels managed to swing the momentum back as the quarter-mark of the match approached, a Crusher Tackle penalty against Cam Murray giving the Eels some free metreage. They took full advantage with fullback Clint Gutherson taking advantage of a lucky bounce following a Jakob Arthur cross-field kick.

Ahead 10-6 and at risk of losing the gains they'd made early, the Rabbitohs took it up a notch. A sin bin against Isaiah Papali'i at 24 minutes for a professional foul gave the home team a numerical advantage and shortly after, Johnston had a double as the Eels' defence crumbled again on the edges.

They didn't extend that lead again until after Papali'i was back on the paddock, but a pre-half-time try to Gagai had Souths doing it easily with a 20-6 margin at the break.

Gagai joined Johnston on two tries shortly after the resumption, the Rabbitohs' dominance extending to a 20-point lead before the Eels struck back through Papali'i at the 56th minute.

The last twenty minutes of the contest saw things open up, with more free-flowing footy allowing both sides to cross the line with ease. Johnston (61st) and Gagai (68th) completed their hat tricks to push the hosts to a 38-10 lead before a late surge from the Eels saw Sivo cross in the corner before an in-and-behind kick from Jakob Arthur dragged the visiting side to 20 points at the end of proceedings.

The win represents a great turnaround for the Bunnies after last weekend's horror loss to Penrith. They have a bye in Round 13 and get back on the park after Origin I. Parramatta now have back-to-back losses and could soon risk their top four spot - they head to Newcastle next Sunday. **Tim Costello**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (38) Tries: Damien Cook, Alex Johnston (3), Dane Gagai (3); Conversions: Adam Reynolds (5/7)
PARRAMATTA EELS (20) Tries: Clinton Gutherson, Isaiah Papali'i, Maika Sivo, Jakob Arthur; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (2/4)
Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 20743; Halftime: South Sydney 20 Parramatta 6; Referee: Gerard Sutton

SYDNEY 44 CANBERRA 16

The misery continued to be piled high for the Canberra Raiders as they were comprehensively outplayed in their 44-16 defeat to the red-hot Sydney Roosters at Central Coast Stadium in Gosford.

The Canberra Raiders started the game fast when Josh Hodgson opened the scoring for the Raiders when the Englishman chased through an Elliott Whitehead grubber kick to score for the Green Machine. The fast-start for the Canberrans continued when Corey Horsburgh was able to score next to the uprights and after Sam Williams converted, the Raiders lead 10-0.

Things then unravelled significantly for the Raiders as the Roosters put on three tries in the space of six minutes to wipe out the Canberra lead. The first of the Roosters tries came just after the half hour mark when Joseph Suaalii was able to score his first NRL try when Caleb Aekins lost the ball and Suaalii swooped to score.

The Roosters added a second try when Lachlan Lam went through thanks to a burst from James Tedesco who had just returned to the field after some treatment for a hip injury. The third of the Roosters tries came through Sitili Tupouniua who ran a good line at close range to get over. Adam Keighran added his second conversion of the night to give the Roosters a 16-10 lead.

The Raiders had to spend the first six minutes of the second half with 12 men after Ryan James was sent to the sin bin late in the first half by Grant Atkins and the Raiders did well enough, only conceding the one try which saw Daniel Tupou with open space on the outside of the Raiders defence to score.

The tricolours continued their momentum when Joey Manu was able to pull off a 1-on-1 strip and then in seemingly slow motion, gather the ball, adjust his grip and slam the ball down to extend the Roosters lead after another conversion from Adam Keighran.

The Green Machine looked to stem the momentum as Ryan James was able to spin his way out of a tackle and get to the line but despite the converted try, it did very little to halt the momentum of the Roosters.

The Roosters next try was a thing of absolute beauty with Joey Manu flying over two Raiders defenders to catch the ball and take it in to score. Adam Keighran added his fifth conversion of the night to extend the lead. Josh Morris continued to amaze NRL fans as he gathered a bouncing ball above his head, juggled it and then put the ball down behind his back. Morris was denied by the bunker just minutes later when he lost the ball in the process of scoring.

With just over 10 minutes to go, the Roosters capped off their night when Sitili Tupouniua scored his second after being set up with Joseph Suaalii was able to draw in defenders and put Tupouniua over outside. Adam Keighran sealed the conversion with a kick from wide out.

The Raiders were denied by the bunker in the dying seconds when Sebastian Kris was ruled to have simultaneously grounded the ball on the line and corner post in the process of scoring the try. **Josh Robertson**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (44) Tries: Joseph Suaalii, Lachlan Lam, Sitili Tupouniua (2), Daniel Tupou, Joseph Manu (2), Josh Morris; Conversions: Adam Keighran (6/8)
CANBERRA RAIDERS (16) Tries: Josh Hodgson, Corey Horsburgh, Ryan James; Conversions: Sam Williams (2/3)
Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Crowd: 10113; Halftime: Sydney 16 Canberra 10; Referee: Grant Atkins

CRONULLA 38 GOLD COAST 10

Cronulla have jagged another win for season 2021 today, running roughshod over the Gold Coast 38-10 in Coffs Harbour.

It was the perfect start for the Titans who wasted no time at all, scoring in just the third minute of the match as Brian Kelly grounded a Tanah Boyd grubber to open the scoring. However, it was all downhill from here for the Titans. The Sharks struck back almost immediately as Jesse Ramien found his way over on the right edge to draw the Sharks level with the Titans. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui soon found himself in the sin bin for repeatedly infringing in the ruck which the Sharks took advantage of, through a penalty goal to give them the lead. The Sharks scored again immediately through Ronaldo Mulitalo, scoring in his first game back from injury. With the score at 14-6, the Titans were still in the contest and when Will Chambers was sent to the sin bin for a high tackle it seemed like a godsend for the Gold Coast.

The Sharks weren't concerned with being reduced to 12 men for 10 minutes as they ran in two tries in that time period, as Mulitalo scored his second in the 24th minute and Jack Williams added another in the 32nd minute. These tries took the Sharks lead out to 20 points as they led the Titans 26 points to six at the break. It was a disappointing showing from the Titans and especially David Fifita who has just returned from suspension and accumulated a mere 36 run metres at this stage.

Much of the same occurred during the second half as the Cronulla Sharks cruised home with a convincing win. They did start on the wrong foot however, with Briton Nikora going to the sin bin in the 44th minute but this didn't prevent the Sharks from continuing their onslaught. Only three minutes later, Blayke Brailey borrowed his way behind the ruck the score his first of the day in what was an embarrassing effort by the Titans defence. The Sharks continued to play with momentum despite being down to 12 men and Connor Tracey would be next to add his name on the scoresheet as he took advantage of a numbers overlap on the right edge.

Luckily for the Titans, this would be the final try the Sharks would score but Cronulla had inflicted too much pain throughout the opening 60 minutes. The Titans weren't out of hot water just yet as Jamal Fogarty was sent to the sin bin in the 66th minute for interfering with play whilst being in an offside position. Gold Coast managed to hold on defensively with 12 men and were rewarded for their efforts in the 77th minute with their second try of the afternoon as Kevin Proctor cruised over for the try line for his first of the afternoon.

Justin Holbrook won't be pleased with his sides' effort this afternoon as they never really stood a chance despite scoring the opening try of the afternoon. He'll get his side ready for a tough clash with an Origin depleted Melbourne Storm side whilst the Cronulla Sharks have the week off. **Lachy MacCorquodale**

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (38) Tries: Jesse Ramien, Ronaldo Mulitalo (2), Jack Williams, Blayke Brailey, Connor Tracey; Conversions: Shaun Johnson (6/6); Penalty Goals: Shaun Johnson (1/1)

GOLD COAST TITANS (10) Tries: Brian Kelly, Kevin Proctor; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (1/2)

Venue: C.ex Coffs International Stadium; Crowd: 7362; Halftime: Cronulla 26 Gold Coast 6; Referee: Chris Sutton

NEWCASTLE 18 MANLY 10

The Knights have delivered a surprise victory for their home fans at McDonald Jones Stadium, upsetting Manly 18-10.

The match started with Newcastle seemingly in control, but unable to take advantage. They got close enough through Daniel Saifiti who lost the ball at the line in the opening minutes.

Sadly for the hosts though, Manly wrestled back the momentum around the ten minute mark, Brad Parker taking advantage of some poor Newcastle right side defence after Karl Lawton found a gap in the line thanks to some clever play by Daly Cherry-Evans.

Manly were able to extend their lead after 27 minutes when Jason Saab scored an entertaining long-range try. Reuben Garrick's conversion - after missing the earlier one - gave them a 10-0 lead.

Things got a little intense for the remaining part of the half. Manly appeared to have scored only for a Bunker review to rule foul play - head contact no less - in the lead up from Tevita Funa. His contact on Starford To'a saw him placed on report - but not sin binned.

The decision for the officiating team a few minutes later (32nd minute) was more clear cut - Sean Keppie took Newcastle half Phoenix Crossland high and was sent to the sin bin. The hosts took full advantage - To'a and Sauaso Sue both crossing in the remaining time before the break.

The second half went almost completely without points - Newcastle retaining a two-point lead until the final two minutes when Saifiti scored the try he was cruelly denied in the opening minutes. The sin bin was troubled twice more as well - Martin Taupau for a shoulder charge at the 59th minute and David Klemmer in the dying seconds were both given marching orders for ten minutes. **Tim Costello**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (18) Tries: Starford To'a, Sauaso Sue, Daniel Saifiti; Conversions: Tex Hoy (2/2), Mitchell Barnett (1/1)
MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (10) Tries: Brad Parker, Jason Saab; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (1/2)
Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 17348; Halftime: Newcastle 12 Manly 10; Referee: Ben Cummins

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 12

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	12 - 0 - 0	306	24
2. Melbourne	10 - 0 - 2	262	20
3. Parramatta	9 - 0 - 3	112	18
4. South Sydney	9 - 0 - 3	45	18
5. Sydney	8 - 0 - 4	147	16
6. Manly	6 - 0 - 6	1	12
7. North Qld	6 - 0 - 6	-87	12
8. St. Geo Illa	5 - 0 - 7	-19	10
9. Warriors	5 - 0 - 7	-40	10
10. Gold Coast	5 - 0 - 7	-55	10
11. Newcastle	5 - 0 - 7	-85	10
12. Cronulla	4 - 0 - 8	-47	8
13. Wests Tigers	4 - 0 - 8	-74	8
14. Canberra	4 - 0 - 8	-86	8
15. Brisbane	3 - 0 - 9	-154	6
16. Canterbury	1 - 0 - 11	-226	2

MATCH REVIEW

2 matches: David Klemmer (Newcastle); 1 match: Mitch Dunn (North Qld), Reece Walsh (Warriors), Adam Pompey (Warriors), Moses Leota (Penrith), Ryan James (Canberra), Sean Keppie (Manly), Tevita Funa (Manly); \$3050: Jack Hetherington (Canterbury); \$1900: Tariq Sims (St Geo Illa); \$1700: Jordan Rapana (Canberra), Mitch Rein (Gold Coast), Martin Taupau (Manly); \$1600: Moeaki Fotuika (Gold Coast); \$1350: Jazz Tevaga (Warriors), Ryan Matterson (Parramatta), David Fifita (Gold Coast), Tyson Frizell (Newcastle); \$1150: Isaah Yeo (Penrith), Will Hopoate (Canterbury); Not guilty: Felise Kaufusi (Melbourne), Luciano Leilua (Wests Tigers)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS

Melbourne v Brisbane
3 points - Brandon Smith
2 points - Nicholas Hynes
1 points - Nelson Asofa-Solomona

North Queensland v Warriors
3 points - Reece Walsh
2 points - Jake Clifford
1 points - Coen Hess

Wests Tigers v St George Illawarra
3 points - Luke Brooks
2 points - Daine Laurie
1 points - Luciano Leilua

Penrith v Canterbury
3 points - Stephen Crichton
2 points - James Fisher-Harris
1 points - Viliame Kikau

South Sydney v Parramatta
3 points - Dane Gagai
2 points - Cody Walker
1 points - Alex Johnston

Sydney v Canberra
3 points - Joseph Manu
2 points - James Tedesco
1 points - Jared Waerea-Hargreaves

Cronulla v Gold Coast
3 points - Ronaldo Mulitalo
2 points - Will Kennedy
1 points - Connor Tracey

Newcastle v Manly
3 points - Daniel Saifiti
2 points - Mitchell Barnett
1 points - Connor Watson

LEADERBOARD

21 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers); 15 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks); 13 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors); 12 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), David Fifita (Titans), Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)

ROUND 13 June 3 to 6

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 52 BRISBANE 24

A man of the match performance from Matt Dufty has seen the St George Illawarra Dragons demolish the Brisbane Broncos 52-24 at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium.

Producing five try-assists and crossing for two of his own, the Dragons fullback was in superb touch in a contest that saw Jack de Belin return to the NRL for the first time since 2018.

Chasing their first win at Kogarah since 1998, the Broncos got off to a great start with Albert Kelly putting in an early kick that allowed David Mead (7th minute) to outpace Mikaele Ravalawa to the ball.

Responding with a try to makeshift second-rower Jack Bird (12th minute), the Dragons hit the front after a short pass from Bird allowed Brayden Williame (21st minute) to streak 30 metres to the line for his fourth try of the season

In a match where both teams capitalised upon errors, TC Robati (26th minute) raced into a gap created by Kelly to cross for his first try in the top grade, before the duo combined to send Robati (30th minute) over for his second a few minutes.

Striking back through Gerard Beale (33rd minute) to level the scores up at 18-all, a costly error from Jamayne Isaako allowed Matt Dufty (40th minute) to put the home side in front at the change of ends after Corey Norman backed his fullback's pace with a kick from a scrum.

Building pressure during the opening stages of the second half, the Dragons wasted little time in capitalising on Robati being sent to the sin bin with Cody Ramsey (45th minute) producing an acrobatic finish to score out wide.

Putting the result beyond doubt with de Belin and Dufty combining to send Josh Kerr (50th minute) over, a superb cut-out ball from Dufty allowed Ravalawa (58th minute) to use brute force to power over the top of Mead.

Ben Hunt (64th minute) heaped further misery on his former club with a solo effort, before a grubber from Tyson Gamble produced a consolation effort for Jesse Arthars (71st minute).

Taking the score beyond a half century in the shadows of fulltime, a chip kick from Hunt allowed Dufty (77th minute) to race away for his second to the delight of a small, but vocal, crowd of 5,107 supporters. **Rob Crosby**

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (52) Tries: Jack Bird, Brayden Williame, Ben Hunt, Gerard Beale, Matthew Dufty (2), Cody Ramsey, Josh Kerr, Mikaele Ravalawa; Conversions: Jack Bird (1/1), Corey Norman (7/8)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (24) Tries: David Mead, TC Robati (2), Jesse Arthars; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (3/3), Tyson Gamble (1/1)

Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Crowd: 5107; Halftime: St Geo Illa 24 Brisbane 18; Referee: Matt Cecchin

WESTS TIGERS 26 PENRITH 6

The Wests Tigers have become the first team to defeat the Penrith Panthers in 2021 with a dominant 26-6 win at Leichardt Oval.

Leading from start to finish in a match where the Panthers were without eight regular first graders due to representative commitments and suspension, the Tigers stood up to defeat the competition leaders at Leichardt Oval for the first time since 2000.

In an enthralling opening where both teams defended stoutly, ex-Panther Daine Laurie (15th minute) gave the home side first points after Luke Brooks and Moses Mbye shifted the ball to the left edge.

Despite receiving a 9-3 penalty count during the first half, the error-riddled Panthers were unable to take advantage with Charlie Staines coming closest only to be forced into touch by Laurie.

Striking a decisive blow shortly before the break, the Tigers were rewarded for their defence as Jacob Liddle raced the length of the field in a play reminiscent of Todd Byrne's effort in the 2003 Grand Final; to the delight of 9,127 fans at Leichardt Oval, the Penrith chasers were unable to replicate the heroics of Scott Sattler as the Tigers took a 10-0 lead to the sheds.

Appearing to get off to a great start mere minutes after the resumption of play, Penrith interchange forward J'maine Hoppood had his maiden NRL try overturned due to Matt Burton denying Laurie an opportunity to contest a Tyrone May grubber.

Making amends for his earlier indiscretion, Burton (52nd minute) showed strong footwork to get the visitors on the board with a run from close range.

Establishing a 12-6 buffer with an Adam Doueihi penalty goal shortly after Mbye hobbled off with a knee injury, the home side were controversially awarded a penalty try to Luciano Leilua (65th minute) after the bunker ruled the ball had been dislodged from the second-rower's grasp as a result of high contact from Robert Jennings.

Securing the result with a second penalty goal to Doueihi after Burton put a line drop-out out on the full, a barge-over effort from Stefano Utoikamanu (77th minute) capped a memorable night for the joint venture. **Rob Crosby**

WESTS TIGERS (26) Tries: Daine Laurie, Jacob Liddle, Luciano Leilua, Stefano Utoikamanu; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (3/4); Penalty Goals: Adam Doueihi (2/2)

PENRITH PANTHERS (6) Tries: Matt Burton; Conversions: Stephen Crichton (1/1)

Venue: Leichardt Oval; Crowd: 9127; Halftime: Wests Tigers 10 Penrith 0; Referee: Grant Atkins

MELBOURNE 20 GOLD COAST 14

An Origin-ravaged Melbourne Storm have held off a spirited second half comeback from the Gold Coast to win 20-14 at their temporary Sunshine Coast Stadium home tonight.

Neither side troubled the scorers in the first 15 minutes, with opportunities going begging both ways before the Titans went in first through Greg Marzhew in the corner. A sublime setup from Patrick Herbert had the away side on the board, but Jamal Fogarty couldn't pot the conversion.

Melbourne wasted little time striking back - just four minutes later Reimis Smith went over after Jahrome Hughes broke into the backfield. Hynes' conversion made it a two-point lead.

From there, the 'home' side went bang. On the back of Reimis' try, the other Smith - Brandon - burrowed over for their second. Trent Loiero followed soon after, carrying defenders with him and a short space of time, the Storm shot out to a 16-4 lead.

The Titans stemmed the flow after the Loiero try, with Melbourne not adding to their score before the break any further.

For the sake of the contest, it would be Gold Coast getting in the swing of things early, with Brian Kelly pouncing on an Ash Taylor grubber which narrowed the deficit to 16-8.

Closer to the hour mark though the Storm seemingly put the result into near-certain territory with George Jennings gliding over out wide off a Nicho Hynes ball - but the Gold Coast weren't laying down.

Jarrold Wallace muscled his way over on 58 minutes to ensure the contest was live, Fogarty finally nailing a conversion to make it just one converted try the difference with a quarter of the game remaining.

The most notable moments of the final 20 minutes - which were scoreless - were the sin-binning of Reimis Smith with a bit over 10 minutes left, and the Titans' ability to butcher repeated chances at cracking the Storm line, including a final-ditch effort down the left flank which saw Phillip Sami attempt a cut-out pass to Esan Marsters which found someone in Row C.

It's now ten straight for Melbourne, who've narrowed the trailing gap to Penrith at the top to just a single victory. After Origin next week, they're in Gosford to face the nomadic Warriors. The Titans on the other hand are at home to the Roosters as they reflect on their 12th position - which could drop to 13th if Newcastle get the chocolates over Parramatta on Sunday. **Tim Costello & Emile El-Azar**

MELBOURNE STORM (20) Tries: Reimis Smith, Brandon Smith, Trent Loiero, George Jennings; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (2/4)

GOLD COAST TITANS (14) Tries: Greg Marzhew, Brian Kelly, Jarrold Wallace; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (1/3)

Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 7630; Halftime: Melbourne 16 Gold Coast 4; Referee: Chris Butler

PARRAMATTA 40 NEWCASTLE 4

The Parramatta Eels have broken a two match losing streak in style, making the Knights look silly on Old Boys Day in Newcastle with a 36-point drubbing.

The Eels scored all too easily with their first opportunity in Knights territory, with Lachlan Fitzgibbon being exposed at marker and Ryan Matterson taking full advantage to score his first try of the year.

While the initial try in the 4th minute was a sign of things to come for the Knights, the Eels wouldn't score their second until the 17th minute, when Moses' kick was batted back and Matterson flicked a pass away to Dunster, who got the first try of his NRL career.

The Eels attack really got going in the last 10 minutes of the half. Maika Sivo was given two 1-on-1 matchups in which he emerged victorious. They were courtesy of some ad-lib team play on the last and a bullet pass from Gutherson, while some more expansive play off the set right after points saw Gutherson go in and the Eels carry a 22 point lead into the break.

Parramatta picked up right where they left off in the second half. Jake Clifford knocked on from dummy half and in the ensuing set, Shaun Lane got a miracle offload away to Bryce Cartwright. Mitch Moses converted to make the score 28-0 after 45 minutes.

After one of the longest bunker referral processes in recent memory, Bradman Best immediately knocked on in the play the ball. It gave the Eels an easy opportunity, which was taken advantage of by some nice dummy-half work from Reed Mahoney to put Tom Opacic over the line.

It was a convincing win for the Eels, but their fans will be sweating on the health of Reed Mahoney, who came off with what is rumoured to be a shoulder injury in the 68th minute.

Sauaso Sue was sent to the bin for a high shot, and minutes later Waqa Blake chased a Bryce Cartwright grubber through to score.

The Knights scored a consolation try at the end through Enari Tuala. Clifford was unable to convert. **Adam Huxtable**

PARRAMATTA EELS (40) Tries: Ryan Matterson, Haze Dunster, Maika Sivo (2), Clinton Gutherson, Bryce Cartwright, Tom Opacic, Waqa Blake; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (2/6), Clinton Gutherson (2/2)

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (4) Tries: Enari Tuala; Conversions: Jake Clifford (0/1)

Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 23015; Halftime: Newcastle 0 Parramatta 22; Referee: Adam Gee

BYES

Canberra Raiders
Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs
Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks
Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles
North Queensland Cowboys
South Sydney Rabbitohs
Sydney Roosters
Warriors

STATS LEADERS

After Round 13

Top Pointscorers

1. N Cleary	Penrith	146
2. A Reynolds	Souths	114
3. R Garrick	Manly	106
4. A Douehi	Wests Tigers	104
5. K Nikorima	Warriors	92
6. J Fogarty	Gold Coast	88
7. J Isaako	Brisbane	86
7. M Moses	Parramatta	86
9. V Holmes	North Qld	82
10. R Papenhuyzen	Melbourne	80

Top Tryscorers

1. J Addo-Carr	Melbourne	15
2. M Sivo	Parramatta	13
3. A Johnston	Souths	12
4. B Morris	Sydney	11
4. J Saab	Manly	11
6. M Burton	Penrith	10
6. M Dufty	St Geo Illa	10
6. C Gutherson	Parramatta	10
6. C Staines	Penrith	10

Top Goalkickers

1. N Cleary	Penrith	58
2. A Reynolds	Souths	49
3. A Douehi	Wests Tigers	42
3. J Fogarty	Gold Coast	42
3. M Moses	Parramatta	42
6. K Nikorima	Warriors	40
7. R Garrick	Manly	39
8. V Holmes	North Qld	34
9. J Isaako	Brisbane	33
10. C Townsend	Cronulla	31

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 13

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Penrith	12 - 0 - 1	286	24
2. Melbourne	11 - 0 - 2	268	22
3. Parramatta	10 - 0 - 3	148	20
4. South Sydney	9 - 0 - 3	45	20
5. Sydney	8 - 0 - 4	147	18
6. Manly	6 - 0 - 6	1	14
7. North Qld	6 - 0 - 6	-87	14
8. St Geo Illa	6 - 0 - 7	9	12
9. Warriors	5 - 0 - 7	-40	12
10. Cronulla	4 - 0 - 8	-47	10
11. Wests Tigers	5 - 0 - 8	-54	10
12. Gold Coast	5 - 0 - 8	-61	10
13. Canberra	4 - 0 - 8	-86	10
14. Newcastle	5 - 0 - 8	-121	10
15. Brisbane	3 - 0 - 10	-182	6
16. Canterbury	1 - 0 - 11	-226	4

MATCH REVIEW

Nelson Asofa-Solomona	Melbourne	1 match [^] + \$1900
Moses Mbye	Wests Tigers	\$1700
Dylan Edwards	Penrith	\$1700
Reimis Smith	Melbourne	\$1600*
TC Robati	Brisbane	\$1350
James Roberts	Wests Tigers	\$1350
Robert Jennings	Penrith	\$1350
Patrick Herbert	Gold Coast	\$1150
Sauaso Sue	Newcastle	\$1150
Lachlan Fitzgibbon	Newcastle	\$1150

* = successful downgrade at judiciary

[^] = unsuccessful at judiciary

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



St George Illawarra v Brisbane

3 points - Matthew Dufty

2 points - Jack Bird

1 points - Albert Kelly

Wests Tigers v Penrith

3 points - Daine Laurie

2 points - Luke Brooks

1 points - Alex Twal

Melbourne v Gold Coast

3 points - Jahrome Hughes

2 points - Brandon Smith

1 points - Jamal Fogarty

Parramatta v Newcastle

3 points - Clinton Gutherson

2 points - Waqa Blake

1 points - Ryan Matterson

LEADERBOARD

21 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers)

15 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks)

13 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors)

12 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Daine Laurie (Wests

Tigers), David Fifita (Titans), Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)

11 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Adam Douehi (Wests

Tigers), Jahrome Hughes (Storm)

10 points - James Tedesco (Roosters), Nicholas Hynes (Storm),

Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys), Ben Hunt (Dragons)

ROUND 14 June 11 to 14

MANLY 50 NORTH QUEENSLAND 18

The Manly Warringah Sea Eagles have come back from a 12 point deficit after eight minutes, to blow the Cowboys away by a score of 50 points to 18 at Brookvale tonight.

After news broke that Tom Trbojevic would be rested for this match, many altered their tips to give the Cowboys a chance.

It appeared that the Manly side from Rounds 1-5 was back, with the Cowboys scoring in the third minute after Murray Taulagi pounced on a Scott Drinkwater short kick.

This was compounded by another try to the Cowboys 5 minutes later, with Drinkwater assisting again by throwing a cutout pass to a wide open Javid Bowen, who strolled over untouched.

The Sea Eagles responded 4 minutes later by exploiting the Cowboys right edge defence for the first of many times. They had O'Neill and Dearden retreating and Foran hit a hard running Brad Parker, who crashed over to get Manly on the board.

In the 19th minute, Haumole Olakau'atu rose above all the Cowboys to score, and Garrick's conversion made it 12-10 twenty minutes into what looked like a close contest.

In the last 6 minutes of the half, Manly blew the game wide open by scoring 3 tries. They had all the momentum in the 34th and once again the Cowboys right edge couldn't retreat, with Karl Lawton crashing over for one of the easier dummy-half tries you'll see.

Two minutes later, another break was made down that infamous right edge and Lachlan Croker was there in support.

The Cowboys desperately needed half time to come, and it was made even more evident by front rower Taniela Paseka making a clean break up the middle of the field. Olakau'atu scored a try in what was a carbon copy of his earlier four-pointer, and all of a sudden the score was 28-12 at half time.

Manly started the second half as they finished the first. Daly Cherry-Evans put in a grubber close to the line and it was the perfect bounce for Kieran Foran, who scored the try.

The Cowboys had some rare attacking field position, but their last tackle kick went straight into the arms of Reuben Garrick, who channeled his inner Tom Trbojevic to run the length of the field and kill any hope the Cowboys had of getting themselves back into it.

Converted tries to Dylan Walker and Brad Parker got Manly to 50 points, while Tabuai-Fidow got one back for the Cowboys late in the piece. **Adam Huxtable**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (50) Tries: Brad Parker (2), Reuben Garrick, Haumole Olakau'atu (2), Karl Lawton, Lachlan Croker, Kieran Foran, Dylan Walker; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (7/9)

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (18) Tries: Murray Taulagi, Javid Bowen, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (3/3)

Venue: 4 Pines Park; Crowd: 6801; Halftime: Manly 28 North Qld 12; Referee: Adam Gee

CRONULLA 19 PENRITH 18

A last gasp Shaun Johnson field goal has secured the Cronulla Sharks a dramatic 19-18 victory over the Panthers at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium tonight.

Told he was unwanted in the Shire next year, the Kiwi halfback put himself in the shop window for other clubs looking for a proven match winner when he launched a 35-metre shot with a minute left on the clock to give his side their third win in a row. The Sharks win saw the previously undefeated Panthers collect their second loss on the trot, however they were missing five Origin stars.

The Sharks got off to a fast start when winger Ronaldo Mulitalo burst through the line and took off down the right-hand side. Mulitalo then found the veteran in Matt Moylan trailing in support and former Panthers star showed enough speed to power away to score a superb runaway try to get his side on the scoreboard.

Panthers fullback Dylan Edwards was then penalised for an attempted strip and Sharks goalkicker Johnson took the two points on offer to extend the home side's lead to 8-0 after 15 minutes.

Cronulla continued to pressure the Penrith line, when Johnson put up a bomb on the last, which was calmly collected by Briton Nikora who managed an overhead gridiron pass back to Johnson in support to score and extend the Sharks lead to 12-0 following Johnson's missed conversion from out wide.

A bizarre penalty given away off the kick-off against Viliame Kikau who deliberately ran Briton Nikora off the ball and Johnson had a Mulligan for his earlier missed conversion to extend the Sharks lead to 14-0.

Cronulla again marched up field and in a beautiful sweeping play, Will Kennedy and Will Chambers combined to put Ronaldo Mulitalo over in the corner to score a crucial just before halftime to extend the score to 18-0 in a season best performance from Josh Hannay's men.

Penrith needed to score next and it was Bulldogs bound five-eighth Burton who scored the first try for his side, with a wicked left foot step close to the line leaving the Sharks defence grasping at thin air. Stephen Crichton converted to give the Panthers a chance at 18-6.

Matt Burton continued to find the right answer on the last tackle with several forced repeat sets, and then produced another deft kick behind the defensive line. This time the ball bounced up on a platter for rookie interchange player Izack Tago to score his first NRL try and narrow the Sharks lead to 18-12.

The Panthers continued their momentum to again charge upfield and it was the white-hot Burton again with the left foot step close to the line to score his second try. Crichton then missed the opportunity to tie up the match to trail by two points with six minutes left.

Crichton was then presented with atonement, when the Panthers were gifted a penalty from in front of the posts following a high tackle from Nikora on a rampaging Burton and Crichton managed to tie it up with minutes remaining in the match. Johnson then had the home side in raptures when he snapped the winning field goal to give the Sharks a dramatic last gasp win. **Sam Bourke**

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (19) Tries: Matt Moylan, Shaun Johnson, Ronaldo Mulitalo; Field Goals: Shaun Johnson (1/1); Conversions: Shaun Johnson (1/3); Penalty Goals: Shaun Johnson (2/2)

PENRITH PANTHERS (18) Tries: Matt Burton (2), Izack Tago; Conversions: Stephen Crichton (2/3); Penalty Goals: Stephen Crichton (1/1)

Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; Crowd: 5217; Halftime: Cronulla 18 Penrith 0; Referee: Ashley Klein

SYDNEY 35 GOLD COAST 34

One of the most entertaining games of the 2021 NRL season has seen the Sydney Roosters triumph 35-34 over the Gold Coast Titans, courtesy of a late Sam Walker field goal at Cbus Super Stadium.

A solid start for the Titans wasn't enough as they failed to trouble the scorers in spite of a glut of early possession. After 14 minutes the Roosters made them pay - scoring through Matt Ikuvalu on the right flank in their first attacking foray into the Gold Coast's red zone.

Back-to-back tries for Angus Crichton and Daniel Tupou just after the 20-minute mark suddenly saw the Tricolours out by 18-0, with Adam Keighran's perfect goalkicking maximising the advantage for the away team.

Gold Coast wrestled back territorial and possession advantage for the remainder of the half, but wouldn't actually convert it into points until right on halftime, with Jamal Fogarty taking advantage of an overlap from a scrum play to get the home team on the board.

The second half saw the Roosters put the foot down once more, with Walker and Joey Manu scoring two superb tries to send the small contingent of away fans into raptures, and the visitors led 30-4 with half an hour to.

Then... the game turned on its head. Fogarty picked up his second try not long after the Roosters' last four-pointer and with the 30-10 scoreline, the Titans got a leg up when minutes later Ben Marschke was sin binned for ten minutes after high contact was picked up. The following seven minutes saw the Gold Coast pick up THREE tries, first through Tyrone Peachey and then Brian Kelly, before a rampaging Tino Fa'asuamaleaui closed the gap to just two by steaming over beside the posts. After his first conversion of the day missed just before halftime, Fogarty's second half goalkicking was flawless and the margin had shrunk from 20 to just 2 in a short space of time.

Cbus Super Stadium then erupted with 8 minutes remaining when Kevin Proctor pounced on a Fogarty grubber to secure the lead for the home team.

The Roosters then got Marschke back from his ten minute sabbatical and set about righting the ship. With four left, Matt Ikuvalu took advantage of tired edge defence to score an acrobatic try in the corner to level the scores at 34-34. Walker took over kicking duties from Keighran and missed - but made up for it with a minute remaining, kicking the match-winning field goal in a memorable contest. **Tim Costello**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (35) Tries: Matt Ikuvalu (2), Angus Crichton, Daniel Tupou, Sam Walker, Joseph Manu; Field Goals: Sam Walker (1/1); Conversions: Adam Keighran (5/5), Sam Walker (0/1)

GOLD COAST TITANS (34) Tries: Jamal Fogarty (2), Tyrone Peachey, Brian Kelly, Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Kevin Proctor; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (5/6)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 15111; Halftime: Gold Coast 4 Sydney 18; Referee: Ben Cummins

SOUTH SYDNEY 24 NEWCASTLE 10

Alex Johnston scored his fifth hat-trick of tries in a game as Souths comfortably disposed of a sloppy Knights team 24-10, who have now slumped to 9 losses from their last 12 games.

Johnston's first try was recorded in just the third minute of the game, when Souths, in their first attacking set of the match, sent the ball left where some lovely late passing saw Burns produce a beautiful catch-and-pass to Johnston, who raced away to score in the left corner. Adam Reynolds nailed the sideline conversion.

It took 20 minutes before the services of the scoreboard attendant were called upon again. This time the Knights produced an almost replay of the Souths try, where Bradman Best got a good catch and pass along to Dominic Young who dived over in the corner to score a good try. Jake Clifford failed to convert from out wide.

In the 32nd minute, Benji Marshall ignored calls to send the ball right, instead dishing the ball along to Cody Walker on the short left side. Walker threw a stunning flat, cut-out pass that hit Johnston sweetly and the winger bagged his second try of the game. Reynolds again converted from touch.

Two minutes from half-time, Latrell Mitchell tried to shield a Knights grubber over the dead-ball line, but it hit him before going dead, forcing a Souths drop out. From the next set, Clifford chipped over the top, 20 metres out from the Souths line. The ball ricocheted out of a contest and into the Souths in-goal where Kurt Mann scrambled on his hands and knees to plant the loose ball for a try. Clifford converted to keep the Knights within 2 of Souths at the break.

Eight minutes after halftime, Souths, after going right twice for no result in consecutive sets, switch back to the left side with immediate success. Another catch and pass play creates the extra man and Johnston scored in the corner for his third try of the night. Reynolds again was flawless with his sideline conversion.

A great defensive set by Souths in the 59th minute kept the Knights inside their own 30 metres. Latrell Mitchell ensured the Souths set started inside the Newcastle half thanks to a strong run. On the last tackle of the set, Reynolds put in a gentle grubber which ricocheted off the Knights defenders. Jaydn Su'A following through toed the ball ahead and then dived on it in the Newcastle in-goal to score a good try. Reynolds converted from almost in front.

Neither side really came close to scoring for the rest of the game as play was scrappy from both sides, but not without some exciting runs from either side. In the end, the Knights attack generally looked pedestrian outside of the strong attacking kicking game of Clifford in the first half. **Andrew Ferguson**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (24) Tries: Alex Johnston (3), Jaydn Su'A; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (4/4)
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (10) Tries: Dominic Young, Kurt Mann; Conversions: Jake Clifford (1/2)
Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 12156; Halftime: South Sydney 12 Newcastle 10; Referee: Chris Butler

CANBERRA 38 BRISBANE 16

The Canberra Raiders have put on the style as the Broncos fell victims to the NRL's inconsistent foul play crackdown as the green machine took a 38-16 victory at GIO Stadium.

The two sides started evenly but the Raiders put themselves into good field position when a 1-on-1 strip helped the Green Machine mount an attack and Sebastian Kris was able to score first when the Broncos defence was caught going sideways and Kris had too much strength to score. The Raiders continued their scoring when Jack Wighton brought defenders in as he went to the line before finding Corey Harawira-Naera who scored. Sam Williams converted the second try from close range and the Raiders lead by 10-0.

The Broncos turned on the magic for their first of the night when Tyson Gamble scored a remarkable try when his kick was gathered by Herbie Farnworth who got a questionable pass away to Gamble who soccered it through to score. Jesse Arthars failed to convert and we had ourselves a Convoy as the Raiders lead 10-4.

The Raiders continued their domination of the game as Matt Timoko used his strength to charge at the defensive line and force his way through to score. The Canberrans weren't done dominating as Emre Guler charged at the soft middle of the Broncos as he got over under the sticks. Sam Williams added his third and fourth conversions of the night to extend the Raiders lead to 22-4.

Some individual brilliance from Tesi Niu from the Broncos pushed them within two converted tries when his footwork left the Canberra defence grasping at thin air before putting in a grubber for himself which he got to and scored. Jesse Arthars added the conversion and the Broncos trailed 22-10 at the break.

The Broncos started the second half the better of the sides but it was the Raiders who scored first after Sebastian Kris charged down a Broncos kick to put the Canberrans in good field position before Josh Papali'i scored for the Raiders. The green wave was continuing in the capital when the Raiders turned on the razzle-dazzle down their left edge and Semi Valemei scored in the corner. Sam Williams nailed the sideline conversion to push the margin out to 22.

Yet again, the NRL's crackdown on high contact came under the spotlight when Kobe Hetherington was sent from the field by referee Chris Sutton after collecting a falling Corey Harawira-Naera high although replays showed it was a very tough decision from the officials given CHN had already been ankle-tapped and fell into Hetherington rather than Hetherington initiating contact.

Despite going down a man, and being dominated through the middle, the Broncos only conceded the one try when Jack Wighton ran straight at the Broncos defence and went straight through to score under the posts.

The Broncos picked up a late consolation when Selwyn Cobbo scored his maiden NRL try after some good work by Jesse Arthars. The home-side were denied an effort in the final minutes after Jordan Rapana was ruled to have pushed Herbie Farnworth on his way to the line trying to get to a loose ball. **Josh Robertson**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (38) Tries: Sebastian Kris, Sam Williams, Corey Harawira-Naera, Emre Guler, Josh Papali'i, Semi Valemei, Jack Wighton; Conversions: Sam Williams (5/7)
BRISBANE BRONCOS (16) Tries: Tyson Gamble, Tesi Niu, Selwyn Cobbo; Conversions: Jesse Arthars (2/3)
Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Crowd: 9608; Halftime: Canberra 22 Brisbane 10; Referee: Chris Sutton

MELBOURNE 42 WARRIORS 16

Nicho Hynes and Brandon Smith have starred to deliver Melbourne an emphatic 42-16 which sees the Storm overtake Penrith at the top of the NRL table.

The Warriors put up a bit of resistance early and did go ahead early through a 10th minute penalty goal - which the Storm equalised five minutes later for a 2-all score. Melbourne would open the tryscoring after 23 minutes when Dean Ieremia finished off a brilliant bit of play down the right side, started by a Jahrome Hughes mid-field bust and finished with Reimis Smith turning it out for Ieremia who found plenty of space.

A few minutes later Melbourne added to their lead with Brandon Smith taking on the line and slamming it down among Warriors defenders. In the blink of an eye it went from 2-all to 14-2 - and the Storm weren't done yet in the first half.

Despite Ieremia being denied a double five minutes from the break, it was the visitors who scored last in the half with Josh Addo-Carr nailing the perfect put-down off a Hynes grubber into the corner. Melbourne took an 18-2 lead into the sheds.

Five minutes into the second half the Storm snuffed out any reasonable hope the Warriors might have held of making it a contest with a bizarre try - Harry Grant went within inches of scoring but Bayley Sironen stripped the ball from him... then it bounced up into Hughes' arms.

Addo-Carr turned provider for the Storm's fifth try when he gave an inside ball to Justin Olam at the 56th minute.

In the only bright spark for the Warriors today, departing winger Ken Maumalo scored a hat-trick before he packed his bag to head to Concord - he becomes a Tiger this week. His first try in the 61st minute was doubled two minutes before the siren before he completed the treble on fulltime.

Between his first and second tries, Grant and Tom Eisenhuth would add their names to the tryscorers sheet. The final scoreline read 42-16.

The win sets the Storm up well for a crack at the Wests Tigers next week where they'll aim for win #12 in a row. Originally at AAMI Park, the contest will take place at Sunshine Coast Stadium as Melbourne comes to the tail-end of its latest COVID-19 lockdown.

The Warriors meanwhile are away to Newcastle next Saturday in a game between two teams who are struggling badly. **Tim Costello**

MELBOURNE STORM (42) Tries: Dean Ieremia, Brandon Smith, Josh Addo-Carr, Jahrome Hughes, Justin Olam, Harry Grant, Tom Eisenhuth; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (6/7); Penalty Goals: Nicholas Hynes (1/1)
WARRIORS (16) Tries: Ken Maumalo (3); Conversions: Kodi Nikorima (1/3); Penalty Goals: Kodi Nikorima (1/1)
Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Crowd: 8105; Halftime: Warriors 2 Melbourne 18; Referee: Matt Cecchin

PARRAMATTA 40 WESTS TIGERS 12

A blistering start to the second half has paved the way for the Parramatta Eels to record a 40-12 victory over the Wests Tigers at Bankwest Stadium.

Crossing for three tries while playing against 12 men shortly after halftime, the Eels produced an exhilarating brand of football that delighted an enthusiastic crowd of 23,417 supporters in the Western Sydney derby.

After a rough opening that saw Nathan Brown placed on report and commit a forward pass, the Eels' lock made amends with a terrific offload which allowed Clinton Gutherson (13th minute) to cross for first points of the afternoon.

Taking the score out to 8-0 via a Mitchell Moses penalty goal minutes later, the home side left points on the table after Tom Opacic was unable to gather in a well-placed grubber from Dylan Brown.

Starting in place of injured hooker Reed Mahoney, former Manly and Salford rake Joey Lussick (31st minute) pushed the Eels out to 14-0 with a clever dummy half run close to the try line.

Appearing to go further in front with Gutherson sending Moses over with a grubber, subsequent replays from the bunker denied Moses his first try of the season for failing to ground the ball.

Taking advantage of the fortuitous call in the best way possible, Luciano Leilua and Luke Brooks combined to send Jacob Liddle (37th minute) over for his fifth try of the season.

In a blistering start to the second half, the Eels took advantage of Shawn Blore being sent to the sin bin with three tries to Waqa Blake (45th minute), Moses (48th minute) and Maika Sivo (51st minute) to take the score from 14-6 to 32-6.

In a moment set to attract scrutiny from the match review committee, Sivo was sent to the sin bin for a high tackle that saw Adam Doueihī forced from the field.

With Doueihī failing his HIA due to foul play, 18th man Michael Chee-Kam delivered the final pass to James Roberts (62nd minute) for a try that proved to be mere consolation.

Killing off any hope of a Tigers' comeback with Gutherson (68th minute) crossing for his second, a sin bin against Isaiah Papali'i failed to dampen the day for the Eels as Moses nailed his eighth goal on fulltime to complete the 40-12 rout. **Rob Crosby**

PARRAMATTA EELS (40) Tries: Clinton Gutherson (2), Mitchell Moses, Joey Lussick, Waqa Blake, Maika Sivo; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (7/7); Penalty Goals: Mitchell Moses (1/1)
WESTS TIGERS (12) Tries: Jacob Liddle, James Roberts; Conversions: Adam Doueihī (1/1), Luke Brooks (1/1)
Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Crowd: 23417; Halftime: Parramatta 14 Wests Tigers 6; Referee: Grant Atkins

CANTERBURY 28 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 6

Canterbury have crushed the St George Illawarra Dragons in a Queen's Birthday boilder at Stadium Australia this afternoon, scoring a 28-6 victory in front of 17,382 fans.

Jake Averillo led from the halves today - scoring two tries, with two line breaks and five tackle breaks - against what was a pretty shocking Dragons defensive line, and dominated all day.

The Bulldogs opened the scoring after ten minutes with a penalty goal kicked by Averillo, but it would be the Red V who first crossed the stripe. Corey Norman (who it's been reported during the contest won't be at the club in 2022) found the Bulldogs defenders all up in the line so poked it in behind for Brayden Williams to get the first try of the day.

Shortly after, 'Dogs captain Josh Jackson was bizarrely sin-binned for what referee Gerard Sutton called "repeated infringements", despite both sides having the same number of set restarts at the time (and the Dragons not having someone binned for three in the same set six minutes later). It mattered little though - the Saints couldn't take advantage and somehow Averillo got his side's first try at the 29th minute when he stepped through a yawning gap.

Leading 8-6 at the break, Canterbury second half started in electric fashion. Averillo picked up his second after slicing through some poor defensive reads from the Dragons defence.

That extended to 20-6 after the 50 minute mark when Jeremy Marshall-King through a dummy and dived over.

A penalty goal from Averillo at 61 minutes pushed the lead to 22-6, and around 68 minutes Adam Elliott danced over the line, right through some spectacular jumper-grabbing from the Red V, scoring a try that pushed the lead to 26-6. A third penalty goal two minutes from time pushed it to 28-6 and the Bulldogs to equal with Brisbane both on points and differential. **Justin Davies**

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (28) Tries: Jake Averillo (2), Jeremy Marshall-King, Adam Elliott; Conversions: Jake Averillo (3/4); Penalty Goals: Jake Averillo (3/3)
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (6) Tries: Brayden Williams; Conversions: Corey Norman (1/1)
Venue: Stadium Australia; Crowd: 17382; Halftime: Canterbury-Bankstown 8 St Geo Illa 6; Referee: Gerard Sutton

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 14

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	12 - 0 - 2	294	24
2. Penrith	12 - 0 - 2	285	24
3. Parramatta	11 - 0 - 3	176	22
4. South Sydney	10 - 0 - 3	59	22
5. Sydney	9 - 0 - 4	148	20
6. Manly	7 - 0 - 6	33	16
7. North Qld	6 - 0 - 7	-119	14
8. St Geo Illa	6 - 0 - 8	-13	12
9. Cronulla	5 - 0 - 8	-46	12
10. Canberra	5 - 0 - 8	-64	12
11. Warriors	5 - 0 - 8	-66	12
12. Gold Coast	5 - 0 - 9	-62	10
13. Wests Tigers	5 - 0 - 9	-82	10
14. Newcastle	5 - 0 - 9	-135	10
15. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 11	-204	6
16. Brisbane	3 - 0 - 11	-204	6

MATCH REVIEW

Player	Team	Points
Ben Marschke	Sydney	2 matches
Kevin Proctor	Gold Coast	1 match
Maika Sivo	Parramatta	1 match
Mitch Barnett	Newcastle	\$1800 [^]
Cameron Munster	Melbourne	\$1700
Luke Brooks	Wests Tigers	\$1350
Jackson Ford	St Geo Illa	\$1350
Api Koroisau	Penrith	\$1150
Kobe Hetherington	Brisbane	\$1150
Isaiah Papali'i	Parramatta	\$1150
Tom Amone	Wests Tigers	\$1150

Not guilty: Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Sydney)
[^] = unsuccessful judiciary challenge

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS

Manly v North Queensland
3 points - Daly Cherry-Evans
2 points - Reuben Garrick
1 points - Haumole Olakau'atu

Cronulla v Penrith
3 points - Shaun Johnson
2 points - Matt Burton
1 points - Toby Rudolf

Gold Coast v Sydney
3 points - Matt Ikuvalu
2 points - Jamal Fogarty
1 points - Joseph Manu

South Sydney v Newcastle
3 points - Latrell Mitchell
2 points - Alex Johnston
1 points - Keon Koloamatangi

Canberra v Brisbane
3 points - Josh Papali'i
2 points - Bailey Simonsson
1 points - Emre Guler

Warriors v Melbourne
3 points - Brandon Smith
2 points - Nicholas Hynes
1 points - Jahrome Hughes

Parramatta v Wests Tigers
3 points - Mitchell Moses
2 points - Nathan Brown
1 points - Clinton Gutherson

Canterbury v St George Illawarra
3 points - Jake Averillo
2 points - Jeremy Marshall-King
1 points - Luke Thompson

LEADERBOARD

21 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers)
16 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels)
15 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks)
13 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors)



ROUND 15 June 17-20

SOUTH SYDNEY 46 BRISBANE 0

The South Sydney Rabbitohs have made it 3 wins in a row in Brisbane, shutting out the Broncos by a scoreline of 46-0 tonight at Suncorp.

Both sides went set for set early, with Souths gaining the slight edge in terms of field position, before the deadlock was finally broken in the 13th minute courtesy of a no look inside ball by Cody Walker to Latrell Mitchell.

The Broncos would go close to hitting back at the other end minutes later, however replays revealed Tesi Niu had knocked on before grounding the ball and Souths went on the attack yet again.

Souths would extend their lead in the 23rd minute after Dane Gagai was on the end of a slick backline movement. The conversion was kicked by Mitchell due to Reynolds undergoing an HIA on the sideline, however he would soon come back on and kick a penalty goal to make it a 12-0 scoreline after 28 minutes.

The Broncos were on the attack a few minutes later but it looked as if Dane Gagai would have his second try, taking an intercept and having no defenders in front of him. It wasn't to be however, with Xavier Coates pulling off one of the all time great try savers to run from the other side of the field and just take Gagai out of play mere metres before the line.

It wasn't to be the turning point of the game Broncos fans hoped however, with Souths scoring another relatively soft try minutes before the break through Campbell Graham.

In the 46th minute, Hame Sele would set the tone for the rest of the match by making a hard run up the middle that the Broncos' defenders - 4 of them - seemed to have no interest in stopping him. He crashed over under the posts.

Just as it appeared Brisbane were generating some momentum, Latrell Mitchell came up with a great individual play and stripped the ball from Cory Paix. Souths would score off the ensuing set, with Jacob Host bursting through a hole and finding Alex Johnston on his outside.

Johnston would become the NRL's current top try scorer just 3 minutes later when he was on the end of another backline movement to the left. The floodgates were confirmed to be well and truly open when Campbell Graham beat 3 Broncos defenders with footwork and strength to score his 2nd try of the night another 3 minutes later.

To add insult to injury, the Broncos conceded another try where they were short of numbers just 4 minutes later when Taane Milne was finally able to get his way over the line and not have it taken off him by the bunker.

The Broncos had a chance to avoid the shutout, but Alex Glenn's forward pass ensured that wouldn't be happening. In an extremely minor victory for Brisbane, they held out Souths' final attacking raid and in doing so avoided having 50 put on them.

Adam Huxtable

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (46) Tries: Latrell Mitchell, Dane Gagai, Campbell Graham (2), Hame Sele, Alex Johnston (2), Taane Milne; Conversions: Latrell Mitchell (1/1), Adam Reynolds (5/7); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (1/1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (0)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 19713; Halftime: Brisbane 0 South Sydney 18; Referee: Adam Gee

CRONULLA 26 NORTH QUEENSLAND 24

Cronulla Sharks won a bizarre game 26-24 against the North Queensland Cowboys tonight in Townsville.

It wasn't a rugby league exhibition but the Sharks did enough after they extended their eight-point advantage at the break to lead by 14 with 15 minutes to go. The Cowboys surged late with a pair of Kyle Feldt tries but suffer their first loss in Townsville since their Round 3 loss to Gold Coast.

The second half seemed to be played in slow motion. Experienced centre Will Chambers crossed to make it 26-12 in the 65th minute as the Sharks were sleep walking to a result but two high football iq plays from Kyle Feldt gave the Cowboys a late chance to steal the win.

Once again, the crackdown reared its ugly head. Cowboys hooker Reece Robson was binned for a high tackle on a stooping Aiden Tolman which gave the Sharks enough room to work towards the full-time siren. Valentine Holmes tried a speculative two-point field goal but it fell short.

Both these sides were sat in seventh and ninth coming into this contest but the game was played like a late season dead rubber. Some of the options between the halves, some un-signed for 2022 were inexcusable and five straight sets saw the ball not kicked.

Cronulla Sharks showed the greater attacking bite, swimming out to a 12-nil lead. Utility Connor Tracey dived on a pinpoint Shaun Johnson kick then veteran prop Aaron Woods spun across from close range as the visitors looked to move into the top eight.

Being 12 points down shocked the Cowboys into action. Mid-season signing Tom Dearden sliced through to get the Cowboys on the board then interchange prop Francis Molo surged onto the ball to make it 14-12.

Sharks extended the lead back to eight just before the break. A wonderful scrum play saw Ronaldo Mulitalo go over untouched, making it 20-12. The Cowboys had won five straight at their home ground but were in stark danger of that streak being snapped tonight.

It went to dire straits in the 64th minute, Chambers dived over from close range to make it 26-14. Cronulla Sharks remained comfortable and rolled through their sets on the way to taking two points back on the plane back to Sydney.

Enter Feldt. The mercurial winger somehow got towards the line in the 73rd then found an inch of space on the shortside the next set to reduce the deficit to two points. The crowd in Townsville were in the contest but the sin bin of Robson extinguished the contest. Sharks held on and move into 7th.

Justin Davies

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (24) Tries: Tom Dearden, Francis Molo, Kyle Feldt (2); Conversions: Valentine Holmes (4/4)

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (26) Tries: Connor Tracey, Aaron Woods, Ronaldo Mulitalo, Will Chambers; Conversions: Shaun Johnson (4/4); Penalty Goals: Shaun Johnson (1/1) Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 13926; Halftime: North Qld 12 Cronulla 20; Referee: Peter Gough

PENRITH 38 SYDNEY 12

A Nathan Cleary inspired Panthers has dominated the Sydney Roosters, running out 38-12 winners in huge victory in front of their home fans at Blue Bet Stadium tonight.

Despite carrying a nasty looking black eye into the match, Cleary was superb for Penrith after his side fell behind early to the visitors, the raging hot Dally M favourite then terrorised the Roosters defensive line again and again in one of the most dominant individual displays of the 2021 season so far. Roosters coach Trent Robinson was critical of the crucial call from the Bunker, which resulted in Roosters prop Siosua Taukeaho being sent to the Sin Bin following a high tackle on a slipping Nathan Cleary in the first half. While it was consistent with the recent NRL head high crackdown, the accidental contact cost the Roosters, with the Panthers trailing 12-6 at the time. By the time Taukeaho returned, the 12-man Roosters were punished by Penrith who ran in two tries and a penalty goal to take the momentum away and go onto a commanding win.

From the kickoff it was the Roosters who were out of the blocks quickly, when makeshift five-eighth Joey Manu kicked for rookie Joseph Suaali on the last. The ball then bounced off Suaali's shoulder and presented rookie backrower Fletcher Baker with a gift to score under the posts for the first try of his career and of the match. Adam Keighran converted from in front and it was 6-0 to the visitors in as many minutes. The Tricolours then continued their early dominance when off the back of a strong run from Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, hooker Adam Keighran caught the Panthers markers napping close to the line to sneak over from dummy half and give his side a two try lead. Joey Manu then turned the game for the opposition, when he knocked on in goal from the kick-off to give the home side a chance to get back into the game. Penrith were quick to capitalise, when Cleary kicked early on the third tackle for Stephen Crichton who managed to get to the ball first to strike back for the Panthers. With the Roosters leading 12-6, the game then turned on its head, when Taukeaho was sent to the Sin Bin following a high tackle on a slipping Nathan Cleary. It was unlucky, there was no intent, Cleary was fine but it was high contact and forceful which saw Taukeaho marched for ten minutes. The Panthers immediately took advantage, when they spread the ball wide off the scrum, which saw Matt Burton puts his winger Brian To'o over in the far corner to score. Cleary converted from out wide and Penrith tied the scores at 12-all. Roosters firebrand Jared Waerea-Hargreaves was then penalised for an illegal steal and Cleary took the two points on offer to edge in front. The Blues number 7 then ran riot, firstly running across field on the left-hand side to again create space for his centre Burton who again put Brian To'o over in the corner to score his second try to extend the lead to 18-12.

The Panthers then turned the screws, with Cleary and NSW halves partner Jarome Luai combining for a stunning four forced drop outs in a row. Under enormous pressure, Roosters backrower Egan Butcher was then penalised for another high tackle on Cleary after a kick. It again cost the visitors two more points with Cleary extending the lead to 22-12 at halftime. The Cleary show continued after the break, when the Penrith halfback dug deep into the Roosters defensive line and found space for lock Isaah Yeo who scored beside the posts. He then backed that effort up, kicking high on the last for Burton who batted the ball back for Cleary to go on a solo run to spin and twist his way over to score and extend the lead to 34-12. Cleary was then rushed at the line by the Roosters defence but the mercurial half could do no wrong with the pass bouncing off the wet grass into the hands of Charlie Staines to score in the corner to ice the game and give his side a dominant 38-12 win.

Sam Bourke

PENRITH PANTHERS (38) Tries: Stephen Crichton, Nathan Cleary, Brian To'o (2), Isaah Yeo, Charlie Staines; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (5/5), Charlie Staines (0/1); Penalty Goals: Nathan Cleary (2/2)

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (12) Tries: Fletcher Baker, Adam Keighran; Conversions: Adam Keighran (2/2)

Venue: BlueBet Stadium; Crowd: 14406; Halftime: Penrith 22 Sydney 12; Referee: Ashley Klein

NEWCASTLE 10 WARRIORS 6

The Newcastle Knights have secured an ugly yet required 2 competition points against the New Zealand Warriors, winning 10 points to 6 in the lowest scoring game of 2021 thus far.

There was a huge breeze blowing throughout the whole game, and it had an immediate effect, with the Knights kickoff being so shallow that Reece Walsh was forced to take the first run of the afternoon.

The Knights had all the possession and field position early in the match, however it was the Warriors who looked as if they'd cross first against the run of play, with Reece Walsh making a huge run downfield off a kick return. He had no one in front of him, but Jayden Brailey produced an inspirational captains play to run him down about 2 metres short of the line.

On the ensuing set, the Warriors again looked over for all money, but Euan Aitken dropped it cold with nothing but daylight obstructing his 5 metre run to the line.

The Knights did a good job of building pressure, however it all counted for nought. Kurt Mann dropped the ball in the middle of a backline play and Euan Aitken was there to pounce. He was able to outrun Dom Young and score the first try of the match against all momentum.

Lachlan Fitzgibbon endured a terrible opening 25 minutes or so, knocking on twice in situations where the Knights were on the attack, but he made up for it around the 30 minute mark. Pearce threw a sweet short ball, and the line that he ran ensured he got over the top of Eli Katoa to hit back for the Knights.

The score remained 6-4 when Jake Clifford sprayed the conversion to the right.

The wind continued to wreak havoc, with the ball blowing off the tee before the Warriors had the chance to kick off.

When they finally were able to restart play, the ball went about 20 metres and sailed high through the sky. Roger Tuivasa-Sheck regathered, however the Warriors couldn't do anything with the golden attacking opportunity.

Reece Walsh had done well under the high ball up to the 50th minute, however he was unable to handle Clifford's spiralling bomb. RTS touched it in an offside position, and Clifford was able to level up with a penalty goal.

The game became an arm wrestle, but not the good kind of arm wrestle, with errors made ad-nauseum by both sides. Jake Clifford tried to break the game open with a 40/20 in the 70th minute, but again nothing came of the next couple of sets.

The Warriors turned their attention to the one-pointers, but Reece Walsh went 0/2, with his first attempt charged down and his second away to the left.

Enari Tuala then did break the game open, with an electric run up the middle before linking up with Connor Watson, who was brought down 5 short of the line.

The Knights took advantage of the momentum, swinging it left to find an open Brodie Jones, who crashed over to give the Knights the lead in the 77th minute.

The Warriors couldn't come back amidst a chaotic final 2 minutes. **Adam Huxtable**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (10) Tries: Lachlan Fitzgibbon, Brodie Jones; Conversions: Jake Clifford (0/2); Penalty Goals: Jake Clifford (1/1)

WARRIORS (6) Tries: Euan Aitken; Field Goals: Reece Walsh (0/2); Conversions: Reece Walsh (1/1)

Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 9975; Halftime: Newcastle 4 Warriors 6; Referee: Chris Butler

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 22 CANBERRA 20

Ben Hunt has put his hand up for a State of Origin recall after a masterful display in the Dragons' 22-20 comeback win over Canberra.

Hunt is at his best taking on the line and ran 16 times for 132 metres in the win. It was an all-round statement from the former Maroon who added three linebreaks, two linebreak assists, a try assist and a 40-20.

Meanwhile, Jack de Belin had his best performance since returning to the NRL after running for a team-high 155 metres and making 31 tackles.

For the Raiders it was yet another second-half fadeout after blowing an early 12-0 lead. The opening try of the night was a simple one - with Canberra lining up outside men on the right edge but Josh Hodgson instead played it short and direct for Corey Harawira-Naera who crashed over.

Poor last-tackle options continued to prove costly for the Dragons, who were battling for ascendancy running into the wind. Struggling to make sense of how to handle the conditions, the home side were made to pay for its indecisiveness after a cheap turnover saw the Raiders extend the lead through Sebastian Kris.

If there was one Dragon though who was leading the way it was Ben Hunt, whose running game proved dangerous on multiple occasions in the first half. In the 31st minute though it was Hunt's ball-playing that came up trumps, passing it against the grain for Billy Burns who sliced through. Sam Williams impressed off the boot in testing conditions, nailing both conversions for Canberra plus a late penalty goal to make it 14-6 at the break.

The Raiders quickly extended the buffer when Joe Tapine surged over to capitalise on a Hunt error. There was then quite the drama early in the second half as Xavier Savage was brought on as 18th man after Kris failed to return following dangerous contact from Jack Bird.

Bird though was not sent to the bin or sent off, meaning the 18th man should not have been activated and Savage's debut was eventually cut short. Tyrell Sloan, on the other hand, was swarmed on after scoring on debut after chipping on the last and following through to support Corey Norman.

It came after Hunt once again proved the spark when he took the line on and once again linked with Billy Burns who put Gerard Beale over.

Jack Wighton had also threatened at times with his running game and looked to have scored when he danced through in the 59th minute but an obstruction was later ruled.

Hunt though continued to make a statement to Queensland selectors as he nailed a 40-20 that led to Paul Vaughan offloading to put Norman over as the Dragons hit the lead for the first time in the game.

It ended up being enough as the Dragons held on for a tense win, with the Raiders complaining late of a second effort that forced Semi Valemei into touch and buried any chance of a late victory. **Andrew Jackson**

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (22) Tries: Billy Burns, Corey Norman, Gerard Beale, Tyrell Sloan; Conversions: Corey Norman (2/4); Penalty Goals: Corey Norman (1/1)
CANBERRA RAIDERS (20) Tries: Corey Harawira-Naera, Sebastian Kris, Joseph Tapine; Conversions: Sam Williams (3/3); Penalty Goals: Sam Williams (1/1)
Venue: WIN Stadium; Crowd: 9239; Halftime: St Geo Illa 6 Canberra 14; Referee: Chris Sutton

MELBOURNE 66 WESTS TIGERS 16

The Melbourne Storm have totally and utterly embarrassed the Wests Tigers following their 66-16 victory at the Sunshine Coast Stadium.

It was all the Victorians to start the contest as they scored in just the third minute when the Tigers defence allowed the Storm to make 100m in their opening set and gave them six more on their own line. A massive gap in the defensive line allowed Brandon Smith to dive over from dummy half.

The Tigers couldn't get their hands on the ball and the points continued to flow for Melbourne as they ran 100m in attack and at the end of the set Nicho Hynes was able to score. The Storm were actually forced into a last tackle kick and some dumb play by Daine Laurie to flirt with the sideline whilst shadowing the ball meant the ball came off the Tigers fullback to go into touch.

This gave Melbourne more attacking position which they duly crossed after Cam Munster was able to fight his way over the line and slam the ball down despite looking to be held. The conversion pushed the lead out to 18. The points didn't slow down at all for Melbourne as Dale Finucane crossed with absolute ease.

If things weren't embarrassing enough for the Tigers, Nelson Asofa-Solomona crossing out of dummy on last tackle probably topped things off and after Nicho Hynes converted Melbourne lead 30-0 after just 17 minutes.

Getting their hands on the ball helped the Tigers slow the scoring and they were denied an effort to Alex Seyfarth when the ball was knocked on in the lead-up. The Tigers embarrassed themselves and their fans again when Tommy Talau dropped the ball on a simple hit-up and it landed fortunately for Jahrome Hughes to put Reimis Smith over for the Storm's sixth try of the night. The Storm added their final try of the half when Felise Kaufusi stroled over to score, Nicho Hynes had his first miss with the boot and the Storm lead 40-0 at the break.

If the Tigers wanted a change in the second half, it wasn't coming very quickly as things looked eerily similar to the first half as they could barely get their hands on the ball. The Storm opened the scoring just a minute into the second half when Jahrome Hughes crossed after some poor defence from the Tigers. The points continued to flow as the Melburnians as they yet again went the full length in the ensuing set and Reimis Smith was able to chase through and get to a George Jennings kick to score.

The fragility of the Tigers defence was on show again when Tom Eisenhuth was able to get through to score before Harry Grant took advantage chasing through his own kick to score, the Storm went on to lead 60-0 after just 50 minutes. The Tigers were denied again by the bunker after Ken Maumalo had his efforts knocked back due to an obstruction infield but it wasn't long before the Tigers were able to get points on the board when Tommy Talau scored. The Tigers continued to put a very small touch of respectability back into the scoreboard when Luke Garner scored.

Jahrome Hughes added his second try of the night with ten minutes to play after he was allowed to step his way through some poor defence from the Tigers. The Tigers capped the night off with a try to David Nofaluma to claim "last try wins" jokes. **Josh Robertson**

MELBOURNE STORM (66) Tries: Brandon Smith, Nicholas Hynes, Cameron Munster, Dale Finucane, Nelson Asofa-Solomona, Reimis Smith (2), Felise Kaufusi, Jahrome Hughes (2), Tom Eisenhuth, Harry Grant; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (9/12)
WESTS TIGERS (16) Tries: Tommy Talau, Luke Garner, David Nofaluma; Conversions: Luke Brooks (2/3)
Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 5328; Halftime: Melbourne 40 Wests Tigers 0; Referee: Gerard Sutton

PARRAMATTA 36 CANTERBURY 10

The Parramatta Eels have made it 3 wins in a row, coming back from a half-time deficit to beat the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs by 26, the final score at Bankwest Stadium 36-10.

The Eels were able to get on the board first, with Mitch Moses putting in a crossfield kick that couldn't be handled by Schoupp. Ryan Matterson stripped the ball and dived over to make it 4-0 after the bunker had finished checking it. Moses converted and it looked as though it may all be one way traffic.

That wasn't the case however, with the Bulldogs digging in over the next 20 minutes to make it an arm wrestle, made easier through some silly errors made by the Eels.

They were able to get themselves on the board through some hard nosed attack that built pressure, culminating in a bomb that Clint Gutherson was unable to handle and Dylan Napa was the beneficiary. He scooped up the loose ball to score his first try since Round 3, 2019.

Mistakes in back to back sets from the Eels gave the Dogs prime opportunity to hit the lead before the break, and they did exactly that. Marata Niukore made high contact and was sent to the bin, and after forcing consecutive dropouts, Canterbury were able to capitalise on the one man advantage. Brandon Wakeham threw a nice cutout pass to Tuipulotu Katoa, who dived for the in goal and at half time, they were up 10-6.

Initially, the Bulldogs appeared to bring the same intensity to the second half, however it all began unravelling in the 46th minute. They had to kick from deep inside their own half, and Jake Averillo's pass canonned into Napa, who knocked on and didn't dive on the loose ball. That allowed Moses to toe it ahead into the in goal, and he was held back illegally by Brandon Wakeham.

It was the view of the officials in the bunker that Moses would've scored the try had he not been illegally held back, a penalty try was awarded and the Eels hit the lead after the conversion went over.

The signs were ominous for the Doggies when Shaun Lane went right through a hole shortly after and was able to show and go his way past Nick Meaney and score the Eels third try.

Throughout the first 15 minutes of the second half, the Eels had 82% possession, and it didn't get any easier for the Blue and White's when Luke Thompson was sin binned in the 56th minute. It took the Eels around 8 minutes, but they also took advantage of the extra man, with Junior Paulo laying it on a platter for Reagan Campbell-Gillard, who scored his 4th try of the year.

At 26-10 with ten minutes to go, the Bulldogs were well and truly done, and Clint Gutherson was able to add insult to injury by laying on two tries for Sean Russell, making it a debut to remember for the 19-year old. **Adam Huxtable**

PARRAMATTA EELS (36) Tries: Ryan Matterson, Mitchell Moses, Shaun Lane, Reagan Campbell-Gillard, Sean Russell (2); Conversions: Mitchell Moses (6/6)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (10) Tries: Dylan Napa, Tuipulotu Katoa; Conversions: Jake Averillo (1/2)
Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Crowd: 17276; Halftime: Parramatta 16 Canterbury 10; Referee: Matt Cecchin

MANLY 56 GOLD COAST 24

A second half comeback has seen the Manly Sea Eagles embarrass the Gold Coast Titans 56-24 in Daly Cherry-Evans' 250th NRL game.

In a match where defence was rarely sighted, the Sea Eagles fought back from an 8-24 deficit to post 48 unanswered points after halftime in front of 14,408 supporters at CBUS Super Stadium

Winger Reuben Garrick had an afternoon to remember with a personal haul of 28 points (4 tries, 6 goals), while Tom Trbojevic continued to enhance his reputation as the game's most influential player with a hat-trick of tries and assists.

In a first half where the Titans dominated with close to 70 per cent of the ball and a perfect completion rate, Jayden Campbell (7th minute) posted first points after running onto a well-weighted grubber from Tyrone Peachey.

In a rare period of joy for the visitors, Trbojevic touched down for two tries in consecutive sets (12th and 14th minutes) to give the Sea Eagles a fleeting 8-6 lead.

Regaining the advantage after a cross field kick from Ashley Taylor allowed Greg Marzhev (20th minute) to score his first try on home soil, the mature-aged debutant posted his second (27th minute) after Campbell confidently toed the ball in-goal.

Heaping further misery upon the Sea Eagles as Patrick Herbert (31st minute) added his name to the scoresheet, the Titans headed to the sheds up 24-8 through David Fifita (37th minute) who pounced on a grubber from Peachey.

Coming out of the sheds with a rejuvenated sense of identity, Jason Saab (43rd minute) raced 50 metres before Kieran Foran and Trbojevic combined to send Garrick (46th minute) over out wide.

Introducing Dylan Walker - playing his 150th NRL game - midway through the second half, the injection of the interchange utility coincided with Saab (52nd minute) crossing for his second.

Hitting the front with Garrick (55th minute) collecting his second, a Taniela Paseka break off the kick-off appeared to gift Tom Trbojevic his hat-trick only for the bunker to rule the fullback had lost the ball.

Continuing the flow of points with Garrick (58th minute) and Trbojevic (60th minute) collecting their hat-tricks, Brad Parker selflessly gave Garrick (64th minute) his fourth to put the Sea Eagles up 44-24.

Taking the score past 50 with Haumole Olakau'atu (71st minute) touching down millimetres before the dead ball line, Cherry-Evans (75th minute) capped his milestone match with the final try of the afternoon. **Rob Crosby**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (56) Tries: Tom Trbojevic (3), Reuben Garrick (4), Jason Saab (2), Haumole Olakau'atu, Daly Cherry-Evans; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (6/11)
GOLD COAST TITANS (24) Tries: Jayden Campbell, Greg Marzhev (2), Patrick Herbert, David Fifita; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (2/5)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 14408; Halftime: Gold Coast 24 Manly 8; Referee: Grant Atkins

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 15

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	13 - 0 - 2	344	26
2. Penrith	13 - 0 - 2	311	26
3. Parramatta	12 - 0 - 3	202	24
4. South Sydney	11 - 0 - 3	105	24
5. Sydney	9 - 0 - 5	122	20
6. Manly	8 - 0 - 6	65	18
7. St Geo Illa	7 - 0 - 8	-11	14
8. Cronulla	6 - 0 - 8	-44	14
9. North Qld	6 - 0 - 8	-121	14
10. Canberra	5 - 0 - 9	-66	12
11. Warriors	5 - 0 - 9	-70	12
12. Newcastle	6 - 0 - 9	-131	12
13. Gold Coast	5 - 0 - 10	-94	10
14. Wests Tigers	5 - 0 - 10	-132	10
15. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 12	-230	6
16. Brisbane	3 - 0 - 12	-250	6

MATCH REVIEW

Mikaele Ravalawa	St Geo Illa	4 matches [^]
Tevita Pangai Jnr	Brisbane	3 matches
Nelson Asofa-Solomona	Melbourne	2 matches
Marata Niukore	Parramatta	\$2150
Nathan Brown	Parramatta	\$2150
Lachlan Fitzgibbon	Newcastle	\$1700
Ben Murdoch-Masila	Warriors	\$1700
Luke Thompson	Canterbury	\$1350
Morgan Harper	Manly	\$1350

Not guilty: Siosia Taukeiaho (Sydney)

[^] = unsuccessful judiciary challenge

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Brisbane v South Sydney
3 points - Cameron Murray
2 points - Cody Walker
1 points - Latrell Mitchell

North Queensland v Cronulla
3 points - Will Kennedy
2 points - Shaun Johnson
1 points - Valentine Holmes

Penrith v Sydney
3 points - Will Kennedy
2 points - Shaun Johnson
1 points - Valentine Holmes

Newcastle v Warriors
3 points - Jake Clifford
2 points - Reece Walsh
1 points - Enari Tuala

St George Illawarra v Canberra
3 points - Jake Clifford
2 points - Reece Walsh
1 points - Enari Tuala

Melbourne v Wests Tigers
3 points - Jahrome Hughes
2 points - Brandon Smith
1 points - Dale Finucane

Parramatta v Canterbury
3 points - Mitchell Moses
2 points - Clinton Gutherson
1 points - Isaiah Papali'i

Gold Coast v Manly
3 points - Tom Trbojevic
2 points - Taniela Paseka
1 points - Reuben Garrick

LEADERBOARD

24 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers)
18 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks), Clinton Gutherson (Eels)
15 points - Jahrome Hughes (Storm)
14 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles), Mitchell Moses (Eels), Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)

ROUND 16 July 1 to 4

MELBOURNE 46 SYDNEY 0

The Melbourne Storm have posted their 13th win in a row with a record-equalling 46-0 rout against the Sydney Roosters.

In a match relocated to Newcastle due to the latest COVID-19 outbreak in NSW, the Storm defied wet conditions to score eight tries in front of 4,289 supporters.

Establishing their intentions to attack from the opening stages, an audacious early kick from Cameron Munster allowed Josh Addo-Carr (5th minute) to use his speed to take advantage of James Tedesco defending in the front line.

Steadying the flow of points with a penalty goal after Addo-Carr was denied a try due to a knock-on while contesting a high ball, Nicho Hynes (25th minute) made the most of a bouncing ball to outpace the Roosters' defenders to the line.

Piling on further points through Dale Finucane (28th minute) and Kenny Bromwich (31st minute), Addo-Carr (37th minute) streaked 50 metres shortly before halftime after Justin Olam swooped on a misdirected pass from Tedesco.

Showing no signs of respite after the resumption of play, Olam positioned Addo-Carr (47th minute) for his hat-trick, a few sets after Hynes was denied for an obstruction.

Bringing up 40 points for the eighth time in their past ten matches, a well-placed grubber from Jahrome Hughes allowed Munster (58th minute) to touch down next to the posts.

Scoring their eighth try of the night to equal their biggest ever win against the Roosters, Brandon Smith (71st minute) burrowed over for his tenth try of the season to complete the 46-0 rout.

Adding to the Roosters' woes, Daniel Suluka-Fifita could be in trouble with the match review committee after hitting Munster off the ball in a tackle that saw the interchange forward sent to the sin bin. **Rob Crosby**

MELBOURNE STORM (46) Tries: Josh Addo-Carr (3), Nicholas Hynes, Dale Finucane, Kenneath Bromwich, Cameron Munster, Brandon Smith; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (6/8); Penalty Goals: Nicholas Hynes (1/1)

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (0)

Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 4289; Halftime: Sydney 0 Melbourne 30; Referee: Adam Gee

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 19 WARRIORS 18

The St George Illawarra Dragons have pulled off a great escape for the ages as Corey Norman redeemed himself with the match-winning field goal in a 19-18 win.

Norman missed all four of his attempts at conversion but slotted the one point in a frustrating game in which neither side were able to land the final blow. In reality though it appeared the Warriors had long landed that final blow as they stormed to a 18-6 lead heading into the final 10 minutes. That was when the Dragons breathed fire after a largely inept start to the second half. An unnecessary offload from Addin Fonua-Blake proved a turning point late as Dufty put Gerard Beale over. The Warriors then inexplicably failed to clean up a Jack Bird grubber as the Dragons centre pounced to reduce the margin to four. The Dragons then forced a late dropout and caused a boilover as Cody Ramsey raced over on the siren to level the scores. Norman missed every conversion in the game, meaning it went to golden point despite the away side scoring one more try. The Warriors continued to lose their way and it was a Roger Tuivasa-Sheck error that handed the Dragons the win.

For the majority of the game Dragons fans were left disheartened, wondering if only the entire team played with the heart of halfback Ben Hunt. It is a sentiment that will still linger in the Red V faithful regardless of the late flurry of points. From scoring their only try of the opening half to relentless chasing a Corey Norman kick to force a dropout and coming up with a try-saving tackle soon after - Hunt did all he could while Paul Vaughan and Matt Dufty also did more than enough. The Warriors though proved a far more cohesive and determined unit as a whole in a crucial victory. It was far closer than Nathan Brown would have liked though, with the Dragons scoring two quick-fire tries as Norman's wayward goal-kicking proved the difference.

The Dragons had all the running early with the error-prone and ill-disciplined Warriors failing to build any real pressure. Hunt, who impressed a fortnight ago against Canberra, was once again taking it upon himself to dictate terms for the away side. He ran for 85 metres and forced two drop outs in the opening half while also scoring the Dragons' only try of the opening 40 minutes. It came after he took the ball right up to the line and linked with Paul Vaughan who then offloaded for the Dragons halfback who was backing up in support. Vaughan was enormous in the opening half as he ran for 154 metres. The Warriors really came to life in the final 10 minutes of the half though, with Wayde Egan exposing a poor defensive effort from Norman to score the home team's first. Chad Townsend then turned it inside for a rampaging Eliesa Katoa to charge over for the second of the night. Townsend had some classy touches early off the boot but struggled after appearing to injure his shoulder early in the half.

The Warriors carried the momentum into the second, playing a fast-paced and up-tempo style of footy that had the Dragons forwards retreating. It eventually led to points as Egan put Bunty Afoa over to extend the lead to 12. Hunt continued to try and desperately get the Dragons into the contest again, relentlessly chasing down a Norman kick midway through the second to force a dropout. The errors though continued to pile up as the Dragons struggled to build the same sort of pressure they had in the first. We all know what happened from there though.

The Warriors though may be counting the costs of the defeat. Tohu Harris failed an HIA test and also had a shoulder issue while Katoa also came off with a shoulder concern and eventually failed to finish after initially returning. **Andrew Jackson**

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (19) Tries: Ben Hunt, Gerard Beale, Jack Bird, Cody Ramsey; Field Goals: Corey Norman (1/2), Ben Hunt (0/1); Conversions: Corey Norman (0/4); Penalty Goals: Corey Norman (1/1)

WARRIORS (18) Tries: Wayde Egan, Eliesa Katoa, Bunty Afoa; Field Goals: Chad Townsend (0/2); Conversions: Chad Townsend (3/3)

Venue: Central Coast Stadium; Halftime: Warriors 12 St Geo Illa 6; Referee: Peter Gough

PENRITH 13 PARRAMATTA 12

A last-minute Matt Burton field goal has given the Panthers a thrilling 13-12 win over their bitter rivals Parramatta at BlueBet Stadium tonight.

In dramatic scenes following Burton's successful field goal, Eels halfback and Blues contender Mitchell Moses was given a chance to win the game on the siren, after Panthers backrower Liam Martin was penalised for taking Parramatta winger Haze Dunster off the ball from the ensuing kickoff. Unfortunately for Moses and the Eels his shot drifted wide, allowing Penrith to escape with a dramatic victory and give them a four-point buffer in second place from the Eels on the NRL ladder.

It was a shattering moment for Moses, who despite the miss remains a warm favourite to replace the injured Nathan Cleary in the Blues side for Origin III following a solid performance for the Eels despite the tense defeat.

All eyes were on the home side pre-match who were without their superstar halfback Nathan Cleary missing from the starting line up and the Panthers weren't themselves early in the match, making an uncharacteristic five handling errors in the first 20 minutes. Eels winger Maika Sivo then took advantage of the mountain of possession, when skipper Clint Gutherson scooped up a Mitchell Moses kick for Sivo to muscle his way over in the corner and give his side a 4-0 lead following Moses' missed conversion from the sideline.

Returning Panthers winger Brent Naden then gave his side a swing in momentum, when he snatched an intercept and made his way inside his own attacking zone. Off the back of the break from Naden, makeshift half Tyrone May then took the ball to the line and beat Eels backrower Isaiah Papali'i with a show and go to score and get his side back in the match. Stephen Crichton then converted to give Penrith an unlikely lead at the break despite their low completion rate and lack of field position. After the break, the Eels wrestled back momentum when Mitchell Moses put up a bomb on the last which Panthers fullback Charlie Staines opted to let the ball bounce. It was a horrendous decision, which saw the ball bounce into the arms of a rampaging Isaiah Papali'i to score under the posts and get the Eels back in front by 10-6 following Moses' conversion.

The Panthers then fought back again, when Jarome Luai offloaded close to the line and found Apisai Koroisau in support and the crafty hooker then made a dash to the try line to score and give his side the lead back. Panthers interchange forward Spencer Leniu then caught the attention of the referee, when he was penalised twice in as many sets, for stripping the ball in the tackle. It proved costly and allowed Mitch Moses a penalty goal to level the scores with 20 minutes remaining.

The game continued to see-saw, until Panthers behemoth Villiams Kikau looked certain to score until Eels skipper Gutherson somehow got his body underneath the ball to hold him up over the line saving a certain try. Gutherson then went from hero to villain when he was penalised for a blatant forward pass from dummy half with the game in the balance. Fortunately for the Eels skipper, Matt Burton's shot at field goal hit the post and the game was still tied with minutes remaining. Matt Burton off the back of a strong last ditch run from his hooker Koroisau then made no mistake when given his second opportunity to give his side a 13-12 lead with a minute remaining.

Moses was then given one last chance to snatch the victory but unfortunately for Brad Arthur's men it was not to be and the Panthers held on for a morale boosting win over the fierce rivals at home. **Sam Bourke**

PENRITH PANTHERS (13) Tries: Tyrone May, Apisai Koroisau; Field Goals: Matt Burton (1/1); Conversions: Stephen Crichton (2/2)

PARRAMATTA EELS (12) Tries: Maika Sivo, Isaiah Papali'i; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (1/2); Penalty Goals: Mitchell Moses (1/2)

Venue: BlueBet Stadium; Halftime: Penrith 6 Parramatta 4; Referee: Ashley Klein

MANLY 66 CANTERBURY 0

A first half hat trick from star fullback Tom Trbojevic put the Bulldogs out of the contest in the early stages of the match. In the opening half an hour the Sea Eagles had scored five tries to the Bulldogs nil.

A left sided shift presented the Sea Eagles with their first try of the afternoon as Trbojevic passed out wide to Garrick who had acres of space to run ahead and score in the corner. Trbojevic then grabbed his first of the afternoon with a textbook right-hand shift that has proved to be a real weapon for the Sea Eagles this season. All three of Trbojevic's tries involved a right edge shift with the ball going through the hands of both Daly Cherry-Evans and Jason Saab.

Manly's other two tries came through Toafofoa Siplely who scored his first and second tries of his career this afternoon as he proved too strong and powerful for the Bulldogs to stop from close range.

After piling on 36 points in the opening term, the Sea Eagles weren't content with just that. They did start slowly in the second half but quickly found their highest gear as they scored five tries from the 48th to the 73rd minute. It was an outstanding performance from the Sea Eagles who recorded their largest win in the club's history. It also happens to be the tied sixth largest winning margin of all time and the largest win by any club since the Warriors beat Souths by 66 points in 2006.

Winger Jason Saab was the star of the second half as he scored a hat trick for himself after assisting two tries in the opening 40 minutes. Saab's hat trick came in the space of nine minutes and showcased all his best talents as he was able to use his afterburners to great effect.

It was a tough afternoon for the Bulldogs, who already had a large number of players out through a combination of COVID isolation and injury. They never looked like scoring and with only 44 per cent of the possession it was always going to be hard for the Bulldogs to test Manly this afternoon. They couldn't get any momentum together in attack and the inexperience of their side showed as they now sit in last place on the competition ladder as the Broncos move ahead on point differential.

Reuben Garrick deserves a special mention for scoring 30 individual points in this clash, taking his tally to 58 over the course of his past two fixtures. It also equals the record for the most individual points in a game for Manly, now joining Ron Rowles and Matthew Ridge who scored 30 points in 1954 and 1996 respectively.

Manly now move into fifth place on the competition ladder, overtaking the Roosters for the first time this season and they now sit just four points behind the Rabbitohs. **Lachy MacCorquodale**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (66) Tries: Reuben Garrick (2), Tom Trbojevic (3), Toafofoa Siplely (2), Karl Lawton, Jason Saab (3); Conversions: Reuben Garrick (11/11)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (0)

Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Halftime Score: Canterbury 0 Manly 36; Referee: Gerard Sutton

GOLD COAST 44 CANBERRA 6

The Gold Coast Titans have equalled their club record for points scored and winning margin with a 44-6 win over the Raiders in Canberra.

Despite the lopsided scoreline it ended up being, the match started as an arm wrestle, with the Titans defence putting in a much improved showing compared to recent weeks. The Raiders were winning the field position battle, with Josh Papalii taking 18 carries inside the opening 20 minutes while offloading the ball a number of times as well.

However, once the Titans got some momentum, they were able to take full advantage, with Ash Taylor first putting in a kick that saw Simonsson bundled into touch. In the ensuing set, David Fifita got the ball relatively flat footed but was able to power over Sam Williams and then prove too strong for Corey Harawira-Naera and Sebastian Kris to score the first try of the match.

8 minutes later, David Fifita was sent to the sin bin for making late contact on Sam Williams and the Raiders looked primed to hit back against 12 men. It wasn't to be, with Elliot Whitehead knocking on. The mistake gave AJ Brimson the chance to manufacture a try on his own, and he did so by making a break downfield to give his team momentum, before throwing a peach of a pass to put his captain Kevin Proctor over the line.

At that point, the Raiders were only down 10-0 and had a period of 8 minutes left against 12 men. You wouldn't know it however, with the Titans again making a break downfield, this time courtesy of Ash Taylor. He was pulled down, but it counted for naught, as Moeaki Fotuauka picked and went from dummy half to score the Titans third.

It went from bad to worse for the Green machine before the break, with Jamal Fogarty taking possession off a scrum win and pinning the ears back, burning Seb Kris and fending off Sam Williams to score a try that was in the top 3 softest of the night. The Titans lead 22-0 at half time.

The second half picked up where the first left off, with Valemei forced to take the ball dead in the 42nd minute and give the Titans a repeat set. They took advantage, with Ash Taylor getting another try assist by grubbering for Brian Kelly, who made no mistake.

Off the very next set, the Raiders gave away a penalty, and the Titans compounded their misery. Fogarty put in a cross-field kick on the last that Jarrod Croker tried to knock dead. The ball bounced at a 90 degree angle though, sitting up perfectly for Kevin Proctor to score his first try double since 2015.

The Raiders were finally able to get off the mark in the 58th minute, with Jordan Rapana coming in at dummy half to put the milestone man Sam Williams over for a try in his 100th game.

That was where the good times ended for the Raiders, with Jamal Fogarty throwing a sublime right to left cutout pass to put Phil Sami over just 4 minutes later. A try at the death to Patrick Herbert pushed the margin out to 38. **Adam Huxtable**

GOLD COAST TITANS (44) Tries: David Fifita, Jamal Fogarty, Kevin Proctor (2), Moeaki Fotuauka, Brian Kelly, Patrick Herbert, Phillip Sami; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (6/8)

CANBERRA RAIDERS (6) Tries: Sam Williams; Conversions: Jarrod Croker (1/1)

Venue: GIO Stadium Canberra; Crowd: 7646; Halftime: Canberra 0 Gold Coast 22; Referee: Matt Cecchin

NEWCASTLE 38 NORTH QUEENSLAND 0

The Newcastle Knights have turned on the style as they took an impressive 38-0 victory at McDonald Jones Stadium in Newcastle.

The Cowboys defence looked to be in a different place from the get go and a loose ball off a last tackle kick found Dominic Young who was able to find the returning Kalyn Ponga who scored. Jake Clifford missed his first conversion of the night.

North Queensland would definitely take the award for disallowed try of the year when Hamiso Tabulai-Fidow almost pulled off one of the tries of the century when he was able to get on the outside of the Knights defence and kicked the ball back infield and despite being miles outside the field, he got back in only to be pushed into touch at the last moment denying the try.

That was the only bright light for the Cowboys who looked disinterested and a step behind the Knights all night and that was on show when Jacob Saifiti was able to crash over to extend the Newcastle lead following Jake Clifford's conversion.

Just after the 20-minute mark, Dominic Young was able to get over the line however, it was very quickly rejected by the bunker with an obvious double movement ruled. The Knights continued to dominate as the as Kurt Mann took an uncontested catch off a Mitchell Pearce kick before offloading to Connor Watson who got his first try of the night.

Kalyn Ponga's remarkable return from injury continued as he scored a second try after the Knights made easy metres through Dominic Young yet again before the potential Jamaican international found KP for his second. The Knights continued to attack in the first half but couldn't get over for anymore points and took a 22-0 lead into the break.

The lack of enthusiasm from the Cowboys was on show and despite some potential bright sparks early on, their play was lacklustre and predictable.

The Knights attack picked up from where it left off and they added to their lead just after the hour mark when Kalyn Ponga created something out of nothing when Ponga broke through some soft defence and found Dominic Young to score his first.

Not long afterwards, Dominic Young was able to cross again after some luck and good work from the Knights and Kalyn Ponga after Kurt Mann tapped the ball backwards off a kick before finding Kalyn Ponga who kicked across field to an unmarked Dominic Young who scored his second.

Just shy of the fulltime siren, the Knights added their final try of the night when Connor Watson scored under the posts after a short ball from Mitchell Pearce. **Josh Robertson**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (38) Tries: Kalyn Ponga (2), Jacob Saifiti, Connor Watson (2), Dominic Young (2); Conversions: Jake Clifford (5/7)

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (0)

Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 7610; Halftime: Newcastle 22 North Queensland 0; Referee: Chris Sutton

BRISBANE 26 CRONULLA 18

Brisbane Broncos won their fourth game of the season against a disappointed Cronulla Sharks outfit, 26-18 this afternoon at Lang Park.

Playing a rare daytime contest, the Broncos produced their best performance of the season to down the finals chasing Sharks in a five tries to three success to give themselves some breathing room as they look to avoid the wooden spoon.

From the opening set where they muscled up, the Broncos looked in a mood this afternoon. Buoyed by some superb defense early in the contest, the Broncos showed some grit which has been lacking in parts this season, drawing level thrice before they ran in two tries in the last 15 minutes to secure the win.

Broncos skipper Alex Glenn got the home side on the board after the hailey's comet of rugby league, Aidan Tolman opened the scoring for the Sharks. Brisbane briefly hit the front when Tesi Niu finished off a raid on the right before Connor Tracey made sure it was 12-all at the break.

The second half was back and forth between two sides desperate to get the win. Brisbane snuck ahead through Ethan Bullemor who rampaged onto a delightful pass from Man of the Match Payne Haas then the Sharks bit back through Tracey's second from some wonderful work from William Kennedy.

From there, the Broncos stampeded all over the Sharks. Niu created a highlight reel moment. The young fullback broke one tackle and raced the length of the field despite the attention of Mullitalo to complete his double, putting Brisbane ahead 22-18.

Jesse Arthurs who started on the bench came on after a fine return performance from Kotonni Staggs gave the Broncos a buffer in the 65th minute. He chewed up the metres and the slack defense of the Sharks to make it 26-18.

There was some brief late fight from the Sharks but they were clearly second best tonight. It was left to some of the younger members of the squad in Kennedy, Tracey and Braydon Trindall who showed some spirit while the only time Jesse Ramien fired up was after being stunned by Tyson Gamble.

Ramien was involved in one of the more interesting bunker calls of the season. He looked to have scored the opening try after sprinting away from a forward pass. The bunker intervened and decided that the bat-on was forward which saved the touch judges blushes. **Justin Davies**

BRISBANE BRONCOS (26) Tries: Alex Glenn, Tesi Niu (2), Ethan Bullemor, Jesse Arthurs; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (3/5)
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (18) Tries: Aidan Tolman, Connor Tracey (2); Conversions: Shaun Johnson (3/3)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 13840; Halftime: Brisbane 12 Cronulla 12; Referee: Ben Cummins

SOUTH SYDNEY 38 WESTS TIGERS 22

A first half demolition has paved the way for the South Sydney Rabbitohs to move into third position with a 38-22 victory over the Wests Tigers.

Scoring seven tries to four in their first appearance at Leichhardt Oval since 2007, the Rabbitohs were never troubled in a match played behind closed doors due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Keeping the scoreboard ticking over during the opening exchanges with tries to Taane Milne (2nd minute) and Cody Walker (8th minute), a third four-pointer to Alex Johnston (16th minute) put the visitors up 16-0 in equal time.

Appearing to extend the lead after Adam Reynolds strolled through the Tigers' non-existent goal-line defence, the Rabbitohs captain had a moment destined to end up on blooper reels for years to come by putting his foot on the dead ball line before grounding the ball.

Resuming the flow of points with Johnston (29th minute) claiming his second to draw level with Josh Addo-Carr as the league's leading try-scorer, a fifth try to Campbell Graham (33rd minute) sent the foundation club to the sheds up 26-0.

Content to play out the second half at a lesser intensity, the Rabbitohs were made to pay for a poor defensive read from Milne as Adam Doueihi (46th minute) raced into open space to avoid the ignominy of a shutout.

Giving the faintest impression of a comeback after a determined charge from Daine Laurie narrowed the margin to 26-10, that was as close as it got as Graham (66th minute) embarrassed the home side with a gliding run off a scrum.

Posting a consolation effort through Doueihi (69th minute) only for Cameron Murray (72nd minute) to respond minutes later, a length of the field intercept from David Nofoaluma (76th minute) rounded out a bitterly disappointing afternoon for the joint venture. **Rob Crosby**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (38) Tries: Taane Milne, Cody Walker, Alex Johnston (2), Campbell Graham (2), Cameron Murray; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (5/7); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (0/1)
WESTS TIGERS (22) Tries: Adam Doueihi (2), Daine Laurie, David Nofoaluma; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (3/4)
Venue: Leichhardt Oval; Halftime: Wests Tigers 0 South Sydney 26; Referee: Grant Atkins

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 16

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	14 - 0 - 2	390	28
2. Penrith	14 - 0 - 2	312	28
3. South Sydney	12 - 0 - 3	121	26
4. Parramatta	12 - 0 - 4	201	24
5. Manly	9 - 0 - 6	131	20
6. Sydney	9 - 0 - 6	76	20
7. St Geo Illa	8 - 0 - 8	-10	16
8. Cronulla	6 - 0 - 9	-52	14
9. Newcastle	7 - 0 - 9	-93	14
10. North Qld	6 - 0 - 9	-159	14
11. Gold Coast	6 - 0 - 10	-56	12
12. Warriors	5 - 0 - 10	-71	12
13. Canberra	5 - 0 - 10	-104	12
14. Wests Tigers	5 - 0 - 11	-148	10
15. Brisbane	4 - 0 - 12	-242	8
16. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 13	-296	6

MATCH REVIEW

Jeremy Marshall-King	Canterbury	2 matches
Daniel Suluka-Fifita	Sydney	1 match
Ava Seumanufagai	Canterbury	1 match
David Fifita	Gold Coast	1 match [^]
Jared Waerea-Hargreaves	Sydney	\$2550 [^]
Valentine Holmes	North Qld	\$1350
Jack Williams	Cronulla	\$1350

[^] = unsuccessful judiciary challenge

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Melbourne v Sydney
3 points - Dale Finucane
2 points - Nicholas Hynes
1 points - Cameron Munster

St George Illawarra v Warriors
3 points - Ben Hunt
2 points - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck
1 points - Paul Vaughan

Penrith v Parramatta
3 points - Apisai Koroisau
2 points - Isaiah Papali'i
1 points - Brian To'o

Canterbury v Manly
3 points - Tom Trbojevic
2 points - Jason Saab
1 points - Daly Cherry-Evans

Canberra v Gold Coast
3 points - Ashley Taylor
2 points - Jamal Fogarty
1 points - David Fifita

Newcastle v North Queensland
3 points - Kalyn Ponga
2 points - Mitchell Pearce
1 points - Jake Clifford

Brisbane v Cronulla
3 points - Payne Haas
2 points - Tyson Gamble
1 points - Will Kennedy

Wests Tigers v South Sydney
3 points - Cody Walker
2 points - Alex Johnston
1 points - Thomas Burgess

LEADERBOARD

26 points - Nathan Cleary (24 Panthers, 2 NSW)
23 points - Tom Trbojevic (17 Sea Eagles, 6 NSW)
19 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks)
18 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels)
17 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)
16 points - Ben Hunt (Dragons)
15 points - Jahrome Hughes (Storm), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors)

ROUND 17 July 8 to 11

CANBERRA 30 MANLY 16

A man of the match performance from Sam Williams has seen the Canberra Raiders upset the Manly Sea Eagles 30-16 at 4 Pines Park on Thursday evening.

Crossing for a brace of tries and controlling play with a precise kicking game, the veteran playmaker was central to his side's first win on the Northern Beaches since 2016.

Given little hope of halting the Sea Eagles runaway momentum despite both side missing key players through Origin, the night started poorly for the visitors as makeshift halfback Dylan Walker (8th minute) opened the scoring with a try eerily similar to Jamal Fogarty's effort off a scrum last week.

Appearing to extend the lead after Brad Parker ran onto a beautiful pass from Kieran Foran, a desperate effort from Raiders debutant Xavier Savage managed to pry the ball free from Parker's grasp.

Working their way back into the contest with a number of repeat sets, interchange hooker Tom Starling (28th minute) left the Sea Eagles grasping at thin air with an explosive run from dummy half.

Making the most of a run of possession to take a 12-4 lead into the break, Williams (35th minute) exposed the tiring defence with a dummy before strolling over to score underneath the posts.

Maintaining their intensity after the resumption of play, Williams (51st minute) crossed for his second with a determined run to put the visitors out beyond two converted tries.

Securing the result following a bizarre passage of play involving a falcon, Sebastian Kris (56th minute) pounced on a Williams' kick that struck Moses Suli in the head, allowing the young centre to touch down for his sixth try of the season.

Posting their second try almost an hour after their first, Manly second-rower Haumole Olakau'atu (64th minute) made amends for an ill-conceived grubber with a powerful close-range charge before Suli (71st minute) set up a grandstand finish.

Capitalising on an error from Jason Saab inside the Sea Eagles' half, Emre Guler (75th minute) secured the result to lift the Raiders within striking distance of the top eight. **Rob Crosby**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (30) Tries: Tom Starling, Sam Williams (2), Sebastian Kris, Emre Guler; Conversions: Jarrod Croker (5/5)
MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (16) Tries: Dylan Walker, Haumole Olakau'atu, Moses Suli; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (2/3)

Venue: 4 Pines Park; Halftime: Manly 4 Canberra 12; Referee: Adam Gee

SOUTH SYDNEY 46 NORTH QUEENSLAND 18

Alex Johnston and Taane Milne both collected hat-tricks but it was Cody Walker who stole the show for South Sydney in their dominant win over North Queensland.

Having a hand in three tries and five line breaks, the dynamic five-eighth played a central role as the Rabbitohs overcame a ten-point deficit to maintain third position on the ladder with a 46-18 victory in Newcastle.

After a measured opening from both sides where penalty goals were exchanged, a bat back from Coen Hess allowed Tom Dearden (16th minute) to race 20 metres for the opening four-pointer.

Going further ahead after Jason Taumalolo exposed the Rabbitohs defence through the middle, an exchange of passing involving Reece Robson and Daejarn Asi enabled Shane Wright (20th minute) to establish a 12-2 lead.

Hitting back through rookie playmaker Blake Taaffe (24th minute) following an instinctive kick from Johnston, the Rabbitohs assumed the ascendancy with Walker setting up three tries in the final ten minutes of the first half.

Sending Taane Milne (31st and 35th minutes over for his first career double in quick succession, a third pass saw Johnston (38th minute) put on the afterburners to give the Rabbitohs a 22-12 lead at the change of ends.

Opening the second half in identical form as the first with a penalty goal, Johnston (49th minute) showed pace and determination to collect his second.

Tom Burgess (58th minute) put the result beyond doubt by charging through the Cowboys' feeble defence and celebrated his four-pointer by emulating Greg Inglis' iconic goanna routine.

Having crossed for only three tries in the five years since debuting in the top grade, Milne (67th minute) doubled his career tally with a hat-trick after running onto a brash tap on from Walker.

Bringing up their biggest ever total against North Queensland courtesy of a lovely cut-out ball from Benji Marshall to Johnston (70th minute), a consolation effort from Kyle Feldt (77th minute) saw South Sydney run out convincing 46-18 winners. **Rob Crosby**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (46) Tries: Blake Taaffe, Taane Milne (3), Alex Johnston (3), Thomas Burgess; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (5/8); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (2/2)
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (18) Tries: Tom Dearden, Shane Wright, Kyle Feldt; Conversions: Scott Drinkwater (2/3); Penalty Goals: Scott Drinkwater (1/1)

Venue: McDonald Jones Stadium; Crowd: 3127; Halftime: South Sydney 22 North Qld 12; Referee: Matt Cecchin

SYDNEY 22 CANTERBURY 16

Sydney Roosters move into fifth after a tense 22-16 success against Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs tonight at Western Sydney stadium.

The Roosters weren't at their feathered best but did enough to beat a determined Bulldogs line-up. Tries to Billy Smith, Sitili Tupounia, Joseph Manu and Matt Ikuvalu were enough to put the tri-colours back in the winner's circle.

Trent Robinson wasn't happy after full-time, whether it was about his team's performance or Sam Walker's heads up play to secure the win it was hard to tell. Roosters laboured to the win despite going out to a 10-nil advantage due to tries to Smith and Tupounia before the Bulldogs hit back. Joseph Manu and Lachlan Lewis found the stripe for a 16-10 lead at the break.

Bulldogs showed some spirit in their game tonight. Despite not being flush with attacking options, they were gallant tonight. Lewis starred for them back in first grade, got through the whole 80 minutes and provided two moments of magic in the first half. The half chipped for himself to score then profited on a Manu drop for his first double in the NRL.

Only down by six at the break, Bulldogs struck first to make it 16-all. Nick Meaney who is off to the Storm sliced through to get the Bulldogs back in the contest. Both sides got themselves into an arm wrestle as the conditions worsened at a damp Western Sydney stadium.

Both sides were unable to execute their attack in the wet. Roosters edged themselves through Matt Ikuvalu. The winger took a courageous kick to get a penalty before he stepped inside to make it 20-16. Roosters were sloppy in execution and unable to put away the plucky Bulldogs.

If Canterbury can repeat this effort for the rest of the season they might avoid the spoon, but they need to find more attacking options. Lewis showed some spark and their forwards rolled forward but execution wasn't their strong point. Jack Hetherington didn't help with some costly errors and a penalty which Sam Walker converted.

Walker also courted some controversy with his last minute decision to seal the game. The young halfback took the ball from the Bulldogs 20 metre and ran it all the way to his own line to make sure the Roosters survived and moved back into fifth spot. **Justin Davies**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (22) Tries: Billy Smith, Sitili Tupounia, Joseph Manu, Matt Ikuvalu; Conversions: Sam Walker (2/4); Penalty Goals: Sam Walker (1/1)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (16) Tries: Lachlan Lewis (2), Nick Meaney; Conversions: Jake Averillo (2/3)
Venue: Bankwest Stadium; Halftime: Canterbury 10 Sydney 16; Referee: Adam Gee

CRONULLA 20 WARRIORS 12

The Cronulla Sutherland Sharks have put themselves in prime position to stay in the top 8, outlasting the Warriors to win 20 points to 12 in a dire affair at Kogarah.

The Warriors were gifted an early attacking opportunity after Braydon Trindall knocked on, however Nikorima's grubber was deflected and then dived on by Teig Wilton.

Both sides went set for set for the next 10 minutes or so, however when the Sharks were able to muster some field position, Trindall's grubber kick was too big, giving the Warriors a 7 tackle set. They took full advantage this time, with Dallin Watene-Zelezniak putting in a grubber that couldn't be knocked dead by Katoa, the result being Reece Walsh diving on the loose ball and scoring the first try of the match.

It didn't take long for the Sharks to hit back; O'Sullivan charged down their kick, but it deflected into Matt Lodge who was standing in an offside position. Braydon Trindall threw a peach of a pass to Connor Tracey, who strolled over to level the scores.

The Sharks then began to take control and build pressure, with 4 consecutive sets attacking the Warriors line. It eventually became too much, Trindall backed up his assist with a try of his own, running the ball and proving too strong for Kodi Nikorima.

The horror period continued for the Warriors, with Reece Walsh kicking off out on the full. The Sharks were in a try-scoring mood, with the big man Braden Hamlin-Uele breaking the line and then steamrolling Walsh to score his first try of the year.

The Warriors found a way to concede a penalty in goal kicking range before the half, with Trindall making it a 20-6 scoreline at the break.

The second half was an error-riddled arm wrestle. Jack Murchie came on and made 2 errors in 3 minutes, while Ramien looked threatening, making a half break but then simply dropping it cold. The Warriors were handed an opportunity after a successful captains challenge deemed the Sharks had knocked on. They took full advantage for a change, with Sean O'Sullivan throwing a short ball to Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, who did the rest of the work and slimmed the gap to 8 points.

For the remainder of the contest, the Sharks had ample opportunity to put the result beyond doubt, while the Warriors also had their fair share of chances to make it a grandstand finish. Neither side were able to achieve these respective goals, and the game finished with the Sharks winning 20 points to 12.

Adam Huxtable

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (20) Tries: Connor Tracey, Braydon Trindall, Braden Hamlin-Uele; **Conversions:** Braydon Trindall (3/3); **Penalty Goals:** Braydon Trindall (1/1)

WARRIORS (12) Tries: Reece Walsh, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck; **Conversions:** Reece Walsh (2/2)

Venue: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium; **Halftime:** Cronulla 20 Warriors 6; **Referee:** Chris Sutton

BYES

Brisbane Broncos
Gold Coast Titans
Melbourne Storm
Newcastle Knights
Parramatta Eels
Penrith Panthers
St George Illawarra Dragons
Wests Tigers

STATS LEADERS

After Round 17

Top Pointscorers

1. R Garrick	Manly	186
2. N Cleary	Penrith	164
3. A Reynolds	Souths	158
4. J Fogarty	Gold Coast	126
4. M Moses	Parramatta	126
6. A Doueihi	Wests Tigers	120
7. V Holmes	North Qld	96
7. N Nikorima	Warriors	96
9. N Hynes	Melbourne	94
10. J Isaako	Brisbane	92

Top Tryscorers

1. A Johnston	Souths	22
2. J Addo-Carr	Melbourne	19
3. J Saab	Manly	16
4. M Sivo	Parramatta	15
5. R Garrick	Manly	14
5. T Trbojevic	Manly	14
7. M Burton	Penrith	12
7. C Gutherson	Parramatta	12
9. D Fifita	Gold Coast	11
9. B Morris	Sydney	11
9. C Staines	Penrith	11

Top Goalkickers

1. A Reynolds	Souths	71
2. N Cleary	Penrith	65
2. R Garrick	Manly	65
4. M Moses	Parramatta	58
5. J Fogarty	Gold Coast	55
6. A Doueihi	Wests Tigers	46
7. K Nikorima	Warriors	42
8. V Holmes	North Qld	41
9. N Hynes	Melbourne	37
10. J Isaako	Brisbane	36

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 17

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	14 - 0 - 2	390	30
2. Penrith	14 - 0 - 2	312	30
3. South Sydney	13 - 0 - 3	149	28
4. Parramatta	12 - 0 - 4	201	26
5. Sydney	10 - 0 - 6	82	22
6. Manly	9 - 0 - 7	117	20
7. St Geo Illa	8 - 0 - 8	-10	18
8. Cronulla	7 - 0 - 9	-44	16
9. Newcastle	7 - 0 - 9	-93	16
10. Gold Coast	6 - 0 - 10	-56	14
11. Canberra	6 - 0 - 10	-90	14
12. North Qld	6 - 0 - 10	-187	14
13. Warriors	5 - 0 - 11	-79	12
14. Wests Tigers	5 - 0 - 11	-148	12
15. Brisbane	4 - 0 - 12	-242	10
16. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 14	-302	6

MATCH REVIEW

Heilum Luki	North Qld	1 match
Liam Knight	Souths	\$1600
Taane Milne	Souths	\$1150

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Manly v Canberra
3 points - Sam Williams
2 points - Josh Hodgson
1 points - Joseph Tapine

South Sydney v North Queensland
3 points - Cody Walker
2 points - Hame Sele
1 points - Alex Johnston

Canterbury v Sydney
3 points - Joseph Manu
2 points - Sitali Tupouniua
1 points - Lachlan Lewis

Cronulla v Warriors
3 points - Shaun Johnson
2 points - Braydon Trindall
1 points - Braden Hamlin-Uele

LEADERBOARD

26 points - Nathan Cleary (Blues 2, Panthers 24)
23 points - Tom Trbojevic (Blues 6, Sea Eagles 17)
20 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)
19 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks) Ben Hunt (Maroons 3, Dragons 16)
18 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels)
15 points - Jahrome Hughes (Storm), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors)
14 points - Nicholas Hynes (Storm), Mitchell Moses (Eels)
13 points - David Fifita (Titans)
12 points - Daine Laurie (Wests Tigers), Latrell Mitchell (Blues 2, Rabbitohs 10)
11 points - Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles), Adam Doueihi (Wests Tigers), Brandon Smith (Storm), Jarome Luai (Blues 2, Panthers 9)
10 points - Scott Drinkwater (Cowboys), Isaiah Papali'i (Eels), James Tedesco (Roosters), Reece Walsh (Warriors)
9 points - Luke Brooks (Wests Tigers), Jake Clifford (Cowboys), Sam Walker (Roosters), Alexander Brimson (Titans), Kalyn Ponga (Knights)
8 points - Cameron Munster (Storm), Joseph Manu (Roosters), Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm), James Fisher-Harris (Panthers), Brian To'o (Panthers), Reed Mahoney (Eels), Shaun Johnson (Sharks), George Williams (Raiders), Payne Haas (1 Blues, 7 Broncos)
7 points - Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs), Matthew Dufty (Dragons)

ROUND 18 July 16 to 18

PARRAMATTA 26 GOLD COAST 8

The Parramatta Eels have bounced back against the Titans, recording an 18-point win over the Gold Coast Titans at Cbus Super Stadium

Despite the gap between the two sides on the ladder, this matchup was expected to be a close one, even more so an hour before kickoff, when it was revealed Parramatta would be missing origin stars Moses and Paulo, while all 3 of the Titans' would back up.

Five minutes in, it looked like the Titans had got off to the dream start, however replays revealed Corey Thompson had knocked on in goal. Two minutes later, the Titans were threatening again, however the Eels were gifted field position due to foul play on their winger Haze Dunster.

Parramatta took full advantage of this field position through five-eighth Dylan Brown, who turned on the accelerator to break through the Titans frontline defence and burn fullback AJ Brimson on his way to the tryline.

The biggest turning point of the match came in the 22nd minute, where Kevin Proctor was rightly sin-binned for placing Eels big man Isaiah Papali'i into a dangerous position. The effect was immediate, with Shaun Lane spinning his way over the line courtesy of some good play from the hooker Reed Mahoney.

The next 5 minutes for the Titans were a blueprint on how not to defend with 12 men. The Eels made 80 or more metres in basically all of their sets, and it resulted in two more tries for the Blue and Gold. For the first one, Nathan Brown threw a ball to Matterson, who broke the line and linked up with Brown again on the inside. He had only the fullback to beat, and gave it to Gutherson in support, who then handed it off to Reed Mahoney, who had a try to go with the assist in his return from injury.

Off the back of another 80 metre set, Clint Gutherson put in a superb kick which resulted in an even better bounce for rookie winger Haze Dunster to score and push the lead out to 20. Kevin Proctor then came back onto the field, his side down by 14 more points than they were when he was initially binned.

It appeared as if the onslaught would continue 10 minutes into the second half, with the Eels unleashing an array of offloads to set up back rower Ryan Matterson with his 4th try of the year and make it 26-0.

The Titans did end up mounting some sort of resistance however, with Ash Taylor throwing a contender for cutout pass of the year to put Brian Kelly over the line untouched in the 61st minute.

They would score again 5 minutes later, when Peachey's kick was deflected off Dylan Brown and picked up by Fifita, who raced away to the tryline.

That was where the comeback ended, with the siren sounding while the score was 26-8 to the Eels. **Adam Huxtable**

PARRAMATTA EELS (26) Tries: Dylan Brown, Shaun Lane, Reed Mahoney, Haze Dunster, Ryan Matterson; Conversions: Clinton Gutherson (3/5)

GOLD COAST TITANS (8) Tries: Brian Kelly, David Fifita; Conversions: Patrick Herbert (0/2)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 15038; Halftime: Gold Coast 0 Parramatta 20; Referee: Matt Cecchin

MANLY 32 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 18

Despite Origin stars Tom Trbojevic and Daly Cherry-Evans sitting in the stands, Manly has bounced back from last week's shock loss to Canberra by defeating St George-Illawarra by 32-18 at CBUS Stadium on the Gold Coast tonight.

The Sea Eagles were led to victory by a vintage performance from five-eighth Kieran Foran who was superb for Manly, turning back the clock with a number of deft touches in attack, as well as controlling the second half of the match superbly in a promising sign for the Sea Eagles premiership chances in 2021.

St George were well in the match heading into halftime, as the game see-sawed several times before Manly broke away after the break to leave the Dragons floundering as they were terrorised on the edges by the silky skills of Josh Schuster and the rampaging Haumole Olakau'atu who continue to improve at a rate of knots for Des Hasler's men.

The Dragons got off to a nice start when Queensland Origin hero Ben Hunt continued his red-hot form from Wednesday night, when he put Jack Bird away down the right-hand edge. Bird then offloaded back inside to find a flying Tyrell Sloan who streaked away to score under the posts in just his second NRL game for the rookie fullback. Jack Bird converted from in front and the Dragons took an early lead.

It didn't take Manly long to respond however, when Haumole Olakau'atu stepped neatly away from Corey Norman and Tariq Sims to find Morgan Harper in support with the former Bulldog scoring Manly's first try and following the conversion from Rueben Garrick it was 6-all after 15 minutes. Olakau'atu was at it again on the right-hand side, when he received some early ball off Schuster and the up and coming back rower steamrolled Dragons centre Brayden Williams to score and give the Sea Eagles the lead. The Dragons then hit back, when former Queensland prop Josh McGuire crashed over, following a neat pass from dummy half from Andrew McCullough. Bird then converted from in front to again level the scores. St George then took the lead just before the break, when Sea Eagles utility Dylan Walker was penalised for a strip on Jack Bird close to the line and Bird took the two points on offer and give his side the edge 14-12 at halftime.

The Sea Eagles came out of a cannon to open the second half, when Josh Schuster and Moses Suli combined to make a break down the left edge. Schuster then found his five-eighth Kieran Foran with a superb no look pass and Manly edged back in front. Cade Cust then made it back-to-back tries for Manly, when the bench utility took on the line and stretched out to keep his fingertips on the ball to score an unlikely try for his side. This was quickly followed by a try to centre Brad Parker, following a sublime pass from Kieran Foran close to the line, which saw Parker charge through a gap to score untouched and extend the Sea Eagles lead to 34-12 following Garrick's successful conversion. The Dragons finished with a consolation try, when Ben Hunt attempted a trick shot from a scrum, kicking for Tyrell Sloan who managed to collect the ball and offload in the one motion to veteran winger Gerard Beale who managed to hold off the cover defence to score a sensational try.

The Dragons never threatened the Eagles however, and Manly then kicked a penalty on fulltime to extend their victory to 32-18 in a dominant display and keep Des Hasler's side in touch with the Top 4. **Sam Bourke**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (32) Tries: Morgan Harper, Haumole Olakau'atu, Kieran Foran, Cade Cust, Brad Parker; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (5/5); Penalty Goals: Reuben Garrick (1/1)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (18) Tries: Tyrell Sloan, Josh McGuire, Gerard Beale; Conversions: Jack Bird (2/3); Penalty Goals: Jack Bird (1/1)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 15038; Halftime: Manly 12 St Geo Illa 14; Referee: Adam Gee

SYDNEY 34 NORTH QUEENSLAND 18

The Sydney Roosters came back from an early 12-point deficit to rack up 34 points to six after that point, beating a North Queensland side that fell away defensively again in the second half 34-18.

The Cowboys opened the scoring in the 5th minute when Scott Drinkwater ran right out of dummy half then turned back to the left before firing a good ball to Javid Bowen who strolled over for a good try. Drinkwater added the extras. After getting three consecutive sets, the Cowboys crossed again in the 14th minute, again off the back of some great work by Drinkwater, who received the ball at first receiver on the left at halfway, drifted left and showed the ball twice before getting a pass to the straight and fast running Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, who hits a gap and raced 45 metres to score a great try. Drinkwater converted again.

The Roosters finally got on the board in the 26th minute when Drew Hutchison passed to Angus Crichton, who gets one-on-one with Connelly Lemulelu and easily overpowers the flat-footed centre to score on the left side. Sam Walker's sideline conversion is a poor one.

The final 7 minutes of the half saw the Roosters get some momentum which they capitalised on. In the 34th minute, Billy Smith scored after running onto a crash ball. Walker converted to reduce the Roosters deficit to just 2 points. Five minutes later, just as the halftime bell rang, Joey Manu received the ball on the left side, stepped left, shaped to pass to his winger, doesn't, then walks through the defence to score a pretty soft try. Walker's sideline conversion is waved away and at halftime, the Roosters had taken the lead 14-12.

It took almost 20 minutes for any points to be scored in the second half, with both sides running rather freely, but with rather unimaginative ends to their sets. In the 59th minute Matt Ikuvalu was on the receiving end of the trademark long ball over the top from Walker and he dived over to score in the corner. Walker again failed to convert from touch.

The Cowboys first set after the restart began in magnificent style when Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow fielded a kick on his own goal-line and then ran 90 metres downfield before getting grassed. On the next play, Tom Dearden went left, linked with Mitchell Dunn who turned the ball back to Dearden who then dished a good ball to Reece Robson in support and he dived over to the left of the posts. Drinkwater converted to level the scores.

With the game in the balance going into the final 15 minutes, the Roosters stepped up a gear and the Cowboys defence helped them. After a great Joseph Manu run, the Roosters shifted the ball left to Walker, who hit Sitili Tupouniua with a crisp pass and the back rower strolled through for an easy try. Walker converted. Five minutes later, Victor Radley made a great run picking up 30 metres. Walker picked up the ball from dummy half, ran right, switched back to the left and dived over to score beside the posts. He then converted his own try.

A Kyle Feldt knock on inside the final 30 seconds saw a scrum set deep inside the Cowboys half. From the back of the scrum, the Roosters went right to Josh Morris, who got his nose through a tackle, offloaded around the corner to Matt Ikuvalu who strolled over for a try in the corner. Billy Smith was given the goalkicking duties but was unable to trouble the scorers from the sideline. **Andrew Ferguson**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (34) Tries: Angus Crichton, Sam Walker, Billy Smith, Joseph Manu, Matt Ikuvalu (2), Sitili Tupouniua; Conversions: Sam Walker (3/6), Billy Smith (0/1)

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (18) Tries: Javid Bowen, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Reece Robson; Conversions: Scott Drinkwater (3/3)

Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 15933; Halftime: North Qld 12 Sydney 14; Referee: Ashley Klein

CANBERRA 34 CRONULLA 18

Canberra Raiders made it back-to-back successes against a toothless Cronulla Sharks outfit with a 34-18 success tonight on the Gold Coast.

Canberra Raiders produced a 18 point second half led by exciting youngster Xavier Savage to overcome an 18-16 deficit in a game where defence at times seemed optional between these two top eight hopefuls.

Coming off their surprise win against Manly, the Raiders got themselves off to an ideal start. Jordan Rapana was awarded an eight-point try after some high contact from Sharks halfback Braydon Trindall to make it 8-nil.

Jarrold Croker has been a stalwart in the pointscore charts and the Raiders centre featured heavily in the contest. He kicked seven goals from eight attempts as he edged closer to third in the all-time records and the Raiders held a firm 10-nil lead after his pair of penalty goals.

Sharks woke themselves up and scored twice in quick succession to hit right back. Centre Jesse Ramien rampaged across for the first then it was a slick backline play which featured both Shaun Johnson and William Kennedy to send Sione Katoa over in a pulsating first half.

Both sides came out of the sheds ready for action and traded four-pointers in the opening stages of the second stanza. Xavier Savage sliced through and linked up with his support for Jack Wighton to put them ahead before another simple structured play from the Sharks to Ronaldo Mulitalo gave them an 18-16 lead.

Wighton was forced from the field after his score which forced a reshuffle. The Raiders didn't skip a beat and piled on 18 points to move themselves in equal eighth with their opponents tonight - Cronulla. Hudson Young, Savage and Semi Velemei crossed the stripe in a morale boosting start to their time in Queensland.

In his second NRL game, Savage looked lively whenever he was on the ball. He was heavily involved in the Raiders second try with his initial break before the fullback got himself on the scoresheet with a support run to ice the contest. Savage might have cemented his spot as the Raiders fullback for the rest of 2021.

For the Sharks, they never showed up after half-time. Some ill-discipline and missed tackles didn't help in their endeavours but it cruelled them in their quest to join the Dragons in seventh position. The halves combo of Shaun Johnson and Trindall failed to click after their slick work last week against the Warriors.

One thing that will be put under the microscope after the game is the decision to award the Raiders an eight-point try in the first half. Rapana was hit high in the act of scoring but wasn't fazed as he celebrated. Sharks five-eighth Trindall was put on report for a slight clip and again, shows inconsistency in the officiating. **Justin Davies**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (34) Tries: Jordan Rapana, Jack Wighton, Hudson Young, Xavier Savage, Semi Velemei; Conversions: Jarrod Croker (4/5); Penalty Goals: Jarrod Croker (3/3)
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (18) Tries: Jesse Ramien, Sione Katoa, Ronaldo Mulitalo; Conversions: Braydon Trindall (3/3)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 3874; Halftime: Canberra 12 Cronulla 12; Referee: Grant Atkins

MELBOURNE 48 NEWCASTLE 4

A midnight dash to Queensland hasn't cramped the style and flair of the Melbourne Storm as they took a comprehensive 48-4 victory over an injury-affected Newcastle Knights side on the Gold Coast.

A long night was forecast early on for the Knights when they left their intended playing kit back at the hub and instead were forced to wear their away white jersey which created an unintentional clash with the Storm's Naidoc Week jersey. The action on-field was just as error ridden for the Knights with Dominic Young coughing up the ball with the Novacastrians first touch of the steeden.

Thankfully for Newcastle, the Storm came up with their own error and couldn't turn position into points on this occasion. It wasn't too long later that Melbourne didn't get a Scrum play wrong once Nicho Hynes was able to draw defenders in before finding Justin Olam to score.

Despite having no field position or ball, the Knights were able to keep the Storm at bay until Jahrome Hughes took the most direct route up the field through the middle bursting through to find Cameron Munster to score next to the posts.

Another error from the Knights put Melbourne right on the attack and they needed just one play to score when they spread the ball out to the right and George Jennings just steamrolled Kalyn Ponga in getting over the line. Things didn't all go Melbourne's way with Dale Finucane failing a HIA early after copping a stray forearm from a teammate.

Luck was really missing from the Knights game as Kalyn Ponga left the field for a HIA which he ultimately failed after copping an accidental off the ball hit. The next Melbourne try proved that there was no luck for Newcastle as a routine Jahrome Hughes kick bounced poorly for Connor Watson at the back and it was picked up by Reimis Smith who found Hughes to score.

Melbourne finished their scoring on the stroke of half-time when Nicho Hynes crossed for his first after Brandon Smith drew in defenders before Justin Olam kicked inside and Nicho Hynes was able to get to the ball first and after converting his own try, the Storm lead 30-0 at the break.

The intensity of the play from the Storm in the second half dropped off but the style didn't as they opened the scoring for the second half after Jahrome Hughes cleaned up a sloppy kick from Connor Watson and ran through the middle of the park before finding Reimis Smith to score.

The Knights were caught out again as George Jennings scored his second after Cameron Munster created space after going through the middle, catching the defence and Jennings scored out wide.

A bright spark for the Knights came when they were able to get on the outside of the Storm defence for Dominic Young to score the only four-pointer for Newcastle. Jake Clifford pushed the conversion wide.

The Storm took their foot off the pedal late on after their last try which started with Cameron Munster going out of dummy half catching the Knights defence in all sorts before finding Justin Olam for his second try of the night. **Josh Robertson**

MELBOURNE STORM (48) Tries: Justin Olam (2), Nicholas Hynes, Cameron Munster, George Jennings (2), Jahrome Hughes, Reimis Smith; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (8/8)
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (4) Tries: Dominic Young; Conversions: Jake Clifford (0/1)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 3874; Halftime: Melbourne 30 Newcastle 0; Referee: Chris Sutton

PENRITH 30 WARRIORS 16

The injury-ravaged Warriors couldn't hold on for long enough to prevent the Panthers from walking away with the two points in a 30-16 defeat at Suncorp Stadium.

The Panthers started brilliantly with a try in the opening minutes courtesy of a Viliame Kikau charge down who then collected the ball to score untouched. However, Penrith struggled to get into the game until late in the opening term.

The Warriors started to show their skill, scoring the next two tries as Wayne Egan opened the scoring for his side after Matthew Lodge returned him the ball after making a line break. Rocco Berry quickly added to the scoreboard after Reece Walsh isolated him with Brent Naden.

Unfortunately, the Warriors suffered injuries to some of their key players in the first half. Tohu Harris, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Egan all took to the sideline during the opening half with respective injuries. This caught up with the Warriors as Penrith started to gain some momentum.

Brian To'o was the man to bring the Panthers level after Tyrone May threw a looping ball out to his winger who did the rest, finishing it tidily in the corner for his ninth try of the season. The Panthers would add to this with five minutes remaining in the half as Matt Burton bounced outside his opposite man as he received the ball and put Kikau through a gap for his second try of the night.

The injuries to the Warriors look to be catching up to them now and it'll be a tough second half for the home side if they continue to play with three men down.

Penrith picked up from where they left off scoring the first three tries of the second half as they ran away with the victory. A double to Charlie Staines and a try to Liam Martin was too much for the Warriors to come back from.

The injuries sustained in the first half impacted the Warriors ability to keep up with the Panthers during the second half. Which showed when Staines scored his second try as the Warriors were struggling to get set in the defence as the Panthers made multiple line breaks.

Reece Walsh was able to grab a consolation try in the final 10 minutes which at least gave the Warriors fans something to cheer about but they were unfairly hurt by injuries over the course of the match.

It's an important win for the Panthers as they strive to stay level with the in-form Melbourne Storm despite missing both Nathan Cleary and Jarome Luai. Meanwhile the loss for the Warriors leaves them two wins outside the eight with just seven games to play. **Lachy MacCorquodale**

PENRITH PANTHERS (30) Tries: Viliame Kikau (2), Brian To'o, Charlie Staines (2), Liam Martin; Conversions: Stephen Crichton (3/6)
WARRIORS (16) Tries: Wayne Egan, Reece Walsh, Rocco Berry; Conversions: Reece Walsh (2/3)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 24894; Halftime: Warriors 10 Penrith 16; Referee: Chris Butler

WESTS TIGERS 42 BRISBANE 24

A second half rampage has seen the Wests Tigers record a much-needed victory over the Brisbane Broncos at Suncorp Stadium.

Trailing at halftime and with their season on the line, the joint venture rallied with six second half tries to run out 42-24 victors.

The Broncos - starting as favourites for only the second time this season - opened the scoring through Corey Oates (5th minute) before establishing an 8-0 lead via a penalty goal in front of the posts.

The Tigers responded with a try to Luciano Leilua (15th minute) only to hand back possession to the hosts with an error from the ensuing kick-off.

Capitalising on the field position after Tyson Gamble threaded a grubber for Jordan Riki (19th minute) to score his first of the season, a succession of errors proved costly for the home side.

A beautiful cut-out ball from Adam Doueihy resulted in a historic try for David Nofoaluma (30th minute), as he surpassed Benji Marshall and Chris Lawrence to become the Wests Tigers' greatest ever try-scorer with 85 four-pointers.

Striking a pivotal blow on the cusp of halftime, the Broncos headed to the sheds up 18-10 after Payne Haas delivered a magical offload to send Thomas Flegler (38th minute) underneath the posts.

Coming out for the second half determined to keep their season alive, Daine Laurie sparked a fight back by taking on the line from close range (45th minute), before following up with a huge break in the next set to allow Tommy Talau (47th minute) to capitalise on the retreating defence.

Kotoni Staggs (50th minute) put the Broncos back in front after Gamble and Riki combined to send the powerhouse centre over for his first try since returning from an ACL tear sustained in the final match of last season.

Talau (61st minute) steadied the ship for the visitors with his second, while the Tigers were afforded a slice of luck when the bunker overturned a try to Jamayne Isaako as a result of Riki obstructing Luke Brooks in the lead up.

Getting out to their biggest lead of the match after the Broncos failed to clean up a bouncing ball in-goal, Nofoaluma (68th minute) pounced before Junior Pauga (70th minute) secured the victory with a try on debut.

Completing the stunning second half performance, Stefano Utoikamanu (73rd minute) crashed over to give the Tigers their biggest win of the season. **Rob Crosby**

WESTS TIGERS (42) Tries: Luciano Leilua, David Nofoaluma (2), Daine Laurie, Tommy Talau (2), Junior Pauga, Stefano Utoikamanu; **Conversions:** Adam Doueihy (5/8)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (24) Tries: Corey Oates, Jordan Riki, Thomas Flegler, Kotoni Staggs; **Conversions:** Jamayne Isaako (3/4); **Penalty Goals:** Jamayne Isaako (1/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; **Crowd:** 24894; **Halftime:** Brisbane 18 Wests Tigers 10; **Referee:** Gerard Sutton

SOUTH SYDNEY 32 CANTERBURY 24

The South Sydney Rabbitohs have outlasted the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 32-24 in a seesawing affair full of twists.

From an all-time brain fade from Lachlan Lewis to a slick set play from the Bulldogs, this game continued to deliver shocks. Lewis is off-contract at the end of the year and showed both his best and worst sides in the opening half.

A desperate attempt in defence from Lewis forced Taane Milne to drop the ball with a try begging but then went on to produce one of the craziest moments of the season. With the Bulldogs leading 12-10 at the break and the halftime siren having already sounded, Lewis walked off and exchanged a few words with Cody Walker. Lewis then inexplicably tackled Walker to the ground sparking an all-in and was subsequently sent to the sin bin. It spoiled what was an impressive turnaround in the first half from the Bulldogs after falling behind 10-0 early.

Walker was a constant spark in attack for the Rabbitohs and set up the opening try of the night. It came after he played the ball flat for Campbell Graham who then popped a late offload for Taane Milne to score. Halves partner Adam Reynolds then got involved in the next one as he cut it out to Dane Gagai, prompting the Bulldogs to rush in and leave Alex Johnston unmarked out wide.

Souths though started to make a few errors and the Bulldogs were good enough to capitalise. Bailey Biondi-Odo dummied out of dummy-half and used his pace to break through before putting Aaron Schoupp over for the away side's first. For a team that looked like stragglers inside the opposition red zone early this was a fast-improving Bulldogs side as a slick set play put Corey Allan over in the corner.

The Rabbitohs threatened to pounce late as Johnston snuck down the sideline with the halftime siren looming but his kick back inside went dead. Of course, the drama was not over as a Lewis brain fade had Trent Barrett shaking his head. It proved costly as the Rabbitohs took advantage immediately to score through Johnston.

A strange call soon after saw Souths opt to take the two with Lewis still off and they may have come to regret that decision as the Bulldogs hit back shortly after. Lewis redeemed himself in some form as he tapped on a Corey Waddell offload to put Jayden Okunbor over. Jake Averillo's goal kicking had proven crucial by that point with the playmaker nailing all three attempts from the sideline.

Ill-discipline cost the Bulldogs midway through the second half as the Rabbitohs eventually capitalised with Walker kicking for Jacob Host to score. It quickly turned into two tries as Nick Meaney fumbled a bomb and Souths quickly spun it right as Cameron Murray put his name on the try scoring list.

The Rabbitohs appeared destined to run away with it before a wayward pass popped up for Biondi-Odo who raced away to reduce the deficit to four. Souths would end just doing enough though as Walker once again chimed in to float the ball over the top for Burns who threw it back inside and Mark Nicholls was there to score the winner.

It was a fair effort from the Bunnies who were already without Latrell Mitchell while Johnston, Graham and Liam Knight all failed to finish. **Andrew Jackson**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (32) Tries: Taane Milne, Alex Johnston (2), Jacob Host, Cameron Murray, Mark Nicholls; **Conversions:** Adam Reynolds (3/6); **Penalty Goals:** Adam Reynolds (1/1)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (24) Tries: Aaron Schoupp, Corey Allan, Jayden Okunbor, Bailey Biondi-Odo; **Conversions:** Jake Averillo (4/4)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; **Crowd:** 2979; **Halftime:** South Sydney 10 Canterbury 12; **Referee:** Ben Cummins

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 18

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	15 - 0 - 2	434	32
2. Penrith	15 - 0 - 2	326	32
3. South Sydney	14 - 0 - 3	157	30
4. Parramatta	13 - 0 - 4	219	28
5. Sydney	11 - 0 - 6	98	24
6. Manly	10 - 0 - 7	131	22
7. St Geo Illa	8 - 0 - 9	-24	18
8. Cronulla	7 - 0 - 10	-60	16
9. Canberra	7 - 0 - 10	-74	16
10. Newcastle	7 - 0 - 10	-137	16
11. Gold Coast	6 - 0 - 11	-74	14
12. Wests Tigers	6 - 0 - 11	-130	14
13. North Qld	6 - 0 - 11	-203	14
14. Warriors	5 - 0 - 12	-93	12
15. Brisbane	4 - 0 - 13	-260	10
16. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 15	-310	6

MATCH REVIEW

Aiden Tolman	Cronulla	1 match
Dylan Napa	Canterbury	\$1900
Kevin Proctor	Gold Coast	\$1600
Lachlan Lewis	Canterbury	\$1600
Patrick Herbert	Gold Coast	\$1350
Chris Lewis	Melbourne	\$1350
Api Koroisau	Penrith	\$1350
Shane Wright	North Qld	\$1150
Thomas Mikaele	Wests Tigers	\$1150

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Gold Coast v Parramatta

3 points - Reed Mahoney

2 points - Clinton Gutherson

1 points - Dylan Brown

Manly v St George Illawarra

3 points - Kieran Foran

2 points - Josh Schuster

1 points - Haumole Olakau'atu

North Queensland v Sydney

3 points - Sam Walker

2 points - Victor Radley

1 points - Joseph Manu

Canberra v Cronulla

3 points - Xavier Savage

2 points - Corey Harawira-Naera

1 points - Tom Starling

Melbourne v Newcastle

3 points - Nicholas Hynes

2 points - Cameron Munster

1 points - Jahrome Hughes

Warriors v Penrith

3 points - Brian To'o

2 points - Tyrone May

1 points - Addin Fonua-Blake

Brisbane v Wests Tigers

3 points - Daine Laurie

2 points - Adam Doueihy

1 points - Payne Haas

South Sydney v Canterbury

3 points - Keaton Koloamatangi

2 points - Cody Walker

1 points - Thomas Burgess

LEADERBOARD

26 points - Nathan Cleary (Blues 2, Panthers 24)

23 points - Tom Trbojevic (Blues 6, Sea Eagles 17)

22 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)

20 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels)

ROUND 19 July 22 to 25

CANBERRA 12 PARRAMATTA 10

A career defining performance from Jordan Rapana has seen the Canberra Raiders upset the Parramatta Eels 12-10 at Cbus Super Stadium.

Scoring a try, running for over 250 metres and producing a match-winning tackle on the final play of the game, the makeshift fullback was in superb touch as the Raiders moved back into the top eight for the first time in two months.

In a fierce opening where both teams struggled to capitalise on attacking opportunities, the Eels came closest to posting points through Marata Niukore, only for the bunker to rule the Blue and Golds had knocked on in the lead up.

Debutant centre Will Penisini looked to exploit the Raiders down the blind side midway through proceedings, however recalled winger Blake Ferguson was unable to hold onto the Steeden with the line in sight.

For the first time since Newcastle hosted Cronulla in the opening round of the 2019 season, both sides headed to the sheds locked at 0-0 after the Raiders defended an error from Rapana with seconds left in the first half.

Returning for the second half with renewed intensity, the Raiders opened the scoring after Sam Williams delivered a superb short ball to send Corey Harawira-Naera (45th minute) over for first points.

Following up a strong surge from Sebastian Kris close to the Eels' try line, Rapana (53rd minute) burrowed over from dummy half to put the visitors up 12-0.

Determined to make amends after spending six weeks out of the NRL squad, Ferguson produced one of the plays of the season with a long-range break and chip kick that enabled Dylan Brown (56th minute) to narrow the deficit to a converted try.

After Nathan Brown was unable to hold onto an offload with the try line in sight, Williams attempted to secure the result with a field goal only for his kick to skew right of the posts.

Making the most of the ensuing seven tackle set, Maika Sivo (76th minute) displayed brute strength to crash over in the corner; Clinton Gutherson failed to convert from the sideline leaving the Eels to trail by two.

The Eels had one final chance to hit the front as Sivo launched at the corner, however a desperate tackle from Rapana ensured the Raiders prevailed with a deserved victory. **Rob Crosby**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (12) Tries: Corey Harawira-Naera, Jordan Rapana; Field Goals: Sam Williams (0/1); Conversions: Jarrod Croker (2/2)

PARRAMATTA EELS (10) Tries: Dylan Brown, Maika Sivo; Conversions: Clinton Gutherson (1/2)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 2566; Halftime: Parramatta 0 Canberra 0; Referee: Adam Gee

SYDNEY 28 NEWCASTLE 8

The Sydney Roosters have been forced to overcome a poor start to dominate the Newcastle Knights 28-8 at a windy Sunshine Coast Stadium.

Starting quickly, the Newcastle Knights were able to take advantage of good field position as Jacob Safiti was too strong for the Roosters defence and crashed over from close range. The Knights crossed again soon after only for the bunker to knock it back with Kalyn Ponga ruled to have knocked on in the lead up after a Roosters touch.

The Knights were able to extend their lead out to 8-0 on the 20 minute mark when Jake Clifford slotted a penalty after the Roosters were penalised for being offside.

Despite injuries afflicting the Roosters again, they found something through James Tedesco and it became a long night for the Knights as the Bondi men found form late in the first half. Sitili Tupouniua opened the scoring first for the Roosters after they used quick hands to spread the ball out wide and the big man had too much strength close to the line and scored

The Roosters added their second of the night through Joey Manu after the Knights defence was caught rushing in after Drew Hutchinson ran the ball on the last before spreading it wide to Joey Manu who scored outside. James Tedesco added his first conversion on a difficult night for kickers and the Roosters took a 10-8 lead.

Desperate defence from Newcastle saw them trying to cling onto the game but the Roosters were too strong and Daniel Tupou took advantage of the Knights defence failing to scramble and Tupou was able to stroll over from wide out.

The wide defensive issues for the Knights continued as Lachlan Lam strolled over wide out after the Newcastle defence rushed in and left multiple players unmarked which Lam took advantage of and scored. The Roosters and in particular James Tedesco dominated and a trademark burst through the middle of the park opened up space for Still Tupouniua to go through and score for the Tricolours. A rare close conversion meant that James Tedesco slotted just his second goal of the night on a tricky night for the kickers.

The Roosters added one more try and again it was off the back of a burst from Teddy that put through Angus Crichton who found Tedesco who in turn gave the ball back to Crichton to score out wide. Sam Walker missed his only attempt of the night but it wasn't a major impact on the game. **Josh Robertson**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (28) Tries: Sitili Tupouniua (2), Joseph Manu, Daniel Tupou, Lachlan Lam, Angus Crichton; Conversions: James Tedesco (2/5), Sam Walker (0/1)

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (8) Tries: Jacob Safiti; Conversions: Jake Clifford (1/1); Penalty Goals: Jake Clifford (1/1)

Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 2868; Halftime: Sydney 10 Newcastle 8; Referee: Gerard Sutton

MELBOURNE 20 NORTH QUEENSLAND 16

Melbourne has survived a late scare from North Queensland to register a club record 15th straight win by 20-16 at Queensland Country Bank Stadium tonight.

The Cowboys were brave but simply couldn't handle the Storm outside backs in Justin Olam and Josh Addo-Carr who created his own record, scoring two tries to register his 100th NRL career try in a gritty win by Craig Bellamy's side.

Melbourne came into the match heavy favourites and they clicked immediately into the gear with their first opportunity, when Nicho Hynes and Kenny Bromwich combined down the left-hand side to put Addo-Carr away down the sideline to open the scoring. Hynes then converted from out wide and the Storm led 6-0 early.

The Video Referee then entered the game, denying the home side two tries in a matter of minutes, firstly to Kyle Feldt and then to debutant Kane Bradley in heartbreaking circumstances for Cowboys fans. Not to be outdone, the Storm were then denied a try to a rampaging Justin Olam, which saw Brandon Smith controversially penalised for running behind his own runner in the lead up.

Olam however couldn't be denied for a second time, when Addo-Carr made another break down the left-hand side. The Blues winger then lobbed the ball over the top with a neat kick, which then bounced into the arms of Olam who scored the Storm's second try of the night. Hynes missed the conversion and it was 10-0 after 20 minutes. North Queensland were repelling the Storm and putting in a brave effort. They were then rewarded just before halftime, when Cowboys makeshift fullback Jake Granville jumped into his more familiar dummy half position with seconds remaining. Granville then found Coen Hess close to the line, who then wrestled his way over to finally get the ball down and get the Cowboys on the board to give them a boost in confidence and Melbourne's lead was narrowed to 10-6 at the break.

The Cowboys struck first to take the lead after halftime, when winger Kyle Feldt scored his 100th NRL try following some quick hands from the Cowboys backline, allowing the Queensland winger to reach out and score in the corner. Drinkwater then converted from the sideline to give North Queensland a shock 12-10 lead over the defending premiers.

Melbourne needed a spark and they got it when Jahrome Hughes produced a chip kick over the top on the last, with the ball bouncing favourably for Storm winger Dean Jeremia. The Storm rookie then soccered the ball back on the inside, which popped up for Reimis Smith to score a try and give the Storm back the ascendancy the lead to 16-12.

Melbourne then iced the game moments later when Addo-Carr scored his second and 100th NRL try, after Hynes and Olam combined off a set play to put the Bulldogs bound winger over in the corner for his 21st try of the year and a comfortable 20-12 lead.

The Cowboys as was the theme all night refused to go away, when debutant Kane Bradley managed to score on debut in the corner to narrow the lead to just four points with minutes remaining.

The Storm were too strong however, managing to hold onto a gutsy win and continue their drive towards another Minor Premiership. **Sam Bourke**

MELBOURNE STORM (20) Tries: Josh Addo-Carr (2), Justin Olam, Reimis Smith; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (2/4)

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (16) Tries: Coen Hess, Kyle Feldt, Kane Bradley; Conversions: Scott Drinkwater (2/3)

Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 14924; Halftime: North Qld 6 Melbourne 10; Referee: Matt Cecchin

SOUTH SYDNEY 60 WARRIORS 22

South Sydney have made a resounding statement to the rest of the competition, scoring 60 points in a 38-point demolition of the Warriors on the Sunshine Coast.

Despite the final score being the blowout it was, the Warriors were the ones who got on the board first, with Cody Walker throwing a pass to the ground that was promptly picked up by Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, who scored his first try as a Warrior.

The possibility of the upset began its slow and painful death when Reece Walsh kicked out on the full at the end of the very next set. Souths took full advantage of their first attacking opportunity, with Damien Cook doing some deft work from dummy half to put Tom Burgess over the line.

Walsh's horror run continued when he kicked off out on the full and the Rabbitohs didn't decline the second invitation, going to the right through Cody Walker, who got the pass to Paulo right and set him up for the try. Souths were making metres at will at this point, rolling up the field to get right back into position near the try-line. Damien Cook again set up Tom Burgess for a try. It was the English prop's second career double.

The Warriors began to build some ascendancy, however Walsh's kick went dead, gifting Souths seven tackles. In the ensuing set, Latrell Mitchell got a miracle offload away to Cam Murray, who dived over and made the score 22-6 in the 28th minute. It then became a real demolition, with Souths travelling 90 metres in the set off the kickoff. The Warriors played at the ball after an Adam Reynolds offload, but Souths then took possession with a fresh set of 6. They only needed one, with Murray scampering across field before turning it inside for Cody Walker, who scored the try. Souths again went up the field and scored in the next set, with Reynolds holding up a pass for a rampaging Jaydn Su'A. The score was 34-6 after 33 minutes.

Despite this, the Warriors went into the break with a fair bit of momentum. Kodi Nikorima put Adam Pompey through a hole. He was able to link up with Townsend, who then passed it to Montoya, who was able to control the ball and ground it over the line, making it a 24 point game.

It was the Warriors turn to go the length after the kickoff, with Nikorima again throwing a pass to get his outside back into space. This time it was Watene-Zelezniak, and he threw the pass back inside to Nikorima, who scored to give the Warriors a tiny bit of life and slim the deficit to 18. This hope was extinguished two minutes into the second half, when Jaydn Su'A ran over the top of three Warriors defenders to score his second try.

The game became an arm wrestle of sorts for the next 10 minutes, but Souths soon got themselves into the red zone and from there it was a formality as they spread it left to Mansour, who scored his first try since Round 11. He scored another 2 minutes later in similar fashion to bring up 50 points for the Rabbitohs.

Chad Townsend showed some skill to put in a kick against the grain into open space that was chased by Reece Walsh, who got to the ball with no Rabbitoh defender within cooe. The score was 50-22.

Keaton Koloamatangi and Latrell Mitchell both powered their way over in the shadows of full time to get the South Sydney side to 60 points. **Adam Huxtable**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (60) Tries: Thomas Burgess (2), Jaxson Paulo, Cameron Murray, Cody Walker, Jaydn Su'A (2), Josh Mansour (2), Keaton Koloamatangi, Latrell Mitchell; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (7/9), Latrell Mitchell (1/2) **WARRIORS (22)** Tries: Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Reece Walsh, Marcelo Montoya, Kodi Nikorima; Conversions: Reece Walsh (3/4)

Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 7569; Halftime: South Sydney 34 Warriors 16; Referee: Chris Butler

MANLY 44 WESTS TIGERS 24

The game was in the balance three minutes from halftime, with the Tigers leading 12-10, before Daly Cherry-Evans and Tom Trbojevic decided to get properly involved, leading to a resurgent second half - Manly winning 44-24 at Suncorp Stadium.

The Sea Eagles opened the scoring in the 7th minute with a soft try after they shifted the ball casually to the right, but the Tigers defence over-read the movement. Morgan Harper isolated the remaining Tigers defender and then slipped through the line to score a very easy try. Reuben Garrick failed to convert from the sideline. Jacob Liddle made a break three minutes later and ran 40 metres upfield before being tackled. Luke Brooks on the next play received the ball on the right, ran right before changing direction and running almost entirely sideways to the left before linking with Luke Garner who then helped get the ball out to Ken Maumalo who dived over to score in the corner. Adam Doueihi converted. Manly reclaimed the lead in the 21st minute after Cherry-Evans kicked to the wing of Jason Saab. Maumalo let Saab catch the kick before tackling him, but Saab offloaded to Haumole Olakau'atu who quickly sent the ball to Lachlan Croker who scored. Garrick converted from in front. Just three minutes later and the Tigers snatched the lead back when Brooks, with a darting run, got a good pass away back inside to Doueihi who ran between two players before being tackled 4 metres shy of the tryline, but managed to slide over for a try. He converted his own try to give the Tigers a 12-10 lead.

The Tigers then had 5 consecutive sets camped on the Manly line but couldn't trouble the scoreboard attendant. Manly though needed just 4 tackles. In the 37th minute Josh Schuster stepped back infield and passed inside to Cherry-Evans who raced 35 metres to score under the posts. Garrick added the extras. From the restart, Manly continued attacking, with Tom Trbojevic shrugging off a tackle and then setting off downfield before linking with Brad Parker, who is eventually pulled down 30m from the Tigers line. On the following play Manly sent the ball right where Harper received a cut-out ball, brushed off Brooks and forced his way over for a try. Garrick failed to convert on the halftime bell. Manly had turned a 2 point deficit into an 8 point lead in the space of 3 minutes.

Manly continued their scoring run in the second half, with Tom Trbojevic showing left and then slipping through the defenders to score comfortably in the 46th minute. Garrick converted. The Wests Tigers opted for a short restart but were penalised for being offside. On the last tackle of the Manly set, Lachlan Croker at dummy half and close to the Tigers line ran right and dumped the ball back inside to Dylan Walker who stood in a goal-line tackle, reached out and got the ball down for a soft try. Garrick again converted to give Manly a 20 point lead. The Tigers hit back 6 minutes later when Jacob Liddle at dummy half, scooted over to score a trademark rake try. Doueihi added the extras. A forward pass 8 minutes later saw the Tigers bomb a certain try to David Nofualuma.

Manly then scored back-to-back tries to put the game to bed. In the 67th minute, Cherry-Evans at second receiver drifted right and hit Harper running a strong hard line. He stormed through the Tigers left side defence and scored near the posts. Garrick converted. 90 seconds later and Cherry-Evans crossed for the softest try of the night when he straightened his run ever so slightly and scored through some feeble defence. Garrick added the extra 2. With 8 minutes to go, the Tigers reduced the deficit to 20 points when Brooks dummied, ran to the line, linked with Daine Laurie who did the same before passing to Ken Maumalo who scored in the corner. Doueihi converted from touch. **Andrew Ferguson**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (44) Tries: Morgan Harper (3), Lachlan Croker, Daly Cherry-Evans (2), Tom Trbojevic, Dylan Walker; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (6/8)

WESTS TIGERS (24) Tries: Ken Maumalo (2), Adam Doueihi, Jacob Liddle; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (4/4)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 5761; Halftime: Manly 20 Wests Tigers 12; Referee: Ashley Klein

PENRITH 18 BRISBANE 12

Penrith Panthers survived a late flurry from the Brisbane Broncos to record a 18-12 success tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

The Panthers piled on 14 points in quick fashion in a 20-minute flash after half-time after a below-par first half to survive the late onslaught from the Broncos after tries to Kobe Hetherington and Ethan Bullemor made for a tense finish.

Last time these two met, the Broncos were resilient before they lost by eight points and the hosts again were gallant in defeat. The first half was an arm wrestle between the two sides with the only points from the boot of Stephen Crichton and a late two-point field goal to Dylan Edwards.

Brisbane had the chance twice to draw level despite having forward Thomas Flegler binned in the first ten minutes. The Broncos showed confidence taking the tap twice, but the side running 15th were erratic and wasteful with the ball and were unable to breach the Panthers defense.

After the full-time whistle, Panthers didn't look too excited with the two points after their below par effort. Their usually slick attack ground to a halt in the first half and the closest they came was through Charlie Staines, who put his knee on the whitewash. Dylan Edwards gave his side a four-point buffer with his two-point field, for a 4-nil lead.

Panthers must've got a bake from coach Ivan Cleary at the break. They looked much more like their assured selves in the second stanza. The left side linked up in fluid fashion to put Brian To'o for his ninth of the year.

Next the right side got their due. Crichton, who has been quiet this season, provided a fabulous flick for Staines' 13th of the year. Crichton followed up with a heads up play of his own and some strength to extend the lead out to 18-nil.

The old Broncos might have folded their tent and headed home trailing against one of the Premiership favourites. Kevin Walter's side showed some grit and it was a pair of individual efforts which got them back within six. Interchange forward Kobe Hetherington kept himself chugging to make it 18-6 then Ethan Bullemor busted through some flimsy defense for a fantastic finish.

Brisbane though were unable to find a finish on plenty of their sets tonight. It showed as they chased the game, the ball either fell to the ground or to the wrong player which halted their momentum and usually led to a feeble grubber.

That will be job done for the Panthers and move onto next week. It is a mouth watering clash between the top two - Penrith Panthers and Melbourne Storm - to possibly decide who might lift the Minor Premiership. **Justin Davies**

PENRITH PANTHERS (18) Tries: Stephen Crichton, Brian To'o, Charlie Staines; Two Point Field Goals: Dylan Edwards (1/1); Conversions: Stephen Crichton (0/1), Matt Burton (1/2); Penalty Goals: Stephen Crichton (1/1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (12) Tries: Kobe Hetherington, Ethan Bullemor; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (2/2)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 8019; Halftime: Penrith 4 Brisbane 0; Referee: Ben Cummins

GOLD COAST 32

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 10

The Titans proved to be too strong for the struggling Dragons as they cruised to a 32-10 victory at Cbus Super Stadium.

It was a great start to the afternoon for the Gold Coast as they asserted their claims for a top eight spot. After an early penalty goal to debutant Toby Sexton, the home side struck through Jarrod Wallace as St George Illawarra failed to defuse a bomb from Sexton which allowed the ball to fall to Titans' centre, Patrick Herbert who passed to Wallace to score untouched.

The Dragons didn't take long to reply and it was through Queenslander Ben Hunt who was put through a hole close to the line thanks to a great short ball from Jack de Belin as the away side reduced the deficit to two points.

Both sides continued to create little half chances, but it wasn't until the 32nd minute when the Titans next struck and it was the mammoth David Fifita who extended the home side's lead. Fifita was given early ball from Sexton about 15 metres short of the Dragons' try line but that didn't matter. Fifita identified Ramsey in the defensive line and charged at him on the edge as his raw strength and power took him over the line for his 13th try of the season. The debutant Sexton made no errors with the conversion from the side line as he extended the home side's lead to eight points.

The Titans didn't take long to pick up from where they left off and it was Greg Marzhev who opened the scoring in the second term for the home side. Fifita was at the centre of it once again as he charged at Ramsey for the second time this afternoon and it once again provided the Titans with a try as Fifita was too strong to handle as he offloaded to Marzhev to score in the corner.

The Dragons started to struggle in the second half and it became apparent that their chances of winning the game had dwindled as they failed to make their presence felt on the field. As a result, front rower Jarrod Wallace was granted his second try for the night thanks to a break from Sexton earlier in the set. Jamin Jolliffe retrieved the ball and took off for the line and as he was being stopped from doing so he offloaded to Wallace to score under the posts.

The Titans continued to put their foot on the pedal as the debutant Sexton scored his maiden NRL try as Wallace's offload hit Hunt and was regathered by the halfback who went on to score in a memorable afternoon for the 20-year-old.

That was it for the Titans for the afternoon, but they weren't strong enough to prevent the Dragons from departing with a consolation try. Winger Jordan Pereira found himself in space on the left edge and was just too fast for any of the Titans to stop, including fullback AJ Brimson.

It was a disappointing afternoon for the Dragons and if they continue to deliver these performances, they'll quickly see themselves disappear from the top eight. For the Titans, it's a strong performance moving forward as they attempt to sneak into the top eight. **Lachy MacCorquodale**

GOLD COAST TITANS (32) Tries: Toby Sexton, Jarrod Wallace (2), David Fifita, Greg Marzhev; Conversions: Toby Sexton (5/5); Penalty Goals: Toby Sexton (1/1)
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (10) Tries: Ben Hunt, Jordan Pereira; Conversions: Jack Bird (1/2)
 Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 4424; Halftime: St Geo Illa 6 Gold Coast 14; Referee: Grant Atkins

CRONULLA 44 CANTERBURY 24

The Cronulla Sharks will be sweating on the availability of halfback Shaun Johnson after he left the field with a hamstring injury in a 44-24 win over the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs on Sunday.

Johnson was at his scheming best early as he helped Cronulla to a commanding lead in the opening half. He pulled up though with a hamstring complaint after setting up the fourth try of the afternoon and had to come from the field.

The Sharks sit inside the top eight and have a relatively soft run home but will still be hoping for Johnson to be fit given they are already without five-eighth Matt Moylan.

It was the only headache out of an otherwise dominant first 40 minutes.

Cronulla looked to have gone over after just three minutes when Sione Katoa leapt over in the right corner but his aerobic effort went unrewarded with replays showing he grounded it on the line.

Another Katoa try went begging six minutes later when Jesse Ramien was unable to link inside with the unmarked winger after a Briton Nikora linebreak.

Katoa could not be denied shortly after though as Johnson put the winger over and six minutes later it was the other edge with Braydon Trindall floating it over for Ronaldo Mulitalo.

Luke Thompson had been the Bulldogs best early and a strong charge from the prop saw the home side bag its first points of the afternoon.

Unnecessary late contact on Blayke Brailey though saw Thompson sent to the bin and both Katoa and Will Kennedy scored while the front rower was off to push the lead out to 18.

More ill-discipline gifted Cronulla field position and they were quick to capitalise as Connor Tracey, deputising in the halves for Johnson, put Siosifa Talakai through some flimsy Dogs defence.

The Bulldogs were gifted an early chance in the second half courtesy of a Talakai error and a perfect Lachlan Lewis kick saw Nick Meaney open the scoring to make it 30-12.

It quickly turned into two as Cronulla was caught watching once more as Meaney again took a bomb and linked with Dylan Napa.

The Bulldogs were still well on top for the next few minutes before a poor kick from Averillo led to a seven-tackle set and shortly after Toby Rudolf crashed over to extend the difference to 18 again.

It was Thompson though that got the Bulldogs back into the contest once more, bumping off defenders and stepping through with pace and footwork to set up Averillo.

A penalty goal and Connor Tracey try put the result beyond doubt as the Bulldogs tired and the Sharks breathed a sigh of relief, surviving the second-half fightback. **Andrew Jackson**

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (44) Tries: Sione Katoa (2), Ronaldo Mulitalo, Will Kennedy, Siosifa Talakai, Toby Rudolf, Connor Tracey; Conversions: Braydon Trindall (6/7); Penalty Goals: Braydon Trindall (2/2)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (24) Tries: Luke Thompson, Jake Averillo, Nick Meaney, Dylan Napa; Conversions: Jake Averillo (4/4)
 Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 4424; Halftime: Canterbury 6 Cronulla 30; Referee: Chris Sutton

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 19

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	16 - 0 - 2	438	34
2. Penrith	16 - 0 - 2	332	34
3. South Sydney	15 - 0 - 3	195	32
4. Parramatta	13 - 0 - 5	217	28
5. Sydney	12 - 0 - 6	118	26
6. Manly	11 - 0 - 7	151	24
7. Cronulla	8 - 0 - 10	-40	18
8. St Geo Illa	8 - 0 - 10	-46	18
9. Canberra	8 - 0 - 10	-72	18
10. Gold Coast	7 - 0 - 11	-52	16
11. Newcastle	7 - 0 - 11	-157	16
12. Wests Tigers	6 - 0 - 12	-150	14
13. North Qld	6 - 0 - 12	-207	14
14. Warriors	5 - 0 - 13	-131	12
15. Brisbane	4 - 0 - 14	-266	10
16. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 16	-330	6

MATCH REVIEW

Player	Team	Points
Luke Thompson	Canterbury	3 matches [^]
Thomas Flegler	Brisbane	2 matches
Cameron Murray	Souths	1 match
Matt Lodge	Warriors	1 match
Josh Aloiai	Manly	1 match
Patrick Herbert	Gold Coast	1 match*
Nicho Hynes	Melbourne	\$1150
Will Hopoate	Canterbury	\$1150
Jamayne Isaako	Brisbane	\$750

[^] = unsuccessful judiciary challenge

* = successful downgrade at judiciary

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Parramatta v Canberra
 3 points - Jordan Rapana
 2 points - Maika Sivo
 1 points - Joseph Tapine

Sydney v Newcastle
 3 points - James Tedesco
 2 points - Sitili Tupouniua
 1 points - Drew Hutchison

North Queensland v Melbourne
 3 points - Justin Olam
 2 points - Christian Welch
 1 points - Josh Addo-Carr

South Sydney v Warriors
 3 points - Cameron Murray
 2 points - Adam Reynolds
 1 points - Latrell Mitchell

Manly v Wests Tigers
 3 points - Daly Cherry-Evans
 2 points - Tom Trbojevic
 1 points - Adam Doueih

Penrith v Brisbane
 3 points - Stephen Crichton
 2 points - Payne Haas
 1 points - Dylan Edwards

St George Illawarra v Gold Coast
 3 points - David Fifita
 2 points - Alexander Brimson
 1 points - Toby Sexton

Canterbury v Cronulla
 3 points - Briton Nikora
 2 points - Luke Thompson
 1 points - Sione Katoa

LEADERBOARD

26 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers 2, NSW 2)
 25 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles 19, NSW 6)
 22 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)
 20 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels)

ROUND 20 July 29-30, August 1-2

SYDNEY 28 PARRAMATTA 0

The Sydney Roosters have made a statement in the run towards September by embarrassing the Parramatta Eels 28-0 in Mackay.

Claiming the scalp of a top four team for the first time this season, the Roosters steadied after a poor start to draw level with the fourth-placed Eels on 28 premiership points.

The victory proved to be a fitting result for Jared Waerea-Hargreaves who became the fifth player in the history of the Sydney Roosters to reach 250 first grade appearances for the foundation club.

In an error-riddled opening where both teams completed at a standard unbecoming of first grade, the Roosters struck the opening blow through recalled veteran Josh Morris (25th minute) following a strong run from Joey Manu in the lead up.

Doubling their lead in the following set, Sam Walker sent James Tedesco into space before Sitili Tupouniua (27th minute) finished off the play with his 11th try of the season.

Losing Reagan Campbell-Gillard with a groin injury inside the opening ten minutes, the Eels were dealt a further blow with Waqa Blake failing his HIA while Blake Ferguson sustained a nasty head gash that required stitches.

A try-saving tackle from Tedesco on Dylan Brown in the final minutes of the first half saw the Roosters head to the sheds up 12-0.

Producing a 12-point turnaround after Tom Opacic was deemed to have knocked on in the act of scoring, Walker (52nd minute) used his speed and a show-and-go to put the 'home' side up by three converted tries.

The Eels squandered another opportunity to get on the board with Clinton Gutherson knocking on prior to Brown diving over the try line.

Coming into the centres after spending much of the season as an interchange hooker, Adam Keighran made amends for a wayward penalty goal by delivering the final pass for Daniel Tupou (69th minute) to secure the two points.

Manu (75th minute) capped a memorable night in Mackay by racing 60 metres from a quick tap to round out the 28-0 victory.

In the only negative for the victors, Josh Morris departed the match midway through the second half with a hamstring injury in a further blow to the side's backline stocks. **Rob Crosby**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (28) Tries: Josh Morris, Sitili Tupouniua, Sam Walker, Daniel Tupou, Joseph Manu; Conversions: Adam Keighran (3/4), Sam Walker (1/1); Penalty Goals: Adam Keighran (0/1)

PARRAMATTA EELS (0)

Venue: BB Print Stadium Mackay; Crowd: 4926; Halftime: Sydney 12 Parramatta 0; Referee: Grant Atkins

WARRIORS 18 WESTS TIGERS 16

The Wests Tigers have clutched defeat from the jaws of victory against the New Zealand Warriors, going down 18-16 in a game they had 1,816 opportunities to win at Suncorp Stadium tonight.

The way things started in Brisbane, you'd be forgiven for thinking it was a case of the Tigers by how many. They enjoyed a whopping 70% of possession through the first 15 or so minutes, however only crossed the line for the first time in the 20th minute through David Nofoaluma.

The Tigers appeared to have finally found their groove, running the same play on the other side of the field, with Moses Mbye electing to run instead of pass. The result was the same, and the Tigers went up 10-0.

The second half started in a fashion that Tigers fans are all too familiar with, with the Warriors coming out and dominating field position before scoring an all too easy try just 4 minutes after play resumed.

The Warriors would harness their new found momentum and force a Tigers mistake the next time they had the ball. The Tigers forwards were noticeably flatter than they were in the first half, and it showed when big Bunty Afoa burst through the defensive line to set Reece Walsh up for a conversion to put the kiwis ahead.

The Tigers weren't without their chances for the next little period, however they blew a golden broken field opportunity when David Nofoaluma's grubber went into touch off a Warrior who didn't play at the ball.

The Warriors began building pressure and forced a repeat set. The Tigers attempted to go short, and they did, it's just that it bounced right into Euan Aitken's lap and he scored his second try.

The Tigers hit right back through Adam Douiehi though, and we were set for a grandstand finish with just under 20 minutes to go.

Tigers fans will want to wipe what followed from their memory. They had a plethora of opportunities, including one instance 2 metres away from the try-line where they didn't have anyone in at dummy half.

A couple of attempted 2-point field goals from Douiehi and Brooks were well short, and the Warriors ended up waiting the clock out. **Adam Huxtable**

WARRIORS (18) Tries: Euan Aitken (2), Bunty Afoa; Conversions: Reece Walsh (3/3)

WESTS TIGERS (16) Tries: David Nofoaluma, Adam Douiehi, Moses Mbye; Conversions: Adam Douiehi (2/3);

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 12443; Halftime: Wests Tigers 10 Warriors 0; Referee: Ben Cummins

BRISBANE 37 NORTH QUEENSLAND 18

Brisbane has secured their fifth win of the season to defeat the Cowboys by 37-18 in an open affair at Suncorp Stadium tonight.

With both sides a long distance from their high-profile clashes of recent times, there is never any love lost in the Queensland derby. And it was the Broncos who struck first, when Tyson Gamble rolled the ball in goal for his winger Jamayne Isaako who flew down the sideline to get to the ball first and score the opening try of the night to give the Broncos a 4-0 lead early. Isaako was involved again minutes later when the off contract outside back made a break down the right-hand side, producing a kick inside for support. The ball was then picked up by Kobe Hetherington and sent wide to Alex Glenn who dummied past the Cowboys cover defence to score a great try.

The Cowboys needed to get in the game and did so, when Scott Drinkwater took the ball to the line and found his fullback in Jake Granville who crashed over to get the Cowboys on the board and trail by 10-4 after 21 minutes. North Queensland then made an error off the kickoff through Francis Molo and the ball was immediately shifted wide to the right for the Broncos strike weapon Kotoni Staggs to score, with Isaako kicking the Broncos away to a 16-4 lead. The Cowboys hit back though, when Drinkwater put up a bomb on the last which saw Isaako go from hero to villain when he spilled the ball which fell at the feet of backrower Tom Gilbert who found his halfback in Tom Dearden. Dearden then threw a dummy to scamper over for a satisfying try against his former club and keep his side in touch. Brisbane then scored their fourth try, when halfback Brodie Croft put damaging backrower Jordan Riki through a gap and then provided support on the inside to score under the posts and the Broncos led 22-10 following Isaako's conversion. The Cowboys received a late penalty just seconds before the break, when Brisbane were penalised for a high tackle from Ethan Bullemor on Reece Robson and Cowboys narrowed the lead to 22-12 through Drinkwater's penalty goal on halftime.

After the break, the Broncos struck first, when off the back of a Coen Hess error, Kotoni Staggs slipped down the right touch line from close range, following a neat pass from Danny Levi from dummy half to score his second try of the night and extend the Brisbane lead 28-12. The Cowboys then received a piggy back up field, following a second high tackle in the match from backrower Rhys Kennedy. Cowboys five-eighth Drinkwater then threw a superb cut out pass close to the line, which hit Kyle Feldt on the chest and Feldt then stepped back inside the Broncos cover defence to score in the corner. Drinkwater converted from the sideline and it was 28-18 with a quarter of the match remaining. The Video Referee then denied the Cowboys what looked to be a certain second try to Kyle Feldt following a deft grubber from Drinkwater. However, despite the replay suggesting a clean put down by Feldt, somehow the Video Referee disagreed, ruling a Cowboys knock on. The Broncos were then handed a gift penalty, following a short drop out attempt gone wrong, with Kyle Feldt penalised for being in front of the kicker. Jamayne Isaako added the extras and extended the home side's lead to 30-18.

Tyson Gamble then put an exclamation mark on the win with a field goal to make it a 13-point lead and then moments later produced a neat kick over the top which found Jordan Riki who scored a superb try to give Brisbane their biggest win of the season. **Sam Bourke**

BRISBANE BRONCOS (37) Tries: Jamayne Isaako, Alex Glenn, Kotoni Staggs (2), Brodie Croft, Jordan Riki; Field Goals: Tyson Gamble (1/1); Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (5/6); Penalty Goals: Jamayne Isaako (1/1)

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (18) Tries: Jake Granville, Tom Dearden, Kyle Feldt; Conversions: Scott Drinkwater (2/3); Penalty Goals: Scott Drinkwater (1/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 29136; Halftime: Brisbane 22 North Qld 12; Referee: Chris Sutton

NEWCASTLE 34 CANBERRA 24

The Canberra Raiders failed to capitalise on their recent form as they fell to the Newcastle Knights 34-24 in the first game of a triple header at Suncorp Stadium today.

It was the perfect start by the Newcastle Knights who scored in the fifth minute through Enari Tuala after the Knights shifted the ball to the left side of the field with Kalyon Ponga and Bradman Best combining, which gave Tuala space to run into. He had options on his inside but went himself and proved too big and strong for the Raiders defenders to stop.

It only took a few minutes before the Knights doubled their lead. Newcastle once again attacked down the left edge as Ponga and Best combined once again but this time it was Best who got the chocolates as he barged his way over a tackle close to the line. The Knights continued their superb start with Kurt Mann joining Tuala and Best on the scoresheet as he contested a Jake Clifford bomb and was rewarded as he caught it in mid air and grounded the ball as he landed to send a statement to the Raiders.

The Raiders finally responded through Harley Smith-Shields as Canberra shifted the ball right and fullback Jordan Rapana did a superb job holding the defenders up before he passed to Smith-Shields which gave the winger enough room to score in the corner. Canberra had plenty of opportunities at keeping the Knights in their own half but failed to do so through their undisciplined play. These missed opportunities allowed the Knights to strike a devastating blow as Enari Tuala scored his second try of the afternoon in the dying stages of the first half. The Knights shifted the ball left once again, after a line break from Jake Clifford. Best and Ponga combined again to set up Tuala's try, the third try that both the left centre and fullback have been involved in.

The Green Machine opened the scoring in the second term as they needed to do when Josh Papali'i tucked the football under his arm and beat David Klemmer with some nice foot work as he went over the try line to score next to the posts. However, it would mostly be the Knights from here on in. Just moments after the Raiders try, the Knights were awarded a penalty in front of the posts and they opted to take the two, extending their lead to two converted tries.

As they did in the first half, the Knights continued to attack down the left edge and were rewarded once again as Enari Tuala grabbed his third try of the afternoon as Ponga threw a brilliant cut out ball across the face Best which found the winger in space and Tuala grounded the ball in typical winger's fashion. The Raiders continued to drop the ball at the worst moments as they failed to fight their way back into the match and in the 66th minute Kalyon Ponga put the Raiders to rest as he took on the defensive line on the first play from the scrum and was too hard to stop as he rolled across the white stripe to score the Knight's sixth try of the afternoon. Canberra managed to grab two late tries to improve the score in their favour but it was too little too late for the 'away' side. The two tries came through Hudson Young who capitalised on space after Jack Wighton made a line break and the second came through Emre Guler who took advantage of a tiring Newcastle defence as he put some footwork on at the line to weasel his way into a gap and grounded the ball right on the line.

That was an important win for the Knights who are now sitting level with the Sharks, Dragons and Raiders on 18 points as they battle for a spot in the final eight. On the other hand the Raiders will be filthy with their performance this afternoon as a win would've taken them to seventh on the competition ladder. **Lachy MacCorquodale**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (34) Tries: Enari Tuala (3), Bradman Best, Kurt Mann, Kalyon Ponga; Conversions: Jake Clifford (4/6); Penalty Goals: Jake Clifford (1/1)

CANBERRA RAIDERS (24) Tries: Harley Smith-Shields, Josh Papali'i, Hudson Young, Emre Guler; Conversions: Jarrod Croker (4/4)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Halftime: Newcastle 22 Canberra 6; Referee: Adam Gee

MELBOURNE 37 PENRITH 10

The Melbourne Storm have recorded a club record 16th win in succession by dominating the Penrith Panthers 37-10 at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

Leading from start to finish in a match which saw rookie winger Dean Ieremia claim his first career hat-trick, Melbourne were never troubled by a Penrith side missing a number of star players due to injury.

In a frenetic opening where both teams signalled their intentions to attack, Reimis Smith (9th minute) withstood a valiant last-gasp effort from Matt Burton to slide over for first points.

The Storm extended their lead through Ieremia (12th minute) in the following set after a cross-field kick from Josh Addo-Carr allowed the Victorian junior to pounce next to the posts.

Ieremia (18th minute) bagged his second of the afternoon after the bunker cleared Felise Kaufusi of an obstruction against Viliame Kikau in the lead up.

The Panthers attempted to get back in the contest through a barge-over from Liam Martin, however the combined strength of Brandon Smith and Cameron Munster ensured the home side kept their line intact.

Ryan Papenhuyzen rounded out the first half scoring with a late penalty goal to send the Storm to the sheds up 18-0.

Continuing the flow of points after the resumption of play, Jesse Bromwich (53rd minute) crashed over for his first try of the season to elevate the Storm into outright first on the premiership ladder.

Harry Grant (63rd minute) burrowed over in his first match back from injury before Ieremia (65th minute) put himself in the right place to claim his first hat-trick in the NRL.

The Panthers avoided the embarrassment of being held scoreless for the first time since 2015 - incidentally against the Storm - with Matt Burton sending Brent Naden (71st minute) over in the corner.

Scott Sorenson (79th minute) collected a consolation four-pointer in his 50th NRL match, however the final say of the match belonged to Papenhuyzen who slotted a field-goal on full-time to seal the 37-10 victory. **Rob Crosby**

MELBOURNE STORM (37) Tries: Reimis Smith, Dean Ieremia (3), Jesse Bromwich, Harry Grant; Field Goals: Ryan Papenhuyzen (1/1); Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (1/2), Cameron Munster (1/1), Ryan Papenhuyzen (3/3); Penalty Goals: Ryan Papenhuyzen (1/1)

PENRITH PANTHERS (10) Tries: Brent Naden, Scott Sorensen; Conversions: Matt Burton (1/2)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Halftime: Melbourne 18 Penrith 0; Referee: Ashley Klein

SOUTH SYDNEY 50 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 14

South Sydney Rabbitohs posted a half century in their 50-14 demolition of the St George Illawarra Dragons tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

The Rabbitohs weren't at their blistering best but piled on the points against a Dragons side who were outclassed tonight led by their superstar fullback Latrell Mitchell to consolidate third position in the ladder.

Mitchell led from the front for the famous cardinal and myrtle. The fullback scored the first four pointer just strolling past the Dragons defense quickly followed by Cody Walker slicing through made it a 12-nil lead for Souths.

Dragons mounted a slight comeback with back-to-back tries to get back to 12-10. Former Panther Billy Burns chased down a Ben Hunt grubber before another kick from the Saints halfback was swept up by Tyrell Fuimaono to get back in the game.

When the whips were cracked tonight, the Rabbitohs were the leaders. Taane Milne and Jaydn Su'A went bang bang just before the break which extended the lead out the lead to fourteen points at the half-time whistle. Coach Wayne Bennett still won't be pleased with their effort.

Josh Mansour strolled over five minutes after the break as it looked like the Rabbitohs would run away with the contest. Dragons again found a response when young fullback Tyrell Sloan had lift off after a Burns offload to cut the lead to 30-14 with 30 minutes to go.

From there, the Rabbitohs showed the gulf in class as they ran in four tries to go past the half century. The first of which was a throwback, Adam Reynolds chipped for himself and outran Adam Clune then followed by Jai Arrow, Keon Koloamatagi and Mitchell to add the Dragons to the list of sides who can't win the Premiership due to having 50 posted against their name.

It seemed from the onset, the Dragons had factored this game as a loss after they rested Jack De Belin, Jack Bird and another player against one of the top four sides in the competition. Dragons are grimly holding on to eighth spot despite their loss and face an uphill battle to keep their finals hope alive.

For Souths, they are entrenched in third spot and remain just a step below the top two sides - Melbourne and Penrith - in the competition this year. Bennett will be happy with their effort in attack but the supercoach will have areas he wants to work on headed into the home stretch of the competition. **Justin Davies**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (50) Tries: Latrell Mitchell (2), Adam Reynolds, Cody Walker, Taane Milne, Jaydn Su'A, Josh Mansour, Jai Arrow, Keon Koloamatagi; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (7/9)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (14) Tries: Billy Burns, Tyrell Fuimaono, Tyrell Sloan; Conversions: Corey Norman (1/2), Jayden Sullivan (0/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Halftime: St Geo Illa 10 South Sydney 24; Referee: Chris Butler

ROUND 20 NOTE:

Due to a COVID-19 outbreak in South-East Queensland, the final five games of Round 20 were postponed by one day, and all relocated to Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane.

These five matches, as well as all eight matches in Round 21, were played at empty venues.

GOLD COAST 34 CANTERBURY 6

Gold Coast Titans move into the top eight after a comfortable 34-6 success against a battered Canterbury Bulldogs side tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

Back-to-back results have moved the Titans into the top eight after they ran in six tries to one led by mercurial five-eighth Ash Taylor and livewire fullback AJ Brimson that has bolstered their hopes of a finals charge.

Before the season Gold Coast were touted as one of the sides which would make the leap into the top eight. They have been more up-and-down than border restrictions across the country but might have timed their run perfectly. The Titans can pile on the points but the thing that coach Justin Holbrook will enjoy is only 10 and six conceded in the last fortnight after some huge scores racked up against them.

Coming off their 22-point success against the Dragons, Titans started the contest on the front foot with talisman Taylor kicking a 40/20 in the first ten minutes before they opened the scoring through one of their off-season splurges in Tino Fa'asuamaleaui from close range.

From there, the Titans opened up their shoulders and charged out to a 16-nil lead at the break. Brimson was a nuisance through the middle of the field which set up Esan Marsters to touch down before centre Brian Kelly raced through off a Taylor kick to complete the advantage.

Titans kept their foot on the throat after half-time, testing out the Bulldogs backline which had been prone to errors in the first half. Greg Marzhew took the Titans past 20 points when he was on the spot for a rebounded kick as the Titans looked to repair their disastrous for-and-against to help their finals chase.

Tonight was a game where Ash Taylor stood up and might have shown he wants the five-eighth spot alongside youngster Toby Sexton. Taylor was direct and purposeful with his kicking which trapped the Bulldogs several times. Taylor also started the break for his own four-pointer which featured Brimson.

Bulldogs are just playing out the string until the end of 2021 and look forward to a much more exciting 2022, hopefully. There was some consolation in the side not being kept to nil again after hooker Bailey Biondi-Odo scurried over to make it 34-6. It is almost certain they will now end the season with the wooden spoon.

Finishing off the contest in style, Titans pulled out the party tricks to make it 34-nil. Some wonderful displays of passing opened up the field before it ended up with Kelly again, who strolled over for his double. Gold Coast Titans now sit in seventh position headed into the final month of the season. **Justin Davies**

GOLD COAST TITANS (34) Tries: Ashley Taylor, Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Esan Marsters, Brian Kelly (2), Greg Marzhew; Conversions: Toby Sexton (5/6)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (6) Tries: Bailey Biondi-Odo; Conversions: Kyle Flanagan (1/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Halftime: Canterbury 0 Gold Coast 16; Referee: Matt Cecchin

MANLY 40 CRONULLA 22

The Manly Warringah Sea Eagles have set up a mouth watering encounter with ladder leaders Melbourne next week, disposing of the Sharks by 18 points in yet another Tommy Turbo masterclass at Suncorp Stadium.

The Sea Eagles had all the momentum from the outset and looked set to score every time they touched the ball. Despite this, the Sharks were relatively defiant early, with Braydon Trindall sprinting across field to deny Reuben Garrick of a certain try.

No less than 2 minutes later, it was Will Kennedy pulling off the miracle tackle, stopping speedster Jason Saab metres short of the line. Manly knocked on a couple of plays later and the Sharks looked to have held them off.

7 minutes later, the Sea Eagles made no mistake. Cherry-Evans put in a kick that was overrun by 3 players and looked to be going dead, but Jason Saab managed to reel it back in to score the opener.

Ronaldo Mulitalo invited the Gullies right back into attacking position by failing to defuse a DCE bomb. Manly executed a right side sweeping play to perfection, with Trbojevic throwing the last pass to Saab, who scored his second in 4 minutes.

By that point, the Sea Eagles had well and truly found their mojo. They rolled 100 metres upfield off the very next set and opted to run on the last, with Tom Trbojevic getting a late offload to Morgan Harper, who dove over.

The Sharks finally got a reprieve from the onslaught in the 23rd minute when Josh Schuster threw a forward pass. They took full advantage, with nifty fullback Will Kennedy getting on the outside and streaking away to put the Sharkies on the board.

The rest of the half was a bit of an arm wrestle, with the Sharks able to break the stalemate about 30 seconds before half-time. Braydon Trindall put in an ambitious grubber than bounced off Schuster into Nikora, before sitting right up for the halfback to get the Sharks within 6.

Any hope the Sharks had of pulling off an upset was quickly snuffed out by Manly or, more specifically, Tom Trbojevic. The star fullback received an offload from Lachlan Croker on the last, pinned the ears back and was too strong for the Cronulla defence. 5 minutes later, he took full advantage of a broken field situation and some terrible defence from Tolman and Fifita to sprint away and score again.

He wasn't finished either, getting Manly into great field position before steaming onto the ball as if he was a front rower, proving too strong for a retreating defensive line. Within 15 minutes, a 6-point game had turned into a 24 point game, and the Sharks were dead in the water.

The very next set Cronulla had, Jack Williams knocked on on play 2, gifting Manly excellent field position. What happened next wasn't exactly to script, with Tommy setting up the try for Reuben Garrick rather than scoring it himself.

Toby Rudolf and Taniela Paseka would each have a stint on the sidelines due to headbutting and tripping offences respectively. During this period, Cronulla would score two late consolation tries, both to the same men who scored for them earlier (Kennedy and Trindall). **Adam Huxtable**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (40) Tries: Jason Saab (2), Reuben Garrick, Morgan Harper, Tom Trbojevic (3); Conversions: Reuben Garrick (6/7)

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (22) Tries: Will Kennedy (2), Braydon Trindall (2); Conversions: Braydon Trindall (3/4)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Halftime: Cronulla 10 Manly 16; Referee: Gerard Sutton

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 20

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	17 - 0 - 2	465	36
2. Penrith	16 - 0 - 3	305	34
3. South Sydney	16 - 0 - 3	231	34
4. Parramatta	13 - 0 - 6	189	28
5. Sydney	13 - 0 - 6	146	28
6. Manly	12 - 0 - 7	169	26
7. Gold Coast	8 - 0 - 11	-24	18
8. Cronulla	8 - 0 - 11	-58	18
9. Canberra	8 - 0 - 11	-82	18
10. St Geo Illa	8 - 0 - 11	-82	18
11. Newcastle	8 - 0 - 11	-147	18
12. Warriors	6 - 0 - 13	-129	14
13. Wests Tigers	6 - 0 - 13	-152	14
14. North Qld	6 - 0 - 13	-226	14
15. Brisbane	5 - 0 - 14	-247	12
16. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 17	-358	6

MATCH REVIEW

1 match: Felise Kaufusi (Melbourne), Tyrell Fuimaono (St Geo Illa), Tyrone Peachey (Gold Coast); \$1700: Siosua Taukeiaho (Sydney), Taniela Paseka (Manly); \$1600: Coen Hess (North Qld), Jaydn Su'A (Souths); \$1350: Joe Ofahengaue (Wests Tigers), Kurt Capewell (Penrith), Toby Rudolf (Cronulla); \$1150: Ethan Bullemor (Brisbane), Jarome Luai (Penrith), J'maine Hopgood (Penrith), Braydon Trindall (Cronulla); Not guilty: Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Sydney), Danny Levi (Brisbane)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Sydney v Parramatta

3 points - James Tedesco

2 points - Sam Walker

1 points - Joseph Manu

Wests Tigers v Warriors

3 points - Euan Aitken

2 points - Bunty Afoa

1 points - Joe Ofahengaue

Brisbane v North Queensland

3 points - Tyson Gamble

2 points - Payne Haas

1 points - Kotoni Staggs

Newcastle v Canberra

3 points - Kalyn Ponga

2 points - Bradman Best

1 points - David Klemmer

Melbourne v Penrith

3 points - Harry Grant

2 points - Jesse Bromwich

1 points - Dean Jeremia

St George Illawarra v South Sydney

3 points - Latrell Mitchell

2 points - Keaton Koloamatangi

1 points - Cody Walker

Canterbury v Gold Coast

3 points - Ashley Taylor

2 points - Alexander Brimson

1 points - Moeaki Fotuauka

Cronulla v Manly

3 points - Tom Trbojevic

2 points - Kieran Foran

1 points - Braydon Trindall

LEADERBOARD

28 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles 22, NSW 6)

26 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers 24, NSW 2)

23 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)

20 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels)

19 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks), Ben Hunt (Dragons 16, QLD 3)

ROUND 21 August 5 to 8

NEWCASTLE 28 BRISBANE 20

Newcastle Knights continued their finals charge with a 20-28 success against Brisbane Broncos tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

The Knights scored four tries either side of the half-time break to streak away to an eight-point win after a tight first half to keep their charge towards the top eight alive as we head into the final month of the NRL competition.

Back-to-back wins have put the Knights firmly into top eight contention, with the return of talisman halfback Mitch Pearce. The veteran #7 directed them around the park, alongside the good work from halves partner Jake Clifford, which appears to have steadied the ship after their topsy turvey season.

Backing up after four days, the first half was a tight tussle between two sides with differing motivation. Brisbane Broncos were the first on the scoreboard when Tesi Niu sliced through before Knights responded through Jake Clifford. Brisbane edged ahead through Corey Oates to lead 8-6 to shock the finals chasing side.

From there, Newcastle took charge of the contest. Mitch Pearce and Lachlan Fitzgibbon scored either side of half-time to stretch their advantage to ten points as back-to-back wins beckoned for the side. They added further points through Mitch Barnett and Enari Tuala to make it 28-8.

Brisbane showed some fight in the final 15 minutes of the contest with a pair of tries which reduced the margin to eight. Youngster Xavier Willison dived onto a loose ball for his first NRL four-pointer before a late Herbie Farnworth try gave them some hope.

It was another performance with some highlights for the Broncos but they weren't able to put together solid performances to challenge a Knights side which was tired from a game on Sunday afternoon. Coach Kevin Walters also continued to chop and change his halves with Brodie Croft hooked early in the second half.

For the Knights, it was the start of their run home with the toughest fixture left against seventh placed Gold Coast Titans with another game against the Broncos to come in the final round but the Novocastrians are primed for back-to-back finals appearances after some lean years. **Justin Davies**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (28) Tries: Jake Clifford, Mitchell Pearce, Lachlan Fitzgibbon, Mitchell Barnett, Enari Tuala; Conversions: Jake Clifford (4/5)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (20) Tries: Tesi Niu, Corey Oates, Xavier Willison, Herbie Farnworth; Conversions: Jamayne Isaako (2/4) Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Halftime: Newcastle 12 Brisbane 8; Referee: Grant Atkins

CANBERRA 20 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 12

The Canberra Raiders have ground out a win over the St George Illawarra Dragons, winning 20 points to 12 to keep their top 8 chances alive.

The start of the match was less than ideal for the Dragons, with centre Cody Ramsey going off with an HIA after just 31 seconds. He did not return, with Talatau Amone forced to play extra minutes.

Despite the setback, the Dragons were the first ones to get on the board, with Corey Norman throwing an outstanding cutout pass to his left to set up Mat Feagai, who went over untouched.

Seven minutes later, the Dragons extended their lead courtesy of a penalty goal

The Raiders finally got on the board in the 24th minute. They had a full set on the Dragons line and didn't really look threatening. Elliott Whitehead's kick on the last looked to be too deep, but Harley Smith-Shields was able to flick it back in for Jordan Rapana, who scored the try.

Adam Clune would be the spark to extend the Dragons lead 5 minutes later. He dummied his way through the Raiders defence, before showing a cool head to link up with Sims in support, who used momentum to get himself over the line. The lead remained at 6 after Lomax missed the kick.

It didn't last much longer for the Dragons though, with Sims giving away a penalty that gave the Raiders good field position. Sam Williams put in a deft crossfield kick and Jack Wighton was able to outleap Lomax to come up with the ball and score the try. Croker's conversion ensured the scores would be level as the teams hit the sheds.

Within 4 minutes of the second half kicking off, the Raiders found themselves in great attacking position. Tom Starling took full advantage of this, pinning the ears back and powering his way over the line. The bunker confirmed the try.

The only scoring play for the rest of the match would be a Raiders penalty goal in the 70th minute as errors crippled the game, both teams combining for 21 throughout the night. **Adam Huxtable**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (20) Tries: Jordan Rapana, Jack Wighton, Tom Starling; Conversions: Jarrod Croker (3/3); Penalty Goals: Jarrod Croker (1/1)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (12) Tries: Mathew Feagai, Tariq Sims; Conversions: Zac Lomax (1/2); Penalty Goals: Zac Lomax (1/1)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Halftime: Canberra 12 St Geo Illa 12; Referee: Chris Sutton

SOUTH SYDNEY 40 PARRAMATTA 12

South Sydney have continued to put the competition on notice, thumping Parramatta by 40-12 to keep pace with the competition favourites in an impressive performance at Cbus Super Stadium tonight.

Thanks to their lethal left edge combination led by the mercurial Cody Walker, the Rabbitohs managed to reach out to a 14-0 nil lead at halftime before piling on three tries in just 12 minutes to take the game away from the Eels, whose season is now in free fall following their third loss in a row.

The match was billed as a finals preview but if anything, it showed the distance between the top 3 sides and the rest, as the match turned into a training run for Wayne Bennett's men late in the game. It was a special night for South Sydney, with premiership winning halfback Adam Reynolds breaking legendary Souths fullback Eric Simms' 46 year old club record to become the highest ever point-scorer for any player that has worn the cardinal and myrtle since 1908.

The loss for Brad Arthur's men was further soured, with hooker Reed Mahoney leaving the field with what looked to be a serious shoulder injury, which left the livewire hooker in some distress late in the game.

South Sydney opened the scoring in typical fashion down their lethal left edge, when Cody Walker and Dane Gagai combined to put Josh Mansour over untouched. Reynolds converted out wide and it was 6-0 after 18 minutes of play.

The Bunnies then when back to the left for their second try, when Latrell Mitchell delivered a beautiful face ball close to the line and Josh Mansour leapt over inside the corner post for an early double.

Just before the break, Eels hooker Reed Mahoney was penalised for being offside in front of the play the ball and then collecting an offload from Tom Opacic. It was a brutal error, as it was right in front of the posts and against the run of play. Reynolds took the gift two points and it was 14-0 at halftime, with Souths firmly in control.

It was more of the same after the break, when Cody Walker produced a shallow kick on the last close to the line. Dane Gagai then scooped up the ball and slammed it down for the first try of the second half. A piece of history then occurred for the club, when Reynolds converted the try to become the highest all time point-scorer in the clubs history and extend his sides lead to 20-0.

Souths then flexed their muscle, scoring successive tries through winger Jaxson Paulo and then lock forward Cameron Murray, who dived over following a neat offload from Keaon Koloamatangi close to the line and shut out the game at 32-0.

Parramatta finally registered some points on the scoreboard following a handy offload from Nathan Brown in the attacking zone, which found Bryce Cartwright who shifted it wide for Maika Sivo to score his 17th try of the season. The Eels then made it back-to-back tries, when Mitch Moses produced a big left foot step to break the line and the Blues half then showed the composure to then kick the ball ahead for Waqa Blake who scored a great try for the Blue and Golds.

It was too little too late however for Parramatta when Adam Reynolds then kicked his second penalty goal which was quickly followed by a second try for Jaxson Paulo to give his side a convincing 40-12 win. **Sam Bourke**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (40) Tries: Josh Mansour (2), Dane Gagai, Jaxson Paulo (2), Cameron Murray; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (6/6); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (2/3)

PARRAMATTA EELS (12) Tries: Maika Sivo, Waqa Blake; Conversions: Clinton Gutherson (2/2)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Halftime: Parramatta 0 South Sydney 14; Referee: Ashley Klein

WARRIORS 18 CRONULLA 16

Despite a shocking afternoon from Kane Evans, the Warriors managed to group together to come away with a vital two points in an 18-16 win over Cronulla at Cbus Super Stadium.

A sunny afternoon on the Gold Coast was enough the rev the Warriors up early in the first half as they picked up where they left off last week as they dominated the opening 20 minutes of the first half which included an early try to winger Dallin Watene-Zelezniak in the third minute.

Like the Tigers did last week, the Warriors struggled to convert their dominance into points. The Sharks slowly fought their way back into the game and Connor Tracey's try in the 27th minute gave Cronulla some much needed confidence. It was brilliant work from Will Kennedy as he set up Tracey's and he'd be involved later in the half.

It was set to be tight at half-time until Warriors middle forward Kane Evans found himself in trouble for a strike on Will Chambers after he lost the ball in a tackle which involved Chambers tackling him. As a result, the referee sent Evans to the bin, leaving the Warriors with 12 men for the final five minutes of the half.

The Warriors were in all sorts after this incident and the Sharks took the most of their opportunity. Firstly, it was Nikora who gave the Sharks the lead after he barged his way over Reece Walsh from close to the line. Just when you thought that'd be it for points in the opening term, the Sharks struck early in the next set from long range as Will Kennedy attacked the left edge as he did earlier in the game and managed to break through the line and score a try for himself as the Sharks turned the game on its head.

The Warriors needed a big second half after their poor finish to the first term and that's how it started in the second half. The team from New Zealand slowly got their way back into the game trading sets with the Sharks until the 56th minute when Reece Walsh scored his only try of the afternoon. His conversion brought the game to within four points. The pressure was starting to mount of the Sharks, and they started to buckle under pressure and when the Warriors got another chance, they took it straight away. All they had to do was get the ball out wide to Euan Aitken who then made the Sharks defence look like an under-12's team as he broke several tackles on his way to levelling the game for the Warriors. Luckily, for the Sharks, Walsh's kick hit the uprights leaving the scores level.

Just when the Warriors started to take charge of the game, Kane Evans, not for the first time this game, found himself in the sin bin for a dangerous lifting tackle on a Sharks player. Nathan Brown would've been furious as the Sharks scored two tries earlier in the game when the Warriors were down to 10 men.

Luckily for Evans, The Sharks weren't to score whilst he was off and in fact the Warriors were given a penalty in front of their goals and Reece Walsh made no mistakes as he gave his side the lead and subsequently the win.

The Sharks missed a chance here to keep themselves and the eight and as a result they now sit a win outside the top eight with the Gold Coast Titans still to play. For the Warriors it brings them within two wins of the eight, but they'll need some results to go their way if they're to creep their way into the eight before the finals start. **Lachy MacCorquodale**

WARRIORS (18) Tries: Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Reece Walsh, Euan Aitken; Conversions: Reece Walsh (2/3); Penalty Goals: Reece Walsh (1/1)

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (16) Tries: Connor Tracey, Briton Nikora, Will Kennedy; Conversions: Braydon Trindall (2/3) Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Halftime: Warriors 6 Cronulla 16; Referee: Matt Cecchin

PENRITH 20 SYDNEY 14

Matt Burton was untouchable either side of halftime and was the difference between the two sides as Penrith held out the Roosters 20-14 at Suncorp Stadium.

Both sides were playing end-to-end football and displaying solid goal-line defence in a rather entertaining 10 minutes, before Penrith opened the scoring. Viliami Kikau sent a long ball to Matt Burton, who got outside the cramped Roosters defence, then put a big step on to beat James Tedesco then ran 45 metres to score a great try. Burton then converted his own try.

The Roosters responded in the 19th minute when Sam Verrills sent a stunning flat ball to his lead runner Victor Radley, who fell over the line to score under the posts. Adam Keighran converted to level the scores.

Burton kicked a penalty goal in the 24th minute after Sam Walker was penalised for being an escort.

In the 33rd minute Jared Waerea-Hargreaves was sent to the sin bin for 10 minutes after the Roosters had conceded several penalties and set restarts in succession.

A minute later and Penrith shifted the ball right to Paul Momirovski, who ran at the gap between the two edge defenders and slam dunked the ball down for a try. Burton's sideline conversion hit the upright and was waved away.

Right on halftime, Kikau got hit with a shoulder charge by Sitili Tupouniua (who was put on report). Burton kicked the penalty goal to give Penrith a 14-6 lead at the break.

The second half saw Penrith continue their scoring two plays after Burton made a great break. Matt Burton at first receiver on the left, stepped back and straightened then hit the hole he created to score to the left of the posts. Great solo try. Burton converted.

The hour mark saw the Roosters work their way back into the game, when James Tedesco sent a lovely cut-out ball to Joey Manu who dived over to score in the corner. Keighran failed to convert.

The Roosters scored again shortly after when Angus Crichton got outside his defender, isolated the Panthers winger, then passed to Daniel Tupou who scored in the corner. Keighran again failed to convert from the wide angle.

Some frantic and often panicked play from both sides when in great attacking position dominated the final minutes of the game, but Penrith hung on to get the chocolates. **Andrew Ferguson**

PENRITH PANTHERS (20) Tries: Matt Burton (2), Paul Momirovski; Conversions: Matt Burton (2/3); Penalty Goals: Matt Burton (2/2)

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (14) Tries: Victor Radley, Joseph Manu, Daniel Tupou; Conversions: Adam Keighran (1/3)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Halftime: Sydney 6 Penrith 14; Referee: Gerard Sutton

MELBOURNE 28 MANLY 18

Melbourne Storm scored their 17th straight win this season after a tight 28-18 success against Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

It was a classic contest - something which has been lacking thus far in the 2021 NRL season - but it finished the usual way. Melbourne Storm continuing their impressive win streak and moved a step closer to being crowned Minor Premiers again.

Billed all week as a classic clash, the game delivered in spades. The sides were locked 8-all at half-time before the Storm showed the extra dose of class to run out ten-point winners directed well by Cameron Munster and interchange star Harry Grant beat one of the form sides of the competition.

For a short period, Manly had the Storm rattled. Reuben Garrick finished off a sweeping move to put the northern beaches side ahead by four points after they scrambled enough to make it 8-all at the break. Errors after their positive work is not something you can get away with against Melbourne and they were punished.

Melbourne put fellow contenders Penrith to the sword last weekend, it looked for the majority of the first half they might do similar to the Sea Eagles. Kenneath Bromwich slid over quite easily after ten minutes. Fullback Nicho Hynes added a further two to stretch the lead to eight, as the Storm aimed to extend their imperious record in the sunshine state and send a message to the competition.

The Sea Eagles defended bravely and their scramble helped them avoid further damage headed into the break. It took a heads-up piece of work from speedster Jason Saab, who snaffled an intercept to streak away for 8-6. Garrick added a late penalty goal to make sure the ledger was even at the break.

When the game was there to be decided, Melbourne's extra class shone through. Harry Grant provided the piece of magic to help them across the stripe. His pass to a rampaging Justin Olam to make it 14-all and the Papua New Guinea centre was first to a loose ball to give the Storm the lead.

Jarome Hughes didn't take his usual control of the contest but the halfback produced the moment of the contest to push the Storm towards the victory. He sliced through the middle of the Sea Eagles defence before his kick ended up with Munster touching down for 26-18. Ryan Papenhuyzen added a penalty goal which made the advantage 10 points.

It wasn't to be for the Sea Eagles side against Melbourne but they went blow-for-blow with the front runners tonight. Tom Trbojevic gave his side some important touches including being the provider for both of Garrick's tries tonight. Manly moved the ball well side-to-side which stretched the Storm defense but were unable to find the finish to snap the streak tonight.

Melbourne remain in the box seat for the Minor Premiership. Storm face recent rivals Canberra Raiders next weekend in their march towards the trophy before finishing the season with games against the Sharks, Eels and Titans. Manly Sea Eagles still hold a six point break on seventh and eighth and should be playing finals football in 2021 and once they make that who knows what happens. **Justin Davies**

MELBOURNE STORM (28) Tries: Kenneath Bromwich, Justin Olam (2), Cameron Munster; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (0/1), Ryan Papenhuyzen (3/3); Penalty Goals: Nicholas Hynes (2/2), Ryan Papenhuyzen (1/1)

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (18) Tries: Jason Saab, Reuben Garrick (2); Conversions: Reuben Garrick (2/3); Penalty Goals: Reuben Garrick (1/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Halftime: Manly 8 Melbourne 8; Referee: Adam Gee

WESTS TIGERS 28 CANTERBURY 16

The Wests Tigers have come away with a vital 28-16 victory over the last placed Bulldogs to keep their slim finals hopes alive, but the game showed that the Tigers were more of a bottom 4 side than a top 8 outfit.

The Tigers opened the scoring in the 4th minute when Adam Doueihi was held in a tackle on the left side, but he passed back inside to Luke Brooks who ran right, linked with Jacob Liddle who drifted right while showing the ball, then half a gap opened up. Liddle poked his nose through before he got a pass back inside to Luciano Leilua who crashed through a weak tackle to score near the posts. Doueihi converted.

Five minutes later the Bulldogs hit back with a stunning try when Nick Meaney made a break just inside his own half, before linking with Jake Averillo who is caught, but not before he gets a spectacular back-door flick pass away to the left which Meaney takes cleanly and runs the rest of the way to score under the posts. Averillo converted to level the scores.

In the 23rd minute Moses Mbye sent a long cut-out pass to Ken Maumalo who stepped back inside his opposite number and scored in the left corner. Doueihi converted from touch.

Luke Brooks kicked a 40/20 at the end of the Tigers first set after the restart, then the Tigers earned a set restart a full second before Brooks threw a forward pass to Mbye close to the Dogs line.

Ten minutes before halftime, the Tigers extended their lead when Brooks on the last, kicked to the left and found Maumalo who caught the ball cleanly and grounded it as he fell to the ground to score a good try. Doueihi nailed another sideline conversion.

Just minutes before the break, the Bulldogs scored a vital try when they had bodies in motion leading up to Corey Waddell getting the ball, hitting the goal line defender and then spinning and falling over the line, back first, yet managing to plant the ball down for a try to the right of the sticks. Averillo converted to reduce the Tigers halftime lead to just 6 points.

Doueihi kicked a penalty goal 3 minutes after play resumed and 5 minutes later, he put in a cross-field kick that found Tommy Talau who scored to the right of the posts. Doueihi converted.

The game from this point was very ill-disciplined, sloppy and full of poorly executed sets from both sides. The Tigers very nearly scored in the 60th minute but the bunker found a knock on by Talau, denying Zac Cini a try.

In the 63rd minute the Bulldogs hit back when Will Hopoate got a lovely ball to Corey Allan, who scored in the corner. Averillo failed to convert from touch.

Jack Hetherington was sin binned in the 75th minute for a controversial high tackle. Adam Doueihi kicked another penalty goal to give the Tigers a 28-16 lead which they hung on to for the final 5 minutes. **Andrew Ferguson**

WESTS TIGERS (28) Tries: Luciano Leilua, Ken Maumalo (2), Tommy Talau; **Conversions:** Adam Doueihi (4/4); **Penalty Goals:** Adam Doueihi (2/2)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (16) Tries: Nick Meaney, Corey Waddell, Corey Allan; **Conversions:** Jake Averillo (2/3)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; **Halftime:** Canterbury 12 Wests Tigers 18; **Referee:** Chris Butler

GOLD COAST 36 NORTH QUEENSLAND 14

The Gold Coast Titans have held their place in the top eight after dismantling the North Queensland Cowboys 36-14 in an all Queensland affair on Sunday afternoon.

Scoring seven tries to three in a match that failed to reach any great heights, the Titans enhanced their finals aspirations with another strong performance built off the back of Ashley Taylor and Toby Sexton in the halves.

Coming close to scoring in the opening minutes only for Corey Thompson to lose the ball over the try line, the Titans posted first points through Brian Kelly (17th minute) after Taylor exposed Valentine Holmes defending in the front line with a well-placed kick.

The Titans extended their lead a few minutes later with AJ Brimson (23rd minute) swooping on a loose ball before pinning his ears back to take the score out to 10-0.

Entering the game midway through the first half, David Fifita (32nd minute) made an immediate impact by running onto a short pass from Brimson to put the hosts beyond two converted tries.

Showing plenty of courage after losing Murray Taulagi in the opening minute of the game, the Cowboys were rewarded with points just before halftime with Tom Dearden (37th minute) picking up a ricocheting kick and racing the length of the field.

Needing to win in order to keep pace with a host of teams vying for the final two positions in the top eight, the Titans signalled their intentions to attack as Kelly (50th minute) collected his second after an audacious offload from Beau Fermor in the lead up.

Taking advantage of poor discipline and ball control from the Cowboys, Fermor (53rd minute) pounced on a short kick from Sexton to put the Titans up 26-4.

The Cowboys halted the one-way flow of points with a memorable effort to Holmes (59th minute) who put himself in the right position to finish off a kick from Kyle Feldt aimed towards the posts.

The Titans brought up 30 points for the third week in a row after Thompson kicked twice to set up Taylor (68th minute) for his second try of the season.

Kyle Feldt (74th minute) contorted his body to cross for a consolation effort before Patrick Herbert (78th minute) rounded out the scoring in the shadows of fulltime. **Rob Crosby**

GOLD COAST TITANS (36) Tries: Brian Kelly (2), Alexander Brimson, David Fifita, Beau Fermor, Ashley Taylor, Patrick Herbert; **Conversions:** Toby Sexton (4/7)
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (14) Tries: Tom Dearden, Valentine Holmes, Kyle Feldt; **Conversions:** Valentine Holmes (1/3)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; **Halftime:** Gold Coast 14 North Qld 4; **Referee:** Ben Cummins

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 21

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	18 - 0 - 2	475	38
2. Penrith	17 - 0 - 3	311	36
3. South Sydney	17 - 0 - 3	259	36
4. Parramatta	13 - 0 - 7	161	28
5. Sydney	13 - 0 - 7	140	28
6. Manly	12 - 0 - 8	159	26
7. Gold Coast	9 - 0 - 11	-2	20
8. Canberra	9 - 0 - 11	-74	20
9. Newcastle	9 - 0 - 11	-139	20
10. Cronulla	8 - 0 - 12	-60	18
11. St Geo Illa	8 - 0 - 12	-90	18
12. Warriors	7 - 0 - 13	-127	16
13. Wests Tigers	7 - 0 - 13	-140	16
14. North Qld	6 - 0 - 14	-248	14
15. Brisbane	5 - 0 - 15	-255	12
16. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 18	-370	6

MATCH REVIEW

3 matches: Dylan Napa (Canterbury), Angus Crichton (Sydney); 2 matches: Keenan Palasia (Brisbane), Matt Lodge (Warriors), Jack Hetherington (Canterbury); 1 match: Tariq Sims (St Geo Illa), Kane Evans (Warriors, + \$2700), Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Canterbury)^, Kurt Capewell (Penrith), Api Koroisau (Penrith)^, Toff Siple (Manly); \$1700: Taane Milne (Souths); \$1350: Jordan Rapana (Canberra), Liam Martin (Penrith), Tom Gilbert (North Qld); \$1150: Zac Lomax (St Geo Illa), Will Chambers (Cronulla), Egan Butcher (Sydney), Stefano Utoikamanu (Wests Tigers)
^ = unsuccessful judiciary challenge

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Newcastle v Brisbane
3 points - Jake Clifford
2 points - Mitchell Pearce
1 points - Tesi Niu

Canberra v St George Illawarra
3 points - Tom Starling
2 points - Joseph Tapine
1 points - Jack Wighton

Parramatta v South Sydney
3 points - Cody Walker
2 points - Josh Mansour
1 points - Cameron Murray

Warriors v Cronulla
3 points - Addin Fonua-Blake
2 points - Josh Curran
1 points - Will Kennedy

Sydney v Penrith
3 points - Matt Burton
2 points - Liam Martin
1 points - Viliame Kikau

Manly v Melbourne
3 points - Cameron Munster
2 points - Tom Trbojevic
1 points - Harry Grant

Canterbury v Wests Tigers
3 points - Adam Doueihi
2 points - Luciano Leilua
1 points - Stefano Utoikamanu

Gold Coast v North Queensland
3 points - Ashley Taylor
2 points - Toby Sexton
1 points - Beau Fermor

LEADERBOARD

30 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles 24, NSW 6)
26 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs), Nathan Cleary (Panthers 24, NSW 2)
20 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Will Kennedy (Sharks) 19
points - Ben Hunt (Dragons 16, QLD 3)

ROUND 22 May 14 to 16

MELBOURNE 26 CANBERRA 16

Corey Harawira-Naera is looking at a lengthy stint on the sidelines after being sent off for a high shot on Jahrome Hughes as the Raiders fell 26-16 to the Storm on Thursday night.

It was three tries apiece with ill-discipline the difference as Melbourne booted four penalty goals in the 10-point victory.

The win all but wraps up the minor premiership for the Storm, who already were two points ahead of the Panthers and Rabbitohs with three games remaining and have a superior points differential.

The defeat, meanwhile, leaves Canberra vulnerable in the race for a top-eight spot.

The Raiders, like any team facing the Storm, needed to make the most of their opportunities.

They did just that in the fourth minute as a cut-out pass from Jack Wighton put Bailey Simonsson over.

It would be their only points of the half though, with defensive lapses proving costly.

The Storm quickly hit back through Brandon Smith after the hooker dummied and raced through with ease at close range to score.

Poor attempts at tackle from Jarrod Croker and Jordan Rapana in particular then saw Dean Jeremia surge through for Melbourne's second.

The next try was the worst of the lot with Josh Hodgson and Joseph Tapine caught out ball-watching as Chris Lewis sliced through a gaping hole.

A penalty goal was Melbourne's only other points of the half but the Raiders almost struck back late, with Matt Timoko losing possession over the line.

The Raiders began the second half with the same vigour and this time executed perfectly, with Wighton putting Simonsson through once more to reduce the deficit to 10.

Canberra's lethal left-edge duo combined once more to well and truly set up a thrilling finish.

This time Melbourne's Jeremia let a Sam Williams bomb bounce and Wighton pounced before shifting it quickly to Simonsson.

Williams converted both tries from the sideline as the Raiders drew within four points before Melbourne kicked a penalty goal to make it a one-try lead.

Canberra was unable to strike late with the Storm instead slotting a couple of late penalty goals. **Andrew Jackson**

MELBOURNE STORM (26) Tries: Brandon Smith, Dean Jeremia, Chris Lewis; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (3/3); Penalty Goals: Nicholas Hynes (1/1), Ryan Papenhuyzen (3/3)

CANBERRA RAIDERS (16) Tries: Bailey Simonsson (3); Conversions: Jarrod Croker (0/1), Sam Williams (2/2)

Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 2523; Halftime: Melbourne 20 Canberra 4; Referee: Gerard Sutton

PENRITH 34 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 16

Penrith Panthers strolled to a 34-16 success against the St George Illawarra Dragons tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

Back in the side, Panthers halfback Nathan Cleary brought poise and composure to the Panthers who started sloppy but piled on six tries to put the Dragons out of their misery and out of the top eight projections for 2021.

Whilst the first half wasn't a vintage display from the Panthers, they overcame a terrible start which saw them complete only two of their first 10 sets before a blitz of points saw them take a 16-6 lead into the half-time break.

Bulldogs bound Brent Naden showed two passages of skill which turned the game. The centre turned winger took an intercept from Corey Norman to open the scoring then Naden found himself on the end of a smooth backline movement to make it 10-6.

Dragons lacked an attacking punch despite having a majority of the possession. Their only points in the first half came through Zac Lomax. In his second game since his return he provided a sublime flick pass for Mikaele Ravalawa to stroll over for his eighth try in six games at Suncorp.

Once Penrith found the accelerator it was a mere formality tonight. Matt Burton showed touches of class to put Dylan Edwards over for his second try of the contest before the centre took on a retreating Dragons defensive line to stretch the advantage further and give Bulldogs fans hope for 2022.

Dylan Edwards also relished having Nathan Cleary back as the fullback ran for over 217 metres alongside a pair of four-pointers. His first closed out the first half when he took on the line, spun like a top and slammed the ball down. Edwards has been one of the stars of this Panthers team and is a safe fullback which gets their sets started off well.

Tonight's result confirmed the Panthers can't finish any lower than third spot and can time their run towards back-to-back Grand Final appearances now. Paul Momirovski put the icing on the 18-point win as the utility back sliced through the Dragons flimsy defense.

After being on life support for several weeks, the Dragons finals chances have been terminated. The side has looked a shell of their former selves since the party incident saw a majority of the playing squad fined and suspended. Their attack was gobbled up repeatedly and offered nothing against a well-drilled Panthers side.

Once again, Dragons fans eye off next season. One bright spot was the 15 minute cameo from Talatau Amone. He came on in the final 15 minutes after Andrew McCullough's injury and set up two tries. The first was for fullback Jack Bird then Amone showed swift feet to beat several defenders and make the final score 34-16. **Justin Davies**

PENRITH PANTHERS (34) Tries: Brent Naden (2), Dylan Edwards (2), Matt Burton, Paul Momirovski; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (5/6)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (16) Tries: Mikaele Ravalawa, Jack Bird, Talatau Amone; Conversions: Zac Lomax (2/3)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 6653; Halftime: St Geo Illa 6 Penrith 16; Referee: Ben Cummins

SYDNEY 21 BRISBANE 20

Roosters goalkicker Adam Keighran has kicked a controversial penalty goal with a minute remaining to give the Roosters a 21-20 victory over a spoiling Broncos side at Suncorp Stadium tonight.

In a bizarre finish, Brisbane looked to have caused a massive upset when Roosters backrower Victor Radley was penalised in front of the posts only moments earlier for a dangerous charge down effort on an Albert Kelly field goal attempt. Broncos kicker Selwyn Cobbo then looked to have won the game when he kicked the simple penalty goal but it wasn't to be for Kevin Walters' men. While it was a controversial loss for Brisbane, Roosters skipper James Tedesco left his Captain's Challenge late, with replays showing that Broncos prop Tom Flegler collected Stili Tupouniua high with a glancing blow and the decision from the Bunker proved pivotal. Tedesco was again superb for the Roosters with the skipper putting the team on his back, scoring a try and having a hand in another running for over 250m in man of the match effort from the NSW and Australian fullback. The Broncos came into the match having already been a thorn in the Roosters side this season with a win in this corresponding fixture in Round 11. Brisbane continued this form when they successfully got the jump on the favourites early when Payne Haas charged through the middle and was brought down just short by some desperate Roosters defence. Brisbane were then awarded a penalty in front of the sticks. Showing some confidence, the Broncos took the tap close to the line, which saw Haas then barrel his way over for the first try of the night following another strong run to give his side an early 6-0 lead. The Roosters then hit back with a front rower of their own in Isaac Liu, who crashed over off a near identical play close to the line to level the scores at 6 all. Brisbane then regained the lead, when winger Xavier Coates leapt high for the ball on the last and batted the ball back into the arms of Jordan Riki who dived over in the corner to score. Tyson Gamble then converted from the sideline to give his side a 12-6 lead. Tedesco then began to cause some trouble for the Broncos with a bust up the middle, where he was brought down metres short in a terrific tackle from Haas. The Blues skipper then showed great vision on the next set to put in a deft grubber for his winger Dale Copley who scored in the corner. Keighran converted from the touchline to leave the scores level heading into halftime.

The Roosters continued to threatened the line but Brisbane continued to hold on. The Broncos then found an unlikely hero, when prop Thomas Flegler ended up with the ball off a bat back off a kick. The front rower then shocked the Roosters defence, when he put on some footwork and took off managing to find a flying Albert Kelly in support who scored under the posts. Again the front rowers continued to respond, when Siosiaua Taukeiaho broke the line to find his skipper Tedesco in support for him to score under the posts and level the scores at 18 all with less than 20 minutes remaining. The game continued back and forth and it was Roosters halfback Sam Walker who broke the deadlock with a calmly taken field goal to put his side in front 19-18 with just seven minutes on the clock.

Brisbane weren't licked however, and Albert Kelly then had an attempt which drifted wide. However controversy ensued, when Roosters backrower Victor Radley was penalised for attacking the legs of Kelly in attempting the charge down. Broncos centre Selwyn Cobbo then nudged the attempt to give Brisbane a shock 20-19 lead with four minutes to go. The drama continued late, when Tedesco pulled off a last-ditch captain's challenge which went the Roosters way, with Flegler penalised and the controversial call decided the contest and enough to get the Roosters the win, when Keighran calmly pocketed the penalty goal to get his side out of jail in the final minute of the game. **Sam Bourke**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (21) Tries: Isaac Liu, Dale Copley, James Tedesco; Field Goals: Sam Walker (1/1); Conversions: Adam Keighran (3/3); Penalty Goals: Adam Keighran (1/1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (20) Tries: Payne Haas, Jordan Riki, Albert Kelly; Field Goals: Albert Kelly (0/1); Conversions: Tyson Gamble (2/2), Selwyn Cobbo (1/1); Penalty Goals: Selwyn Cobbo (1/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 14314; Halftime: Brisbane 12 Sydney 12; Referee: Ashley Klein

SOUTH SYDNEY 36 GOLD COAST 6

South Sydney Rabbitohs won 10 straight games for the first time since 1989 as they beat Gold Coast Titans 36-6 this afternoon at Robina.

The Rabbitohs became the first team in the history of Australian rugby league to post eight straight scores of 30 plus headlined by another stellar performance by fullback Latrell Mitchell and five-eighth Cody Walker saw them dust off the Titans in style.

From the opening whistle, the Rabbitohs looked a class above and proved that in hopping to a 24-nil lead at half-time. Cody Walker was his usual energetic self with a pair of try-assists which takes him to 37 for the season. Mitchell and Reynolds also found the stripe in the one-sided half.

Despite all the bluster from Gold Coast Titans this season, it has been a disappointing campaign. They went set-for-set in the early stages but when the fire was lit, Gold Coast folded quickly and often. Their spot in the top eight is hanging on by a thread but even if they make it, 2021 hasn't been the vibrant restart they expected with their big signings from the off-season.

Called into the side for the injured Dane Gagai, Braidon Burns showed that the backline is plug and play with tries in each half. Winger Josh Mansour bagged himself a double with consummate ease as the Rabbitohs attacking juggernaut rolled on. Souths 36 points today gave them their highest scoring season ever and the promise of plenty more to come with three weeks left in the season.

The X-Factor for the Rabbitohs headed into their tilt at the Premiership is their custodian, Latrell Mitchell. Some of Mitchell's runs were destructive today including a counter attack from a Titans kick which he steamrolled Titans fullback AJ Brimson. Mitchell opened the scoring himself from a well-worked scrum play and was in the mood to be dangerous against the pretender Titans.

Once Souths had got themselves out to suitable lead, the cardinal and myrtle cruised through the second half. Adam Reynolds went well past the 100 goals mark for the season with six goals today which included two penalty goals. Coach Wayne Bennett will be delighted with his side's defense though, they kept the Titans to single digits and kept showing up despite having the game well in hand.

Corey Thompson got some late consolation for the Titans. The winger finished off the best movement of the afternoon from the Gold Coast side which saw him walk in a four-pointer to make it 32-6. Questions again might be asked about coach Justin Holbrook's use of his star forward David Fifita who came off the bench again. Titans face another huge test against Melbourne Storm before games against Newcastle and New Zealand to finish out. **Justin Davies**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (36) Tries: Latrell Mitchell, Adam Reynolds, Josh Mansour (2), Braidon Burns (2); Conversions: Adam Reynolds (4/6); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (2/2)
GOLD COAST TITANS (6) Tries: Corey Thompson; Conversions: Toby Sexton (1/1)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 4117; Halftime: South Sydney 24 Gold Coast 0; Referee: Adam Gee

WESTS TIGERS 24 NORTH QUEENSLAND 16

The Wests Tigers have produced back-to-back victories for just the second time in 2021, with another uninspiring and unconvincing victory over a bottom 3 team, downing the Cowboys 24-16 in Townsville.

The Tigers opened the scoring in the ninth minute when Luke Brooks, 15 metres from the Cowboys line, drifted left then stopped and dished a short ball to a barnstorming Stefano Utoikamanu, who destroyed the defensive line and scored to the left of the posts. Adam Doueihi converted.

Ten minutes later the Tigers extended their lead when they put the ball through the hands, before Moses Mbye sent a cut-out pass to Ken Maumalo, who had a narrow passage to the line, but he dived and nabbed the 4 pointer in the left corner. Doueihi converted superbly from touch.

The Cowboys finally got on the board in the dying stages of the first half through a very lucky try. Tom Dearden's poor bomb was allowed to bounce before Kyle Feldt soccered it back infield very skilfully. Reece Robson regathered and passed to debutant Griffin Neame who then threw a dubious pass to fellow debutant Jeremiah Nanai who scored. Valentine Holmes converted.

The second half began with 17 minutes of a mediocrity stalemate, with both sides struggling with ball control, discipline, last tackle options and worst of all general kicking.

But the deadlock was broken in the 57th minute when Brooks on the right hit Kelma Tuilagi with a lovely short ball, he then hit Holmes and spun 360 degrees before falling over the line near the posts to score a strong try. Doueihi again converted.

In the 65th minute the Tigers looked to lift a gear and seemingly put the game beyond the reach of a rather deflated looking Cowboys, when Doueihi stepped Ben Hampton, who had come a long way up and in, before sending Tommy Talau a good ball in space and he scored a soft try. Doueihi again added the extras. Tigers lead 24-6 with 13 minutes remaining.

With 7 minutes remaining in the game, Scott Drinkwater got a long ball to Jake Granville, exposing Michael Chee Kam who was way out of position defensively. Granville turned the ball back in to Drinkwater who ran away before sending Dearden away to score under the posts. Holmes converted.

With 4 minutes left in the game, the Cowboys very nearly scored but for a brilliant try saving tackle by Luke Brooks, who then produced an illegal strip after the tackle was completed which resulted in him being sin binned.

On the first play from the ensuing penalty, the Cowboys spread the ball from right to left where Hampton got comfortably outside David Nofaloama and dived over to score in the corner. Holmes failed to convert his hurried conversion attempt.

With 22 seconds on the clock, the Cowboys received a penalty deep in the Tigers half. Holmes had a shot at penalty goal but it hit the upright and a scrappy game came to its end. **Andrew Ferguson**

WESTS TIGERS (24) Tries: Stefano Utoikamanu, Ken Maumalo, Kelma Tuilagi, Tommy Talau; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (4/4)
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (16) Tries: Jeremiah Nanai, Tom Dearden, Ben Hampton; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (2/3); Penalty Goals: Valentine Holmes (0/1)
Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 12663; Halftime: North Qld 6 Wests Tigers 12; Referee: Chris Sutton

MANLY 56 PARRAMATTA 10

A 28-point haul for Reuben Garrick has helped Manly pile on the pain as they scored a 56-10 victory over a woeful Parramatta Eels side at the Sunshine Coast Stadium.

Having total control of possession for the opening 10 minutes, the Manly Sea Eagles opened the scoring after just three minutes in a sign of what was to come when Brad Parker crossed after the Parramatta defence jammed in too far and left free space for the Manly centre to score.

The second try was more of the same for Manly just a matter of minutes later as Reuben Garrick got the first of his hat-trick when there was too much space out wide as the Eels defence jammed in yet again.

There was clearly a lesson to be learnt for the Eels defence and it was not to jam in so far, but they weren't learning their lesson as they continued their terrible defensive tactic of jamming and the Sea Eagles found space again as DCE found Jason Saab unmarked out wide who got space down the sideline before finding Tommy Turbo to score. The Sea Eagles continued to find space out wide and Reuben Garrick got his second as Michael Oldfield again jammed in creating space for the Manly winger to score.

The Sea Eagles added another try going end to end after yet again finding space on the outside of the Eels defence and Dylan Walker scored for Manly.

Parramatta capped off a poor half with a bright spot when Tom Opacic crossed over after a good pass from Ryan Matterson.

The Eels looked like a side with more confidence to start the second half but that quickly disappeared as the errors came back into their game. The Sea Eagles took 20 minutes to add their next try and yet again it was the jamming defence that created space for Manly and Jason Saab scored out wide just after blowing a chance minutes before.

Things for the Eels went from bad to worse and then even worse again when Ryan Matterson was sent off by Grant Atkins for a shoulder to the head of Brad Parker. Manly took advantage of the extra man when Moses Suli strolled over for the first of his double just having come onto the field.

Marata Niukore was the next to be given marching orders by Grant Atkins, this time for just 10 minutes after a professional foul off a Manly quick tap.

Manly were able to run in three tries during the time Parramatta were down to 11, Moses Suli scored his second, Dylan Walker kicked in behind to set up Haumole Olakau'atu and Reuben Garrick sealed his historic night breaking the Manly season point record with his third try and conversion.

Waq Blake was the final scorer of the night after his got through to a Dylan Brown kick and Clint Gutherson converted the consolation try. **Josh Robertson**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (56) Tries: Brad Parker, Reuben Garrick (3), Tom Trbojevic, Dylan Walker, Jason Saab, Moses Suli (2), Haumole Olakau'atu; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (8/10)
PARRAMATTA EELS (10) Tries: Tom Opacic, Waqa Blake; Conversions: Clinton Gutherson (1/2)
Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 3613; Halftime: Manly 26 Parramatta 4; Referee: Grant Atkins

WARRIORS 24 CANTERBURY 10

The New Zealand Warriors are still in the hunt for the top 8, beating the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs 24-10 in a sloppy affair at Dolphin Stadium in Redcliffe.

The Warriors showed their intentions early, spreading it right with their first possession of the game to Josh Curran, who found open space and eventually passed to Sean O'Sullivan, who was tackled for a gain of about 50 metres. The duo would link up again later in the set, with O'Sullivan passing Curran through a gaping hole to score the first try of the match.

The right edge was again the focal point of the Warriors attack in the next set, however it ended catastrophically, with O'Sullivan's pass this time intercepted by Aaron Schoupp, who outran Reece Walsh to score and level the scores.

The evenness of the scoreboard didn't last long however. Averillo's kick from inside his own half was caught on the full in goal by Montoya. The Warriors streaked down the field and Josh Curran set up the try this time, poking his head through the line before offloading to an open Jazz Tévaga, who dived over untouched.

The Warriors would get into good field position through their defence this time, with Edward Kosi putting huge pressure on Falakiko Manu, who knocked on. In the ensuing set, Reece Walsh made the money play, throwing a cutout ball to put Edward Kosi over untouched.

It looked as though the Dogs had given it everything for the first half, but a set restart just before the break gave them a second wind. Nick Meaney slotted into the attack to create the extra number and execute the overlap to perfection, sending Jayden Okunbor over right on the siren to make it 16-10 at half time.

Early in the second half, a wayward offload from Averillo was dived on by Josh Curran, giving the Warriors great field position. Chanel Harris-Tavita put a kick in on tackle 2 and it paid off, with Reece Walsh winning the race and grounding it before the dead ball line.

The Warriors did well to turn the Bulldogs away for at least 5 consecutive attacking sets, however it looked to have all counted for naught when Edward Kosi knocked on on tackle 2 and the Dogs spread it left to score immediately. Upon review it was found that illegal contact was made on Kosi after the knock on and a penalty was awarded to the Warriors instead.

Off the ensuing set, Kosi looked to be over for sure, but lost it over the line, keeping the Dogs in it.

In the next set off the kickoff, the Bulldogs stripped the ball illegally, giving the Warriors an opportunity to extend the lead to 14. Reece Walsh's kick was a beauty and they did exactly that, going up 24-10.

The rest of the game was a largely uneventful arm wrestle, with the Bulldogs giving away penalties for illegal 2-on-1 strips and occasionally getting them right.

The win for the Warriors means that they maintain touch with the top 8, and will look to keep the unlikely dream alive next week against the Broncos at Suncorp, while the Bulldogs will look for their 3rd win of the year against the Knights. **Adam Huxtable**

WARRIORS (24) Tries: Josh Curran, Reece Walsh, Jazz Tévaga, Edward Kosi; Conversions: Reece Walsh (3/4); Penalty Goals: Reece Walsh (1/1)

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (10) Tries: Aaron Schoupp, Jayden Okunbor; Conversions: Jake Averillo (1/2)
Venue: Moreton Daily Stadium; Crowd: 3332; Halftime: Warriors 16 Canterbury 10; Referee: Peter Gough

NEWCASTLE 16 CRONULLA 14

The Newcastle Knights have taken a huge step towards securing a place in the finals after outlasting the Cronulla Sharks 16-14 on Sunday afternoon.

Securing the victory with a long-range Jake Clifford penalty goal seven minutes from fulltime, the win sees the Knights move into outright seventh on the ladder with games against the Bulldogs, Titans and Broncos to come over the final weeks of the home-and-away season.

The win may come at a huge cost for the Knights however with enforcer Daniel Saifiti sustaining a knee injury during the closing stages of the match.

Registering the fastest try of the season after regathering the kick-off, Enari Tuala (1st minute) ran onto a cut-out ball from Mitchell Pearce to get the Knights on the board after 36 seconds.

Making the most of a penalty inside the visitor's half, Jesse Ramien (11th minute) locked the scores up following an offload from Briton Nikora which created space for the one-time Newcastle centre down the right edge.

Clifford added a penalty goal midway through the first half, however the lead was short-lived as Ronaldo Mulitalo cleaned up a dropped bomb from Kurt Mann to put the Sharks in front.

With both teams vying for a place in the top eight, the Sharks held a slender 12-8 lead at the change of ends following a spiteful opening 40 minutes which saw Braden Hamlin-Uele, Nikora and David Klemmer all placed on report.

Returning from the sheds with renewed intensity, a bullocking run and flick pass from Bradman Best allowed Tuala (45th minute) to collect for his second with a remarkable effort to contort his body close to the sideline.

Mitchell Barnett produced a try-saving effort on Nikora a few sets later only for the bunker to intervene for high contact; Braydon Trindall kicked the subsequent penalty goal from next to the posts.

Taking advantage of good field position resulting from a Cronulla error, Clifford tied the scores up at 14-all with 15 minutes left on the clock.

With the match poised to go down to the wire, Barnett produced a momentum-shifting strip on Luke Metcalf to give the Knights the ascendancy.

The decisive moment occurred in the 73rd minute when Kalyn Ponga was tackled without the ball; Clifford stepped up from 35 metres out to nail the penalty and give the Knights a hard-fought 16-14 win.

The win was a fitting result for Newcastle utility Connor Watson who celebrated his 100th first grade appearance on the day. **Rob Crosby**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (16) Tries: Enari Tuala (2); Conversions: Jake Clifford (1/2); Penalty Goals: Jake Clifford (3/3)
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (14) Tries: Jesse Ramien, Ronaldo Mulitalo; Conversions: Braydon Trindall (2/2); Penalty Goals: Braydon Trindall (1/1)
Venue: Moreton Daily Stadium; Crowd: 3954; Halftime: Cronulla 12 Newcastle 8; Referee: Matt Cecchin

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 22

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	19 - 0 - 2	485	40
2. Penrith	18 - 0 - 3	329	38
3. South Sydney	18 - 0 - 3	289	38
4. Sydney	14 - 0 - 7	141	30
5. Manly	13 - 0 - 8	205	28
6. Parramatta	13 - 0 - 8	115	28
7. Newcastle	10 - 0 - 11	-137	22
8. Gold Coast	9 - 0 - 12	-32	20
9. Canberra	9 - 0 - 12	-84	20
10. Cronulla	8 - 0 - 13	-62	18
11. St Geo Illa	8 - 0 - 13	-108	18
12. Warriors	8 - 0 - 13	-113	18
13. Wests Tigers	8 - 0 - 13	-132	18
14. North Qld	6 - 0 - 15	-256	14
15. Brisbane	5 - 0 - 16	-256	12
16. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 19	-384	6

MATCH REVIEW

3 matches: Corey Harawira-Naera (Canberra), Victor Radley (Sydney), Ryan Matterson (Parramatta); 2 matches: Tyson Gamble (Brisbane); 1 match: Jacob Liddle (Wests Tigers), Thomas Mikaele (Wests Tigers), Griffin Neame (North Qld), Tyson Frizell (Newcastle), Aiden Tolman (Cronulla); \$1700: Jarome Luai (Penrith), Maika Sivo (Parramatta); \$1350: David Mead (Brisbane), Ryan James (Canterbury), Reece Walsh (Warriors); \$1150: Nathan Cleary (Penrith), Michael Chee-Kam (Wests Tigers); \$750: Adam Clune (St Geo Illa), Joey Lussick (Parramatta), Braden Hamlin-Uele (Cronulla); Not guilty: Valentine Holmes (North Qld)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Melbourne v Canberra
3 points - Brandon Smith
2 points - Christian Welch
1 points - Jack Wighton

St George Illawarra v Penrith
3 points - Nathan Cleary
2 points - Dylan Edwards
1 points - Matt Burton

Brisbane v Sydney
3 points - James Tedesco
2 points - Payne Haas
1 points - Isaac Liu

South Sydney v Gold Coast
3 points - Latrell Mitchell
2 points - Cody Walker
1 points - Jai Arrow

North Queensland v Wests Tigers
3 points - Stefano Utoikamanu
2 points - Adam Doueihi
1 points - Shawn Blore

Manly v Parramatta
3 points - Reuben Garrick
2 points - Tom Trbojevic
1 points - Daly Cherry-Evans

Warriors v Canterbury
3 points - Josh Curran
2 points - Reece Walsh
1 points - Addin Fonua-Blake

Cronulla v Newcastle
3 points - Mitchell Barnett
2 points - Jack Williams
1 points - Bradman Best

LEADERBOARD

32 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles 26, NSW 6)
29 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers 27, NSW 2)
28 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)
20 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks), Clinton Gutherson (Eels)

ROUND 23 August 19 to 22

MELBOURNE 34 GOLD COAST 20

A second half fight back has seen the Melbourne Storm claim a piece of history with a 34-20 victory over a gallant Gold Coast Titans team on Thursday evening.

Equalling the premiership record of 19 wins in a row set by Eastern Suburbs in 1975, the Storm defied a halftime deficit to all but confirm the minor premiership with two rounds remaining in the home-and-away season.

The Titans got off to a dream start after George Jennings came up with an error inside the Melbourne half with Patrick Herbert breaking away from the ensuing scrum before linking with Greg Marzheew (2nd minute) who crashed over in the corner.

Continuing to capitalise on errors made by their opponents, the underdogs defied expectations after replacement fullback Jayden Campbell (11th minute) swooped on a bat-back from Herbert to take the lead out to 10-0.

Getting back into the contest midway through the first half with two tries within four minutes, Marion Seve (23rd minute) finished off a break by Josh Addo-Carr before Harry Grant (27th minute) surged through the home side's retreating defence to put the Storm up 12-10.

Striking a huge blow to retake the lead prior to the change of ends, an Ashley Taylor bomb aimed towards the posts saw Campbell (33rd minute) outleap Cameron Munster for his second of the night.

Forced to reshuffle their backline after Jennings aggravated the same knee injury which kept him on the sidelines for the past four weeks, Munster (45th minute) took it upon himself to burrow over from close range to put the Storm back in front with a converted try.

Making the Titans pay for an error ten metres out from the try line, tries to Josh Addo-Carr (57th minute) and Nicho Hynes (61st minute) gave the Storm peace of mind to play out the match with the result beyond doubt.

Munster capped a man of the match performance with a long-range break which allowed Addo-Carr (70th minute) to equal his personal best tally of 23 tries in a season.

A late consolation four-pointer to Tyrone Peachey (76th minute) proved inconsequential as the Storm ran out 34-20 winners.

Rob Crosby

MELBOURNE STORM (34) Tries: Marion Seve, Harry Grant, Cameron Munster, Josh Addo-Carr (2), Nicholas Hynes; Conversions: Ryan Papenhuyzen (5/6)

GOLD COAST TITANS (20) Tries: Greg Marzheew, Jayden Campbell (2), Tyrone Peachey; Field Goals: Ashley Taylor (0/1); Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (2/4)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 8288; Halftime: Gold Coast 16 Melbourne 12; Referee: Ben Cummins

MANLY 19 CANBERRA 18

Manly Sea Eagles put together a superb comeback to defeat Canberra Raiders 19-18 and move back into the top four in a pulsating contest tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

The Sea Eagles were wobbly in the first half but piled on 19 straight points to overcome a dogged Canberra Raiders side also fighting for their season and show there is life to the side without superstar fullback Tom Trbojevic.

Daly Cherry-Evans has made a habit of game-winning field goals for the Sea Eagles. Once again, the mercurial halfback stood up and potted his 23rd field goal to secure the two points for his side tonight. Two important points which for now, puts them into fourth spot on the NRL ladder. Missing their main man, the Sea Eagles looked to their leaders in the halves to spark them. They fumbled their way through the first half but Daly Cherry-Evans had the ball on a string in the second half with two tries coming directly from the halfback's boot. Haumole Olakau'atu kept his impressive form going with a four-pointer.

Knowing that tonight was almost do-or-die, Canberra Raiders came out tonight on a mission. The Green Machine were the first to find their feet in the contest. Centre Matt Timoko provided a magic flick pass for Harley Smith-Shields to make it 4-nil before a Sam Williams penalty goal put them ahead by six. Canberra kept their foot on the throat as they pushed over the advantage line and profited from some uncharacteristic Sea Eagles errors. Reuben Garrick was the stand-in fullback and spilled an easy kick which led to the second four-pointer. It went through the hands of the whole spine before Bailey Simonsson dived over for a 12-nil lead at the break.

There was a different edge to the Sea Eagles after half-time. Maybe propelled by a Des Hasler spray they got the ideal start to the second half when Haumole Olakau'atu dived over from close range to cut the deficit to six. It was a much more composed Sea Eagles side which turned the Raiders pack around and made them do the hard yards often. It was whoever was the first to blink which would lose this contest. Cherry-Evans controlled the flow with his short kicking game and forced the returning Charnze Nicholl-Klokstad into an error on his second touch. Sea Eagles did their best to bomb the try but a kick to the wing of Morgan Harper saw the centre wrestle over to make it 12-all. Now with wind in their sails, the Sea Eagles kicked themselves ahead in the 63rd minute. His short grubber was latched onto by a chasing Curtis Sironen to put the Sea Eagles ahead for the first time tonight, 18-12 after Garrick's third conversion of the night.

With two minutes on the clock, a calm and collected Cherry-Evans potted the one-pointer which would give his side a seven-point buffer and all but confirm victory.

There was a late scare for the Sea Eagles as the Raiders got within a point though. Some work down the right side created a break before the inside pass gave Nicholl-Klokstad a four-pointer in his return after his lay-off since Round five. There was a desperation two-point field goal attempt from Jordan Rapana which fell well short.

Canberra are still alive in the hunt for the top eight but the equation has become much harder. The ACT side need to win both their games remaining and get some help around them qualify for a third consecutive finals series. For Manly, they just have to keep winning and hope the Roosters slip up in the remaining rounds to hold on to a spot in the top four. **Justin Davies**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (19) Tries: Haumole Olakau'atu, Morgan Harper, Curtis Sironen; Field Goals: Daly Cherry-Evans (1/1); Conversions: Reuben Garrick (3/3)

CANBERRA RAIDERS (18) Tries: Harley Smith-Shields, Bailey Simonsson, Charnze Nicholl-Klokstad; Conversions: Sam Williams (1/2), Jordan Rapana (1/1); Penalty Goals: Sam Williams (1/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 6181; Halftime: Canberra 12 Manly 0; Referee: Adam Gee

PENRITH 25 SOUTH SYDNEY 12

Penrith absorbed the Rabbitohs first half onslaught and posted twenty-five straight points to prevail 25-12 tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

The spotlight was bright again, as the Panthers swept past the Rabbitohs in a huge performance where they posted 25 unanswered points to brush aside the challenge of the Rabbitohs and confirm they are a huge contender for this year's Premiership.

It was a big gut check for the Panthers. They trailed by 12 points after 22 minutes then got themselves into the grind and eventually, their extra dose of class showed led by halfback Nathan Cleary which confirmed that Penrith will finish in the top two and another shot at the Grand Final.

Since his return, the Panthers have looked much more like the side which rolled through the first half of the NRL season. Cleary scored a four-pointer himself and potted a late field-goal to make it 19-12 to secure the win for the Premiership heavyweights tonight.

Riding high from a 10 game win streak, Souths were pumped up and were energetic in their work in the first half. It gave them the edge against a Panthers side which were wobbling and it produced a pair of tries to Dane Gagai and Latrell Mitchell - which had the famous cardinal and myrtle up 12-nil.

Sometimes it takes a moment of magic to spark the recovery and it came from the boot from Panthers centre Paul Momirovski. He provided the kick for both Panthers tries in the first half, the first was a deft touch inside to Nathan Cleary then another late in the half for Stephen Crichton took us to the break at 12-10 Rabbitohs.

Despite Rabbitohs leading at the break, there was only one side in the second half. Panthers took it up another level and the Rabbitohs were unable to match them. Cleary was masterful in his kicking game which left the Rabbitohs back three bamboozled and forced errors.

Once the Panthers were on top, the points were going to flow. Cleary booted a pair of penalty goals to inch them in front at 14-12 which allowed them to dictate the rest of the contest and the halfback pinned the Rabbitohs backline right on their try-line every set. The energy which was present in the first half was sapped and the Panthers just rolled through to their 19th win of the year.

Brent Naden has flourished on the wing for the Panthers in the last few weeks. He finished off a backline movement to make it 18-12 for three tries in two weeks for the Bulldogs-bound back. Apisau Koroisau added a late four-pointer to stretch the Panthers advantage to 13 points tonight. **Justin Davies**

PENRITH PANTHERS (25) Tries: Nathan Cleary, Stephen Crichton, Brent Naden, Apisau Koroisau; Field Goals: Nathan Cleary (1/1); Conversions: Nathan Cleary (2/4); Penalty Goals: Nathan Cleary (2/2)

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (12) Tries: Dane Gagai, Latrell Mitchell; Conversions: Adam Reynolds (1/2); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (1/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 8848; Halftime: Penrith 10 South Sydney 12; Referee: Grant Atkins

CRONULLA 50 WESTS TIGERS 20

Cronulla and the Wests Tigers both came into Saturday's game on 18 competition points and needed to win to keep their slim finals hopes alive. The Sharks turned up - and the Tigers turned in yet another loss - 50-20 in Rockhampton's inaugural NRL fixture - when they needed a win.

It was the Tigers who opened the scoring in the fourth minute when they produced a left side movement where Moses Mbye linked with Michael Chee Kam who straightened his run and barged over to score a strong try. Adam Doueihi failed to convert.

The Sharks got on the board in the 12th minute when Braydon Trindall fired a long cut-out ball to the unmarked Sione Katoa who scored in the corner. Trindall added the extras from out wide. 15 minutes later the Sharks ran their previous point scoring play, but on the other side, where Luke Metcalf sent a cut-out pass to Ronaldo Mulitalo and the winger scored comfortably. Trindall failed to convert from out wide. The Sharks added more points just before the break with some rather average passing to the left where Will Kennedy dummied and then sent a good ball out to Mulitalo who bagged his second try. Trindall converted from touch. Sharks went into the sheds leading 16-4.

The Sharks scoring spree continued after halftime, when Mulitalo busted through the Tigers middle defence, dummied to beat Moses Mbye before selflessly passing to Metcalf who scored his first NRL try under the posts. Trindall converted. In the 55th minute Katoa busted through the middle and linked with Kennedy who raced away to score under the posts. Trindall again converted.

2 minutes later the Tigers hit back when Michael Chee Kam made a good ruck run before getting an offload away to Ken Maumalo who scored. Adam Doueihi converted. Almost immediately after the Sharks hit back when they put up a bomb which was dropped by the Tigers. Teig Wilton was right there to clean up and dive over the line to score under the sticks. Trindall added another conversion.

The Tigers responded 3 minutes later when they spread the ball right to Tommy Talau who spun in the tackle and rolled over the line to score. Mulitalo copped an accidental stray boot to his face which forced him off the field with a suspected broken jaw. Doueihi converted the try. The Tigers took just 2 minutes to add another try when Kelma Tuilagi taking a crash ball, burrowed over to score a powerful try, but injured his arm in the process. Doueihi failed to convert. Sharks at this stage lead 34-20 with the game seemingly in the balance with 12 minutes remaining.

Then the Tigers fell apart completely.

In the 70th minute, Matt Moylan made a break and passed to Metcalf who scored under the posts. Trindall converted. In the 74th minute, Trindall drifted right, showed the ball and then passed to Kennedy who ran a strong line back in towards the posts, brushed off a poor tackle and raced away to score a good try. Trindall converted. In the 77th minute, Sharks sent the ball through the hands to Katoa who scored another try to bring up 50 points for the Sharks. Trindall failed to convert from touch.

Tigers season ended in typical miserable fashion, yet again, while the Sharks big win saw them jump up into the top 8.

Andrew Ferguson

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (50) Tries: Sione Katoa (2), Ronaldo Mulitalo (2), Luke Metcalf (2), Will Kennedy (2), Teig Wilton; Conversions: Braydon Trindall (7/9)
WESTS TIGERS (20) Tries: Michael Chee-Kam, Ken Maumalo, Tommy Talau, Kelma Tuilagi; Conversions: Adam Doueihi (2/4)
Venue: Browne Park; Crowd: 2863; Halftime: Wests Tigers 4 Cronulla 16; Referee: Gerard Sutton

NEWCASTLE 22 CANTERBURY 16

Newcastle Knights moved one step closer to finals football after a 22-16 success against Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs tonight at Robina.

It wasn't impressive but it was enough for the Novocastrians. Jake Clifford continued his strong form setting up a four-pointer and scored one himself as the Knights almost certified themselves as a finals side for back-to-back seasons.

The Knights have quietly built up a four-game win streak which has helped them almost coast into the post-season. While other sides have dropped games, the Knights are getting their biggest weapons back - Ponga, Pearce and Best - all ready to go for finals football in a fortnight's time.

Tonight saw one of their unsung heroes lead the charge. Clifford who transferred mid-season from the Cowboys was heavily involved in the Knights best passages of play tonight which included him stepping a pair of Bulldogs defenders to score, making it 16-6.

He also provided the final pass for Bradman Best's four-pointer which put the game to rest at 22-6. Clifford also kicked three goals alongside superb general play kicking which kept the Bulldogs trapped at their own end for a majority of the contest.

From the opening whistle, the Knights looked here to play. Their first attack was chalked off due to Hymel Hunt's foot brushing the sideline but a deft kick from Clifford brought their first try when Jacob Saifiti touched down after Mitchell Barnett's impressive work to make it 6-nil.

Kicking was the best option for the Knights in the first half and it helped them extend their lead out to 10-nil. A deft kick from Clifford worked once again when Enari Tuala touched down to continue his fine form getting across the tryline.

Bulldogs toiled hard and kept themselves in the contest across the whole 80 minutes. One moment of magic from Lachlan Lewis saw Nick Meaney get both hands to the ball and gave them some hope at 10-6 just after half-time.

The wooden spooners did find a late flurry of points to reduce the deficit to six points. On loan Ryan James crashed over right besides the posts then within the final minute winger Jayden Okunbor somehow caught an inswinging kick from Lewis to make it 22-16.

Unfortunately tonight's loss also confirmed the wooden spoon for the proud club. That makes it two spoons in the last three seasons but there is hope on the horizon for the Bulldogs with their recruitment for 2022 and hopefully a few more wins to follow. **Justin Davies**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (22) Tries: Jacob Saifiti, Jake Clifford, Enari Tuala, Bradman Best; Conversions: Jake Clifford (3/4); Penalty Goals: Jake Clifford (0/1)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (16) Tries: Nick Meaney, Ryan James, Jayden Okunbor; Conversions: Kyle Flanagan (2/3)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 2343; Halftime: Canterbury 0 Newcastle 10; Referee: Peter Gough

PARRAMATTA 32 NORTH QUEENSLAND 16

Far from their impressive best, the Parramatta Eels have returned to the winners list with their 32-16 victory over the North Queensland Cowboys on the Gold Coast.

Things didn't start at all well for the Parramatta Eels as they lost the ball in the very first set but thankfully for the Eels the Cowboys failed to take advantage of the error. The errors continued to hurt Parramatta with a certain try to Dylan Brown ruled against the Eels after Waqa Blake's pass was correctly ruled for a forward pass.

It wasn't long though before the Eels were back in attack and they scored through Waqa Blake who was able to get to the try line to score. Clint Gutherson missed the conversion attempt.

The Eels started to find some momentum and poor defensive decisions by the Cowboys created space for the Eels and Will Penisini got over for his maiden NRL try.

Hitting back not long after, the Cowboys thought they had crossed for their first through Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow but despite it being awarded by referee Ashley Klein, the bunker stepped in as replays showed the Cowboys flyer had lost the ball in trying to get it to the ground. The Cowboys however were able to score through Heilum Luki a few minutes later after the Eels paid for their errors.

Yet again, the Cowboys defence was left in sorts as their defence was as effective as NSW's covid defence going every which way except getting the intended target which was Shaun Lane who strolled over untouched.

Neither side could get a flow on early in the second half and it took nearly 20 minutes for the Eels to score and again it was an untouched effort for Parramatta after Will Smith scored off the back of a Junior Paulo flick after an error from Daejarn Asi to create the space.

The Eels then began to grow momentum and again it was the space exploited on the outside of the Cowboys defence by Haze Dunster that saw the Eels turn on the brilliance and it was Clint Gutherson in the middle of the park who got to the infield kick first to score.

Momentum began to swing as the Cowboys were able to make plenty of metres through the middle of the park as the Eels tired and it was Laitia Moceidreke who scored on debut for the Cowboys off some class work by Jeremiah Nanai to flick the ball out to Asi who found the debutant to score.

The middle of the park became like a highway for the Cowboys as they continued to make plenty of metres and Jake Granville took advantage to close the gap to 12 when he was able to go through to score chasing down a kick.

Despite the Cowboys having the momentum through the middle of the park, the errors continued to hurt the North Queenslanders and the Eels took advantage after Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow dropped a Mitch Moses bomb and Dylan Brown was on the spot to clean up and score. Clint Gutherson's conversion sealed the 32-16 victory. **Josh Robertson**

PARRAMATTA EELS (32) Tries: Waqa Blake, Viliami Penisini, Clinton Gutherson, Shaun Lane, Will Smith, Dylan Brown; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (0/1), Clinton Gutherson (4/5)
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (16) Tries: Heilum Luki, Laitia Moceidreke, Jake Granville; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (2/3)
Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 3013; Halftime: Parramatta 14 North Qld 6; Referee: Ashley Klein

SYDNEY 40 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 22

The Dragons took the lead midway through the second half before the Roosters piled on 5 tries in 24 minutes to run away with a convincing 40-22 victory in Toowoomba.

The scoring opened in the 11th minute when Jared Waerea-Hargreaves took a hit up in the middle, offloaded to fellow prop Siosua Taukeiaho who then passed inside to James Tedesco at pace, who broke the line, drew Matt Dufty and then sent Egan Butcher away to score under the sticks. Taukeiaho converted. 3 minutes later Lachlan Lam made a break down the right wing and from the ensuing play, Tedesco at first receiver stepped back in field, beat a defender and then fired a brilliant long ball to Dale Copley who scored in the right corner. Taukeiaho failed to convert.

Six minutes before halftime, Tedesco close to the Dragons line, drifted left, holding up the ball before dishing it to Sitili Tupouniua who brushed off a retreating defender to score out wide. Tedesco's sideline conversion attempt was waved away. Right on halftime, Matt Dufty very nearly scores, but has the ball illegally stripped. Josh McGuire picked up the loose ball and planted it over the line to score near the posts. Zac Lomax converted and at halftime the Roosters 14 point lead had been reduced to just 8.

The Dragons dominated possession and field position immediately after the break and in the 48th minute, Mikaele Ravalawa made a break down the right touchline after getting a great ball from Lomax, running 80 metres to score in the corner. Lomax fails to convert from touch.

Just four minutes later, the Dragons scored again when Jack Bird defused a bomb in his own in-goal. He then raced up and took a quick tap from the 20 metre line, passed to Lomax who exploded through the few retreating defenders, then linked with Mathew Feagai who then just makes it to the tryline, despite Sam Walker's efforts, to score a great length of the field try. Lomax converted to give the Dragons a 16-14 lead. Then the Roosters came to play.

In the 56th minute, a Roosters short-side play saw Sam Walker at first receiver, fake a grubber before passing low to Daniel Tupou, who caught it as his feet, then dived and got the ball down to score an amazing try. Walker failed to convert from touch. Tupou scored again just five minutes later when he cleanly took a Drew Hutchison bomb before falling over the line for a try. Taukeiaho nailed the conversion from the left sideline. Another 4 minutes passed before the Roosters scored again, this time through Walker, who propped off his right, stepped into an immense gap and jogged through it to score under the sticks. Taukeiaho converted.

The Roosters points pile-on continued in the 71st minute when Hutchison threw a dummy, ran through the gap it created and managed to just get the ball down despite the best efforts of two Dragons defenders. Taukeiaho converted from in front. The Dragons clawed back some points in the 75th minute when Corey Norman made a half-break and then offloaded to Billy Burns who made a break, before linking with Jayden Sullivan who scored under the posts. Lomax converted.

With just seconds remaining, the Roosters shifted the ball left to Tedesco who got a good pass to Tupou who scored in the corner as the siren sounded. Walker's sideline conversion hit the post and was waved away. The win puts the Tricolours into fourth place while the Dragons are now only a mathematical chance to play finals footy despite spending more than half the season in the top eight. **Andrew Ferguson**

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (40) Tries: Egan Butcher, Dale Copley, Sitili Tupouniua, Daniel Tupou (3), Sam Walker, Drew Hutchison; **Conversions:** Siosua Taukeiaho (4/5), James Tedesco (0/1), Sam Walker (0/2)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (22) Tries: Josh McGuire, Mikaele Ravalawa, Mathew Feagai, Jayden Sullivan; **Conversions:** Zac Lomax (3/4)

Venue: Clive Berghofer Stadium; Crowd: 7822; Halftime: St Geo Illa 6 Sydney 14; Referee: Chris Sutton

BRISBANE 24 WARRIORS 22

Brisbane Broncos take the chocolates in a wild affair 24-22 which dents the New Zealand Warriors finals hopes on a bright Sunday afternoon at Suncorp Stadium.

Late season rugby league can deliver some weird encounters and this afternoon at Suncorp, we saw moments of magic, supreme skill and the rarely seen allergy to catching the football which saw the Brisbane Broncos edge out the Warriors and move into 14th spot.

Coming into the game, Warriors had everything to play for and started the opposite of that conceding the first two tries to a Broncos side playing for nothing else but pride at the end of the season. Warriors hit back just before the break through former Bulldog Marcelo Montoya to make it 12-4.

For the Broncos, it was like turning back the clock in the first half. Anthony Milford, recalled to the side due to Tyson Gamble's injury, produced a peach of a ball for Xavier Coates to stretch their advantage to 12-nil. Coates earlier spooked Reece Walsh and opened the scoring with a kind bounce.

Walsh had a mixed afternoon at the back for the Warriors. He created the space for the first try and was dangerous when he touched the ball but the youngster back at Suncorp, against his old side, had a terrible night from the kicking tee, kicking one goal from five.

Trailing at the break, Warriors needed a spark. It came from veteran Peta Hiku. The centre got the Warriors within four points when he pounced on his own kick on the right edge then produced an extravagant flick pass which put Dallin Watene-Zelezniak over to make it 18-18.

Brisbane might have lacked execution at some points in the game but created enough to take the points tonight. Once again, it came from Milford. His chip kick for Tesi Niu ended up with a room service bounce for Albert Kelly to wrestle back the lead. Milford is headed to the Rabbitohs in 2022 and showed his wares to get the Broncos home.

Milford put up the high kick which was batted back by Herbie Farnworth before the five-eighth backed up in support to make it 24-18. If this was his final game in the Broncos jumper he gave them one last moment of magic to enjoy.

New Zealand did get one final chance to take us into golden point extra time. Euan Aitken was the beneficiary of a generous bunker decision to award a late four-pointer. The centre turned backrower was judged to get to the ball first to make it 24-22. Walsh continued his woes from the tee and swung the conversion wide. **Lachy MacCorquodale**

BRISBANE BRONCOS (24) Tries: Xavier Coates (2), Albert Kelly, Anthony Milford; **Conversions:** Herbie Farnworth (4/4)

WARRIORS (22) Tries: Euan Aitken, Marcelo Montoya, Peta Hiku, Josh Curran, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak; **Conversions:** Reece Walsh (1/5)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 18252; Halftime: Brisbane 12 Warriors 4; Referee: Matt Cecchin

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 23

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	20 - 0 - 2	499	42
2. Penrith	19 - 0 - 3	342	40
3. South Sydney	18 - 0 - 4	276	38
4. Sydney	15 - 0 - 7	159	32
5. Manly	14 - 0 - 8	206	30
6. Parramatta	14 - 0 - 8	131	30
7. Newcastle	11 - 0 - 11	-131	24
8. Cronulla	9 - 0 - 13	-32	20
9. Gold Coast	9 - 0 - 13	-46	20
10. Canberra	9 - 0 - 13	-85	20
11. Warriors	8 - 0 - 14	-115	18
12. St Geo Illa	8 - 0 - 14	-126	18
13. Wests Tigers	8 - 0 - 14	-162	18
14. Brisbane	6 - 0 - 16	-254	14
15. North Qld	6 - 0 - 16	-272	14
16. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 20	-390	6

MATCH REVIEW

2 matches: Tevita Funa (Manly), Keaon Koloamatangi (Souths), Luke Thompson (Canterbury); 1 match: Corey Waddell (Canterbury, + \$1350), David Klemmer (Newcastle); \$1350: Briton Nikora (Cronulla), Joey Lussick (Parramatta); \$1150: Sam McIntyre (Gold Coast), Ash Taylor (Gold Coast), Anthony Milford (Brisbane)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Gold Coast v Melbourne
3 points - Cameron Munster
2 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen
1 points - Jayden Campbell

Manly v Canberra
3 points - Daly Cherry-Evans
2 points - Moses Suli
1 points - Josh Papali'i

Penrith v South Sydney
3 points - Nathan Cleary
2 points - Liam Martin
1 points - Latrell Mitchell

Wests Tigers v Cronulla
3 points - Luke Metcalf
2 points - Will Kennedy
1 points - Ronaldo Mulitalo

Canterbury v Newcastle
3 points - Jake Clifford
2 points - David Klemmer
1 points - Luke Thompson

Parramatta v North Queensland
3 points - Mitchell Moses
2 points - Clinton Gutherson
1 points - Mitchell Dunn

St George Illawarra v Sydney
3 points - James Tedesco
2 points - Jared Waerea-Hargreaves
1 points - Drew Hutchison

Brisbane v Warriors
3 points - Anthony Milford
2 points - Peta Hiku
1 points - Thomas Flegler

LEADERBOARD

32 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers 30, NSW 2), Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles 26, NSW 6)
28 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)
22 points - Will Kennedy (Sharks), James Tedesco (Roosters), Clinton Gutherson (Eels)
20 points - Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs 18, NSW 2)

ROUND 24 August 26 to 29

NEWCASTLE 15 GOLD COAST 14

Newcastle Knights confirmed their spot in the NRL finals after a tense 15-14 success against Gold Coast Titans tonight on the Sunshine Coast.

Mitchell Pearce slotted a late field goal to seal the Knights one-point success which makes it five straight wins for the Newcastle Knights as they head into back-to-back finals appearances with one round to spare.

It wasn't a fluid attacking game from the Knights but their superstar fullback stood up tonight. Kalyn Ponga scored the Knights first four-pointer to make it 6-6 before he laid on another in the second half to halfback Pearce to get them back in the contest.

Ponga showed that if the Knights are to go deep into September, they will need the Queenslander firing. He popped up mostly on the right where he partnered with Hymel Hunt and Kurt Mann several times while Bradman Best didn't have his best game with the ball.

Gold Coast Titans knew the scenario headed into tonight. They started the contest positively with the first try through Phillip Sami after the bust from energetic backrower Beau Fermor before Jamal Fogarty kicked them ahead to 6-nil from a penalty goal.

The Titans were composed with the football and completed a majority of their sets in the first half. They finished the half with a bang when star signing David Fifita crusaded down the edge and bustled through several Knights defenders to make it 12-6 at the break.

Knowing that a fifth success on the trot could confirm finals football, the Knights turned up the tempo in the second half. Mitch Pearce was assured with his kicking game, including kicking a 40/20, before he brought the Knights level off a sublime Ponga pass at 12-all.

Desperation stakes rose in the final 15 minutes. Both teams traded penalty goals to give us a 14-all scoreline headed into the final ten minutes. Titans only ended up with a single shot at field goal through the unlikely Patrick Herbert which spewed wide. It gave the Knights the field position for Pearce to calmly slot the one-pointer to make it 15-14 and head into the post-season.

Now the equation gets tricky for the Titans to make the top eight. They need the Sharks and Raiders to lose their games this weekend and Titans need to win their final round contest against the nomadic Warriors to justify their spending for 2021. Knights can relax and enjoy their final round game before finals football. **Justin Davies**

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (15) Tries: Kalyn Ponga, Mitchell Pearce; Field Goals: Jake Clifford (0/1), Mitchell Pearce (1/1); Conversions: Jake Clifford (2/2); Penalty Goals: Jake Clifford (1/1)
GOLD COAST TITANS (14) Tries: Phillip Sami, David Fifita; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (1/2); Penalty Goals: Jamal Fogarty (2/2)
Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 2107; Halftime: Newcastle 6 Gold Coast 12; Referee: Grant Atkins

CANBERRA 28 WARRIORS 16

Canberra Raiders produced a stunning second half comeback to end the New Zealand Warriors season in a 28-16 success tonight at Mackay.

In a stunning reverse from earlier this season, Canberra Raiders piled on 28 straight points to move into eighth spot and keep their season alive for another weekend led by their mercurial fullback turned winger Jordan Rapana.

Back in Round 3, New Zealand Warriors put together a superb 21-point comeback in the nation's capital. Plenty has changed since then but the Raiders gave the Warriors a small slice of payback in Mackay. Canberra scored 28 straight points to keep their season alive and subsequently end the Warriors chances.

A late four-pointer to utility Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad gave the Raiders a spark to make it 16-6 at the break. In the second half, the Raiders were transformed. The Green Machine churned through the metres early then Sebastian Kris got them back ignited the comeback when he scored in the 42nd minute to get them back within six.

Enter Jordan Rapana. He set up the equaliser when Jack Wightson's cut-out gave Rapana space down the left touchline before he tossed it inside to Kris to complete his brace for 16-all. Rapana stepped up late in the contest for a penalty goal which would steer the side home. He hooked the conversion wide but there was one more moment of magic to come from the veteran.

Into the final minute, fresh from Reece Walsh missing from mid range, Raiders looked set to position for a field goal themselves late in the count. On last, the ball was flung left, it went through the hands before who else, Jordan Rapana, sliced through to keep the Raiders season alive. The passion shown by coach Ricky Stuart on the sideline following that four-pointer showed they still believe.

Earlier, it seemed like it was time to illuminate the no's in the vacancy signs for the Raiders top eight hopes. Warriors scored within the first 60 seconds when hooker Wayne Egan pushed through some flimsy defense before setting up the returning Sean O'Sullivan close to the post.

It seemed like every half bounce was on the Warriors side in their chase for the top eight. A high kick was fumbled by Bailey Simonsson before Rocco Berry swept up the ball to make it 10-nil then it was rinse, repeat when Dallin Watene-Zelezniak was the spot for another Simonsson error and stretched the advantage out to 16 points in the first half hour of the contest.

Unfortunately, the Warriors, as has been the custom in 2021 faded away. Some crucial errors of both judgment and ball skill let them down in the second half where some sustained pressure might have seen the Raiders wilt. Warriors weren't helped with injuries to Chad Townsend which disrupted their halves. Lucky coach Nathan Brown has lost his hair, otherwise he would be pulling it out after that game.

It all comes down to next weekend for the Raiders. They sit in eighth position with their only challengers Cronulla left to play this weekend against the Broncos before they finish the season with a tough game against the Storm. Canberra finish off their campaign with another game against recent rivals, Sydney Roosters. **Justin Davies**

CANBERRA RAIDERS (28) Tries: Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Jordan Rapana, Sebastian Kris (2), Hudson Young; Conversions: Jordan Rapana (4/5); Penalty Goals: Jordan Rapana (0/1)
WARRIORS (16) Tries: Sean O'Sullivan, Rocco Berry, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak; Field Goals: Reece Walsh (0/1); Conversions: Reece Walsh (2/3)
Venue: BB Print Stadium Mackay; Crowd: 4079; Halftime: Warriors 16 Canberra 6; Referee: Ben Cummins

SOUTH SYDNEY 54 SYDNEY 12

South Sydney have flexed their premiership muscle, thrashing their bitter rivals the Roosters by 54-12 in a fiery encounter at Suncorp Stadium tonight.

The game hit a flashpoint in the 56th minute, when Souths fullback and former Rooster Latrell Mitchell came across in cover to tackle Roosters centre Joey Manu, when the tackle from Mitchell went horribly wrong with Mitchell's shoulder collecting Manu high. The tackle left his former teammate with a potential broken cheekbone and incensed with Mitchell's effort. The Roosters camp became even more incensed when Mitchell was not Sent Off for the tackle and was sent to the Sin Bin. Given Mitchell has a prior charge from earlier in the season, there is the real possibility that Mitchell could be suspended for the rest of the season for the ugly tackle.

South Sydney came into the game as red-hot favourites against their arch rivals and it took all but seven minutes for winger Alex Johnston to continue on his run as the NRL's leading tryscorer, as he got on the outside of Roosters winger Brad Abbey to score the first try of the night.

The Rabbitohs looked to extend their early lead, when prop Tevita Tatola dropped a golden chance following a terrific Cameron Murray offload close to the line. Fortunately for the Bunnies, the Roosters were penalised for a high shot from Sam Verrills as Murray went to pass. Reynolds took the two points on offer and it was 8-0.

The Tricolours then got on the scoreboard when five-eighth Drew Hutchison delivered a pinpoint kick across field on the last, which saw Joey Manu collect the ball with one hand to score a clever try for the Roosters.

Souths bookend, Mark Nicholls then crashed over following a neat ball at the line by Cameron Murray and this was followed by a stunning double for the journeyman front rower, when Damien Cook threw a terrific pass across the defensive line from dummy half to extend the lead to 18-6.

Just before the break, Latrell Mitchell and Jaxson Paulo combined down the right edge and Paulo delivered the ball back to Mitchell to score and extend the lead to 24-6 at halftime.

The Roosters have had a huge injury list in 2021, and things got worse when prop Siosua Taukeiaho was caught in an awkward tackle and left the field with a knee injury. In the following set, the Roosters caught the Bunnies marker defence asleep on the job, when hooker Sam Verrills ducked out of dummy half and showed great persistence to plant the ball down on the line to narrow the lead to 24-12.

Souths fullback Latrell Mitchell was then sent to the Sin Bin for a high shot on Joey Manu which ultimately left the Roosters vulnerable and despite the Sin Bin to Mitchell, Jaydn Su'a delivered a deft offload at the line to Campbell Graham who put Jaxson Paulo over in the corner.

Johnston then touched down for his second try following a familiar cut out ball close to the line by Cody Walker and when he returned to the field, Latrell Mitchell crashed over for an easy try which sparked another melee.

Souths finished with a flurry with both wingers in Johnson and Paulo scoring before fulltime to give the Bunnies a huge win against their bitter rivals. **Sam Bourke**

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (54) Tries: Alex Johnston (3), Mark Nicholls (2), Latrell Mitchell (2), Jaxson Paulo (2); Conversions: Adam Reynolds (6/6), Latrell Mitchell (2/3); Penalty Goals: Adam Reynolds (1/1)
SYDNEY ROOSTERS (12) Tries: Joseph Manu, Sam Verrills; Conversions: Siosua Taukeiaho (1/1), Sam Walker (1/1)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 5136; Halftime: Sydney 6 South Sydney 24; Referee: Ashley Klein

NORTH QUEENSLAND 38 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 26

The Cowboys have come back from a 10-point half-time deficit to defeat the St George Illawarra Dragons 38 points to 26, a result which means the Saints are no longer a mathematical chance of featuring in this year's finals series.

North Queensland got off to a hot start, with former Dragon Reece Robson torching his old side out of dummy half to get the scoring underway in the 8th minute. The Dragons hit back relatively quickly however, and it was a very easy try to watch. Talatau Amone got the ball inside to Tyrell Sloan, who was in space and passed to Jayden Sullivan who was in support, but didn't have enough toe to get to the line. He did however get a kick in for Zac Lomax, who did extraordinarily well to win the race to the ball and score.

Both sides traded blows for the next 10 minutes or so until the Dragons were given a perfect opportunity courtesy of a Murray Taulagi dropped high ball. They took full advantage, with Jack Bird's offload being tapped on by Lomax to Ravalawa, who burrowed his way over to make it an 8 point deficit. A Kyle Feldt try shortly after made the score 14-10 with about 7 minutes left in the half.

Right before the break it seemed as if the Cowboys would be going in with momentum, with Dearden breaking the line and offloading to Neame, who threw a miracle pass to Reece Robson. He was stopped short of the line due to a huge hit from Ravalawa which jolted the ball free. In the remaining minute, the Dragons marched the length of the field and were able to capitalise after Talatau Amone put in a deft kick for Tyrell Sloan, who gathered it in and scored the try, making it a 10 point lead for the Dragons at the half.

On the other side of the break, the Cowboys played basically the perfect 10 minutes of Rugby League. First up in the 46th minute, Ben Hampton got things going with a length of the field intercept try. Off the very next set, the Cowboys went the length again. Tom Dearden put Jeremiah Nanai through a huge hole and was there in support to finish off the try and just like that, the Cowboys had the lead. They weren't finished there though, they did the exact same thing off the very next set. This time Heilum Luki was the rookie backrower breaking the line and Jake Granville was the one in support. He opted to go himself and was pulled up just short, but it didn't matter as they had the Dragons shot for numbers, with Luki diving over for an easy try on the next play.

That made it 3 consecutive sets the Cowboys had scored in, and just as it looked as if the Dragons would break the streak, Freddy Lussick gave away a penalty by going high. The Cowboys, needless to say, scored a try off the ensuing set, with Tom Dearden putting in a pinpoint kick that was caught by Kyle Feldt, who reached out and planted the ball on the line. From there, the Dragons looked pretty much dead in the water, but they were able to score a try from nothing in the 68th minute through Mikaele Ravalawa. That made the score 32-26 in favour of North Queensland.

It remained that way until the final minute, when the Dragons spread in frantically to the right in desperation to level the scores on the final play. A try was scored, but it was for the Cowboys. Murray Taulagi scooped up a loose ball and linked up with Tabuai-Fidow, who left the Dragons in his dust. The result means the Cowboys snap a 10 game losing streak, while the Dragons worsen to 7 defeats in a row. **Adam Huxtable**

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (38) Tries: Reece Robson, Kyle Feldt (2), Ben Hampton, Tom Dearden, Heilum Luki, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (5/7)

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (26) Tries: Zac Lomax, Mikaele Ravalawa (2), Jayden Sullivan, Tyrell Sloan; Conversions: Zac Lomax (3/5)

Venue: Browne Park; Crowd: 4487; Halftime: St Geo Illa 20 North Qld 10; Referee: Peter Gough

CRONULLA 24 BRISBANE 16

The Cronulla Sharks strengthened their 2021 finals credentials by securing a hard fought 24-16 victory over a much improved Broncos side that finished fast on Saturday night.

The Sharks had all the ball in the opening 6 minutes, which helped them secure the first points of the game in the 4th minute, when the ball was sent to Will Kennedy on the right, who held up a cut-out pass to Sione Katoa, who dived for the corner and scores within half a hairs width of the sideline. Braydon Trindall failed to convert from touch.

Then it was the Broncos turn to get a full 6 minutes of possession and they too scored. Jake Turpin exploded out of dummy half through some lazy marker defence, before passing to Tesi Niu who very nearly scored, but was brought down a metre short of the line by Luke Metcalf. On the next play, Albert Kelly on the right kicked to Xavier Coates who competed with Mawene Hiroti for the ball. Hiroti tried to bat it dead, but failed and Coates scored in the right corner. Herbie Farnworth failed to convert from out wide.

The Broncos took the lead in the 19th minute when Anthony Milford held up a pass to Niu, who dummied then slipped between the Sharks sliding defence, running in and around to score near the posts. Farnworth converted.

Thomas Flegler was put on report and sent to the sin bin for ten minutes shortly after, for a high tackle on Jack Williams. The Sharks immediately punished the 12-man Broncos by scoring a try in the 24th minute, when Jesse Ramien dummied to his right winger, before stepping infield and barging over to score a strong try. Trindall converted from out wide to level the scores.

In the 33rd minute, Sione Katoa made a break down the right wing, then came back into the middle looking for support, where he eventually sends a low ball to Connor Tracey who catches it skillfully, falls forward and slides over the line as he's being tackled, to score a good try. Trindall converted. Just as the halftime siren was about to sound, Flegler was penalised for an illegal strip and Trindall kicked a penalty goal, giving the Sharks an 18-10 lead at the break.

Four minutes into the second half, Trindall received the ball on the last, 10 metres from the Broncos line, and dished a crash ball to Briton Nikora who got a good offload away back inside to Trindall who broke a tackle then spun out of the cover tackle from Niu to score near the posts. Trindall converted his own try.

The Broncos though hit back in the 50th minute after Payne Hass made a barnstorming run. From the next play, Milford broke through the line and turned the ball inside nicely to Niu who raced away to score to the left of the sticks. Farnworth converted to reduce the margin back to 8 points. Brendan Piakura made his way onto the field for his debut, but shortly after was sent to the sin bin for a late hit on Trindall.

Both sides produced try scoring opportunities but failed to convert them into points. Matt Moylan's defence in the back end of the game helped deny the Broncos 2 tries, while the Broncos seemed to be playing with more and more confidence and speed. The Broncos though could not bridge the gap. Trindall attempted to kick a field goal right on fulltime but it was waved away. **Andrew Ferguson**

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (24) Tries: Sione Katoa, Braydon Trindall, Jesse Ramien, Connor Tracey; Field Goals: Braydon Trindall (0/1); Conversions: Braydon Trindall (3/4); Penalty Goals: Braydon Trindall (1/1)

BRISBANE BRONCOS (16) Tries: Xavier Coates, Tesi Niu (2); Conversions: Herbie Farnworth (2/3)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 8618; Halftime: Cronulla 18 Brisbane 10; Referee: Adam Gee

PARRAMATTA 22 MELBOURNE 10

There's always someone that spoils the party and for the Melbourne Storm it was the Parramatta Eels - who ended their 19-match win-streak with an impressive 22-10 victory at Suncorp Stadium.

Parramatta had looked out of sorts in recent months but everything looked as if it had clicked for them this week as their attack and defence looked absolutely on song. It was the return of Blake Ferguson that started the roll for the Eels when Mitch Moses who also looked on-song again threw a magnificent cut-out pass to find Fergo to score.

Things weren't fully the White & Gold's way as they were tonight, Melbourne were having fun down their right as they were able to get on the outside of Parramatta repeatedly and Isaac Lumelume got on the outside of Haze Dunster twice only to have one effort denied by the bunker for going into touch. The first effort though was green lights for the Storm as Lumelume got around Dunster and threw the ball back infield with Reimis Smith on the spot to clean it up and score.

Although Parramatta had the field position and looked more dominant, the Storm continued to pile the pressure down the right and again Isaac Lumelume was able to get over this time and Melbourne were able to take the lead.

The Eels were able to level things up on the stroke of half time when the it was Parramatta who took advantage of the space on the outside and Haze Dunster scored for the Eels. Mitch Moses kick was waved away and scores were level at 10-10 at the break.

If there was an awarded for beating a team at their game, Parramatta would win it for the decade as they would essentially out-Melbourne the Storm. The second half was all about suffocating the Storm and despite the Men in Purple having chance after chance, the Eels were able to see them off.

The Eels took an early second half lead after Mitch Moses slotted a penalty goal from close range after the Storm were called offside by referee Gerard Sutton. The Eels then took advantage of the fragility on the left side of the Melbourne defence as quick hands set up Blake Ferguson for his second.

Melbourne were denied a try by the bunker after Justin Olam's efforts were knocked back by initially the live decision and then bunker confirming an obstruction from Kenny Bromwich on Mitch Moses. The Eels took advantage when they went left and got on the outside of the defence and the ball came back into the middle to Joey Lussick for his first try in 4 years.

The victory reignites the hopes for the Eels this season and helps their Western Sydney neighbours the Panthers in their minor premiership hopes, who are the Eels opponent's next weekend on Friday night. Meanwhile, the Storm who need a win to ensure their minor premiership win take on the Sharks in the 6pm game. **Josh Robertson**

PARRAMATTA EELS (22) Tries: Blake Ferguson (2), Haze Dunster, Joey Lussick; Field Goals: Mitchell Moses (0/1); Conversions: Mitchell Moses (2/4); Penalty Goals: Mitchell Moses (1/1)

MELBOURNE STORM (10) Tries: Reimis Smith, Isaac Lumelume; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (1/1), Ryan Papenhuyzen (0/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 10246; Halftime: Melbourne 10 Parramatta 10; Referee: Gerard Sutton

MANLY 36 CANTERBURY 18

Manly came into this match expecting to repeat their 66-0 hiding of the Bulldogs earlier in the season, but the Bulldogs defence had other plans, holding Manly to a 36-18 result that could've gone either way for much of the afternoon.

Manly scored in the 8th minute when Jason Saab strolled in to score in the left corner after Manly created an overlap with some good passing at the line. Reuben Garrick failed to convert from the sideline. In the 14th minute Haumole Olakau'atu went close to extending Manly's lead, but he dropped the ball at the line. Ten minutes later and it looked like Saab had crossed for his second but the Bunker found that he dropped the ball just as he was about to ground it for a try.

In the 27th minute the Bulldogs produced a brilliant scrum play where Sione Katoa ran left with the ball off the back of the scrum before passing back into Matt Doorey, who ran through the dispersing crowd breaking away from the scrum, to score a runaway try. Kyle Flanagan converted. From the restart the Bulldogs got a set restart and then Ofahiki Ogden got a great offload away to Brandon Wakeham, who made a break. From the next play, the Bulldogs shifted the ball fast to the right onto Jayden Okunbor, who stepped inside the cover defender and crashed over to score in the right corner. Flanagan converted to give the Bulldogs an 8 point lead.

With 5 minutes to go before the break, Daly Cherry-Evans straightened his run, headed back infield and then linked with Haumole Olakau'atu who strolled over to score under the posts. Garrick converted from in front. Right on halftime, Dylan Walker sent an awkward ball over the top to Saab, with an open tryline just 7 metres in front of him, but the pass was ruled forward. At halftime, the Bulldogs held a 12-10 lead.

Manly scored a contentious try just 3 minutes after halftime. Keiran Foran on the left side drifted left and then dumped the ball inside to a hard running Tom Trbojevic, who ran back in towards the posts where Hetherington collared him then rolled him over and very nearly denied him a try. It looked for all money like Tom dropped the ball, however the Bunker awarded the try. Garrick converted. Manly's run of disallowed tries continued in the 52nd minute when Saab was taken into touch 10 metres short of the line. Five minutes later and Tom Trbojevic tried to barge over for a try, but grounded it short and then knocked it on. In the 62nd minute Reuben Garrick kicked a penalty goal after Joe Stimson was penalised for accidentally grabbing the hair of Martin Taupau.

Manly extended their lead just 5 minutes later when Josh Schuster received the ball on the left side with nothing on. He ran back infield towards the posts, bumped out of a tackle and then hit a straight running Tom Trbojevic with a nice pass and he scored under the posts. Garrick converted. Dylan Walker was denied a try in the 70th minute when he was held up over the line by Josh Jackson. In the 73rd minute Keiran Foran on the left, turned the ball inside to Tom Trbojevic who ran a strong hard line towards the posts and he scored a solid try. Garrick added the extras to give Manly a 30-12 lead.

From the kick-off, Manly let the ball bounce and Jackson Topine who was flying downfield got a lovely bounce and without breaking his stride, took it cleanly and ran in for a spectacular try. Flanagan converted. The Bulldogs had the ball inside Manly's 10 metres area as fulltime was about to sound, when Cherry-Evans made an intercept and promptly passed to speedster Saab who raced 85 metres to score. Garrick converted and Manly won 36-18. **Andrew Ferguson**

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (36) Tries: Jason Saab (2), Haumole Olakau'atu, Tom Trbojevic (3); Conversions: Reuben Garrick (5/6); Penalty Goals: Reuben Garrick (1/1)
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (18) Tries: Matt Doorey, Jayden Okunbor, Jackson Topine; Conversions: Kyle Flanagan (3/3)
Venue: Moreton Daily Stadium; Crowd: 4910; Halftime: Manly 10 Canterbury 12; Referee: Chris Sutton

PENRITH 30 WESTS TIGERS 16

Penrith Panthers secured their 20th win of the NRL regular season after a rough and tumble 30-16 success against Wests Tigers this afternoon at Moreton Daily Stadium.

It was the tune-up the Panthers needed headed in the finals headed by the twin threat of Villiame Kikau and Tevita Pangai-Junior in the forwards alongside the guile of Jarome Luai in the halves helped them score six tries to the Tigers three tonight.

These two played out a fierce and fiery contest during the Origin period where the Tigers prevailed 26-6. Today both sides were strong as possible and the Panthers had the greater edge in their attack with the potent left side scoring three tries - led by a bullocking runs from Kikau.

Adding some more punch to the Panthers forwards, Pangai Junior has settled in well and has created a wonderful partnership with Panthers other destructive backrower Villiame Kikau which might lead to them being labelled the Bash Brothers akin to the Mighty Ducks movie of the 90s.

The game started off with a rare feat with prop forwards from both sides getting the first tries. Moses Leota pounced on a well directed Nathan Cleary kick to get the Panthers on the board before Tigers forward Stefano Utoikamanu trailed hooker Jacob Liddle on a break down the middle to make it 6-6.

Panthers took control of the contest before the break with Pangai Junior steamed onto a short ball to give them a 12-6 lead at the break. It wasn't the usual well oiled machine for the Panthers with a couple of attacking raids going wrong which kept the game close.

After half-time Panthers broke the game open with three tries in quick succession. Luai who played a starring role tonight sliced through first then Kikau pushed past some flimsy Tigers defense to further extend the lead. Brian To'o scored on his return to the side from a well worked scrum play which had the Panthers comfortable 30-6.

Tigers showed some late fight to reduce the margin to 14. Interchange hooker Jake Simpkins found the smallest opening close to the line with 10 minutes go then mid-season signing Ken Maumalo continued his try-scoring form with a magnificent wingers finish to make it 30-16.

The Panthers have a mathematical chance to still capture the Minor Premiership if Storm lose to the Sharks while they entertain Western Sydney neighbours Parramatta Eels. For the Tigers they have one final appointment before they can put a disappointing 2021 season to bed. That is the Canterbury Bulldogs, next Sunday. **Justin Davies**

PENRITH PANTHERS (30) Tries: Moses Leota, Tevita Pangai Junior, Jarome Luai, Villiame Kikau, Brian To'o; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (5/5)

WESTS TIGERS (16) Tries: Stefano Utoikamanu, Jake Simpkin, Ken Maumalo; Conversions: Luke Brooks (2/3)

Venue: Moreton Daily Stadium; Crowd: 5351; Halftime: Penrith 12 Wests Tigers 6; Referee: Matt Cecchin

2021 NRL LADDER AFTER ROUND 24

Team	W - D - L	+/-	Pts
1. Melbourne	20 - 0 - 3	487	42
2. Penrith	20 - 0 - 3	356	42
3. South Sydney	19 - 0 - 4	318	40
4. Manly	15 - 0 - 8	224	32
5. Parramatta	15 - 0 - 8	143	32
6. Sydney	15 - 0 - 8	117	32
7. Newcastle	12 - 0 - 11	-130	26
8. Cronulla	10 - 0 - 13	-24	22
9. Canberra	10 - 0 - 13	-73	22
10. Gold Coast	9 - 0 - 14	-47	20
11. Warriors	8 - 0 - 15	-127	18
12. St Geo Illa	8 - 0 - 15	-138	18
13. Wests Tigers	8 - 0 - 15	-176	18
14. North Qld	7 - 0 - 16	-260	16
15. Brisbane	6 - 0 - 17	-262	14
16. Canterbury	2 - 0 - 21	-408	6

MATCH REVIEW

6 matches: Latrell Mitchell (Souths); 4 matches: Thomas Flegler (Brisbane); 2 matches: Liam Knight (Souths), Brendan Piakura (Brisbane); 1 match: Fletcher Baker (Sydney), Jesse Bromwich (Melbourne), Junior Paulo (Parramatta); \$2500: Nathan Brown (Parramatta); \$1600: Dane Gagai (Souths); \$1350: Egan Butcher (Sydney), Jesse Ramien (Cronulla), Brandon Smith (Melbourne), Josh Aloiai (Manly); \$1150: Isaac Liu (Sydney), Harry Grant (Melbourne), Luciano Leilua (Wests Tigers); Not guilty: Matt Lodge (Warriors)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Newcastle v Gold Coast
3 points - Kalyn Ponga
2 points - Mitchell Pearce
1 points - Jamal Fogarty

Warriors v Canberra
3 points - Jordan Rapana
2 points - Wayde Egan
1 points - Matt Frawley

Sydney v South Sydney
3 points - Mark Nicholls
2 points - Latrell Mitchell
1 points - Cameron Murray

St George Illawarra v North Queensland
3 points - Tom Dearden
2 points - Jeremiah Nanai
1 points - Mikaele Ravalawa

Cronulla v Brisbane
3 points - Braydon Trindall
2 points - Payne Haas
1 points - Sione Katoa

Melbourne v Parramatta
3 points - Mitchell Moses
2 points - Isaiah Papali'i
1 points - Blake Ferguson

Manly v Canterbury
3 points - Tom Trbojevic
2 points - Haumole Olakau'atu
1 points - Kieran Foran

Penrith v Wests Tigers
3 points - Jarome Luai
2 points - Villiame Kikau
1 points - Moses Leota

LEADERBOARD

35 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles/NSW)
32 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers/NSW)
28 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)
22 points - James Tedesco (Roosters), Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Will Kennedy (Sharks), Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs/NSW)

ROUND 25 September 2 to 5

SYDNEY 40 CANBERRA 16

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

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

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

The Raiders started full of enthusiasm and opened the scoring through captain Elliott Whitehead (5th minute) after Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad offloaded to send the English second-rower over with a determined run.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (40) Tries: Adam Keighran (3), Matt Ikuvalu, Angus Crichton, Ben Marschke, Lachlan Lam; Conversions: Adam Keighran (2/5), Siosia Taukeiaho (2/2); Penalty Goals: Adam Keighran (2/2)

CANBERRA RAIDERS (16) Tries: Elliott Whitehead, Josh Papali, Harley Smith-Shields; Conversions: Jordan Rapana (2/3)
Venue: BB Print Stadium Mackay; Crowd: 3473; Halftime: Canberra 12 Sydney 20; Referee: Gerard Sutton

MELBOURNE 28 CRONULLA 16

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

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

The equation was simple for both sides tonight, victory ensured they reached their goal for the season. Sharks needed to win to confirm a top eight spot while the Storm success meant another trophy added to their burgeoning cabinet. A slip up by either allowed Warriors or Panthers to sneak up on them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MELBOURNE STORM (28) Tries: Brandon Smith, Ryan Papenhuyzen (3), Marion Seve; Conversions: Nicholas Hynes (3/5); Penalty Goals: Nicholas Hynes (1/1)

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS (16) Tries: Sione Katoa (2), Connor Tracey; Conversions: Braydon Trindall (1/3); Penalty Goals: Braydon Trindall (1/1)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 8580; Halftime: Cronulla 12 Melbourne 12; Referee: Grant Atkins

PENRITH 40 PARRAMATTA 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PENRITH PANTHERS (40) Tries: Brian To'o (3), Nathan Cleary, Tevita Pangai Junior, Matt Burton, Apisai Koroisau; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (6/7)

PARRAMATTA EELS (6) Tries: Tom Opacic; Conversions: Blake Ferguson (1/1)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 8580; Halftime: Parramatta 6 Penrith 12; Referee: Adam Gee

BRISBANE 35 NEWCASTLE 22

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

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

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

The game became more of an arm wrestle over the next 15 minutes, with the Broncos turning the Knights away multiple times. Finally, they were able to crack them, with Kalya Ponga throwing a brilliant cut-out pass to put Enari Tuala over. Clifford's kick was waved away and the score remained 12-4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRISBANE BRONCOS (35) Tries: Kobe Hetherington, Herbie Farnworth, Corey Oates, Anthony Milford, Selwyn Cobbo, Tesi Niu; Field Goals: Anthony Milford (1/1); Conversions: Herbie Farnworth (5/6)
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (22) Tries: Enari Tuala, Starford To'a, Jack Johns, Chris Randall; Conversions: Jake Clifford (3/4)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 20747; Halftime: Brisbane 18 Newcastle 4; Referee: Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski

MANLY 46 NORTH QUEENSLAND 18

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

The game got off to a flying start when two speedsters had a footrace in just the 3rd minute after Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow cleaned up a botched Manly play-the-ball and then raced 85 metres to score in the corner, brushing off the flying Jason Saab in the process. Valentine Holmes converted the try. Manly responded ten minutes later after Daly Cherry-Evans kicked to the right corner where Saab jumped above everyone and took the ball cleanly to score a good try. Reuben Garrick converted to level the scores. A 90 second period before halftime proved to be the telling period of the game, as Manly scored back-to-back tries. In the 38th minute Cherry-Evans sent a nice ball to Tom Trbojevic who broke the line, drew the fullback and then sent a good ball to his brother Jake who scored under the posts. Garrick converted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (46) Tries: Jason Saab, Reuben Garrick, Jake Trbojevic (2), Tom Trbojevic (3), Daly Cherry-Evans; Conversions: Reuben Garrick (7/8)
NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS (18) Tries: Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Jordan McLean, Ben Condon; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (3/3)
Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 14336; Halftime: North Qld 6 Manly 18; Referee: Ben Cummins

SOUTH SYDNEY 20 ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA 16

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

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

A penalty goal for Blake Taaffe extended the Bunnies lead before Campbell Graham launched onto an error from Gerard Beale and raced away to score the Rabbitohs second of the night.

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

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

A blown opportunity for Jaxson Paulo could've extend the Souths lead but it meant that there was still an outside chance for the Dragons to come back. The Dragons took until the last 10 minutes to fire into gear when Tyrell Sloan got over after an error from Taane Milne.

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

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

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

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (20) Tries: Lachlan Ilias, Campbell Graham (2), Taane Milne; Conversions: Blake Taaffe (1/4); Penalty Goals: Blake Taaffe (1/1)
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS (16) Tries: Tyrell Sloan (2), Mikaele Ravalawa; Conversions: Corey Norman (2/3)
Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 3295; Halftime: South Sydney 14 St Geo Illa 0; Referee: Matt Cecchin

GOLD COAST 44 WARRIORS 0

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

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

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

Reece Walsh with a good tackle denied Tyron Peachey a try in the 9th minute. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui dropped the ball just short of the tryline 6 minutes later.

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

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

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

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

In the 52nd minute the Titans shifted left to Peachey who ran to the line before linking with Campbell, whose catch and pass to Kelly put him into space and he dived over to score in the corner. Fogarty converted from touch.

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

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

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

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

GOLD COAST TITANS (44) Tries: Jayden Campbell (2), Mitch Rein, David Fifita (2), Brian Kelly, Patrick Herbert, Moeaki Fotuauka; Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (6/8)

WARRIORS (0)

Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 12532; Halftime: Gold Coast 16 Warriors 0; Referee: Ashley Klein

CANTERBURY 38 WESTS TIGERS 0

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

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

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

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

While the pair alone were not solely to blame for Sunday's defeat, the two have already been heavily scrutinised and will only further come under the blowtorch.

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

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

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

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

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

The Bulldogs quickly extended the lead as David Nofaluma and Cini clashed at the back, ending with Jack Hetherington racing away under the posts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS (38) Tries: Nick Meaney (2), Jake Averillo (2), Jack Hetherington, Jayden Okunbor, Corey Allan; Conversions: Nick Meaney (3/6), Will Hopoate (1/1); Penalty Goals: Nick Meaney (1/1)

WESTS TIGERS (0)

Venue: Moreton Daily Stadium; Crowd: 3104; Halftime: Wests Tigers 0 Canterbury 16; Referee: Chris Sutton

MATCH REVIEW

Josh McGuire	St Geo Illa	5 matches
Kane Evans	Warriors	5 matches
Keegan Hipgrave	Parramatta	1 match
Reece Walsh	Warriors	1 match
Matt Lodge	Warriors	1 match
Jazz Tevaga	Warriors	\$1900
Mitch Rein	Gold Coast	\$1600
Jamal Fogarty	Gold Coast	\$1350
Jeremiah Nanai	North Qld	\$1150
Jarrod Wallace	Gold Coast	\$1150
Shawn Blore	Wests Tigers	\$1150
Charnze Nicol-Klokstad	Canberra	\$750

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR POINTS



Canberra v Sydney
3 points - Drew Hutchison
2 points - Siosuia Taukeiaho
1 points - Tukupa Hau Tapuha

Cronulla v Melbourne
3 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen
2 points - Jahrome Hughes
1 points - Harry Grant

Parramatta v Penrith
3 points - Nathan Cleary
2 points - Brian To'o
1 points - Matt Burton

Brisbane v Newcastle
3 points - Anthony Milford
2 points - Tesi Niu
1 points - Herbie Farnworth

North Queensland v Manly
3 points - Tom Trbojevic
2 points - Haumole Olakau'atu
1 points - Daly Cherry-Evans

South Sydney v St George Illawarra
3 points - Benji Marshall
2 points - Lachlan Ilias
1 points - Mark Nicholls

Gold Coast v Warriors
3 points - Tyrone Peachey
2 points - Jayden Campbell
1 points - David Fifita

Wests Tigers v Canterbury
3 points - Josh Jackson
2 points - Nick Meaney
1 points - Jack Hetherington

LEADERBOARD

38 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles/NSW)
35 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers/NSW)
28 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)
22 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Will Kennedy (Sharks), James Tedesco (Roosters), Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs)
20 points - Mitchell Moses (Eels)
19 points - Adam Doueihi (Wests Tigers), Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles), Ben Hunt (Dragons/QLD)
18 points - Jahrome Hughes (Storm)
17 points - Nicholas Hynes (Storm), David Fifita (Titans), Payne Haas (Broncos/NSW)
16 points - Cameron Munster (Storm)
15 points - Kalyon Ponga (Knights), Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Warriors), Jake Clifford (Cowboys), Daine Laurie (Wests Tigers)

2021 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP LADDER

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

2021 NRL STATS LEADERS - POINTS, TRIES, GOALS

TOP POINTSCORERS

Rank	Player	Team	P	T	G	FG	Pts	Rank	Player	Team	P	T	G	FG	Pts
1	Reuben GARRICK	Manly	24	21	110	-	304	11	Alex JOHNSTON	South Sydney	19	27	-	-	108
2	Adam REYNOLDS	South Sydney	22	5	112	2	248	12	Tom TRBOJEVIC	Manly	15	25	-	-	100
3	Nathan CLEARY	Penrith	16	10	85	2	213	13	Kodi NIKORIMA	Warriors	21	4	42	-	100
4	Adam DOUEIHI	Wests Tigers	20	9	69	-	174	14	Josh ADDO-CARR	Melbourne	21	23	1	-	94
5	Jamal FOGARTY	Gold Coast	20	4	66	-	148	15	Jason SAAB	Manly	24	23	-	-	92
6	Nicholas HYNES	Melbourne	22	7	58	-	144	16	Clinton GUTHERSON	Parramatta	23	13	18	-	88
7	Mitchell MOSES	Parramatta	20	2	61	2	132	17	Braydon TRINDALL	Cronulla	18	4	36	-	88
8	Ryan PAPENHUYZEN	Melbourne	13	11	41	1	127	18	Zac LOMAX	St Geo Illa	12	4	35	-	86
9	Valentine HOLMES	North Qld	20	4	54	2	126	19	Jake AVERILLO	Canterbury	21	7	27	-	82
10	Jamayne ISAAKO	Brisbane	18	6	50	-	124	20	Sam WALKER	Sydney	19	8	23	2	80

TOP TRYSCORERS

Rank	Player	Team	P	T
1	Alex JOHNSTON	South Sydney	19	27
2	Tom TRBOJEVIC	Manly	15	25
3	Josh ADDO-CARR	Melbourne	21	23
	Jason SAAB	Manly	24	23
5	Reuben GARRICK	Manly	24	21
6	David FIFITA	Gold Coast	21	17
	Maika SIVO	Parramatta	21	17
8	Matt BURTON	Penrith	22	16
9	Ken MAUMALO	Wests Tigers, Warriors	21	15

TOP GOALKICKERS

Rank	Player	Team	P	G	Att	%
1	Adam REYNOLDS	South Sydney	22	112	140	80%
2	Reuben GARRICK	Manly	24	110	136	81%
3	Nathan CLEARY	Penrith	16	85	100	85%
4	Adam DOUEIHI	Wests Tigers	20	69	87	79%
5	Jamal FOGARTY	Gold Coast	20	66	85	78%
6	Mitchell MOSES	Parramatta	20	61	82	74%
7	Nicholas HYNES	Melbourne	22	58	77	75%
8	Valentine HOLMES	North Qld	20	54	73	74%
9	Jamayne ISAAKO	Brisbane	18	50	63	79%

FINALS WEEK 1

September 10 to 12

ELIMINATION FINAL 1 (5TH V 8TH) SYDNEY 25 GOLD COAST 24

Gold Coast very nearly produced a remarkable win with a last gasp play, but a stray pass denied them a remarkable victory, with the Roosters 25-24 victors in Townsville.

The Titans trailed 18-6 early in the second half, but levelled scores with ten minutes remaining in the match. Sam Walker kicked the match winning field goal with 3 minutes remaining, but the Titans very nearly snared a try on the siren. The Roosters got the upper hand first when Tyrone Peachey was given ten minutes in the sin bin for tackling Victor Radley from behind in a try scoring situation. Adam Keighran kicked the penalty goal. 2 minutes later, Josh Morris was penalised for an escort and Jamal Fogarty landed a penalty goal to level the scores.

In the 23rd minute the Roosters, on the back of a penalty, sent the ball right to James Tedesco, who held the ball up, drawing the defender in and then passing to Morris who sent it quickly along to Matt Ikuvalu, who dived over in the corner to score a try. Keighran failed to convert from out wide. In the 31st minute the Roosters scored again off the back of a penalty. This time, Radley stepped off his left at the line, broke through and then got a one handed offload away to James Tedesco who scored under the posts. Keighran converted from in front. Just seconds before the halftime siren sounded, Tyrone Peachey on the left put in a deft yet wobbly grubber, which evaded Ikuvalu and was dived on by Beau Fermor who scored. Jamal Fogarty failed to convert from touch and at halftime, the Roosters led 12-6.

The Roosters capitalised on a dropped ball by Tino Fa'asuamaleaui in the opening set of the second half. Daniel Tupou scored a good try courtesy of a brilliant tap on by Tedesco, which was converted by Keighran. Big Tino made up for his error just a few minutes later when he regathered a loose ball after a Fogarty kick was knocked back by Patrick Herbert, before diving over under the posts to score. Fogarty added the extras.

The Roosters had a try disallowed due to obstruction in the 51st minute and just 3 minutes later, the Titans made them pay when Brian Kelly barged through some half-hearted defence to race away and score under the posts. Fogarty converted to level the scores at 18 all. In the 60th minute Tedesco was held in a tackle, managed to offload to Ikuvalu who quickly fired a no-look ball to Morris outside him, who stepped inside the cover defence to score a great try. Keighran added the extras from out wide.

ELIMINATION FINAL 2 (6TH V 7TH) PARRAMATTA 28 NEWCASTLE 20

The Parramatta Eels have booked themselves a spot in Week Two of the NRL Finals after scoring an entertaining and dramatic 28-20 victory over the Newcastle Knights in Rockhampton.

Things started awfully for the Eels as the very first kick-off of the game from Clint Gutherson went out on the full. The ensuing set saw the Knights take advantage of the field position when the Eels defence was caught napping on the outside and Henri Tuala took advantage for the first of his hattrick.

The momentum continued to swap either way and the Eels were next to take advantage, as they elected to go wide and on the left there was ample space for Waqa Blake to stroll through. An easy conversion for Mitch Moses pushed the Eels out to a 6-4 lead.

Both sides had players go on report in the space of four minutes with Sauaso Sue put on report for a Leg Twist whilst Marata Niukore was put on report for Parramatta after being penalised for a late hit on Connor Watson. The Knights took advantage of field position when Hymel Hunt was able to get over the line after again beating the wide defence of the Eels. There were a few nervous moments as the bunker reviewed the try but it was confirmed. The Knights took a 10-6 lead.

The final five minutes of the half was all blue and gold as the Eels swung the momentum right around. The Eels scored two tries in the dying minutes with the first going to Mitch Moses who clapped on the afterburners and beat some flimsy Newcastle defence. The second of Parramatta's tries came through some brilliance from rookie Will Penisini who pulled out a brilliant flick pass to Blake Ferguson to score.

After taking a 16-10 advantage to the break, the Eels extended their lead out when Blake Ferguson scored his second of the afternoon after a floating ball from Mitch Moses drew in the defenders and Ferguson had a free run to the line to score.

Despite going down 22-10, the Knights hadn't given up hope of getting back into the contest and Enari Tuala had his second when he was only just able to control the ball against his leg

Ikuvalu had a role to play in the next try, when he took the first hit up off the Roosters line to start the set, but he dropped it cold. Jarrod Wallace cleaned up the loose ball and fell over the line to score under the posts. Fogarty converted to level the scores at 24 apiece. Both sides were guilty of panicky, ill-disciplined and sloppy football in the final 10 minutes. Sam Walker failed to kick a field goal in the 73rd minute, as did Tyrone Peachey in the 75th minute. Walker didn't miss with his second attempt in the 77th minute, giving the Roosters a 25-24 lead.

Then in the dying seconds of the game, Fermor made a break down the left wing and linked with Sami who was brought down by Walker in a brilliant tackle. The Titans on the next play sent the ball far right in an effort to get the ball to Fifita against very few Roosters defenders. Herbert though ended up with the ball and chose to run instead of passing to Fifita, he got tackled but managed to get a ball away to Thompson, who was a metre from the tryline and with no one in front of him, but he had overrun the play. The pass went behind him and into touch, bringing the game and the Titans season to an end.

The victory sees the Tricolours progress to face Manly next Friday, while the Titans look ahead to season 2022. **Andrew Ferguson**

SYDNEY: 1. James Tedesco 2. Daniel Tupou 3. Josh Morris 4. Adam Keighran 5. Matt Ikuvalu 6. Drew Hutchison 7. Lachlan Lam 8. Jared Waerea-Hargreaves 9. Sam Verrills 15. Isaac Liu 11. Angus Crichton 12. Sitili Tupouniua 13. Victor Radley
Interchange: 10. Siosia Taukeiaho 14. Sam Walker 16. Egan Butcher 17. Fletcher Baker; 18th man: 18. Dale Copley

GOLD COAST: 1. Jayden Campbell 2. Phillip Sami 3. Brian Kelly 4. Patrick Herbert 5. Corey Thompson 6. Tyrone Peachey 7. Jamal Fogarty 8. Jarrod Wallace 9. Mitch Rein 10. Moeaki Fotuauka 11. Kevin Proctor 12. Beau Fermor 13. Tino Fa'asuamaleaui
Interchange: 14. Erin Clark 15. Sam Lisone 16. David Fifita 17. Jaimin Jolliffe; 18th man: 18. Sam McIntyre

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (25) Tries: Matt Ikuvalu, James Tedesco, Daniel Tupou, Josh Morris; Field Goals: Sam Walker (1/2); Conversions: Adam Keighran (3/4); Penalty Goals: Adam Keighran (1/1)

GOLD COAST TITANS (24) Tries: Beau Fermor, Tino Fa'asuamaleaui, Brian Kelly, Jarrod Wallace; Field Goals: Tyrone Peachey (0/1); Conversions: Jamal Fogarty (3/4); Penalty Goals: Jamal Fogarty (1/1)

Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 15237; Halftime: Sydney 12 Gold Coast 6; Referee: Adam Gee; POTY: 3 points - James Tedesco; 2 points - Victor Radley; 1 points - Tyrone Peachey

and get the ball down. Jake Clifford's conversion was excellent from the sideline to close the gap back to just six points.

The Knights got themselves well and truly back in the contest when Enari Tuala got over for his hattrick after Kalyn Ponga turned on the magic with an amazing cut-out pass out to Tuala to score in the corner. Jake Clifford's conversion from the sideline was waved away and the Knights trailed by two.

Controversy surrounded the final try of the game when Review Official Grant Atkins ruled that Will Penisini was taken without the ball deciding that he would have scored. The penalty try sealed the victory for the Eels after Mitch Moses pushed the margin out to 8 after his conversion in front.

Next weekend, the Eels have a Western Sydney derby battle against the Panthers in Mackay whilst it is season done for the Knights after being knocked out in the first week of the finals for the second year in a row. **Josh Robertson**

PARRAMATTA: 1. Clinton Gutherson 2. Haze Dunster 3. Viliami Penisini 4. Waqa Blake 5. Blake Ferguson 6. Dylan Brown 7. Mitchell Moses 8. Reagan Campbell-Gillard 9. Ray Stone 10. Junior Paulo 11. Shaun Lane 12. Marata Niukore 13. Nathan Brown
Interchange: 14. Will Smith 15. Bryce Cartwright 16. Isaiah Papali'i 17. Makahesi Makatoa; 18th man: 20. Tom Opacic

NEWCASTLE: 1. Kalyn Ponga 2. Enari Tuala 3. Kurt Mann 4. Bradman Best 5. Hymel Hunt 6. Jake Clifford 7. Mitchell Pearce 8. Jacob Saifiti 9. Jayden Brailey 10. Daniel Saifiti 11. Tyson Frizell 12. Mitchell Barnett 14. Sauaso Sue
Interchange: 13. Connor Watson 15. David Klemmer 16. Josh King 17. Brodie Jones; 18th man: 20. Simi Sasagi

PARRAMATTA EELS (28) Tries: Waqa Blake, Mitchell Moses, Blake Ferguson (2), Viliami Penisini; Conversions: Mitchell Moses (4/5)

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (20) Tries: Enari Tuala (3), Hymel Hunt; Conversions: Jake Clifford (2/4)
Venue: Browne Park; Crowd: 5087; Halftime: Parramatta 16 Newcastle 10; Referee: Ashley Klein; POTY: 3 points - Mitchell Moses; 2 points - Enari Tuala; 1 points - Isaiah Papali'i

QUALIFYING FINAL 1 (1ST V 4TH) MELBOURNE 40 MANLY 12

Melbourne Storm have confirmed their premierships favouritism with a dominant 40-12 victory over a powerless Manly Sea Eagles at Sunshine Coast Stadium tonight.

Melbourne's dominance was even more impressive, considering they lost in form hooker Brandon Smith who failed his HIA just before halftime. Smith was seen on the sideline with a swollen cheek and will be sent for scans to confirm no structural damage has been suffered in order to confirm his availability in a fortnight's time.

Manly suffered a nervous start to the match and it cost them dearly, when Daly Cherry-Evans delivered a poor pass to centre Morgan Harper which hit the deck. Storm hooker Brandon Smith then scooped up the ball and offloaded to flyer Isaac Lumelume who streaked away for the first try of the game. Papenhuyzen converted and it was Melbourne leading 6-0 after just four minutes. The early dominance of the Storm continued minutes later when Cameron Munster provided a neat ball out the back close to the line for backrower Kenny Bromwich. The Kiwi backrower then wrestled his way over to score. Papenhuyzen missed the conversion from out wide for a 10-0 lead.

Manly's finals hopes were then in freefall minutes later, when Storm prop Christian Welch crashed over for just his 5th career try, when he hit a lovely flat ball out of dummy half from Brandon Smith close to the line and it was 16-0 as the Storm raced the clock. Manly continued to shoot themselves in the foot when lock Jake Trbojevic was penalised for holding down Jahrome Hughes close to the line, which saw Papenhuyzen point to the posts and extend the lead to three converted tries. Back-to-back penalties for Manly then gave the Sea Eagles a sniff and thankfully for fans, they took their limited opportunity when Daly Cherry-Evans kicked high for the tall reach of Jason Saab on the last. The lanky winger managed to then leap over his opposite winger Isaac Lumelume to score and reduced the score line to 18-6 with halftime looming. Papenhuyzen then swung momentum back to the Storm, when the 2020 Clive Churchill Medalist sliced through the Manly defence close to the line, scoring a crucial try before the break, then converting his own try to give Craig Bellamy's men a commanding 24-6 at halftime.

After the break the Storm dominance continued when Justin Olam made a bust and found Harry Grant in support. Grant then looked to his right to find a flying Ryan Papenhuyzen who put on a superb in and away on the cover defence to score his second try under the posts.

QUALIFYING FINAL 1 (2ND V 3RD) SOUTH SYDNEY 16 PENRITH 10

The South Sydney Rabbitohs have produced an iconic performance to down the Penrith Panthers 16-10 in the Second Qualifying Final on Saturday evening.

Given little chance of causing an upset after going down to the Panthers twice during the regular season - including a shameful 56-12 loss in Dubbo prior to Origin - Wayne Bennett's men lived up to their reputation as the pride of the league with a defensive display not seen since the side's last premierships victory in 2014.

Outscoring last year's beaten grand finalists two tries to one, captain Adam Reynolds proved the difference with a precise kicking game.

The victory sees the Rabbitohs progress through to the Preliminary Final in a fortnight where they will play the winner of next Friday's Semi Final between the Sea Eagles and the Roosters.

In an absorbing opening which saw the lead change multiple times, Reynolds put the Rabbitohs on the board with a penalty goal from close range.

Hitting back with a try to Stephen Crichton (8th minute) a few sets later, a brilliantly executed grubber from Nathan Cleary saw Paul Momirovski defy the dead ball line with a bat-back that allowed Crichton to pounce.

Responding in kind after Dane Gagai exhibited dazzling footwork before finding Cody Walker (24th minute) in support, Cleary slotted a penalty goal shortly afterwards to lock the scores up at 8-all.

Walker came close to scoring his second only to knock on over the try line, however, the visitors retook the lead with another Reynolds penalty goal late in the first half.

In a bizarre finish to the first 40 minutes, the Panthers threw the ball around with reckless abandon as the halftime siren sounded and were rewarded with a penalty after the referee deemed Jai Arrow offside; Cleary nailed the ensuing penalty goal to send both teams to the sheds level at 10-all.

Weathering a barrage of high balls from Cleary throughout the match, rookie fullback Blake Taaffe - playing only his sixth game in first grade - delivered the final pass to send Jaxson Paulo (44th minute) over for a decisive four-pointer in the right corner.

Manly needed to roll the dice to be any hope and they did so when Reuben Garrick punted a surprise deep kick off a twenty-metre tap. Storm winger Lumelume looked to have it covered until a dramatic slip which saw him lose the ball. Jason Saab then collected the crumbs to score under the posts and narrow the score to 30-12.

Melbourne then made the mountain that much higher to climb for Manly, when Tom Trbojevic was penalised for a high tackle on Jahrome Hughes in front of the posts. Papenhuyzen made no mistake with the chance to extend the lead yet again and it was 32-12 with less than 20 minutes remaining.

Off the back of a superb 40/20 from Cameron Munster, Justin Olam put the icing on the cake, when the PNG centre crashed over for a blockbusting try following a brilliant offload from Nelson Asofa-Solomona to put the game to bed.

Papenhuyzen then rubbed salt into the wounds when he put an exclamation mark on the win with a 2-point field goal as the siren sounded to round out a commanding 40-12 win.

Melbourne are now through to the Preliminary Final and will enjoy a week off, before they play for a chance at another Grand Final, while Manly now await the winner of the Roosters vs Titans match tomorrow afternoon. **Sam Bourke**

MELBOURNE: 1. Ryan Papenhuyzen 2. George Jennings 3. Reimis Smith 4. Justin Olam 5. Isaac Lumelume 6. Cameron Munster 7. Jahrome Hughes 8. Jesse Bromwich 9. Brandon Smith 10. Christian Welch 11. Felise Kaufusi 12. Kenneath Bromwich 13. Dale Finucane 14. Harry Grant 15. Tui Kamikamica 16. Nelson Asofa-Solomona 17. Nicholas Hynes 19. Tom Eisenhuth

MANLY: 1. Tom Trbojevic 2. Jason Saab 3. Brad Parker 4. Morgan Harper 5. Reuben Garrick 6. Kieran Foran 7. Daly Cherry-Evans 8. Josh Aloiai 15. Karl Lawton 10. Martin Taupau 11. Haumole Olakau'atu 12. Josh Schuster 13. Jake Trbojevic 14. Dylan Walker 16. Sean Keppie 17. Taniela Paseka 20. Curtis Sironen 19. Moses Suli

MELBOURNE STORM (40) Tries: Isaac Lumelume, Ryan Papenhuyzen (2), Kenneath Bromwich, Christian Welch, Justin Olam; **Two Point Field Goals:** Ryan Papenhuyzen (1/1); **Conversions:** Ryan Papenhuyzen (5/6); **Penalty Goals:** Ryan Papenhuyzen (2/2)

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (12) Tries: Jason Saab (2); **Conversions:** Reuben Garrick (2/2)

Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; **Crowd:** 9120; **Halftime:** Melbourne 24 Manly 6; **Referee:** Grant Atkins; **POTY:** 3 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen; 2 points - Christian Welch; 1 points - Cameron Munster

Gaining in confidence at the same time their opponents showed signs of frustration, Reynolds put the Rabbitohs up 16-10 with his third penalty goal after Penrith co-captain Isaah Yeo was placed on-report for a crusher tackle.

Managing to hold their nerve despite the best efforts of the Panthers to send the match into extra time, the Rabbitohs finished ahead on the scoreboard to move with 80 minutes of the premierships decider

Next Saturday, the Panthers will face the winner of tomorrow's Elimination Final between Parramatta and Newcastle in Mackay. **Rob Crosby**

PENRITH: 2. Stephen Crichton 20. Charlie Staines 3. Paul Momirovski 4. Matt Burton 5. Brian To'o 6. Jarome Luai 7. Nathan Cleary 18. Matthew Eisenhuth 9. Apisai Koroisau 10. James Fisher-Harris 17. Liam Martin 12. Kurt Capewell 13. Isaah Yeo 11. Viliame Kikau 14. Mitch Kenny 15. Spencer Leniu 16. Tevita Pangai Junior 19. Izack Tago

SOUTH SYDNEY: 1. Blake Taaffe 2. Alex Johnston 3. Dane Gagai 4. Campbell Graham 5. Jaxson Paulo 6. Cody Walker 7. Adam Reynolds 8. Mark Nicholls 9. Damien Cook 10. Tevita Tatola 11. Keaon Koloamatangi 12. Jaydn Su'A 13. Cameron Murray 14. Benji Marshall 15. Jacob Host 16. Thomas Burgess 17. Jai Arrow 21. Patrick Mago

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (16) Tries: Cody Walker, Jaxson Paulo; **Conversions:** Adam Reynolds (1/2); **Penalty Goals:** Adam Reynolds (3/3)

PENRITH PANTHERS (10) Tries: Stephen Crichton; **Conversions:** Nathan Cleary (1/1); **Penalty Goals:** Nathan Cleary (2/2)

Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; **Crowd:** 18244; **Halftime:** Penrith 10 South Sydney 10; **Referee:** Gerard Sutton; **POTY:** 3 points - Adam Reynolds; 2 points - Stephen Crichton; 1 points - Blake Taaffe

FINALS WEEK 1 MATCH REVIEW

2 matches: Sauaso Sue (Newcastle), Sam Verrills (Sydney); \$2400: Marata Niukore (Parramatta); \$2100: Viliame Kikau (Penrith); \$1600: Junior Paulo (Parramatta); \$1150: Josh Schuster (Manly)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR LEADERBOARD

38 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles/NSW); 34 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers/NSW); 28 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs); 25 points - James Tedesco (Roosters); 23 points - Mitchell Moses (Eels)



FINALS WEEK 2

September 17 and 18

SEMI FINAL 1

MANLY 42 SYDNEY 6

Manly has bounced back to book a Preliminary Final with the Rabbitohs next week, after thrashing the Roosters 42-6 at BB Print Stadium in Mackay tonight.

It was the usual suspects who delivered for Manly with Daly Cherry-Evans scoring a try and setting up two more in the first half, while superstar fullback Tom Trbojevic crashed over for 2 tries in yet another superb performance from the Dally M Medal favourite.

The Roosters were never in the match, with the Sea Eagles running in four first half tries to blow away the Tricolours early and put them in a mouth-watering match up with the Rabbitohs next weekend.

Coming into the match the biggest question the Roosters needed to answer was how to stop Manly superman Tom Trbojevic. The search for his kryptonite continued early for the Roosters, when after just six minutes the Manly #1 found some space off a Daly Cherry-Evans pass as he crashed over for the first try of the night.

Manly's start was ramped up to electric when this time Jake Trbojevic held up a lovely pass at the line for his brother Tom, who strolled through the defensive line to draw and pass for Kieran Foran who scored under the posts for Manly to lead 12-0 in as many minutes.

The Sea Eagles continued to chase the hand on the clock when Daly Cherry-Evans at first receiver from the scrum then threw a dummy and darted through to score under the posts and it was looking like an ugly night developing for Trent Robinson's men.

The Roosters desperately needed to hit back if they were to stay in the game and they did so, as skipper James Tedesco collected the ball wide to put his winger Matt Ikuvalu over in the corner to get the Tricolours on the board.

Cherry-Evans then pulled his side further ahead when the Queensland halfback spotted a gap on the blind side and put speedster Jason Saab away down the left wing. Saab then looked inside and found his centre Morgan Harper who scored beside the posts to give the Sea Eagles a commanding 24-4 lead before halftime.

Just as the siren sounded, Sydney were then awarded a penalty after Tedesco was taken off

SEMI FINAL 2

PENRITH 8 PARRAMATTA 6

The Penrith Panthers knock-off the Parramatta Eels 8-6 in an incredible Semi Final contest - a true contender for game of the season.

It's been a while since we've been treated to a gritty thriller and what a game it was between the Penrith Panthers and the Parramatta Eels. After Manly's thrashing of the Roosters last night, it was refreshing to witness a classic finals match which represented the sport for the tough physical contest that it is.

Penrith and Parramatta both had a multitude of chances throughout the game and whether it was disallowed tries or tackles pulling players up inches short of the try line, neither team seemed to be able to land that final punch.

Bizarrely, the winning blow came at the end of the first half as the Penrith Panthers took the lead just before the half-time break through a Nathan Cleary penalty goal. Despite the low scoring fashion of the second half, it was a thrilling viewing experience as both teams traded blows for the duration of the half and for the matter the duration of the whole 80 minutes.

The tries came early for both sides with Parramatta opening the scoring through Waqa Blake in the 10th minute who scored after a Mitchell Moses bomb made Dylan Edwards look like a fool. Blake was able to scoop up the scraps and score untouched next to the posts to open the scoring.

The Panthers struck only minutes later after a brilliant grubber kick from Nathan Cleary found Kurt Capewell who dodged his way past Parramatta's defence to level the scores.

Nathan Cleary's aforementioned penalty goal gave the Panthers the lead heading into the break and that would be the final points scored for the match.

The second half was even better than the first despite no points being scored as both sides traded blows but failed to land any match-winning tries. As the game wore on, the intensity seemed to increase as Nathan Cleary and Mitchell Moses repeatedly earned their sides repeat sets with some great grubber kicks.

the ball on suspicion by Manly prop Martin Taupau. The Roosters elected to take penalty goal on offer through Adam Keighran to keep them just in touch by 24-6 at the break.

The Sea Eagles however picked up where they left off in the Second Half, when Jake Trbojevic strolled through a big gap and found super sub Dylan Walker who was brought down just metres from the line. Off the ensuing play it was the familiar sight of Tom Trbojevic who charged at the defensive line to crash over for his second try.

Minutes later Dylan Walker then split the Roosters defence wide open and then dummied his way past Tedesco to score under the posts and extend the lead to 36-6 and put his side on a collision course with his former club South Sydney next week.

Wisely coach Des Hasler then elected to put the Ferrari back in the garage, when Tom Trbojevic left the field. The game was then put to bed moments later, when centre Morgan Harper collected a kick inside his own half. The former Bulldog then produced an offload out the back to put his winger Jason Saab away down the touch line to give Manly a commanding 42-6 win and put themselves one game away from a Grand Final. **Sam Bourke**

MANLY: 1. Tom Trbojevic 2. Jason Saab 3. Brad Parker 4. Morgan Harper 5. Reuben Garrick 6. Kieran Foran 7. Daly Cherry-Evans 8. Josh Aloiai 9. Lachlan Croker 16. Sean Keppie 11. Haumole Olakau'atu 12. Josh Schuster 13. Jake Trbojevic
Interchange: 10. Martin Taupau 14. Dylan Walker 15. Karl Lawton 17. Taniela Paseka; 18th man: 19. Moses Suli

SYDNEY: 1. James Tedesco 2. Daniel Tupou 3. Josh Morris 4. Adam Keighran 5. Matt Ikuvalu 6. Lachlan Lam 7. Drew Hutchison 8. Jared Waerea-Hargreaves 20. Ben Marschke 10. Isaac Liu 11. Angus Crichton 12. Sitili Tupouniua 13. Victor Radley
Interchange: 14. Sam Walker 15. Nat Butcher 16. Egan Butcher 17. Fletcher Baker; 18th man: 18. Dale Copley

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (42) Tries: Tom Trbojevic (2), Kieran Foran, Daly Cherry-Evans, Morgan Harper, Dylan Walker, Jason Saab; **Conversions:** Reuben Garrick (7/7)

SYDNEY ROOSTERS (6) Tries: Matt Ikuvalu; **Conversions:** Adam Keighran (0/1); **Penalty Goals:** Adam Keighran (1/1)

Venue: BB Print Stadium Mackay; **Crowd:** 5824; **Halftime:** Manly 24 Sydney 6; **Referee:** Gerard Sutton; **POTY:** 3 points - Daly Cherry-Evans; 2 points - Tom Trbojevic; 1 points - Jake Trbojevic

As was the nature of this game, both sides found ways to cough the ball up after multiple sets in great field position which allowed the game to ebb and flow in a way which saw intensified periods of pressure for Parramatta and Penrith's defence.

Parramatta and their fans will be devastated after this loss, but they'll be glad about the tough performance they displayed tonight as they pushed the Panthers the whole 80 minutes. Their season ends tonight as the Panthers qualify for next week's Preliminary Final against the minor premiers, the Melbourne Storm. **Rob Crossby**

PENRITH: 1. Dylan Edwards 2. Stephen Crichton 3. Paul Momirovski 4. Matt Burton 20. Brent Naden 6. Jarome Luai 7. Nathan Cleary 8. Moses Leota 9. Apisai Koroisau 10. James Fisher-Harris 17. Liam Martin 12. Kurt Capewell 13. Isaah Yeo
Interchange: 11. Viliame Kikau 14. Mitch Kenny 15. Scott Sorensen 16. Tevita Pangai Junior 18th man: 19. Izack Tago

PARRAMATTA: 1. Clinton Gutherson 2. Haze Dunster 3. Viliami Penisini 4. Waqa Blake 5. Blake Ferguson 6. Dylan Brown 7. Mitchell Moses 8. Reagan Campbell-Gillard 9. Ray Stone 10. Junior Paulo 11. Shaun Lane 12. Marata Niukore 13. Nathan Brown
Interchange: 14. Will Smith 15. Isaiah Papali'i 16. Bryce Cartwright 17. Ryan Matterson; 18th man: 18. Makenesi Makatoa

PENRITH PANTHERS (8) Tries: Kurt Capewell; **Conversions:** Nathan Cleary (1/1); **Penalty Goals:** Nathan Cleary (1/1)

PARRAMATTA EELS (6) Tries: Waqa Blake; **Conversions:** Mitchell Moses (1/1)

Venue: BB Print Stadium Mackay; **Crowd:** 6011; **Halftime:** Penrith 8 Parramatta 6; **Referee:** Ashley Klein; **POTY:** 3 points - Nathan Cleary; 2 points - Mitchell Moses; 1 points - Isaah Yeo

FINALS WEEK 2 MATCH REVIEW

1 match: Marata Niukore (Parramatta); \$1600: Egan Butcher (Sydney)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR LEADERBOARD

40 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles/NSW)

37 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers/NSW)

28 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)

25 points - James Tedesco (Roosters), Mitchell Moses (Eels)



FINALS WEEK 3

September 24 and 25

PRELIMINARY FINAL 1

PENRITH 10 MELBOURNE 6

The Penrith Panthers have confirmed their place in the 2021 NRL Grand Final after outlasting the Melbourne Storm 10-6 in an absorbing clash on Saturday afternoon.

Scoring tries in the opening minutes of both halves while limiting their opponents to a single four-pointer for the first time this season, Penrith defended resolutely before a vocal crowd in excess of 29,000 at Suncorp Stadium.

The win sees Penrith gain a shot at redemption against South Sydney twelve months on from the disappointment of falling short in the final match of last season.

Having led the league in points scored this season, the Storm struggled to play on their terms and were guilty of committing 16 errors in a performance rarely sighted from a Craig Bellamy coached side.

Wasting little time in posting the only points of the first half, Penrith captain Nathan Cleary pulled off an audacious kick from dummy half which allowed Stephen Crichton (3rd minute) to touch down untouched.

Losing representative front-rower Christian Welch to a HIA early in proceedings, the Storm's woes were compounded further when Brandon Smith was ruled out minutes after becoming the first player to execute a 20/40 in first grade.

Nelson Asofa-Solomona appeared to lock up the scoreboard midway through the first half only for the bunker to deem Scott Sorenson had been impeded by Dale Finucane in the lead up. Both sides had opportunities to post points in the final moments of the opening half, however desperate

PRELIMINARY FINAL 2

SOUTH SYDNEY 36 MANLY 16

South Sydney have thumped Manly by 36-16 at Suncorp Stadium tonight to reach their first Grand Final since their famous 2014 premiership win.

The win sets up a fairy tale finish for supercoach Wayne Bennett who enters his 10th Grand Final and for premiership winning halfback Adam Reynolds, who will both depart the club at season's end.

The Rabbitohs got on the board first, when centre Dane Gagai got a kick away close to the line which then pin balled off two Manly defenders and was then desperately knocked back by Gagai. Cody Walker then collected the ball off the deck to score early. Rookie fullback Blake Taaffe was the surprise goalkicker instead of regular goalkicker Adam Reynolds and converted the try giving his side an early 6-0 lead.

Manly looked dangerous and thought they hit back when Tom Trbojevic looked to have put his winger Rueben Garrick over to score, however unfortunately for Manly it was called back by the Bunker for an obstruction in the lead up.

South Sydney then sent their lethal left-hand side in motion and it paid dividends when Taaffe hit his winger Alex Johnston with a superb cut out pass for the NRL's leading try scorer to add to his season tally. Taaffe then converted from the sideline to give his side a 12-0 lead after 25 minutes.

Despite having little football, Trbojevic was again a threat and looked to have gone over to finally get his side on the scoreboard, however Manly were again denied by the Bunker when the replay showed the Dally M Medal favourite lost possession at the death.

The Rabbitohs then went further ahead when hooker Damien Cook picked up a stray kick that went to ground. The crafty number nine then threaded a neat deft grubber off the left foot for a flying Cody Walker who scored his second try.

Then just before the break off the back of yet another Sea Eagles error, Souths struck again when Adam Reynolds and Campbell Graham combined down the right-hand side for winger Jaxson Paulo to score and give the Bunnies a commanding 22-0 lead at the break.

Manly desperately needed to score first following halftime and they did, when Kieran Foran and Josh Schuster combined down the left-hand side for Reuben Garrick to score in the corner and then convert from sideline to narrow the scoreline to 24-6 and some hope of a miracle comeback.

South Sydney again made Manly pay for yet another crucial error inside their own half, as veteran half Benji Marshall held up a neat pass for Campbell Graham at the line for the rangy centre to crash over and extend the lead to 28-6.

defence saw the score remain 6-0 in the Panthers' favour at the change of ends.

Coming out for the second half determined to gain another shot at the premiership, returning winger Brian To'o (42nd minute) touched down after an error from Justin Olam invited the Panthers into the Storm's half.

In an absorbing second half which saw both sides trade sets at a fierce intensity, Ryan Papenhuyzen (63rd minute) got a result from a Cameron Munster kick aimed at the in-goal to narrow the score to 10-6.

Repelling several attacking raids from the Storm during the closing stages, the Panthers managed to hold on despite a number of nervous moments as the clock counted down to fulltime.

In a moment of concern for the victors, Nathan Cleary was placed on report for a lifting tackle on Kenny Bromwich midway through the first half which could see the Penrith playmaker come under scrutiny from the match review committee in the coming days. **Rob Crosby**

MELBOURNE: 1. Ryan Papenhuyzen 2. George Jennings 3. Reimis Smith 4. Justin Olam 5. Josh Addo-Carr 6. Cameron Munster 7. Jahrome Hughes 8. Jesse Bromwich 9. Brandon Smith 10. Christian Welch 11. Felise Kaufusi 12. Kenneath Bromwich 13. Dale Finucane 14. Harry Grant 15. Tui Kamikamica 16. Nelson Asofa-Solomona 17. Nicholas Hynes 19. Tom Eisenhuth

PENRITH: 1. Dylan Edwards 2. Stephen Crichton 3. Paul Momirovski 4. Matt Burton 21. Brian To'o 6. Jarome Luai 7. Nathan Cleary 16. Tevita Pangai Junior 9. Apisai Koroisau 10. James Fisher-Harris 17. Liam Martin 12. Kurt Capewell 13. Isiah Yeo 11. Viliame Kikau 14. Tyrone May 15. Scott Sorenson 19. Spencer Leniu 5. Brent Naden

PENRITH PANTHERS (10) Tries: Stephen Crichton, Brian To'o; **Conversions:** Nathan Cleary (1/2)

MELBOURNE STORM (6) Tries: Ryan Papenhuyzen; **Conversions:** Ryan Papenhuyzen (1/1)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; **Crowd:** 29011; **Halftime:** Melbourne 0 Penrith 6; **Referee:** Gerard Sutton; **POTY:** 3 points - Dylan Edwards; 2 points - Isiah Yeo; 1 points - Jahrome Hughes

The Rabbitohs then had one foot in the Grand Final, when winger Jaxson Paulo scored his second try after he collecting a huge Adam Reynolds bomb. The young winger collected the ball running backwards and then looked over his shoulder at the tryline to dive over and send Bunnies fans to heaven.

Manly then scored two late consultation tries, when centre Moses Suli made two excellent line breaks before linking with Tom Trbojevic who scored his 28th try of the season and on the second occasion his winger Rueben Garrick to narrow the score to 32-16 as the game wound down.

Cody Walker and Blake Taaffe then put a cherry on top of the cake, combining with some slick hands to put Alex Johnston over for his second try and into the 2021 Grand Final.

South Sydney and their fans now will sit back and await the winner of tomorrow's match where the Melbourne Storm take on the Penrith Panthers to determine who the Rabbitohs will play at Suncorp Stadium next Sunday. **Sam Bourke**

SOUTH SYDNEY: 1. Blake Taaffe 2. Alex Johnston 3. Dane Gagai 4. Campbell Graham 5. Jaxson Paulo 6. Cody Walker 7. Adam Reynolds 8. Mark Nicholls 9. Damien Cook 10. Tevita Tatola 11. Keaton Koloamatangi 12. Jaydn Su'A 13. Cameron Murray 14. Benji Marshall 15. Jacob Host 16. Thomas Burgess 17. Jai Arrow 19. Patrick Mago

MANLY: 1. Tom Trbojevic 2. Jason Saab 19. Moses Suli 4. Morgan Harper 5. Reuben Garrick 6. Kieran Foran 7. Daly Cherry-Evans 8. Josh Aloiai 9. Lachlan Croker 16. Sean Keppie 11. Haumole Olakau'atu 12. Josh Schuster 13. Jake Trbojevic 10. Martin Taupau 14. Dylan Walker 15. Karl Lawton 17. Taniela Paseka 21. Tevita Funa

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (36) Tries: Cody Walker (2), Alex Johnston (2), Jaxson Paulo (2), Campbell Graham; **Conversions:** Blake Taaffe (4/7)

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES (16) Tries: Reuben Garrick (2), Tom Trbojevic; **Conversions:** Reuben Garrick (2/3)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; **Crowd:** 26249; **Halftime:** South Sydney 22 Manly 0; **Referee:** Ashley Klein; **POTY:** 3 points - Cody Walker; 2 points - Cameron Murray; 1 points - Blake Taaffe

FINALS WEEK 3 MATCH REVIEW

3 matches: Josh Aloiai (Manly); 1 match: Harry Grant (Melbourne); \$2500: Stephen Crichton (Penrith); \$1350: James Fisher-Harris (Penrith)

LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR LEADERBOARD

40 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles/NSW)

38 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers/NSW)

31 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)



2021 NRL GRAND FINAL

October 2

PENRITH 14 SOUTH SYDNEY 12

CLEAR(Y) EYES, FULL HEARTS DELIVERS PANTHERS THIRD PREMIERSHIP

Penrith Panthers secure their third NRL Premiership in a grinding 14-12 success against South Sydney Rabbitohs tonight in front of 39,223 fans at Suncorp Stadium.

The Panthers fell one game short last year, tonight they made amends in a brutal contest in what has been one of the most trying seasons in the NRL. Nathan Cleary kicked his side to victory alongside tries from Matt Burton and Stephen Crichton to deliver the Premiership.

It was a grinding and tough affair between two quality defensive sides. Penrith pinned the Rabbitohs deep in their end all through the first half through Cleary's kicking game and the halfback built the pressure with half a dozen forced dropouts in the contest.

Points were at a premium but when it was required Penrith went to their trusted left edge. A swift movement out the back saw Jarome Luai double-pump the pass and put centre Matt Burton over untouched then Cleary added a further two from the boot to make it 8-6 before the break.

The Rabbitohs have had to dig deep all year through adversity and threw a punch back at the Panthers side. Mercurial five-eighth stepped up and swung at the rock solid Panthers defensive line, stepped past several defenders and made it 6-6 on the half hour mark.

In a game where points were at a premium, the game was made of moments. The big moment came again from Cody Walker but was a negative one. He tried to engineer an attack down the Rabbitohs left side before his spiral pass was snaffled by Stephen Crichton who travelled the distance to make it 14-8 Panthers.

Once again, the Rabbitohs threw one final punch to get themselves back in the game. Time was winding down in the 74th minute, the Rabbitohs surged down their famed left-side attack with the usual result - Alex Johnston scored in the corner - it left it down to Adam Reynolds from the tee to level things up at 14-all.

Playing his final game in the famed cardinal and myrtle, looking to get his side their 22nd Premiership. The dependable boot stepped up but faded his conversion just wide of the right hand post and saw the game end in heartbreak instead of heroics for a halfback who has bled for the Rabbitohs.

Instead the Panthers achieved the destiny which was denied in 2020. Premiers and close to the best side all season, finally got the silverware they were looking for. Ivan and Nathan Cleary join an exclusive list of father and son duos to win a Premiership. Also it is a Premiership built in Sydney's west.

When they were calling out the junior clubs for the victorious players, a majority were in the western suburbs and they did it for the area tonight and of course, did it for every one of the Panthers fans who lived through last season's disappointment.

For the Rabbitohs, it might be the last chance for them with some of their key figures in Wayne Bennett and Adam Reynolds moving on. It was a fantastic September for the famous club and they delivered plenty of memories but tonight's bitterness will fuel them through to 2022. **Justin Davies**

PENRITH: 1. Dylan Edwards 2. Stephen Crichton 3. Paul Momirovski 4. Matt Burton 5. Brian To'o 6. Jarome Luai 7. Nathan Cleary 8. Moses Leota 9. Apisai Koroisau 10. James Fisher-Harris 11. Liam Martin 12. Kurt Capewell 13. Isiah Yeo
Interchange: 11. Viliame Kikau 14. Tyrone May 15. Scott Sorensen 16. Spencer Leniu; 18th man: 18. Brent Naden

SOUTH SYDNEY: 1. Blake Taaffe 2. Alex Johnston 3. Dane Gagai 4. Campbell Graham 5. Jaxson Paulo 6. Cody Walker 7. Adam Reynolds 8. Mark Nicholls 9. Damien Cook 10. Tevita Tatola 11. Keon Koloamatangi 12. Jaydn Su'A 13. Cameron Murray
Interchange: 14. Benji Marshall 15. Jacob Host 16. Thomas Burgess 17. Jai Arrow; 18th man: 19. Patrick Mago

PENRITH PANTHERS (14) Tries: Matt Burton, Stephen Crichton; **Conversions:** Nathan Cleary (2/2); **Penalty Goals:** Nathan Cleary (1/1)

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS (12) Tries: Cody Walker, Alex Johnston; **Conversions:** Adam Reynolds (2/3)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium; **Crowd:** 39322; **Halftime:** Penrith 8 South Sydney 6; **Referee:** Gerard Sutton; **POTY:** 3 points - Nathan Cleary; 2 points - Isiah Yeo; 1 points - Cameron Murray



LEAGUEUNLIMITED.COM PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2021 FINAL STANDINGS



Writers of each match report for LeagueUnlimited.com choose 3-2-1 points for every game, who they judge as the best players on the field.

Tom Trbojevic finished on top after 26 rounds, while Nathan Cleary picked up enough points through the finals series to overtake the Manly fullback by the end of the Finals.

41 points - Nathan Cleary (Panthers/NSW)

40 points - Tom Trbojevic (Sea Eagles/NSW)

31 points - Cody Walker (Rabbitohs)

25 points - Mitchell Moses (Eels), James Tedesco (Roosters)

22 points - Clinton Gutherson (Eels), Will Kennedy (Sharks), Daly Cherry-Evans (Sea Eagles), Latrell Mitchell (Rabbitohs/NSW)

19 points - Jahrome Hughes (Storm), Adam Doueihi (Wests Tigers), Ben Hunt (Dragons/QLD)

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

16 points - Ryan Papenhuyzen (Storm)

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

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

13 points - Isaiah Papali'i (Eels), Alexander Brimson (Titans), Brian To'o (Panthers)

12 points - Christian Welch (Storm), Reece Walsh (Warriors), Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs), Cameron Murray (Rabbitohs)

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

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

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

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

7 points - Matthew Dufty (Dragons), Luke Thompson (Bulldogs), Benji Marshall (Rabbitohs)

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

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



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

3 points - Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Bulldogs), Tesi Niu (Broncos), Josh Hodgson (Raiders), Siosua Taukeiaho (Roosters), Adam Clune (Dragons), Mikaele Ravalawa (Dragons), Matt Ikuvalu (Roosters), Sam Williams (Raiders), Ryan Sutton (Raiders), Angus Crichton (Roosters), Tariq Sims (Dragons), Nelson Asofa-Solomona (Storm), Moeaki Fotuika (Titans), Apisai Koroisau (Panthers), Connor Watson (Knights), Tom Dearden (Broncos), David Klemmer (Knights), Xavier Savage (Raiders), Toby Sexton (Titans), Jake Averillo (Bulldogs), Justin Olam (Storm), Paul Vaughan (Dragons), Enari Tuala (Knights), Luke Metcalf (Sharks), Briton Nikora (Sharks), Euan Aitken (Warriors), Blake Ferguson (Eels), Thomas Burgess (Rabbitohs), Josh Jackson (Bulldogs), Luciano Leilua (Wests Tigers), Jayden Campbell (Titans), Herbie Farnworth (Broncos), Jai Arrow (Rabbitohs), Jake Granville (Cowboys)

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

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

ARTWORK BY THEBIGGESTTIGER

Our cover image for this annual, also seen on this page - as well as the image on the page previous - are illustrations by TheBiggestTiger.

His work was featured in LeagueUnlimited.com's The Front Row weekly rugby league magazine and provides a fun, unique perspective on rugby league.

Follow him on Twitter at @TheBiggestTiger

BRISBANE BRONCOS

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Jackson, LeagueUnlimited.com



Five years prior, a Kyle Feldt try in the dying seconds had brought the North Queensland faithful to its feet and Darius Boyd to his knees.

A piece of history taken away in a matter of seconds.

Fast-forward to 2020 and Feldt again was crossing in the corner, three times, to seal Brisbane's fate once more.

This time there was no denying the Broncos this piece of history, an unwanted one, wooden spoons for the first time in the club's history.

So, in a bid to move forward, Brisbane went backwards - in time, that is.

Back to the glory days and led by club great Kevin Walters, who would remind the playing group just what it means for play for one of the league's proudest organisations.

Despite a 14th-place finish there was still plenty to be proud of, particularly in the second half of the season.

Turning point

The representative break proved a major turning point in Brisbane's season.

Dwelling on a 46-0 loss to Souths, Walters boldly declared everything the team did would be completely different when the playing group returned in a fortnight's time.

"The players are on break, when they come back things will be totally different. The way we prepare ourselves and the way we play as well," he told Triple M at the time.

It was not just hollow words either, with a 42-24 loss to the Tigers the only real sour point in an otherwise promising end to the season.

Four-straight heavy losses to the Storm, Dragons, Raiders and Souths exposed Brisbane's brittle defence and mental resilience.

In the latter stages of the year, it was completely different.

Tight losses to Newcastle, Penrith and the Roosters in particular proved the Broncos turned a corner in that sense.

What worked

Not much but if there is one area Brisbane showed promise, it was second-phase play.

The Broncos boast, at least on paper, one of the best young forward packs in the business but it rarely told on the stats sheet.

Haas would regularly top 100 run metres but struggled to get much help.

Offloads, however, were one way to better test opposition defences and help spark more go-forward.

The Broncos finished third for offloads in 2021, although Tevita Pangai-Junior and Matt Lodge were two of their best second-phase contributors and both are gone now.

What didn't work

Too often, at least in the first half of the year, the Broncos simply wilted under pressure.

Take the six games they conceded 40 points or more - in all of those matches they let in either three or four tries in 10-minute periods.

That spoke to the way Brisbane fell apart, both mentally and physically, when facing sustained scrutiny on its goal-line.

It improved as the season went on but Walters will want to make sure those same habits don't creep in next year.

Brisbane's sudden collapses

40-6 LOSS TO STORM: Tries conceded in 25th, 29th, 34th and 36th minutes

46-6 LOSS TO EELS: Tries conceded in 27th, 31st and 34th minutes

50-6 LOSS TO SEA EAGLES: Tries conceded in 55th, 58th and 60th minutes

40-12 LOSS TO STORM: Tries conceded in 32nd, 35th, 41st and 43rd minutes

52-24 LOSS TO DRAGONS: Tries conceded in 39th, 45th and 50th minutes

46-6 LOSS TO RABBITHS: Tries conceded in 55th, 60th and 62nd minutes

Continuity in the halves did not help either when it came to Brisbane's attack.

Walters defended his halves merry-go-round, claiming he was fair in his selections and simply trying to find out who would be the ideal halves partner for Adam Reynolds in 2022.

It makes sense as a long-term approach but in the short-term it definitely had an impact on results.

Best players

Even during Brisbane's dark period to open the season, there was one constant - Payne Haas leading the way.

Walters said as much in the lead-up to an upset win over the Roosters, challenging every other player on the roster to mirror the big man's efforts up front.

Haas averaged almost 170 run metres in the 2021 season and was a handful to put down with each carry.

The team's overall form never had an impact on Haas, who has quickly proven himself a genuine leader at Brisbane.

In terms of other quiet achievers, Selwyn Cobbo showed glimpses of spark at the back to put his name forward as a long-term option at fullback.

Meanwhile, Herbie Farnworth has established himself as a dependable option in the outside backs with a strong running game and solid decision-making in defence.

Rookies

Kobe Hetherington, who took out Broncos Rookie of the Year honours, certainly has long-term potential at lock.

Having come through the system at hooker as well as in the halves, there is plenty of time for Hetherington to develop his ball-playing skills.

It will only make him an even more valuable addition in the pack having proven himself to be an aggressive force up front in his stints off the bench this season.

As mention earlier, Cobbo also quickly established himself as an exciting prospect at the back with his maiden NRL try against the Raiders proof of his clever instincts.

Looking ahead

Adam Reynolds is a genuine leader to guide the Broncos towards a brighter future.

The loss of Xavier Coates will hurt but is outweighed by some shrewd purchases, with Kurt Capewell and Ryan James also adding some valuable experience up front.

With an exciting backline and much better balanced forward bolstered by the return of Patrick Carrigan, Brisbane will be pushing for a top-eight berth in 2022.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Parramatta	L 16 - 24	Suncorp	28,313
2	Gold Coast	L 16 - 28	CBUS	17,822
3	Canterbury	W 24 - 0	Suncorp	22,509
4	Melbourne	L 6 - 40	AAMI	14,135
5	South Sydney	L 6 - 35	Stad. Aus.	9,142
6	Penrith	L 12 - 20	Suncorp	21,224
7	Parramatta	L 6 - 46	TIO	12,056
8	Gold Coast	W 36 - 28	Suncorp	21,322
9	North Queensland	L 18 - 19	QLD C.B.	22,222
10	Manly	L 6 - 50	Suncorp	41,367
11	Sydney	W 34 - 16	SCG	13,186
12	Melbourne	L 12 - 40	Suncorp	23,600
13	St George Illawarra	L 24 - 52	Netstrata	5,107
14	Canberra	L 16 - 38	GIO	9,608
15	South Sydney	L 0 - 46	Suncorp	19,176
16	Cronulla	W 26 - 18	Suncorp	13,840
17	BYE			
18	Wests Tigers	L 24 - 42	Suncorp	24,894
19	Penrith	L 12 - 18	Suncorp	8,019
20	North Queensland	W 37 - 18	Suncorp	29,136
21	Newcastle	L 20 - 28	Suncorp	-
22	Sydney	L 20 - 21	Suncorp	14,314
23	Warriors	W 24 - 22	Suncorp	18,252
24	Cronulla	L 16 - 24	Suncorp	8,618
25	Newcastle	W 35 - 22	Suncorp	20,747

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 14th | Played 24, Won 7, Lost 17 | For 446, Against 695 | Coach: Kevin Walters (24 matches)

Most Points: Jamayne Isaako (124) | Most Tries: Xavier Coates (11)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	PAR	GCT	CBY	MEL	SOU	PEN	PAR	GCT	NQL	MAN	SYD	MEL	SGI	CAN	SOU	CRO	WST	PEN	NQL	NEW	SYD	WAR	CRO	NEW	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ARTHARS, Jesse								C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	B			C					9	2	5	2	-	24	
ASIATA, John	B	B			B	B				B	B	FR	L	L	B										3	7	1	-	-	4	
BULLEMOR, Ethan	B	B	B			B	B	B	B	B		B	B			B		B	B	B	B		B	B	FR	1	16	3	-	-	12
CARRIGAN, Patrick	L	L	L	L		L	L	L	L																8	-	-	-	-	-	
COATES, Xavier	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			W						W	W	W	W	17	-	11	-	-	44	
COBBO, Selwyn													W	W	W						C	C	C	C	7	-	2	2	-	12	
COPLEY, Dale											C	B		C											2	1	1	-	-	4	
CROFT, Brodie	HB	HB	HB	B	B	FE	FE									HB	HB	HB	HB	HB					10	2	1	-	-	4	
DEARDEN, Tom			B	HB	HB	HB	HB																		4	1	1	-	-	4	
FARNWORTH, Herbert	C	C	C	C			C	C	C	C		C	C	FB	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	20	-	3	11	-	34	
FLEGLER, Thomas	B	FR	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	L	L	L	FR	B	B		B	FR			FR	FR	FR		10	10	1	-	-	4	
GAMBLE, Tyson								HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE			13	-	1	3	1	11	
GLENN, Alex	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R							2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	18	-	2	-	-	8	
HAAS, Payne				FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	20	-	1	-	-	4	
HETHERINGTON, Kobe											B	B	B	B	B	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	9	5	3	-	-	12	
HUNT, Karmichael														FE	FE										2	-	-	-	-	-	
ISAAKO, Jamayne	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB			W	W	W	W	W	W				18	-	6	50	-	124	
KELLY, Albert											FE	HB	FE								B	HB	HB	HB	HB	7	1	2	-	-	8
KENNER, Richard					C	C																			2	-	-	-	-	-	
KENNEDY, Rhys		B	B				B	B	B	B	B					FR	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	2	14	1	-	-	4	
LEVI, Daniel							B	B	B	B										B	H	H	B	B	2	7	-	-	-	-	
LODGE, Matt	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR										12	-	-	-	-	-	
MEAD, David	W	W	W	W	W	C	C				W	W	W								C			B	11	1	5	-	-	20	
MILFORD, Anthony	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE			FE	FE	FE		FE									B	FE	FE	FE	12	1	2	-	1	9	
NIU, Fanitesi	C	C	C	C	C									W	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	16	-	8	-	-	32	
OATES, Corey					W	W	W	W	W	W						W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	14	-	4	-	-	16	
PAIX, Cory														B	B			B						B	-	4	-	-	-	-	
PALASIA, Keenan											2R	2R	B			B	B	B	FR	FR					4	5	1	-	-	4	
PANGAI JR, Tevita	FR	FR	FR	B	L	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R										14	1	3	-	-	12	
PIAKURA, Brendan																							B		-	1	-	-	-	-	
RIKI, Jordan	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	2R						B	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	15	3	3	-	-	12	
ROBATI, Teui												B	B	B	L	2R	2R				B	B	2R	B	4	6	2	-	-	8	
STAGGS, Kotoni																C	C	C	C						4	-	3	-	-	12	
TE'O, Ben	B	B	B	B	B																				-	5	-	-	-	-	
TURPIN, Jake	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H	H	22	-	-	-	-	-	
WILLISON, Xavier																				B	B	B			-	3	1	-	-	4	

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench
Bold, colour = captain

BRISBANE BRONCOS

Established 1988
Home Ground Lang Park, Milton QLD
(current name: Suncorp Stadium)
Premierships 1992, 1993, 1997 (SL), 1998, 2000, 2006
Runners Up 2015
World Club Challenge 1992
Most Points (all time) Corey Parker: 1356 points
Most Tries (all time) Steve Renouf: 155 tries

Matches Played 852
Won 504
Lost 334
Drawn 14
Points For 19,228
Points Against 15,555
Biggest win 71-6 (65 pts) - May 27th, 2007 - vs. Newcastle
Biggest loss 0-59 (59 pts) - Jun 4th, 2020 - vs. Sydney
Most points scored 71-6 (71 pts) - May 27th, 2007 - vs. Newcastle
Most points conceded 22-68 (68 pts) - Sep 2nd, 2007 - vs. Parramatta

CANBERRA RAIDERS

SEASON REVIEW

By Sam Bourke, LeagueUnlimited.com



@bourke_sam

Canberra came into the 2021 season as a solid pick in most pundits Top 4 and expected challengers to the likes of the Storm, Panthers and Roosters for the premiership. Off the back of a Grand Final in 2019 and a Preliminary Final in 2020, the Green Machine were primed and ready to deliver for their long suffering fans who had visions of the Provan-Summons trophy being driven back down the Hume Highway come the first Sunday in October. These dreams however turned into a nightmare, as the Raiders became without doubt the most underwhelming side of 2021.

The Raiders were sluggish but effective to start the season winning three of their first four, however it was their first loss at home against the Warriors that set alarm bells ringing. Leading 31-10, Canberra completely returned to their unwelcome alter ego 'the Faiders' when they inexplicably went down (albeit from a last gasp tackle from Roger Tuivasa-Sheck in the dying seconds) losing 34-31. While it seemed a blip at the time, it unfortunately set off a theme for the season where they had a heap of bad luck mixed with glimpses of a side that will surely overcome and get results.

Canberra fell into a deep hole, where they dropped 5 matches on the trot, struggled to remember how to beat the last placed Bulldogs in Magic Round and were in free fall halfway through the season with key injuries to mainstays in fullback Charnze Nichol-Klodstad and captain Jarrod Croker not helping their cause. The sudden and nasty exit of English halfback George Williams which was grossly played out in the media, led to finger pointing and the airing of dirty laundry which tore the once harmonious squad to shreds and an absolute shellacking in front of their home fans by the Titans in Round 16 proved to be their rock bottom on the field.

From there, the Milk made a desperate late charge to win four out of their next five games, but left their run far too late, when they faced the competition heavyweights in Melbourne, Manly and Roosters in their last month of football. They failed to collect any competition points from those matches, leaving the Raiders to finish in a hugely disappointing 10th spot on the NRL ladder.

Turning point

Following the messy exit of star Englishman John Bateman in 2020, history repeated itself in the nation's capital with the exit of England half George Williams. Rumours began to surface in April during the Raiders mid-year form slump that Williams was looking to leave his contract early (which was due to end in 2022), to return to England at the end of the year. The allegations then exploded in the papers, when coach Ricky Stuart not only agreed to a release but sensationally chose to end Williams' contract effective immediately. This ended Williams' 32 game career in the lime green, with the club allowing the former Wigan number seven to return home for family reasons. The fallout from the decision tore the club apart, with finger pointing coming from ex-players, current players, coaching staff and various 'sources' in the media who wanted to have their say about what really was going on behind closed doors.

Williams then responded on Twitter, advising that instead of the club supporting his struggles with homesickness, the club had callously cut him adrift. The media then continued to have a field day with the issue, which culminated in their captain Josh Hodgson standing by his English teammate and relinquished the captaincy as a result. The club became fractured and from there the team never regained their focus.

What worked

The Raiders marketing has really been outstanding in recent years, with the addition of the Viking Clap at home games and they struck gold again with their heritage jersey paying a homage to their 1994 premiership jersey with iconic sponsors Canberra Milk coming on board to return as the major sponsor for the 2021 season. The jersey proved an enormous hit before a ball was kicked in 2021, with the classic jersey selling out twice after failing to keep up with demand. News Limited reported the club making an estimated \$2.2m profit from the nostalgic Milk jersey....gee they must have sucked if the best thing was their jersey..ok I digress.

While finishing in 10th place can be assessed as a complete write off considering their roster, the loss of key personnel was offset by the unearthing of potential backline superstars in Xavier Savage, Harley Smith-Shields and Matt Timoko.

The player who created the most attention in just 3 first grade games was speedster Xavier Savage. The Cairns junior made his debut off the bench against the Dragons in Round 15, when he was accidentally used as an 18th man. However it was his eye catching performance when handed the fullback jersey which will have Canberra fans excited, where he made two linebreaks and scored an electric try in a superb 34-18 win over the Sharks in Round 18.

Centre Matt Timoko and winger Harley Smith-Shields also developed a potential lethal right edge combination in the back half of the season. Their successful introduction to first grade gives Ricky Stuart a nice headache Round 1 in 2022 with all three young guns sure to keep their

seasoned veterans in Croker and Rapana on their toes in the pre-season.

What didn't work

Clearly the biggest issue for Canberra was unlocking the form of their two best players in 2020 Dally M Medallist Jack Wightton and front row enforcer Josh Papalii.

However, the new rules in the 'V'landysball' era didn't suit the big forward pack that Stuart had assembled over the past few seasons. The coaching staff continued to chop and change looking for the right combination to keep up with the fast style of football being played. These decisions led to disharmony amongst the playing group, which exploded with another off field scandal when forward Joseph Tapine's partner chose to vent her frustration on social media. However, Mrs Tapine was not alone in these thoughts. With the Raiders spoilt for choice in their forwards, they seemed to shuffle players in and out of their game day 17 after each loss, which simply did not allow for any continuity. It seems like if you dropped a ball or made a mistake, out you would go for a week simply because the club had depth. The bench rotation was also questionable, with Hodgson and Tom Starling not used as a simple one, two punch combination out of dummy half that the more successful sides like the Storm where utilising with their dummy half duo. Rather, both were left on the field, with Hodgson as a floater, which ultimately cut the minutes of the engine room and unfortunately it was to their detriment too often. The Raiders have to look to get more impact from the pine if they can kick away from sides down the stretch, as they simply looked flat towards the backend of games on far too many occasions.

Best players

Jordan Rapana turned back the clock, with the 32 year old veteran winger showing his experience and versatility filling in at centre and fullback at various stages of the season. Rapana's efforts in taking the tough carries when his side were on the back foot, combined with his gut busting cover defence when in the custodian role was inspirational to his younger teammates and the Kiwi winger more than earned his two year extension at the conclusion of the season. With Rapana likely to return to his familiar wing position next year, he may prove as valuable at training bringing the next generation through, than when he is wearing the number 5 jersey on game day.

Looking ahead

Are Canberra rebuilding or are they a recruit away from being a premiership force? That's the question when you look at their squad for 2022 so far. The biggest riddle to solve was their halfback role and they have gone after the steady hand of Jamal Fogarty from the Titans. In theory Fogarty looks the perfect fit for unlocking Jack Wightton's lethal running game and taking the lead with the kicking. The other issue is whether hooker and club legend Josh Hodgson's time in the lime green has come to an end? If reports are to be believed then that is a huge call, as it leaves Tom Starling as the sole cover at nine and if injuries strike then things could get messy in what has proved such a key position under the new regime of six agains and lack of discipline from exhausted players around the ruck.

The Raiders have some talented players but can Ricky Stuart find the magic or has the premiership window closed?

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Wests Tigers	W 30 - 12	GIO	15,680
2	Cronulla	W 12 - 10	Netstrata	3,145
3	Warriors	L 31 - 34	GIO	13,456
4	Gold Coast	W 20 - 4	Netstrata	5,117
5	Penrith	L 10 - 30	BlueBet	20,890
6	Parramatta	L 10 - 35	GIO	20,089
7	North Queensland	L 24 - 26	QLD C.B.	13,791
8	South Sydney	L 20 - 34	GIO	14,260
9	Newcastle	L 16 - 24	Wagga	6,642
10	Canterbury	W 20 - 18	Suncorp	30,214
11	Melbourne	L 10 - 34	GIO	14,120
12	Sydney	L 16 - 44	Gen. Coast	10,113
13	BYE			
14	Brisbane	W 38 - 16	GIO	9,608
15	St George Illawarra	L 20 - 22	WIN	9,239
16	Gold Coast Titans	L 6 - 44	GIO	7,646
17	Manly	W 30 - 16	4 Pines	-
18	Cronulla	W 34 - 18	CBUS	3,874
19	Parramatta	W 12 - 10	CBUS	2,566
20	Newcastle	L 24 - 34	Suncorp	-
21	St George Illawarra	W 20 - 12	CBUS	-
22	Melbourne	L 16 - 26	Sun. Coast	2,523
23	Manly	L 18 - 19	Suncorp	6,181
24	Warriors	W 28 - 16	Mackay	4,079
25	Sydney	L 16 - 40	Mackay	3,473

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 10th | Played 24, Won 10, Lost 14 | For 481, Against 578 | Coach: Ricky Stuart (24 matches)

Most Points: Jarrod Croker (80) | Most Tries: Jordan Rapana (12)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	WST	CRO	WAR	GCT	PEN	PAR	NQL	SOU	NEW	CBY	MEL	SYD	BRI	SGI	GCT	MAN	CRO	PAR	NEW	SGI	MEL	MAN	WAR	SYD	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts
AEKINS, Caleb						FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB													7	-	-	-	-	-
ANDERSON, Elijah																					B				-	1	-	-	-	-
CROKER, Jarrod			C	C	C	C	C								C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C			12	-	1	38	-	80
FRAWLEY, Matt																FE		FE				B	HB	HB	4	1	-	-	-	-
GULER, Emre						B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	B	B	10	9	4	-	-	16
HARAWIRA-NAERA, Corey							2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B				13	2	4	-	-	16
HAVILI, Siliva	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B														B	B	-	11	-	-	-	-
HODGSON, Josh	H	H	H	H	H	H				B		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	19	1	1	-	-	4
HORSBURGH, Corey							B	B	B	B	B	B											B	B	-	8	1	-	-	4
JAMES, Ryan	B	B	B	FR	L		FR	FR		B	B	B				B	B								4	8	2	-	-	8
KRIS, Sebastian	C	C	2R	C	C		W	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C			C	C	20	-	8	-	-	32	
LUI, Dunamis	FR	FR		FR						L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR					B		10	1	-	-	-	-	
NICOLL-KLOKSTAD, Charnze	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB																	B	B	FB	6	2	3	-	-	12
PAPALII, Josh	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	B		FR	FR			FR	FR	FR		B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	15	5	4	-	-	16
RAPANA, Jordan	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	C	22	-	12	9	-	66
SAVAGE, Xavier																FB	FB								2	-	1	-	-	4
SCHNEIDER, Brad											B														-	1	-	-	-	-
SCOTT, Curtis	C	C	C			C	C	C	C	C	C	C													10	-	1	-	-	4
SIMONSSON, Bailey	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	FB	FB	FB							W	W	W	17	-	6	-	-	24
SMITH-SHIELDS, Harley																			W	W	W	W	W	W	7	-	3	-	-	12
SOLIOLA, Iosia	B	B	B	B	FR	B		B			B	L	L	B	B	FR	B	B			L			L	6	11	1	-	-	4
STARLING, Tom			B	B	B	B	H	H	H	H	H	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			5	14	2	-	-	8
SUTTON, Ryan	B	B	FR	L	B	FR	L	L	L		L	L	B	B	L	L	L	L		L	B	L	L	B	15	7	2	-	-	8
TAPINE, Joseph	L	L	L		B	L		B	B				B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	11	8	2	-	-	8
TIMOKO, Matthew													C	C				B	B	C	C	C	C	C	7	2	-	-	-	-
VALEMEI, Semi										W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			W	11	-	2	-	-	8
WHITEHEAD, Elliott	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	HB	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R					2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	21	-	4	-	-	16
WIGHTON, Jack	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE		FE			FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	21	-	5	-	-	20
WILLIAMS, George	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB														10	-	3	16	1	45
WILLIAMS, Sam											FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB			12	-	4	15	-	46
YOUNG, Hudson	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	B	2R	B	B	B					2R	2R	2R	L	2R	2R	2R	2R	15	4	5	-	-	20	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	Bold, colour = captain

CANBERRA RAIDERS

Established 1982
 Home Ground Canberra Stadium, Bruce ACT
 (current name: GIO Stadium Canberra)
 Premierships 1989, 1990, 1994
 Runners Up 1987, 2019
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Jarrod Croker: 2238 points
 Most Tries (all time) Jarrod Croker: 133 tries

Matches Played 992
 Won 507
 Lost 475
 Drawn 10
 Points For 21,544
 Points Against 20,126
 Biggest win 68-0 (68 pts) - Aug 22nd, 1993 - vs. Parramatta
 Biggest loss 4-68 (64 pts) - Aug 4th, 2013 - vs. Melbourne
 Most points scored 74-12 (74 pts) - Aug 10th, 2008 - vs. Penrith
 Most points conceded 32-70 (70 pts) - Mar 19th, 2006 - vs. Newcastle

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

SEASON REVIEW

By Rob Crosby, LeagueUnlimited.com



When Trent Barrett was appointed as coach of the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs for the 2021 season, his signing evoked nostalgia for the bygone days of "The Entertainers".

Renowned for a free-flowing style of play that captivated supporters during an era of dominance for the club, "The Entertainers" were a far cry from what Canterbury had become in the years since reaching their last premiership decider.

Hoping to bring about change following years of declining performances and boardroom instability, the decision to give Barrett a shot at redemption was a convincing sell. Having rehabilitated his image as an assistant after an acrimonious split from Manly, the one-time Dally M medallist was lauded for his part in taking Penrith from an up-and-coming squad to an attacking force. Long-suffering fans agreed that a premiership was unrealistic, but the gospel according to management had everyone believing in a Canterbury side boasting a much-improved attack. Supporters, sadly, discovered Barrett was not the brilliant tactician they thought he was.

Having averaged 14 points per game the previous year, the Bulldogs fared no better in 2021 and finished bottom of league with the worst attack and third-worst defence. Winning a paltry three matches all year - the final of which came on the last afternoon of the regular season - Barrett's roster management saw 35 players used in first grade.

Suffering defeat after defeat with the occasional upset over Cronulla (18-12), St George Illawarra (28-6) and Wests Tigers (38-0) breaking up the monotony, the club managed to defy lacklustre on-field performances with success on the recruitment front.

Managing to woo several high profile players to commit to the club, including speedster Josh Addo-Carr and in-demand young gun Matt Burton, the most significant coup came in the announcement of Phil Gould as General Manager of Football. Having taken Penrith from the brink of extinction to one of the most successful organisations in the league, Gould's return to the club, where he spent time as a player and won a premiership as a coach, will give Barrett the support and experience needed to weather the rebuild that lays ahead. Finishing the year with a resounding on-field victory that finally delivered on the attacking hype, the Bulldogs will be hoping to carry the feeling of success into 2022.

Turning point

Unable to match it with the top teams and lacking the cohesion to dominate fellow also-rans, the Bulldogs needed things to go their way in order to compete. During a two week period that reflected the tone of the year as a whole, the side headed into the Round 15 clash against Parramatta full of confidence after stunning St George Illawarra on Queen's Birthday Monday. Leading 10-6 at halftime only to concede a penalty try shortly after the resumption for a tackle supporters deemed as sin bin sufficient, an avalanche of points followed as the Eels ran out 36-10 winners.

Heading into the following week with five players suspended for breaching COVID-19 protocols, a line-up more in keeping with a Canterbury Cup team were lambs to the slaughter during a 66-0 annihilation at the hands of Manly. As Barrett fronted the press in the aftermath with a look of resignation at the side's plight, it became abundantly clear that the end of the season couldn't come soon enough for the boys from Belmore.

What worked

Taking an axe to the roster after persisting with players accustomed to losing for far too long, the Bulldogs were able to articulate a vision that appealed to players looking to cash in on an opportunity. Gaining the services of highly sought after stars Josh Addo-Carr and Tevita Pangai Jr, Barrett's ties with players from his two stints at Penrith helped deliver Matt Burton, Brent Naden and Braidon Burns to the club.

Offering the incentive of short-term deals to Matt Dufty, Max King and Paul Vaughan, the need to increase depth at hooker saw Josh Cook come on board in a bid to earn a first grade debut. Managing to re-sign several emerging talents and cutting ties with players deemed surplus to requirement, stakeholders will be far less forgiving of another 16th placed finish in 2022.

What didn't work

While attacking woes saw the side anchored to the bottom of the ladder for all but five weeks of the season, a lack of discipline on and off the field ensured players only had themselves to blame. Missing Jack Hetherington, Luke Thompson and Dylan Napa on multiple occasions through suspension, an inexplicable display of selfishness from Lachlan Lewis cost the side two points for the taking when the five-eighth tackled Cody Walker off the ball after the halftime siren.

In an off-field moment equally bizarre, Lewis had his contract torn up following a practical joke that was greeted by the NRL with a reception usually reserved for a Happy Madison production released directly to Netflix. The NRL also imposed a \$50,000 fine on the club in the wake of five players breaching COVID protocols as cases began to rise in Sydney, while Adam Elliott had his

contract terminated after engulfing the club in another off-field incident involving alcohol.

Defining players

Few players excelled for Canterbury over the course of 25 rounds, however an insight into the state of the club could be found in the polarising fortunes of Kyle Flanagan and Jake Averillo.

Finding refuge at Belmore following an abrupt departure from the Roosters, Flanagan struggled to command the authority needed of a player wearing the number seven jersey. While the number on his back remained the same from twelve months earlier, his role was vastly different from that of the complementing learner gaining a real time education under the tutelage of Luke Keary. Axed from first grade ahead of Magic Round due to a dismal record over the opening nine weeks, Flanagan's confidence never recovered after being recalled only to be dropped, less than a fortnight later, a further three times.

In contrast, Averillo gave hope to the blue and white faithful that better days lay ahead. Playing throughout the backline during his rookie year, the Moorebank Rams junior proved to be one of the side's primary attacking threats with a move into the halves. Relying on his natural strengths to register seven tries in 21 appearances, Averillo's growth as game manager could be seen as the year went on.

Both Flanagan and Averillo are contracted to Canterbury for a further two seasons. Both have shown talent through the junior ranks; yet their futures appear to be on vastly different trajectories in the big league.

Rookies

Handing six players opportunities in the top grade throughout the year, the 2021 rookies fell into two camps: star juniors and reserve grade battlers. Among the young guns blooded by Barrett, Jackson Topine, a versatile second-rower who was named Club Person of the Year in 2020 earned a call up for the New Zealand Maori before debuting on Good Friday; Aaron Schoupp, showed signs of promise in the centres to earn an upgraded deal; Bailey Biondi-Odo, provided great impact off the bench as playmaker with several dazzling tries; and Chris Patolo, offered size in limited appearances late in the year. Journeyman hooker Brad Deitz achieved an unexpected call up after years of toiling away in front of friends and family; while Kiwi centre Falakiko Manu benefitted from an opportunity afforded by the five players forced into quarantine for breaching COVID-19 measures.

Looking ahead

Winning just six matches since the onset of COVID-19 last year, the Bulldogs won't be able to justify another poor season based on their impressive recruitment drive. Boasting a backline brimming with speed and a pack capable of going forward with impact, the biggest question remains over the lack of experience throughout the spine. Having pinned their hopes on Matt Burton, a supporting player in a premierships winning team, the rising star will be expected to own the result in a team where just winning a game is treated like a grand final. With Kyle Flanagan watching on from reserve grade as a real time example of the pressures faced by young players tasked with roles beyond their years, the Bulldogs will need their playmakers firing or else the money spent elsewhere will be for nought.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Newcastle	L 16 - 32	McD. Jones	19,555
2	Penrith	L 0 - 28	Bankwest	5,062
3	Brisbane	L 0 - 24	Suncorp	22,509
4	South Sydney	L 0 - 38	Stad Aust.	23,240
5	Melbourne	L 18 - 52	Stad Aust.	5,104
6	North Queensland	L 18 - 30	QLD C.B.	11,965
7	Cronulla	W 18 - 12	Netstrata	7,420
8	Parramatta	L 10 - 32	Stad Aust.	13,273
9	St George Illawarra	L 12 - 32	Netstrata	7,253
10	Canberra	L 18 - 20	Suncorp	30,214
11	Gold Coast	L 20 - 30	CBUS	11,315
12	Penrith	L 4 - 30	BlueBet	16,110
13	BYE			
14	St George Illawarra	W 28 - 6	Stad Aust.	17,382
15	Parramatta	L 10 - 36	Bankwest	17,276
16	Manly	L 0 - 66	Bankwest	-
17	Sydney	L 16 - 22	Bankwest	-
18	South Sydney	L 24 - 32	CBus	2,979
19	Cronulla	L 24 - 44	CBus	4,424
20	Gold Coast	L 6 - 34	CBus	-
21	Wests Tigers	L 16 - 28	CBus	-
22	Warriors	L 10 - 24	Redcliffe	3,332
23	Newcastle	L 16 - 22	CBus	2,343
24	Manly	L 18 - 36	Redcliffe	4,910
25	Wests Tigers	W 38 - 0	Redcliffe	3,104

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 16th | Played 24, Won 3, Lost 21 | For 340, Against 710 | Coach: Trent Barrett (24 matches)

Most Points: Jake Averillo (82) | Most Tries: Nick Meaney (10)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	NEW	PEN	BRI	SOU	MEL	NQL	CRO	PAR	SGI	CAN	GCT	PEN	SGI	PAR	MAN	SYD	SOU	CRO	GCT	WST	WAR	NEW	MAN	WST	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ALLAN, Corey	FB	FB	FB	W	C	C	C	C	C						W	W	W	W	FB	W		W	W	W	18	-	3	-	-	12	
ATONI, Renouf	B	B	B	L	B	FR	B	B	B	L	B					2R		B	B						4	10	2	-	-	8	
AVERILLO, Jake	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB			HB	21	-	7	27	-	82	
BIONDI-ODO, Bailey															B	B	B	B	B	FE	FE	B	B		2	7	2	-	-	8	
BRITT, Dean				B																					-	1	-	-	-	-	
ČOTRIĆ, Nick	C	C	C	C	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W											14	-	3	-	-	12	
DEITZ, Bradley	B						B	B	B	B	B	H													1	6	-	-	-	-	
DOOREY, Matt							B	B		B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R		B	B	2R		2R		8	5	1	-	-	4	
ELLIOTT, Adam	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	2R	2R	2R					2R	2R	2R	2R			18	-	2	-	-	8	
FAITALA-MARINER, Raymond	B	2R																							1	1	-	-	-	-	
FLANAGAN, Kyle	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB						FE				HB			HB	HB		13	-	1	17	-	38	
HETHERINGTON, Jack	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR						FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	2R	17	-	1	-	-	4	
HOPOLATE, William	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	24	-	1	1	-	6
HORSBURGH, Corey																						B	B		-	2	-	-	-	-	
JACKSON, Josh	L	L	L		L							L	L	L	L	L	L	2R	L	L	L	L	L	L	17	-	-	-	-	-	
JAMES, Ryan																					FR	FR			2	-	1	-	-	4	
KATO, Tuipulotu			W	W	W	W	W			W			FB	W	W										9	-	2	-	-	8	
LEWIS, Lachlan				FE					B							FE	FE	FE				FE			5	1	2	-	-	8	
MANU, Falakiko														C	W					W	W				4	-	-	-	-	-	
MARSHALL-KING, Jeremy		B	H										H	H	H		H	H	H	H	H				8	1	1	-	-	4	
MEANEY, Nicholas	W	W	W	FB			FB	FB	W	C	W	W	W	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	W	FB	FB	FB	FB	22	-	10	5	-	50	
NAPA, Dylan	B	B	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR			B	B	B	B		B	B	B	FR	FR				FR	8	10	2	-	-	8	
OGDEN, Ofahiki	FR	FR	B	B	B	B			B	B						B	B						B	B	2	10	-	-	-	-	
OKUNBOR, Jayden																		W	W	W		W	W	W	7	-	5	-	-	20	
PATOLO, Chris															B				B	B	B		B	B	-	6	-	-	-	-	
SCHOUPE, Aaron											C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	13	-	3	-	-	12	
SEUMANUFAGAI, Ava							B	B	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	B		B	FR		B	FR	B	FR	FR	7	9	-	-	-	-	
SMITH, Christopher						B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R														5	1	1	-	-	4	
STIMSON, Joe			B	B								B			B	B		B				B	B	2R	2R	2	9	-	-	-	-
THOMPSON, Luke					B	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	L				FR			14	1	3	-	-	12	
TOPINE, Jackson				B	B	B						B			2R								H	B	B	2	6	1	-	-	4
UTIA-KATO, Sione	H	H	B	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H			B		H	H			B	B		H	H	14	4	-	-	-	-	
WADDELL, Corey	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	L	L	B	B		B	B		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R		B	14	6	1	-	-	4	
WAKEHAM, Brandon										FE	FE	FE	FE	FE									FE	FE	7	1	-	-	-	-	
WATENE-ZELEZNIAK, Dallin	W	W			FB	FB		W	FB	FB	FB	FB													9	-	5	-	-	20	

Position Key

FB = Fullback

W = Wing

C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth

HB = Halfback

PR = Prop

HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row

L = Lock

B = Bench

Bold, colour = captain

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

Established 1935
 Home Grounds Stadium Australia, Sydney Olympic Park NSW
 Western Sydney Stadium, Parramatta NSW
 (current name: Bankwest Stadium)
 Belmore Sports Ground, Belmore NSW

Premierships 1938, 1942, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1995, 2004
 Runners Up 1940, 1946, 1967, 1974, 1979, 1986, 1994, 1998, 2012, 2014
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Hazem El Masri: 2462 points
 Most Tries (all time) Hazem El Masri: 168 tries

Matches Played 1,890
 Won 958
 Lost 879
 Drawn 53
 Points For 32,601
 Points Against 32,869
 Biggest win 66-4 (62 pts) - Aug 27th, 1995 - vs. North Queensland
 Biggest loss 6-91 (85 pts) - May 11th, 1935 - vs. St George
 Most points scored 66-4 (66 pts) - Aug 27th, 1995 - vs. North Queensland
 Most points conceded 6-91 (91 pts) - May 11th, 1935 - vs. St George

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Ferguson, Rugby League Project



The Sharks have been doing a rather commendable job of rebuilding their elderly Premiership winning side of 2016 - one of the oldest squads to ever win a Premiership, navigating a sacked and deregistered coach and a high volume of churn to their squad through contracts ending, rotating in new blood and rookies and the ever constant injuries that befall all teams.

Yet despite this, Cronulla continued to remain a top eight side every year since 2015, however the last three years has seen them slowly slide down the table, finishing 7th in 2019, 8th in 2020 and 9th in 2021.

2021 saw coach John Morris dumped, with assistant Josh Hannay filling in until new coach Craig Fitzgibbon takes over for the 2022 campaign. It was the Sharks worst season defensively since they claimed the wooden spoon in 2014.

But in a positive, it was their best attacking season since their celebrated 2016 season. In nine of their last 10 seasons, the Sharks have managed to win at least 10 games.

The Sharks had a woeful start, recording just two wins from their opening 10 games to sit third last. They then won six of their next eight games to climb back into the top 8, but a poor finish resulted in just two wins from their remaining six games, ultimately costing them a place in the finals (they finished equal on competition points with the 8th placed Titans, but had a marginally worse points differential).

The Sharks have made some marquee acquisitions, providing their fans with plenty to look forward to in 2022.

Turning point

The Sharks had won just two games ahead of their ninth-round clash with Penrith, and were coming off their heaviest defeat of the season to date - a 40-14 loss to Melbourne - the previous week. They were decimated by a red hot Panthers side, who handed the Shire outfit a 48-0 flogging.

The next week Cronulla were much better in attack and gave Souths a genuine scare, before going down 32-22. It was a marked improvement which led to Cronulla winning their next four games against the Dragons, the Titans, Penrith and the Cowboys.

They also scored two more wins over the following four weeks to surge into the top eight.

What worked

The Sharks' right side worked so well that Cronulla shifted the ball right more often than any other team in 2021.

That edge contained a combination of strong ball runners like Briton Nikora and Jesse Ramien as well as speedster and prolific try-scoring winger Siona Katoa out wide.

Throw in the ever improving roving playmaking of William Kennedy and it made for an irresistible temptation for the Sharks attack.

What didn't work

The final 20 minutes. The Sharks struggled badly in the final 20 minutes of games, conceding 33 of their 97 tries and scoring 20 of their 87 tries in that period.

Given that seven of the Sharks 14 losses were by eight points or less, this issue in the final 20 minutes is a genuine concern which ultimately cost them a place in the finals.

Best player

Dynamic fullback Will Kennedy had his best season yet and his development is coming along in leaps and bounds.

Compared to 2020, Kennedy in 2021 scored 11 more tries, had three more try assists, nine more line breaks, averaged 44 more run metres per game, had over 400 more kick return metres, improved his tackling effectiveness, further developed his short kicking game, which resulted in 10 forced drop outs, eight more than the previous season.

Rookies

Braydon Trindall's second season in the NRL and his first genuine full season saw him show good composure and playmaking ability, so much so that it led to the club allowing their Premiership winning halfback Chad Townsend to sign with the Cowboys for 2022, before being released earlier so as to link up with the Warriors for the rest of the season.

With a good pack and a genuine attacking five-eighth beside him in 2022, Trindall looks set to improve even further.

Blayke Brailey's third season saw his performances drop a little compared to 2020, however he is still a vital and impressive cog in the Sharks attack.

With more support coming to the side to help him defensively, he could very well find that attacking spark in the final 20 minutes of games that Sharks sorely missed this year.

Looking ahead

The Sharks have just 2 players remaining from their Premiership winning side in 2016 - captain Wade Graham and prop Andrew Fifita.

Halfback Chad Townsend has essentially been replaced by the impressive Storm utility back Nicho Hynes, Aaron Woods has been replaced by Storm lock Dale Finucane and Josh Dugan's departure has been covered by the acquisition of Roosters winger Matt Ikuvalu.

The Sharks have also moved on Shaun Johnson, Will Chambers, Billy Magoulias and Nene Macdonald.

They've also picked up handy defensive rake/lock Cameron McInnes. They have made genuine upgrades exactly where they need them.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	St George Illawarra	W 32 - 18	Netstrata	7,636
2	Canberra	L 10 - 12	Netstrata	3,145
3	Parramatta	L 4 - 28	Bankwest	19,236
4	North Queensland	W 48 - 10	Netstrata	5,119
5	Sydney	L 18 - 26	SCG	10,736
6	Newcastle	L 22 - 26	McD. Jones	17,039
7	Canterbury	L 12 - 18	Netstrata	7,420
8	Melbourne	L 14 - 40	AAMI Park	10,069
9	Penrith	L 0 - 48	BlueBet	16,110
10	South Sydney	L 22 - 32	Suncorp	42,821
11	St George Illawarra	W 13 - 12	Netstrata	8,947
12	Gold Coast	W 38 - 10	Gen. Coast	7,362
13	BYE			
14	Penrith	W 19 - 18	Netstrata	5,217
15	North Queensland	W 26 - 24	QLD C.B.	13,926
16	Brisbane	L 18 - 26	Suncorp	13,840
17	Warriors	W 20 - 12	Netstrata	-
18	Canberra	L 18 - 34	Cbus	3,874
19	Canterbury	W 44 - 24	Cbus	4,424
20	Manly	L 22 - 40	Suncorp	-
21	Warriors	L 16 - 18	Cbus	-
22	Newcastle	L 14 - 16	Redcliffe	3,954
23	Wests Tigers	W 50 - 20	R'hampton	2,863
24	Brisbane	W 24 - 16	Suncorp	8,618
25	Melbourne	L 16 - 28	Cbus	8,580



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THE FRONT ROW
WEEKLY RUGBY LEAGUE MAGAZINE and MATCH PROGRAMME

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 9th | Played 24, Won 10, Lost 14 | For 520, Against 556 | Coaches: John Morris (5 matches), Josh Hannay (19 matches)

Most Points: Braydon Trindall (88) | Most Tries: Connor Tracey and Will Kennedy (14)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	SGI	CAN	PAR	NQL	SYD	NEW	CBY	MEL	PEN	SOU	SGI	GCT	PEN	NQL	BRI	WAR	CAN	CBY	MAN	WAR	NEW	WST	BRI	MEL	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
BRAILEY, Blayke	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	24	-	2	-	-	8
CHAMBERS, Will								C	C	C	C	C	C	C					C	C					9	-	1	-	-	4	
DUGAN, Josh	C	C	C	C	C		C			C	C														8	-	3	-	-	12	
FIFITA, Andrew										B			B					B	B	B	B				-	6	-	-	-	-	
GRAHAM, Wade	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R												11	-	-	-	-	-	
HAMLIN-UELE, Braden	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B						B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	B	B	8	11	1	-	-	4	
HIROTI, Mawene		C		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W					B	B	B					W	W	11	3	5	-	-	20	
HUNT, Royce																		B	B						-	2	-	-	-	-	
JOHNSON, Shaun							FE	FE	FE			HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB							10	-	1	18	1	41	
KATO, Sione	W	W	W												W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	13	-	9	-	-	36	
KENNEDY, William	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	24	-	14	-	-	56	
MAGOULIAS, Billy	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B												B	B			-	11	-	-	-	-	
METCALF, Luke																			B	B	B	FE	FE	B	2	4	2	-	-	8	
MOYLAN, Matt	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE			B	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE								B	B	FE	12	3	2	-	-	8	
MULTALO, Ronaldo	W	W	W	W	W							W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	16	-	10	-	-	40	
NIKORA, Briton	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	20	2	4	-	-	16	
PELE, Franklin												B													-	1	-	-	-	-	
RAMIEN, Jesse	C				C	C	C		C			C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	17	-	5	-	-	20	
RUDOLF, Toby	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	FR	L	FR	L	FR	FR	24	-	1	-	-	4	
TALAKAI, Siosifa						B	B					B	B	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	C	2R	C	2R	2R	B	9	6	1	-	-	4	
TOLMAN, Aiden	B	B	B	B	B	B		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	B	B		B	B	11	10	1	-	-	4	
TOWNSEND, Chad	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB														11	-	-	31	1	63	
TRACEY, Connor	B	B	C	C	B	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	C	C	C	FE	FE	FE	C	C	C	21	3	14	-	-	56	
TRINDALL, Braydon				B			B	B		B	B	B	B	B	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	10	8	4	36	-	88	
WILLIAMS, Jack	B	B	B	B	B	2R	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	L	2R	L	2R	L	L	L	8	16	2	-	-	8	
WILTON, Teigan			B	2R	2R	C	2R	C	B		B			B	2R	2R	2R					B	B	2R	9	6	2	-	-	8	
WOODS, Aaron	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	24	-	3	-	-	12	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	Bold, colour = captain

CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND SHARKS

Established 1967
 Home Grounds Jubilee Oval, Carlton NSW (2020-21 only)
 (current name: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium)
 Endeavour Field, Woollooware NSW
 (current name: PointsBet Stadium)

Premierships 2016
 Runners Up 1973, 1978, 1997 (SL)
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Steve Rogers: 1267 points
 Most Tries (all time) Andrew Ettingshausen: 172 tries

Matches Played 1,319
 Won 638
 Lost 657
 Drawn 24
 Points For 24,162
 Points Against 24,302
 Biggest wins 68-6 (62 pts) - Aug 21st, 2005 - vs. Manly
 62-0 (62 pts) - May 15th, 2016 - vs. Newcastle
 Biggest loss 4-74 (70 pts) - Aug 23rd, 2003 - vs. Parramatta
 Most points scored 68-6 (68 pts) - Aug 21st, 2005 - vs. Manly
 Most points conceded 4-74 (74 pts) - Aug 23rd, 2003 - vs. Parramatta

GOLD COAST TITANS

SEASON REVIEW

By Rob Crosby, LeagueUnlimited.com



Small D* Energy (*Defence)

Contrary to the supposedly infallible belief of people who claim to have the game's best interests at heart, defence is not a dirty word. Attacking football can be exhilarating and make casual fans into committed supporters, but, when all is said and done, defence is what makes rugby league so compelling. In a year that saw multiple blowouts every weekend and point-scoring records fall at a farcical rate, defence ultimately proved the difference when it mattered in the big end of season fixtures.

Being able to score points is essential to achieving success in rugby league, however, if a team consistently posts more than 20 points a game and still comes up short, it doesn't take a learned person to know their priorities in defence need to shift.

Such was the case for the Gold Coast Titans in 2021.

For the premier teams in the league, bowing out in the first week of the play-offs with a record of more losses than wins would be little cause for celebration. Ultimately, though, the Titans' season is best understood in context. Two years ago, the league's newest club finished in last position and facing an existential crisis. What had the Gold Coast ever achieved and would anyone care if the side went the way of their predecessors? The Titans recognised their crossroads moment and went about change for the better.

In Justin Holbrook's first year as coach, the side finished ninth and netted the signatures of rising superstars David Fifita and Tino Fa'asuamaleaui. Taking further strides twelve months later to secure a finals appearance for the first time in five years, the Titans revelled in matches where their attacking strengths came to the fore.

Damningly, the side fell dispiritingly short in contests where points were at a premium. The Titans will be striving for further improvement in 2022 with an aim of making back-to-back finals for only the second time in history.

Whether they can take the next step will depend on one thing...

Turning point

If there was one match that encapsulated the Titans for better and worse in 2021, the Round 14 encounter against the Roosters fit the description to a tee. Taking place on a Saturday afternoon days after the opening State of Origin fixture, the side produced the highest losing scoreline of the season with a dazzling display of attacking football.

Trailing 4-30 shortly after the resumption of play before hitting the lead for the first time with eight minutes on the clock, the side's inability to close out proceedings proved fatal with Roosters' rookie Sam Walker kicking the visitors to a 35-34 victory. The result did little to engender confidence for coach Justin Holbrook as the side followed the Roosters performance with a spectacular collapse against the Sea Eagles (56-24) before pummelling the Raiders (44-6) in the nation's capital.

In a competition where success is reliant upon consistency and resolve in defence, the Titans were found wanting frequently throughout the season.

What worked

Few teams were as entertaining to watch in 2021 as the Titans when afforded the opportunity to play attacking football on their own terms. Capable of scoring tries from inside their own half with a blend of speed, second-phase play and raw strength, marquee signing David Fifita embodied this mentality with 17 tries, 22 line breaks, 44 offloads and 155 tackle breaks.

Boasting the sixth best attacking record with an average winning margin of 24.6 points, the side delighted supporters with 40-point hauls against the Cowboys (44-8), Knights (42-16) and Raiders (44-6). Faced with a season-defining final round encounter against the Warriors on home soil, the Titans recorded their largest win in history with a 44-0 demolition to secure a place in the finals - albeit in one of the weakest premierships seen in the NRL era. When things were going well for the Titans, you could be assured of a high-scoring game.

...when things were going well.

What didn't work

Being able to win through defence is a trait that requires years and years of refinement.

In addition to the physical demands required of players, the mental exertion separates the genuine contenders from those who are merely making up the numbers. The Titans were incapable of grinding out tight matches to their detriment in 2021. The smallest winning score the side posted all season was 28 points against cross-town rivals Brisbane in Round 2, while

there were only six games all year - including the Elimination Final against Sydney - where a win or loss was decided by eight points or less.

Being able to pile on try after try against lesser teams may do wonders for a side's for-and-against, but without an ingrained commitment to maintaining a defensive line, on-field success can only go so far.

Best players

When the Gold Coast Titans announced the signature of Tino Fa'asuamaleaui a year in advance, the jury remained out on a young forward with plenty of promise but few accomplishments to safely justify the show of faith. In hindsight, the Titans were on the money in their pursuit of the towering tyro.

Arriving on the Gold Coast as a premiership winner and State of Origin representative, the 21-year-old was a stand out in the forward pack with 51 tackle breaks and an average output of 136 metres, 55 post-contact metres and 29 tackles each week.

Rotating between lock-forward and front-row over the course of 22 matches, Fa'asuamaleaui claimed the Paul Broughton Medal as Player of the Year along with interest from the club to upgrade his deal into the future.

Rookies

Bleeding three fresh faces in first grade throughout the year, Jayden Campbell, Greg Marzhew and Toby Sexton all left impressions as players of the future.

Becoming the first legacy player at the Titans as the son of Preston Campbell, the club's foundation signing, Campbell showed touches of speed and finesse to put himself firmly in the frame as the club's long-term number one with five tries in seven appearances.

Making his long-awaited debut after starring as a junior at the Gold Coast and Parramatta, Marzhew churned through plenty of work to take the place of club legend Anthony Don on the wing.

Earmarked as the club's first-choice playmaker after an impressive introduction to first grade, Sexton showed plenty of confidence late in the season after bidding his time in Queensland Cup.

Looking ahead

The Titans are well on the way to becoming a competitive squad thanks to a mixture of experienced campaigners and exciting young guns. The decision to back Toby Sexton over Jamal Fogarty will have a significant influence on where the side finishes up at the end of 25 home-and-away fixtures.

Little known dummy half Aaron Booth shapes as a key signing following the departure of Mitch Rein; the Titans will be hoping the 26-year-old can have a similar influence as Harry Grant, Slade Griffin and Rory Kostjasyan in chasing success after coming through the ranks at Melbourne.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Warriors	L 6 - 19	Ken. Coast	3,771
2	Brisbane	W 28 - 16	CBUS	17,822
3	North Queensland	W 44 - 8	QLD C.B.	12,627
4	Canberra	L 4 - 20	Netstrata	5,117
5	Newcastle	W 42 - 16	CBUS	12,492
6	Manly	L 0 - 36	Mudgee	6,380
7	South Sydney	L 30 - 40	CBUS	17,383
8	Brisbane	L 28 - 36	Suncorp	21,322
9	Wests Tigers	W 36 - 28	C'town	8,411
10	Penrith	L 12 - 48	Suncorp	43,537
11	Canterbury	W 30 - 20	CBUS	11,315
12	Cronulla	L 10 - 38	Ken. Coast	7,362
13	Melbourne	L 14 - 20	Sun. Coast	7,630
14	Sydney	L 34 - 35	CBUS	15,111
15	Manly	L 24 - 56	CBUS	14,408
16	Canberra	W 44 - 6	GIO	7,646
17	BYE			
18	Parramatta	L 8 - 26	CBUS	15,038
19	St George Illawarra	W 32 - 10	CBUS	4,424
20	Canterbury	W 34 - 6	CBUS	-
21	North Queensland	L 36 - 14	CBUS	-
22	South Sydney	L 6 - 36	CBUS	4,117
23	Melbourne	L 20 - 34	CBUS	8,288
24	Newcastle	L 14 - 15	Sun. Coast	2,107
25	Warriors	W 44 - 0	CBUS	12,532
Q	Sydney	L 24 - 25	QLD C.B.	15,237

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 8th | Played 25, Won 10, Lost 15 | For 604, Against 608 | Coach: Justin Holbrook (25 matches)

Most Points: Jamal Fogarty (156) | Most Tries: David Fifita (17)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Q	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	WAR	BRI	NQL	CAN	NEW	MAN	SOU	BRI	WST	PEN	CBY	CRO	MEL	SYD	MAN	CAN	PAR	SGI	CBY	NQL	SOU	MEL	NEW	WAR	SYD	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts
BOYD, Tanah			FE	FE					FE	FE	FE	FE														6	-	1	-	-	4
BRIMSON, Alexander	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB				FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB					18	-	7	-	-	28
CAMPBELL, Jayden													FB	FB	FB							FB	FB	FB	FB	7	-	5	-	-	20
CLARK, Erin	B	B	B	B	B	B	B				B	B	H	H	H	H	H			B		H	B	B	B	6	13	1	-	-	4
DON, Anthony	W	W	W	W					W	W	W	W	W													9	-	-	-	-	-
ESE'ESE, Herman									B	B	B															-	3	-	-	-	-
FA'ASUAMALEAUI, Tino	L	L	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	L	L		B	FR	FR	L	L	L	L	FR	FR	L	L	L	21	1	4	-	-	16
FERMOR, Beau								B	C	2R	2R	B				B	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	10	5	4	-	-	16
FIFITA, David	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R		B	2R	2R	2R	B	B	B	B	2R	B	B	B	14	8	17	-	-	68
FOGARTY, Jamal	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB					HB	HB	HB	HB	21	-	4	70	-	156
FOTUAIKA, Moeaki	FR	FR	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	B	B	FR	FR			B	L	B	FR	FR	FR	FR		B	FR	FR	13	9	3	-	-	12
HERBERT, Patrick	C	C	C	C	C	C	C						C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	20	-	6	-	-	24
JOLLIFFE, Jaimin	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	B	B	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	3	22	1	-	-	4
KELLY, Brian	C			C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	22	-	12	-	-	48
LISONE, Sam	B	B	B	B	B	B	B									B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	-	16	-	-	-	-
MARSTERS, Esan									B	C	C		B						C							3	2	1	-	-	4
MARZHEW, Greg													W	W	W			W	W	W	W	W				8	-	6	-	-	24
McINTYRE, Sam						B	B		B	B	B	L	L									L	L	2R		5	5	-	-	-	-
PEACHEY, Tyrone	B	B	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		B	B	L	B	B	B	B		B	B	FE	FE	FE	12	10	5	-	-	20
PEARSON, Jonus					W																					1	-	-	-	-	-
PROCTOR, Kevin	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	23	-	6	-	-	24
REIN, Mitch	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H			B			H	H	H	H		H	H	H	19	1	2	-	-	8
SAMI, Phillip		C	C	C	W		W	C	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W					W	W	W	W	18	-	6	-	-	24
SEXTON, Toby																		HB	HB	HB	HB					4	-	1	16	-	36
STONE, Sam									B			2R	2R	2R												3	1	-	-	-	-
TAYLOR, Ashley	FE	FE			FE	FE	FE	FE					FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE				16	-	2	-	-	8
THOMPSON, Corey	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W								W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	18	-	8	-	-	32
VUNA, Joseph												B	B													-	2	-	-	-	-
WALLACE, Jarrod	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	25	-	6	-	-	24
WHITBREAD, Jai													B		B											-	2	-	-	-	-

Position Key

FB = Fullback

W = Wing

C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth

HB = Halfback

PR = Prop

HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row

L = Lock

B = Bench

Bold, colour = captain

GOLD COAST TITANS

Established 2012
 Home Ground Robina Stadium, Robina QLD
 (current name: Cbus Super Stadium)
 Premierships None
 Runners Up None
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Scott Prince: 719 points
 Most Tries (all time) Anthony Don: 85 tries

Matches Played 362
 Won 146
 Lost 215
 Drawn 1
 Points For 6,886
 Points Against 8,506
 Biggest win 44-0 (44 pts) - Sep 5th, 2021 - vs. Warriors
 Biggest loss 0-54 (54 pts) - Aug 5th, 2017 - vs. Brisbane
 Most points scored 44-8 (44 pts) - Mar 28th, 2021 - vs. North Queensland
 44-6 (44 pts) - Jul 3rd, 2021 - vs. Canberra
 44-0 (44 pts) - Sep 5th, 2021 - vs. Warriors
 Most points conceded 6-58 (58 pts) - Aug 4th, 2019 - vs. Sydney

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES

SEASON REVIEW

By Jason Hosken, LeagueUnlimited.com



Four seasons in one season: Manly wilt before Turbo-charged flourish

In the countdown to round 1 Des Hasler hoped the unusual news was nothing more than pulp fiction, but in the end, midnight vision of Tom Trbojevic fumbling for top gear along The Corso in Manly proved to be his worst nightmare. While every story has two sides, for Manly a torn hamstring was the only one that mattered, and with the sorry fullback on ice, a maiden wooden spoon firm as they lurched from pedestrian to horrendous in a winless opening four rounds.

But come September, the only thing more remarkable than the Sea Eagles' demise was their miraculous charge up the charts like a Queen classic. With his teammates rallying behind him, Turbo returned with the invincibility of Superman. Virtually untouchable, his mere presence gave old heads like the returning Kieran Foran and skipper Daly Cherry-Evans the structure to unleash a posse of try-hungry speedsters who by year end had inked their own names into the record books.

Averaging a fraction over 8 points per game and 39 against in the opening month, the Sea Eagles earned plenty of admirers with a spectacular climb off the canvas to finish in fourth place. A 42-6 thrashing of the Roosters in Mackay booked a preliminary final but it was South Sydney who ultimately found their measure. The eventual runner-up thwarted the Sea Eagles' dream just one game shy of the club's third grand final appearance since 2011. Including three finals matches, the Manly rebound delivered 17 wins from 23 starts at a jaw-dropping 34 points per match. Manly fans weren't the only ones back on board, by mid-season the Sea Eagles had become compulsive viewing in a streak that saw them surge through the 50-point barrier in three consecutive weeks from rounds 14 to 16.

In a year where premiership legends Fred Jones and Bob Fulton passed away, it was at Parramatta where Hasler's outfit announced their premiership credentials. Following news of Bozo's passing on the morning of their round 11 encounter, a resolute Manly spurred by an emotional pre-game tribute to the Immortal went on to upset the more fancied Eels 28-6 before almost 25,000 fans. Yet for all the cricket scores, mostly tallied against the competition's battlers, it was the front runners who consistently put the Sea Eagles back in their box. Eventual premiers the Panthers, Melbourne and the Rabbitohs each toppled Manly twice. Each defeat was a lesson in resolute defense, the type that needs to be heeded for the Sea Eagles to become a genuine 2022 contender.

Turning point

A healthy dose of Mudgee fresh air in combination with the return of Tom Trbojevic proved the perfect formula for the northern beaches boys to finally click into gear. The round 5 rout, a 36-0 hiding of the Titans proved an emphatic demolition few saw coming. While the Gold Coast had no answers, the Sea Eagles' fortunes had actually turned a week earlier on the Central Coast. An ugly last-minute Cherry-Evans drop-goal, the 22nd of his career, proved enough to sink the Warriors 13-12. And in the absence of their star fullback, the shot of confidence proved to be a crucial stepping stone in the path to Manly's entertaining revival.

Records tumbled

The Titans once again felt Manly's wrath at Robina in round 15. In one of the more remarkable victories in the club's history, the Sea Eagles reeled in a 24-8 halftime deficit on the way to posting 48 unanswered points in a 56-24 win. It was one of five 50+ Manly scores in a season where the records tumbled.

The most significant included:

- Biggest club winning margin: 66-0 against the Bulldogs (Round 16)
- First time three players from one club scored 20 or more tries in a season: Tom Trbojevic (28), Jason Saab (26) and Reuben Garrick (23)
- Most individual points in NRL regular season: Reuben Garrick (308)
- Most points in a season for club: Reuben Garrick (334)
- Most points in a match for club: Reuben Garrick (30 v Bulldogs, Round 16)
- Most tries in a season for club: Tom Trbojevic (28)

What worked

Concerns over the offseason departures of Addin Fonua-Blake and Joel Thompson faded quickly with the upfront grunt of Tigers recruit Josh Aloia and breakout seasons from young back-rowers Haumole Olakau'atu and Josh Schuster. Products from the Sea Eagles' junior programs, Olakau'atu's imposing power on the right edge and Schuster's silky skills on the left complemented Turbo's stealth. At times unstoppable, the new three-way attacking combination afforded Manly a potent point of difference. Lachlan Croker's initial selection at hooker caused plenty of debate, but by season's end the former playmaker's efficient service and reliable defence made him an automatic selection. Dylan Walker too, had arguably his best season in the maroon and white. A new roving role off the bench alongside his powerful mid-field charges proved a welcome layer to Hasler's expanding attacking arsenal.

What didn't work

Comprehensive finals losses to Melbourne and South Sydney proved Manly are far from the finished product. With or without their mercurial No.1, they can keep the scoreboard ticking over but an inability to consistently defend their own errors places them a rung below the premiership's elite.

Best player

In the regular season Tom Trbojevic only laced up on 15 occasions, yet it proved enough to top the Dally M Medal count in one of the most dominant individual seasons of the NRL era. The first Sea Eagle to win the award since Matt Orford in 2008, Turbo joined Cliff Lyons (1990, 1994) as the club's third recipient.

Desperate for redemption, an embarrassed Trbojevic made up for lost time scoring a hat-trick of tries on five occasions, and his four-pointer in the preliminary final took him past Phil Blake's club record of 27 from 1983. Just as fearsome to statisticians, the fullback's 33 line-breaks and 28 try-assists saw him crowned RLPA Players' Champion and Roy Bull Medal winner as Manly's best.

But the trailblazing wasn't confined just to the NRL. Four tries including a hat-trick proved crucial in the Blues' State of Origin triumph and he ended up winning the Wally Lewis Medal as player of the series, all from the less familiar position of centre. And in some touching moments, the Mona Vale junior celebrated his 100th outing in Manly's top grade with a try double on home turf in the round 9 win over the Warriors. Then in the final round in Townsville, he finished off Reuben Garrick's length of the field lead-up to score what would later be declared the try of the season.

Rookies

Long term injuries to Morgan Boyle, Curtis Sironen and Eels recruit Andrew Davey tested Hasler's forward stocks, but it gave three rookies a shot at the big time. Front-rower Kurt De Luis finished with six outings, three more than Zac Saddler. While another Trbojevic, Ben, became the third brother to don the maroon and white. And special mention to St George Illawarra reject, Jason Saab. After minimal opportunities at the Dragons the long striding winger shot to prominence as arguably the game's fastest player. Finishing his rookie Manly season with 26 tries, the 20-year-old was equally adept at top speed or leaping over opponents to land with four points.

Looking ahead

Broncos forward recruit Ethan Bullemor remains Manly's only major signing heading into the holiday season. And with the bulk of last season's top 17 still on the books, no major additions are expected before the opening round.

After several impressive seasons Moses Suli (Dragons), Curtis Sironen (St Helens) and Cade Cust (Wigan) have all moved on after failing to nail a regular spot in Hasler's game day squad. Their departures along with fringe players Jack Gosiewski (Dragons), Tevita Funa (Waratahs rugby union) and Zac Saddler show the depth and potential the Sea Eagles possess. And after gate crashing the top-four in 2021, anything less than a preliminary final from the side out of a revamped 4 Pines Park would surprise many.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Sydney	L 4 - 46	SCG	15,097
2	South Sydney	L 12 - 26	Lottoland	3,218
3	St George Illawarra	L 12 - 38	WIN	9,253
4	Penrith	L 6 - 46	Lottoland	6,076
5	Warriors	W 13 - 12	Gen. Coast	4,982
6	Gold Coast	W 36 - 0	Mudgee	6,380
7	Wests Tigers	W 40 - 6	Bankwest	14,095
8	Penrith	L 16 - 28	Bathurst	5,798
9	Warriors	W 38 - 32	Lottoland	6,726
10	Brisbane	W 50 - 6	Suncorp	41,367
11	Parramatta	W 28 - 6	Bankwest	24,411
12	Newcastle	L 10 - 18	McD. Jones	17,348
13	BYE			
14	North Queensland	W 50 - 18	4 Pines	6,801
15	Gold Coast	W 56 - 24	CBUS	14,408
16	Canterbury	W 66 - 0	Bankwest	-
17	Canberra	L 16 - 30	4 Pines	-
18	St George Illawarra	W 32 - 18	CBUS	15,038
19	Wests Tigers	W 44 - 24	Suncorp	5,761
20	Cronulla	W 40 - 22	Suncorp	-
21	Melbourne	L 18 - 28	Suncorp	-
22	Parramatta	W 56 - 10	Sun. Coast	3,613
23	Canberra	W 19 - 18	Suncorp	6,181
24	Canterbury	W 36 - 18	Redcliffe	4,910
25	North Queensland	W 46 - 18	QLD C.B.	14,336
Q	Melbourne	L 12 - 40	Sun. Coast	9,120
S	Sydney	W 42 - 6	Mackay	5,824
P	South Sydney	L 16 - 36	Suncorp	26,249

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 4th | Played 27, Won 17, Lost 10 | For 814, Against 574 | Coach: Des Hasler (27 matches)

Most Points: Reuben Garrick (334) | Most Tries: Tom Trbojevic (28)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Q	SF	PF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	SYD	SOU	SGI	PEN	WAR	GCT	WST	PEN	WAR	BRI	PAR	NEW	NQL	GCT	CBY	CAN	SGI	WST	CRO	MEL	PAR	CAN	CBY	NQL	MEL	SYD	SOU	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ALOIAI, Josh	FR	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR										B		B	B	B	FR		FR	FR	FR	9	7	-	-	-	-	
BOYLE, Morgan	B			2R																								1	1	-	-	-	-	
CHERRY-EVANS, Daly	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB			HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	25	-	9	1	2	40	
CROKER, Lachlan	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	26	-	4	-	-	16	
CUST, Cade		B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B						B	B											-	10	2	-	-	8	
DAVEY, Andrew	B	2R																										1	1	-	-	-	-	
DE LUIS, Kurt													B	B	B	B	B								FR			1	5	-	-	-	-	
FORAN, Kieran	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	25	-	4	-	-	16	
FUNA, Tevita	B				B							FE																2	2	-	-	-	-	
GARRICK, Reuben	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	W	W	FB	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	27	-	23	121	-	334	
GOSIEWSKI, Jack	2R	2R	2R	B	2R											B												4	2	-	-	-	-	
HARPER, Morgan					C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	23	-	8	-	-	32	
KEPPIE, Sean		B	B	B	B	2R	2R	2R	FR	FR	2R	2R		L	L	L	L	B							B	B	FR	FR	13	7	1	-	-	4
LAWTON, Karl											B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		B	B	B	B	B	B	B	H	B	B	7	9	3	-	-	12
OLAKAU'ATU, Haumole					B	B	B	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	18	3	8	-	-	32	
PARKER, Brad	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	W	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	25	-	8	-	-	32	
PASEKA, Taniela	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	B	B				B	B	B	B	16	8	-	-	-	-	
SAAB, Jason	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	27	-	26	-	-	104	
SADDLER, Zac									B		B	B																-	3	-	-	-	-	
SCHUSTER, Josh		B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	FE						HB	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	20	1	2	-	-	8	
SIPLEY, Toafofoa			B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	FR	FR		FR	B	FR				5	15	2	-	-	8	
SIRONEN, Curtis	2R																		B		B	B	B		B			1	5	1	-	-	4	
SULI, Moses	C	C	C	C						B	B	B	C			W	W					C				C	9	4	3	-	-	12		
TAUPAU, Martin	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	B		B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	19	7	2	-	-	8
TRBOJEVIC, Ben												B	B	B	B													-	4	-	-	-	-	
TRBOJEVIC, Jake	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L					L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	23	-	3	-	-	12	
TRBOJEVIC, Tom					FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB			FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	18	-	28	-	-	112	
TUIPULOTU, Christian																												-	1	-	-	-	-	
WALKER, Dylan	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB								B	B	B	HB	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	6	14	5	-	-	20	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	Bold, colour = captain

MANLY-WARRINGAH SEA EAGLES

Established 1947
 Home Ground Brookvale Oval, Brookvale NSW
 (current name: 4 Pines Park, known as Lottoland until June 2021)
 Premierships 1972, 1973, 1976, 1978, 1987, 1996, 2008, 2011
 Runners Up 1957, 1959, 1968, 1970, 1982, 1983, 1995, 1997, 2007, 2013
 World Club Challenge 2009
 Most Points (all time) Graham Eadie: 1929 points
 Most Tries (all time) Brett Stewart: 167 tries

Matches Played 1,659
 Won 944
 Lost 679
 Drawn 36
 Points For 32,681
 Points Against 27,232
 Biggest win 66-0 (66 pts) - Jul 3rd, 2021 - vs. Canterbury
 Biggest loss 6-68 (62 pts) - Aug 21st, 2005 - vs. Cronulla
 Most points scored 70-7 (70 pts) - Jul 29th, 1973 - vs. Penrith
 Most points conceded 12-72 (72 pts) - Aug 7th, 2004 - vs. Penrith

MELBOURNE STORM

SEASON REVIEW

By Brendan Thurbon, LeagueUnlimited.com



The one that got away or the one that keeps the fires burning?

At the end of 2021, Storm players and fans alike would look back on the year as a premiership that probably got away. The team equalled the all-time record for consecutive wins (19), however were blown away by a resurgent Parramatta when looking to set a new record. This game aside, there weren't too many disappointments through the regular season after a 1 from 3 start.

Despite losing Ryan Papenhuyzen in the early stages of Magic Round and not seeing the best of him until the last rounds of the season the Storm managed to set a club record of 21 wins for the regular season and notched up another record in scoring 815 points.

Despite all this dominance, a gritty premier-in-waiting in Penrith halted the charge of the Storm in the preliminary final, with the game being perhaps the best example of the Storm missing the know-how of retired hooker and captain Cameron Smith. His namesake and replacement Brandon was lost to an early HIA followed by the Storm's most consistent forward in 2021, Christian Welch. From here the arm wrestle was a bridge too far, and the Storm bowed out on the back of a whopping 15 errors in the penultimate game of the season.

Whilst this year may be the one that got away it could also be the one that keeps the fires burning - the pain of being so close yet so far from going back-to-back will definitely help push players to find a new level of performance in 2022.

Turning point

As odd as it may sound, the turning point was the return of star fullback Ryan Papenhuyzen. After starting the year in electric form Papenhuyzen was felled by a high shot in Magic Round that saw him taken from the field in on a medicab. The weeks that followed saw Papenhuyzen deal with long-lingering effects of concussion such as mood swings, headaches and dizziness.

During this time, Papenhuyzen's deputy - Cronulla-bound Nicho Hynes was elevated to the starting line up, and was arguably the form player of the competition for 8-10 weeks as the Storm continued their winning ways without their regular fullback's electric pace.

Upon Papenhuyzen's return, Hynes saw a drop in game time as the coaching staff slowly eased Papenhuyzen back into action via the bench - eventually promoting him to the starting lineup. Unfortunately for the Storm this disruption to the cohesion of the spine saw the once-slick attack start to stutter. Despite 'Paps' rediscovering his best form in the last two weeks of the season, the juggernaut had been disrupted enough to make the Storm vulnerable. This vulnerability coupled with the loss of two key forwards to HIAs in the that fateful prelim, ultimately put paid to the premiership aspirations of the collective group.

What worked

In short, basically everything. Only able to play five games at their Melbourne home ground of AAMI Park, the Storm were relocated to Queensland for the second straight season, and despite suffering the loss of their star fullback, hardly missed a beat all season. In attack, they scored more than 40 points on a whopping 11 occasions, and kept their opponents to single figures five times - including keeping an opponent scoreless twice.

The disruption of Origin was barely felt as key players in Hynes, Brandon Smith and Jahrome Hughes stepped up to lead the team around the park brilliantly. The emergence of Reimis Smith at right centre as well as the ongoing development in the game of Justin Olam meant the Storm had plenty of strike out wide to capitalise on the good work of the makeshift spine.

What didn't work

Tinkering with a winning formula is always fraught with danger, in this case the disruption to the momentum and continuity the Storm had meant that at the pointy end of the season the attack brilliance was diminished. Throw in the ill-timed HIAs in the preliminary final and it was curtains for the Melbourne club.

Aside from the end of season fade-out, there was a bit of vulnerability down the right hand side for the Storm. The new edge combination of Reimis and George Jennings at times looked a little lost and was exploited by several teams - importantly in the preliminary final both of Penrith's tries came down that side of the field.

Lastly - the combination of Brandon Smith and Harry Grant probably didn't quite deliver to expectation. Post- the retirement of Cameron Smith, the Storm look well placed to cover his play with the dynamic run game of Brandon Smith coupled with the craft & guile of Harry Grant. Whilst there were glimpses of this playing out as expected there was a noticeable lack of nous in key moments during the closer games. Whilst the two players will be better for this experience it turns

out that replacing the greatest player of all time isn't as easy as putting 2 star players in his place.

Best player

At various times the Storm had a player that could lay claim to being the most in form player in the competition. Ryan Papenhuyzen scored 8 tries in the first 6 games including a first half quadruple against the Broncos at AAMI Park. Through Rounds 7-10, Josh Addo-Carr scored an incredible 12 tries - including a ridiculous six-try haul in a 50-0 hiding of South Sydney. From here, it was the Hynes and Hughes shows, with both players taking turns at leading the side to huge victories throughout the 19-game streak.

From a forward standpoint, we saw Brandon Smith receive a 'letter of termination' from the front rowers union as he scored tries for fun during a purple patch of form. As well as scoring tries, Smith was setting them up and hitting hard in defence as he got an extended stint at hooker whilst Harry Grant battled injuries. Also standing up in the forwards was the beloved Christian Welch, the 'dugong' being a pillar of excellence in the front row, consistently outputting over 100m in attack whilst also contributing with offloads and high work rate in defence.

Rookies

The Storm were a little thin on the ground in terms of rookies in 2021. Five players made their NRL debut, including local Melbourne product Dean Ieremia on the wing. Ieremia ended up playing 10 games for the Storm scoring 6 tries, and whilst not an earth-shaking debut season he showed more than enough to suggest that he could become a regular in the NRL.

After Ieremia, Trent Loiero played the second-most games of all the Storm rookies with six. During these games Loiero showed a strong running game which saw him score 2 tries. On the other side of the ball, Trent was a willing worker in defence.

Looking ahead

Despite the dominance of 2021, looking forward it appears 2022 could be a somewhat turbulent year for the Storm. Several key players have moved on, most notably co-captain Dale Finucane and star outside backs in Josh Addo-Carr and Nicho Hynes. Whilst there have been additions to the squad to replace these players, it's hard to replace the years of experience in the Storm system and structure that these players had.

Many thought the biggest test Bellamy and the Storm would face was going to be when none of the 'big three' of Billy Slater, Cooper Cronk and Cameron Smith remained, but I think 2022 presents an even greater challenge. Coming off a year which saw the team promise so much but ultimately fall agonisingly short of a shot at the major prize coupled with the exit of a couple of club stalwarts the Storm face arguably a bigger transition year than they did at the start of 2021.

In saying all of this, whilst ever the coaching box contains Craig Bellamy it's hard to imagine that the Storm will be too far from their next premiership.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	South Sydney	W 26 - 18	AAMI	11,812
2	Parramatta	L 12 - 16	Bankwest	10,416
3	Penrith	L 10 - 12	BlueBet	14,077
4	Brisbane	W 40 - 6	AAMI	14,135
5	Canterbury	W 52 - 18	Stad. Aust.	5,104
6	Sydney	W 20 - 4	AAMI	15,087
7	Warriors	W 42 - 20	AAMI	20,320
8	Cronulla	W 40 - 14	AAMI	10,069
9	South Sydney	W 50 - 0	Stad. Aust.	7,501
10	St George Illawarra	W 44 - 18	Suncorp	41,983
11	Canberra	W 34 - 10	GIO	14,120
12	Brisbane	W 40 - 12	Suncorp	23,600
13	Gold Coast	W 20 - 14	Sun. Coast	7,630
14	Warriors	W 42 - 16	Gen. Coast	8,105
15	Wests Tigers	W 66 - 16	Sun. Coast	5,328
16	Sydney	W 46 - 0	McD. Jones	4,289
17	BYE			
18	Newcastle	W 48 - 4	CBUS	3,874
19	North Queensland	W 20 - 16	QLD C.B.	14,924
20	Penrith	W 37 - 10	Suncorp	-
21	Manly	W 28 - 18	Suncorp	-
22	Canberra	W 26 - 16	Sun. Coast	2,523
23	Gold Coast	W 34 - 20	CBUS	8,288
24	Parramatta	L 10 - 22	Suncorp	10,246
25	Cronulla	W 28 - 16	CBUS	8,580
Q	Manly	W 40 - 12	Sun. Coast	9,120
P	Penrith	L 6 - 10	Suncorp	29,011

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: Minor Premiers (1st) | Played 26, Won 22, Lost 4 | For 861, Against 338 | Coach: Craig Bellamy (26 matches)

Most Points: Ryan Papenhuyzen (157) | Most Tries: Josh Addo-Carr (23)

Round	SEASON STATISTICS																																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Q	PF	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts			
Opponent	SOU	PAR	PEN	BRI	CBY	SYD	WAR	CRO	SOU	SGI	CAN	BRI	GCT	WAR	WST	SYD	NEW	NQL	PEN	MAN	CAN	GCT	PAR	CRO	MAN	PEN									
ADDO-CARR, Josh	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	22	-	23	1	-	94		
ASOFA-SOLOMONA, Nelson	L	L	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	6	11	4	-	-	16		
ATKINSON, Daniel																																			
BOOTH, Aaron												B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B								
BROMWICH, Jesse	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	24	-	1	-	-	4		
BROMWICH, Kenneath	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	21	-	4	-	-	16			
EISENHUTH, Tom	B	B	2R	2R	B	B	B	B	B	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	7	10	4	-	-	16			
FINUCANE, Dale																																			
GRANT, Harry																																			
GRANT, Jordan																																			
HUGHES, Jahrome	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	24	-	9	-	-	36		
HYNES, Nicholas																																			
IEREMIA, Dean																																			
JACKS, Ryley																																			
JENNINGS, George	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	18	-	11	-	-	44			
JOHNS, Cooper																																			
KAMIKAMICA, Erevonu	B	B	L	L	L	L	L	B	L	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	L																	
KAUFUSI, Felise	2R	2R																																	
LEWIS, Chris	B	B	B	B																															
LOIERO, Trent																																			
LUMELUME, Rusiate																																			
MOEROA, Tepai																																			
MUNSTER, Cameron	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	20	-	7	16	-	60		
OLAM, Justin	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	25	-	12	-	-	48		
PAPENHUYZEN, Ryan	FB	FB																																	
PENE, Aaron																																			
SCHONIG, Darryn																																			
SEVE, Marion																																			
SMITH, Brandon	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	L	H		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	24	-	11	-	-	44			
SMITH, Reimis	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	25	-	14	-	-	56		
SMOOTHY, Tyson	B	B	B																																
WELCH, Christian	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	19	2	2	-	-	8		

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	Bold, colour = captain

MELBOURNE STORM

Established 1998
 Home Ground Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, Melbourne VIC (current name: AAMI Park)
 Premierships 1999, 2012, 2017, 2020
 Runners Up 2006, 2008, 2016, 2019
 World Club Challenge 2000, 2010, 2013, 2018
 Most Points (all time) Cameron Smith: 2810 points
 Most Tries (all time) Billy Slater: 191 tries

Matches Played 630
 Won 420
 Lost 204
 Drawn 6
 Points For 15,311
 Points Against 10,359
 Biggest win 64-0 (64 pts) - Jul 5th, 2001 - vs. Wests Tigers
 68-4 (64 pts) - Aug 4th, 2013 - vs. Canberra
 Biggest loss 4-50 (46 pts) - Jun 4th, 2000 - vs. St George Illawarra
 4-50 (46 pts) - Aug 10th, 2003 - vs. Canterbury
 Most points scored 70-10 (70 pts) - Mar 3rd, 2000 - vs. St George Illawarra
 Most points conceded 10-54 (54 pts) - Jul 20th, 2001 - vs. Parramatta

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

SEASON REVIEW

By Rob Crosby, LeagueUnlimited.com



Find a way to win (with a fit team)

Sometimes it doesn't matter what the performance looks like, all that counts is being ahead when the fulltime siren sounds.

A Round 15 match ending 10-6 may not mean much to most teams, but at the end of the regular season it can make all the difference. For the Newcastle Knights, a rain-soaked win over the Warriors in June, which saw Mitchell Pearce return from injury, breathed life into a season that until then appeared to be mere moments away from last rites.

Sitting in 14th position with just five wins at the midway point of the year, coach Adam O'Brien issued a reset, which sparked the side into life with seven wins over the remaining ten rounds. Sealing a place in the finals on their own merits via a Pearce field goal in the penultimate round, an Elimination Final showdown against the Eels went down to the wire before a penalty try saw the side bow out in seventh position. As Pearce and co walked from the field in Rockhampton, lamenting what might have been, a philosophical outlook could be taken on an ultimately successful year.

Beginning 2021 with expectations of being one of several teams vying for a place in the bottom half of the top eight, a strong opening fortnight was quickly subdued after Pearce - relieved of the captaincy following an off-season indiscretion - suffered a torn pectoral muscle for the second time in four seasons at the club.

A series of heavy losses followed in the halfback's absence, while fleeting moments of hope were interspersed against Cronulla (26-22), Canberra (24-16) and Manly (18-10) to keep the finals flame alight. Returning in front of an ardent group of supporters braving the wet after a ten-week layoff, the Knights found a way to get back on track with Pearce having a hand in both tries against the nomadic New Zealanders. The unrefined performance may have mirrored the conditions, but sometimes being ahead 10-6 at the end of 80 minutes is all that counts.

Turning point

Having achieved middling results with Kurt Mann, Phoenix Crossland, Connor Watson and Blake Green at five-eighth, the early arrival of Jake Clifford proved instrumental in the side's revival over the second half of the year. Initially set to join the club from North Queensland for 2022, a protracted mid-season release saw the talented playmaker make his final appearance in Townsville on a Friday night before arriving to cheer his new teammates home two days later in Newcastle.

Struggling early on to make a dent alongside teammates whose names had to be learned on the run, Clifford's confidence mirrored that of the team as he lined up alongside Pearce, Kalyn Ponga and Jayden Brailey for the first time in Round 16. Crucially, Clifford relieved Ponga of goal-kicking duties, which proved vital during the late season win over fellow top eight hopefuls Cronulla (16-14).

What worked

Much was made of Newcastle's shocking for-and-against differential, however a more revealing story lay in a different set of numbers. Winning nine matches by eight points or less during the regular season - the most of any team in the premiership - the Knights lived for contests decided in the dying stages. While it would be naive to attribute the side's grit to any one individual, coach O'Brien's show of faith in long-time friend Anthony Seibold was credited for helping instil greater resilience in the playing group.

Joining the club as a part-time consultant before gaining an expanded hands-on role midway through the year, the former Dally M Coach of the Year found results with a roster willing to respond to his methods. Whether it was a blockbusting run from Bradman Best, a trademark piece of brilliance from Ponga or the experience of Pearce coming to the fore with a one-pointer, the Knights were able to win tight matches during a year where blowout scores became the norm.

What didn't work

Injuries come with the territory of rugby league; however, few sides struggled without their best players quite like the Knights. Missing Tyson Frizell (19 appearances), Kalyn Ponga (15 appearances), Bradman Best (17 appearances), Hymel Hunt (17 appearances), Mitchell Pearce (12 appearances) and Lachlan Fitzgibbon (10 appearances) for crucial periods of the season, coach O'Brien was left to lament wins that were unquestionably left on the table.

Adding to the injury woes, Blake Green's comeback from an ACL tear lasted six matches before father time caught up with the veteran playmaker, while Queensland winger Edrick Lee failed to take the field once after fracturing his foot on the eve of the season. As a result of being unable to field their strongest line-up until late in the season, the toll of injuries and makeshift defensible combinations led to a number of embarrassing blowouts against Gold Coast (16-42), Sydney (4-38),

Wests Tigers (18-36), North Queensland (20-36), Parramatta (4-40) and Melbourne (4-48).

Finishing with a -143 points differential after 25 home-and-away rounds, the side claimed the infamy of legitimately qualifying for the top eight with the worst for-and-against differential of any side in the NRL era.

Best players

Boasting one of the most formidable packs in the league, bolstered by the arrival of representative enforcer Tyson Frizell, the growth of Jacob Saifiti made rival teams stand up and take notice. With his twin brother, Daniel, growing in stature as co-captain of the club, Jacob took the sibling rivalry in his stride and forced former test prop David Klemmer from the starting side off the strength of his performances. Earning top honours at Newcastle's end of season awards night, the Fijian front-rower has been touted as a contender to join his brother in a sky blue jersey in the coming years.

In the most improved stakes, versatile second-rower Brodie Jones far exceeded anyone's expectations of the Cessnock junior. Starting the year in first grade through necessity - the 23-year-old failed to get on the field on more than one occasion over the opening rounds - Jones enjoyed a breakthrough night against Cronulla when thrust into the backline due to injury. Growing in confidence and gaining more minutes throughout the year, Jones is tipped to push for a starting position after inking a two-year extension prior to New South Wales going into lockdown.

Rookies

Bleeding several debutants who progressed through the club's junior ranks, the most striking new face for the Knights came in the form of teenage Englishman Dominic Young. Travelling from the other side of the world after impressing recruitment scout Alex McKinnon from afar, the raw outside back defied expectations with four tries in six appearances after beginning the year as a long-term prospect.

Others to gain a taste of first grade included Brayden Musgrove, a winger who twelve months earlier played with Cessnock in the local league; Simi Sasagi, a utility from New Zealand; Matt Croker, a part-time front-rower called up from reserve grade during Origin; and Jirah Momoisea, a forward who reached the NRL nearly seven months to the day after rupturing his Achilles at training. Development player Jack Johns also achieved history alongside his famous father, Matthew, by becoming the first father-son duo to play for Newcastle.

Looking ahead

Having reached the finals in back-to-back seasons for the first time in 18 years, the Knights will have their sights set firmly on further improvement in 2022. Strengthening the backline with representative star Dane Gagai returning to the club, the defection of Connor Watson to the Roosters will see Kurt Mann take on the role of Mr Fix-It.

Bringing in Hayden Knowles as Head of Performance in a bid to reduce the number of injuries, a fit-and-firing Newcastle outfit will be aiming to move into the next tier of premiership contenders.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Canterbury	W 32 - 16	McD. Jones	19,555
2	Warriors	W 20 - 16	Gen. Coast	4,595
3	Wests Tigers	L 20 - 24	McD. Jones	20,239
4	St George Illawarra	L 13 - 22	McD. Jones	21,770
5	Gold Coast	L 16 - 42	Cbus	12,492
6	Cronulla	W 26 - 22	McD. Jones	17,039
7	Penrith	L 6 - 24	BlueBet	16,110
8	Sydney	L 4 - 38	McD. Jones	22,172
9	Canberra	W 24 - 16	Wagga	6,642
10	Wests Tigers	L 18 - 36	Suncorp	31,532
11	North Queensland	L 20 - 36	QLD C.B.	11,208
12	Manly	W 18 - 10	McD. Jones	17,348
13	Parramatta	L 4 - 40	McD. Jones	23,015
14	South Sydney	L 10 - 24	Stad. Aust.	12,156
15	Warriors	W 10 - 6	McD. Jones	9,975
16	North Queensland	W 38 - 0	McD. Jones	7,610
17	BYE			
18	Melbourne	L 4 - 48	CBUS	3,874
19	Sydney	L 8 - 28	Sun. Coast	2,868
20	Canberra	W 34 - 24	Suncorp	-
21	Brisbane	W 28 - 20	Suncorp	-
22	Cronulla	W 16 - 14	Redcliffe	3,954
23	Canterbury	W 22 - 16	Cbus	2,343
24	Gold Coast	W 15 - 14	Sun. Coast	2,107
25	Brisbane	L 22 - 35	Suncorp	20,747
Q	Parramatta	L 20 - 28	R'hampton	5,087

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 7th | Played 25, Won 12, Lost 13 | For 448, Against 599 | Coach: Adam O'Brien (25 matches)

Most Points: Jake Clifford (74) | Most Tries: Enaria Tuala (16)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Q	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	CBY	WAR	WST	SGI	GCT	CRO	PEN	SYD	CAN	WST	NQL	MAN	PAR	SOU	WAR	NQL	MEL	SYD	CAN	BRI	CRO	CBY	GCT	BRI	PAR	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts
BARNETT, Mitchell	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	L	L	L	L	B	2R	2R	L	2R	2R	L	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	23	1	4	13	-	42
BEST, Bradman	C	C				C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C					C	C	C	C	C	C	C	17	-	3	-	-	12
BRAILEY, Jayden	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H	H	H	H	23	-	3	-	-	12
CLIFFORD, Jake													FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	13	-	2	33	-	74
CROKER, Matt													B	B												-	2	-	-	-	-
CROSSLAND, Phoenix		FE							HB	HB	FE	HB					HB	HB	FE					B		8	1	1	1	-	6
FITZGIBBON, Lachlan									2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R						10	-	3	-	-	12
FRIZELL, Tyson	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R						2R	2R	2R	2R		2R		2R	19	-	3	-	-	12
GREEN, Blake				B	HB	HB	HB	HB			HB															5	1	-	-	-	-
HOY, Tex	FB	FB	FB	FB						FB	FB	FB	FB													8	-	1	6	-	16
HUNT, Hymel	W	W	W	W	W	W				W					W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	17	-	4	-	-	16
JOHNS, Jack													B	B	B		B	B						2R		1	5	1	-	-	4
JONES, Brodie	B				B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	2R	2R	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	2R	B	2R	B	5	17	3	-	-	12
KING, Josh	B	B	B	B	B	B						B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			B	B	FR	B	1	17	1	-	-	4
KLEMMER, David	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			B	B	FR		B	B	B	FR		FR	B	15	6	-	-	-	-
MANN, Kurt	FE		FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FB		HB	C	FB	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	22	-	3	-	1	13
MOMOISEA, Jirah																						B	B	B		-	3	-	-	-	-
MUSGROVE, Brayden						W	W	W	W		W	W	W													7	-	1	-	-	4
PEARCE, Mitchell	HB	HB	HB	HB											HB	HB					HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	12	-	3	-	1	13
PONGA, Kalya					FB	FB	FB	FB	FB						FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	15	-	8	10	-	52
RANDALL, Chris				L																	H		B	B	H	3	2	2	-	-	8
SAIFITI, Daniel	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR			FR		20	-	3	-	-	12
SAIFITI, Jacob	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	12	11	3	-	-	12
SASAGI, Simi											C										B			B		1	2	-	-	-	-
SAULO, Pasami					B			B																B		-	3	-	-	-	-
SHIBASAKI, Gehamat			W	C	C																					3	-	1	-	-	4
SUE, Sauaso	L	L	L	L	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	L	L	L		B	L	B	B	B	FR		L	11	12	2	-	-	8
TO'A, Starford	W	W		W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W											W		12	-	6	-	-	24
TUALA, Enari	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	W	C	C	C	C	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	25	-	13	-	-	52
WATSON, Connor	B	B	B	B	FE	L	L	L	B	B	B	FE	B	FE	B	B	B	L	B	B	L	L	L	L	B	11	14	2	-	-	8
YOUNG, Dominic			C											W	W	W	W	W								6	-	4	-	-	16

Position Key

FB = Fullback

W = Wing

C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth

HB = Halfback

PR = Prop

HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row

L = Lock

B = Bench

Bold, colour = captain

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

Established 1988
 Home Ground Newcastle International Sports Centre, New Lambton NSW
 (current name: McDonald Jones Stadium)
 Premierships 1997 (ARL), 2001
 Runners Up None
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Andrew Johns: 2190 points
 Most Tries (all time) Akuila Uate: 110 tries

Matches Played 825
 Won 388
 Lost 420
 Drawn 17
 Points For 16,677
 Points Against 17,629
 Biggest win 60-0 (60 pts) - Aug 8th, 1999 - vs. South Sydney
 Biggest loss 6-71 (65 pts) - May 27th, 2007 - vs. Brisbane
 Most points scored 70-32 (70 pts) - Mar 19th, 2006 - vs. Canberra
 Most points conceded 6-71 (71 pts) - May 27th, 2007 - vs. Brisbane

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS

SEASON REVIEW

By Rob Crosby, LeagueUnlimited.com



Change or be left behind

It's unlikely that Bruce Springsteen had Townsville in mind when penning Atlantic City.

As one of the greatest songs from a great storyteller, the album highlight from Nebraska sees The Boss portraying a vivid picture of regret and impending destruction, set against the backdrop of a world in the midst of change. As a club in denial, wilfully clinging to past glories, at a time when rugby league is evolving at the pace of a runaway train, North Queensland coach Todd Payten likely finds resonance in Springsteen's words.

"Everything dies, baby, that's a fact / But maybe everything that dies some day comes back."

Having won a premiership (and come within 80 minutes of another) with an engrossing style of play built around two men bearing the initials "JT", the Cowboys are only now coming to terms with uncomfortable truths. On-field success is over - and without significant changes, it's not coming back.

Finishing 2021 with the worst defensive record in the league, the appointment of Payten was heralded as a necessary move to bring about a changing of the guard. Putting his squad on notice by singling out Jason Taumalolo, his captain and highest profile player, after an enervating opening round performance, Payten's intention of holding everyone to account, irrespective of reputation, made for a brutal opening month. Belatedly getting a desired response with six wins from eight matches in the run up to Origin, a well-intentioned move to bring Brisbane playmaker Tom Dearden back north turned disastrous, as the side slumped to a single win over the final twelve rounds.

In the wash up, the 15th placed finish was the side's worst season performance in over a decade. It's hard to pinpoint the exact moment where things unravelled for the Cowboys; in the three years since Johnathan Thurston called time on his illustrious career, the side has managed a dismal 31 per cent success rate with 21 wins from 68 matches. Todd Payten has staked his reputation on letting go of the past in order to return the club to something great.

It remains to be seen whether his players are willing to change with him.

Turning point

When reflecting on 2021, in retrospect, it's hard to fathom how the Cowboys ever sat in seventh position midway through the year. Gaining traction as finals contenders with wins over the Tigers (34-30), Bulldogs (30-18), Raiders (26-24), Broncos (19-18), Knights (36-20) and Warriors (29-28) throughout April and May, at the same time, significant decisions regarding recruitment were taking place behind the scenes.

Identifying the need to strengthen depth in the halves following the forced retirement of Michael Morgan and Jake Clifford announcing a move to Newcastle for 2022, the club saw a future in premiership winner Chad Townsend, signed on a massive pay day, and star junior Tom Dearden. Things were going well on the field with the side sitting in seventh position, but when the opportunity for a mid-season swap arose - the Cowboys granting Clifford an early release while allowing the Broncos to get Dearden off their books early - the results proved dire.

Having been hyped as the next big thing since coming into grade as a teenager, the consequences of playing with a team accustomed to losing led Dearden to experience an arrested first grade development. Parachuting Dearden, an unproven performer with an 18 per cent success rate, into the side may have sounded good on paper, but, with the benefit of hindsight, it served as the death knell for the Cowboys season.

What worked

In a year that offered few reasons for North Queensland supporters to celebrate, the Cowboys stood up on home soil more often than not. Claiming the bulk of their victories at Queensland Country Bank Stadium, the support of the Townsville faithful inspired comeback wins against Canberra (26-24), Brisbane (19-18) and New Zealand (29-28) during the side's fleeting period of success. The newly constructed venue, which had the distinction of hosting the opening State of Origin fixture, also played host to gallant defeats against premiership heavyweights Sydney (18-34) and Melbourne (16-20).

What didn't work

Many coaches have watched their careers fall by the wayside due to a lack of ambition and audacity. From his first match in charge of the Cowboys, it became clear that Todd Payten was willing to stake his reputation with big calls.

Unfortunately, as the former Warriors' interim quickly learned, big calls can have big consequences. Openly taking aim at the effort of Jason Taumalolo, in a bid to raise the standards that had withered away in the final years of Paul Green's tenure, the harsh truths were met with resistance and, in some cases, outright refusal.

Cutting ties with former representative stars Josh McGuire and Esan Marsters, both of whom jumped ship less than two months into the season, front-rower Francis Molo, who earned an unexpected call-up for Queensland, decided his future lay elsewhere beyond 2021.

Most damningly, the decision to limit Taumalolo's time on the field rendered the star forward inert and a late season move to the edge lasted one week following a dismal showing on the Gold Coast.

While Payten's desire to raise standards and preserve his star forward made sense for the long-term interests of the club, the immediate results only served to heighten the issues that had been festering for years.

Best player

In the years before Johnathan Thurston transformed the Cowboys into a competitive squad, the club's shining light was a fleet-footed speedster named Matt Bowen. Possessing electrifying pace and capable of feats of instinctive brilliance, the outside back, who made a name at fullback, gave neutral supporters a reason to pay attention to a club routinely relegated to the graveyard slot on Super Saturday.

Players have shown similar glimpses over the years, however, few have evoked Bowen's spark quite like Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow. Beginning the year in the centres, which led to a try-scoring debut for Queensland in State of Origin III, the 19-year-old flyer from Cairns finished the year in the number one jersey with eight tries.

Among Tabuai-Fidow's most memorable moments, a chip-and-chase reminiscent of Nathan Blacklock paved the way for an upset at Leichhardt Oval, a dazzling effort on return from injury levelled the scores against the Warriors, and a length-of-the-field run assured victory to break a run of ten losses in the penultimate round. In a year that saw the Cowboys appear aimless at times, Tabuai-Fidow's brilliance was a much-needed step in the right direction.

Rookies

Having played ten games over the past two years with little impression, outside back Murray Taulagi enjoyed a breakout campaign with ten tries in 20 matches to earn an upgraded two-year extension. Of the players blooded by Payten for the first time, impact forward Heilum Luki made the biggest impression to finish the year in the starting side. Wingers Kane Bradley and Laitia Moceridreke both crossed for four-pointers in their first appearances, while debutants Griffin Neame and Jeremia Nanai combined for one of tries of the season during the Round 22 loss to the Tigers.

Looking ahead

The Cowboys have finished in the bottom four every year since their last finals appearance in 2017. For a club that dominated the middle third of the 2010s with 67 wins from 109 matches between 2014-17, the fall from grace is only now dawning on the side.

Club management have recognised the need for change by backing Payten to rebuild a tired roster in desperate need of an overhaul. If the old guard can accept the inevitability of change, maybe, a new era of success can rise again.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Penrith	L	0 - 24	BlueBet 14,077
2	St George Illawarra	L	18 - 25	QLD C.B. 15,120
3	Gold Coast	L	8 - 44	QLD C.B. 12,627
4	Cronulla	L	10 - 48	Netstrata 5,119
5	Wests Tigers	W	34 - 30	Leichhardt 9,433
6	Canterbury	W	30 - 18	QLD C.B. 11,965
7	Canberra	W	26 - 24	QLD C.B. 13,791
8	Warriors	L	20 - 24	Gen. Coast 3,692
9	Brisbane	W	19 - 18	QLD C.B. 22,222
10	Sydney	L	16 - 30	Suncorp 45,122
11	Newcastle	W	36 - 20	QLD C.B. 11,208
12	Warriors	W	29 - 28	QLD C.B. 14,951
13	BYE			
14	Manly	L	18 - 50	4 Pines 6,801
15	Cronulla	L	24 - 26	QLD C.B. 13,926
16	Newcastle	L	0 - 38	McD. Jones 7,610
17	South Sydney	L	18 - 46	McD. Jones 3,127
18	Sydney	L	18 - 34	QLD C.B. 15,933
19	Melbourne	L	16 - 20	QLD C.B. 14,924
20	Brisbane	L	18 - 37	Suncorp 29,136
21	Gold Coast	L	14 - 36	CBUS -
22	Wests Tigers	L	16 - 24	QLD C.B. 12,663
23	Parramatta	L	16 - 32	CBUS 3,013
24	St George Illawarra	W	38 - 26	R'hampton 4,487
25	Manly	L	18 - 46	QLD C.B. 14,336

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 15th | Playezd 24, Won 7, Lost 17 | For 460, Against 748 | Coach: Todd Payten (24 matches)

Most Points: Valentine Holmes (126) | Most Tries: Kyle Feldt (12)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	PEN	SGI	GCT	CRO	WST	CBY	CAN	WAR	BRI	SYD	NEW	WAR	MAN	CRO	NEW	SOU	SYD	MEL	BRI	GCT	WST	PAR	SGI	MAN	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ASI, Daejarn																FB		B			C	C		C	4	1	-	-	-	-	
BOWEN, Javid									C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C								9	-	3	-	-	12	
BRADLEY, Kane																		W	W						2	-	1	-	-	4	
BURR, Lachlan		B	B	B	B	L	L	B	B	B	B		B	B	FR	B				B					3	12	1	-	-	4	
CLIFFORD, Jake	HB	HB	HB						HB	HB	HB	HB													7	-	1	-	-	4	
CONDON, Ben				2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B											B	2R	2R	2R	2R	9	2	4	-	-	16	
COTTER, Reuben	B	L	L		B																	B	L		3	3	-	-	-	-	
DEARDEN, Tom													HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	12	-	6	-	-	24	
DRINKWATER, Scott	FB	FB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	24	-	5	11	-	42	
DUNN, Mitchell	2R	2R	2R			B	B		2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	L	L	B	15	5	2	-	-	8	
FELDT, Kyle	W	W			W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	20	-	12	-	-	48	
GILBERT, Thomas										B	FR	FR	FR	B		B	B	B	B	B	FR	B			4	7	-	-	-	-	
GRANVILLE, Jake	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FB	FB	B	C	B	B	3	21	4	-	-	16	
HAMPTON, Ben				HB	HB	HB	HB	HB												B	C	W	C	C	9	1	2	-	-	8	
HESS, Coen	2R	2R	2R	B	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		B	2R	FR	B	FR	B	B	B	B	L	B	B		14	8	2	-	-	8	
HOLA, Peter												B	B				B								-	3	-	-	-	-	
HOLMES, Valentine	W	W	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB						FB	FB	W	C	20	-	4	54	2	126	
JENSEN, Corey	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B				L													1	8	-	-	-	-	
LEMUELU, Connelly				C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C					C	C	C	C	C					13	-	1	-	-	4	
LUKI, Heilum											B	B			B	B		B	B	2R	2R	2R	B	B	3	8	3	-	-	12	
MARSTERS, Esan	C	C	C																						3	-	-	-	-	-	
McGUIRE, Josh	B	B	B	L																					1	3	-	-	-	-	
McLEAN, Jordan	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	24	-	1	-	-	4	
MOCEIDREKE, Laitia																							W		1	-	1	-	-	4	
MOLO, Francis	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B		FR	FR	FR		FR	FR			10	9	1	-	-	4	
MORGAN, Michael	FE	FE																							2	-	-	-	-	-	
NANAI, Jeremiah																						B	B	2R	2R	2	2	1	-	-	4
NEAME, Griffin																						B		B	B	-	3	-	-	-	-
O'NEILL, Justin			W	C		C	C	C					W												6	-	1	-	-	4	
ROBSON, Reece	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	24	-	6	-	-	24	
TABUAI-FIDOW, Hamiso	C	C	C	W	C							C	C	C	C		FB						FB	FB	13	-	8	-	-	32	
TAULAGI, Murray			W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	C	W			W	20	-	10	-	-	40	
TAUMALOLO, Jason	L							L	L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	2R		FR	L	15	-	1	-	-	4	
WRIGHT, Shane				2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R					16	-	1	-	-	4	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	Bold, colour = captain

NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS

Established 1995
 Home Ground North Queensland Stadium
 (current name: Queensland Country Bank Stadium)
 Premierships 2015
 Runners Up 2005, 2017
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Johnathan Thurston: 2196 points
 Most Tries (all time) Matt Bowen: 130 tries

Matches Played 664
 Won 274
 Lost 384
 Drawn 6
 Points For 13,409
 Points Against 15,492
 Biggest win 64-6 (58 pts) - Aug 9th, 2014 - vs. Wests Tigers
 Biggest loss 4-66 (62 pts) - Aug 27th, 1995 - vs. Canterbury
 0-62 (62 pts) - Aug 23rd, 1998 - vs. North Sydney
 0-62 (62 pts) - Jul 29th, 2001 - vs. Parramatta
 64-6 (64 pts) - Aug 9th, 2014 - vs. Wests Tigers
 Most points scored 4-66 (66 pts) - Aug 27th, 1995 - vs. Canterbury
 Most points conceded 10-66 (66 pts) - Apr 14th, 1996 - vs. Canberra

PARRAMATTA EELS

SEASON REVIEW

By [Elementary, LeagueUnlimited.com](#)

There is an old adage in the sport of rugby league, which declares that winning starts with the front office.

For as long as there have been successful rugby league clubs on the field, there have generally been well-run administration staff running things behind the scenes, and one of the commonalities held between most successful rugby league clubs is a core of competence, boosted by stability.

Brad Arthur entered his eighth consecutive year of genuine First Grade rugby league head coaching in 2021, and to say that the man had endured a challenging reign at this club would be an understatement - a salary cap scandal, a Wooden Spoon, the departure (and eventual return) of Jarryd Hayne, and the doping drama surrounding Michael Jennings were all instances where the man at the helm of arguably rugby league's most poisoned chalice called upon his legendary namesake to demonstrate genuine leadership qualities, in an attempt to guide the club through some of its most dire circumstances, and come through unscathed at the other side. But can long-term stability lead to genuine evolution, or can its just as readily lead to plateauing?

The Eels began 2021 with a bang, winning their first 4 games of the season - including a memorable defeat of bitter rivals, and 2020 Premiers, the Melbourne Storm - by a combined scoreline of 104 to 54. Arthur relied on a simple gameplan - use his big, mobile, powerful pack of forwards to dominate the middle, and give space to his halves to create. After a hiccup against the Dragons, the Eels would win their next 5 consecutive games, before succumbing in consecutive losses to the Sea Eagles, and Rabbitohs.

Three consecutive wins against lower-placed teams, a 1-point loss to Penrith in Round 16, and a bye, lead to a period where the Eels slumped to 4 losses from their next 5 games, before stringing back-to-back victories against the Cowboys, and Storm. Round 25 saw an inexperienced Eels side get belted by a full strength Panthers side, but the ladder made for decent reading - a 6th place finish, 15 wins, 9 losses, 566 points scored, and 457 points against (the 4th best defence in the NRL).

The Eels never got out of second gear in Week 1 of the Finals, in defeating Newcastle 28-20, before bowing out of the 2021 season to eventual Premiers Penrith, in a controversial game, which is also one of the greatest games of the modern era.

Turning point

The Eels lost form in the latter stages of the season, losing four consecutive games to the Raiders, Rooster, Rabbitohs, and Sea Eagles - but it was not the losses that raised severe doubts as to where this team was heading, but the scorelines. The Eels lost these games by a combined margin of 136 to 32; the Eels' hitherto stout defence had been exposed - badly -, and a team that had been sitting comfortably inside the top 4 all season long began to slide down the ladder. The Eels then played the struggling Cowboys, and found their mojo in time to defeat the Storm in round 24.

Heading into the Finals, the Eels had lost 5 of their last 8. Clearly, this side needed something to change - and it did. The return of several key players from injuries - most notably Reagan Campbell-Gillard - helped reinvigorate Parramatta's defence, and breathe new life into their fledgling campaign. Of course, the bad turning point was losing Reed Mahoney, and his deputy, Joey Lussick, heading into the Finals; Parramatta entered the 2021 finals series with no recognised hooker, due to injuries to Mahoney, Lussick, and Nathaniel Roache.

What worked

Parramatta employed a simple gameplan - dominate the ruck with a set of powerful forwards. They finished the season in equal second place for possession counts in all games, on 51%, behind only the Storm, and they finished equal first for completion percentage at 80%. Parramatta's powerful, mobile pack helped the Eels finish third in the NRL for all run metres, with 45,553m, and third for post-contact metres with 15,192m. The Eels were second for tackles, making 8,947 (missing only 710, for a tackle efficiency percentage of 79.42%), and number 1 for charge-downs, with ten. Simply put, Parramatta employed a simple, effective gameplan of playing straight through the ruck.

What didn't work

Aside from Parramatta's overly-compressed ruck defence (usually leading to defensive deficiencies out wide), the Eels ended fourth in the NRL for negative play (tallying 295 negative plays), and were the fourth least secure team in the NRL - dropping the ball 244 times. Parramatta were generally able to steamroll their opponents through the middle, but were then often impatient, and ill-disciplined, and this usually resulted in a high-risk pass being thrown, or a low percentage offload being forced.

Turning over possession so often is rarely a good idea - it is a worse idea when your team employs a well-known, and easily-countered compressed ruck defence techniques. Opposition teams would pounce on Parramatta's errors, spin the ball wide, and watch as Parramatta's huge, powerful, less agile, and slower, outside backs struggled to contain the play.

Best player

Isaiah Papali'i performed at a truly elite level in 2021. Papali'i scored seven tries, broke 109 tackles, averaged 14.8 hit-ups per game (to go with 32 tackles per game, and 150m per game), and threw 30 offloads. The words "superhuman" and "insane" come to mind - and the sky is the limit for the soft-spoken young man.

Rookies

The most enticing prospect for the Eels to debut in 2021 was Will Penisini. After the debacle that transpired with the career of Michael Jennings, Parramatta were desperate to find a centre of quality to replace him. Tom Opacic did a solid job centre, and many more educated analysts of the sport suggested that Opacic should be the player to partner Waqa Blake in the centres moving forward. Brad Arthur had other ideas, handing Will Penisini his First Grade debut in 2021 - and Penisini took the opportunity with both hands, and demonstrated why he was such a sought after junior player. The right centre spot is Penisini's to lose. Other players to make their debuts in 2021 included Jakob Arthur, Sean Russell, Ky Rodwell, and Makahehi Makatoa. The Parramatta Eels - once proudly known as a club that would develop young players - is seemingly back.

Disappointing Players

Parramatta performed at a reasonable level throughout their 2021 campaign, and there were certainly no players that could be described as disappointing. However, the apparent stall of Dylan Brown's development has many analysts questioning where his future lies in the game of rugby league. While not performing at a poor standard by any stretch of the imagination, Brown was not as instrumental to Parramatta's attack as one would hope of for a 5/8 - he had 2 try assists, 2 line break assists, 4 forced drop outs, 4 tries, and 98 metres per game, from 21 games. Brown is still arguably the finest defensive half in the NRL, tackling at an efficiency rate of over 95% - but Brown's playmaking instincts are perhaps in need of some finetuning in the off-season.

Looking ahead

The Eels head into 2022 with the same squad on the park as they featured throughout their 2021 campaign, which in terms of stability, and team cohesion, can only be construed as a positive indicator of their chances for 2022. Parramatta's greatest barrier to overcome will likely be their mental preparation for big matches - while they did show that they could be up for big games in 2021, they were also at times guilty of playing robotic, rigid football, and were at times defeated by their opposition who simply out-enthused them. They will feature the same spine as 2021 - all a year older, wiser, and more experienced. Mitchell Moses also got a taste of Origin football, so it remains to be seen what sort of impact that may have on his game for 2022.

The Eels will feature the same physical, aggressive, and mobile forward pack that won the ruck more often than not in 2021. The Eels' biggest weakness most likely lies in their outside backs; while Waqa Blake has plenty of speed, and Haze Dunster is no slouch, neither Opacic, nor Sivo, are speed demons. Add to that Penisini's inexperience, and the fact that Sivo will miss a large chunk of 2022 due to injury, and question marks surrounding how the Eels will fare in 2022 suddenly become boisterous. A top 6 finish should be par for the course - but if they can string everything together, a top 4 finish is not out of the question.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Brisbane	W 24 - 16	Suncorp	28,313
2	Melbourne	W 16 - 12	Bankwest	10,416
3	Cronulla	W 28 - 4	Bankwest	19,236
4	Wests Tigers	W 36 - 22	Stad. Aust.	29,056
5	St George Illawarra	L 12 - 26	Bankwest	24,384
6	Canberra	W 35 - 10	GIO	20,089
7	Brisbane	W 46 - 6	Darwin	12,056
8	Canterbury	W 32 - 10	Stad. Aust.	13,273
9	Sydney	W 31 - 18	Bankwest	25,711
10	Warriors	W 34 - 18	Suncorp	33,175
11	Manly	L 6 - 28	Bankwest	24,411
12	South Sydney	L 20 - 38	Stad. Aust.	20,743
13	Newcastle	W 40 - 4	McD. Jones	23,015
14	Wests Tigers	W 40 - 12	Bankwest	23,421
15	Canterbury	W 36 - 10	Bankwest	17,276
16	Penrith	L 12 - 13	BlueBet	-
17	BYE			
18	Gold Coast	W 26 - 8	CBUS	15,038
19	Canberra	L 10 - 12	CBUS	2,566
20	Sydney	L 0 - 28	Mackay	4,926
21	South Sydney	L 12 - 40	CBUS	-
22	Manly	L 10 - 56	Sun. Coast	3,613
23	North Queensland	W 32 - 16	CBUS	3,013
24	Melbourne	W 22 - 10	Suncorp	10,246
25	Penrith	L 6 - 40	CBUS	8,580
Q	Newcastle	W 28 - 20	R'hampton	5,087
S	Penrith	L 6 - 8	Mackay	6,011

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 6th | Played 26, Won 16, Lost 10 | For 600, Against 485 | Coach: Brad Arthur (26 matches)

Most Points: Mitchell Moses (146) | Most Tries: Maika Sivo (17)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Q	S	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	BRI	MEL	CRO	WST	SGI	CAN	BRI	CBY	SYD	WAR	MAN	SOU	NEW	WST	CBY	PEN	GCT	CAN	SYD	SOU	MN	NQL	MEL	PEN	NEW	PEN	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ARTHUR, Jakob										FE	FE	FE					HB	HB	HB					HB			7	-	2	-	-	8	
BLAKE, Waqa	C									C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	17	-	7	-	-	28	
BROWN, Dylan	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE				FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	21	-	4	-	-	16	
BROWN, Nathan	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	24	-	1	-	-	4	
CAMPBELL-GILLARD, Reagan	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR					FR	FR	20	-	4	-	-	16	
CARTWRIGHT, Bryce					B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B				B	B	B	B	2R	B	1	18	4	-	-	16	
DUNSTER, Haze								B	B				W	W	W	W	W				W		W	W	W	W	11	2	3	-	-	12	
FERGUSON, Blake	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W						W	W					W	W	W	18	-	10	1	-	42	
GREIG, Wiremu						B	B																				-	2	-	-	-	-	
GUTHERSON, Clinton	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	25	-	13	18	-	88	
HIPGRAVE, Keegan	B	B	B	B		B			B						B									B	2R		1	8	-	-	-	-	
KAUFUSI, Oregon	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	B	B	FR	B	B		B	B	B	B	FR		B		FR			4	17	1	-	-	4	
LANE, Shaun	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	L	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	2R	13	13	5	-	-	20
LOIZOU, Samuel																								B			-	1	-	-	-	-	
LUSSICK, Joey											B	B		H	H	H						H	H	H	H			7	2	2	-	-	8
MAHONEY, Reed	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H				H	H	H	H								17	-	3	-	-	12
MAKATO, Makahesi																						B	B	B	FR	B		1	4	-	-	-	-
MATTERSON, Ryan	2R	2R						2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			B		16	1	4	-	-	16	
MOSES, Mitchell	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB					HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	22	-	3	66	2	146	
NIUKORE, Marata		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C			B	FR	B	B	FR	FR	B		B	B	2R	2R		2R	2R	15	6	2	-	-	8	
OLDFIELD, Michael																						W		C			2	-	-	-	-	-	
OPACIC, Tom	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C			C			21	-	7	-	-	28	
PAPALII, Isaiah	B	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	FR	FR	FR		B	B	21	4	7	-	-	28	
PAULO, Junior	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	B		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	21	2	2	-	-	8	
PENISINI, Will																			C				C	C	C	C	5	-	2	-	-	8	
PERHAM, Hayze																								FB			1	-	-	-	-	-	
ROACHE, Nathaniel														B													-	1	-	-	-	-	
RODWELL, Ky																								B			-	1	-	-	-	-	
RUSSELL, Sean															W										B			1	1	2	-	-	8
SIVO, Maika	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W				21	-	17	-	-	68	
SMITH, Will	B	B	B	B	B	FE	B						B				B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FE	B	B	2	15	1	-	-	4	
STONE, Ray			B	B	B					B										B				B	L	H	H	3	6	1	-	-	4

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	Bold, colour = captain

PARRAMATTA EELS

Established 1947
 Home Ground Western Sydney Stadium
 (current name: Bankwest Stadium)
 Premierships 1981, 1982, 1983, 1986
 Runners Up 1976, 1977, 1984, 2001, 2009
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Michael Cronin: 1975 points
 Most Tries (all time) Luke Burt: 124 tries

Matches Played 1708
 Won 788
 Lost 880
 Drawn 40
 Points For 29,796
 Points Against 31,400
 Biggest win 74-4 (70 pts) - Aug 23rd, 2003 - vs. Cronulla
 Biggest loss 0-68 (68 pts) - Aug 22nd, 1993 - vs. Canberra
 Most points scored 74-4 (74 pts) - Aug 23rd, 2003 - vs. Cronulla
 Most points conceded 0-68 (68 pts) - Aug 22nd, 1993 - vs. Canberra

PENRITH PANTHERS

SEASON REVIEW

By Josh Robertson, LeagueUnlimited.com



@JoshRobbo44

Back in 2020, in my season preview for this club, I said "Penrith are a club who promise the world every year, but usually deliver an atlas" - and when I went on to preview the 2021 season pointed out that they "almost delivered the world in 2020".

But boy, in 2021 they delivered not just the world to Penrith - they might as well have delivered the whole universe. So many people in 2020 said that the Panthers were "lucky" last season with rule changes favouring them and circumstances of the draw, but in 2021 the Panthers put paid to the critics who claimed them to be 'one-year wonders', as they took home the 2021 NRL Premiership.

Their began season in style, with back-to-back victories over the Cowboys and Bulldogs - remarkably becoming the first team to keep their opponents scoreless across the opening fortnight of any NRL season. A massive test came for the Panthers in Round 3 when they had to take on the Melbourne Storm minus halfback Nathan Cleary who was concussed the previous week against the Bulldogs following a high shot from former teammate Dallin Watene-Zelezniak. If there were questions over the Panthers in 2021 they were well and truly answered when they managed to steal the lead from Melbourne in the dying minutes of that Round 3 game through Kurt Capewell's try, converted by Stephen Crichton for a euphoric victory. The biggest play of the regular season for the Panthers came in the final moments of that contest, when Viliame Kikau picked himself up off the canvas to get his hand under the ball after it looked certain that Justin Olam was going to score. Penrith's roll continued through to the season until a threat not seen during the 2020 season came up to potentially derail the Panthers success - the State of Origin period. The club were expected to be heavily decimated and they were, missing 8 key players from their squad against a Tigers side which was near-full-strength - as a result, the Panthers were never given a chance and fell to their first defeat of the season.

Back-to-back defeats left the side vulnerable after Origin stars were rested from the clash with Cronulla just 48 hours after Game I. The Panthers were then left further vulnerable after Game II, when Blues half Nathan Cleary suffered a significant shoulder injury that left Penrith in a dire position. Ultimately though, the injury to Cleary on its own didn't derail the season too much - but then just a week later, injury to Jarome Luai left Penrith in a deep hole. Missing both their key halves, questions were asked once poor performances began to arise through the second half of the season.

But - as a champion team often does, they silenced the doubters. Only losing one more game in the regular season, Penrith went on to finish second, losing out in the race to the minor premiership on for and against to a Melbourne side who continually racked up the points. That one loss in the back-end of the season came against the Storm in a game where kickoff was delayed by 24 hours due to a snap lockdown, and on an afternoon where Melbourne welcomed back a number of stars while Penrith were without captain Isiah Yeo, Cleary and Brian To'o among others. Heading into the finals, the Panthers weren't at their 100% peak, with both Luai and Cleary still hampered by injury. The finals series was sort of an anomaly for the Panthers season, as their attack went missing during the finals and the games were won solely on the season's best defence.

After a less than impressive performance in the opening week of the finals against Souths, many pundits said that the Panthers were gone because they had to take the long road to the finals, but the belief of players continued that pattern of silencing the doubters. Defence won the day against the Eels when it looked almost certain that Parramatta would get past them, and then against Melbourne, the side was given no chance - but again a good start and strong defence put the mountain men in good position - and delivered them a grand final berth. A week later, Penrith finally delivered on what they had promised for so many years since 2003, by bringing the Provan-Summons trophy back to the foot of the mountains, with their victory in the Grand Final getting revenge over Souths for the first week finals loss.

Turning point

It's hard to find a turning point in the season, because Penrith have been consistently good across the past two seasons, but State of Origin became a big turning point, with things having looked cruisy for the most part across the first two months of 2021. Arguably, the Panthers were the hardest done-by during the schedule, with their opponent prior to Origin I being unaffected by representation and therefore close to full strength. It showed that a previously invincible team had quite a few chinks in the armour, and a potential lack of depth in the halves.

The other biggest turning point would undoubtedly be the finals - specifically after the first week defeat to the Rabbitohs. Many people had written off the side by this point, and they needed to be a strong performance to go through what was set to be one of the hardest finals paths in recent memory, including facing an in-form Melbourne in the preliminary final. Then of course there's Cody Walker's fateful pass in the final 10 minutes of the decider.

What worked

The team was just that - they were a team and not 13 individuals on a field. The connection that every player who came into the side showed to take up their role instantly - or even if someone was having a bad day then someone else stepped up. It was a special season.

What didn't work

Simply put... Tyrone May. The decision to play May in the halves by Ivan Cleary was one of bemusement, because there are some strong up and coming players in the team and May was often a handbrake on the Panthers attack in 2021.

Playing May at halfback brought a stagnation in Penrith's attack when things weren't working, whilst Nathan Cleary was out. Having barely played in the halves, a number of poor performances from May, who was dumped by the club after the season ended, slowed the Panthers performances and to bring him back to the halves after a clear failure initially, was questionable.

Best player

Speaking from a biased perspective, it is hard to find a player to single out as the best of the season, despite Nathan Cleary being the Clive Churchill Medal winner and picking up the Merv Cartwright Medal just this week. That said, it's easy to say that nearly everybody in the Panthers side could've won that award. The work of Dylan Edwards at fullback is very underestimated and lays a platform, fan favourite Brian To'o with his huge metre gains from the back of the field along with Stephen Crichton. The no-nonsense play of James Fisher Harris and Isiah Yeo just to get the attack going forward and settling it down when things need to be calm.

Another player that deserves a mention is Scott Sorensen, a player that I've felt that was underused at his previous clubs. Coming into the Panthers' squad, "Hot Scott" as he's been dubbed by the Panthers fans, made his impact off the bench and helped the Panthers during the season phenomenally. Of course it's hard not to mention Jarome Luai, the little master who came into the Panthers team as a rookie many years ago and instantly lead the team around and still does along with Nathan Cleary.

Rookies

Penrith yet again have had to blood plenty of rookies and one player that impressed coming into the side was J'maine Hopgood. Watching lower grades regularly, I've had huge wraps on Hopgood for a very long time. The no nonsense back-rower will be a key part of the squad going forward and picked up some amazing experience this season, particularly when the side's depth was tested mid-year.

Izack Tago is another player of the future who can take the leap to a regular first grade role, after getting his opportunity during the middle of the season both starting and coming off the bench.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	North Queensland	W 24 - 0	BlueBet	14,077
2	Canterbury	W 28 - 0	Bankwest	5,062
3	Melbourne	W 12 - 10	BlueBet	14,077
4	Manly	W 46 - 6	Lottoland	6,076
5	Canberra	W 30 - 10	BlueBet	20,890
6	Brisbane	W 20 - 12	Suncorp	21,224
7	Newcastle	W 24 - 6	BlueBet	16,110
8	Manly	W 28 - 16	Carrington	5,798
9	Cronulla	W 48 - 0	BlueBet	16,110
10	Gold Coast	W 48 - 12	Suncorp	43,537
11	South Sydney	W 56 - 12	Apex Oval	10,824
12	Canterbury	W 30 - 4	BlueBet	16,110
13	Wests Tigers	L 6 - 26	Leichhardt	9,127
14	Cronulla	L 18 - 19	Netstrata	5,217
15	Sydney	W 38 - 12	BlueBet	14,406
16	Parramatta	W 13 - 12	BlueBet	-
17	BYE			
18	Warriors	W 30 - 16	Suncorp	24,894
19	Brisbane	W 18 - 12	Suncorp	8,019
20	Melbourne	L 10 - 37	Suncorp	-
21	Sydney	W 20 - 14	Suncorp	-
22	St George Illawarra	W 34 - 16	Suncorp	6,653
23	South Sydney	W 25 - 12	Suncorp	8,848
24	Wests Tigers	W 30 - 16	Redcliffe	5,351
25	Parramatta	W 40 - 6	CBUS	8,580
Q	South Sydney	L 10 - 16	QLD C.B.	18,244
S	Parramatta	W 8 - 6	Mackay	6,011
P	Melbourne	W 10 - 6	Suncorp	29,011
G	South Sydney	W 14 - 12	Suncorp	39,322

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: Premiers, 2nd | Played 28, Won 24, Lost 4 | For 718, Against 326 | Coach: Ivan Cleary (28 matches)

Most Points: Nathan Cleary (231) | Most Tries: Matt Burton (18)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Q	SF	PF	GF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	NQL	CBY	MEL	MAN	CAN	BRI	NEW	MAN	CRO	GCT	SOU	CBY	WST	CRO	SYD	PAR	WAR	BRI	MEL	SYD	SGI	SOU	WST	PAR	SOU	PAR	MEL	SOU	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
BURTON, Matt			HB	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	FE	FE	C	FE	FE	C	FE	FE	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	26	-	17	6	1	81
CAPEWELL, Kurt	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R				2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	C		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	23	-	6	-	-	24	
CLEARY, Nathan	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB			HB						FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	20	-	10	94	2	231	
CRICHTON, Stephen	C	C	C	FB	FB	FB	C	C	C	C	FB	FB	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		W	W	W	W	FB	W	W	W	27	-	11	14	-	72	
EDWARDS, Dylan	FB	FB	FB				FB	FB	FB	FB			FB	FB	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB			FB	FB	FB	21	-	5	-	1	22	
EISENHUTH, Matt	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	L	B						B	FR	FR	FR			FR			5	14	1	-	-	4	
FISHER-HARRIS, James	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR					FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	24	-	2	-	-	8	
HOPGOOD, J'maine										B										B	B	B							1	5	-	-	-	-	
JENNINGS, Robert													W	W						W									3	-	-	-	-	-	
KENNY, Mitchell		H	H	H	H	H	H								H	B	B	B	H	H	H	B	H	B		B	B		11	7	-	-	-	-	
KIKAU, Viliame	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B	B	B	B	B	20	7	9	-	-	36	
KOROISAU, Apisai	H							H	H	H	H	H		H	H	H	B			H		H	H	H	H	H	H	17	1	3	-	-	12		
LENIU, Spencer	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	FR		B	B	B	B	B						B		B	B	1	18	1	-	-	4	
LEOTA, Moses	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR		FR	24	-	3	-	-	12	
LUAI, Jarome	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE			FE	HB		FE	HB	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	25	-	2	-	-	8	
MARTIN, Liam	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	2R	FR	2R		B	2R	B	B	B	B	FR	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	14	13	3	-	-	12	
MAY, Taylan																					W								1	-	-	-	-	-	
MAY, Tyrone	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	HB	HB		C	HB	HB					B	B		B	B	5	16	3	-	-	12		
MOMIROVSKI, Paul	C	C	C	C	C	C					C	C	C	C						C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	19	-	6	-	-	24		
NADEN, Brent																W	C	B	C		W	W				W		6	1	4	-	-	16		
PANGAI JR, Tevita																						B	B	B	B	B	FR	1	5	2	-	-	8		
SALMON, Jaeman													B									B							-	2	-	-	-	-	
SMITH, Lindsay													B																-	1	-	-	-	-	
SOERENSEN, Scott									B	B	B	B	2R	2R	B	B	B	B	L	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	3	16	1	-	-	4	
STAINES, Charlie	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	W	W	W	W					W			21	-	14	-	-	56		
TAGO, Izack													B	B	B					B	B	B							-	6	1	-	-	4	
TO'O, Brian	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			W	W	W	W							W	W	W	21	-	15	-	-	60		
YEO, Isaah	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L			L	L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	25	-	2	-	-	8		

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench
Bold, colour = captain

PENRITH PANTHERS

Established 1967
Home Ground Penrith Stadium
(current name: Bluebet Stadium)
Premierships 1991, 2003, 2021
Runners Up 1990, 2020
World Club Challenge None
Most Points (all time) Ryan Girdler: 1690 points
Most Tries (all time) Rhys Wesser: 113 tries

Matches Played 1,305
Won 582
Lost 694
Drawn 29
Points For 24,152
Points Against 25,898
Biggest win 72-12 (60 pts) - Aug 7th, 2004 - vs. Manly
Biggest loss 7-70 (63 pts) - Jul 29th, 1973 - vs. Manly
Most points scored 72-12 (72 pts) - Aug 7th, 2004 - vs. Manly
Most points conceded 12-74 (74 pts) - Aug 10th, 2008 - vs. Canberra



ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

SEASON REVIEW

By Justin Davies, LeagueUnlimited.com



@JustDavies90

The start of the Anthony Griffin era promised brighter days for Dragons fans after finally getting the McGrexit they had hoped for at the end of 2020. Griffin had prior relationships with some of the Dragons key playmakers and hoped he could add some old school grit to the squad.

Dragons got off to a positive start which helped to bed in his ideas. The opening weekend loss in the driving rain against the Sharks sucked but it was followed up with four straight wins including the scalp of Premiership heavyweights Parramatta Eels.

Losses to the Warriors and Roosters brought the Dragons back down to earth as cracks started to appear in their work. Wins became rare and usually against the bottom four sides like Bulldogs and Broncos. The first half of the season ended in style with two comeback wins against Canberra and the Warriors which left them in prime position to make the top eight.

Then we all know what happened. There was a barbeque which turned their season into ashes after the fallout. Dragons failed to win any of their final eight games of the season to finish 11th for the season.

Now the season becomes another "what if" for the Dragons and turns the flames up on Anthony Griffin after the team lost their way spectacularly. He will get a stay of execution with new signings and some exciting youngsters, but failure isn't tolerated by the fanbase so it is set up for an interesting 2022.

Turning point

There is only one place to start right? THE barbeque which saw the Dragons lose every game which came after and saw the sacking of representative forward Paul Vaughan. Twelve Dragons were fined and suspended for their actions and a team which were in the top eight when the incident happened, crashed and burned without a trace.

Before that, the Dragons were sitting comfortably in the top eight and were in most contests every weekend, chasing another finals appearance before it all went up in smoke. Now, it becomes another lost season which probably helped the club shift some dead weight in their chase for another premiership.

What worked

When things were rolling for the Dragons it was through a simple philosophy and formula which helped them spring surprises on teams through their defence. At times they seemed to flaunt the six again rules, racking them up like high scores on a pinball machine, alongside a strong kicking game from Ben Hunt which got them into the top eight.

They also had a lethal right side combination with Zac Lomax and Mikaele Ravalawa which produced a majority of their points this season.

What didn't work

Griffin 'changed his mind like a girl changes clothes' (as Katy Perry once sung), deciding to chop and change his line-up every weekend unnecessarily - and it didn't help them gel and find some form.

The constant selection of Corey Norman was also one of the massive bug-bears of the fanbase, alongside Griffin's constant running battle with Matt Dufty which saw the speedster fullback in and out of the line-up.

Best player

There were a handful of players that excelled in a lost season for the 'Red V'. Captain Ben Hunt was a consistent performer despite suffering some serious injuries and showed that he was worth the leadership position. Mikaele Ravalawa was a try-scoring machine.... when he could stay on the field. The powerful winger scored 14 tries in 16 appearances but also was suspended several times which hurt the Dragons backline potency.

In the forwards, Josh Kerr moved into the back row and produced some solid football for the joint venture, and his offload helped to start the Dragons' attack in many instances. Otherwise it was a mixed bag for them including the return of Jack De Belin, which didn't help when they weren't able to match it with the rest of the packs in the NRL.

Rookies

Despite their late season fade, the last few months of the season gave Dragons fans a glimpse into their future in 2022. Fullback Tyrell Sloan, halves Jayden Sullivan and Talatau Amona brought energy to the side, created points and helped salve some of the losses which ended their season.

Sloan, Amona and Sullivan will hope to create the backbone of the Dragons backline for the next few seasons which hopefully leads them back to the finals. Sloan particularly will slot into the fullback spot after scoring six tries in his five appearances while Sullivan and Amona have partnered each other moving through the ranks and offer promise after years of the Corey Norman experience.

Looking ahead

There are some green shoots of optimism for the Dragons headed into 2022 with a raft of new signings to bolster their forward pack alongside some youngsters sprinkled into the backline can help them make a charge to the top eight.

If Hunt can find a solid combination with either Amona or Sullivan and the Dragons avoid more outside distractions it might help them be in that top eight number.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Cronulla	L 18 - 32	Netstrata	7,636
2	North Queensland	W 25 - 18	QLD C.B.	15,120
3	Manly	W 38 - 12	WIN	9,253
4	Newcastle	W 22 - 13	McD. Jones	21,770
5	Parramatta	W 26 - 12	Bankwest	24,384
6	Warriors	L 14 - 20	Netstrata	11,222
7	Sydney	L 10 - 34	SCG	37,620
8	Wests Tigers	L 8 - 16	WIN	12,323
9	Canterbury	W 32 - 12	Netstrata	7,253
10	Melbourne	L 18 - 44	Suncorp	41,983
11	Cronulla	L 12 - 13	Netstrata	8,947
12	Wests Tigers	L 18 - 34	Bankwest	9,982
13	Brisbane	W 52 - 24	Netstrata	5,107
14	Canterbury	L 6 - 28	Stad. Aust.	17,382
15	Canberra	W 22 - 20	WIN	9,239
16	Warriors	W 19 - 18	Gen. Coast	-
17	BYE			
18	Manly	L 18 - 32	CBUS	15,038
19	Gold Coast Titans	L 10 - 32	CBUS	4,424
20	South Sydney	L 14 - 50	Suncorp	-
21	Canberra	L 12 - 20	CBUS	-
22	Penrith	L 16 - 34	Suncorp	6,653
23	Sydney	L 22 - 40	Toowoomba	-
24	North Queensland	L 26 - 38	R'hampton	4,487
25	South Sydney	L 16 - 20	Sun. Coast	3,295

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2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 11th | Played 24, Won 8, Lost 16 | For 474, Against 616 | Coach: Anthony Griffin (24 matches)

Most Points: Zac Lomax (86) | Most Tries: Mikaele Ravalawa (14)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	CRO	NQL	MAN	NEW	PAR	WAR	SYD	WST	CBY	MEL	CRO	WST	BRI	CBY	CAN	WAR	MAN	GCT	SOU	CAN	PEN	SYD	NQL	SOU	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ALVARO, Daniel	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B						B	B	B	-	19	-	-	-	-	
AMONE, Talatau									B		C	B	B	B					C	B	B	FE	FE	FE	5	6	3	-	-	12	
BEALE, Gerard												C	C	C	C	W	W	C	W		C			C	10	-	4	-	-	16	
BIRD, Jack	C	C	C		C	C	HB	C	C	C	C	C	2R	2R	2R	C	C	2R		FB	FB	C	C	C	22	-	4	6	-	28	
BURNS, William							2R	B	B	B	2R	2R			B	B	B		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	9	6	2	-	-	8	
CLUNE, Adam	FE			HB	HB	HB	B				B							B	B	HB	HB				6	4	1	-	-	4	
DE BELIN, Jack													B	B	L	L	FR	B		L	L	FR	L	L	8	3	-	-	-	-	
DUFTY, Matthew	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB			FB	FB		FB		FB				FB			15	-	10	-	-	40	
ELLIS, Kaide					B	B		B	B		B								FR	B	B	FR			2	8	-	-	-	-	
FAAMAUSILI, Poasa	B	B	B	B						B	FR	FR	B				B	FR						B	3	8	-	-	-	-	
FEAGAI, Mathew									W									W	W	W	W	W	W	W	8	-	3	-	-	12	
FEAGAI, Max								W	W	B	W														3	1	2	-	-	8	
FORD, Jackson				B							L	L	L	L			L		B	B	B	B	B		5	6	-	-	-	-	
FUIMAONO, Tyrell	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	B	C	C						B		B	2R		2R	2R	B	B	12	5	1	-	-	4
HUNT, Ben	HB	HB	HB					HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB						15	-	5	-	-	20
HUNT, Jaiyden											B	B							B	B					-	4	-	-	-	-	
KERR, Josh	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	B	FR	2R	2R	FR	B		B	B			15	5	2	-	-	8	
LAWRIE, Blake	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR		FR	FR	21	-	-	-	-	-
LOMAX, Zac	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C												C	C	C	C		12	-	4	35	-	86
LUSSICK, Freddy																								B	B	-	2	-	-	-	-
McCULLOUGH, Andrew	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	21	-	-	-	-	-
McGUIRE, Josh						B	B	L	L	L						B	B	L		FR	FR	H	FR	FR	9	4	2	-	-	8	
MERRIN, Trent	B	B	B	B	B	FR																			1	5	1	-	-	4	
NORMAN, Corey		FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		C	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	22	-	2	25	2	60	
PEREIRA, Jordan							W				W	W							W						4	-	1	-	-	4	
RAMSEY, Cody	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	W		W	FB	FB	W	W	W	W	W	C		C					18	-	6	-	-	24	
RAVALAWA, Mikaele	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			W			W	W	W					W	W	W	W	W	16	-	14	-	-	56	
SIMS, Tariq	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	2R		L	2R	2R	21	-	4	-	-	16	
SLOAN, Tyrell															FB		FB		FB				FB	FB	5	-	6	-	-	24	
SULLIVAN, Jayden																			FE	FE			B	H	H	4	1	2	-	-	8
TAUNOA-BROWN, Jamayne																	B	B							-	2	-	-	-	-	
VAUGHAN, Paul	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	FR	FR	B	FR									13	3	1	-	-	4	
WILIAME, Brayden	B	B	B	C	B	B						W	C	C	C	C	C								7	5	5	-	-	20	

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench
Bold, colour = captain

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS

Established 1999 (St George 1921, Illawarra 1982)
Home Grounds Jubilee Oval, Kogarah NSW (current name: Netstrata Jubilee Stadium)
Wollongong Showground, Wollongong NSW (current name: WIN Stadium)
Premierships 2010
Runners Up 1999
World Club Challenge 2011
Most Points (all time) Jamie Soward: 994 points
Most Tries (all time) Matt Cooper: 126 tries

Matches Played 577
Won 286
Lost 285
Drawn 6
Points For 12,160
Points Against 11,521
Biggest win 54-0 (54 pts) - May 6th, 2000 - vs. Warriors
Biggest loss 10-70 (60 pts) - Mar 3rd, 2000 - vs. Melbourne
Most points scored 58-16 (58 pts) - Aug 18th, 2002 - vs. South Sydney
58-16 (58 pts) - Jul 8th, 2007 - vs. Canberra
Most points conceded 10-70 (70 pts) - Mar 3rd, 2000 - vs. Melbourne

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Jackson, LeagueUnlimited.com



@Andrew_Jacko

The 2021 season will forever feel like a missed opportunity for the South Sydney Rabbitohs.

A chance to bring an end to one era, led by halfback Adam Reynolds, without having to worry about what the next may look like.

The Rabbitohs almost did just that, making their first grand final since 2014 but falling just short in a 14-12 defeat to the Penrith Panthers.

Reynolds is far from the only high-profile casualty ahead of 2022, with coach Wayne Bennett also bidding farewell while Dane Gagai and Jay'dn Su'A have also left.

Bunnies fans can take some confidence in the fact new head coach Jason Demetriou had been working under Bennett for a number of years. If there is anyone that understands Bennett's vision for the club it is Demetriou.

There is still no doubting the supercoach's absence will be felt, as will that of halfback Reynolds. Cody Walker will be forced to shoulder more responsibility with either Blake Taaffe or Lachlan Ilias likely to partner the five-eighth in the halves next year.

There is Anthony Milford too, who is facing court over assault charges, only casting more uncertainty over the halves picture.

Fortunately, Latrell Mitchell and Damien Cook will round out what it otherwise a relatively stable core to build around in the hope another title chance is not too far away.

Turning point

Funnily enough, it was South Sydney's 56-12 loss to eventual premiers Penrith that ended up sparking a mid-season resurgence for Bennett's men.

The 44-point drubbing had most pundits questioning whether the Rabbitohs were any hope of competing for the premiership. Sure, they could score points but they could leak them quite easily too. After that defeat, Bennett had no words for the Rabbitohs players and instead demanded they quickly pack up their things before leaving without any other words.

What followed was a coaching masterclass as Bennett guided the Bunnies towards the top of the ladder. South Sydney went on a winning run, averaging nearly 40 points per game and conceding just 16 until the finals. By week one of the finals the Rabbitohs were smarting and won the battle up front to shock the Panthers 16-10.

What worked

The left edge quickly established itself as one of the most exciting in the competition. While there were doubts over Mitchell's fitness at the back, his ball-playing helped free up Walker to keep the opposition defence guessing. When you add in his running game it became increasingly tough to shut down Mitchell, with long-range kicking key to tiring him out and diminishing his impact.

Shutting down Mitchell though only went so far, with Walker also enjoying a career-best campaign (37 try assists and 58 linebreak assists).

What didn't work

It is honestly hard to pinpoint as South Sydney did finish the season on such a high note, even if it did not end with a premiership. The attack was varied, the forward pack performed above expectations and even the defence improved as the season went on.

Perhaps it was the defence, and in particular the decision-making on the edges, that let South Sydney down at times. Even wins over the lowly Dragons, Bulldogs and Warriors saw Souths leak a concerning amount of points.

That is not as much of an issue when the Bunnies were racking up 40-plus points themselves but it was not a formula for success against the best teams in the league. Defence is often a reflection of attitude and Reynolds set that for South Sydney with his professionalism. Cameron Murray looms at the most capable option to fill the leadership void and along with Mitchell's voice at the back will be key in setting the defensive line.

Best player

With Walker and Mitchell already rating a strong mention, it is worth putting the spotlight on a few

other talented players who don't always get the same attention. Away from that dangerous left edge, Campbell Graham quickly established himself as one of the league's most-improved centres. While a consistent finisher, it was Graham's work in defence in particular that made him an asset and had the 22-year-old floated as an Origin bolter.

Speaking of Origin bolters, Keon Koloamatangi also enjoyed a breakout season on the edge, averaging over 120 metres per game. Koloamatangi was rewarded for his strong form with a new contract in October and has plenty of room to grow having only debuted last year.

Meanwhile, up front it was Tom Burgess who really stood tall in the absence of brother George. Heading into this season there were question marks over where South Sydney's go-forward would come from but Burgess quickly embraced the added responsibility. Averaging just under 140 metres, Burgess proved himself valuable both setting the tone early and providing impact off the bench.

Rookies

When Latrell Mitchell was suspended and wiped out for the rest of the season, it saw most put a line through the Rabbitohs for 2021. Nathan Cleary had been terrorising the league with his lethal kicking game and the young Blake Taaffe was an easy target for the superstar halfback. Taaffe though, save for a handful of errors, proved more than up to the task.

Crucially when the youngster did come up with a mistake, like he did in South Sydney's 16-10 win over Penrith, he didn't let it get to him. Rather, Taaffe stood tall to show composure beyond his years while his crisp passing game made him the perfect replacement for Mitchell. It even had some suggest the first-choice fullback move to the centres.

That won't be happening, at least for now, but Taaffe certainly will be a key part of South Sydney's future regardless of where he suits up.

Looking ahead

Without Reynolds, it will be on Walker to be the calming influence early, at least until his new halves partner finds their feet. That is not necessarily what Walker needs given he is at his best playing off-the-cuff and without too much pressure to organise the attack.

South Sydney's premiership hopes will likely hinge on how quickly it can develop the new-look halves combination. At this point a title looks beyond the Rabbitohs in 2022, with next year instead shaping as a chance for Souths to work out its identity post-Reynolds and Bennett.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Melbourne	L 18 - 26	AAMI Park	11,812
2	Manly	W 26 - 12	Lottoland	3,218
3	Sydney	W 26 - 16	Stad. Aust.	22,838
4	Canterbury	W 38 - 0	Stad. Aust.	23,240
5	Brisbane	W 35 - 6	Stad. Aust.	9,142
6	Wests Tigers	W 18 - 14	Stad. Aust.	16,134
7	Gold Coast	W 40 - 30	CBUS	17,383
8	Canberra	W 34 - 20	GIO	14,260
9	Melbourne	L 0 - 50	Stad. Aust.	7,501
10	Cronulla	W 32 - 22	Suncorp	42,821
11	Penrith	L 12 - 56	Apex Oval	10,824
12	Parramatta	W 38 - 20	Stad. Aust.	20,743
13	BYE			
14	Newcastle	W 24 - 10	Stad. Aust.	12,156
15	Brisbane	W 46 - 0	Suncorp	19,176
16	Wests Tigers	W 38 - 22	Leichhardt	-
17	North Queensland	W 46 - 18	McD. Jones	3,127
18	Canterbury	W 32 - 24	CBUS	2,979
19	Warriors	W 60 - 22	Sun. Coast	7,569
20	St George Illawarra	W 50 - 14	Suncorp	-
21	Parramatta	W 40 - 12	CBUS	-
22	Gold Coast	W 36 - 6	CBUS	4,117
23	Penrith	L 12 - 25	Suncorp	8,848
24	Sydney	W 54 - 12	Suncorp	5,136
25	St George Illawarra	W 20 - 16	Sun. Coast	3,295
Q	Penrith	W 16 - 10	QLD C.B.	18,244
P	Manly	W 36 - 16	Suncorp	26,249
G	Penrith	L 12 - 14	Suncorp	39,322

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 3rd, Runners Up | Played 27, Won 22, Lost 5 | For 839, Against 493 | Coach: Wayne Bennett (27 matches)

Most Points: Adam Reynolds (260) | Most Tries: Alex Johnston (33)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Q	PF	GF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	MEL	MAN	SYD	CBY	BRI	WST	GCT	CAN	MEL	CRO	PEN	PAR	NEW	BRI	WST	NQL	CBY	WAR	SGI	PAR	GCT	PEN	SYD	SGI	PEN	MAN	PEN	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ARROW, Jai	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	L	B	B	FR		2R	2R			B	L	2R	2R	2R	2R		B	B	B	10	13	2	-	-	8	
BURGESS, Thomas	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B		B	B	B	17	9	4	-	-	16
BURNS, Braidon									C	C			C			C	B	B				C			C			6	2	2	-	-	8	
CARTWRIGHT, Jed									B	B	B													FR				1	3	-	-	-	-	
COOK, Damien	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H		H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H	H	24	-	2	-	-	8	
GAGAI, Dane	C	C	C	C	C	C	W	C	W	C	C	C		C	C		C	C	C	C		C	C		C	C	C	23	-	10	-	-	40	
GRAHAM, Campbell	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C			C	C	C	C	C	C	C					C	C	C	C	C	C	21	-	9	-	-	36	
HAWKINS, Dean					B				FE															B				1	2	-	-	-	-	
HOST, Jacob	2R				2R	2R	B	B				B	2R	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	2R	B	B	B	5	16	1	-	-	4
ILIAS, Lachlan																									HB			1	-	1	-	-	-	4
JOHNSTON, Alex	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W					W	W		W	W	W	22	-	30	-	-	120	
KNIGHT, Liam					B	B	B	B	L	L		B		B	B	B								B				2	9	-	-	-	-	
KOLOAMATANGI, Keaon	B	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	22	1	3	-	-	12	
MAGO, Patrick		B	B	B	B			B	B							B	B	B	B					B				-	11	-	-	-	-	
MAMOUELOS, Peter													B			H								H				2	1	-	-	-	-	
MANSOUR, Josh	W		W	W	W	W					W							W	W	W	W	W					11	-	10	-	-	-	40	
MARSHALL, Benji	B	B	B	B	FE	B	C	FE	HB	FE		B	H		B	B				B	B	B	B	FE	B	B	B	7	15	3	-	-	12	
MARSTERS, Steven									C																			1	-	-	-	-	-	
MILNE, Taane										W		W	W	W	W	W	W	C	C	C	C			W				12	-	8	-	-	32	
MITCHELL, Latrell	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB					FB	FB	FB	FB	FB			FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB				17	-	13	7	1	67	
MOALE, Dawy																		B						B				-	2	-	-	-	-	
MOGA, Tautau																								B				-	1	-	-	-	-	
MURRAY, Cameron	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L				2R		L	L		L	L		L	L	L	L		L	L	L	20	-	5	-	-	20	
NICHOLLS, Mark	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	L	FR	FR	FR	16	11	3	-	-	12	
PAULO, Jaxson		W					W	W										W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	12	-	9	-	-	36		
REYNOLDS, Adam	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	25	-	5	118	2	260	
SELE, Hame										B		B	L	B	FR	L							B					3	4	1	-	-	4	
SUA, Jaydn	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		B			2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	20	3	5	-	-	20	
TAAFFE, Blake													B			FB	FB		B					FB	FB	FB	FB	6	2	1	6	-	16	
TATOLA, Tevita	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR						B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	19	2	-	-	-	-	
WALKER, Cody	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FB	FB	FB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	25	-	16	-	-	64	

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench
Bold, colour = captain

SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

Established 1908
Home Grounds Stadium Australia, Sydney Olympic Park NSW
Premierships 1908, 1909, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1932, 1950, 1951, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 2014
Runners Up 1910, 1916, 1923, 1924, 1935, 1939, 1965, 1969, 2021
World Club Challenge 2015
Most Points (all time) Adam Reynolds: 1896
Most Tries (all time) Ben Wearing: 146

Matches Played 2206
Won 1151
Lost 1009
Drawn 46
Points For 38485
Points Against 37946
Biggest win 67-0 (67 pts) - Jul 23rd, 1910 - vs. Western Suburbs
Biggest loss 0-66 (66 pts) - Jun 25th, 2006 - vs. Warriors
Most points scored 67-0 (67 pts) - Jul 23rd, 1910 - vs. Western Suburbs
Most points conceded 0-66 (66 pts) - Jun 25th, 2006 - vs. Warriors

SYDNEY ROOSTERS

SEASON REVIEW

By Rob Crosby, LeagueUnlimited.com



@Robert_Crosby95

No surrender in plucky chooks

There were any number of opportunities for the Sydney Roosters to give up on 2021.

Battered by injury. Playing away from home. Dealt a seemingly raw deal by officials on and off the field. For most teams, any one of the challenges faced by the foundation club would have proved catastrophic. Not so for a side coached by Trent Robinson.

Since taking the top job at Eastern Suburbs in 2013, the Roosters have won three premierships, four minor premierships and missed the finals once. All things considered, 2021 was Robinson's finest hour under the circumstances. Forced to retire Boyd Cordner, Jake Friend and Brett Morris before the representative period, star playmaker Luke Keary lasted three matches, while rising forward Lindsay Collins didn't play again after May.

Left to contend with additional short-term injuries and suspensions to boot, it was an achievement in-and-of itself to simply reach the finals, let alone be equal with the fourth-placed Sea Eagles on premiership points. At the core of the side's unflappable resilience were James Tedesco, stepping into the role of captaincy with distinction, and Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, who became only the fifth man to play 250 first grade games for the club. Finishing the year in fifth position before holding on for a one-point victory over the Titans during a thrilling Elimination Final in Townsville, the dream run came to a close a week later at the hands of the Sea Eagles in Mackay.

The Roosters will head into next season minus more than 1,200 games of first grade experience. Having weathered the challenges of 2021, Robinson should find rejuvenating a quality roster to be a pleasant change of pace.

Turning point

No moment was as harrowing during the 2021 season than the screams of anguish from Brett Morris during the closing stages of the Round 8 visit to Newcastle. Having lost representative front-rower Lindsay Collins to a season-ending knee injury only minutes earlier, the same injury sustained by Morris was all the more distressing as it quickly became apparent one of the all-time greats had played his final match in first grade.

With no interchanges to draw upon for the final three-and-a-half minutes, the Roosters continued to play aggressively with 11 men and were rewarded with Josh Morris touching down for a hat-trick to cap an emphatic performance. In that moment the Roosters were aching for their wounded teammates, yet they refused to let adversity distract from the task of competing until the fulltime siren.

What worked

At no point in the season was there a moment where the Sydney Roosters looked anything other than top eight certainties. For a team boasting some of the biggest names in the game, such a statement may seem less than impressive.

Whereas past successes could be attributed to the brilliance of individual stars, the defining trait of the Roosters' success in 2021 had less to do with star power, but rather a "next man up" mentality built around resilience. Using 34 players in first grade, the most used by the club in a season since 2002, the Roosters remained one of the most consistent teams in the competition as a result of the traits instilled from the top down during Trent Robinson's tenure.

At the bleakest point during the injury crisis, part-timers Ben Thomas and Brad Abbey were thrown jerseys through necessity, while journeyman Dale Copley responded to a late season SOS following a severe shortage of outside backs. Daniel Tupou and Isaac Liu were the only players to appear in every match, yet despite the lack of consistency in player personnel from week-to-week, the Roosters put up strong showings with few exceptions.

What didn't work

For as gallant as Trent Robinson's men were in the face of adversity, the absence of class and experience proved telling in clashes against premiership heavyweights.

Going down on multiple occasions against Penrith, South Sydney and Melbourne during the course of the home-and-away season, the side's sole win over a team that finished in the top four came during daylight saving against Manly.

Posting a club record opening round win which saw the Tricolours, led by Luke Keary, feast on the carcass of a Sea Eagles outfit missing Tom Trbojevic, the reversal of star power when the

two teams faced off six months later saw the side bow out in the semi finals for the second year running.

Best player

James Tedesco and Jared Waerea-Hargreaves may have played a more vital role in keeping the Roosters' season afloat, but it was the strides taken by replacement playmaker Drew Hutchison that typified the side's ability to remain competitive under pressure.

Coming of age as a first-grader following stints with St George Illawarra, Leigh and North Sydney, the 26-year-old stood up in the absence of Luke Keary to provide a steady influence in the halves, which complemented the youthful exuberance of Sam Walker and Lachlan Lam.

Sustaining a serious injury against Parramatta in May, resulting in fractured ribs and a punctured lung, Hutchison returned just as the delta variant was spreading throughout Sydney to finish 2021 as one of the game's most-improved players while earning a new two-year deal to boot.

Rookies

Few players have attracted as much hype before debuting in first grade as Joseph Suaalii.

Caught at the centre of an irresponsible media frenzy during the pre-season, the 17-year-old outside back, signed from archrivals South Sydney, was at the centre of a decision that made a mockery of the game's eligibility rules by being granted an exemption to debut in first grade before the age of 18. While the Roosters handled Suaalii's introduction to first grade with a grace of responsibility and perspective - notably lacking from the league's decision to live-stream a reserve grade trial marketed as his first match against men - it was another teenager on the club's books who finished as the Dally M Rookie of the Year.

Demonstrating confidence well beyond the standing of a 19-year-old, Sam Walker made an instant impression with multiple match-clinching field goals and winning the coveted Spirit of ANZAC Medal in only his fourth top grade appearance. Fletcher Baker, Ben Marschke, Tuku Hau-Tapuha, Egan Butcher, Ben Thomas, Naufahu Whyte and Moala Graham-Taufa comprised the other players blooded in first grade by coach Robinson.

Looking ahead

At their best, the Roosters have an elite tier squad, littered with rising stars, capable of competing for the premiership. Trent Robinson did an inspired job in 2021 with an injury toll rarely seen in the NRL, but with so much experience departing the club, it's unsustainable to think the side can get the same results without reinvention. The signing of Connor Watson could prove vital in the club's bid to remain a competitive force, while Joseph Suaalii, being of a legitimately eligible age to play in the NRL, should be better prepared for the rigours of first grade.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Manly	W 46 - 4	SCG	15,097
2	Wests Tigers	W 40 - 6	C'town	6,107
3	South Sydney	L 16 - 26	Stad. Aust.	22,838
4	Warriors	W 32 - 12	SCG	12,210
5	Cronulla	W 26 - 18	SCG	10,736
6	Melbourne	L 4 - 20	AAMI	15,087
7	St George Illawarra	W 34 - 10	SCG	37,620
8	Newcastle	W 38 - 4	McD. Jones	22,172
9	Parramatta	L 18 - 31	Bankwest	25,711
10	North Queensland	W 30 - 16	Suncorp	45,122
11	Brisbane	L 16 - 34	SCG	13,186
12	Canberra	W 44 - 16	Gen. Coast	10,113
13	BYE			
14	Gold Coast	W 35 - 34	CBUS	15,111
15	Penrith	L 12 - 38	BlueBet	14,406
16	Melbourne	L 0 - 46	McD. Jones	4,289
17	Canterbury	W 22 - 16	Bankwest	-
18	North Queensland	W 34 - 18	QLD C.B.	15,933
19	Newcastle	W 28 - 8	Sun. Coast	2,868
20	Parramatta	W 28 - 0	Mackay	4,926
21	Penrith	L 14 - 20	Suncorp	-
22	Brisbane	W 21 - 20	Suncorp	14,314
23	St George Illawarra	W 40 - 22	Toowoomba	7,822
24	South Sydney	L 12 - 54	Suncorp	5,136
25	Canberra	W 40 - 16	Mackay	3,473
Q	Gold Coast	W 25 - 24	QLD C.B.	15,237
S	Manly	L 6 - 42	Mackay	5,824

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 5th | Played 26, Won 17, Lost 9 | For 661, Against 555 | Coach: Trent Robinson (26 matches)

Most Points: Adam Keighran (86) | Most Tries: Matt Ikuvalu & Daniel Tupou (16)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Q	S	SEASON STATISTICS							
Opponent	MAN	WST	SOU	WAR	CRO	MEL	SGI	NEW	PAR	NQL	BRI	CAN	GCT	PEN	MEL	CBY	NQL	NEW	PAR	PEN	BRI	SGI	SOU	CAN	GCT	MAN	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts		
ABBEY, Brad																												1	-	-	-	-	-	
BAKER, Fletcher		B		B			B				B	B	FR	FR	B		B	B		B	B	B	FR		B	B		3	13	2	-	-	8	
BUTCHER, Egan												B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	2R	L	B	B		2	13	1	-	-	4	
BUTCHER, Nat	B	2R		B	2R	B	B	B	2R	B	B	2R				B	2R	B	B	2R	2R	2R				B	8	11	2	-	-	8		
COLLINS, Lindsay	FR	FR	FR			B	FR	FR																				5	1	1	-	-	4	
COPLEY, Dale																						W	W					2	-	2	-	-	8	
CRICHTON, Angus	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R		B	2R	2R	2R				2R	2R	2R	19	1	9	-	-	36		
FRIEND, Jake	H																											1	-	-	-	-	-	
GRAHAM-TAUFA, Moala																												-	1	-	-	-	-	
HAU TAPUHA, Tukupa-Ke										B														B	B			-	3	-	-	-	-	
HUTCHISON, Drew		B	B	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE						B	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	17	3	3	-	-	12	
IKUVALU, Matt						W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W						W	W	W		14	1	14	-	-	56	
KEARY, Luke	HB	HB	HB																									3	-	-	-	-	-	
KEIGHRAN, Adam	B					B			B	B	B	B	H	H							C	C	C	C		C	C	C	9	6	4	35	-	86
LAM, Lachlan	FE	FE	FE							FE	FE	HB	FE	HB	FE	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	HB	C	HB	HB	FE	14	6	3	-	-	12	
LIU, Isaac	L	L	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	L	L	2R	L	2R	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	L	L	FR	FR	FR	26	-	1	-	-	4	
LUSSICK, Freddy		H	H	H	H																							4	-	-	-	-	-	
MANU, Joseph	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	FB	C	C	C	FE	FB	FE	C	FB	FB	C	W	W	C	C	C				23	-	10	-	-	40		
MARSCHKE, Benjamin				B	B	H	H	B	H	H	H	H	B										B	B		H	7	6	1	-	-	4		
MORRIS, Brett	W	W	W	W	W		W	C																				7	-	11	-	-	44	
MORRIS, Josh	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C						C	C	C	20	-	9	-	-	36	
RADLEY, Victor				L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L						L	L	L	L	L	L			L	L		16	-	1	-	-	4	
SMITH, William																C	C	C										3	-	2	-	-	8	
SUAALII, Joseph											C	C	C	C	W													5	-	1	-	-	4	
SULUKA-FIFITA, Daniel	B	B	B						B	B		B	B	B	B													-	9	-	-	-	-	
TAUKEIAHO, Sio Sioa	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		B	B	B	B	FR		L	FR	FR			B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B		15	6	-	22	-	44		
TEDESCO, James	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB			FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	22	-	9	5	-	46	
THOMAS, Ben													B	B		B							B	B				-	5	-	-	-	-	
TUPOU, Daniel	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	26	-	15	-	-	60	
TUPOUNIUA, Sitili	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	C	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	23	1	12	-	-	48		
VERRILLS, Sam								B	H						B	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		12	2	1	-	-	4		
WAEREA-HARGREAVES, Jared	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B			FR			FR	FR		14	9	-	-	-	-	
WALKER, Sam				HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	B	HB	B	B	17	4	8	23	3	81	
WHYTE, Naufahu																						B		B	B			-	3	-	-	-	-	

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench
Bold, colour = captain

SYDNEY ROOSTERS

Established 1908
Home Ground Sydney Cricket Ground, Moore Park NSW
Premierships 1911, 1912, 1913, 1923, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1940, 1945, 1974, 1975, 2002, 2013, 2018, 2019
Runners Up 1908, 1928, 1934, 1938, 1941, 1942, 1960, 1972, 1980, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2010
World Club Challenge 1976, 2003, 2014, 2019, 2020
Most Points (all time) Craig Fitzgibbon: 1476 points
Most Tries (all time) Anthony Minichiello: 139 tries

Matches Played 2278
Won 1215
Lost 994
Drawn 69
Points For 40949
Points Against 36064
Biggest win 87-7 (80 pts) - May 18th, 1935 - vs. Canterbury
Biggest loss 4-66 (62 pts) - Apr 15th, 1990 - vs. Canberra
Most points scored 87-7 (87 pts) - May 18th, 1935 - vs. Canterbury
Most points conceded 4-66 (66 pts) - Apr 15th, 1990 - vs. Canberra

WARRIORS

SEASON REVIEW

By Lachy MacCorquodale, LeagueUnlimited.com



The Warriors finished the 2020 season in 10th position, a much better finish than any were predicting after finishing in 13th position at the conclusion of the 2019 season.

In 2020, the Warriors finished the season with five wins from their last nine outings, giving the football club signs of what might be in 2021.

To build on their solid finish, the Warriors added star forward Addin Fonua-Blake, Euan Aitken and rookie 18-year-old Reece Walsh to the mix in a bid to push for finals in the 2021 season. Throughout the season, the club also added Matt Lodge, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak and Chad Townsend (loan) to the squad. However, the club had seen George Jennings and Isaiah Papalii leave at the end of 2020 and both players went on to have a successful 2021 with their respective new clubs.

With hindsight, the loss of Papalii will hurt Warriors fans after he was named the Dally M Second Rower of the Year after a stellar season with the Parramatta Eels.

Nathan Brown took charge of the Warriors for the first time in 2021 and his side got off to the perfect start with a 13-point victory over the Gold Coast Titans in the opening week. After a four-point loss to the Newcastle Knights a week later, the Warriors pipped 2020 finals side the Canberra Raiders by three points. After two wins in the opening three weeks, the Warriors would only go on to win three of their next 15 matches. A loss early in this run to the then-struggling Manly will be a game that the Warriors will want back after losing to a Daly Cherry-Evans field goal.

However, the three wins in that period were scarce, coming in round 6 (vs. St. George Illawarra), round 8 (vs. North Queensland) and round 11 (vs. Wests Tigers), the last of which was in a game which saw Reece Walsh tear the joint venture apart. After the victory over the Tigers, the Warriors were sitting in ninth spot with about half the season to play. Frustratingly, they proceed to lose their next seven fixtures, which saw them slide down to 14th place at the conclusion of the 19th round. Then, surprisingly, the Warriors turned it on, winning three straight games against the Wests Tigers, Cronulla and Canterbury as they pushed for a late run at the top eight. It wasn't to be though, as the Warriors failed in their three final outings of the season against Brisbane, Canberra and a campaign-ending 44-point drubbing against the Gold Coast Titans in the final round of the season.

12th place is where their season ended, with eight wins and 16 losses to their name, a bit of a disappointing end after having won the same number of games the previous season in a shortened 20-week competition.

Turning point

The Warriors signed 18-year-old Reece Walsh just prior to the start of the season with the intention of the youngster joining the club from 2022 onwards. However, in early April the Warriors convinced the Broncos to let him join the club early, and what a decision that was. The young fullback was close to pipping Sam Walker for the Rookie of the Year award and cruelly suffered an injury in the lead up to Origin Game Two, in which Walsh was supposed to debut for Queensland.

The injury didn't keep the youngster out for long as he played 16 games with the Warriors this season, scoring nine tries and assisting a further 11. The now 19-year-old proved to be a handful for opposition defences as he broke 3.3 tackles per game and made 14 line-breaks in his 16 appearances. He still has plenty of work to do but his inclusion to the side brought some much-needed energy which was on show for all in their round 11 victory of the Tigers. However, the club did struggle with consistency for the majority of the season, but things are looking positive for the Warriors.

What worked

Despite missing nine games with injury, the addition of Addin Fonua-Blake added some much-needed fire power to the Warriors middle. In his 15 games, Fonua-Blake ran for 160 run metres per game whilst getting through 26 tackles per outing.

The 25-year-old prop forward also broke 33 tackles in his 15 matches and when he was paired with Matt Lodge during the second half of the season, the Warriors looked much improved in the middle.

Lodge only played six games for the Warriors in 2021, but made his mark felt in those appearances. The former Bronco averaged 126 run metres and 27 tackles per game with the Warriors in 21 and broke 24 tackles in those six outings. Warriors fans should be excited to see these two build some chemistry together over the course of the 2022 season.

What didn't work

It seems like Chanel Harris-Tevita will pair Shaun Johnson in the halves for the 2022 season which will be an improvement upon their scrumbase pairing from 2021.

Harris-Tevita struggled to stay on the field, playing just 11 matches this season, but looks the better player out of him and Kodi Nikorima. Nikorima didn't have the worst season, scoring four tries and assisting 11 in his 21 outings, but the 27-year-old found himself on the bench from rounds 20 through to 24 and was 18th man in the final game of the season.

The Warriors could've used the presence of Shaun Johnson this season. You'd expect him to start in the halves when next season kicks off, which will have the Warriors fans salivating as the former Warrior returns home after providing six assists in his limited 10 game season for Cronulla this year. His inclusion should benefit almost everyone in the starting side for the 2022 season.

Best player

The aforementioned Walsh and Fonua-Blake were some of the better players to don the Warriors jersey in 2021, but there were two players in particular who caught my eye. Firstly, Josh Curran was superb this season as he locked down a back-row spot late in the season. The 22-year-old was an absolute workhorse for the Warriors as he averaged 79 metres and 39 tackles per game. These averages changed 94.5 metres and 44.6 tackles per game in his eight starts in the second row. The youngster will be looking to improve on this next year and can hopefully benefit from the addition of Shaun Johnson to the squad.

Finally, Tohu Harris, as always was another superb player for the Warriors this season. Despite his injury-shortened season, the 29-year-old averaged 103 run metres and 41 tackles per game in his 15 outings for 2021. The lock forward managed to grab three tries this season, his most since his last campaign with the Melbourne Storm in 2017. Again, he'll be another player to benefit from the addition of Shaun Johnson and with Harris fit and firing in 2022, he'll be set for another big season.

Rookies

Again, Walsh was spoken about earlier, but I'd like to address Rocco Berry here. The 20-year-old New Zealand junior played in eight games this season, debuting in round seven against the Melbourne Storm. Berry crossed the line on three occasions and broke eight tackles in his eight games. The centre only averaged 52 run metres this season, but that should increase as the youngster gains experience. He'll be in for a bigger 2022 season.

Looking ahead

The Warriors have the chance to be a smokey for a top eight side in 2022, if they can manage to keep their players on the park.

The loss of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck to Rugby Union will hurt, but the side from across the ditch will add Shaun Johnson, Aaron Pene and Ashley Taylor into the mix for the 2022 season. You'd expect Johnson to walk into the starting side, with Aaron Pene competing in the forward rotation, which will add some extra go-forward to an already solid forward pack. Ash Taylor mightn't feature too much in 2022, but for the deal he's on, it's a solid player to have in the squad as he'll no doubt ensure the halves ahead of him are on their toes whilst he tries to knock the door down.

The Warriors should improve on their eight wins from this season, but most said the same at the start of this season, so we'll find out next year how they do, but I do expect them to improve and if they can get on a roll they could sneak into the top eight.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Gold Coast Titans	W 19 - 6	Gen. Coast	3,771
2	Newcastle	L 16 - 20	Gen. Coast	4,595
3	Canberra	W 34 - 31	GIO	13,456
4	Sydney	L 12 - 32	SCG	12,210
5	Manly	L 12 - 13	Gen. Coast	4,982
6	St George Illawarra	W 20 - 14	Netstrata	11,222
7	Melbourne	L 20 - 42	AAMI	20,320
8	North Queensland	W 24 - 20	Gen. Coast	3,692
9	Manly	L 32 - 38	Lottoland	6,726
10	Parramatta	L 18 - 34	Suncorp	33,175
11	Wests Tigers	W 30 - 26	Gen. Coast	7,009
12	North Queensland	L 28 - 29	QLD C.B.	14,951
14	Melbourne	L 16 - 42	Gen. Coast	8,105
15	Newcastle	L 6 - 10	McD. Jones	9,975
16	St George Illawarra	L 18 - 19	Gen. Coast	-
17	Cronulla	L 12 - 20	Netstrata	-
18	Penrith	L 16 - 30	Suncorp	24,894
19	South Sydney	L 22 - 60	Sun. Coast	7,569
20	Wests Tigers	W 18 - 16	Suncorp	12,443
21	Cronulla	W 18 - 16	CBUS	-
22	Canterbury	W 24 - 10	Redcliffe	3,332
23	Brisbane	L 22 - 24	Suncorp	-
24	Canberra	L 16 - 28	Mackay	4,079
25	Gold Coast	L 0 - 44	CBUS	12,532

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 12th | Played 24, Won 8, Lost 16 | For 453, Against 624 | Coach: Nathan Brown (24 matches)

Most Points: Kodi Nikorima (100) | Most Tries: Reece Walsh (9)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	GCT	NEW	CAN	SYD	MAN	SGI	MEL	NQL	MAN	PAR	WST	NQL	MEL	NEW	SGI	CRO	PEN	SOU	WST	CRO	CBY	BRI	CAN	GCT	Starts	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
AFOA, Bunty	B	B	FR	FR		B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	B		B	B		B	B	B	B	B	B		3	17	2	-	-	8	
AH MAU, Leeson	B	B	B	B	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	B	B	B	B							2	16	1	-	-	4	
AITKEN, Euan	C									C	C	C	C	C			C	C	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	14	-	7	-	-	28	
ALE, Tom					B		B																		-	2	-	-	-	-	
BERRY, Rocco							C	C	C	W						C	C							C	C	8	-	3	-	-	12
CURRAN, Joshua						2R	2R	2R	2R	B			L	L			B	L		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	12	2	4	-	-	16	
EGAN, Wayde	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H	H				H	B	H	H	19	1	3	-	-	12	
EVANS, Kane					B	FR	FR	FR	FR		B	FR	B	B	FR				B	B			B	B	6	8	-	-	-	-	
FONUA-BLAKE, Addin	FR	FR	FR	FR									B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	14	1	1	-	-	4	
FREI, Jackson																					FR				1	-	-	-	-	-	
FUSITU'A, David	W	W	W	W	W																				5	-	-	-	-	-	
HARRIS, Tohu	L	L	2R	2R	FR	L		L	L	L	L	L	2R	2R	L		2R								15	-	3	-	-	12	
HARRIS-TAVITA, Chanel	HB	HB							FE	HB	HB	HB	HB							FE	FE	FE		FE	11	-	2	-	1	9	
HIKU, Peta	C	C	C			C													FE	C	C	C	C	C	10	-	1	-	-	4	
KATO, Eliesa	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R						2R	2R		B	2R	2R	B	B	2R	B	B	B	B	B	10	8	1	-	-	4	
KOSI, Edward							W	W					W		W						W				5	-	1	-	-	4	
LODGE, Matt																FR	FR	FR		FR			FR	FR	6	-	-	-	-	-	
MAUMALO, Ken	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			W												11	-	8	-	-	32	
MONTOYA, Marcelo				C	C	W	C					W	W	C	W	C	C	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	18	-	5	-	-	20	
MURCHIE, Jack			B	B	2R		2R				B	2R	B			B		2R				B			4	6	1	-	-	4	
MURDOCH-MASILA, Ben	B	B	B	B	B	2R	B	2R		2R	2R	B	FR	FR	2R	B			FR						8	8	6	-	-	24	
NIKORIMA, Kodi	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	B	FE	B	B	B		B		16	5	4	42	-	100	
O'SULLIVAN, Sean			HB	HB	HB	HB									HB	FE	HB			HB	HB	HB		FE	HB	12	-	2	-	-	8
OTUKOLO, Taniela															B				B	H					1	2	-	-	-	-	
POMPEY, Adam		C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C		C	C				C	C		C	C		16	-	4	-	-	16	
SIRONEN, Bayley	2R	2R	B	B			HB	B	2R	2R			2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	L	L		L	L	L	15	4	2	-	-	8	
TAUNOA-BROWN, Jamayne	FR	FR				FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR							FR		B	FR		B	11	2	-	-	-	-	
TEVAGA, Jazz	B	B	L	L	L	B	L	B	B	FR	B	B		H	B	L	L	H	B	H	L	H		B	12	10	1	-	-	4	
TOWNSEND, Chad															HB		HB	HB				HB	HB		5	-	-	3	-	6	
TUIVASA-SHECK, Roger	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	W	FB	FB	FB	W	W	FB	W	FB	W	FE								17	-	4	-	-	16	
TURNER, Paul					B	B																			-	2	1	-	-	4	
VAILEA, Viliami																				C	C				2	-	-	-	-	-	
WALSH, Reece						FB	FE	B	B	FB	FB			FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	14	2	9	21	-	78	
WATENE-ZELEZNIAK, Dallin															W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	9	-	4	-	-	16	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	Bold, colour = captain

WARRIORS

Established
Home Grounds

1995
Mt Smart Stadium, Penrose NZ (not used in 2021)
Central Coast Stadium, Gosford NSW
Dolphin Stadium, Redcliffe QLD
(current name: Moreton Daily Stadium)

Premierships
Runners Up
World Club Challenge
Most Points (all time)
Most Tries (all time)

None
2002, 2011
None
Shaun Johnson: 917
Manu Vatuvei: 152

Matches Played: 655
Won: 295
Lost: 352
Drawn: 8
Points For: 13538
Points Against: 14701
Biggest win: 66-0 (66 pts) - Jun 25th, 2006 - vs. South Sydney
Biggest loss: 6-62 (56 pts) - May 18th, 2013 - vs. Penrith
Most points scored: 68-10 (68 pts) - Apr 14th, 2002 - vs. Northern Eagles
Most points conceded: 6-62 (56 pts) - May 18th, 2013 - vs. Penrith

WESTS TIGERS

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Ferguson, Rugby League Project



Tigers produce another season in the abyss

The Wests Tigers have struggled for success for the last decade now, but in 2021 we all got to watch almost perversely, at their dire operation courtesy of the Wild Wests docu-series.

The Tigers bumbled from woeful performance to woeful performance - before juggling an occasional fluke win - all season long. They won enough games to stay out of the wooden spoon race, but none of the players seemed to know how they won any of those games.

Coach Michael Maguire was stupidly being suggested by the mainstream media hive-mind to be at risk of losing his job, when all and sundry could see - courtesy of that docu-series - that Maguire had more passion and desire for success than all of the players combined.

14 of the Tigers 24 games in 2021 saw them concede at least 30 points.

By seasons end, their feeble defence had leaked 714 points - a staggering 29.75 points per game - their worst ever. (They conceded 746 points from 26 games in 2001 at 28.69 points per game).

Only the Cowboys had a worse record defensively than the Tigers in 2021.

It wasn't all misery for the Tigers, with the emergence of Daine Laurie at fullback, Stefano Utoikamanu in the front row and Adam Doueihi at five-eighth, while the club has managed to offload the last of their players on huge contracts.

They've used that freed up cash to make some curious new signings - picking up impressive British Test representatives Jackson Hastings and Oliver Gildart, who play in the halves and at centre respectively, which are the positions that Doueihi plays.

The club also rehired former coach Tim Sheens as coaching director.

As always it seems, the Wests Tigers future doesn't look any brighter or dimmer. They just remain stationary on the plateau of mediocrity.

Turning point

The second trial game - The Tigers belted a second string Manly outfit 52-18, giving everyone at the club the impression that 2021 would be a season of great improvement for the Tigers after their diabolical end to the 2020 season.

But after seven NRL rounds, the Tigers had recorded just 1 win, had already conceded over 200 points, and had the worst defence in the NRL.

They won 4 of their next 6 games against other struggling sides and an Origin-depleted Penrith side to rise from second last to 11th, only to win 3 of their last 11 games to languish 13th.

What worked

Doueihi at 6 - The Tigers looked vastly more threatening with ball in hand when Adam Doueihi was in the halves.

He had a stellar season, despite being shifted to centre for 2 months. Doueihi's running, short kicking, passing and general playmaking game was outstanding all season.

Doueihi is highly skilled, smart and a genuine leader, whose goal kicking was on point all year. A genuine match winner.

What didn't work

Marquee signings - James Roberts was a defensive mess, Joey Leilua continued to worsen and blame everyone else, James Tamou was consistent but mild, Moses Mbye was rocks and diamonds, Luke Brooks needed to step up and own this side but just didn't.

Middle defence - atrocious for most of the season. Communication in the defensive line especially was non-existent.

Best player

Doueihi - the young utility back took ownership of the Tigers attack and started to produce many great point scoring plays.

If he had some support in defence as well as options either side of him every time he runs with the ball, his touches could be devastating.

Rookies

The Tigers had 3 young players in just their second season after having played just a few games in 2020.

Daine Laurie played just 3 games for Penrith last year but dominated from day one at the Tigers in the fullback role that he automatically became the clubs first choice custodian.

A great running game and a handy passing game, Laurie posed threats on the edges in every game he played this year.

Stefano Utoikamanu was so impressive that he was named on an extended bench for the NSW Origin side for Game 3 this year, and while he didn't get to play, he returned to the Tigers even better and more committed. He's a big body that works hard in the middle and will only get a lot better.

Shawn Blore made a name for himself last year when he smashed Parramatta's Nathan Brown and while he didn't get a full season this year, he has shown he has the potential to be a brilliant attacking weapon on the fringes of the ruck.

Looking ahead

There's been a few changes made, nothing though that screams out that the Tigers fortunes will be dramatically different in 2021.

Hastings returns to the NRL a much more grateful and mature player which is brilliant, while the addition of Sheens to the on-field management could either be brilliantly successful or brilliantly disastrous.

Sheens does have an eye for young talent, especially from within the club, which has been sorely missed since he left, but he has also been known to make some dubious decisions about player signings and positional play. How much involvement he has in Maguire's role will be pivotal.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Canberra	L 12 - 30	GIO	15,680
2	Sydney	L 6 - 40	C'town	6,107
3	Newcastle	W 24 - 20	McD. Jones	20,239
4	Parramatta	L 22 - 36	ANZ	29,056
5	North Queensland	L 30 - 34	Leichhardt	9,433
6	South Sydney	L 14 - 18	ANZ	16,134
7	Manly	L 6 - 40	Bankwest	14,095
8	St George Illawarra	W 16 - 8	WIN	12,323
9	Gold Coast	L 28 - 36	C'town	8,411
10	Newcastle	W 36 - 18	Suncorp	31,532
11	Warriors	L 26 - 30	Gen. Coast	7,009
12	St George Illawarra	W 34 - 18	Bankwest	9,982
13	Penrith	W 26 - 6	Leichhardt	9,127
14	Parramatta	L 12 - 40	Bankwest	23,421
15	Melbourne	L 16 - 66	Sun. Coast	5,328
16	South Sydney	L 22 - 38	Leichhardt	-
17	BYE			
18	Brisbane	W 42 - 24	Suncorp	24,894
19	Manly	L 24 - 44	Suncorp	5,761
20	Warriors	L 16 - 18	Suncorp	12,443
21	Canterbury	W 28 - 16	CBUS	-
22	North Queensland	W 24 - 16	QLD C.B.	12,663
23	Cronulla	L 20 - 50	R'hampton	2,863
24	Penrith	L 16 - 30	Redcliffe	5,351
25	Canterbury	L 0 - 38	Redcliffe	3,104

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2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Position: 13th | Played 24, Won 8, Lost 16 | For 500, Against 714 | Coach: Michael Maguire (24 matches)

Most Points: Adam Doueihi (174) | Most Tries: David Nofoluma (13)

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	CAN	SYD	NEW	PAR	NQL	SOU	MAN	SGI	GCT	NEW	WAR	SGI	PEN	PAR	MEL	SOU	BRI	MAN	WAR	CBY	NQL	CRO	PEN	CBY	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
AMONE, Tom												B	B	B	B				B			B	B	B	-	8	-	-	-	-	
BLORE, Shawn										B	B	B	B	B	B	B				2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	6	7	-	-	-	
BROOKS, Luke	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	24	-	1	7	-	18	
CHEE-KAM, Michael		B					C												B	C	C	C	C	C	6	3	1	-	-	4	
CINI, Zachary								W	W												B			FB	3	1	1	-	-	4	
DOUEIHI, Adam		FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	C	C	C	C	C		C	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		20	-	9	69	-	174	
GARNER, Luke	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R						15	3	5	-	-	20	
KEPAOA, Asu	W	W	W	W		C																			5	-	-	-	-	-	
LAURIE, Daine	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB						19	-	7	-	-	28	
LEILUA, Joseph	C	C			C			C	C	C	C														7	-	2	-	-	8	
LEILUA, Luciano	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	24	-	5	-	-	20	
LITTLE, Jacob	H	H	H	H	H				B	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	19	1	6	-	-	24	
MADDEN, Jock										B													FE	FE	2	1	-	-	-	-	
MAUMALO, Ken															W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	10	-	7	-	-	28	
MBYE, Moses	FE	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	B	B	C	FB	FB	FB	FB		13	9	1	-	-	4	
MIKAELE, Thomas	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B	B			B	L	L		L	FR		FR	FR	6	13	-	-	-	-	
MUSGROVE, Zane			FR	FR	FR	B	B																		3	2	-	-	-	-	
NOFOALUMA, David	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	24	-	13	-	-	52	
OFAHENGAE, Joseph	FR	FR	B	B	2R	2R	2R	L	L	L	L	L		L	L	B	B	B	L	B	B	FR	B	B	14	9	1	-	-	4	
PACKER, Russell	B																								-	1	-	-	-	-	
PAUGA, Junior																C	C								2	-	1	-	-	4	
ROBERTS, James	C		C	C	C	C	C					W	W	W	C	C									11	-	3	-	-	12	
SEYFARTH, Alex							B	B	B	B	B	B	L	B	B	L		B					B		2	10	1	-	-	4	
SIMPKIN, Jake						H	H	H	H		B											B	H	B	B	5	4	2	-	-	8
SIMPKINS, Tukimihia																	B	B	B		B	B			-	5	-	-	-	-	
TALAU, Tommy	B	C	C	C	W	W	W	C		W	W	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	21	1	11	-	-	44	
TAMOU, James	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR				19	-	2	-	-	8	
TUILAGI, Kelma																				B	B	B	B	B	-	5	2	-	-	8	
TWAL, Alex	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B		FR	B	L	L	L	L	21	2	-	-	-	-	
UTOIKAMANU, Stefano	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	B	B			B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	10	11	6	-	-	24	
WALTERS, Billy														FE								B			1	1	-	-	-	-	

Position Key

FB = Fullback

W = Wing

C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth

HB = Halfback

PR = Prop

HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row

L = Lock

B = Bench

Bold, colour = captain

WESTS TIGERS

Established

2000

Home Grounds

Western Sydney Stadium, Parramatta NSW (current name: Bankwest Stadium)

Leichhardt Oval, Lilyfield NSW

Campbelltown Stadium, Leumeah NSW

Premierships

2005

Runners Up

None

World Club Challenge

None

Most Points (all time)

Benji Marshall: 1181 points

Most Tries (all time)

David Nofoluma: 87 tries

Matches Played

537

Won

230

Lost

304

Drawn

3

Points For

11050

Points Against

12743

Biggest win

54-2 (52 pts) - Aug 19th, 2005 - vs. Canterbury

56-4 (52 pts) - Aug 3rd, 2008 - vs. Canterbury

0-64 (64 pts) - Jul 5th, 2001 - vs. Melbourne

Biggest loss

56-6 (56 pts) - Aug 8th, 2004 - vs. South Sydney

Most points scored

56-4 (56 pts) - Aug 3rd, 2008 - vs. Canterbury

56-10 (56 pts) - Aug 16th, 2009 - vs. Cronulla

Most points conceded

12-66 (66 pts) - Apr 29th, 2001 - vs. Parramatta

16-66 (66 pts) - Jun 19th, 2021 - vs. Melbourne

STATE OF ORIGIN 2021

MEN'S GAME I Wednesday 9 June, Townsville

NEW SOUTH WALES 50 QUEENSLAND 6 BLUES RUN RIOT IN ORIGIN OPENER AGAINST MUDDLED MAROONS

New South Wales posted their biggest win against Queensland since 1963 in a 50-6 thrashing in the first Origin game to be played in Townsville in front of 27,355 fans tonight.

It was Tommy terrific show for New South Wales tonight. The Sea Eagles fullback scored a hat-trick in a Man of the Match performance which saw the Blues hand the Maroons a 44-point defeat at Queensland Country Bank Stadium. Latrell Mitchell and debutant Brian To'o also scored doubles in the mammoth win.

The Blues side was flush with the Panthers side that are top of the heap in the NRL, and the form continued tonight. Jarome Luai settled into his five-eighth role magnificently and directed traffic well getting ball to Latrell Mitchell and Tom Trbojevic in a fantastic back five performance from the visitors.

New South Wales were the first side to settle and opened the scoring through Trbojevic. He sliced through on the right to make it 8-nil after the early Nathan Cleary penalty goal then it was one-way traffic for the rest of the first half. Debutant Brian To'o showed off his finisher ability with a pair of wonderful finishes for 20-nil.

Queensland did give them a late fright when one of last year's winners Kurt Capewell getting one back on Trbojevic. He feigned to pass then regathered to brush off the Manly star to give the Maroons a sniff of the comeback only down 20-6 at the break.

Don't call it a comeback because the Blues ran riot in the second half. Mitchell who was dropped in 2019, was at his fearsome best tonight. He rumbled defenders then swooped on a Trbojevic kick to kickstart the second half rampage. The performances from Mitchell and Trbojevic showed the extra class the Blues had in their backline this year which helped them towards the half century.

Trbojevic got his second four-pointer on the hour mark, backing up well after Luai cut the defense to ribbons again. After the injury which cost him the start of the season, Trbojevic has been on another planet skills wise since his return and New South Wales have the luxury of picking him at centre.

Last year, Cleary was pinpointed as one of the architects of the Blues series defeat to the 'worst Maroons side' but the Panthers half was perfect tonight. He might carry a few scratches from an injury in the first half but the halfback nailed eight conversions in a typical display which has New South Wales up 1-nil.

Daniel Saifiti put the icing on the Blues victory cake with a bargeover from close range. From there, it was party time. Mitchell got his second from a Xavier Coates error then it was a deserved hat-trick for MOTM Trbojevic in a 50-6 romp tonight.

This leaves Queensland with more questions than answers after losing the opener. They face an uphill battle despite the second game also being in Queensland but tonight, none of their stars shone and it was rudderless performance which will worry coach Paul Green alongside judiciary issues possibly for Cam Munster and Kyle Feldt coming out of the game tonight. **Justin Davies**

NEW SOUTH WALES: 1. James Tedesco 2. Brian To'o 3. Latrell Mitchell 4. Tom Trbojevic 5. Josh Addo-Carr 6. Jarome Luai 7. Nathan Cleary 8. Daniel Saifiti 9. Damien Cook 10. Jake Trbojevic 11. Cameron Murray 12. Tariq Sims 13. Isaah Yeo
Interchange: 14. Jack Wighton 15. Junior Paulo 16. Payne Haas 17. Liam Martin
Reserves: 18. Apisai Koroisau 19. Campbell Graham

QUEENSLAND: 5. Valentine Holmes 2. Xavier Coates 3. Kurt Capewell 4. Dane Gagai 18. Kyle Feldt 6. Cameron Munster 7. Daly Cherry-Evans 8. Christian Welch 9. Harry Grant 10. Tino Fa'asuamaleau 11. Felise Kaufusi 12. David Fifita 13. Jai Arrow
Interchange: 14. AJ Brimson 15. Jaydn Su'A 16. Moeaki Fotuauka 17. Joe Ofahengaue
Reserves: 20. Coen Hess 21. Ben Hunt

NEW SOUTH WALES (50) Tries: Tom Trbojevic (3), Brian To'o (2), Latrell Mitchell (2), Daniel Saifiti; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (7/7), Latrell Mitchell (1/1); Penalty Goals: Nathan Cleary (1/1)
QUEENSLAND (6) Tries: Kurt Capewell; Conversions: Valentine Holmes (1/1)
Venue: Queensland Country Bank Stadium; Crowd: 27533; Halftime: New South Wales 20 Queensland 6; Referee: Gerard Sutton; POTY: 3 points - Tom Trbojevic; 2 points - Jarome Luai; 1 points - Latrell Mitchell

WOMEN'S ORIGIN Friday 25 June, Sunshine Coast

QUEENSLAND 8 NEW SOUTH WALES 6 QLD LEAVE NSW HEART-BROKEN WITH FINAL SECONDS VICTORY

A 70th minute penalty to Queensland has continued the poor week for the people of New South Wales following the 8-6 victory to the Maroons in the 2021 Women's State Of Origin game on the Sunshine Coast.

New South Wales started the dominant of the two sides and took advantage of that dominance in just the sixth minute when Isabelle Kelly was able to cross after New South Wales were able to create space out wide after forcing Queensland to compress their defence.

Queensland's debutant Destiny Brill quickly made a name for herself when she forced her way over the line only to be denied by both Belinda Sharpe on-field and Grant Atkins in the bunker when she was ruled to have been held up. The one moment of light for Queensland was nearly wiped out when a Hannah Southwell kick was spilt by the Maroons only for Tiana Penitani to lose it as she tried to get the ball to the goal line.

Errors continued to be the story of the night for NSW as good attacking position was wasted with errors from Maddie Studdon coughing up possession and good field position for NSW. The errors hurt New South Wales when Destiny Brill went over from dummy half after the Blues defenders were caught in two minds about what to do. A great conversion in the pouring rain gave Queensland 6-4 lead.

New South Wales blew an almost certain chance to score when the Blues were able to keep the ball alive before a great kick from Quincy Dodd landed in the lap of Jess Sergis who had a wide-open line only to put the catch down blowing the chance for NSW to go back into the lead.

The second half was an absolute arm-wrestle and it was New South Wales who were their own worst enemy in the contest with ill-discipline and errors again coming back to bite them heavily. The Blues had a chance to take the lead yet again when Millie Boyle was able to fight her way over the line only to lose the ball as she got her arms free of the tackle. New South Wales were able to level the scores a few minutes later when Maddie Studdon added a penalty goal from right in front after Chelsea Lenarduzzi was penalised for a high tackle on Hannah Southwell.

Both sides had chances to extend the lead and Queensland temporarily took the lead when Tamika Upton crossed easily to score only for the Bunker to overturn the try after ruling that there was an obstruction in the lead-up despite it looking as if there was no NSW player obstructed in the lead-up.

On the stroke of full-time came what is set to be one of the most talked about moments in State of Origin history when Queensland were awarded a penalty for ruck interference despite replays showing the call to be a very harsh one against the Blues. The penalty from right in front gave Queensland an 8-6 lead which they protected for the final 30 seconds to take their second Origin in a row. **Josh Robertson**

QUEENSLAND: 1. Tamika Upton 2. Shenae Ciesiolka 3. Lauren Brown 4. Julia Robinson 5. Karina Brown 6. Tarryn Aiken 7. Zahara Temara 8. Chelsea Lenarduzzi 9. Destiny Brill 10. Shannon Mato 11. Tazmin Gray 12. Tiana Raftstrand-Smith 13. Ali Briggingshaw
Interchange: 16. Shaniah Power 17. Brianna Clark 18. Tallisha Harden 19. Rona Peters
Reserves: 14. Romy Teitzel

NEW SOUTH WALES: 1. Botille Vette-Welsh 2. Yasmin Meakes 3. Jessica Sergis 4. Isabelle Kelly 5. Tiana Penitani 6. Corban Baxter 7. Maddie Studdon 8. Simaima Taufa 9. Keeley Davis 10. Millie Boyle 11. Kezie Apps 12. Sarah Togatuki 13. Hannah Southwell
Interchange: 14. Quincy Dodd 15. Filomina Hanisi 16. Kennedy Cherrington 17. Holli Wheeler
Reserves: 18. Brydie Parker 19. Renee Targett

QUEENSLAND (8) Tries: Destiny Brill; Conversions: Lauren Brown (1/1); Penalty Goals: Lauren Brown (1/1)

NEW SOUTH WALES (6) Tries: Isabelle Kelly; Conversions: Hannah Southwell (0/1); Penalty Goals: Maddie Studdon (1/1)
Venue: Sunshine Coast Stadium; Crowd: 7183; Halftime: New South Wales 4 Queensland 6; Referee: Belinda Sharpe; POTY: 3 points - Destiny Brill; 2 points - Chelsea Lenarduzzi; 1 points - Isabelle Kelly

MEN'S GAME II Sunday 27 June, Brisbane

NEW SOUTH WALES 26 QUEENSLAND 0 BLUES SEAL ORIGIN SERIES IN SHUTOUT

New South Wales claimed the 2021 Origin series with a 26-nil success against Queensland Maroons tonight at Suncorp Stadium.

The Blues cruised to Origin glory. The visitors lead 18-nil at half-time after putting on three tries, then added a late Josh Addo-Carr second to cement their first win under Brad Fittler at Suncorp Stadium and bring the shield back to the locked-down Emerald City.

Coming off their massive win in Townsville, the Blues were back on the front foot tonight. The Blues spread it right to find a wide open Storm finisher Josh Addo-Carr to stride over to make it 6-nil. They added a further two tries to extend their lead to 18 on the break as they lurched towards regaining the Origin shield.

It was a moment to savour for Latrell Mitchell. The centre who was dropped in 2019 extended the Blues lead to 12-nil after he snaffled an intercept to run 80 metres and outpaced the Queensland defense to continue his strong series.

One of the Blues superstars has been Manly fullback Tom Trbojevic. The star fullback finished off a good movement from the Blues from their own half which put Addo-Carr away before he passed inside to Trbojevic to score his fourth try of the series. Blues led 18-nil at the break.

The second half was a much more competitive matchup, as Queensland aimed up. The Maroons had several chances to get themselves off the duck egg through Kyle Feldt and Dane Gagai but some determined Blues defense denied them as the visitors scored 72 points to Queensland's six thus far this series.

Blues first points in the second half came from the boot of Nathan Cleary. He piloted over a penalty to make it 20-nil as Brad Fittler's side inched closer to getting the Origin shield back after their disappointing 2020 series.

It was double delight for Addo-Carr. The Storm winger finished off a right side move after Roosters fullback James Tedesco flicked the ball out to Addo-Carr who stepped back inside and touched down to make it 26-nil.

Tonight's success is Fittler's first at Suncorp Stadium. Much of the Blues squad also hadn't tasted success at the venue, now they have won this series with a game to spare. They head to game three wherever it is played to finish off a whitewash.

For Queensland, it was an improved performance from game one but they still were unable to deal with the Blues attack and have lost control of the shield after their success in 2020 and now they have to rebuild against a possible Blues dynasty in the next few years.

Next up... who knows. As it stands the third and final game is scheduled for Stadium Australia in Sydney - but the current lockdown in that city has that venue in serious doubt for the July 14 contest. **Justin Davies**

QUEENSLAND: 2. Valentine Holmes 20. Xavier Coates 3. Kurt Capewell 4. Dane Gagai 5. Kyle Feldt 6. Cameron Munster 7. Daly Cherry-Evans 8. Christian Welch 9. Andrew McCullough 10. Josh Papali'i 11. Jai Arrow 12. Felise Kaufusi 13. Tino Fa'asuamaleau Interchange: 14. Ben Hunt 15. Moeaki Fotuauka 16. David Fifita 17. Francis Molo Reserve: 18. Coen Hess

NEW SOUTH WALES: 1. James Tedesco 2. Brian To'o 3. Latrell Mitchell 4. Tom Trbojevic 5. Josh Addo-Carr 6. Jarome Luai 7. Nathan Cleary 8. Daniel Saifiti 9. Damien Cook 10. Junior Paulo 11. Cameron Murray 12. Tariq Sims 13. Isiah Yeo Interchange: 14. Jack Wighton 15. Angus Crichton 16. Payne Haas 17. Liam Martin Reserves: 18. Apisai Koroisau

NEW SOUTH WALES (26) Tries: Josh Addo-Carr (2), Latrell Mitchell, Tom Trbojevic; Conversions: Nathan Cleary (4/4); Penalty Goals: Nathan Cleary (1/1) QUEENSLAND (0) Venue: Suncorp Stadium; Crowd: 52273; Halftime: Queensland 0 New South Wales 18; Referee: Gerard Sutton; POTY: 3 points - Tom Trbojevic; 2 points - Nathan Cleary; 1 points - Latrell Mitchell

MEN'S GAME III Wednesday 14 July, Gold Coast

QUEENSLAND 20 NEW SOUTH WALES 18 MAROONS SAVE FACE AND WIN GAME 3 THRILLER

Queensland Maroons have avoided a bluewash in a 20-18 success against the New South Wales Blues tonight at Robina.

It has been a weird Origin series, but it came down to an old maxim in passion. Queensland dug deep and led 8-6 at halftime then held on in a frantic finish to hold off the Blues and avoid being swept by the Blues side tonight.

Into the starting side for the first time this series, Ben Hunt, was the key man for the Maroons tonight. The Dragons playmaker scored twice in the second half, once through a burrowing effort then off a long range break to make it 20-12 to the Maroons.

For the first time in this year's Origin, the Maroons went ahead after four minutes when Valentine Holmes sent over a penalty goal. The Maroons had a period just before the break where they could've opened up the game but couldn't break down the Blues. Their only four-pointer in the first half came from Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow after the break was made by Tino Fa'asuamaleau.

The change in the halves made the usually slick Blues attack look much more clunky in their execution. At points, James Tedesco looked more like the halfback than both Mitchell Moses and Jack Wighton. The Blues only points in the first half was through a rampaging run from Latrell Mitch to draw back within two points.

Coming out in the second half, the Blues knew they needed a spark and it came through Wighton, who sliced through the defense and planted the ball down to make it 12-8 to the side searching for the series sweep. Wighton tried his heart out for the side but the final pass kept going to ground.

It was a big job for both Wighton and Moses to replace the Panthers halves. They weren't at their best tonight and the service to the backline wasn't crisp but both still had moments in the contest which will hold them in good stead for their next opportunity.

Queensland Maroons stuck in the fight and two moments of brilliance from Hunt helped them home. Another key contributor was the returning fullback Kalyn Ponga who was strong with the ball all night and created the movement for Hunt's second. Paul Green closes out his first series as Maroons coach with a morale boosting win.

For the Blues, they will be disappointed to not complete the sweep but they still get to lift the shield. Tom Trbojevic was awarded the Wally Lewis Medal for his outstanding work across the series but tonight gives coach Brad Fittler something to aim for next season.

Justin Davies

NEW SOUTH WALES: 1. James Tedesco 2. Brian To'o 3. Latrell Mitchell 4. Tom Trbojevic 5. Josh Addo-Carr 6. Jack Wighton 7. Mitchell Moses 18. Dale Finucane 9. Damien Cook 10. Junior Paulo 11. Cameron Murray 12. Tariq Sims 13. Isiah Yeo Interchange: 14. Apisai Koroisau 15. Angus Crichton 16. Payne Haas 17. Liam Martin Reserve: 19. Nicholas Hynes

QUEENSLAND: 1. Kalyn Ponga 2. Valentine Holmes 3. Dane Gagai 4. Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow 5. Xavier Coates 6. Cameron Munster 7. Daly Cherry-Evans 8. Christian Welch 9. Ben Hunt 10. Josh Papali'i 11. Kurt Capewell 12. Felise Kaufusi 15. Tino Fa'asuamaleau Interchange: 14. AJ Brimson 16. Moeaki Fotuauka 18. Francis Molo 20. Thomas Flegler Reserve: 19. Kurt Mann

QUEENSLAND (20) Tries: Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, Ben Hunt (2); Conversions: Valentine Holmes (1/1), Daly Cherry-Evans (2/2); Penalty Goals: Valentine Holmes (1/1) NEW SOUTH WALES (18) Tries: Latrell Mitchell, Jack Wighton, Apisai Koroisau; Conversions: Latrell Mitchell (3/3); Penalty Goals: Latrell Mitchell (0/1) Venue: Cbus Super Stadium; Crowd: 26307; Halftime: New South Wales 6 Queensland 8; Referee: Gerard Sutton; POTY: 3 points - Ben Hunt; 2 points - Tino Fa'asuamaleau; 1 points - Payne Haas

FRENCH CONNECTION ABATES PRESSURE ON NOT-SO- SUPER LEAGUE

Jonathan Burnett

@jonny_burnett12

2021 was meant to be the year that rugby league re-entered the mainstream consciousness of the British public. The old stories of Hanley, Gill and Offiah have been told time and time again, but the 2021 World Cup, held solely in England, was supposed to be the grand event that elevated the sport into the mindsets of the everyman on the street, and the potential investor with a bucket-load of cash.

Instead, that bucket is being figuratively used to pour small amounts of water on a fire started by the incompetence of the RFL themselves. The 2021 World Cup is now the 2022 World Cup, after the RFL and those running the event collapsed under the apathy of NRL clubs, who declared their intent to not send their players to England less than three months before it was due to kick-off.

Whilst a delayed tournament a year further down the track allows for the pandemic to – hopefully – progress towards a close, and for more players, staff and fans to be vaccinated to reduce the risk of further postponement, the end of 2022 is still a long way away, and going on the events of 2021, rugby league in the UK needs far more than a successful five-week tournament at the end of the year, to get the sport back on its feet.

With the groundbreaking Toronto Wolfpack gone, ruthlessly kicked out of Super League by their fellow clubs, there was a void to fill before the season started, and with the lower leagues curtailed entirely in 2020, the twelfth and final team in Super League would be selected by an 'independent committee', rather than the 11-strong cartel of clubs that sealed Toronto's fate.

That committee, rather than re-instate the financially precarious Toronto, or promote the London Broncos, who were relegated on points-difference in 2019, decided that Leigh, a club situated less than twelve miles from FOUR other top-flight clubs in the North West, were the best option.

WITH THEIR CENTRAL FUNDING SHARED BETWEEN THE OTHER 11 CLUBS, AS WAS TORONTO'S, THE CENTURIONS WERE DOOMED TO FAIL BEFORE A BALL WAS EVEN KICKED IN 2021.

Toulouse Olympique were also ignored, which meant that their campaign in the second-tier, although ultimately successful, was also farcical. With coronavirus still having a massive affect on people's livelihoods – and the travel situation between England and France – the Olympique hosted only two home games, both play-offs, as part-time Championship teams were not permitted to travel outside of the UK, and played all of their regular-season fixtures in England. Toulouse may have won all of their 14 league games, but the lack of planning shown in electing Leigh instead of them, set both teams up for seasons severely affected by the RFL's incompetence.

Thrown to the wolves at short notice, Leigh's dismal run throughout the entirety of 2021 was more than expected. After assembling a thrown together squad of surplus Super League and Championship players, including four from the carcass of Toronto, the club had their backs against the wall from week one, and won only twice all season. Glued to the bottom of the ladder from round 4 onwards, their two wins over Salford and Wakefield, the two sides who finished directly above them, were the finest of silver linings on a venture that was shown to be a bad idea from start to finish.

However, Leigh weren't the only club facing difficulties in Super League 2021, as covid-enforced cancellations ravaged the fixture list. Rules changed seemingly week-to-week, with fixtures being postponed, cancelled and forfeited depending upon the circumstance. Only Wigan fulfilled all 25 of their regular season fixtures, with Hull KR playing only 20 times, the lowest in the division.

Luckily for the Robins though, placings in the table were, for the season season running, decided by win percentage rather than accumulated points, and so they were able to sneak into the last play-off spot at the expense of Castleford, despite the Tigers having played three more times and won two more points. Although Rovers' rise up the table, and subsequently impressive play-off campaign was a feel-good story for the league, their place in the top six did highlight the frequent chopping and changing from higher-ups as the season progressed.

THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE TABLE WERE, PREDICTABLY, OCCUPIED BY THE CURRENT ELITE OF THE GAME IN THE UK.

Back-to-back Grand Final winners St. Helens won the Challenge Cup in July, staging a comeback from 12-6 down at the half-time to beat Castleford 26-12. With one of the three main trophies secured, the Saints set their sights on repeating their treble of 2006, but were beaten to the League Leaders' Shield by Catalans, in arguably to biggest good-news story for the game bar-none in 2021.

Led by a cohort of experienced match-winners, Catalans' march up the table was a breath of fresh air, breaking up the status quo of clubs usually expected to finish top of the pile. After being 30-12 down with five minutes left on the clock, the Dragons pulled off the comeback of all comebacks, scoring three tries in four minutes to level the scores at 30-apiece. James Maloney's golden-point drop

goal sealed the one-point victory, and duly confirmed Catalans as the league leaders heading into the play-offs.

The Dragons' lofty league position meant they only played one play-off game, at home against Hull KR. With an electric, European football-esque atmosphere at a packed out Stade Brutus, les Dracs dispatched the Robins 28-10 to set up a mouth-watering clash with the Saints at Old Trafford. In a closely-fought encounter, Harry Sunderland medal winner Kevin Naiqama proved to be the difference, whose brace of tries saw St. Helens hold off the spirited Dragons to secure a 12-10 victory, their third title win in a row.

This three-peat of Super League crowns, coupled with the Challenge Cup this year, cements this Saints side's place as one of the best teams of the modern era, and although the Grand Final was a low-scoring affair, the 45,177 crowd were treated to an immensely exciting and intense spectacle of the sport. Just as in 2020, this match showed that despite all the doom and gloom surrounding the game both on and off the field, the Grand Final can provide magical moments that – for a period of time – can help you to forget all the problems and simply marvel in the brilliance of what rugby league can do.

However, as is the case with expansion teams in British rugby league, the low attendance was, of course, blamed largely on the fact that Catalans, a team based in Perpignan, 1,000 miles from Old Trafford, didn't bring enough away fans to the game – in the middle of a global pandemic. Despite that, the grim fact that the sport's most important annual game can't attract 50,000 fans from inside the heartlands, should send alarm bells ringing to those at the top, about both the marketing of the sport itself, and the quality of its top division.

THE 'NO AWAY FANS' BRIGADE, WHO SADLY APPEAR TO HAVE MANY SUBSCRIBERS IN HIGH POSITIONS, WILL BE AWAITING TO SPIT FURTHER BILE IN 2022, WHEN THE HAPLESS LEIGH ARE REPLACED BY A SECOND FRENCH TEAM, TOULOUSE.

Originally listed to appear as one of two French teams, alongside Paris Saint-Germain, for Super League's first season, the Olympique were quickly chalked back off the drawing board, and have had to wait 26 years to finally get a crack in the top division of Northern Hemisphere rugby league.

Whilst their doubters will be chomping at the bit to see Toulouse make an immediate return to the lower divisions – or, preferably for them, the French leagues – the Olympique

will hope that their presence can usher in a new lease of life to a Super League in desperate need of a shake-up. With interest and attendances on the wane, a second French team could be exactly what is required to give the top division in the UK a bitterly-needed helping hand.

After nigh-on two years of limitations on attendances, many British sports are seeing consistently high attendances as fans rejoice at getting to see their heroes up close again. In rugby league however, the crowds have continued to dwindle at an alarming rate.

With bums on seats not returning to anywhere near their pre-covid levels (yet), one would hope that TV figures are booming, as more people choose to watch games from the safety of their homes rather than risk catching or spreading the virus, but sadly, that hasn't been the case either.

TV viewership of the top division has fallen off a cliff, reflected by the recent signing of a new TV deal which will see the sport bring in £14 million less per year than the previous £40 million. That's a cut of nearly 40%, and given that Sky's money was the driving factor behind Super League in the first place, and has been the primary financial income for most clubs in the past 25 years, the writing is on the wall for the top division unless a serious shake-up is made in the near future.

So, with another Super League season over and done with, and no World Cup (or extensive international calendar) to fill the void, rugby league in the UK is again left to ponder it's place in the wider sporting landscape of the country. Caught between trying to revitalise the heartlands, or expand beyond them, the game is lacking in so many departments, from top to bottom.

THE PLAYING OF A SUCCESSFUL WORLD CUP IN 2022 MAY WELL SPARK SOME MOMENTUM THE GAME CAN MOVE FORWARD FROM, BUT WITHOUT A PROPER INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR IN PLACE, THESE GAINS WILL GO UNFULFILLED, AS THEY HAVE SO MANY TIMES BEFORE.

Likewise, should Toulouse prove to be a success in the top division, and turn the attention of the national media back towards rugby league, Super League must be ready and willing to embrace positive change, that not only allows for controlled levels of expansion, but also reinforces the support of those in its Northern strongholds. Can these two aspirations be balanced? Over to you, RFL.



CHALLENGE CUP

2021 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Compiled by Rugby League Project

FIRST ROUND

Fri	19 Mar 2021	Sheffield Eagles	6	York City Knights	30	T. Grant	Keepmoat	-
Sat	20 Mar 2021	Halifax	6	Batley	19	B. Thaler	The Shay	-
Sat	20 Mar 2021	London	24	Keighley	10	M. Griffiths	The Rock	-
Sat	20 Mar 2021	Oldham	20	Barrow	6	M. Griffiths	Bower Fold	-
Sat	20 Mar 2021	Whitehaven	23	Dewsbury	16	J. Child	Recreation Gnd	-
Sun	21 Mar 2021	Featherstone Rovers	41	Bradford	16	C. Kendall	Millennium	-
Sun	21 Mar 2021	Swinton	28	Newcastle Thunder	16	S. Mikalauskas	Heywood Road	-
Sun	21 Mar 2021	West Wales	4	Widnes	58	L. Moore	Llanelli	-

SECOND ROUND

Sat	27 Mar 2021	Featherstone Rovers	30	Batley	22	G. Hewer	Millennium	-
Sun	28 Mar 2021	London	2	York City Knights	14	M. Griffiths	The Rock	-
Sun	28 Mar 2021	Swinton	23	Oldham	14	T. Grant	Heywood Road	-
Sun	28 Mar 2021	Widnes	34	Whitehaven	10	J. Smith	DCBL Halton	-

THIRD ROUND

Fri	Apr 9th	6:00pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	32	Castleford Tigers	33	R. Hicks	Hull College Craven	-
Fri	Apr 9th	7:45pm	York City Knights	0	Wigan	26	M. Griffiths	LNER Stadium	-
Sat	Apr 10th	5:00pm	Catalans	26	Wakefield Trinity	6	C. Kendall	Totally Wicked	-
Sat	Apr 10th	7:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	14	Hull FC	34	J. Child	Millennium	-
Sat	Apr 10th	2:30pm	St Helens	26	Leeds	18	B. Thaler	Totally Wicked	-
Sat	Apr 10th	12:30pm	Salford	68	Widnes	4	S. Mikalauskas	AJ Bell Stadium	-
Sun	Apr 11th	2:30pm	Leigh	18	Huddersfield	36	L. Moore	Leigh Sports Village	-
Sun	Apr 11th	12:30pm	Swinton	8	Warrington	32	T. Grant	Heywood Road	-

QUARTER FINALS

Fri	May 7th	6:00pm	Catalans	6	Warrington	16	L. Moore	Headingley	-
Fri	May 7th	8:15pm	St Helens	23	Huddersfield	18	J. Child	Headingley	-
Sat	May 8th	5:30pm	Castleford Tigers	19	Salford	18	B. Thaler	Headingley	-
Sat	May 8th	2:30pm	Hull FC	20	Wigan	10	R. Hicks	Headingley	-

SEMI FINALS

Sat	Jun 5th	5:00pm	Castleford Tigers	35	Warrington	20	C. Kendall	Leigh Sports Village	4,000
Sat	Jun 5th	2:30pm	Hull FC	18	St Helens	33	L. Moore	Leigh Sports Village	4,000

2021 CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

Sat	Jul 17th	3:00pm	Castleford Tigers	12	St Helens	26	L. Moore	Wembley Stadium	67,173
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CHALLENGE CUP FINAL ST HELENS SURGE PAST CASTLEFORD TO WIN 13TH CHALLENGE CUP

by Justin Davies, LeagueUnlimited.com

St Helens claimed their first Challenge Cup in 13 years in a 26-12 success against a gallant Castleford Tigers side at a sun drenched Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

One of the modern greats sides, St Helens just overwhelmed Castleford in the second half, scoring 20 straight points to lift their first Challenge Cup since 2008 and become the second most successful side in the competition behind Leeds Rhinos.

It was a picture perfect day in London and the game matched the occasion. From the pre-match to the absorbing 80 minutes, it was a fitting to have a crowd in to witness two of the Super League's heavyweight sides clash. Castleford Tigers gave them a fright but the class of Saints shone through.

Castleford showed the greater bite in the first half, leading 12-6 at half-time and were led brilliantly by their dazzling fullback Niall Evals. The former Salford man scored the Tigers first points when he sliced through to make it 6-6. Five eighth Jake Trueman plucked one out of the air as an upset loomed in the final.

Saints have been the dominant domestic side in England in the last few years but the Challenge Cup was the missing part of their burgeoning trophy case. They got off to the perfect start when Theo Fages was first to the ball after Jonny Lomax's kick hit the post. Saints weren't at their fluent best and trailed at the break.

The second half was one-way traffic. Both sides traded sets but it came down to an old Rugby League maxim - never let the ball bounce. Castleford did and the rugby league ball cruelled them as it was batted back by Reagan Grace to a waiting James Roby for 12-all.

Their next raid felt more like a training run. The ball drifted right then all it needed was quick hands for Tom Makinson to stroll over to restore their lead and it never was relinquished again by the Saints. Lachlan Coote booted a pair of penalty goals to stretch their advantage to eight.

Castleford Tigers tried until the final whistle but they were unable to breach the dogged St Helens defense. The Tigers had a period after Makinson's four-pointer to strike back and were repelled each time and when Darrell Olphants was taken into touch, a huge roar came from the red vee side.

Saints added some icing to their celebration late in the piece. Kyle Amor pushed himself across and celebrated like an



Olympic gold medalist after it was confirmed by the video referee, making it 26-12 and a deserved triumph for the red and whites.

ST HELENS (26)

Tries: Theo Fages, James Roby, Tom Makinson, Kyle Amor
Conversions: Lachlan Coote (3/4)
Penalty Goals: Lachlan Coote (2/3)

CASTLEFORD TIGERS (12)

Tries: Niall Evals, Jake Trueman
Conversions: Gareth O'Brien (2/2)

Venue: Wembley Stadium; Crowd: 40000
Halftime Score: St Helens 6 Castleford Tigers 12
Referee: Liam Moore

SUPER LEAGUE

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Compiled by Rugby League Project

MARCH 2021

Round 1	Fri	Mar 26th	8:00pm	Leigh	18	Wigan	20	B. Thaler	Headingley	-
Round 1	Fri	Mar 26th	6:00pm	St Helens	29	Salford	6	L. Moore	Headingley	-
Round 1	Sat	Mar 27th	5:00pm	Catalans	29	Hull Kingston Rovers	28	J. Child	Headingley	-
Round 1	Sat	Mar 27th	3:00pm	Wakefield Trinity	22	Leeds	28	S. Mikalauskas	Headingley	-
Round 1	Sun	Mar 28th	2:00pm	Castleford Tigers	21	Warrington	12	C. Kendall	Headingley	-
Round 1	Sun	Mar 28th	12:00pm	Hull FC	22	Huddersfield	10	R. Hicks	Headingley	-

APRIL 2021

Round 2	Thu	Apr 1st	8:00pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	0	St Helens	25	R. Hicks	Totally Wicked	-
Round 2	Thu	Apr 1st	6:00pm	Wigan	34	Wakefield Trinity	6	S. Mikalauskas	Totally Wicked	-
Round 2	Fri	Apr 2nd	3:00pm	Leeds	10	Castleford Tigers	18	J. Smith	Totally Wicked	-
Round 2	Fri	Apr 2nd	12:00pm	Warrington	44	Leigh	12	J. Child	Totally Wicked	-
Round 2	Sat	Apr 3rd	2:00pm	Huddersfield	10	Catalans	20	B. Thaler	Totally Wicked	-
Round 2	Sat	Apr 3rd	12:00pm	Salford	4	Hull FC	35	C. Kendall	Totally Wicked	-

Round 3	Thu	Apr 15th	7:45pm	Leeds	6	Wigan	19	C. Kendall	Headingley	-
Round 3	Fri	Apr 16th	6:00pm	Castleford Tigers	52	Leigh	16	M. Griffiths	Mend-a-Hose	-
Round 3	Fri	Apr 16th	7:45pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	25	Huddersfield	24	L. Moore	Hull College Craven	-
Round 3	Fri	Apr 16th	6:00pm	St Helens	34	Wakefield Trinity	6	J. Child	Totally Wicked	-
Round 3	Sat	Apr 17th	4:45pm	Catalans	42	Salford	6	B. Thaler	Gilbert Brutus	-
Round 3	Sun	Apr 18th	3:00pm	Hull FC	14	Warrington	14	R. Hicks	KCOM Stadium	-

Round 4	Thu	Apr 22nd	7:00pm	Huddersfield	10	St Helens	18	R. Hicks	John Smith's	-
Round 4	Thu	Apr 22nd	6:00pm	Wigan	22	Castleford Tigers	12	C. Kendall	DW Stadium	-
Round 4	Fri	Apr 23rd	7:00pm	Hull FC	20	Wakefield Trinity	14	B. Thaler	KCOM Stadium	-
Round 4	Fri	Apr 23rd	6:00pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	26	Leeds	6	M. Griffiths	Hull College Craven	-
Round 4	Fri	Apr 23rd	6:00pm	Salford	34	Leigh	8	J. Child	AJ Bell Stadium	-
Round 4	Sat	Apr 24th	6:00pm	Catalans	8	Warrington	24	L. Moore	Gilbert Brutus	-

Round 5	Thu	Apr 29th	7:00pm	Wigan	16	Hull FC	14	J. Child	DW Stadium	-
Round 5	Fri	Apr 30th	6:00pm	Leigh	12	St Helens	22	M. Griffiths	Leigh Sports	-
Round 5	Fri	Apr 30th	7:00pm	Salford	18	Castleford Tigers	28	R. Hicks	AJ Bell Stadium	-
Round 5	Fri	Apr 30th	6:00pm	Wakefield Trinity	18	Catalans	38	C. Kendall	Mobile Rocket	-

MAY 2021

Round 5	Sat	May 1st	1:00pm	Warrington	50	Hull Kingston Rovers	26	S. Mikalauskas	Halliwell Jones	-
Round 5	Sun	May 2nd	3:00pm	Huddersfield	14	Leeds	13	L. Moore	John Smith's	-

Round 6	Fri	May 14th	7:45pm	Leeds	15	Wakefield Trinity	13	R. Hicks	Headingley	-
Round 6	Mon	May 17th	7:45pm	Castleford Tigers	22	Hull Kingston Rovers	26	M. Griffiths	Mend-a-Hose	3,600
Round 6	Mon	May 17th	7:45pm	Hull FC	10	Catalans	27	C. Kendall	KCOM Stadium	5,527
Round 6	Mon	May 17th	7:45pm	Leigh	16	Wigan	30	B. Thaler	Leigh Sports	1,702
Round 6	Mon	May 17th	7:45pm	St Helens	28	Salford	0	L. Moore	Totally Wicked	4,000
Round 6	Mon	May 17th	7:45pm	Warrington	20	Huddersfield	26	J. Child	Halliwell Jones	4,000

Round 7	Sat	May 22nd	6:00pm	Catalans	20	St Helens	16	R. Hicks	Gilbert Brutus	1,000
Round 7	Sat	May 22nd	1:00pm	Salford	16	Wigan	17	J. Child	AJ Bell Stadium	2,033
Round 7	Sat	May 22nd	3:00pm	Warrington	38	Castleford Tigers	14	C. Kendall	Halliwell Jones	4,000
Round 7	Sun	May 23rd	7:30pm	Leeds	12	Hull FC	18	M. Griffiths	Headingley	4,000
Round 7	Sun	May 23rd	3:00pm	Leigh	6	Huddersfield	44	S. Mikalauskas	Leigh Sports	2,008
Round 7	Sun	May 23rd	3:00pm	Wakefield Trinity	28	Hull Kingston Rovers	12	L. Moore	Mobile Rocket	4,000

Round 8	Thu	May 27th	7:45pm	Salford	18	Warrington	62	S. Mikalauskas	AJ Bell Stadium	2,306
Round 8	Fri	May 28th	7:45pm	Castleford Tigers	6	Leeds	60	L. Moore	Mend-a-Hose	4,000
Round 8	Fri	May 28th	6:00pm	Catalans	48	Wigan	0	L. Moore	Gilbert Brutus	1,000
Round 8	Fri	May 28th	7:45pm	St Helens	34	Hull FC	16	L. Moore	Totally Wicked	4,000
Round 8	Sun	May 30th	3:00pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	40	Leigh	16	M. Griffiths	Hull College Craven	4,000
Round 8	Sun	May 30th	3:00pm	Wakefield Trinity	38	Huddersfield	12	R. Hicks	Mobile Rocket	4,000

JUNE 2021

Round 13	Sun	Jun 6th	3:00pm	Wakefield Trinity	30	Leigh	20	S. Mikalauskas	Mobile Rocket	4,000
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Round 9	Thu	Jun 10th	7:45pm	Castleford Tigers	12	Hull FC	30	R. Hicks	Mend-a-Hose	4,000
Round 9	Fri	Jun 11th	7:45pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	40	Salford	4	C. Kendall	Hull College Craven	4,000
Round 9	Fri	Jun 11th	7:45pm	Warrington	38	Wakefield Trinity	18	M. Griffiths	Halliwell Jones	4,000
Round 9	Sat	Jun 12th	3:00pm	Leigh	30	Catalans	36	T. Grant	Leigh Sports	1,840

Round 10	Wed	Jun 16th	7:45pm	Wakefield Trinity	12	Castleford Tigers	18	L. Moore	Mobile Rocket	2,262
Round 10	Thu	Jun 17th	7:45pm	St Helens	2	Warrington	6	C. Kendall	Totally Wicked	4,000
Round 10	Fri	Jun 18th	7:45pm	Huddersfield	8	Salford	9	S. Mikalauskas	John Smith's	2,352
Round 10	Fri	Jun 18th	7:45pm	Wigan	8	Hull Kingston Rovers	18	R. Hicks	DW Stadium	5,018
Round 10	Sat	Jun 19th	3:00pm	Leigh	22	Hull FC	64	J. Child	Leigh Sports	2,338

Round 11	Thu	Jun 24th	7:45pm	Castleford Tigers	6	Catalans	16	C. Kendall	Mend-a-Hose	4,000
Round 11	Thu	Jun 24th	7:45pm	Wakefield Trinity	14	Wigan	6	T. Grant	Mobile Rocket	-
Round 11	Thu	Jun 24th	7:45pm	Warrington	44	Leigh	18	J. Smith	Halliwel Jones	4,000
Round 11	Fri	Jun 25th	7:00pm	Hull FC	17	Huddersfield	10	L. Moore	MKM Stadium	5,527
Round 11	Sun	Jun 27th	1:00pm	Salford	12	Leeds	38	R. Hicks	AJ Bell Stadium	-
Round 12	Wed	Jun 30th	7:45pm	Castleford Tigers	0	St Helens	24	FORFEIT	Mend-a-Hose	N/A
Round 12	Wed	Jun 30th	7:45pm	Wigan	14	Warrington	40	R. Hicks	DW Stadium	5,537
JULY 2021										
Round 12	Thu	Jul 1st	7:45pm	Huddersfield	12	Catalans	50	B. Thaler	John Smith's	1,904
Round 12	Thu	Jul 1st	7:45pm	Leeds	48	Leigh	18	A. Moore	Headingley	4,000
Round 13	Sun	Jul 4th	7:30pm	St Helens	24	Wigan	6	J. Child	Totally Wicked	4,000
Round 13	Mon	Jul 5th	7:45pm	Huddersfield	0	Castleford Tigers	24	FORFEIT	John Smith's N/A	-
Round 13	Mon	Jul 5th	7:45pm	Warrington	16	Leeds	22	L. Moore	Halliwel Jones	4,000
Round 14	Fri	Jul 9th	7:45pm	Leeds	18	Catalans	26	J. Child	Headingley	4,000
Round 14	Fri	Jul 9th	7:45pm	Wakefield Trinity	14	St Helens	30	B. Thaler	Mobile Rocket	4,000
Round 14	Sun	Jul 11th	3:30pm	Castleford Tigers	18	Salford	70	T. Grant	Mend-a-Hose	-
Round 14	Sun	Jul 11th	3:00pm	Wigan	16	Huddersfield	12	M. Griffiths	DW Stadium	4,439
Round 10	Fri	Jul 16th	6:15pm	Catalans	27	Leeds	18	B. Thaler	Gilbert Brutus	4,800
Round 9	Fri	Jul 16th	7:45pm	Huddersfield	12	Wigan	14	S. Mikalauskas	John Smith's	2,139
Round 12	Fri	Jul 16th	7:30pm	Salford	24	Wakefield Trinity	14	G. Hewer	Halliwel Jones	4,000
Round 15	Thu	Jul 22nd	7:45pm	Huddersfield	40	Hull FC	26	C. Kendall	John Smith's	3,699
Round 15	Fri	Jul 23rd	7:45pm	Leeds	38	Salford	16	B. Thaler	Headingley	-
Round 15	Fri	Jul 23rd	7:45pm	Wigan	25	Wakefield Trinity	12	T. Grant	DW Stadium	5,555
Round 13	Sat	Jul 24th	5:00pm	Catalans	32	Hull Kingston Rovers	30	J. Child	Gilbert Brutus	-
Round 16	Wed	Jul 28th	7:45pm	Warrington	21	Wigan	8	R. Hicks	Halliwel Jones	8,014
Round 16	Thu	Jul 29th	6:45pm	Catalans	40	Wakefield Trinity	20	M. Griffiths	Gilbert Brutus	-
Round 16	Thu	Jul 29th	7:45pm	Hull FC	12	Leeds	22	L. Moore	MKM Stadium	-
AUGUST 2021										
Round 17	Sun	Aug 1st	7:30pm	Leeds	26	Warrington	27	C. Kendall	Headingley	-
Round 17	Sun	Aug 1st	3:00pm	Wigan	50	Leigh	6	S. Mikalauskas	DW Stadium	9,206
Round 17	Mon	Aug 2nd	7:45pm	Castleford Tigers	16	Huddersfield	34	T. Grant	Mend-a-Hose	-
Round 17	Mon	Aug 2nd	7:45pm	Hull FC	10	St Helens	42	J. Child	MKM Stadium	7,038
Round 17	Mon	Aug 2nd	7:45pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	16	Catalans	23	R. Hicks	Hull College Craven	6,347
Round 18	Fri	Aug 6th	7:45pm	Leeds	18	Castleford Tigers	32	B. Thaler	Headingley	10,838
Round 18	Fri	Aug 6th	7:45pm	Wigan	16	Salford	6	T. Grant	DW Stadium	9,434
Round 18	Sat	Aug 7th	2:30pm	St Helens	34	Catalans	12	L. Moore	Totally Wicked	7,758
Round 18	Sun	Aug 8th	3:00pm	Huddersfield	22	Wakefield Trinity	18	J. Child	John Smith's	3,964
Round 18	Sun	Aug 8th	3:30pm	Leigh	28	Hull Kingston Rovers	34	C. Kendall	Leigh Sports	2,541
Round 19	Thu	Aug 12th	7:45pm	St Helens	10	Castleford Tigers	20	B. Thaler	Totally Wicked	7,050
Round 19	Fri	Aug 13th	6:15pm	Catalans	31	Hull FC	16	J. Child	Gilbert Brutus	-
Round 19	Fri	Aug 13th	7:45pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	26	Wigan	14	L. Moore	Hull College Craven	6,230
Round 19	Fri	Aug 13th	8:00pm	Leigh	10	Leeds	46	R. Hicks	Leigh Sports 2,818	-
Round 19	Fri	Aug 13th	7:30pm	Salford	18	Huddersfield	12	C. Kendall	AJ Bell Stadium	-
Round 19	Sun	Aug 15th	3:00pm	Wakefield Trinity	28	Warrington	22	M. Griffiths	Mobile Rocket	-
Round 20	Thu	Aug 19th	7:45pm	Leeds	18	Huddersfield	12	B. Thaler	Headingley	11,110
Round 20	Fri	Aug 20th	7:45pm	Wigan	2	St Helens	26	C. Kendall	DW Stadium	16,319
Round 20	Sat	Aug 21st	7:00pm	Castleford Tigers	23	Wakefield Trinity	18	J. Child	Mend-a-Hose	4,897
Round 20	Sat	Aug 21st	3:00pm	Hull FC	23	Hull Kingston Rovers	22	L. Moore	MKM Stadium	15,000
Round 20	Sun	Aug 22nd	4:30pm	Leigh	32	Salford	22	M. Griffiths	Leigh Sports	3,304
Round 21	Wed	Aug 25th	7:45pm	Wigan	0	Leeds	14	R. Hicks	DW Stadium	11,390
Round 21	Thu	Aug 26th	7:45pm	Huddersfield	6	Warrington	26	J. Child	John Smith's	4,017
Round 21	Thu	Aug 26th	7:45pm	Hull FC	12	Castleford Tigers	23	B. Thaler	MKM Stadium	-
Round 21	Thu	Aug 26th	7:45pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	18	Wakefield Trinity	25	M. Griffiths	Hull College Craven	-
Round 21	Thu	Aug 26th	7:45pm	St Helens	42	Leigh	12	T. Grant	Totally Wicked	8,221
Round 21	Thu	Aug 26th	7:30pm	Salford	14	Catalans	42	L. Moore	AJ Bell Stadium	-
Round 22	Mon	Aug 30th	5:00pm	Castleford Tigers	0	Wigan	22	J. Child	Mend-a-Hose	4,729
Round 22	Mon	Aug 30th	6:15pm	Catalans	64	Leigh	0	A. Moore	Gilbert Brutus	-
Round 22	Mon	Aug 30th	7:30pm	Huddersfield	40	Hull Kingston Rovers	28	R. Hicks	John Smith's	3,652
Round 22	Mon	Aug 30th	2:00pm	Salford	42	Hull FC	14	S. Mikalauskas	AJ Bell Stadium	-
Round 22	Mon	Aug 30th	3:00pm	Wakefield Trinity	20	Leeds	13	C. Kendall	Mobile Rocket	-
Round 22	Mon	Aug 30th	7:30pm	Warrington	14	St Helens	24	L. Moore	Halliwel Jones	10,006

SEPTEMBER 2021

Round 23	Sat	Sep 4th	3:00pm	Castleford Tigers	29	Salford	18	C. Kendall	St James' Park	35,104
Round 23	Sat	Sep 4th	7:30pm	Leeds	25	Hull FC	24	R. Hicks	St James' Park	35,104
Round 23	Sat	Sep 4th	5:15pm	St Helens	30	Catalans	31	L. Moore	St James' Park	35,104
Round 23	Sun	Sep 5th	1:00pm	Huddersfield	18	Wakefield Trinity	32	B. Thaler	St James' Park	25,762
Round 23	Sun	Sep 5th	5:30pm	Leigh	6	Hull Kingston Rovers	44	M. Griffiths	St James' Park	25,762
Round 23	Sun	Sep 5th	3:15pm	Wigan	6	Warrington	10	J. Child	St James' Park	25,762
Round 24	Fri	Sep 10th	7:45pm	St Helens	40	Leeds	6	C. Kendall	Totally Wicked	12,568
Round 24	Sat	Sep 11th	5:00pm	Catalans	18	Huddersfield	30	T. Grant	Gilbert Brutus	-
Round 24	Sat	Sep 11th	3:00pm	Hull FC	0	Wigan	10	L. Moore	MKM Stadium	10,003
Round 24	Sat	Sep 11th	3:00pm	Warrington	20	Salford	19	S. Mikalauskas	Halliwell Jones	-
Round 24	Sun	Sep 12th	3:00pm	Hull Kingston Rovers	26	Castleford Tigers	19	J. Child	Hull College Craven	-
Round 24	Sun	Sep 12th	3:00pm	Leigh	26	Wakefield Trinity	18	R. Hicks	Leigh Sports	2,905
Round 25	Thu	Sep 16th	7:45pm	Castleford Tigers	24	Warrington	40	L. Moore	Mend-a-Hose	-
Round 25	Fri	Sep 17th	7:45pm	Leeds	36	Hull Kingston Rovers	12	C. Kendall	Headingley	-
Round 25	Fri	Sep 17th	7:45pm	Salford	26	St Helens	14	M. Griffiths	AJ Bell Stadium	3,789
Round 25	Fri	Sep 17th	7:45pm	Wakefield Trinity	44	Hull FC	12	R. Hicks	Mobile Rocket	-
Round 25	Fri	Sep 17th	7:45pm	Wigan	12	Catalans	8	J. Child	DW Stadium	12,852
Round 25	Sun	Sep 19th	3:00pm	Huddersfield	42	Leigh	24	T. Grant	John Smith's	3,867
Prelim Semi	Thu	Sep 23rd	7:45pm	Wigan	0	Leeds	8	R. Hicks	DW Stadium	7,396
Prelim Semi	Fri	Sep 24th	7:45pm	Warrington	0	Hull Kingston Rovers	19	L. Moore	Halliwell Jones	-
Semi Final	Thu	Sep 30th	7:45pm	Catalans	28	Hull Kingston Rovers	10	J. Child	Gilbert Brutus	11,530
OCTOBER 2021										
Semi Final	Fri	Oct 1st	7:45pm	St Helens	36	Leeds	8	C. Kendall	Totally Wicked	11,688
Grand Final	Sat	Oct 9th	6:00pm	Catalans	10	St Helens	12	L. Moore	Old Trafford	45,177

SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL SAINTS MARCH TO HAT-TRICK OF GRAND FINAL SUCCESS AGAINST DOGGED CATALANS DRAGONS

by Justin Davies, LeagueUnlimited.com

St Helens made it a threepeat in a dramatic Grand Final winning 12-10 against League Leader Shield winners Catalans Dragons tonight at Old Trafford.

The Saints marched on and cemented their status as the top dog in Super League with a third straight Grand Final success led by a double by Harry Sunderland Trophy winner and departing Kevin Naiqama in a tight tussle in Manchester tonight.

In a world where change is the only constant, I think there is another in Super League - St Helens lifting the trophy on Grand Final day. It was another thrilling finish between two class sides but the Saints showed once again, it will take a huge effort to wrestle that Super League trophy from their grasp.

Both these sides entertained across the season and they delivered a fitting denouement to a fantastic 2021 Super League season. The game was physical and no quarter was given between two sides who were the clear top two this season. It took several moments of class to unlock the two ferocious defenses.

The first points of the contest came from the boot. In his final game as a professional James Maloney piloted through an early penalty goal to give the Catalans a 2-nil lead in a game where points were at a premium tonight. Maloney added another goal from the tee to get his side within two at the break, 6-4.

St Helens made a point from the opening whistle with their tough defense and it helped them create the first of only three four-pointers in the game. A sweeping move to the right gave Kevin Naiqama the space to dive over out wide to make it 4-2. Lachlan Coote atoned for his first miss with a penalty goal to stretch their lead out to 6-2.

Coming into the second half, the Dragons had the ideal start. Saints were reduced to 12 men after Tom Makinson was given a yellow card for a high tackle. Dragons profited during that spell with forward Mike McMeeken quickest to the ball to make it 10-6 to the French side.

Going past the hour mark, both sides were exhausted but there was one final push to lift the trophy. St Helens have been the class of Super League in the last few years and they created another moment late in the contest.

A delightful short kick from Johnny Lomax saw Naiqama fly onto the ball and despite smashing into a defenders knee, scored his second try of the game and once again, put the Saints back ahead 12-10 into the final five minutes of the game.

Catalans scratched and clawed in the final moments to find something and reproduce the magical finish which saw them triumph in Magic Round. Unfortunately their fire was extinguished by a talented but tough St Helens side in a fitting decider to the season.

ST HELENS (12)

Tries: Kevin Naiqama (2)
Conversions: Lachlan Coote (1/2)
Penalty Goals: Lachlan Coote (1/1)

CATALANS DRAGONS (10)

Tries: Mike Mcmeeken
Conversions: James Maloney (1/1)
Penalty Goals: James Maloney (2/2)

Venue: Old Trafford; Crowd: 45177
Halftime Score: Catalans Dragons 4 St Helens 6
Referee: Liam Moore



CASTLEFORD TIGERS

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Ferguson



@AndrewRLP

After several seasons of being one of the top sides in Super League, the Tigers dropped out of the top 8 in 2020 for the first time since their 12th place in 2013. Their effort to return to finals football fell agonisingly short in 2021, despite winning more games than the sixth placed Hull KR.

Castleford won 11 of their 23 games, but a miserable mid-season was essentially their downfall. Winning just 2 of 10 Super League games from Round 6 to Round 17 saw the Tigers fall from third on the ladder down to 8th. A late rally looked promising, but a tough final few weeks against top sides Wigan, Warrington and Hull KR (who they were competing with for the last place in the Finals) proved to be too big a hurdle.

It was all bad though for Castleford, as they snuck into the Challenge Cup final. They beat Hull KR in Round 3 and Salford in the Quarter Final, both by 1 point, before a stellar performance saw them beat heavyweights Warrington, which saw them proceed to the final, where they put in a spirited performance but were essentially outclassed by the almighty St Helens.

Turning point

Challenge Cup Quarter Final – A week after beating Salford 28-18 in Round 5 of the Super League, Castleford faced them again in the Cup Quarters, where they did enough to sneak home with a 19-18 victory. Including the Cup, Castleford had won 6 of 7 games for the season at that time and were looking strong. But immediately after that game Castleford won just 3 of 12 games (1 win by forfeit due to covid-19 impacting Huddersfield, another win in the Cup Semi), which essentially sunk their season.

What worked

Nearly everything. It was a matter of a few what-if moments throughout the season that could've been the difference between finishing in 7th place and making the finals. If Castleford could've played their entire season at the same level that they displayed in the Challenge Cup final, they would've been a top side for sure. There were a number of moments where the Tigers switched off and it cost them dearly. In Round 6, they surrendered an 8 point halftime lead over Hull KR to lose by 4. In Round 22, the Tigers trailed Wigan 6-0 at the break, but fell apart in the second half to lose 22-0. In Round 24, with a finals berth on the line, Cas lead Hull KR by just 1 at the end of the first half. Kane Linnett's try almost on the hour, gave the Robins the lead, which they held til fulltime.

What didn't work

Consistency. Castleford beat eventual Premiers Saints in Round 19, but 10 days earlier, went down to ninth placed Huddersfield 34-16. They beat Leeds twice and were thrashed by them once. They beat Warrington when it mattered in the Cup, but lost to them when it mattered again in the final round of the year, which would've seen them reach the finals. This constant yo-yoing made it hard for the Tigers to build any genuine momentum and maintain any sort of reliable form to build upon. Some of their games also saw them being ultra-competitive up til halftime, but sluggish upon returning for the second half.

Best player

Paul McShane again continued to be the funnel through which Castleford's attack flowed through. He produced another strong season and was accompanied by departing back rower Oli Holmes, who was awarded the Castleford Player of the year award and Players' Player award. His departure to Warrington will leave a huge chasm in the second row for the Tigers.

Rookies

Castleford's Cup run allowed them to give opportunities to a number of talented young players, such as Jason Qareqare and Cain Robb to name but a few. But it was rookie forward Brad Martin who was the standout of the new crop of talent, playing in 8 games in 2021. In the lower grades, Mackenzie Scurr has a freakish try scoring ability and could very well find himself getting a call-up to the Tigers Super League side in 2022.

Looking ahead

The Tigers have made some big changes to their roster ahead of the 2022 season in an effort to avoid plateauing as seems to be the case over the past two seasons now. Michael Shenton has

retired, while Oli Holmes and Peter Mata'utia are both heading to the Wolves. Lewis Bienek, Alex Foster and Jesse Sene-Lefao are also departing, having picked up roles with Championship clubs.

Castleford have picked up a lot of quality experience to cover those gaps, and hopefully, improve their performances. George Lawler, Jake Mamo, Mahe Fonua, Kenny Edwards, Bureta Faraimo, Joe Westerman, Alex Sutcliffe and Callum McLelland are all set to join the Tigers from rival Super League sides. They've also moved on from coach Daryl Powell, who had been in the role since 2013.

Castleford will see the results of the 2020 and 2021 seasons as a worst case scenario for their 2022 campaign, however they will be focussing very intently on returning to the finals. Lee Radford will be the Tigers coach in 2022.

Current projected 2022 lineup

- 1 – Niall Evalds
- 2 – Derrell Olpherts
- 3 – Jake Mamo
- 4 – Jordan Turner
- 5 – Bureta Faraimo
- 6 – Jacob Trueman
- 7 – Danny Richardson
- 8 – Liam Watts
- 9 – Paul McShane
- 10 – Suaia Matagi
- 11 – Kenny Edwards
- 12 – Cheyse Blair
- 13 – Joe Westerman

- 14 – Nathan Massey
- 15 – George Griffin
- 16 – Adam Milner
- 17 – George Lawler

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Warrington	W 21-12	Headingley	-
2	Leeds	W 18-10	Totally Wicked	-
CC 3R	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 33-32	HC Craven	-
3	Leigh	W 52-16	Jungle	-
4	Wigan	L 12-22	DW	-
5	Salford	W 28-18	AJ Bell	-
CC Q	Salford	W 19-18	Headingley	-
6	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 22-26	Jungle	3,600
7	Warrington	L 14-38	H. Jones	4,000
8	Leeds	L 6-60	Jungle	4,000
CC S	Warrington	W 35-20	LSV	4,000
9	Hull FC	L 12-30	Jungle	4,000
10	Wakefield Trinity	W 18-12	Mob. Rkt.	2,262
11	Catalans	L 6-16	Jungle	4,000
12	St Helens	L 0-24	Jungle	-
13	Huddersfield	W 24-0	J. Smith's	-
14	Salford	L 18-70	Jungle	-
CC F	St Helens	L 12-26	Wembley	67,173
17	Huddersfield	L 16-34	Jungle	-
18	Leeds	W 32-18	Headingley	10,838
19	St Helens	W 20-10	Totally Wicked	7,050
20	Wakefield Trinity	W 23-18	Jungle	4,897
21	Hull FC	W 23-12	MKM	-
22	Wigan	L 0-22	Jungle	4,729
23	Salford	W 29-18	St James	35,104
24	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 19-26	HC Craven	-
25	Warrington	L 24-40	Mend-a-Hose	-

CASTLEFORD TIGERS

Established	1926
Home Ground	Wheldon Road, Castleford, UK (current name: Mend-A-Hose Jungle)
Super League	None
- Runners Up	2017
Challenge Cup	1934-35, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1985-86
- Runners Up	1992, 2014, 2021
World Club Challenge	None
Most Points (all time)	Robert Beardmore: 1397 points
Most Tries (all time)	Michael Shenton, Graham Steadman: 121 tries

Super League record: 1996-2004, 2006, 2008-2021

Matches Played	655
Won	299
Lost	336
Drawn	20
Points For	15108
Points Against	16586
Biggest win	74-16 (58 pts) - Apr 7th, 2002 - vs. Salford
Biggest loss	4-72 (68 pts) - Aug 13th, 2006 - vs. St Helens
Most points scored	74-16 (74 pts) - Apr 7th, 2002 - vs. Salford
Most points conceded	12-76 (76 pts) - Aug 14th, 2009 - vs. Leeds

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 6th | Challenge Cup: Runners Up | Played 27, Won 14, Lost 13 | For 536, Against 648 | Coach: Daryl Powell (27 matches)

Most Points: Daniel Richardson (111) | Most Tries: Jordan Turner (17)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	CCQ	6	7	8	CCS	9	10	11	12	13	14	CCF	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	WAR	LEE	HKR	LEI	WIG	SAL	SAL	HKR	WAR	LEE	WAR	HUL	WAK	CAT	STH	HUD	SAL	STH	HUD	LEE	STH	WAK	HUL	WIG	SAL	HKR	WAR	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
BIENEK, Lewis				B	B				B					B			L	B										1	5	-	-	-	-	
BLAIR, Cheyse	2R	2R	2R			B				C							C	C			B	B	2R		C			8	3	1	-	-	4	
CLARE, James								W	FB	W	B			C			W								W	W		7	1	1	-	-	4	
EDEN, Greg				W	W	W				FB											W	W	W	W	B			8	1	8	-	-	32	
EVALDS, Niall	FB	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB			FB		FB	FB				FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	20	-	6	-	-	24
FOSTER, Alex											B	C	B	2R			C	B	L	B			2R	B	B	B	2R	6	7	1	-	-	4	
GRAHAM, Bradley														W					W									2	-	1	-	-	4	
GRIFFIN, George	FR		FR				L		2R	2R		FR	FR	FR				FR				B	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	FR	14	2	1	-	-	4
HALL, Sam														B			B		FR									1	2	-	-	-	-	
HEPI, Tyla		B							B	B		B	B				FR					B	B			B	B		1	9	-	-	-	-
HOLMES, Oliver	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			FR	2R	2R	2R				2R			2R	2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	19	1	7	-	-	28	
JORDAN, Caelum																	W											1	-	-	-	-	-	
KEINHORST, Thomas																			B	B								-	2	1	-	-	4	
MAGEE, Nathan																		B										-	1	-	-	-	-	
MARTIN, Bradley					B	B	L	2R	B			FR					2R	2R										5	3	1	-	-	4	
MASSEY, Nathan	L	L	L	L	L	FR	FR	FR	FR		L	L	L	L				L	FR	B		L	L	L	L	L	L	21	1	-	-	-	-	
MATAGI, Suaia									B	B	2R		FR						B	B	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	3	10	-	-	-	-	
MATAUTIA, Peter	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	FB	C					C		C	C	C	C	C	FE	C	C	21	-	6	4	-	32	
McSHANE, Paul	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	B	H	H	2R	FE	H					H	HB	H	H	H	H		H		H	20	1	5	11	2	44	
MILLINGTON, Grant	FR	FR	FR	B	B	FR	FR	FR									FR	FR		FR	FR	FR		FR			FR	13	2	2	-	-	8	
MILNER, Adam	B	B	B	B	B	L	2R	H	L		FR	H		H				B		L			B	H	B	H	B	10	9	-	-	-	-	
O'BRIEN, Gareth	FE		FB	FE	HB		B				FE		FE					FE		FE	HB	FE	FE	HB		HB	13	1	1	11	2	28		
OLPHERTS, Derrell	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W				W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	24	-	10	-	-	40	
O'NEILL, Jacques	B									L	B	B		B												B		1	5	-	-	-	-	
PEACHEY, Lewis					B		B	B	B		B						B		2R									1	6	-	-	-	-	
QAREQARE, Jason											W	B					FB											2	1	1	-	-	4	
RICHARDSON, Daniel		HB	FE		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB			FE				HB	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	18	-	1	52	3	111	
ROBB, Cain																	H		H									2	-	-	-	-	-	
RUSLING, Adam																		B										-	1	-	-	-	-	
SADLER, Jack																	HB											1	-	-	-	-	-	
SENE-LEFAO, Jesse		B	B	2R	2R	2R		B	C	2R	H	2R	2R				2R	2R		2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	17	3	1	-	-	4	
SHENTON, Michael	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C				C	FE					C	C	C	C	19	-	4	-	-	16	
SMITH, Daniel	B	B	B	FR	FR		B	B	FR	FR			B	FR				B	C	FR	L		FR		FR	FR	B	11	8	3	-	-	12	
SWEETING, Jake																				B								-	1	1	-	-	4	
TRUEMAN, Jacob	HB	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		HB							HB										11	-	5	-	-	20	
TURNER, Jordan	W	W	W	B	B		W	2R	W	FE	W		W					W		C	C	C	C	W	HB	HB	W	18	2	17	-	1	69	
WATTS, Liam	B	FR	B	FR	FR	B	B			FR	B	B	B	FE				B				B	B	B	FR		B	6	12	2	-	-	8	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	

CATALANS DRAGONS

SEASON REVIEW

By Chris Glover



History Boys

Catalans Dragons joined Super League in 2006 having been founded in 2000, following the merger of XIII Catalans and AS Saint Esteve. 15 years into its professional existence, the club has made both major finals, winning one of them and winning two of the three major trophies available. Catalans have achieved more in 15 years than some more established clubs have in 100. The tiresome question of 'what do Catalans bring to Super League?' has been put firmly to bed.

Another man who has faced a huge degree of scrutiny over the years is head coach Steve McNamara. The inexperienced coach oversaw a period of decline at Bradford in the late 2000's which tarnished his reputation. What soon became clear was that McNamara was at the Bulls as the club were heading towards financial ruin.

McNamara's spell as England coach didn't break that perception but was far from the disaster that many would have you believe. A 3-0 series win against New Zealand in 2015 was a fine achievement but one that many seemed reluctant to credit McNamara for. Since joining Catalans in 2017, he has turned the club from relegation candidates to minor premiers and title contenders in four years. He is one of the top coaches in the UK and is finally getting the recognition he deserves.

Catalans showed signs of promise in 2020. The club refused to use a year of away fixtures as an excuse for failure, having struggled for so many seasons. This was the subtle sign of a culture change. A sign of a club on the up, rather than one that seeks to justify its underachievement.

No piece regarding Catalans is complete without mentioning its charismatic and passionate Bernard Guasch. He funded the club's repeated travels over the last two years and without his commitment, the joys that the club have brought to Perpignan may never have been realised.

Catalans reached their maiden Grand Final in 2021. They may have lost but they did not freeze. They did not 'bottle' it. By contrast, they played fantastically well. There is little doubt that the performance would have been enough to defeat any other team in the competition apart from St Helens, who had to dig as deep as they could to edge out the Dragons. After the Grand Final, head coach Steve McNamara said, "This isn't the last step for the Dragons, this is just the next step." You would be hard pressed to bet against that.

Turning point

Catalans may have won five of their opening six Super League matches but it was back-to-back home wins against 2020 Grand Finalists St Helens and Wigan ending both sides unbeaten starts to the Super League season that made people sit up and take notice.

Despite missing several key men, Catalans edged out St Helens, holding off a late surge. The following week, Catalans demolished Wigan by 48 points to nil. This established Catalans lead at the top of the table that they did not relinquish.

What worked

Catalans attack ran hot in 2021 and did not get the credit that it deserved. They scored a league high of 688 points, exactly 100 points higher than their closest challengers, Warrington. The table was skewed by teams playing an uneven number of fixtures but even had Warrington played their two fixtures to match Catalans total of 23, it is highly unlikely that they would match Catalans impressive total. The Catalans wingers, Fouad Yaha and Tom Davies scored 14 tries each, benefitting from the service provided by Sam Tomkins and Josh Drinkwater, who provided 20 and 28 try assists respectively.

What didn't work

Catalans discipline has been a long-standing issue and whilst there was improvement in 2021, the issue did persist. For example, they saw 13 players sent to the sin bin over the course of the season, which was the worst in the league alongside Salford. Even in the Grand Final, Catalans conceded several avoidable penalties which released the pressure on St Helens, often at critical moments. If Catalans can improve this in 2022, then they will stand themselves in great stead for a second tilt at the title.

Best player

Not just the best player for Catalans but the best player in Super League. Nine years after picking up the Man of Steel Award, Sam Tomkins joined Ellery Hanley, Andy Farrell and Paul Sculthorpe amongst those who have won the prestigious award on more than one occasion. Not bad company to keep, is it?

When he returned to Super League from the NRL, Sam Tomkins did not hit the same heights as he did during his first spell at Wigan. A fresh start at Catalans appeared to be exactly what Tomkins needed. He looked refreshed and the Perpignan public had a new hero, quickly adorned with banners on the terraces.

By 2021, Tomkins returned to his best form. His game has changed from one based on electric pace to one based on control and excellent game management. It is evident from interviews that Tomkins and his family are enjoying life in the south of France and he activated a one-year extension

clause in his contract in July, despite rumoured attention from other Super League clubs.

Rookies

The potential successor to Sam Tomkins was a shining light in the season too. Arthur Mourgue started on the bench for Catalans' season opener and only entered the field in the 78th minute with the scores tied against Hull KR. He impressively claimed a towering Jordan Abdull bomb then made a key break to set Catalans up for a golden point winner. Quite the impact to make in a few short minutes! Mourgue has impressed with his lightning pace and impact from the bench. Season highlights included making two Wigan defenders tackle each other rather than him in a crushing home success and leading the Leeds team a merry dance with an impressive solo try in a comeback win at Headingley.

But where does Mourgue fit in the long term? Despite holding the number 1 jersey, there is no vacancy at full back. Drinkwater and Pearce will occupy the half back spots. Mourgue has looked somewhat stifled as a back-up hooker. Another season as an impact player from the bench looks likely. Many will be excited to see which place he will ultimately nail down in the Catalans team.

However, the Dragons must be careful. Mourgue is a fine talent and 22-years old. If he has his eye, say, on a full back berth and his path looks blocked until his mid-20s, there will be no shortage of suitors elsewhere in Super League.

Looking ahead

The benefit that Catalans have had this year compared to last is consistency. Going into this year, they had lost Casty, Moa, Simon, Maria, Folau, Tierney and Mead. This year, only James Maloney and Joel Tomkins have departed, with Mitchell Pearce an impressive direct replacement. As the squad gets to gel more and the younger French players become more integrated into the squad, you are more inclined to believe Steve McNamara when he says that 2021 wasn't the last step for the Catalans, just the next step.

Current projected 2022 line-up

1. Sam Tomkins
2. Tom Davies
3. Dean Whare
4. Samisoni Langi
5. Fouad Yaha
6. Josh Drinkwater
7. Mitchell Pearce
8. Dylan Napa
9. Michael McIlorum
10. Julian Bousquet
11. Tyrone May
12. Mike McMeeken
13. Ben Garcia
14. Arthur Mourgue
15. Sam Kasiano
16. Gil Dudson
17. Matt Whitley

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 29 - 28	Headingley	-
2	Huddersfield W	20 - 10	Totally Wicked	-
CC 3R	Wakefield Trinity	W 26 - 6	Totally Wicked	-
3	Salford	W 42 - 6	SGB	-
4	Warrington	L 8 - 24	SGB	-
5	Wakefield Trinity	W 38 - 18	Mob. Rkt.	-
CC Q	Warrington	L 6 - 16	Headingley	-
6	Hull FC	W 27 - 10	KCOM	5,527
7	St Helens	W 20 - 16	SGB	1,000
8	Wigan	W 48 - 0	SGB	1,000
9	Leigh	W 36 - 30	LSV	1,840
11	Castleford	W 16 - 6	Jungle	4,000
12	Huddersfield W	50 - 12	J. Smith's	1,904
14	Leeds	W 26 - 18	Headingley	4,000
10	Leeds	W 27 - 18	SGB	4,800
13	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 32 - 30	SGB	-
16	Wakefield Trinity	W 40 - 20	SGB	-
17	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 23 - 16	HC Craven	6,347
18	St Helens	L 12 - 34	Totally Wicked	7,758
19	Hull FC	W 31 - 16	SGB	-
21	Salford	W 42 - 14	AJ Bell	-
22	Leigh	W 64 - 0	SGB	-
23	St Helens	W 31 - 30	St James	35,104
24	Huddersfield L	18 - 30	SGB	-
25	Wigan	L 8 - 12	DW	12,852
SF	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 28 - 10	SGB	11,530
GF	St Helens	L 10 - 12	Old Trafford	45,177

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 1st, Runners Up | Challenge Cup: Quarter Finals | Played 27, Won 21, Lost 6 | For 758, Against 442 | Coach: Steve McNamara (27 matches)
 Most Points: James Maloney (257) | Most Tries: Tom Davies (16)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	CCQ	6	7	8	9	11	12	14	10	13	16	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	25	SF	GF	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	HKR	HUD	WAK	SAL	WAR	WAK	WAR	HUL	STH	WIG	LEI	CAS	HUD	LEE	LEE	HKR	WAK	HKR	STH	HUL	SAL	LEI	STH	HUD	WIG	HKR	STH	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts
BAITIERI, Jason	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			B	B	B	B										L				1	12	-	-	-	-
BELMAS, Lambert											B	B																-	2	-	-	-	-
BOUSQUET, Julian	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR				FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	23	-	2	-	-	8
BROCHON, Robin																								B				-	1	-	-	-	-
CHAN, Joe							B									B	B	B	B	B	B				B			-	7	2	-	-	8
COZZA, Mathieu																						B	B	B				-	3	-	-	-	-
DA COSTA, Alrix	H	H	H	H	H		B		B			H		B	H	H	H	H	H									11	3	1	-	-	4
DAVIES, Tom	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W			W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	24	-	16	-	-	64
DEZARIA, Jordan						B								B					B	B	FR	FR	FR	B			3	5	-	-	-	-	
DRINKWATER, Josh	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		FE	HB	HB	FE		HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	25	-	6	-	-	24	
DUDSON, Gil		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR		FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			B	FR	FR	B	FR	19	2	3	-	-	12
FRANCO, Romain																W	W						W				3	-	1	-	-	4	
GARCIA, Benjamin	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		H	H	L	L								B	L	L	17	1	5	-	-	20	
GOUEMAND, Mickaël	FR							B	B	B	FR	L	L	L	FR	B	B	FR	FR	L	L	L	L	FR	B	B	13	8	3	-	-	12	
JULLIEN, Benjamin								2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		B	B	2R	2R	2R		2R			2R			11	2	5	-	-	20	
KASIANO, Sam	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B		B		B	B	B	-	22	5	-	-	20
LAGUERRE, Matthieu	C								C	W		W							C		C	C		C	W		9	-	6	-	-	24	
LANGI, Samisoni		C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C		C	C	23	-	7	-	-	28	
LE CAM, Corentin																			B	2R		2R		2R			3	1	-	-	-	-	
MALONEY, James	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	HB	FE	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	25	-	6	114	5	257	
McILORUM, Mike				B	B	H	H	H	H	H	H									H	H	H	H		H	H	13	2	1	-	-	4	
McMEEKEN, Mike	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	25	-	10	-	-	40	
MOURGUE, Arthur	B	B	B			B		B	FB	B	B	FB	B	HB	HB	FE	B	B	FB	B	B	B	B	FB	B	FB	8	16	6	15	-	54	
ROUGE, Cesar																			HB					H			2	-	-	-	-	-	
SÉGUIER, Paul	B	B	B	B	B	2R					B		B	B	B	B	B	B						B			1	13	-	-	-	-	
TOMKINS, Joel					B	2R	FR	B	B				FR			L	L	L				B	B		L	FR	8	6	2	-	-	8	
TOMKINS, Sam	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	22	-	10	1	1	43	
WHARE, Dean	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C				C		C	C	C	24	-	4	-	-	16	
WHITLEY, Matt	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R							B	B	2R	2R	2R	2R						2R	C	2R	2R	14	2	8	-	-	32	
YAHA, Fouad	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	24	-	14	-	-	56	

Position Key

FB = Fullback

W = Wing

C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth

HB = Halfback

PR = Prop

HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row

L = Lock

B = Bench

CATALANS DRAGONS

Established 2000
 Home Ground Stade Gilbert Brutus, Perpignan, France
 Super League None
 - Runners Up 2021
 Challenge Cup 2018
 - Runners Up 2007
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Thomas Bosc: 1374 points
 Most Tries (all time) Vincent Dupont: 87 tries

Super League record: 2006-2021

Matches Played 447
 Won 213
 Lost 223
 Drawn 11
 Points For 10379
 Points Against 10993
 Biggest win 76-6 (70 pts) - Mar 31st, 2012 - vs. Widnes
 Biggest loss 0-58 (58 pts) - Feb 26th, 2010 - vs. Wigan
 Most points scored 76-6 (76 pts) - Mar 31st, 2012 - vs. Widnes
 Most points conceded 12-60 (60 pts) - Sep 15th, 2006 - vs. Leeds
 16-60 (60 pts) - Jun 28th, 2013 - vs. Huddersfield

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS

SEASON REVIEW

By Jonathan Burnett



Watson era gets off to a wobbly start at Huddersfield

The coaching career of Ian Watson has, in the past few seasons, gone from strength to strength. After taking over Salford in late 2015, he built a solid, productive style of play during a period of great unrest in the club, and that hard work culminated in a Grand Final appearance in 2019, in which the Red Devils lost 23-6 to St. Helens.

Coming into the Huddersfield Giants' dressing room in the midst of a global pandemic, Watson was facing uncertainty once more as he started his new job, and the ex-Wales international and his players rode it tough in 2021.

Winning only 9 league games all season, it wasn't exactly one to remember for the Giants, who at times racked up losses like it was going out of fashion. A seven-match losing streak between late May and late July was the lowest point of the season, and had Leigh's results been better, there was a real chance that Huddersfield could've faced the drop.

Alas, the club recovered, winning 6 of their last 10, including 3 of their last 4, and eventually finishing in a disappointing, but not disastrous, 9th in the table. It's a foundation on which Watson's men need to build in 2022, and with several high-profile signings made, and some truly excellent youngsters emerging, the future looks bright for a side that needs to start delivering on its 'big club' status.

Turning point

Round 8 v Wakefield - Having just thumped also-rans Leigh 44-6 away from home, spirits were relatively high with the Giants sitting in seventh place on the ladder. Their next game, a short trip to Wakefield, didn't go quite as smoothly though, as Trinity thumped them 38-12, with Liam Kay scoring twice and Mason Lino kicking 5 goals. It sent Huddersfield into freefall, as they lost their next six games on the bounce, conceding 168 points and scoring just 66 over the course of the run. They slipped from 7th to 11th, and Watson was, for a time, under serious threat of losing his job.

What worked

The pack - Led by fiery Australian Luke Yates, the Giants forward laid a solid enough platform in the vast majority of games, regardless of the opposition. Yates, alongside fellow 2020 signings Joe Greenwood and Josh Jones, really stood firm as a big-minutes middle forward, and youngsters Matty English, Oliver Wilson and Owen Trout all mixed in with the more experienced packs in Super League, as did veteran club stalwart Michael Lawrence.

What didn't work

Chopping and changing in key positions - Plagued by injury problems throughout the season, Leeds-bound playmaker Aidan Sezer could only muster eight appearances in his final season with the Giants. This saw different halves combinations practically every week, with Lee Gaskell, Jack Cogger and Sam Wood all attempting to fill the gap at the base of the scrum. Stability, at a push, only came when youngsters Oliver Russell and Will Pryce began starting matches on a regular basis.

Best player

Luke Yates - Having first arrived on English shores to play for London in the 2019 Super League season, Yates really found his feet at the Giants in 2021. Shifting between lock forward and the front row, Yates made an average of 40 tackles per match, and scored twice, once each in the Giants' back-to-back wins over Hull and Castleford. Still only 26, and with an engine to match most big-minutes forwards, Yates could be a cornerstone of the Giants' pack over the next few seasons.

Rookies

In a season of transition, and not much in the way of positivity on the pitch, one youngster emerged from the pack and showcased levels of potential not seen since a familiar-looking Bradford utility back emerged in 1998. Will Pryce, the son of Bulls legend Leon, made his debut for the Giants in July, and never looked back. With an electric running game that yielded six tries in his 13 appearances, and one on debut for the England Knights, Pryce showed serious signs that he will be

a leading player in Super League, and perhaps even the world, over the next decade or so.

Looking ahead

The Giants' 2022 recruitment has looked strong so far, with some very good acquisitions from clubs both within Super League and the NRL. The headline signing is back-to-back Grand Final winner Theo Fages, who surely would've completed a three-peat of Super League titles with St. Helens were it not for him picking up an injury late in the season. As well as the France captain, and ex-Kiwi hooker Danny Levi, Tonga pivot Tui Lolohea crosses over the Pennines from Salford, as does experienced former Warrington captain, and current England test prop, Chris Hill. He'll provide some experience for the Giants' young forwards to learn from, and 2022 looks like it could be a good year in the home of Rugby League!

Current Projected 2022 lineup

1. Will Pryce
2. Jermaine McGillvary
3. Jake Wardle
4. Ricky Leutele
5. Louis Senior
6. Tuimoala Lolohea
7. Theo Fages
8. Chris Hill
9. Adam O'Brien
10. Michael Lawrence
11. Joe Greenwood
12. Josh Jones
13. Luke Yates

Interchange:

14. Danny Levi
15. Sebastine Ikahihifo
16. Chris McQueen
17. Matty English

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Hull FC	L 10 - 22	Headingley	-
2	Catalans	L 10 - 20	Totally Wicked	-
CC 3R	Leigh	W 36 - 18	LSV	-
3	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 24 - 25	HC Craven	-
4	St Helens	L 10 - 18	J. Smith's	-
5	Leeds	W 14 - 13	J. Smith's	-
CC QF	St Helens	L 18 - 23	Headingley	-
6	Warrington	W 26 - 20	H. Jones	4,000
7	Leigh	W 44 - 6	LSV	2,008
8	Wakefield Trinity	L 12 - 38	Mob. Rkt.	4,000
10	Salford	L 8 - 9	J. Smith's	2,352
11	Hull FC	L 10 - 17	MKM	5,527
12	Catalans	L 12 - 50	J. Smith's	1,904
13	Castleford	L 0 - 24	FORFEIT	-
14	Wigan	L 12 - 16	DW	4,439
9	Wigan	L 12 - 14	J. Smith's	2,139
15	Hull FC	W 40 - 26	J. Smith's	3,699
17	Castleford	W 34 - 16	Jungle	-
18	Wakefield Trinity	W 22 - 18	J. Smith's	3,964
19	Salford	L 12 - 18	AJ Bell	-
20	Leeds	L 12 - 18	Headingley	11,110
21	Warrington	L 6 - 26	J. Smith's	4,017
22	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 40 - 28	J. Smith's	3,652
23	Wakefield Trinity	L 18 - 32	St James	25,762
24	Catalans	W 30 - 18	SGB	-
25	Leigh	W 42 - 24	J. Smith's	3,867

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS

Established 1895
Home Ground Kirklees Stadium, Huddersfield UK
(current name: John Smith's Stadium)

Super League None
- Runners Up None
Challenge Cup 1912/13, 1914/15, 1919/20, 1932/33, 1944/45, 1952/53
- Runners Up 1934/35, 1961/62, 2006, 2009
World Club Challenge None
Most Points (all time) Danny Brough: 1819
Most Tries (all time) Jermaine McGillvary: 192

Super League record: 1998-2021

Matches Played 643
Won 271
Lost 358
Drawn 14
Points For 14468
Points Against 16039
Biggest win 66-6 (60 pts) - Feb 12th, 2012 - vs. Widnes
Biggest loss 6-86 (80 pts) - Jul 16th, 1999 - vs. Leeds
Most points scored 76-18 (76 pts) - Sep 19th, 2013 - vs. Hull FC
Most points conceded 6-86 (86 pts) - Jul 16th, 1999 - vs. Leeds

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 8th | Challenge Cup: Quarter Finals | Played 26, Won 10, Lost 16 | For 514, Against 557 | Coach: Ian Watson (13 matches), Will Pryce (12 matches)
 Most Points: Oliver Russell (72) | Most Tries: Jermaine McGillvary (14)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	CCQ	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	9	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	HUL	CAT	LEI	HKR	STH	LEE	STH	WAR	LEI	WAK	SAL	HUL	CAT	CAS	WIG	WIG	HUL	CAS	WAK	SAL	LEE	WAR	HKR	WAK	CAT	LEI	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ASHALL-BOTT, Oliver												FB	FB		W			B	FB				FB	FB	FB	FB	8	1	2	-	-	8	
ASHWORTH, Jack			FR	B	FR							FR	B														3	2	-	-	-	-	
COGGER, Jack	HB	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	FE									FE	FE	HB	B	B	HB	FE	16	2	1	-	-	4	
CUDJOE, Leroy	C	C	C	C						W	W	C	W		C	W	C	C	C	C	W	W	W	W	W	C	20	-	5	-	-	20	
CUNNINGHAM, James	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		B															10	1	-	-	-	-	
EDWARDS, Ken	B	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R														10	2	3	-	-	12	
ENGLISH, Matthew	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B						B		B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	2	17	2	-	-	8	
GASKELL, Lee	FB	FE	FE	B	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB		HB	FE															10	1	3	-	1	13	
GAVET, James	FR	FR			FR	FR				FR		FR	FR		FR	FR											9	-	2	-	-	8	
GOLDING, Ashton											FB	H	H		FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB	FB					10	-	1	-	-	4	
GREENWOOD, Joe	2R	2R				L	L	FR	FR	FR	2R	2R	B		L				B	2R	2R	FR	FR	FR	B	B	15	4	2	-	-	8	
HEWITT, Sam												B	B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B			B	B		-	11	-	-	-	-	
JONES, Josh	L	L	L	L	L	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	24	-	3	-	-	12	
LAWRENCE, Michael		B	B	FR	B	B	FR	FR	FR	L	B													FR	L	L	L	9	5	2	-	-	8
LEUTELE, Ricky	C					C	C	C	C	C	C	C								W		C	C	C	C	C	14	-	5	-	-	20	
McGILLVARY, Jermaine	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			B	W	W	W			W			W		17	1	14	-	-	56	
McINTOSH, Darnell	W	FB	FB	FB	W	W	W	W	W	FB		W															11	-	4	-	-	16	
McQUEEN, Chris	2R	2R	2R	2R	C	C	C	B	B	B					2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	17	3	4	-	-	16	
O'BRIEN, Adam	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	H																1	10	1	-	-	4	
PEATS, Nathan															H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	12	-	1	-	-	4	
PETERU, Nathaniel															B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	-	12	3	-	-	12	
PRYCE, Will												B			B	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	FE	HB	B	B	9	4	6	14	-	52
RUSSELL, Oliver	FE											HB	HB		HB	HB	FE	FE	FE		B	B	HB	FE	FE	HB	12	2	2	32	-	72	
SENIOR, Louis												W			W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			W	W	10	-	4	-	-	16	
SEZER, Aidan				HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	B																7	1	2	25	1	59	
STEVENS, Robson															B	B	B										-	3	-	-	-	-	
TROUT, Owen			B				B	B	B	B	B	L	L				L	FR	L	FR	FR	FR		FR	B	B	9	8	2	-	-	8	
WARDLE, Jacob		C	C	C				C	C	C	C		C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		19	-	6	5	-	34	
WARDLE, Joe											B																-	1	1	-	-	4	
WILSON, Oliver	B				B						FR	B				FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR				FR	FR	9	3	-	-	-	-	
WOOD, Sam		W	W	W	C	B	B					C	FE		FE	C	B	2R	B	B	C	B	W	W			12	6	7	-	-	28	
YATES, Luke	FR	FR	FR	FR	2R	FR	FR	L	L		FR	FR		FR	L	FR	L	FR	L	FR	L	L	L				20	-	2	-	-	8	

Position Key
 FB = Fullback

W = Wing
 C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
 HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
 HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
 L = Lock

B = Bench

HULL FC

SEASON REVIEW

By Chris Glover



Flattering to Deceive

When I started to write this piece reflecting on Hull FC's season, my first thoughts were that the club had a season which promised much but ultimately delivered little. On greater reflection, I realised that this one-line summary was an adequate descriptor of the majority of their seasons over the course of the last decade.

The end of 2020 saw Hull FC earn a place in the play offs courtesy of a late change to the play off structure, allowing a sixth team to enter. They made the most of it, with a surprise win at Warrington but were comfortably bettered by Wigan in the semi final. Andy Last had taken over as head coach following the return from lockdown and on the face of it, had done a decent job.

FC decided that a break with the Radford-era was necessary and brought in highly-rated coach Brett Hodgson, who had impressed in an assistant coach role at Widnes years before. This seemed harsh on Last, whose credentials were no better or worse than Hodgson's.

Initially, the decision looked to be a wise one. They lost just once in their first seven games in all competitions. It was not just the wins that were impressive though. Their defence appeared to have a steel not seen before, conceding just 11 points on average per game in this timeframe. Hull FC's win in the Challenge Cup against Wigan, inspired by a near-unstoppable Chris Satae will have got the Old Faithful dreaming of Wembley once more.

The semi final saw them face St Helens. In that match, they lost Josh Griffin early to a nasty injury and resultingly conceded one of the most unfortunate tries you will ever see to Theo Fages (a try that caused much debate as to its fairness, although not its legitimacy per the laws of the game). Despite this double whammy, Hull FC fought back from 18 points down to just 3, but an interception by Regan Grace ended FC's hopes and St Helens pulled away for a flattering 15 point win.

A heartbreak like that would have harmed Hull FC, you would have thought. But, no! Three consecutive wins followed! Instead, seeing four of their next seven fixtures postponed for covid-related reasons acted as the 2021 derailment.

Hull FC won just once from the end of June, albeit a thrilling win against Hull KR, in the season's only derby match. Aside from that, Hull FC's demons returned. They conceded 40 on four occasions, with away defeats at Salford and Wakefield in the season's last throws being particularly chastening. Despite a poor run of form towards the end of the season, Hull FC were still in the play off race. They had to beat a Salford side with nothing to play for and were humiliated. Their final day capitulation to Wakefield saw them 34-0 down at half time.

The Hull FC era under Lee Radford was characterised by highs (such as back-to-back Challenge Cup wins) and lows (including several embarrassing defeats). The 2021 season and Brett Hodgson era has started the same, although to date with the absence of the highs. That must worry Hull FC fans. Their shortcomings clearly transcend a head coach. You could argue they are systemic. Hull FC's success or otherwise in 2022 will be determined by whether the end of season rot continues or whether the slate can be wiped clean.

What worked

In sport, we have a habit of over analysing. I'll avoid that here and keep it as simple as possible. Whatever Hull FC were doing at the start worked. Their defence was a solid foundation which gave them a chance of winning each match that they played. And they won more than they lost! Hull FC's strength lies in the pack. Players like Chris Satae, Scott Taylor, Manu Ma'u are a strong and intimidating presence.

What didn't work

In keeping with a theme, everything that Hull FC did from July onwards did not work. All of the positives in terms of defence from the start of the season had evaporated. It seemed hard to believe that the Hull FC team who defeated Wigan in the Challenge Cup Quarter Final was the same team that meekly surrendered to some of the league's weakest teams come the seasons end.

Best player

It is unusual for a player to be nominated for the Man of Steel award when their club finished 8th and won only 8 of 21 league matches. That fact alone indicates how much of an influence Jake Connor was on the Hull FC side.

Connor ended the season on 6 tries and 22 try assists. For context, Hull FC scored 67 tries in the season overall, meaning that Connor had a hand in one in every three tries that were scored. That is an incredible return, although does indicate an over-reliance on one individual. Connor does still have an impetuous side to his game. He conceded a needless penalty against Wigan in a Super League match, that ultimately lost his side the match and threw the intercept which allowed Regan Grace to score the game-changing try in the Challenge Cup semi final, when a more composed play

was required.

Connor is a classy operator and one of the best players in Super League. After years of fluctuating between positions (and doing a fine job in each of them), he looks to have settled as a full back. The years ahead should provide plenty more for the Hull FC fans, with Connor signing a two-year contract extension in August.

Rookies

It is almost 'priced in' that Hull FC will suffer an annual injury crisis. This year saw Cameron Scott enjoy a prolonged run in the team as a replacement for the stricken Josh Griffin. Scott did not look out of place in the first team. He is unlikely to secure a starting berth in 2022 with Tuimavave and Griffin taking the centre spots. The next challenge for Scott is if he can kick on. A similar challenge faces Ben McNamara. With Marc Sneyd having left the club, Luke Gale was signed as a replacement. This suggests 20-year old McNamara is not yet seen as ready for a starting spot by Brett Hodgson.

Looking ahead

Hull FC have signed Darnell McIntosh, Luke Gale, Joe Lovodua and Kane Evans for 2022, meanwhile, Bureta Faraimo, Mahe Fonua, Marc Sneyd and Masi Matongo have left for pastures new.

After, in effect, being replaced by Aidan Sezer, Luke Gale is an experienced head with a point to prove. He has won trophies both individual and as part of a team and, despite some concerns from FC fans, seems a shrewd capture. Gale will be central to Hull FC's plans. He is an on-field leader and those skills will be needed to take Hull FC back into the play offs in 2022. Rather than the new, I anticipate that Brett Hodgson's focus will be on individual and collective improvement and instilling the kind of positive culture and resilience that other sides in the competition do have.

Current projected 2022 lineup

1. Jake Connor
2. Darnell McIntosh
3. Carlos Tuimavave
4. Josh Griffin
5. Adam Swift
6. Josh Reynolds
7. Luke Gale
8. Scott Taylor
9. Danny Houghton
10. Chris Satae
11. Andre Savelio
12. Manu Ma'u
13. Ligi Sao

14. Joe Cator
15. Kane Evans
16. Jordan Lane
17. Josh Bowden

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Huddersfield	W 22 - 10	Headingley	-
2	Salford	W 35 - 4	Totally Wicked	-
CC3	Featherstone Rovers	W 34 - 14	Millennium	-
3	Warrington	D 14 - 14	KCOM	-
4	Wakefield Trinity	W 20 - 14	KCOM	-
5	Wigan	L 14 - 16	DW	-
CCQ	Wigan	W 20 - 10	Headingley	-
6	Catalans	L 10 - 27	KCOM	5,527
7	Leeds	W 18 - 12	Headingley	4,000
8	St Helens	L 16 - 34	Totally Wicked	4,000
CCS	St Helens	L 18 - 33	LSV	4,000
9	Castleford	W 30 - 12	Jungle	4,000
10	Leigh	W 64 - 22	LSV	2,338
11	Huddersfield	W 17 - 10	MKM	5,527
15	Huddersfield	L 26 - 40	J. Smith's	3,699
16	Leeds	L 12 - 22	MKM	-
17	St Helens	L 10 - 42	MKM	7,038
19	Catalans	L 16 - 31	SGB	-
20	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 23 - 22	MKM	15,000
21	Castleford	L 12 - 23	MKM	-
22	Salford	L 14 - 42	AJ Bell	-
23	Leeds	L 24 - 25	St James	35,104
24	Wigan	L 0 - 10	MKM	10,003
25	Wakefield Trinity	L 12 - 44	Mob. Rkt	-

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 10th | Challenge Cup: Semi Finals | Played 24, Won 10, Draw 1, Lost 13 | For 481, Against 533 | Coach: Brett Hodgson (24 matches)
 Most Points: Marc Sneyd (136) | Most Tries: Adam Swift (14)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	CCQ	6	7	8	CCS	9	10	11	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	HUD	SAL	FEA	WAR	WAK	WIG	WIG	CAT	LEE	STH	STH	CAS	LEI	HUD	HUD	LEE	STH	CAT	HKR	CAS	SAL	LEE	WIG	WAK	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
BOWDEN, Josh	B		B	B	B					B	B	B			B	B		B			B	B		B		-	13	-	-	-	-
BROWN, Jack				B			B			B	B		B	B	B		B	B	B							-	10	1	-	-	4
BURRELL, Aiden														B	B											-	2	-	-	-	-
CATOR, Joe	B	B		L	L	L	B	B	L	L				L		L	L	L	B						9	5	-	-	-	-	
CONNOR, Jake	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB							FB	FB	FB	FE	FE	FE	18	-	7	10	1	49
FARAIMO, Bureta			W	W	W				B			W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	15	1	6	-	-	24	
FASH, Brad		B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	L	B	B	FR	FR	B	B	B	B	B	4	18	-	-	-	-	
FONUUA, Mahe	W	W	W			W	W	W	W	W	W	C	C	C	C	C	C			B	B	W	C		17	2	9	-	-	36	
GRIFFIN, Josh	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C														11	-	5	-	-	20	
HOOKE, Jacob																			B					B	-	2	-	-	-	-	
HOUGHTON, Danny	H	H	B	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H		H	H	H	H	H			19	1	3	-	-	12	
JOHNSTONE, Jordan			H		B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	H	B	B	H			B	B	L	H	H	6	12	1	-	-	4	
LANE, Jordan	L	L	L	2R	2R	2R	L	L	B	2R	L	L	L		2R	2R	2R	2R	L	L	L		B	L	20	2	1	-	-	4	
LOGAN, Jack														C											1	-	1	-	-	4	
MA'U, Manu	2R	2R	2R				2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	2R	20	-	1	-	-	4	
McNAMARA, Ben			FE	FE	FE	FE								B	FE		B	HB		FE	FE	B	B	HB	9	4	-	4	-	8	
REYNOLDS, Josh	HB	FE					FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE						14	-	4	-	-	16	
SAO, Liligifo	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	22	-	1	-	-	4	
SATAE, Tevita	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR			B	FR	FR	FR	FR	18	3	4	-	-	16	
SAVELIO, Andre	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R		2R					2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	19	-	5	-	-	20	
SCOTT, Cameron	B	B	B	B		B	W	B			B	B		2R	W	B	C	W	C	C	C	C	2R	C	11	9	2	-	-	8	
SHAUL, Jamie																				B			FB	FB	3	1	-	-	-	-	
SNEYD, Marc	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		22	-	-	67	2	136	
SWIFT, Adam	W	W		W	W	W	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W		FB	W	W	FB	W	W	W			19	-	14	-	-	56		
TAYLOR, Scott	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR													B	B	FR				5	4	-	-	-	-	
TUIMAVAVE, Carlos	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C			C	C		C	C	C		C	C	C	20	-	9	-	-	36	
VULIKI JAPANI, Miteli													B	W	W		B						W	W	4	2	3	-	-	12	
WALKER, Marcus																			C						1	-	-	-	-	-	
WYNNE, Connor							B						C	FB		FB	FB				C	B	B	B	5	4	2	-	-	8	

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench

HULL FC

Established 1865
 Home Ground Hull City Stadium, Hull UK
 (current name: MKM Stadium, previously KCOM Stadium til June 2021)

Super League None
 - Runners Up 2006
 Challenge Cup 1913-14, 1981-82, 2005, 2016, 2017
 - Runners Up 1907-08, 1908-09, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1979-80, 1982-83, 1984-85, 2008, 2013

World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Paul Eastwood: 1436
 Most Tries (all time) Kirk Yeaman: 177

Super League record: 1998-2021

Matches Played 673
 Won 325
 Lost 326
 Drawn 22
 Points For 15427
 Points Against 15543
 Biggest win 82-6 (76 pts) - May 2nd, 2004 - vs. Salford
 Biggest loss 0-71 (71 pts) - Oct 1st, 2005 - vs. Bradford
 Most points scored 82-6 (82 pts) - May 2nd, 2004 - vs. Salford
 Most points conceded 10-80 (80 pts) - Aug 30th, 2018 - vs. Warrington

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS

SEASON REVIEW

By Jack Ellis



KR's star on the rise

It would be fair to say that Hull Kingston Rovers have endured a poor return to Super League since their promotion in 2017. Consistently at the wrong end of the table, and in 2020 only saved from relegation thanks to the demise of the Toronto Wolfpack, it has been tough sledding for the men from East Hull. But there was cause for optimism heading into 2021 with Tony Smith at the helm, some exciting new faces in Brad Takairangi and Ryan Hall, and another year for 2020's haul of signings to build their combinations and better gel as a team.

It was a poor start for Rovers with losses in their first 3 games including 2 by a single point. However, despite one of the more Covid-interrupted seasons in Super League 2021 they managed to rally and find themselves with their first playoff berth since 2013, which they took advantage of, defeating a Warrington team with effectively the England spine handily.

Rovers were a points machine, scoring nearly 500 over 20 games. The flipside of this is that they were also poor defensively, allowing 458 in the same period - easily the worst points per game of any team in the top 6.

Things are looking bright for the Robins; Neil Huddell is set to remain owner, Tony Smith set to remain coach, and with the signing of Lachlan Coote the team have made a real statement of intent to prove that a playoff finish is not some aberration but rather a sign of things to come.

Turning point

Rovers were without eventual Man of Steel finalist Jordan Abdull for a Round 10 game against a Wigan outfit beset by injuries. This was a game they should not have won. Nobody told Rovers that though, as they brought out what was, up until their playoff defeat of Warrington, their finest game of the season, running out 18-8 winners.

It is true that this game came on the back of successive 35+ point victories, but those were against the eventually relegated Leigh Centurions and the not-much-better Salford Red Devils.

This was the game that demonstrated a different kind of Hull Kingston Rovers, one that could defend with the best of them, best typified by the 10 minutes George King spent in the bin before half time during which Rovers withstood 50-odd tackles basically on their own goal line without surrendering a single point. This game brought a kind of belief to players and fans alike that KR could make some real noise that season.

What worked

The lethal left edge. Shaun Kenny-Dowall and Ryan Hall combined brilliantly to set Hall on a near-SL-topping try-scoring pace, and Kane Linnett was rewarded for his excellent form in the second row by a place in the Super League Dream Team.

What didn't work

Leaving Ben Crooks at fullback for so long. Crooks is a great winger, and in the 2021 season scored the fastest try in Super League history after 7 seconds against Huddersfield. He is however very much a winger and not a fullback. I feel that he was left out to dry for too long, and is far better suited in the outside backs. He's a better goalkicker than I expected though.

Best player

It has to be Jordan Abdull, capable of taking games by the scruff of the neck and allowing whoever's partnered with him in the halves, be it Mikey Lewis or Brad Takairangi, or Rowan Milnes to come and go as they see fit. An incredible kicking game both short and long, and the size and strength of the back rower he came through the Hull FC ranks as make him a threat in just about any circumstances.

I do have to give special mention to Kane Linnett and SKD, they were both absolute models of consistency and strong in all areas of their game.

Rookies

Will Tate - brought in very late in the season after injuries to Ryan Hall, Ethan Ryan, Greg Minikin, and SKD he acquitted himself very well in Rovers' 2 biggest games of the season in the playoffs.

Looking ahead

As stated at the beginning of this piece KR have a promising future ahead of them, with a near-perfect mix of experience and youth. Coote will supplant Adam Quinlan (who for me has been Rovers' best player of the last few years) perfectly, and combinations between Lewis and Abdull and Milnes will only improve. Hopefully the likes of Tom Garratt and Frankie Halton can make themselves at home in the middle of the park, and the return of reserve grade can ease some concerns should any players be injured.

Current projected 2022 lineup

1. Lachlan Coote
2. Ben Crooks
3. Brad Takairangi
4. Shaun Kenny-Dowall
5. Ryan Hall
6. Jordan Abdull
7. Mikey Lewis
8. Matty Storton
9. Matt Parcell
10. George King
11. Kane Linnett
12. Luis Johnson
13. Dean Hadley
14. Jez Litten
15. Elliot Minchella
16. Korbin Sims
17. Albert Vete

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Catalans	L 28 - 29	Headingley	-
2	St Helens	L 0 - 25	Totally Wicked	-
CC3	Castleford	L 32 - 33	HC Craven	-
3	Huddersfield	W 25 - 24	HC Craven	-
4	Leeds	W 26 - 6	HC Craven	-
5	Warrington	L 26 - 50	H. Jones	-
6	Castleford	W 26 - 22	Jungle	3,600
7	Wakefield Trinity	L 12 - 28	Mob. Rkt	4,000
8	Leigh	W 40 - 16	HC Craven	4,000
9	Salford	W 40 - 4	HC Craven	4,000
10	Wigan	W 18 - 8	DW	5,018
13	Catalans	L 30 - 32	SGB	-
17	Catalans	L 16 - 23	HC Craven	6,347
18	Leigh	W 34 - 28	LSV	2,541
19	Wigan	W 26 - 14	HC Craven	6,230
20	Hull FC	L 22 - 23	MKM	15,000
21	Wakefield Trinity	L 18 - 25	HC Craven	-
22	Huddersfield	L 28 - 40	J. Smith's	3,652
23	Leigh	W 44 - 6	St James	25,762
24	Castleford	W 26 - 19	HC Craven	-
25	Leeds	L 12 - 36	Headingley	-
PS	Warrington	W 19 - 0	H. Jones	-
S	Catalans	L 10 - 28	SGB	11,530

HULL KINGSTON ROVERS

Established 1882
Home Ground Craven Park, Kingston upon Hull, UK
(current name: Hull College Craven Park)

Super League None
- Runners Up None
Challenge Cup 1979-80
- Runners Up 1904-05, 1924-25, 1963-74, 1980-81, 1985-86, 2015
World Club Challenge None
Most Points (all time) George Fairbairn: 1300
Most Tries (all time) Gary Prohm: 104

Super League record: 2007-2021

Matches Played 388
Won 168
Lost 210
Drawn 10
Points For 8882
Points Against 9869
Biggest win 70-12 (58 pts) - May 20th, 2012 - vs. Castleford Tigers
Biggest loss 6-84 (78 pts) - Apr 1st, 2013 - vs. Wigan
Most points scored 70-14 (70 pts) - Jul 3rd, 2011 - vs. Wakefield Trinity
70-12 (70 pts) - May 20th, 2012 - vs. Castleford Tigers
Most points conceded 6-84 (84 pts) - Apr 1st, 2013 - vs. Wigan

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 7th | Challenge Cup: Third Round | Played 23, Won 11, Lost 12 | For 558, Against 491 | Coach: Tony Smith (23 matches)

Most Points: Jordan Abdull (122) | Most Tries: Ryan Hall (16)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	13	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	PF	SF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	CAT	STH	CAS	HUD	LEE	WAR	CAS	WAK	LEI	SAL	WIG	CAT	CAT	LEI	WIG	HUL	WAK	HUD	LEI	CAS	LEE	WAR	CAT	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ABDULL, Jordan	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB							HB	HB	HB	HB	16	-	6	48	2	122	
CROOKS, Ben	W	W		C			W	W		W	W	W	C	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	W	W	W	C	W	19	-	10	15	-	70	
DAGGER, Will																			FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	5	-	1	-	-	4	
HADLEY, Dean	2R	2R		B	B	L	L	B	L	L	L	L	L	2R			L							11	3	1	-	-	4	
HALL, Ryan	W	W	C	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	C		W	21	-	16	-	-	64		
JOHNSON, Luis			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B	2R	2R	2R	18	2	2	-	-	8	
KEINHORST, Jimmy			B						B							W	W		B	B	W	W	B	4	5	3	-	-	12	
KENNY-DOWALL, Shaun	C	C	W	C	W	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	W	C	C	C	C	C	W	W	C	W	C	23	-	7	-	-	28	
KEYES, Joseph																			HB					1	-	1	6	-	16	
KING, George	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	18	3	1	-	-	4	
LAWLER, George	L	L	L	L	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	L	L	B	L						15	3	2	-	-	8	
LEWIS, Mikey	HB	FE	FE	FE							HB			FE			HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	13	-	8	2	-	36	
LINNETT, Kane	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	23	-	12	-	-	48	
LITTEN, Jez	H	H	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	H	B	B	B	B	B	H	B	B	B	H	H	6	17	1	-	-	4	
MAHER, Will						B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	11	6	-	-	-	-	
MILNES, Rowan				FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE				HB	HB	HB		HB				B		10	1	3	4	-	20	
MINCHELLA, Elliott	B	B																						-	2	-	-	-	-	
MINIKIN, Greg	C	C	C						W		C	C	C	W	C	C	C	W	C	C				14	-	4	-	-	16	
MUSTAPHA, Muizz		B	B	B	B	B		L									B	B			B	B	B	1	10	-	-	-	-	
PARCELL, Matt	B	B	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	B	H	H	H	H	H	B	H	H	H			17	4	7	1	-	30	
QUINLAN, Adam	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB											13	-	6	-	-	24	
RYAN, Ethan			W	W	C	W									W									5	-	2	-	-	8	
SIMS, Korbin	FR	FR	FR	FR		B	B	FR	B	B		B		L	B	B					B			6	8	-	-	-	-	
STORTON, Matthew	B	B			B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B		B	L	L	L	L	L	5	14	1	-	-	4	
TAKAIRANGI, Brad					C	C	C	C	C	C	C	FE	FE	FE	C	FE	FE	FE	C	2R	2R	C	C	C	19	-	2	-	-	8
TATE, William																					B	B	B	-	3	-	-	-	-	
VETE, Albert	B		B	B	FR							B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B		B	B	5	11	5	-	-	20

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench

LEEDS RHINOS

SEASON REVIEW

By Jonathan Burnett



Rebuilding Rhinos Rustle Up Some Gems

The over-riding theme of the Leeds Rhinos year-on-year, since as far back as 2016, has been 'transition'. Following the 2015 treble, the club experienced major inconsistency, involving two relegation battles either side of a Grand Final win in 2017; but, since the mid-season appointment of Richard Agar in 2019, it's been much more of a steady road for the Headingley club (Covid-19 aside).

The 2021 season was a clear continuation of that transitional process, with a very respectable 5th placed finish for the second season in a row. Leeds' defence of their 2020 Challenge Cup title started and ended within eighty minutes, as they were given a tough draw against eventual winners St Helens, losing 26-18 at the Totally Wicked Stadium in April. That was the second of five straight losses in April, but the Rhinos recovered to qualify for the play-offs, and were one game away from Old Trafford before again being stopped by St Helens, losing 36-8 to bring the curtain down on a season that saw positive progression in many areas. The emergence of home-grown youngsters such as free-scoring Jack Broadbent and 17-year-old back-rower Morgan Gannon, alongside the more established Tom Holroyd and Harry Newman, helped a side decimated by injuries along the way, and although some games were lost by the finest of margins, including twice against league leaders Catalans Dragons, on the whole 2021 was a year in which Leeds can take far more positives and negatives out of. With this year's strong finish to build on, and with a raft of new, and improved, signings on their way to Headingley, 2022 could well be the year that the Rhinos begin a new era of success in Super League.

Turning point

Round 8 vs Castleford Tigers: The Rhinos began the season in very, very poor form, and had promoted Leigh not been the season's whipping boys from the get go, it looked like Leeds were in danger of relegation. After winning just two of their first seven league games of the season, and being dumped out of the Challenge Cup at the first time of asking by St. Helens, the Rhinos turned up at The Jungle and absolutely walloped the hosts by 60 points to 8.

Kruise Leeming and Tom Briscoe both scored two, and youngsters Jack Broadbent and Morgan Gannon also crossed in a statement victory that began a spell of four on the bounce, and although Leeds didn't put together another winning streak of that length, there's no doubt that the Castleford victory sent the side on an upward trajectory, and firmly back into play-off contention.

What worked

In a squad decimated by injuries throughout the season, Leeds needed their key players to lead from the front. And from the front-row, the key players emerged. Rotating hookers Kruise Leeming and Brad Dwyer were the club's top try-scorers with 10 and 12 respectively, and provided much of the attacking impetus from dummy half.

Poland-born prop Mikolaj Oledzki showed that he was well worth his starting squad number too, with a string of impressive performances, culminating in an England call-up for the mid-season test. Likewise, Oledzki's front-row partner Matt Prior was one of the league's best props, eating metres and making tackles in the highest of numbers, as well as becoming the Rhinos' captain from July onwards.

What didn't work

In two words: spine injuries. Don't worry, no one in the Leeds squad has suffered such a diagnosis, but the number of injuries to players in Leeds' key playmaking positions, as well as the many across all positions, was at times too much for Richard Agar's men to handle. First-choice halves Rob Lui and Luke Gale only made 11 appearances each, whilst fullback Jack Walker missed the entire year and the aforementioned Dwyer only played 12 times himself.

The signing of dual-code international half Kyle Eastmond couldn't alleviate the workload either – the ex-England star, 32, played just twice for the Rhinos before announcing his retirement; a wasted experiment to say the least. It's perhaps a relief to Agar, and the Rhinos faithful, that the Loiners will have a brand-new partnership at the base of the scrum in 2022. But more on that later.

Best player

Kruise Leeming – The Swaziland-born hooker, who had an injury-hit first season in 2020 after signing from Huddersfield, showed career-best form in his 25 appearances in 2021. His ten tries from dummy-half alleviated the pressure from an often thrown-together playmaking setup (the Rhinos used 14 different halves combinations in their 27 games), and he was also the hero in Leeds' win over Hull in Newcastle, nailing a last-minute field goal to make it 25-24 to the Rhinos. Leeming's breakout year not only saw him selected for the Combined Nations All Stars in June, starting at hooker in their 26-24 over Shaun Wane's England, but he also retained the number 9 jersey in the end-of-season Super League Dream Team, as the sole representative from Leeds.

Rookies

20-year-old centre Jack Broadbent crossed the whitewash 13 times in just 19 appearances in 2021,

including a four-try haul against Leigh in July. After consistently good performances either side of a two-month ankle injury layoff, Broadbent was rewarded with an England Knights call-up for their match against Jamaica in October. Making his debut at just 17 against St Helens in the Challenge Cup, Morgan Gannon soon became a reliable first-team regular, making 14 appearances and scoring his first senior try in the 60-8 demolition of Castleford Tigers. The son of ex-Wigan legend Terry, Jarrod O'Connor also emerged as a tough utility forward who never took a backwards step. Six of his twelve appearances came as the starting lock forward, and there's little doubt he'll further cement his place in the side in 2022.

Looking ahead

The Rhinos' four off-season acquisitions are all vast improvements in the key areas of the team they've been bought for. Blake Austin and Aidan Sezer, signed from Warrington and Huddersfield respectively, took Canberra Raiders to within a few minutes of an NRL Grand Final in 2016, and having both made the Dream Team and representative appearances since arriving on English shores, they'd be a fair bet to take Leeds that one step further in the next few years and are a clear improvement on Lui and Gale at the base of the Rhinos scrum.

Likewise, treble-winning back-rower James Bentley, signed from St Helens, will add some much needed bite and big-game experience to Leeds' forward pack, particularly given the early retirement of Stevie Ward through concussion. The loss of Konrad Hurrell shouldn't be too big out wide either, given that the Rhinos have added his Tongan teammate, and acrobatic try-scoring machine, David Fusitu'a, to their roster. With him and Ash Handley on the flanks, and an Austin-Sezer axis providing attacking ammunition, many Super League backlines won't know what's hit them in 2022.

Current projected 2022 lineup

1. Richie Myler
2. David Fusitu'a
3. Harry Newman
4. Jack Broadbent
5. Ash Handley
6. Blake Austin
7. Aidan Sezer
8. Zane Tetevano
9. Kruise Leeming
10. Matt Prior
11. James Bentley
12. Rhye Martin
13. Liam Sutcliffe

14. Brad Dwyer
15. Alex Mellor
16. Mikolaj Oledzki
17. Cameron Smith

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Wakefield Trinity	W 28 - 22	Headingley	-
2	Castleford	L 10 - 18	Totally Wicked	-
CC3	St Helens	L 18 - 26	Totally Wicked	-
3	Wigan	L 6 - 19	Headingley	-
4	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 6 - 26	HC Craven	-
5	Huddersfield	L 13 - 14	J. Smith's	-
6	Wakefield Trinity	W 15 - 13	Headingley	-
7	Hull FC	L 12 - 18	Headingley	4,000
8	Castleford	W 60 - 6	Jungle	4,000
11	Salford	W 38 - 12	AJ Bell	-
12	Leigh	W 48 - 18	Headingley	4,000
13	Warrington	W 22 - 16	H. Jones	4,000
14	Catalans	L 18 - 26	Headingley	4,000
10	Catalans	L 18 - 27	SGB	4,800
15	Salford	W 38 - 16	Headingley	-
16	Hull FC	W 22 - 12	MKM	-
17	Warrington	L 26 - 27	Headingley	-
18	Castleford	L 18 - 32	Headingley	10,838
19	Leigh	W 46 - 10	LSV	2,818
20	Huddersfield	W 18 - 12	Headingley	11,110
21	Wigan	W 14 - 0	DW	11,390
22	Wakefield Trinity	L 13 - 20	Mob. Rkt.	-
23	Hull FC	W 25 - 24	St James	35,104
24	St Helens	L 6 - 40	Totally Wicked	12,568
25	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 36 - 12	Headingley	-
PS	Wigan	W 8 - 0	DW	7,396
S	St Helens	L 8 - 36	Totally Wicked	11,688

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 5th | Challenge Cup: Third Round | Played 27, Won 14, Lost 13 | For 590, Against 502 | Coach: Richard Agar (27 matches)
 Most Points: Rhyshe Martin (172) | Most Tries: Brad Dwyer (12)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	10	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	PF	SF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	WAK	CAS	STH	WIG	HKR	HUD	WAK	HUL	CAS	SAL	LEI	WAR	CAT	CAT	SAL	HUL	WAR	CAS	LEI	HUD	WIG	WAK	HUL	STH	HKR	WIG	STH	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
BRISCOE, Luke	W	W	W	W	W	B	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	B				B	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	21	3	4	-	-	16	
BRISCOE, Tom	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	C	W	C	C	C	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	27	-	8	-	-	32	
BROADBENT, Jack	C	FB	FB	FB	B	FB	FB		C	W	W	C											FB	FB	FB			13	1	9	-	-	36	
DONALDSON, James	B	B	2R	2R	L	B		B	B	B	2R	B	B	B	B	B	2R	2R		2R	B		B		B	2R	2R	9	14	2	-	-	8	
DWYER, Brad	B	B	B	B	B	H	H	B	B	H	H	H	H	B	B	B	H	B	B	B	H	H	B	H	B	H	H	12	15	12	-	-	48	
EASTMOND, Kyle				HB	FE																							2	-	-	-	-	-	
GALE, Luke	HB	HB					HB	HB	HB	HB			HB	HB		HB	HB		HB									11	-	2	3	1	15	
GANNON, Morgan			B	B			B	B	B	B	2R							B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R		7	7	1	-	-	4		
HALL, Corey		C		B																								1	1	-	-	-	-	
HANDLEY, Ash					FB	W	W	W				W			W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	18	-	7	2	-	32	
HOLROYD, Tom										B	FR	B	FR	FR			B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	B	4	12	2	-	-	8	
HURRELL, Konileti				C	C	C	C	C	C			B	C	W	C	C	C	C	C						B	B	B	13	4	2	-	-	8	
JOHNSON, Corey																									B			-	1	-	-	-	-	
LEEMING, Kruiise	H	H	H	H	H	HB	B	H	H	FE	HB	HB	FE	H	H	H		H	H	H	HB	HB	H	FE	H	HB	HB	25	1	10	-	1	41	
LUI, Robert											FE	FE						HB	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	11	-	5	-	1	21	
MARTIN, Rhyshe	2R	2R	FE	FE	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	C	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	24	1	3	80	-	172	
McLELLAND, Callum														B	HB	FE				FE		B						3	2	1	-	-	4	
MELLOR, Alex	2R	2R	C	C	2R	C	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R												15	-	2	8	-	24	
MYLER, Richard	FB				HB			FB	FB	FB			FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	HB	HB	HB	FB	FB	20	-	9	-	-	36
NEWMAN, Harry														C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	14	-	4	2	-	20	
O'CONNOR, Jarrod			B	B		L	L				B	B	B	B	L				L	L				L				6	6	-	-	-	-	
OLEDZKI, Mikolaj	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR									B	FR	15	1	2	-	-	8	
PRIOR, Matt	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR				FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	24	-	3	-	-	12	
SMITH, Cameron	B	B	HB	L								B	L	B	B	B	B	B			B	B	B	B	L	B	B	4	14	2	-	-	8	
SUTCLIFFE, Alex	C	C	C	C	C																				B			5	1	1	-	-	4	
SUTCLIFFE, Liam	FE	FE				FE	FE	FE	FE		FB	FB	C	FE	FE		FE	FE										13	-	3	-	1	13	
TETEVANO, Zane	L	L	L					L	L							L	L	L	FR	FR	L	L			L	L	14	-	1	-	-	4		
THOMPSON, Bodene	B	B			B	2R					L		L	L			B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	L	B	FR	FR	B	12	6	2	-	-	8	
TINDALL, Liam											B																	-	1	-	-	-	-	
VUNIYAYAWA, King			B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B		FR	B	B	FR			B	B	B	FR			3	14	1	-	-	4		
WALTERS, Sam			2R	2R		2R	B					B		2R							B				2R			5	3	1	-	-	4	

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench

LEEDS RHINOS

Established 1870
 Home Ground Headingley Stadium, Leeds UK
 (current name: Emerald Headingley Stadium)
 Super League 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017
 - Runners Up 1998, 2005
 Challenge Cup 1909-10, 1922-23, 1931-32, 1935-36, 1940-41,
 1941-42, 1956-57, 1967-68, 1976-77, 1977-78,
 1999, 2014, 2015, 2020
 - Runners Up 1942-43, 1946-47, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1993-94,
 1994-95, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012
 World Club Challenge 2005, 2008, 2012
 Most Points (all time) Kevin Sinfield: 3967
 Most Tries (all time) Danny McGuire: 267

Super League record: 2007-2021
 Matches Played 748
 Won 466
 Lost 285
 Drawn 17
 Points For 20525
 Points Against 15376
 Biggest win 86-6 (80 pts) - Jul 16th, 1999 - vs. Huddersfield
 Biggest loss 10-66 (56 pts) - Mar 2nd, 2017 - vs. Castleford Tigers
 Most points scored 86-6 (86 pts) - Jul 16th, 1999 - vs. Huddersfield
 Most points conceded 14-68 (68 pts) - Aug 9th, 1996 - vs. Wigan

LEIGH CENTURIIONS

SEASON REVIEW

By Jonathan Burnett



Leap of Faith in Leigh fails to pay off

The decision to enter the Leigh Centurions into Super League for 2021, following the demise of Toronto Wolfpack a year prior, raised more than a few eyebrows. The more ambitious, far-reaching options of London, Toulouse, York or a re-entry of Toronto were all examined by an RFL committee, however it was decided that the Centurions, who had spent a year in the top-flight in 2017, were the best candidates for a season set to be once again hampered by the covid-19 pandemic.

Even on early viewing though, entering an understrength Leigh side into Super League looked to be a bad bargain. The brightest point of the season was arguably the first half of their first game, racing into an 18-0 half-time lead against local rivals Wigan. However, the understrength Warriors clawed back the deficit to come out 20-18 winners, condemning Leigh to the first of many defeats – indeed, they lost their next SEVENTEEN games in all competitions, and didn't register a win in 2021 until late August – by which time, head coach Jon Duffy was long gone.

Proven to be a bad idea from the get go, the Centurions' middling squad never stood a chance against the more established Super League teams, and although their eccentric chairman Derek Beaumont will have received a lift after beating more enterprising candidates to the last place in the top division, Leigh's woeful season, which saw just two victories from 22 games and a swift relegation, will cast doubt over his club's ability to truly ever compete at the highest level.

Turning point

Round 1 – That aforementioned game against Wigan, in the season's first "Battle of the Borough", provided some hope that Leigh's promotion wasn't the worst idea. Tries from Ben Hellewell, Liam Hood and Iain Thornley saw Leigh open up a three-score gap over their local rivals, only to see it vanish in the second half as Wigan came roaring back to complete a 20-18 victory. If snatching that defeat from the jaws of victory wasn't disheartening enough, the Centurions proceeded to go on arguably the worst run in Super League history, losing 16 straight league games and being rooted to the foot of the table by round 4. By the time that they played Wigan again, in just round six, Leigh had been cut adrift at the bottom, and had conceded nearly 200 points already.

What worked

The New Signings (some of them) – Although assembled at a much shorter notice than any of the 11 other sides in Super League, some of the off-season signings Leigh made were effective, and aided the side's cause in the few positives they were able to achieve. Toulouse-signed lock James Bell shifted to the halves for both of the Centurions' two wins of the season, whilst mid-season arrival Sam Stone also proved effective on the edges in these two victorious games.

What didn't work

Everything Else – Let's face it, this Leigh side never stood a chance at making a splash in Super League in 2021. A rushed decision put them into the league – arguably unjustly – forced them into throwing together a weak squad that was never good enough, to compete with the rest of the top division's clubs. Coach Jon Duffy, out of his depth from the get go, was disposed of in early June, and although his interim replacement Kurt Haggerty did secure two wins, they both came following the confirmation of the Centurions' relegation, putting an end to a sorry tale.

Best player

Ryan Brierley – In his first season back at the club he'd been idolised at, the Scotland playmaker took to life back at the Sports Village like a duck to water, despite the acrimonious circumstances of Leigh's season overall. Ten tries and 98 goals, both highs for the squad, saw him emerge as one of the only shining lights, in a squad woefully inequipped for top-flight rugby league.

Rookies

Despite using 38 players throughout the course of the campaign, no appearances were made by

youngsters from the Leigh system – because Leigh's academy was only established in mid-2021. The launching of an 'academy establishment and management board' means that whilst the Centurions may produce youngsters in the near future, the only 'rookies' they used, Matty Foster and Tom Nisbet, actually made their professional debuts in 2020, for St Helens.

Looking ahead

Following relegation and a re-adjustment of the club's finances, again, a brush has been swept through the hapless 2020 squad, with a total of 24 departees. Some promising signings have been made though, including internationals Joe Wardle, Ed Chamberlain, Caleb Aekins, Ata Hingano and Nene Macdonald. Tom Nisbet and Keanan Brand also return to the club for a second crack at the whip in 2022, and the Centurions' aim for the upcoming season will be simple – an immediate return to Super League.

Current projected 2022 lineup

1. Caleb Aekins
2. Jy Hitchcox
3. Ed Chamberlain
4. Luis Roberts
5. Nene Macdonald
6. Ben Reynolds
7. Joe Mellor
8. Adam Sidlow
9. Aaron Smith
10. Mark Ioane
11. Joe Wardle
12. Lewis Foster
13. Sam Stone

14. Ata Hingano
15. Tom Amone
16. Chris Green
17. Keanan Brand

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Wigan	L 18 - 20	Headingley	-
2	Warrington	L 12 - 44	Totally Wicked	-
CC3	Huddersfield	L 18 - 36	LSV	-
3	Castleford	L 16 - 52	Jungle	-
4	Salford	L 8 - 34	AJ Bell	-
5	St Helens	L 12 - 22	LSV	-
6	Wigan	L 16 - 30	LSV	1,702
7	Huddersfield	L 6 - 44	LSV	2,008
8	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 16 - 40	HC Craven	4,000
13	Wakefield Trinity	L 20 - 30	Mob. Rkt.	4,000
9	Catalans	L 30 - 36	LSV	1,840
10	Hull FC	L 22 - 64	LSV	2,338
11	Warrington	L 18 - 44	H. Jones	4,000
12	Leeds	L 18 - 48	Headingley	4,000
17	Wigan	L 6 - 50	DW	9,206
18	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 28 - 34	LSV	2,541
19	Leeds	L 10 - 46	LSV	2,818
20	Salford	W 32 - 22	LSV	3,304
21	St Helens	L 12 - 42	Totally Wicked	8,221
22	Catalans	L 0 - 64	SGB	-
23	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 6 - 44	St James	25,762
24	Wakefield Trinity	W 26 - 18	LSV	2,905
25	Huddersfield	L 24 - 42	J. Smith's	3,867

LEIGH CENTURIIONS

Established	1878
Home Ground	Leigh Sports Village, Leigh UK
Super League	None
- Runners Up	None
Challenge Cup	A
- Runners Up	A
World Club Challenge	None
Most Points (all time)	John Woods: 1266
Most Tries (all time)	John Woods: 85

Super League record: 2005, 2017, 2021, Qualifiers 2015-16

Matches Played	95
Won	21
Lost	73
Drawn	1
Points For	1808
Points Against	3249
Biggest win	41-4 (37 pts) - Sep 22nd, 2017 - vs. London
Biggest loss	0-74 (74 pts) - Aug 7th, 2005 - vs. Leeds 4-78 (74 pts) - Sep 4th, 2005 - vs. St Helens
Most points scored	52-16 (52 pts) - Sep 6th, 2015 - vs. Sheffield Eagles
Most points conceded	4-78 (78 pts) - Sep 4th, 2005 - vs. St Helens

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 12th, relegated | Challenge Cup: Third Round | Played 23, Won 2, Lost 21 | For 374, Against X | Coach: John Duffy (20 matches), Kurt Haggerty (3 matches)
 Most Points: Ryan Brierley (98) | Most Tries: Ryan Brierley (10)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	9	10	11	12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	WIG	WAR	HUD	CAS	SAL	STH	WIG	HUD	HKR	WAK	CAT	HUL	WAR	LEE	WIG	HKR	LEE	SAL	STH	CAT	HKR	WAK	HUD	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ASHWORTH, Jack															B			FR	B			B	B	1	4	-	-	-	-	
BELL, James				B	L	B	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		L	L	FE	L		L	HB	L	16	2	1	-	-	4	
BRAND, Keanan	C	C	W											W	W	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	12	-	1	-	-	4	
BRIERLEY, Ryan	FB	FB	HB	FB	FE	FB	FB		FB	FE	FB	FB	FB	FE					FE	HB	FE	FB	HB	18	-	10	29	-	98	
BUTLER, Robert															FR			B	B	FR		FR	B	3	3	-	-	-	-	
EAVES, Joshua	B															H	H	H		H				4	1	-	-	-	-	
ELLIOT, Brendan								FB	B	FB	W				FB			W	W	W	W	W	W	10	1	3	-	-	12	
ELLIS, Jamie							B	HB	HB	B					HB		B					B	FE	4	4	1	1	-	6	
FLOWER, Ben			FR	B	FR	FR											B							3	2	-	-	-	-	
FOSTER, Lewis																2R	2R	2R		2R	B			4	1	-	-	-	-	
FOSTER, Matty	B																							-	1	-	-	-	-	
GEE, Matty	2R	2R	2R		B				B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B	B	2R					10	5	4	-	-	16	
GELLING, Anthony				C	C	W	C	W	W															6	-	2	-	-	8	
GERRARD, Alex		B		B	B	B								B	B	FR	FR	L	FR	B	FR	B	B	5	9	-	-	-	-	
HELLEWELL, Ben	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	C	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	C	2R	23	-	4	-	-	16
HOOD, Liam	H	H	H	H	H	B	H		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	B		B	H		H	H	H	17	3	4	-	-	16	
IOANE, Mark	FR	FR	B		B		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	B	B	B						10	6	2	-	-	8	
LOGAN, Jack																C	C			C		W	W	5	-	-	-	-	-	
MASON, Nathan	B					FR	FR				B	FR	B								FR		B	4	4	1	-	-	4	
MCCARTHY, Tyrone		B	L	L	FR	L	B	B	FR	FR	FR	2R	FR											9	3	-	-	-	-	
MELLOR, Joe	HB			FE						HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	FE	HB	FE		15	-	3	-	-	12	
MULLEN, Craig			C	C	FB					B		W	W	FB	W	HB	FE	W	B	B	B			10	4	1	13	-	30	
NISBET, Tom																					W			1	-	-	-	-	-	
PEATS, Nathan			B	B	B	H	B	H	B	B	B	B		B										2	9	1	-	-	4	
PETERU, Nathaniel	B	B	B	FR		B	B	B			B	B	B	FR										2	9	-	-	-	-	
REYNOLDS, Ben		HB	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE											11	-	3	14	-	40	
RUSSELL, Matthew	W	W		W	W	W		W				B	W	W		W	W		W		W			12	1	4	-	-	16	
SA'U, Junior						W	C	B	C	C	C	W	C	C	C	W	W		C	C	C		C	15	1	3	-	-	12	
SIDLOW, Adam	FR	FR	FR	FR				FR							B	FR		FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	11	1	6	-	-	24	
SIMM, Josh				C																				1	-	-	-	-	-	
SPENCER, Tom																					B			-	1	-	-	-	-	
STONE, Sam																		C	C		2R	2R	2R	5	-	2	-	-	8	
THOMPSON, Jordan	L	L	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R				B	FR	L	B	FR		B	L	B	2R	B	13	6	3	-	-	12	
THORNLEY, Iain	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C			C	C	C	20	-	3	-	-	12	
TIERNEY, Lewis	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W													10	-	2	-	-	8	
WALLACE, Blake	FE	FE	FB																					3	-	-	-	-	-	
WHITBREAD, Jai																					B	B	L	FR	2	2	1	-	-	4
WILDIE, Matthew		B				HB	HB	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B									2	9	-	-	-	-	

Position Key
 FB = Fullback

W = Wing
 C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
 HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
 HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
 L = Lock

B = Bench

SALFORD RED DEVILS

SEASON REVIEW

By Louise Woodward-Styles



It was Bob Dylan that once wrote the times they are a-changing and for the Salford Red Devils it's all change once more, as the AJ Bell Stadium hosts Salford for its 10th and almost certain final Betfred SuperLeague season in Barton.

Despite being purpose built by Salford City Council and Peel Holdings for the Salford Red Devils. The 12,000 capacity stadium was opened in late 2011. With a move to the Moor Lane area of the City to the Salford FC Stadium (Peninsula Stadium) as a near certainty the importance of finishing higher than 11th couldn't be more imperative. The Red Devils have never been in a steady financial position to be able to negotiate a deal to take control of the stadium instead from the start sharing the ground with Sale Sharks who have publicly announced they are seeking to gain control and purchase the stadium outright in partnership with Gary Neville's Salford City FC at the end of the 2022 season.

With the headlines undoubtedly focusing on *where* Salford will be playing rather than who they will be playing in 2023 it could be forgiven for not paying attention to the exciting recruitment and abundance of talent at Paul Rowley's disposal. The 2021 season held much pressure for a club whose trajectory has been on the rise in recent seasons thanks to consecutive final appearances in 2019 and 2020. Under Ian Watson and CEO Ian Bleasdale the underdog team from Greater Manchester finally had something to market and with a diligent board of directors and executive chairman Paul King managing the club and its affairs expect were indeed high.

It wasn't to be another season of progress as Richard Marshall and his side were lucky to avoid a catastrophic season winning only 7 fixtures and finishing 11th in the Table only 10 points above the relegated Leigh Centurions who's first of only two victories was a shock home victory over Salford to secure a 32-22 win. The dull and lacklustre Rugby was something Red Devils fans found little joy in and unsurprisingly calls for change were heard as early as round four. This disappointing defeat would signal the beginning of the end of Richard Marshall's Salford coaching career and it wasn't a huge shock with only 11 months of his tenure club and coach parted ways by 'mutual consent'. It wouldn't be unfair to say the 2021 season was always going to be one of immediate pressure for the successful candidate after all this was a Salford club that under Ian Watson had history reaching both the Super League Grand Final in 2019 and The Challenge Cup final in 2020. It was in November and controversially Ian Watson confirmed he had agreed terms with West Yorkshire club Huddersfield Giants taking with him Prop Luke Yates and much respected head of strength and conditioning Greg Brown.

The 2021 season would be one without long serving fullback Niall Ewalds who had agreed terms with Daryl Powell at the Castleford Tigers, the Halifax born star turned down an improved contract and a testimonial with the club he joined as a 15 year old. The departure of Ewalds was compounded by the loss of Joey Lussick who returned to the NRL with Parramatta, experienced loose forward Mark Flanagan retired. Fans favourite Gil Dudson joined the Catalans Dragons whilst forward Luke Yates followed Ian Watson to Huddersfield. 2021 was also the year when Club Captain Lee Mossop and vice captain Kevin Brown would hang up their boots for retirement.

Turning point

The Red Devils headed into this fixture with the real prospect of relegation having suffered back to back defeats, that shock loss to fellow strugglers Leigh was followed by a hammering as Catalans ran out 42-14 winners at the AJ Bell Stadium the week previously.

So when an under pressure, play off chasing Hull FC arrived in Salford on a Monday afternoon it was feared another defeat was on the cards, mercifully for Salford, the Black and Whites coached by former Wests fullback Brett Hodgson started the match with vigour but it was a second half defensive collapse that all but secured Super league status for Salford, Hull conceding 28 points in the final 22 minutes. Players player of the year Ken Sio and centre Krisnan Inu were too hot to handle. Ken Sio who finished the regular season at the top of the try-scoring chart with 17 grabbed four tries on this occasion for the Red Devils, whilst Inu landed 7 out of 7 conversion attempts.

What worked

The form of halfback Chris Atkin was a revelation filling in at interchange hooker, Atkin grew in confidence and strength scoring five tries, such was his impressive form he was offered and accepted a contract extension committing his future to Salford until at least the end of 2023.

What didn't work

Dan Sarginson's discipline. It may seem unfair to publicly point out, but such is the former Wigan man's importance to the team it was disappointing to watch as Sarge was given two three-match bans by the Rugby Football League's match review panel. The 28-year-old received two Grade C charges against St Helens and Huddersfield respectively leaving the team without his experience for much of the season.

Best player

High-flying winger Ken Sio was in scintillating form in 2021 finishing the year as top try scorer in the Betfred Super League with 19 tries in 19 appearances. Signing a contract extension until the end of the 2023 season, Sio picked up five awards at Salford's annual Player Awards evening and was named in the 2021 SuperLeague Dream Team.

Speaking on extending his stay, Sio said: "Salford have been good to me these last few years, and I'm really happy to be at this club for another two seasons and to continue playing in front of the Salford faithful."

One to watch

It was somewhat inevitable Rowley would bring Ryan Brierley to the AJ Bell Stadium having first signed him at Leigh Centurions as a 17-year-old and then bringing him to Toronto Wolfpack in 2017. The Scottish international joins his boyhood club from Leigh, Brierley being the standout performer an otherwise disastrous campaign for the relegated Centurions.

Rookies

Harvey Livett - a former Warrington academy product - joined the Red Devils in 2021 and is proving to be a handful for opposing teams and his ability to break the line will no doubt see him score more tries.

Looking ahead

"I want our players to understand what being a Salford player is about, both on and off the pitch. The support is phenomenal and quite often it does bring a tear to your eye when you come out."
- Paul Rowley

The announcement of Paul Rowley as head coach would come as no surprise to those around the club, after all the former Leigh hooker had already been part of a successful back room team at Salford, joining the club at the latter stages of 2018 being persuaded to take on a consultancy role under Ian Watson and that decision was rewarded as Salford reached the Super League Grand Final and Challenge Cup final in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

In 2021 Rowley working closely with Director of Football Ian Bleasdale, was appointed the Red Devils' head of rugby development, overseeing pathways for young players. Joining Rowley at Salford is someone who spent a large part of the 2021 Super League season at the deep end in Kurt Haggerty, returning to an assistant role after taking on the interim head coach position at Leigh following the departure of John Duffy.

Rowley's first signing as head coach couldn't have been better and was one nobody would have expected. The unveiling of two time Challenge Cup and Lance Todd Winning half-back Marc Sneyd on a three year contract caught everyone unaware.

A product of the Salford youth system, Sneyd made his Super League debut for the Red Devils in June 2010 against Warrington Wolves and went on to feature for Salford for the next four years before falling out of favour with then Reds Coach Brian Noble, who sent Sneyd on loan to Castleford Tigers. Sneyd joined Castleford Tigers on loan for the 2014 season. Castleford coach Daryl Powell described him as "...a quality player with the added benefit of an outstanding left-foot kicking game." That 2014 season Sneyd's breakthrough campaign in which he scored 7 tries and kicked 117 goals in just 31 appearances, and appeared in the 2014 Challenge Cup Final defeat by the Leeds Rhinos at Wembley.

Sneyd made 176 appearances in seven seasons for the Black and Whites and kicked 655 goals, putting him third in the club's all-time list, and won the Lance Todd Trophy in their Challenge Cup final victories of 2016 and 2017. Joining Sneyd is 24-year-old Brisbane Broncos halfback Brodie Croft, the former Melbourne Storm starlet won the World Club Challenge with the Storm and was a key member of the side that made the NRL Grand Final in 2018.

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	St Helens	L 6 - 29	Headingley	-
2	Hull FC	L 4 - 35	Totally Wicked	-
CC3	Widnes	W 68 - 4	AJ Bell	-
3	Catalans	L 6 - 42	SGB	-
4	Leigh	W 34 - 8	AJ Bell	-
5	Castleford	L 18 - 28	AJ Bell	-
CCQ	Castleford	L 18 - 19	Headingley	-
6	St Helens	L 0 - 28	Totally Wicked	4,000
7	Wigan	L 16 - 17	AJ Bell	2,033
8	Warrington	L 18 - 62	AJ Bell	2,306
9	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 4 - 40	HC Craven	4,000
10	Huddersfield	W 9 - 8	J. Smith's	2,352
11	Leeds	L 12 - 38	AJ Bell	-
14	Castleford	W 70 - 18	Jungle	-
12	Wakefield Trinity	W 24 - 14	H. Jones	4,000
15	Leeds	L 16 - 38	Headingley	-
18	Wigan	L 6 - 16	DW	9,434
19	Huddersfield	W 18 - 12	AJ Bell	-
20	Leigh	L 22 - 32	LSV	3,304
21	Catalans	L 14 - 42	AJ Bell	-
22	Hull FC	W 42 - 14	AJ Bell	-
23	Castleford Tigers	L 18 - 29	St James	35,104
24	Warrington	L 19 - 20	H. Jones	-
25	St Helens	W 26 - 14	AJ Bell	3,789

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 11th | Challenge Cup: Quarter Finals | Played 24, Won 8, Lost 16 | For 488, Against 607 | Coach: Richard Marshall (24 matches)
 Most Points: Krisnan Inu (116) | Most Tries: Ken Sio (18)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	CCQ	6	7	8	9	10	11	14	12	15	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	STH	HUL	WID	CAT	LEI	CAS	CAS	STH	WIG	WAR	HKR	HUD	LEE	CAS	WAK	LEE	WIG	HUD	LEI	CAT	HUL	CAS	WAR	STH	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ACKERS, Andy		H	B	B		H		H			H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H	15	2	3	-	-	12	
ADDY, Daniel	H					L	H		H								L	B	L	B	B	B	L		7	4	-	-	-		
ASPEY, Connor																							B		-	1	-	-	-		
ATKIN, Chris			FE		B	B	B	B	B	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	FE		HB	H	H	HB	HB	15	5	6	3	1	31	
BROWN, Kevin	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB									HB	HB	HB				L		11	-	3	1	-	14	
BURGESS, Joe											W	C	C				W	W				W	W	C		8	-	3	-	-	12
BURKE, Greg					B	B	B	FR	FR	L	B	B		L	L			L	B	L	L	FR	B	B	9	8	-	-	-	-	
COSTELLO, Matthew			C	C	C			C					C	C	C		C	C						C	10	-	4	-	-	16	
DAVIES, Ben											C	C		B											2	1	1	-	-	4	
ESCARÉ, Morgan			FB	FB					FB	FB	FB		W	FB	FB	FB				FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	14	-	7	3	-	34	
GREENWOOD, James					B	2R	2R	2R				2R						2R	2R						6	1	1	-	-	4	
HINGANO, Ata																B	B		FE		HB	HB			3	2	1	-	-	4	
IKAHIHIFO, Sebastine	FR	FR	B	L	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	B	FR			B	B								B	9	6	1	-	-	4	
INU, Krisnan	W		W		C									C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	B	B	11	2	3	52	-	116	
JOHNSON, Josh		B			B							B	B	FR	FR		B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	9	5	-	-	-	-	
KEAR, Elliot	C	C			FB	FB																			4	-	-	-	-	-	
LANNON, Ryan	2R	2R					B	2R	2R	2R			B	2R	2R	L			B	2R	B	B	2R		10	5	-	-	-	-	
LIVETT, Harvey	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	C	C		C	C	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	C	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			20	1	9	13	-	62	
LOLOHEA, Tuimoala	FE	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FB		FE	FE	FB	FB	FB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	22	-	6	-	1	25	
LUCKLEY, Sam										B	B		B		B	B		B		B	B	B	B			-	10	-	-	-	
LUSSICK, Darcy			B	B	B				B	B																-	5	1	-	-	4
MOSSOP, Lee	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR				FR	FR								12	-	1	-	-	4	
NORMAN, Dan														B				B	B							-	3	1	-	-	4
ORMONDROYD, Jack	B	B	FR	FR		B	B	B	B	FR		B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	13	8	4	-	-	16	
PATTON, Declan	B	B	H	H	H				HB	B	B	HB	FE	FE											7	4	2	3	-	14	
PAULI, Pauli	B		2R	2R			2R	B	2R		2R			B	B	2R	B								6	5	-	-	-	-	
ROBERTS, Oliver			B		2R	2R				2R		B	2R	B	B	B				B	B	B		2R	5	8	1	-	-	4	
ROBSON, Ellis																	B	B		B	2R	2R	2R	2R	4	3	1	-	-	4	
SARGINSON, Dan	FB	FB				FB	FB					FB					C		C	C	C	C	C	C	12	-	1	-	-	4	
SIO, Ken	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	W		W	W	W			W	W	W	W	W	W	20	-	18	-	-	72	
TAYLOR, Elijah	L	L		2R		L	L	L	H	L	L	L					2R		B				B	L	12	2	-	-	-	-	
WATKINS, Kallum	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C															9	-	1	-	-	4	
WELLS, Jack	B	B	L	B	L				B	B	FR	FR	FR			2R									6	5	-	-	-	-	
WILLIAMS, Rhys		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	21	-	5	-	-	20	

Position Key

FB = Fullback

W = Wing

C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth

HB = Halfback

PR = Prop

HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row

L = Lock

B = Bench

SALFORD RED DEVILS

Established 1873
 Home Ground Salford City Stadium, Salford UK
 (current name: AJ Bell Stadium)
 Super League None
 - Runners Up 2019
 Challenge Cup 1937-38
 - Runners Up 1899-1900, 1901-02, 1902-03, 1905-06, 1938-39, 1968-69, 2020
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Steve Blakeley: 1237
 Most Tries (all time) Niall Ewalds: 110

Super League record: 1997-2021

Matches Played 627
 Won 221
 Lost 398
 Drawn 8
 Points For 12499
 Points Against 17299
 Biggest win 62-4 (58 pts) - Sep 2nd, 2018 - vs. Halifax
 Biggest loss 16-96 (80 pts) - Jun 25th, 2000 - vs. Bradford
 Most points scored 70-16 (70 pts) - Sep 11th, 2016 - vs. Featherstone
 70-18 (70 pts) - Jul 11th, 2021 - vs. Castleford Tigers
 Most points conceded 16-96 (96 pts) - Jun 25th, 2000 - vs. Bradford

ST HELENS

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Ferguson



The defending Premiers had nothing but winning more silverware on their minds when the 2021 season began – and finished the season winning the Challenge Cup and complete a 'three-peat' of Super League titles. From 2019 to 2021, Saints have played 73 Super League games and won 60 of them – an insane success rate of 82%.

They are so far ahead of their competition that it seems unlikely that they could be usurped anytime soon. St Helens had the best defence in Super League in 2021 and ranked 4th in attack. Their attack rank seems low for a side that is so dominant, however when it really mattered in 2021, Saints could seemingly flick the switch for their attack and turn it on precisely when they needed it.

In the Challenge Cup Final, St Helens trailed Castleford 12-6 at halftime, but scored 20 unanswered points after the break to storm home 26-12 winners. In Super League Semi Final, Leeds had done rather well to keep Saints to just a 14-4 lead at halftime, but couldn't stop the attack from dominating in the second half, as St Helens won 36-8 and advanced to the Grand Final.

With 14 minutes remaining in the Grand Final against League Leaders Catalans, St Helens trailed 10-6, but a Kevin Naiqama try levelled the scores, before Lachlan Coote's conversion gave them the lead and essentially the Premiership.

Turning point

Round 10 – Saints lost 6-2 to Warrington in Round 10, their second loss in 4 Super League games. The loss could've been a catalyst for a form slump, however the impact of covid-19 on the League meant they got a week off following the loss, and a further week off when Castleford were unable to field a side. This meant Saints scored two and a half weeks rest and were handed a win without a ball being kicked, which turned out to be a genuine blessing for the side. St Helens would go on to win the Challenge Cup just 2 weeks later, while picking up vital wins over top outfits Wigan and Catalans. It also helped to freshen up their attack.

What worked

Defence. Conceding just a touch over 10 points per game all year is an amazing feat in the modern game. In 13 of their 27 games in 2021 (Including the Challenge Cup and Super League Finals), Saints kept their opponent to 10 points or less on 13 occasions. Furthermore, they only conceded more than 20 points just twice – Round 23 against Catalans, who won a tight and entertaining contest 31-30; and a fortnight later in Round 25 when they rested their stars and lost to Salford 26-14.

What didn't work

Nothing. Attack was reliable when they needed it, defence was constantly stingy, players all performed admirably, Saints won all the trophies available to win and maintained their place at the top of the Super League mountain. Superb season. They are the benchmark.

Best player

It's hard to go past Jack Welsby. The talented Centre deputised at Fullback, wing and in the halves throughout the year and was superb all season long. It was Welsby's third season at the top level, but the 20 year-old performed with the consistency of a seasoned veteran and the enthusiasm of a first season rookie. Alex Walsmsley also had an impressive season in the front row, while Lachlan Coote and prolific tryscoring machine Regan Grace all had very strong seasons too.

Rookies

Rookie half Lewis Dodd was given an opportunity to be Saints halfback halfway through the season when French test star Theo Fages suffered a season-ending shoulder injury. So good was Dodd, that he played 21 games in just his second season and gave the club a long-term halves option, allowing them to let Fages transfer to Huddersfield for season 2022.

Looking ahead

St Helens have undergone a bit of churn in their roster for 2022, however they will still be the team

to beat. Lachlan Coote, Theo Fages, Kevin Naiqama, Joel Thompson, James Bentley and Aaron Smith are all departing.

However the cavalry coming in to replace them are at the very least, equal in quality, if not better. Will Hopoate, Konrad Hurrell, Curtis Sironen, Joey Lussick and James Bell will all be at Saints in 2022. These new signing should see the clubs already strong attack become even more potent, while having no negative impact on their already tough defence.

Current projected 2022 lineup

- 1 – Will Hopoate
- 2 – Tommy Makinson
- 3 – Jack Welsby
- 4 – Mark Percival
- 5 – Regan Grace
- 6 – Jonny Lomax
- 7 – Lewis Dodd
- 8 – Alex Walsmsley
- 9 – James Roby
- 10 – Matty Lees
- 11 – Curtis Sironen
- 12 – Joe Batchelor
- 13 – Morgan Knowles

- 14 – Sione Mata'utia
- 15 – Joey Lussick
- 16 – Agnatius Paasi
- 17 – Louis McCarthy-Scarsbrook

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Salford	W 29 - 6	Headingley	-
2	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 25 - 0	Totally Wicked	-
CC3	Leeds	W 26 - 18	Totally Wicked	-
3	Wakefield Trinity	W 34 - 6	Totally Wicked	-
4	Huddersfield W	18 - 10	J. Smith's	-
5	Leigh	W 22 - 12	LSV	-
CCQ	Huddersfield W	23 - 18	Headingley	-
6	Salford	W 28 - 0	Totally Wicked	4,000
7	Catalans	L 16 - 20	SGB	1,000
8	Hull FC	W 34 - 16	Totally Wicked	4,000
CCS	Hull FC	W 33 - 18	LSV	4,000
10	Warrington	L 2 - 6	Totally Wicked	4,000
12	Castleford	W 24 - 0	Jungle	FORFEIT
13	Wigan	W 24 - 6	Totally Wicked	4,000
14	Wakefield Trinity	W 30 - 14	Mob. Rkt.	4,000
CCF	Castleford	W 26 - 12	Wembley	67,173
17	Hull FC	W 42 - 10	MKM	7,038
18	Catalans	W 34 - 12	Totally Wicked	7,758
19	Castleford	L 10 - 20	Totally Wicked	7,050
20	Wigan	W 26 - 2	DW	16,319
21	Leigh	W 42 - 12	Totally Wicked	8,221
22	Warrington	W 24 - 14	H. Jones	10,006
23	Catalans	L 30 - 31	St James	35,104
24	Leeds	W 40 - 6	Totally Wicked	12,568
25	Salford	L 14 - 26	AJ Bell	3,789
SF	Leeds	W 36 - 8	Totally Wicked	11,688
GF	Catalans	W 12 - 10	Old Trafford	45,177

ST HELENS

Established	1873
Home Ground	Langtree Park, St Helens UK (current name: Totally Wicked Stadium)
Super League	1996, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2014, 2019, 2020, 2021
- Runners Up	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
Challenge Cup	1955-56, 1960-61, 1965-66, 1971-72, 1975-76, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2021
- Runners Up	1896-97, 1914-15, 1929-30, 1952-53, 1977-78, 1986-87, 1988-89, 1990-91, 2002, 2019
World Club Challenge	2001, 2007
Most Points (all time)	Sean Long: 2627
Most Tries (all time)	Paul Wellens: 231

Super League record: 1997-2021

Matches Played	749
Won	530
Lost	204
Drawn	15
Points For	22413
Points Against	13924
Biggest win	78-4 (74 pts) - Sep 4th, 2005 - vs. Leigh
Biggest loss	0-70 (70 pts) - Jul 23rd, 2004 - vs. Leeds
Most points scored	78-4 (78 pts) - Sep 4th, 2005 - vs. Leigh
Most points conceded	16-74 (74 pts) - May 4th, 2001 - vs. Leeds



2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 2nd, Champions | Challenge Cup: Champions | Played 27, Won 22, Lost 5 | For 680, Against 295 | Coach: Kristian Woolf (27 matches)
 Most Points: Lachlan Coote (220) | Most Tries: Regan Grace (21)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	CCQ	6	7	8	CCS	10	12	13	14	CCF	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	SF	GF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	SAL	HKR	LEE	WAK	HUD	LEI	HUD	SAL	CAT	HUL	HUL	WAR	CAS	WIG	WAK	CAS	HUL	CAT	CAS	WIG	LEI	WAR	CAT	LEE	SAL	LEE	CAT	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
AMOR, Kyle	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	MON ON FOREFIT	B	FR	B	B	B	B		B		B	B	FR	B	B	2	22	2	-	-	8	
BATCHELOR, Joe		B		L		B	L	B	B	B	B	B		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	B	B	2R		2R	2R	12	10	3	-	-	12
BENNISON, Jon																									FB			1	-	1	-	-	4	
BENTLEY, James	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R														B	2R		2R	2R				9	1	2	-	-	8	
COOTE, Lachlan			FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB			FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB	23	-	8	94	-	220
DAVIES, Ben																									C			1	-	-	-	-	-	
DODD, Lewis			B	B	B	B				B	B	B		B	B	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	12	9	5	2	-	24
EAVES, Joshua																									B			-	1	-	-	-	-	
FAGES, Théo	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB			HB		HB											14	-	4	-	3	19	
GRACE, Regan	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	23	-	21	-	-	84
KNOWLES, Morgan									L	L	L	L			L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	17	-	3	-	-	12
LEES, Matthew	FR	FR	FR												B	B	B		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	12	3	-	-	-	-
LOMAX, Jonathan	FE	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE			FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE			FE	FE	FE	23	-	2	-	-	8	
MAKINSON, Thomas	W	W	W	W			W					W		W	W	W	W	W	W			W	W	W		W	W	18	-	9	17	-	70	
MARTYN, Shay																									W			1	-	-	3	-	6	
MATA'UTIA, Sione	L	L	L		L	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R		B	B	L		2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	20	2	5	-	-	20	
McCARTHY-SCARSBROOK, Louie	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR		FR	FR	B	B		B			B	B	B	12	10	1	-	-	4	
NAIQAMA, Kevin	C	C	C	C	W	W	C	W	W	W	C	C			C	C	C	C	W	W	C	C	C	C		C	C	25	-	10	-	-	40	
NORMAN, Dan												B													B			-	2	-	-	-	-	
PAASI, Agnatus	B		B	FR	B	B	B	B	FR	B		B			B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			B	B	2	19	-	-	-	-	
PERCIVAL, Mark	C				C	C	C	C	C	C					C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	19	-	11	-	-	44	
ROBY, James	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H			H	H	H	H	H	H	B	H	H	H		H	H	24	1	2	-	-	8	
ROYLE, Sam																									2R			1	-	-	-	-	-	
SIMM, Josh		C									C										C				C			4	-	-	-	-	-	
SMITH, Aaron	B	B					B	B								B		B	H					B	H			2	7	1	-	-	4	
THOMPSON, Joel	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R				B	2R	2R	2R	2R					B	2R			17	2	1	-	-	4
WALMSLEY, Alex	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	24	1	6	-	-	24	
WELSBY, Jack	FB	FB	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	W	C	C		B	B	W	B	W	C	C	FE	FE	FE	B	B	B	18	8	14	-	1	57		
WINGFIELD, Jake				B	B	L														B	B	B	B	L			2	6	-	-	-	-		

Position Key
 FB = Fullback

W = Wing
 C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
 HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
 HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
 L = Lock

B = Bench

WAKEFIELD TRINITY

SEASON REVIEW

By Wakefield Heritage



Trinity's Late Recovery after Coaching Change

As with most teams throughout the 2020 season, Wakefield Trinity suffered during the COVID affected season with form, injuries and spectator-less, neutral stadiums affecting all aspects of the club's performances. Thus, it was hoped for a better start, and progress to the new season, but unfortunately that was not meant to be.

Trinity released six players at the 2020 seasons end with Newcastle Knights' half back, Mason Lino, the main addition. With another COVID affected start, Trinity began with seven straight losses, including a Challenge Cup defeat, which was the worst season's start in the club's 126-year rugby league history. Once the crowds returned, in round seven, the wins started, with three successive home victories but just one win in the next eight games was too much for the club to endure and saw the end of coach, Chris Chester's, six-year reign. During his tenure, Trinity had achieved two play-off positions finishing fifth in 2017 and seventh in 2018 but it had been 'downhill' after this, with a 'one game shoot-out' with London Broncos to avoid relegation in 2020, and 12 wins in his previous 51 league games saw the end.

Chester was replaced by his assistant, Willie Poching, who brought an immediate turnaround with a win over third placed, Warrington Wolves, finishing with five wins in his seven games to earn the position full time.

As always money is tight at Belle Vue and as the pre-season starts and season tickets go on sale in late November, the club has released another nine players with seven new additions, with many former juniors named on the 2022 Squad numbers list. Of the 31 players named for the 2022 season, 16 have come through the excellent Trinity Academy and Scholarship ranks.

Turning point

Round 17. Trinity had won just four games all season and were on another four-match losing streak. After 13 minutes, at Huddersfield Giants, they led 18-0 but 'crumbled' and lost the game 18-22. That was the end of Chester's coaching reign, Poching took over and a week later defeated Warrington at home, holding on to win 28-22 after leading 20-0 after 56 minutes. Relegation was avoided after Hull KR, Leeds, Huddersfield and Hull were all defeated over the next six weeks.

What worked

David Fifita. The 'Big Bopper' played every game in the season, starting nine but performing admirably off the bench in the other 16, when the opposition were tiring a little after the first quarter. He not only led the club's 'tackle busts' and 'offloads' figures but also the whole league's and was the competitions second best forward in 'carries' and third best forward in 'metres gained'. He was also the club's joint top try scorer, the first forward to do so since 1980, and the first prop ever! Fifita is our most dominant prop forward in recent years. He is a great leader with the ball in hand, forever causing doubt in the defensive line and constantly breaking tackles. He is also part of a hard-working pack of forwards, and he could not cause the impact he does without the support of Arona, Ashurst, Batchelor, Battye, Crowther, Pitts and Tanginoa along with outgoing Kyle Wood and Westerman.

What didn't work

The crowd-less stadiums. We lost every one of our opening eight games when they were played 'behind closed doors'. The team respond to the roar of the crowd and the support of the North Stand fanatics, which showed with winning our first three games when Belle Vue opened, again. We eventually won seven of our ten home games with only Grand Finalists, Catalans Dragons and St. Helens, along with Castleford taking two points from Belle Vue.

Best player

Jay Pitts was voted as the Supporters Player of the Year, Player's Player of the Year, and the Club Man of Steel winner as well as topping the club's 'tackle count'. His all-action displays from the second row saw him make 730 tackles in his 20 league games which saw him fifth the competition overall. He also completed 130 'marker tackles', the best at the club and eighth overall in Super League. That's Pitts' season in statistics but he led by example throughout the campaign, leading from the front and was an inspiration to the youngsters of Batchelor, Crowther, Walker and Aydin throughout. Pitts initially joined Trinity back in 2008 but returned last season after eleven seasons away to give such a consistent season of performances.

Rookies

Lee Kershaw started the season as possibly fourth choice winger, behind Johnstone, Kay and Senior, but with injuries to his colleagues played a total of 19 games, scoring five tries and missing just two games between Round 4 and Round 26 of the competition. The strong running former Academy product improved in confidence as the season progressed often leading the line in 'game

carries'. He does have a few errors in his game but his partnership with England international centre, Reece Lyne bore fruit as the season progressed. An unfortunate knee injury in the penultimate game of the season will see him miss the majority of the 2022 season.

All Yusuf Aydin needs is time on the field and in coach, Poching, he may have found the coach that will give him that time. He played in four of the seven games of the season under Poching, and the strong tacking forward can only get better with time on the field alongside Fifita, Pitts and Arona. The former Academy forward, and current Turkish international, will be a vital cog in the Trinity squad in 2022 and with more defensive support arriving at Belle Vue he could well find that attacking spark that he showed in his junior days.

Looking ahead

As noted above, the 31-man Trinity squad for 2022 boasts 16 players that have come through the junior ranks and youth will be a big part of the club's future with Trinity never having the finances that can compete with top clubs in Super League. If we can steer clear of injuries, it just might be Trinity's turn to surprise a few in 2022. Under Chester we had developed an aging side and the 2021 season saw eight players over the age of 30 but three of those have moved on, replaced by the up-and-coming youngsters. We start the season with a new hooker in Liam Hood but stable half backs in Australians Jacob Miller and Mason Lino and there is still debate on where new signing Lee Gaskell will play. Die-hard fans are still looking for our first Wembley visit since 1979 and our first trophy of any kind since 1998 but despite the trials and tribulations at Belle Vue throughout the Super League era, the club start 2022 season with their 24th successive season in the upper tier of the English game.

Current Projected 2022 Line Up

1. Max Jowitt
2. Tom Johnstone
3. Bill Tupou
4. Reece Lyne
5. Tom Lineham
6. Jacob Miller
7. Mason Lino
8. David Fifita
9. Liam Hood
10. Tinirau Arona
11. Matty Ashurst
12. Kelepi Tanginoa
13. Jay Pitts
14. Lee Gaskell
15. Jordan Crowther
16. Jai Whitbread
17. Eddie Battye

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Leeds	L 22 - 28	Headingley	-
2	Wigan	L 6 - 34	Totally Wicked	-
CC3	Catalans	L 6 - 26	Totally Wicked	-
3	St Helens	L 6 - 34	Totally Wicked	-
4	Hull FC	L 14 - 20	KCOM	-
5	Catalans	L 18 - 38	Mob. Rkt.	-
6	Leeds	L 13 - 15	Headingley	-
7	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 28 - 12	Mob. Rkt.	4,000
8	Huddersfield	W 38 - 12	Mob. Rkt.	4,000
13	Leigh	W 30 - 20	Mob. Rkt.	4,000
9	Warrington	L 18 - 38	H. Jones	4,000
10	Castleford	L 12 - 18	Mob. Rkt.	2,262
11	Wigan	W 14 - 6	Mob. Rkt.	-
14	St Helens	L 14 - 30	Mob. Rkt.	4,000
12	Salford	L 14 - 24	H. Jones	4,000
15	Wigan	L 12 - 25	DW	5,555
16	Catalans	L 20 - 40	SGB	-
18	Huddersfield	L 18 - 22	J. Smith's	3,964
19	Warrington	W 28 - 22	Mob. Rkt.	-
20	Castleford	L 18 - 23	Jungle	4,897
21	Hull Kingston Rovers	W 25 - 18	HC Craven	-
22	Leeds	W 20 - 13	Mob. Rkt.	-
23	Huddersfield	W 32 - 18	St James	25,762
24	Leigh	L 18 - 26	LSV	2,905
25	Hull FC	W 44 - 12	Mob. Rkt.	-

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 9th | Challenge Cup: Third Round | Played 25, Won 9, Lost 16 | For 488, Against 574 | Coach: Chris Chester (25 matches)
 Most Points: Mason Lino (177) | Most Tries: Liam Kay, David Fifita (7)

Round																										SEASON STATISTICS						
	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	9	10	11	14	12	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
Opponent	LEE	WIG	CAT	STH	HUL	CAT	LEE	HKR	HUD	LEI	WAR	CAS	WIG	STH	SAL	WIG	CAT	HUD	WAR	CAS	HKR	LEE	HUD	LEI	HUL							
ARONA, Tinirau	FR	FR	B	FR	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	B	FR	FR				B	FR	16	5	2	-	-	8	
ARUNDEL, Joe				C	C		C			B	B	B	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	15	3	2	-	-	8	
ASHALL-BOTT, Oliver						FB	FB																			2	-	1	-	-	4	
ASHURST, Mat	2R	2R	2R				2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R				16	-	2	-	-	8	
AYDIN, Yusuf													B	B	B	B	L		B				B		B	1	7	1	-	-	4	
BATCHELOR, James	B	B	B	2R	2R	2R		B	B	2R	2R		B	H	L	B		B		B	B	B	B	2R	2R	9	12	4	-	-	16	
BATTYE, Eddie				B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	B	L	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	6	16	-	-	-	-
BOWES, Harry															B											-	1	-	-	-	-	
CROWTHER, Jordan	H	H	B	H	B		H						L									L	L	B	L	L	9	3	1	-	-	4
EAVES, Joshua						B	B	B																		-	3	-	-	-	-	
FIFITA, David	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	B	B	B	B	B	9	16	7	1	-	30	
GREEN, Chris	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B									B	B	FR		B		FR	FR	FR	B	5	10	1	-	-	4	
GREENSMITH, Ollie															C											1	-	-	-	-	-	
HAMPSHIRE, Ryan		FB		FB	HB								FE	FB		FB	B	HB				FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	12	1	5	3	1	27
JOHNSTONE, Tom	W	W	W									W	W					W	W	W	W	W	W			11	-	5	-	-	20	
JOWITT, Max			FB		FB	FE	FE	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB				FB	FB	FB	FB						14	-	1	-	-	4	
KAY, Liam				W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		B	FB	B	W	H	B	B	H	H	H	H	W		15	4	7	-	-	28	
KERSHAW, Lee				W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			W	W	W	W	W	W			19	-	5	-	-	20	
LINO, Mason	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	24	-	6	76	1	177	
LYNE, Reece	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C						C	C	C	20	-	5	-	-	20	
MILLER, Jacob	FE	FE	FE	FE			FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	21	-	5	-	2	22	
PITTS, Jay		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			20	-	5	-	-	20	
SENIOR, Innes	W	W	W	W									C	W	W	W	W	W	C	C	C	C		W	W	16	-	6	-	-	24	
TANGATA, Adam	B																									-	1	-	-	-	-	
TANGINOVA, Kelepi	2R	B	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	2R	2R	FR	L	FR	2R	2R	2R	2R	22	1	6	-	-	24	
TUPOU, Bill	C	C	C			C		C	C	C	C	C														9	-	1	-	-	4	
WALKER, Alex	FB																									1	-	-	-	-	-	
WALKER, Brad				B				H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H	B		H	H			B			10	3	-	-	-	-	
WESTERMAN, Joe	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		L				L	L		FR		L			17	-	3	-	-	12	
WOOD, Josh	B	B	H																					H		2	2	-	-	-	-	
WOOD, Kyle				B	H	H			B	B	B	B	B				H	B			B	B	B	B	B	3	12	-	-	-	-	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	

WAKEFIELD TRINITY

Established 1873
 Home Ground Belle Vue Stadium, Wakefield UK
 (current name: Mobile Rocket Stadium)
 Super League None
 - Runners Up None
 Challenge Cup 1908-09, 1945-46, 1959-60, 1961-62, 1962-63
 - Runners Up 1913-14, 1967-68, 1978-79
 World Club Challenge None
 Most Points (all time) Jamie Rooney: 980
 Most Tries (all time) Andy Mason: 96

Super League record: 1999-2021

Matches Played 639
 Won 232
 Lost 400
 Drawn 7
 Points For 13691
 Points Against 17716
 Biggest win 68-6 (62 pts) - Sep 14th, 2003 - vs. Halifax
 62-0 (62 pts) - Apr 10th, 2016 - vs. Wigan
 72-10 (62 pts) - Jul 22nd, 2018 - vs. Hull FC
 0-80 (80 pts) - Apr 11th, 2015 - vs. Warrington
 Biggest loss 72-10 (72 pts) - Jul 22nd, 2018 - vs. Hull FC
 Most points scored 0-80 (80 pts) - Apr 11th, 2015 - vs. Warrington
 Most points conceded 0-80 (80 pts) - Apr 11th, 2015 - vs. Warrington

WARRINGTON WOLVES

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Ferguson



The star-studded Warrington Wolves had a very strong season in 2021, as they finished the year in third place, sporting the second best attack (behind Catalans) and second best defence (behind St Helens). However when it mattered most, both their attack and defence went missing when they suffered their worst loss of the season in the Finals to Hull KR, going down 19-0.

Their next biggest loss was in the Challenge Cup Semi Final, when they went down to Castleford 35-20.

Those two blips, at the worst possible time, were the only real hiccups in their season. Warrington did not lose back-to-back games at any point in the season. They also attracted several big name players, such as English Test half George Williams and former Golden Boot winner and Australian Test superstar Greg Inglis.

While neither of those 2 stars played many games, it didn't stop the Wolves from having an otherwise stellar season in very trying circumstances.

Turning point

Half time in Round 22. Warrington came up against competition heavyweights St Helens in Round 22 and were leading 14-10 at halftime – the Wolves looked set to inflict a second loss on the champion Saints outfit for the season. But St Helens scored 14 unanswered points after halftime to storm home 24-14 victors. Warrington thereafter picked up a serious case of second-half drop-off-itis. They failed to outscore their opponents in the second half of their remaining 3 Premiership games and were again outmuscled in both halves of their only finals encounter for the year.

What worked

Jake Mamo – more specifically, Mamo at centre. The Australian back had always been regarded as a winger or fullback, but in 2021 made a near fulltime transition to the centres and was outstanding. He scored 15 tries in his 21 games at centre in 2021 and provided a real attacking weapon for the Wolves all year. Fellow centre Toby King also had a strong season, while Gareth Widdop had a much better season, playing in all bar 4 games for the Wolves.

What didn't work

Too many cooks – Warrington over indulged when it came to playmakers, forcing them to try and fit Stefan Ratchford, Gareth Widdop, Blake Austin and later George Williams into 3 spots. Austin's final season ended with him playing just 3 of the Wolves last 7 games, 2 off the bench and the other in the back row, so as to accommodate the arrival of George Williams. The move impacted the cohesion in the side at the worst possible time and it could be argued that it impacted Warrington's Premiership campaign early.

Best player

It's hard to overlook the genuine improvement in the Wolves performances courtesy of having a fully fit Gareth Widdop on the field. His direction, passing, kicking and running games were all very strong, while his leadership and experience was just as valuable. Jake Mamo's season was also very highly regarded, earning him Warrington's Players' Player Award. Stefan Ratchford, Chris Hill and Ben Currie were all consistently strong performers and the first picked every week.

Rookies

Teenager Josh Thewlis had a strong season, playing in 19 of Warrington's 25 games in 2021. The talented winger spent 4 weeks at Fullback and handled those responsibilities superbly as well. Centre Connor Wrench and back rower Ellis Longstaff both had solid second seasons and have plenty of potential to build upon.

Looking ahead

Wolves have lost two big players in Blake Austin and Jake Mamo, however the mid-season

acquisition of George Williams covers the loss of Austin. Warrington have also lost winger Tom Lineham, along with Sitaleki Akaolu, Samy Kibula, Keanan Brand and Nathan Roebuck. To counter though, Warrington has brought in Joe Bullock, Greg Minikin, Peter Mata'utia Oli Holmes and James Harrison. Adding to those acquisitions is rookie middle forward and Greek Test player Billy Magoulias from the Cronulla Sharks.

Warrington will again be one of the top sides in 2022 and should be a genuine contender for both the Challenge Cup and Super League Premiership, so long as they can win the big games when they are in the balance.

Current projected 2022 lineup

- 1 – Stefan Ratchford
- 2 – Josh Charnley
- 3 – Peter Mata'utia
- 4 – Toby King
- 5 – Matty Ashton
- 6 – Gareth Widdop
- 7 – George Williams
- 8 – Joe Philbin
- 9 – Daryl Clark
- 10 – Mike Cooper
- 11 – Ben Currie
- 12 – Oliver Holmes
- 13 – Jack Hughes

- 14 – Jason Clark
- 15 – Joe Bullock
- 16 – Matt Davis
- 17 – Billy Magoulias

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Castleford	L	12 - 21	Headingley -
2	Leigh	W	44 - 12	Totally Wicked -
CC3	Swinton	W	32 - 8	Heywood -
3	Hull FC	D	14 - 14	KCOM -
4	Catalans	W	24 - 8	SGB -
5	Hull Kingston Rovers	W	50 - 26	H. Jones -
CCQ	Catalans	W	16 - 6	Headingley -
6	Huddersfield	L	20 - 26	H. Jones 4,000
7	Castleford	W	38 - 14	H. Jones 4,000
8	Salford	W	62 - 18	AJ Bell 2,306
CCS	Castleford	L	20 - 35	LSV 4,000
9	Wakefield Trinity	W	38 - 18	H. Jones 4,000
10	St Helens	W	6 - 2	Totally Wicked 4,000
11	Leigh	W	44 - 18	H. Jones 4,000
12	Wigan	W	40 - 14	DW 5,537
13	Leeds	L	16 - 22	H. Jones 4,000
16	Wigan	W	21 - 8	H. Jones 8,014
17	Leeds	W	27 - 26	Headingley -
19	Wakefield Trinity	L	22 - 28	Mob. Rkt. -
21	Huddersfield	W	26 - 6	J. Smith's 4,017
22	St Helens	L	14 - 24	H. Jones 10,006
23	Wigan	W	10 - 6	St James 25,762
24	Salford	W	20 - 19	H. Jones -
25	Castleford	W	40 - 24	Jungle -
PS	Hull Kingston Rovers	L	0 - 19	H. Jones -

WARRINGTON WOLVES

Established	1876
Home Ground	Halliwell Jones Stadium, Warrington UK
Super League	None
- Runners Up	2012, 2013, 2016, 2018
Challenge Cup	1904-05, 1906-07, 1949-50, 1953-54, 1973-74, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2019
- Runners Up	1900-01, 1903-04, 1912-13, 1927-28, 1932-33, 1935-36, 1974-75, 1989-90, 2016, 2018
World Club Challenge	None
Most Points (all time)	Lee Briars: 2592
Most Tries (all time)	Mark Forster: 189

Super League record: 1996-2021

Matches Played	722
Won	389
Lost	319
Drawn	14
Points For	18675
Points Against	16536
Biggest win	80-0 (80 pts) - Apr 11th, 2015 - vs. Wakefield Trinity
Biggest loss	12-84 (72 pts) - Sep 9th, 2001 - vs. Bradford
Most points scored	82-6 (82 pts) - Mar 20th, 2011 - vs. London
	82-10 (82 pts) - Jun 8th, 2013 - vs. London
Most points conceded	12-84 (84 pts) - Sep 9th, 2001 - vs. Bradford

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 3rd | Challenge Cup: Semi Finals | Played 25, Won 17, Drawn 1, Lost 6 | For 656, Against 403 | Coach: Steve Price (25 matches)

Most Points: Stefan Ratchford (154) | Most Tries: Jake Mamo (17)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	CCQ	6	7	8	CCS	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	19	21	22	23	24	25	PF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	CAS	LEI	SWI	HUL	CAT	HKR	CAT	HUD	CAS	SAL	CAS	WAK	STH	LEI	WIG	LEE	WIG	LEE	WAK	HUD	STH	WIG	SAL	CAS	HKR	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
AKAUOLA, Sitaleki						B	B	B		B	B	B	B	FR		B	L	B	B	B	B	B			FR	3	13	-	-	-	-	
ASHTON, Matthew	B		FB		FB	FB													B	B			FB	FB	B	5	4	5	-	-	20	
AUSTIN, Blake	HB	FE	FE	FE			FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	B				2R	B		17	2	6	-	1	25	
BURGESS, Morgan																			B							-	1	-	-	-	-	
BUTLER, Robert		B	B						B					B		B										-	5	-	-	-	-	
CHARNLEY, Josh	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			W	W	W		22	-	13	-	-	52
CLARK, Daryl	B	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	B	H	H		H	H				H	17	2	5	-	-	20	
CLARK, Jason	B	B	L	B	B	B	L	L	B	B					B		2R					L	B	B	B	B	5	12	1	-	-	4
COOPER, Mike	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR		FR		19	-	2	-	-	8
CURRIE, Ben	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	24	-	10	-	-	40
DAVIS, Matt			B	L	L	L	B	B	B	L	L	B	B	L	L	L	B	L	L	B			H			11	8	3	-	-	12	
DEAN, Riley														B												-	1	-	-	-	-	
DORO, Eribe														B									FR			1	1	1	-	-	4	
HILL, Chris	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	24	-	2	-	-	8	
HUGHES, Jack	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	C	2R		2R	2R	2R	L	2R	2R	22	-	1	-	-	4	
INGLIS, Greg						C	FB	C																		3	-	2	-	-	8	
KING, Toby	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	2R	C	C	C	C	C			C	C	C	2R	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	22	-	13	-	-	52
LINEHAM, Tom	W	W	W						W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W			W		15	-	4	-	-	16	
LONGSTAFF, Ellis														2R				B			B	B	B	B	B	1	6	-	-	-	-	
MAMO, Jake		C	C	C	C	W	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	W	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	23	1	17	-	-	68
MULHERN, Robbie	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B		B	B		B	B	B	FR	B	B	1	20	-	-	-	-	
PHILBIN, Joseph	L	L	FR	B	B	B	B	B	L	FR	B	L	L		B	B	B			L	FR	L		L	L	12	9	-	-	-	-	
RATCHFORD, Stefan	FB	FB	HB	FB	FE	FE		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB		HB	HB	HB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	B	H	FB	22	1	1	75	-	154	
ROBSON, Ellis			2R											B												1	1	-	-	-	-	
THEWLIS, Josh				W	W		W	W	W					FB	FB	FB	FB				W	W	W	W	W	W	15	-	3	-	-	12
WALKER, Danny	H	B	B	B	B	B				H	B	B	B	H	B	H		B	H		B	H				6	11	6	-	-	24	
WIDDOP, Gareth	FE	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB					HB	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	20	-	10	31	-	102	
WILLIAMS, George																		HB	FE	HB	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	8	-	3	-	3	15	
WRENCH, Connor	C													C	C		B		C				C	C		6	1	2	-	-	8	

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench

WIGAN WARRIORS

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Ferguson



For as long as one can recall, Wigan had always been either the benchmark or the next closest team to it in the UK top flight competition, but in 2021 they came back to the field considerably.

That's not to say they had a poor season – far from it – they finished the regular season in fourth place and won 15 of 25 Super League games, while also reaching the Quarter Finals of the Challenge Cup.

But instead of Wigan constantly being regarded as one of the 3 dominant sides in a season, it was St Helens, Catalans and Warrington who took that honour.

A 5 game losing streak mid-season and a below-par 3 wins from their final 8 games of the season, saw Wigan limp out of Premiership contention in the first week of their finals campaign against rival Leeds.

The Warriors defence was reliably strong all year, however their attack lacked the crispness and potency of previous campaigns. Wigan averaged just 15.48 points per game in attack, the worst of all Super League sides as they scored just 2 points more than they conceded, despite winning 5 games more than they lost.

Wigan had some personnel issues which had some impact on their attack, but they cannot be blamed for the Cherry and Whites completely switching off in attack for the whole year. They passed 20 points in a game just 8 times in their 28 games in 2021 – there was even one stage when Wigan went 217 minutes without scoring a try.

Turning point

Round 8. After 7 Rounds of Super League, Wigan were the only undefeated team and had scored 158 points – an average of 22 points per game. But in Round 8 the Warriors were handed a heavy 48-0 belting by an impressive Catalans outfit. From that point on, Wigan won just 8 of 18 games, scoring a paltry 227 points at 12.61 per game and being kept to single figures on 8 occasions (9 including the finals)

What worked

The Warriors defence, especially on their own line, was like a wall for the majority of the season, especially as the season wore on. Their middle defence was especially good, making them a very hard outfit to post points against, as their last 6 games of the season showed. Leeds scored 14 and 8, Castleford and Hull FC were both kept scoreless, Grand Finalists Catalans were limited to just 8 points and Warrington – one of the best attacking sides all year, posted just 10 points.

What didn't work

Big name players – Jackson Hastings, Zak Hardaker and John Bateman failed to click, while George Burgess left the club at the start of the season so as to focus on his persistent hip injury which required surgery and a lengthy rehabilitation. Bevan French, Jai Field, Thomas Leuluai and Oliver Dildart all had disrupted seasons as well, forcing coach Adrian Lam to make some rookie players regular players.

Best player

Jackson Hastings – The talented playmaker gave his all every week, moving from his preferred role in the halves, to fill in at fullback and at hooker at various times in the season. Hastings' departure at the end of the season will leave a big hole in the Warriors squad which they will struggle to fill.

Rookies

Kai Pearce-Paul had a strong season and proved he will be a regular member of Wigan's campaign in 2022. A strong running edge forward with a great offload who will undoubtedly become a key point in Wigan's attack out wide next season.

Looking ahead

It's Wigan, they will be one of the top sides again. They will have some key personnel changes though, noticeably the loss of Test star Jackson Hastings, who will be returning to the NRL to link

with the Wests Tigers. Hastings won't be travelling alone to Concord though, as he will be joined by Test centre Oliver Gildart. Test player Tony Clubb will be heading into retirement along with Dom Manfredi, while Amir Bourouh (Salford) and Joe Bullock (Warrington) will be changing clubs.

Wigan have recruited well though, picking up talented young NRL half Cade Cust from Manly, as well as a pair of strong front rowers in Patrick Mago from South Sydney and Kaide Ellis from St. George-Illawarra. They've also covered the loss of Gildart by picking up the hulking Lebanese Test winger Abbas Miski, who is 6 foot tall and 100kgs. They've also picking up experienced winger Iain Thornley from Leigh, making for some very astute recruitment, clearly aimed at improving the attack of the side in 2022.

Current projected 2022 lineup

- 1 – Bevan French
- 2 – Jake Bibby
- 3 – Zak Hardaker
- 4 – Iain Thornley
- 5 – Liam Marshall
- 6 – Cade Cust
- 7 – Thomas Leuluai
- 8 – Brad Singleton
- 9 – Sam Powell
- 10 – Patrick Mago
- 11 – Willie Isa
- 12 – Liam Farrell
- 13 – John Bateman

- 14 – Morgan Smithies
- 15 – Kaide Ellis
- 16 – Harry Smith
- 17 – Kai Pearce-Paul

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	Leigh	W 20 - 18	Headingley	-
2	Wakefield Trinity	W 34 - 6	Totally Wicked	-
CC3	York City Knights	W 26 - 0	LNER	-
3	Leeds	W 19 - 6	Headingley	-
4	Castleford	W 22 - 12	DW	-
5	Hull FC	W 16 - 14	DW	-
CCQ	Hull FC	L 10 - 20	Headingley	-
6	Leigh	W 30 - 16	LSV	1,702
7	Salford	W 17 - 16	AJ Bell	2,033
8	Catalans	L 0 - 48	SGB	1,000
10	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 8 - 18	DW	5,018
11	Wakefield Trinity	L 6 - 14	Mob. Rkt.	-
12	Warrington	L 14 - 40	DW	5,537
13	St Helens	L 6 - 24	Totally Wicked	4,000
14	Huddersfield	W 16 - 12	DW	4,439
9	Huddersfield	W 14 - 12	J. Smith's	2,139
15	Wakefield Trinity	W 25 - 12	DW	5,555
16	Warrington	L 8 - 21	H. Jones	8,014
17	Leigh	W 50 - 6	DW	9,206
18	Salford	W 16 - 6	DW	9,434
19	Hull Kingston Rovers	L 14 - 26	HC Craven	6,230
20	St Helens	L 2 - 26	DW	16,319
21	Leeds	L 0 - 14	DW	11,390
22	Castleford	W 22 - 0	Jungle	4,729
23	Warrington	L 6 - 10	St James	25,762
24	Hull FC	W 10 - 0	MKM	10,003
25	Catalans	W 12 - 8	DW	12,852
PS	Leeds	L 0 - 8	DW	7,396

WIGAN WARRIORS

Established	1879
Home Ground	Wigan Athletic Stadium (current name: DW Stadium)
Super League	1998, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2018
- Runners Up	1996, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2014, 2015, 2020
Challenge Cup	1923-24, 1928-29, 1947-48, 1950-51, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1964-65, 1984-85, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 2002, 2011, 2013
- Runners Up	1910-11, 1919-20, 1943-44, 1945-46, 1960-61, 1962-63, 1965-66, 1969-70, 1983-84, 1998, 2004, 2017
World Club Challenge	1987, 1991, 1994, 2017
Most Points (all time)	Andy Farrell: 3107
Most Tries (all time)	Shaun Edwards: 269

Super League record: 1996-2021

Matches Played	756
Won	502
Lost	230
Drawn	24
Points For	20809
Points Against	13502
Biggest win	84-6 (78 pts) - Apr 1st, 2013 - vs. Hull Kingston Rovers
	84-6 (78 pts) - Apr 21st, 2014 - vs. Bradford
Biggest loss	0-70 (70 pts) - Jun 18th, 2005 - vs. Leeds
Most points scored	84-6 (78 pts) - Apr 1st, 2013 - vs. Hull Kingston Rovers
	84-6 (78 pts) - Apr 21st, 2014 - vs. Bradford
Most points conceded	0-70 (70 pts) - Jun 18th, 2005 - vs. Leeds

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Super League: 4th | Challenge Cup: Quarter Finals | Played 28, Won 16, Lost 11 | For 423, Against 413 | Coach: Adrian Lam (28 games)
 Most Points: Harry Smith (76) | Most Tries: Jake Bibby (14)

Round	1	2	CC3	3	4	5	CCQ	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	PF	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	LEI	WAK	YOR	LEE	CAS	HUL	HUL	LEI	SAL	CAT	HKR	WAK	WAR	STH	HUD	HUD	WAK	WAR	LEI	SAL	HKR	STH	LEE	CAS	WAR	HUL	CAT	LEE	Start	int	T	G	FG	Pts
BATEMAN, John	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R									B	B		B	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	16	3	1	-	-	4
BIBBY, Jake	C	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	C	C	W	W	W	W	C	C	W	W	W	C	W	W	W	C	C	C	W	W	28	-	14	-	-	56
BOUROUH, Amir																B	B	B				B	B					-	5	-	-	-	-	
BULLOCK, Joe	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	B		B	B	FR	FR	B	FR	L					B	B	B		B	B		FR	8	12	1	-	-	4	
BYRNE, Liam	B	B	B		B	B	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	1	24	-	-	-	-
CLARK, Mitch								B	B			B			B	B	B		B							B		-	8	2	-	-	8	
CLUBB, Tony			B	FR	FR	FR									FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR					FR		10	1	1	-	-	4	
FARRELL, Liam	2R	C		C	C	C	C	2R	2R	C	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	FR		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	24	-	9	-	-	36
FIELD, Jai	W																			FE	B		FB					3	1	-	-	-	-	
FRENCH, Bevan					W	W	W	FB	FB																			5	-	3	-	-	12	
GILDART, Oliver											C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C		C	C	15	-	4	-	-	16	
HALSALL, Samuel			C													W		L	W				W	W	W	W		8	-	3	-	-	12	
HANLEY, Umyla	W	W	W	W						W		W			W	FB		W										9	-	5	-	-	20	
HARDAKER, Zak	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	W	W	FB										B	FB	FB	C	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	18	1	6	19	1	63
HASTINGS, Jackson		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	FB		FB	FB	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	25	-	4	1	2	20
HAVARD, Joseph	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	L		B	B	B		FR	FR	FR	B		B	B	B	B	8	17	1	-	-	4
ISA, Willie	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C			C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C				C	C	20	-	2	-	-	8	
LEULUAI, Thomas	FE	FE		FE						FE	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE									13	-	1	-	-	4	
MANFREDI, Dominic							B	W	W	W																		3	1	2	-	-	8	
MARSHALL, Liam											W	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	16	-	7	-	-	28	
McDONNELL, James												C														2R		2	-	1	-	-	4	
O'NEILL, Bradley												B	B	B	B	H	B							B		B		1	7	-	-	-	-	
PARTINGTON, Oliver	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	FR	L	L	L	L	FR	B		L	L	L				FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	L	FR	23	1	1	-	-	4
PEARCE-PAUL, Kai									B		B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B	C	B	2R	B	13	6	-	-	-
POWELL, Sam	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H	H	H	H				B	H		H	22	1	3	-	-	12
SHORROCKS, Joseph	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	2R	L	B	H	H	H	H	B	H	B	8	20	2	-	-	8
SINGLETON, Brad	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR				FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	22	-	3	-	-	12
SMITH, Harry	HB	B	FE	B	FE	FE	FE	HB	FE	B	HB	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	25	3	3	32	-	76
SMITHIES, Morgan	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	L		2R		2R	L							2R	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	18	1	-	-	-	-	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	

CHAMPIONSHIP

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Compiled by Rugby League Project

APRIL 2021

Round 1	Fri	Apr 2nd	7:30pm	Featherstone Rovers	28	Batley	18	J. Smith	Millennium	-
Round 1	Fri	Apr 2nd	5:00pm	Halifax	47	London	14	G. Hewer	The Shay	-
Round 1	Fri	Apr 2nd	5:15pm	Oldham	28	Swinton	20	C. Worsley	Bower Fold	-
Round 1	Sat	Apr 3rd	7:30pm	Dewsbury	17	Whitehaven	8	A. Moore	Tetley's	-
Round 1	Sat	Apr 3rd	4:30pm	York City Knights	6	Toulouse	21	T. Grant	LNER Stadium	-
Round 1	Sun	Apr 4th	5:15pm	Newcastle Thunder	30	Widnes	30	M. Griffiths	Kingston Park	-
Round 1	Sun	Apr 4th	12:45pm	Sheffield Eagles	50	Bradford	12	J. Vella	Keepmoat	-
Round 2	Sat	Apr 17th	12:45pm	Batley	48	Oldham	10	J. Vella	Fox's Biscuits	-
Round 2	Sat	Apr 17th	3:00pm	Toulouse	24	London	0	FORFEIT	Ernest Wallon	-
Round 2	Sat	Apr 17th	5:30pm	Widnes	14	Dewsbury	22	C. Worsley	DCBL Halton	-
Round 2	Sun	Apr 18th	5:15pm	Bradford	27	Halifax	26	T. Grant	Tetley's	-
Round 2	Sun	Apr 18th	12:45pm	Swinton	6	Featherstone Rovers	36	A. Moore	Heywood Road	-
Round 2	Sun	Apr 18th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	29	Newcastle Thunder	20	J. Smith	Recreation Gnd	-
Round 2	Sun	Apr 18th	7:30pm	York City Knights	14	Sheffield Eagles	20	G. Hewer	LNER Stadium	-
Round 3	Sat	Apr 24th	4:00pm	Batley	48	Widnes	16	G. Hewer	Fox's Biscuits	-
Round 3	Sat	Apr 24th	2:00pm	London	38	Oldham	24	M. Mannifield	The Rock	-
Round 3	Sun	Apr 25th	7:30pm	Bradford	35	Dewsbury	14	S. Mikalauskas	Tetley's	-
Round 3	Sun	Apr 25th	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	48	Whitehaven	14	A. Moore	Millennium	-
Round 3	Sun	Apr 25th	3:00pm	Halifax	34	Toulouse	44	J. Smith	The Shay	-
Round 3	Sun	Apr 25th	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	24	Sheffield Eagles	16	J. Vella	Kingston Park	-
Round 3	Sun	Apr 25th	12:45pm	Swinton	16	York City Knights	64	M. Rossleigh	Heywood Road	-

MAY 2021

Round 4	Sat	May 1st	12:45pm	Oldham	16	Halifax	12	G. Hewer	Bower Fold	-
Round 4	Sat	May 1st	3:00pm	Sheffield Eagles	20	London	20	B. Thaler	Olympic Legacy	-
Round 4	Sun	May 2nd	7:30pm	Dewsbury	20	York City Knights	30	T. Grant	Tetley's	-
Round 4	Sun	May 2nd	12:45pm	Newcastle Thunder	16	Batley	28	A. Moore	Kingston Park	-
Round 4	Sun	May 2nd	3:00pm	Whitehaven	22	Bradford	30	J. Vella	Recreation Gnd	-
Round 4	Sun	May 2nd	5:15pm	Widnes	46	Swinton	10	J. Smith	DCBL Halton	-
Round 5	Fri	May 7th	7:45pm	Sheffield Eagles	18	Batley	30	G. Hewer	Olympic Legacy	-
Round 5	Sat	May 8th	12:45pm	Oldham	4	Whitehaven	36	S. Mikalauskas	Bower Fold	-
Round 5	Sun	May 9th	5:15pm	Dewsbury	0	Halifax	36	A. Moore	Tetley's	-
Round 5	Sun	May 9th	3:00pm	London	50	Newcastle Thunder	30	J. Smith	Trailfinders	-
Round 5	Sun	May 9th	11:45am	Swinton	22	Bradford	23	M. Griffiths	Heywood Road	-
Round 5	Sun	May 9th	3:00pm	Toulouse	70	Widnes	0	T. Grant	Heywood Road	-
Round 5	Sun	May 9th	7:30pm	York City Knights	12	Featherstone Rovers	16	C. Kendall	LNER Stadium	-
Round 6	Sat	May 15th	2:00pm	Batley	6	London	40	T. Grant	Fox's Biscuits	-
Round 6	Sun	May 16th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	0	Toulouse	66	J. Smith	Recreation Gnd	-
Round 6	Sun	May 16th	3:00pm	Widnes	14	York City Knights	35	G. Hewer	DCBL Halton	-
Round 6	Mon	May 17th	8:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	68	Oldham	0	J. Vella	Millennium	1,684
Round 6	Mon	May 17th	7:45pm	Swinton	18	Dewsbury	20	C. Worsley	Heywood Road	-
Round 7	Sat	May 22nd	3:00pm	Toulouse	66	Swinton	18	J. Smith	Heywood Road	186
Round 7	Sun	May 23rd	3:00pm	London	8	Bradford	33	J. Vella	Trailfinders	500
Round 7	Sun	May 23rd	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	0	Halifax	32	G. Hewer	Kingston Park	604
Round 7	Sun	May 23rd	3:30pm	Sheffield Eagles	18	Featherstone Rovers	50	A. Moore	Keepmoat	-
Round 7	Sun	May 23rd	3:00pm	Widnes	44	Whitehaven	6	J. McMullen	DCBL Halton	-
Round 7	Sun	May 23rd	3:00pm	York City Knights	34	Oldham	6	N. Bennett	LNER Stadium	1,000
Round 8	Sun	May 30th	3:00pm	Batley	26	Swinton	12	G. Hewer	Fox's Biscuits	930
Round 8	Sun	May 30th	3:00pm	Bradford	37	York City Knights	18	B. Thaler	Odsal	4,000
Round 8	Sun	May 30th	3:00pm	Halifax	8	Featherstone Rovers	16	T. Grant	The Shay	882
Round 8	Sun	May 30th	3:00pm	London	30	Dewsbury	10	A. Moore	Trailfinders	280
Round 8	Sun	May 30th	3:00pm	Oldham	18	Widnes	40	J. Smith	Bower Fold	-
Round 8	Sun	May 30th	3:00pm	Sheffield Eagles	25	Whitehaven	25	C. Worsley	Keepmoat	-

JUNE 2021

Round 6	Sun	Jun 6th	3:00pm	Bradford	31	Newcastle Thunder	12	J. Child	Odsal	-
Round 6	Sun	Jun 6th	12:45pm	Halifax	46	Sheffield Eagles	12	R. Hicks	The Shay	734
Round 9	Sat	Jun 12th	3:00pm	Oldham	28	Sheffield Eagles	32	M. Mannifield	Bower Fold	475
Round 9	Sun	Jun 13th	3:00pm	Dewsbury	12	Toulouse	56	B. Thaler	Tetley's	418
Round 9	Sun	Jun 13th	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	44	Bradford	0	A. Moore	Millennium	1,700
Round 9	Sun	Jun 13th	11:30am	Halifax	30	York City Knights	6	G. Hewer	The Shay	828
Round 9	Sun	Jun 13th	3:00pm	Swinton	30	Newcastle Thunder	36	J. McMullen	Heywood Road	455
Round 9	Sun	Jun 13th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	20	Batley	24	N. Bennett	Recreation Gnd	632
Round 9	Sun	Jun 13th	3:00pm	Widnes	22	London	24	L. Staveley	DCBL Halton 1,211	-

Round 10	Sun	Jun 20th	3:00pm	Dewsbury	24	Featherstone Rovers	68	M. Mannifield	Tetley's	792
Round 10	Sun	Jun 20th	3:00pm	London	46	Whitehaven	12	J. Smith	Trailfinders	250
Round 10	Sun	Jun 20th	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	40	Oldham	6	A. Moore	Kingston Park	1,087
Round 10	Sun	Jun 20th	3:00pm	Swinton	4	Halifax	34	N. Bennett	Heywood Road	-
Round 10	Sun	Jun 20th	3:00pm	Widnes	30	Sheffield Eagles	20	B. Thaler	DCBL Halton	-
Round 10	Sun	Jun 20th	3:00pm	York City Knights	20	Batley	22	T. Grant	LNER Stadium	-
Round 11	Sat	Jun 26th	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	68	Newcastle Thunder	12	N. Bennett	Millennium	1,750
Round 11	Sun	Jun 27th	3:00pm	Batley	12	Halifax	22	B. Thaler	Fox's Biscuits	-
Round 11	Sun	Jun 27th	3:00pm	Bradford	12	Widnes	25	S. Mikalauskas	Odsal	3,153
Round 11	Sun	Jun 27th	3:00pm	London	38	Swinton	24	M. Smail	Trailfinders	240
Round 11	Sun	Jun 27th	3:00pm	Oldham	4	Dewsbury	18	M. Rossleigh	Bower Fold	-
Round 11	Sun	Jun 27th	3:00pm	Sheffield Eagles	6	Toulouse	54	G. Hewer	Mobile Rocket	292
Round 11	Sun	Jun 27th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	37	York City Knights	12	M. Mannifield	Recreation Gnd	601
JULY 2021										
Round 12	Sat	Jul 3rd	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	63	London	14	S. Mikalauskas	Millennium	1,750
Round 12	Sun	Jul 4th	3:00pm	Bradford	30	Batley	16	A. Moore	Odsal	2,831
Round 12	Sun	Jul 4th	3:00pm	Dewsbury	18	Sheffield Eagles	18	M. Rossleigh	Tetley's	549
Round 12	Sun	Jul 4th	3:00pm	Halifax	17	Widnes	16	M. Mannifield	The Shay	1,232
Round 12	Sun	Jul 4th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	36	Swinton	22	J. McMullen	Recreation Gnd	746
Round 12	Sun	Jul 4th	3:00pm	York City Knights	26	Newcastle Thunder	28	N. Bennett	LNER Stadium	-
Round 13	Sun	Jul 11th	3:00pm	Batley	12	Toulouse	32	S. Mikalauskas	Fox's Biscuits	782
Round 13	Sun	Jul 11th	1:00pm	Halifax	14	Whitehaven	4	M. Rossleigh	The Shay	877
Round 13	Sun	Jul 11th	3:00pm	London	50	York City Knights	20	J. McMullen	Trailfinders	200
Round 13	Sun	Jul 11th	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	24	Dewsbury	12	J. Smith	Kingston Park	-
Round 13	Sun	Jul 11th	3:00pm	Oldham	22	Bradford	54	B. Milligan	Bower Fold	-
Round 13	Sun	Jul 11th	3:00pm	Swinton	22	Sheffield Eagles	30	T. Crashley	Heywood Road	501
Round 13	Sun	Jul 11th	3:00pm	Widnes	10	Featherstone Rovers	32	A. Moore	DCBL Halton	-
Round 7	Thu	Jul 15th	7:30pm	Dewsbury	10	Batley	38	M. Mannifield	Tetley's	1,021
Round 14	Sun	Jul 25th	3:00pm	Batley	42	Newcastle Thunder	12	M. Griffiths	Fox's Biscuits	932
Round 14	Sun	Jul 25th	3:00pm	Bradford	30	Featherstone Rovers	36	M. Mannifield	Odsal	3,708
Round 14	Sun	Jul 25th	12:30pm	Sheffield Eagles	28	Halifax	40	B. Milligan	Mobile Rocket	-
Round 14	Sun	Jul 25th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	28	Oldham	24	A. Moore	Recreation Gnd	920
Round 14	Sun	Jul 25th	3:00pm	York City Knights	46	Swinton	10	S. Mikalauskas	LNER Stadium	-
AUGUST 2021										
Round 15	Sun	Aug 1st	3:00pm	Dewsbury	18	Swinton	22	M. Smail	Tetley's	616
Round 15	Sun	Aug 1st	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	6	Toulouse	23	J. Smith	Millennium	4,021
Round 15	Sun	Aug 1st	3:00pm	Halifax	24	Bradford	21	A. Moore	The Shay	2,696
Round 15	Sun	Aug 1st	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	14	Whitehaven	20	B. Milligan	Kingston Park	1,647
Round 15	Sun	Aug 1st	3:00pm	Oldham	20	London	30	C. Smith	Bower Fold	-
Round 15	Sun	Aug 1st	3:00pm	Widnes	16	Batley	34	N. Bennett	DCBL Halton	-
Round 16	Sun	Aug 8th	3:00pm	Batley	13	Featherstone Rovers	28	A. Moore	Fox's Biscuits	-
Round 16	Sun	Aug 8th	3:00pm	Halifax	14	Newcastle Thunder	12	J. Smith	The Shay	1,541
Round 16	Sun	Aug 8th	3:00pm	London	6	Toulouse	66	S. Mikalauskas	Trailfinders	500
Round 16	Sun	Aug 8th	3:00pm	Swinton	22	Oldham	22	G. Hewer	Heywood Road	1,527
Round 16	Sun	Aug 8th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	20	Dewsbury	18	J. McMullen	Recreation Gnd	730
Round 16	Sun	Aug 8th	3:00pm	York City Knights	34	Widnes	20	N. Bennett	LNER Stadium	-
Round 17	Sat	Aug 14th	6:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	44	York City Knights	14	M. Rossleigh	Millennium	2,183
Round 17	Sat	Aug 14th	5:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	12	Bradford	36	N. Bennett	Kingston Park	1,168
Round 17	Sun	Aug 15th	3:00pm	Dewsbury	23	Widnes	22	T. Grant	Tetley's	726
Round 17	Sun	Aug 15th	3:00pm	Sheffield Eagles	25	Oldham	18	A. Moore	Keepmoat	379
Round 17	Sun	Aug 15th	3:00pm	Swinton	6	Batley	38	S. Mikalauskas	Heywood Road	842
Round 17	Sun	Aug 15th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	32	London	18	J. Smith	Recreation Gnd	792
Round 18	Sun	Aug 22nd	3:00pm	Batley	56	Sheffield Eagles	12	B. Milligan	Fox's Biscuits	859
Round 18	Sun	Aug 22nd	3:00pm	Bradford	30	Swinton	26	M. Rossleigh	Odsal	2,819
Round 18	Sun	Aug 22nd	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	64	Dewsbury	6	S. Mikalauskas	Millennium	2,115
Round 18	Sun	Aug 22nd	3:00pm	Oldham	6	Toulouse	34	J. Smith	Bower Fold	-
Round 18	Sun	Aug 22nd	3:00pm	Widnes	25	Halifax	6	T. Grant	DCBL Halton -	-
Round 18	Sun	Aug 22nd	3:00pm	York City Knights	30	Whitehaven	12	A. Moore	LNER Stadium	-
Round 19	Sun	Aug 29th	3:00pm	Dewsbury	22	Newcastle Thunder	43	G. Hewer	Tetley's	540
Round 19	Sun	Aug 29th	3:00pm	Halifax	48	Swinton	12	N. Bennett	The Shay	1,663
Round 19	Sun	Aug 29th	3:00pm	London	42	Sheffield Eagles	12	C. Worsley	Trailfinders	350
Round 19	Sun	Aug 29th	3:00pm	Oldham	10	Featherstone Rovers	48	M. Smail	Bower Fold	-
Round 19	Sun	Aug 29th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	64	Widnes	6	B. Milligan	Recreation Gnd	951
Round 19	Sun	Aug 29th	3:00pm	York City Knights	18	Bradford	36	J. Smith	LNER Stadium	4,000
SEPTEMBER 2021										
Round 20	Fri	Sep 3rd	7:45pm	Newcastle Thunder	16	York City Knights	29	A. Moore	Kingston Park	922
Round 20	Sun	Sep 5th	3:00pm	Batley	14	Whitehaven	22	M. Mannifield	Fox's Biscuits	922
Round 20	Sun	Sep 5th	3:00pm	Bradford	6	Toulouse	60	G. Hewer	Tetley's	2,445
Round 20	Sun	Sep 5th	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	54	Halifax	22	C. Worsley	Millennium	3,063

Round 20	Sun	Sep 5th	4:30pm	Sheffield Eagles	20	Dewsbury	24	J. Vella	Keepmoat	491
Round 20	Sun	Sep 5th	3:00pm	Swinton	32	London	34	C. Smith	Heywood Road	542
Round 20	Sun	Sep 5th	3:00pm	Widnes	62	Oldham	4	M. Rossleigh	DCBL Halton	-
Round 21	Sun	Sep 12th	3:00pm	Batley	24	Dewsbury	31	B. Thaler	Fox's Biscuits	-
Round 21	Sun	Sep 12th	3:00pm	London	28	Featherstone Rovers	48	N. Bennett	Traillfinders	-
Round 21	Sun	Sep 12th	3:00pm	Oldham	24	Newcastle Thunder	38	J. Smith	Bower Fold	-
Round 21	Sun	Sep 12th	4:30pm	Sheffield Eagles	28	Swinton	34	G. Hewer	Keepmoat	-
Round 21	Sun	Sep 12th	3:00pm	Whitehaven	19	Halifax	6	A. Moore	Recreation Gnd	1,258
Round 21	Sun	Sep 12th	3:00pm	Widnes	10	Bradford	9	M. Griffiths	DCBL Halton	-
Round 22	Sat	Sep 18th	3:00pm	Newcastle Thunder	12	Toulouse	82	C. Worsley	Kingston Park	428
Round 22	Sun	Sep 19th	3:00pm	Bradford	22	Whitehaven	36	A. Moore	Odsal	5,340
Round 22	Sun	Sep 19th	3:00pm	Dewsbury	21	Oldham	14	M. Rossleigh	Tetley's	827
Round 22	Sun	Sep 19th	3:00pm	Featherstone Rovers	78	Sheffield Eagles	10	B. Milligan	Millennium	1,750
Round 22	Sun	Sep 19th	3:00pm	Halifax	10	Batley	12	J. Smith	The Shay	2,216
Round 22	Sun	Sep 19th	3:00pm	Swinton	16	Widnes	26	G. Hewer	Olympic Legacy	1,358
Round 22	Sun	Sep 19th	3:00pm	York City Knights	32	London	22	S. Mikalauskas	LNER Stadium	-
Prelim Semi	Sat	Sep 25th	3:15pm	Batley	23	Bradford	10	J. Child	Fox's Biscuits	-
Prelim Semi	Sat	Sep 25th	5:30pm	Halifax	24	Whitehaven	20	C. Kendall	The Shay	-

OCTOBER 2021

Semi Final	Sat	Oct 2nd	5:30pm	Featherstone Rovers	42	Halifax	10	R. Hicks	Millennium	-
Semi Final	Sat	Oct 2nd	3:15pm	Toulouse	51	Batley	12	L. Moore	Ernest Wallon	6,871

Million Pound Game - winner promoted to Super League 2022

MPG	Sun	Oct 10th	6:00pm	Toulouse	34	Featherstone Rovers	12	R. Hicks	Ernest Wallon	9,235
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2021 CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Pos	Team	Home							Away							Overall								
		P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	Pts	WP
1	Toulouse	3	3	-	-	160	18	142	11	11	-	-	538	106	432	14	14	-	-	698	124	574	28	100%
2	Featherstone Rovers	11	10	1	-	565	133	432	10	10	-	-	378	159	219	21	20	1	-	943	292	651	38*	90%
3	Halifax	11	8	3	-	292	169	123	10	5	5	-	236	185	51	21	13	8	-	528	354	174	26	62%
4	Batley	11	5	6	-	301	237	64	10	8	2	-	260	174	86	21	13	8	-	561	411	150	26	62%
5	Bradford	10	6	4	-	260	269	-9	10	6	4	-	254	232	22	20	12	8	-	514	501	13	24	60%
6	Whitehaven	11	8	3	-	307	246	61	11	4	6	1	195	278	-83	22	12	9	1	502	524	-22	25	55%
7	London	10	7	3	-	336	279	57	10	4	5	1	216	298	-82	20	11	8	1	552	577	-25	21*	53%
8	Widnes	11	6	5	-	293	202	91	10	3	6	1	201	332	-131	21	9	11	1	494	534	-40	19	43%
9	York City Knights	11	5	6	-	272	213	59	9	4	5	-	228	264	-36	20	9	11	-	500	477	23	18	45%
10	Dewsbury	11	3	7	1	185	355	-170	10	5	5	-	175	253	-78	21	8	12	1	360	608	-248	17	38%
11	Newcastle Thunder	10	3	6	1	188	291	-103	10	4	6	-	243	336	-93	20	7	12	1	431	627	-196	15	35%
12	Sheffield Eagles	10	2	6	2	238	307	-69	10	3	6	1	182	358	-176	20	5	12	3	420	665	-245	13	25%
13	Oldham	11	2	9	-	180	362	-182	10	-	9	1	128	386	-258	21	2	18	1	308	748	-440	5	10%
14	Swinton	11	-	10	1	194	363	-169	11	2	9	-	210	410	-200	22	2	19	1	404	773	-369	5	9%

Promoted to Super League (winners of Million Pound Game):
Relegated to League 1 (13th and 14th place):

Toulouse
Oldham, Swinton

* 2 points deducted for breach of RFL Operational Rules

2021 LEAGUE 1 STANDINGS

Pos	Team	Home							Away							Overall								
		P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	P	W	L	D	F	A	PD	Pts	WP
1	Barrow	9	8	-	1	373	106	267	8	5	3	-	223	169	54	17	13	3	1	596	275	321	27	76%
2	Workington Town	7	4	3	-	240	162	78	8	6	1	1	231	150	81	15	10	4	1	471	312	159	21	67%
3	North Wales	9	6	3	-	279	202	77	8	5	3	-	260	208	52	17	11	6	-	539	410	129	22	65%
4	Keighley	9	7	2	-	362	161	201	9	4	4	1	250	224	26	18	11	6	1	612	385	227	23	61%
5	Doncaster	8	6	2	-	254	175	79	9	3	3	3	218	217	1	17	9	5	3	472	392	80	21	53%
6	Hunslet Hawks	9	4	3	2	272	197	75	9	5	3	1	292	238	54	18	9	6	3	564	435	129	21	50%
7	Rochdale Hornets	8	5	2	1	278	186	92	9	3	6	-	227	302	-75	17	8	8	1	505	488	17	17	47%
8	Coventry Bears	9	4	5	-	248	288	-40	8	2	6	-	157	244	-87	17	6	11	-	405	532	-127	12	35%
9	London Skolars	9	1	7	1	188	297	-109	9	2	7	-	184	308	-124	18	3	14	1	372	605	-233	7	17%
10	West Wales	9	-	8	1	130	378	-248	9	-	9	-	110	564	-454	18	0	17	1	240	942	-702	1	0%

Promoted to Championship (1st place):
Promoted to Championship (won playoff final):

Barrow
Workington Town

FRENCH REVOLUTION COMPLETE AS TOULOUSE DOWN FEATHERSTONE TO EARN PROMOTION

by Tim Costello

Super League will have two French teams in its ranks for the first time in 2022 after Toulouse Olympique claimed promotion to the elite tier on Sunday, with a 34-12 win over fellow aspirants Featherstone at Stade Ernest Wallon.



The French club will replace the Leigh Centurions next season after their 26-point victory at home, which wrapped up an undefeated (albeit shortened) season. With COVID-19 border closures and restrictions still wreaking havoc in 2021, Toulouse were restricted to just 14 regular season games - the lions share of which were played in the UK.

Sunday's Million Pound Game was never really in doubt - apart from a momentary comeback from Featherstone, it was a French tide from the opening minutes. Toulouse rushed to a 16-0 lead with Remi Casty and Harrison Hansen starring, after just 24 minutes. Precision kicking and good forward movement meant the Rovers were always on the back foot.

They took the lead into halftime before Featherstone's mini-comeback happened - a 53rd minute try to Brett Ferres (converted by Craig Hall) narrowed the gap to six. It was short-lived joy for the Championship's perennial bridesmaids - Toulouse's Mathieu Jussaume crossed six minutes later.

Featherstone did grab another try in the 67th minute, but a late flurry of tries from Toulouse through Mark Kheirallah (who picked up 14 points on the day) and Jonathon Ford secured the result.

The win sees Toulouse join their southern compatriots Catalans in the 2022 Super League, setting up a "local derby" in France for the first time at the top level. On the flipside, it's another case of so-close-yet-so-far for the Rovers, who've now lost multiple promotion finals in the last decade.

Date	Sunday, October 10th, 2021
Kick Off	6:00 PM (local time)
Referee	Robert Hicks
Venue	Stade Ernest Wallon (Toulouse)
Crowd	9,235

Toulouse Olympique

Featherstone Rovers

34

12

Match Scoresheet

Halftime Score	16	0
Tries	Mathieu Jussaume (2) Jonathan Ford Mark Kheirallah Latrell Schaumkel	John Davies Brett Ferres
Goals	Mark Kheirallah (7)	Craig Hall (2)

Teams

Fullback	Mark Kheirallah	Alex Walker
Wing	Jy Hitchcox	Gareth Gale
Centre	Mathieu Jussaume	Josh Hardcastle
Centre	Junior Vaivai	Kris Welham
Wing	Latrell Schaumkel	Craig Hall
Five-Eighth	Jonathan Ford	Dane Chisholm
Halfback	Tony Gigot	Fa'amanu Brown
Front Row	Harrison Hansen	James Lockwood (c)
Hooker	Lloyd White	Connor Jones
Front Row	Rémi Casty (c)	Craig Kopczak
Second Row	Dominique Peyroux	Brett Ferres
Second Row	Joe Bretherton	Frankie Halton
Lock	Anthony Marion	Callum Field
Bench	Éloi Pélissier	Dean Parata
Bench	Mitch Garbutt	John Davies
Bench	Joseph Paulo	Jack Bussey
Bench	Justin Sangaré	Dale Ferguson
Coach	Sylvain Houles	James Webster

LEAGUE 1 PLAYOFF FINAL WORKINGTON TOWN 36 DONCASTER 12

WORKINGTON TOWN (36)

Tries: Joe Brown, Conor Fitzsimmons, Carl Forber, Matty Henson, Marcus O'Brien, Brad Holroyd; Goals: Carl Forber 6

DONCASTER RLFC (12)

Tries: Liam Johnson, Ollie Greensmith
Goals: Matty Beharrel 2

Venue: Derwent Park

Date: Sunday 10 October 2021, 1pm

Referee: Tom Grant



WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL ST HELENS 28 LEEDS 0

ST HELENS (28)

Tries: Leah Burke 2, Jodie Cunningham, Amy Hardcastle, Zoe Harris, Danielle Bush
Goals: Beth Stott 2

LEEDS RHINOS (0)

No scorers

Venue: Emerald Headingley Stadium

Date: Sunday 10 October, 3pm

Referee: Robert Hicks



WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE SHIELD FINAL HUDDERSFIELD 24 FEATHERSTONE 22

HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS (24)

Tries: Francesca Townsend, Bridget Campbell, Amelia Brown 2; Goals: Francesca Townsend 4

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS (22)

Tries: Chloe Billington, Olivia Grace, Brogan Churm 2
Goals: Katherine Hepworth 3

Venue: Emerald Headingley Stadium

Date: Sunday 10 October, 12pm

Referee: Nick Bennett



BATLEY BULLDOGS

SEASON REVIEW

By [Johnathon Burnett](#)



Lingard finally lets Dogs off the leash in 2021

Craig Lingard took charge of Batley ahead of the 2020 season, but due to the Covid-19 lockdowns last year, managed only five games before the season was curtailed entirely. This year though, he got a much firmer crack at the whip, and by the end of 2021 was the Championship Coach of the Year. The Bulldogs finished in a lofty fourth position, once again showing their ability to punch well above their weight and match teams with far greater resources.

With crowds returning after the end of the UK's Covid-19 lockdown, the small but fiercely loyal Batley faithful turned out to watch their side consolidate their place in the play-offs – the Bulldogs didn't drop below 6th in the league after the return of fans and climbed as high as second on more than one occasion.

By the time it came to the play-offs, Batley showed that their bite was as hard as their bark, particularly against Bradford. Although they beat Batley 30-16 at Odsal in July, the Bulls' visit to Mount Pleasant was not one to be remembered. The Bulldogs dominated the game and ran out 23-10 winners, capped off by part-time Bulls marketing employee Elliot Hall scoring the last try to dump Bradford out of the play-offs and send Batley to within 80 minutes of the Million Pound Game. The semi-final, against league leaders Toulouse, proved to be a bridge too far though. The first game back in France for a star-studded Toulouse team, and at the historic Stade Ernest-Wallon no less, saw the Bulldogs well beaten by a score of 51-12. Batley went into the sheds at half-time just four points down, but the Olympique showed their class in the second half, scoring 35 unanswered points to storm into the promotion decider, which they also won against Batley's West Yorkshire rivals Featherstone.

Turning point

Late June and early July suggested that Batley's strong start to the year might be tailing off. After three losses on the bounce to Halifax, Bradford and Toulouse, the Bulldogs had dropped from 2nd to 6th in the table and were in serious danger of dropping out of the play-offs. A short trip up the B6128 to local rivals Dewsbury lay in wait, and Lingard's Bulldogs tore into the Rams at Tetley's Stadium. Two tries apiece for hooker Alistair Leak and on-loan Leeds centre Levi Edwards set the tone for a 38-10 drubbing in the Heavy Woollen derby, which sent Batley back up to fourth in the table. They won three on the bounce after this and remained rooted in fourth right up until the play-offs.

What worked

In a league made up of mostly part-time teams, creating long-lasting combinations that last for season upon season is always difficult. Work commitments can force players to relocate, train differently, and, if necessary, give up the sport altogether. With coronavirus exacerbating these issues tenfold, as well as limiting team travel, it was difficult for teams in Batley's position to bring together those combinations. But wow, didn't Batley excel in this department. With Luke Hooley and Elliot Hall rotating at the back, halves Ben White and Tom Gilmore orchestrated Batley's attacking gameplan so seamlessly that at times, you'd think they were pulling the strings for a representative side. The two halves, both signed ahead of the 2020 and 2021 seasons respectively, gelled immediately, and with expert finishers Johnny Campbell, Jodie Broughton and Greg Johnson all spending time on the wings, it was often raining tries for the Bulldogs as they scored the third-most points in the division.

What didn't work

Closing Out Games – Half of the 10 games Batley lost in 2021 were by 10 or less points, and in three of those, the Bulldogs were ahead at half-time. The Bulldogs also survived a few scares in the games they did win, particularly in the May/June wins over Swinton and Whitehaven respectively, and Craig Lingard will know that ensuring Batley don't leave themselves vulnerable to comebacks will see them improve further in 2022.

Best player

Ex-Viking Tom Gilmore moved from Halifax after only a handful of appearances at the Shay in the curtailed 2020 season and took to the Batley setup like a duck to water. His 24 appearances, second only to his halves partner White, who made 25, hailed 3 tries, 53 goals, and two field goals, one of which sealed that commanding 23-10 win over Bradford in the finals. The Dogs' number 7, still only 27, will hopefully be focal point of the side at Mount Pleasant for years to come.

Rookies

Many of the side's young players came via loans from Super League club Leeds Rhinos. Oliver Burton, Oli Field, and Levi Edwards all impressed in their spells at Batley throughout the season, with Edwards scoring 4 tries in just 5 appearances from the Bulldogs. George Senior and Aidan Ineson, both signed from local community clubs Dewsbury Celtic and Dewsbury Moor respectively, also played their part in Batley's strong season, with Senior in particular slotting in wherever needed, either from the bench, the back-row, or in the centres.

Looking ahead

With Lingard awarded coach of the year for his and his side's efforts in 2021, building on that will be both exciting and challenging. As the more monied Championship sides step up their recruitment to push for a Super League place, Batley have made some handy acquisitions themselves. Fullback James Meadows has been brought in from London after a very impressive season in the capital. Furthermore, utility centre/wing/back row Perry Whiteley will come in from York, and Burton's loan from Leeds has been made permanent.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. James Meadows
2. Perry Whiteley
3. Kieran Buchanan
4. Dale Morton
5. Johnny Campbell
6. Ben White
7. Tom Gilmore
8. Toby Everett
9. Ben Kaye
10. James Brown
11. Dane Manning
12. Lucas Walshaw
13. Jack Blagbrough

14. Luke Hooley
15. Adam Gledhill
16. Tom Lillycrop
17. George Senior

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Halifax	W 19 - 6	The Shay	-
CC2	Featherstone Rovers	L 22 - 30	Millennium	-
1	Featherstone Rovers	L 18 - 28	Millennium	-
2	Oldham	W 48 - 10	Fox's Bisc.	-
3	Widnes	W 48 - 16	Fox's Bisc.	-
4	Newcastle Thunder	W 28 - 16	Kingston	-
5	Sheffield Eagles	W 30 - 18	SOLP	-
6	London	L 6 - 40	Fox's Bisc.	-
8	Swinton	W 26 - 12	Fox's Bisc.	930
9	Whitehaven	W 24 - 20	Rec. Grnd	632
10	York City Knights	W 22 - 20	LNER	-
11	Halifax	L 12 - 22	Fox's Bisc.	-
12	Bradford	L 16 - 30	Odsal	2,831
13	Toulouse	L 12 - 32	Fox's Bisc.	782
7	Dewsbury	W 38 - 10	Tetley's	1,021
14	Newcastle Thunder	W 42 - 12	Fox's Bisc.	932
15	Widnes	W 34 - 16	DCBL	-
16	Featherstone Rovers	L 13 - 28	Fox's Bisc.	-
17	Swinton	W 38 - 6	Heywood	842
18	Sheffield Eagles	W 56 - 12	Fox's Bisc.	859
20	Whitehaven	L 14 - 22	Fox's Bisc.	922
21	Dewsbury	L 24 - 31	Fox's Bisc.	-
22	Halifax	W 12 - 10	The Shay	2,216
PS	Bradford	W 23 - 10	Fox's Bisc.	-
S	Toulouse	L 12 - 51	Ernest Wallon	6,871

BATLEY BULLDOGS

Established	1880
Home Ground	Mount Pleasant, Batley UK (current name: Fox's Biscuits Stadium)
Championship	1923-24
- Runners Up	2002, 2013
Challenge Cup	1896-97, 1897-98, 1900-01
- Runners Up	None

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 4th | Challenge Cup: Second Round | Played 25, Won 15, Lost 10 | For 637, Against 508 | Coach: Craig Lingard (25 matches)
 Most Points: Tom Gilmore (12) | Most Tries: Jonny Campbell, Elliott Hall (11)

Round	CC1	CC2	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	14	15	16	17	18	20	21	22	PS	SF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	HAL	FEA	FEA	OLD	IWD	NWT	SHE	LON	SWI	WHI	YOR	HAL	BRA	TOU	DEW	NWT	WID	FEA	SWI	SHE	WHI	DEW	HAL	BRA	TOU	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
BLAGBROUGH, Jack	B	L	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	L	FR	FR	FR		B	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	19	5	2	-	-	8
BOWMAN, Anthony										2R									B								1	1	-	-	-	-
BROUGHTON, Jodie	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W									W	W		B	13	1	7	-	-	28	
BROWN, James			FR	B	B			B	L			L	L		B	B			B	B	B		FR	L		6	8	1	-	-	4	
BUCHANAN, Kieran	2R	2R	C	2R	2R	2R	2R	C	C		2R	C	C		2R	2R	2R					2R	2R	C	C	C	20	-	3	-	-	12
BURTON, Oliver													H	B									H	H			3	1	-	-	-	-
CAMPBELL, Johnny		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W				W	W	W	FB	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	21	-	11	-	-	44
CHANDLER, Joe																		B									-	1	-	-	-	-
EDWARDS, Levi														C	C	C	C	C									5	-	4	-	-	16
EVERETT, Toby	FR	FR	B	FR				FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	19	1	-	-	-	-
FIELD, Oli														2R													1	-	-	-	-	-
FLYNN, Nyle		B	B	B						B	L	L	2R	B	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	2R	14	5	2	-	-	8
GILMORE, Tom	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	24	-	3	53	2	120
GLEDHILL, Adam	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR				FR	FR			FR							B	11	1	2	-	-	8	
HALL, Elliot	W	W	FB	B	B	FB	B	FB	B	W	B	W	B		B	FB	FB						B	B	B	9	10	11	-	-	44	
HOOLEY, Luke	FB	FB		FB	FB		FB	HB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB						FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	19	-	9	26	-	88
INSON, Aiden											B																-	1	-	-	-	-
JOHNSON, Greg														W	W	W		W	W	W	W			W	W	9	-	8	-	-	32	
KAYE, Ben	H	H			H	H	H	H	H		H	H				H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H		16	-	4	-	-	16	
LEAK, Alistair	B	B	H	H	B	B	B	B	B	H	B	B		H	H	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	H	6	17	9	-	-	36
LILLYCROP, Tom	B	FR				B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B					B	B	B		B	B		1	15	2	-	-	8	
LOGAN, Jack	C	C	C	C	C	C	C				C																8	-	3	-	-	12
MANNING, Dane			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	23	-	5	-	-	20
MORTON, Dale	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C			C	W	W	B	B	W	W	W	C	C	B	C	C		18	3	4	18	-	52	
SENIOR, George		B									C	B	B				B	2R	C	C	C	C	B			6	5	2	-	-	8	
TONKS, Josh	L		L	L	L	L		L	2R											2R						8	-	2	-	-	8	
WALSHAW, Lucas	2R	2R	2R			B	L	2R	B	C	C	2R	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	2R		C	2R	2R	C	20	2	7	-	-	28	
WARD, Michael	B	B	B		B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		-	23	2	-	-	8
WHITE, Ben	FE	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	25	-	7	-	1	29

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	

BRADFORD BULLS

SEASON REVIEW

By Johnathon Burnett



Bulls return to Bradford, but promotion eludes Kear's men

Since returning to the Championship at the end of the 2018 season, Bradford have had one goal – get back to Super League. Everyone knows the story of "Bullmania" and how successful the Odsal club were from the mid 90's into the late 2000's, but it's been far from a steady ride since. After the 2020 season last only five games before being curtailed due to coronavirus, 2021 provided a fresh start as Bulls fans hoped that their club could mount a real push for a Super League place.

John Kear's men were up against it early on in the season, but recovered to become a consistently competitive outfit, finishing a credible fifth but being knocked-out of the play-offs by unfancied Batley, ending their season on a rather disappointing note.

Regardless of their on-field performance though, this season's highlight was always going to be the return of the Bulls to their spiritual home, Odsal, after waving goodbye to their traditional ground in 2019. It was never specified how long they'd be away, and many fans were unsure if they'd ever see the cash-strapped club take the field in the famous old ground again. In what is perhaps the only good coronavirus-enforced occurrence in rugby league, the Bulls only played in their temporary home, the Tetley's Stadium in Dewsbury, six times in 2020 and 2021 before returning to Odsal on May 30th. Their homecoming game against York drew a crowd of over 4,000 and showed signs that Bradford's fortunes are turning for the better.

Turning point

Round 2 vs Halifax – A tad early to turn a season around, but after a 41-16 loss to Featherstone in the Challenge Cup, and a 50-2 drubbing at the hands of Sheffield Eagles in round 1, alarm bells were already sounding at Odsal in the early days of the season. Their next game, a local derby with Halifax, saw the Bulls win 27-26 with the decisive point coming from the boot of Jordan Lilley, and that derby day victory sent the side on a 7-game winning run, propelling them from 14th to second in the table and providing fans, players and Bradfordians in general the perfect homecoming for their return to Odsal against York, the penultimate game of that winning streak.

What worked

The halves combination of Danny Brough and Jordan Lilley showed real signs of firing Bradford to the upper echelons of the table, and the two formed a solid combination, despite playing only 10 games together. Brough's injury problems, which led to him calling time on his illustrious career by the end of the season, were the only thing standing in the way of the two playing the entire season together, and if they had, it's likely that Bradford could have gone toe-to-toe with the top sides right up until the end of the season.

What didn't work

Defence – Bradford may have finished a respectable fifth in the table, but their points difference of just +13 indicated that many of their games had either gone right down to the wire, or that they had experienced a fair number of heavy defeats to accompany their wins. Both are true, however some of those defeats make for tough reading: 50-12 to Sheffield, 44-0 to Featherstone, 60-6 at Toulouse and 36-22 against Whitehaven, the latter of which saw the Bulls let a 16-12 half-time lead slip. John Kear's side needs to tighten up at the back, particularly in the latter periods of games, if they're to have any chance of getting back to the promised land in 2022.

Best player

Brandon Pickersgill – The Bradford Academy product really stood up for his side in 2021, leading a core group of young players who established themselves as household names after coming through the ranks at Odsal. Deployed almost exclusively as a playmaking fullback, Pickersgill crossed for 9 tries in 19 appearances, making him the Bulls' joint-second highest tryscorer, and will leave a sizable gap in 2022 following his move to Featherstone at the end of this season.

Rookies

The Odsal production line was in full swing in 2021, with five players making their senior debuts in 2021 and 17 of the 42 players used throughout the season having spent time in the club's academy.

In particular, 20-year-old prop Ebon Scurr suggested signs that he could go to the very top, and after signing a new two-year deal in November, it looks like he wants to take Bradford with him.

A special mention must be made for Anthony Walker, who at 31 cannot technically be classed as a 'rookie', but after 4 years out of the game, having retired in 2017, the Welsh front rower rolled back the years to produce some stellar performances in his 18 appearances, the most games he's played at one club in a calendar year in his entire career.

Looking ahead

The retirement of Danny Brough leaves a big hole in the Bulls' team, but the signing of Challenge Cup winning half Declan Patton should go some way towards filling that void and helping Bradford mount a promotion push. Coming in alongside are several Leeds Rhinos players, owing to the dual-registration partnership the two old rivals have recently signed. Highly rated forwards Muizz Mustapha, Jarrod O'Connor and Corey Johnson have already joined the ranks for 2022 and could be joined by more as next season progresses.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Elliot Hall
2. Ryan Millar
3. Rhys Evans
4. Kieran Gill
5. David Foggin-Johnston
6. Jordan Lilley
7. Declan Patton
8. Steve Crossley
9. Thomas Doyle
10. Muizz Mustapha
11. Aaron Murphy
12. Sam Scott
13. Ben Evans

14. Jordan Baldwinson
15. Ebon Scurr
16. Anthony Walker
17. Adam Rooks

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Featherstone Rovers	L 16 - 41	Millennium	-
1	Sheffield Eagles	L 12 - 50	Keepmoat	-
2	Halifax	W 27 - 26	Tetley's	-
3	Dewsbury	W 35 - 14	Tetley's	-
4	Whitehaven	W 30 - 22	Rec. Gnd	-
5	Swinton	W 23 - 22	Heywood	-
7	London	W 33 - 8	Trailfinders	500
8	York City Knights	W 37 - 18	Odsal	4,000
6	Newcastle Thunder	W 31 - 12	Odsal	-
9	Featherstone Rovers	L 0 - 44	Millennium	1,700
11	Widnes	L 12 - 25	Odsal	3,153
12	Batley	W 30 - 16	Odsal	2,831
13	Oldham	W 54 - 22	Bower Fold	-
14	Featherstone Rovers	L 30 - 36	Odsal	3,708
15	Halifax	L 21 - 24	The Shay	2,696
17	Newcastle Thunder	W 36 - 12	Kingston	1,168
18	Swinton	W 30 - 26	Odsal	2,819
19	York City Knights	W 36 - 18	LNER	4,000
20	Toulouse	L 6 - 60	Tetley's	2,445
21	Widnes	L 9 - 10	DCBL	-
22	Whitehaven	L 22 - 36	Odsal	5,340
PS	Batley	L 10 - 23	Fox's Bisc.	-

BRADFORD BULLS

Established	1907
Home Ground	Odsal Stadium, Bradford UK
Super League	1997, 2001, 2003, 2005
Championship	1973-74
- Runners Up	2015
Challenge Cup	1943-44, 1946-47, 1948-49, 2000, 2003
- Runners Up	1996, 1997, 2001, 1944-45, 1947-48, 1972-73

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 6th | Challenge Cup: First Round | Played 22, Won 12, Lost 10 | For 540, Against 565 | Coach: John Kear (22 matches)

Most Points: Danny Brough (111) | Most Tries: Joe Brown (10)

Round	CC1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	6	9	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	EF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	FEA	SHE	HAL	DEW	SHI	SWI	LON	YOR	NWT	FEA	WID	BAT	OLD	FEA	HAL	NWT	SWI	YOR	TOU	WID	WHI	BAT	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
BALDWINSON, Jordan															B									-	1	-	-	-	-
BROUGH, Danny	HB	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE									FE			FE	FE	FE	13	-	2	49	5	111
BROWN, Joe	FB	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	W	W	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE		W	W	W	W	21	-	10	-	-	40	
BURTON, Joe						B	B			B	W	W				B				B			2	5	1	-	-	4	
CROSSLEY, Steve	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	21	-	4	-	-	16	
DAWSON, Matthew																	W	W					2	-	-	-	-	-	
DOYLE, Thomas	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	20	-	5	-	-	20	
ENGLAND, Brad	B		B	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	2R		B	2R	2R	2R	2R		14	4	4	-	-	16	
EVANS, Ben		B	L	L	L	FR	L	L		FR	FR	B	L	L		B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	16	3	2	-	-	8	
EVANS, Rhys	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	22	-	8	-	-	32	
FLANAGAN, George	B											B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	-	12	6	1	1	27	
FLEMING, Daniel	FR	FR	B	B	B	L	FR	FR			L	FR	FR	FR			B	B	L	B	B	B	10	8	1	-	-	4	
FOGGIN-JOHNSTON, David			W	W	W	W			B	W			W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	15	1	9	-	-	36	
GALLAGHER, Bradley	2R	2R				2R			2R	2R	2R			2R									7	-	-	-	-	-	
GOLDING, Ashton								B	W														1	1	1	-	-	4	
HALLAS, Sam	L								L	L	H	L		H	L	L	L	L	2R	L	L	L	14	-	-	3	-	6	
HAMLETT, Reece	W	W								W			W	W	W	W							7	-	2	-	-	8	
HO, Bradley																	B			B			-	2	-	-	-	-	
JOWITT, Billy		B	B								HB										HB		2	2	-	-	-	-	
KEAR, Elliot																					FB	FB	3	-	-	-	-	-	
KEYES, Joseph												FE	HB	FE									3	-	3	18	-	48	
LILLEY, Jordan			FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	HB			HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	18	-	6	19	2	64	
MATONGO, Masimbaashe																			B				-	1	-	-	-	-	
MURPHY, Aaron		L	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	17	-	2	-	-	8	
MYERS, Eldon																					B	B	-	2	-	-	-	-	
NZOUNGOU, Levy		B	FR	FR	FR																		3	1	-	-	-	-	
OAKES, Ross	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	22	-	3	-	-	12	
O'HANLON, Ethan																						B	-	1	-	-	-	-	
PICKERSGILL, Brandon	FE	HB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FE	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB			19	-	9	-	-	36	
ROBSON, Ellis							B	B	B	B													-	4	3	-	-	12	
ROOKS, Adam	2R	2R	2R	B	B	B					B	B	B	B	B	2R	2R					2R	6	8	2	-	-	8	
SANDERSON, Jack	W	W																					2	-	-	-	-	-	
SCURR, Ebon	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B						B	-	16	3	-	-	12	
VULIKIJAPANI, Miteli							W	W															2	-	-	-	-	-	
WALKER, Anthony				B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	B			B	B	3	14	2	-	-	8	
WALLIS, Elliot	B																						1	1	-	-	-	-	
WILSON, Oliver								B	FR																				

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench

DEWSBURY RAMS

SEASON REVIEW

By Johnathon Burnett



Rudderless Rams hang on at the bottom of the ladder – just.

In the past few seasons, Dewsbury Rams have become habitual members of the lower half of England's second division. Whilst cross-town neighbours Batley regularly punch above their weight, the Rams have become much more accustomed to making up the numbers in the part-pro, part semi-pro league, but have always had just enough in them to avoid dropping to the third division.

After 2020 was essentially a year off for Lee Greenwood's side, 2021 was a chance for a side, steered by experienced halves Paul Sykes and Liam Finn, to climb up the table, and have an outside chance of reaching the play-offs.

Unfortunately, this didn't come to pass for the Rams. They won just eight of the 21 games they played, and finished the season in tenth, with a points difference of -248. Even with their two veteran playmakers at the base of the scrum, Dewsbury faltered, scoring the second-least points in the division and only beating three teams that finished above them. Oldham and Swinton's season-long poor form kept the Rams safe from any real danger of relegation, but with both Manchester sides demoted to League 1, there will need to be some serious improvement at Tetley's Stadium in 2022 to avoid the same fate.

Turning point

Round 8 vs London – Having started the season positively and drifting in and around the play-offs before round 8, the Rams travelled down to the Trailfinders Stadium, and were well beaten 30-10 by the Broncos. Dewsbury's next eight games saw them win only once, against second-bottom Oldham, and after a 38-10 home loss to derby rivals Batley, they fell from 8th to 12th in the table, just one place above the relegation zone. Only three wins in their last three games saw the Rams eventually finish a more respectable 10th, but it could've been a lot, lot worse for Lee Greenwood's men.

What worked

Winning at the death – Although it didn't happen too often in 2021, the games the Rams did win were always thrilling encounters. Of their eight wins this season, only one (18-4 v Oldham) was won by more than 10 points. Highlights included a 20-18 victory over Swinton, 23-22 against Widnes, 24-20 against Sheffield and 31-24 over local rivals Batley in their penultimate game of the season, with neither side being over six points ahead for any period in the latter game.

What didn't work

Attack – Despite winning some games with photo-finishes, all too often in 2021 the Rams struggled to break teams down, and their 360 points in 21 games was the second lowest in the league, at an average of just 17.1 per game. The combined age of their regular halves was an astounding 78, and the clunky attacking play of the Rams went some way to implying that Sykes and Finn, the latter of whom retired at the end of the season, were over the hill.

Best player

Andy Gabriel – The Rams winger was their top scorer with 13 tries in 2021, six clear of next-highest Matty Fleming. These included several long-range and acrobatic efforts, and the ex-Keighley Cougars man provided an attacking outlet to a side which otherwise faltered with ball in hand throughout the season.

Rookies

The Rams fielded debutants aplenty in 2021, showing a good initiative by making better use of the copious amount of amateur talent in the local leagues. Half Alex Smith excelled in his seven

appearances and has been awarded with the starting number six jersey in 2022. Likewise, centres Bayley Liu and Robbie Storey both impressed, as did bench forwards Dane Windrow and Jordan Schofield.

Looking ahead

With Sykes admitting that 2022 will be his last year of professional rugby league, aged 41, and Finn retiring, the Rams lose not only copious experience, but also playmaking skills in key positions. The permanent signings of Matthews Fleming and Beharrell respectively should aid with the playmaking aspect, and incoming veteran international forwards Dale Ferguson and Ross Peltier will also add some much-needed bite to the Rams' pack.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Matty Fleming
2. Andy Gabriel
3. Adam Ryder
4. Davey Dixon
5. Lewis Carr
6. Alex Smith
7. Matty Beharrell
8. Dale Ferguson
9. Reiss Butterworth
10. Jonathan Magrin
11. Keenen Tomlinson
12. Michael Knowles
13. Chris Annakin
14. Dom Speakman
15. Jason Walton
16. James Beckett
17. Ross Peltier

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd	
CC1	Whitehaven	L	16 - 23	Rec. Gnd	-
1	Whitehaven	W	17 - 8	Tetley's	-
2	Widnes	W	22 - 14	DCBL	-
3	Bradford	L	14 - 35	Tetley's	-
4	York City Knights	L	20 - 30	Tetley's	-
5	Halifax	L	0 - 36	Tetley's	-
6	Swinton	W	20 - 18	Heywood	-
8	London	L	10 - 30	Trailfinders	280
9	Toulouse	L	12 - 56	Tetley's	418
10	Featherstone Rovers	L	24 - 68	Tetley's	792
11	Oldham	W	18 - 4	Bower Fold	-
12	Sheffield Eagles	D	18 - 18	Tetley's	549
13	Newcastle Thunder	L	12 - 24	Kingston	-
7	Batley	L	10 - 38	Tetley's	1,021
15	Swinton	L	18 - 22	Tetley's	616
16	Whitehaven L	18 - 20	Rec. Gnd	730	-
17	Widnes	W	23 - 22	Tetley's	726
18	Featherstone Rovers	L	6 - 64	Millennium	2,115
19	Newcastle Thunder	L	22 - 43	Tetley's	540
20	Sheffield Eagles	W	24 - 20	Keepmoat	491
21	Batley	W	31 - 24	Fox's Bisc.	-
22	Oldham	W	21 - 14	Tetley's	827

DEWSBURY RAMS

Established	1898
Home Ground	Crown Flatt, Dewsbury UK (current name: Tetley's Stadium)
Championship	1904/05, 1972-73, 2000
- Runners Up	1946-47
Challenge Cup	1911-12, 1942-43
- Runners Up	1928-29

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 10th | Challenge Cup: First Round | Played 22, Won 8, Lost 13, Draw 1 | For 376, Against 631 | Coach: Lee Greenwood (22 matches)
 Most Points: Paul Sykes (90) | Most Tries: Andy Gabriel (13)

Round	CC-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	SEASON STATISTICS							
Opponent	WHI	WHI	WID	BRA	YOR	HAL	SWI	LON	TOU	FEA	OLD	SHE	NWT	BAT	SWI	WHI	WID	FEA	NWT	SHE	BAT	OLD	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts		
ANNAKIN, Chris		L	L	L	L	L	B	B	L	L	L	L	B	B	L	FR	L	B						12	5	-	-	-	-	
BECKETT, James			B		FR	FR					FR	FR			B	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR		10	2	1	-	-	4	
BUTTERWORTH, Reiss	H	H	H	H	H	H	B	B	B	H	H	H				H	H	H	L					13	3	1	-	-	4	
CARR, Lewis	W								W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB			W	W		13	-	3	-	-	12	
DAVIES, Connor														B										-	1	-	-	-	-	
DAVIES, Rhys									B															-	1	-	-	-	-	
DAY, Sam	B	B	B	B	B		H	H	H					H	B	B		B	B	H	H	H		7	9	2	-	-	8	
DEAN, Riley																B	FE	HB	FE	HB				4	1	-	5	1	11	
DIXON, Davey									W	C	C	C	C		C	C	C				C	C		10	-	3	-	-	12	
ESSELMONT, Sonny															2R	2R	2R							3	-	-	-	-	-	
FERGUSON, Dale																	B							-	1	1	-	-	4	
FINN, Liam	HB	HB	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	B	HB						FE	HB	FE		15	1	1	8	1	21	
FLEMING, Matty	C	C			C	C	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB		FB	C	FB	FB	C		W	C	FB	FB		18	-	7	-	-	28	
FLETCHER, Matthew																		B				B		-	2	-	-	-	-	
GABRIEL, Andy	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		21	-	13	-	-	52	
GARRATT, Tom	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	2R		2R	B	FR	FR		2R	2R	2R	FR	FR	FR		19	1	3	-	-	12	
GREENWOOD, James						B																		-	1	-	-	-	-	
HALL, Aaron	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B		FR		B				FR					4	10	1	-	-	4	
HAWKSWORTH, Dan									B	B		B	FR	B										1	4	-	-	-	-	
KIRBY, Jon Luke							FR																	1	-	-	-	-	-	
KNOWLES, Mike	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R		18	-	4	3	-	22	
LIU, Bailey			B	B					C	C	2R									C	B			4	3	1	-	-	4	
MAGRIN, Jonathan	B	B		B	B	B		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR				B	L	L	L		10	7	2	-	-	8	
MARTIN, Joe	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	B	B			B	FB	HB	FB	HB	HB	FB		FB	FB				14	3	1	-	-	4	
McCOMB, Zack							C	C																2	-	-	-	-	-	
MORRIS, Frazer	L	FR	FR	FR		B																		4	1	1	-	-	4	
OAKES, William	B	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	C		C	C	C	C				W						13	1	4	-	-	16	
RYDER, Adam	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C														C	C		10	-	5	-	-	20
SCHOFIELD, Jordan																B	B	FR	B	B	B	B		1	6	3	-	-	12	
SCOTT, Connor	B																							1	-	-	-	-	-	
SMITH, Alex									HB	FE			FE					HB	FE	HB	B			6	1	2	-	-	8	
SPEAKMAN, Dom										B	B	B	H	B	H		B		H	B	B	B		3	8	1	-	-	4	
STEVENS, Robson										B	B	B				B	FR	B	FR	B	B	B		2	8	-	-	-	-	
STOREY, Robbie											B	2R			C	C		C	B	W				5	2	-	-	-	-	
SYKES, Paul	FE	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	B	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE		C	C		FE	HB		18	1	1	42	2	90	
THORNTON, James														L	B	L	B	L						3	2	-	-	-	-	
TOMLINSON, Keenen	2R	2R	C	C	B		L						L	2R				2R	C	2R	2R	2R		12	1	2	-	-	8	
WALTON, Jason		B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R																7	1	-	-	-	-
WINDROW, Dane					2R	2R																			2	-	-	-	-	-
WOOD, Sam								L																	1	-	1	-	-	4

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

SEASON REVIEW

By Gavin Wilson



Fev are Bridesmaids once again

Once again it was a case of 'What might have been?' For Featherstone Rovers in 2021. For over a decade they have been one of the leading lights of the Championship, and only a combination of franchising/licensing, 'Super 8s' league structures and big spending international heavyweights have kept them at arms length from the Super League promised land.

Featherstone initially won 13 games in a row in the Bftred Championship to march to a joint-top position along with Toulouse Olympique, who were the side that ended their 100 per cent record with a 6-23 win at the Millennium Stadium in August. Indeed Toulouse were the only Championship team to beat Featherstone in 2021, and crucially the second defeat came in the final 'Million Pound Game'.

Turning point

The very last game of the year. Another heavily Covid disrupted season saw Featherstone's main rivals Toulouse play just half of their fixture programme - admittedly all of their games had to be played in the UK so take absolutely nothing away from their undefeated season - but seeing as though Rovers played twelve games more, it might just have made that crucial one percent difference in freshness when all the chips were down on the last day. Toulouse flew out of the blocks and were 16-0 up before Fev even knew they were in a game.

What worked

Fa'amamu Brown lit up the competition for Fev in 2021, starring at full back, half back and hooker, 'Nu' was involved in almost everything the Rovers did well. He contributed 15 tries and many more assists as Fev ran over nearly every team in the division.

Craig Hall was another to have a stand out season, the classy back was a consistent performer in an outstanding back line and finished the year as the clear top points scorer with 274 - which was 72 points more than Whitehaven's Lachlan Walmsley in second place. In total, Hall scored 85 goals and a whopping 26 tries.

What didn't work

To be fair, not a lot went wrong for Featherstone in 2021 and they can definitely be proud of their efforts. They won silverware in July when lifting the 1895 Cup at Wembley Stadium after a high scoring and highly entertaining final against York, and their league form in any other year would have almost certainly earned them promotion.

Rookies

Gareth Gale - the rangy back was plucked from the local amateur scene and had a stormer of a year. Gale finished as the comp's top try scorer with 27 and was attracting plenty of interest from Super League, but has decided to stay with his hometown club and earn his place at the top table the hard way.

Looking ahead

With the big city international teams that have dominated the Championship in recent years now out of the picture, Featherstone will surely be confident of going one step further in 2022 and finally reaching the elite level for the first time in the Summer era. They have been a consistent benchmark at this level and if they earn their shot this time around, nobody can say they don't deserve it.

The jewel in their crown is the quite unbelievable signing of two-time Dally M Centre of the Year Joey Leilua - if he turns up fully fit and motivated then he will light up the competition.

There were a few raised eyebrows when James Webster decided to step away from the head coach role, but the appointment of four time Super League winning coach Brian McDermott was a positive move. McDermott will use his contacts at Leeds to bring in some more talent on dual-registration if needed. He is a born winner who knows what it takes to win this competition, having done so with Toronto Wolfpack in 2019.

There was some good news off the field too, with Wakefield Council announcing a grant of up to £2m from a 'Rugby League Resilience Fund' to help improve their tidy facilities at Post Office Road even further.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Brandon Pickersgill
2. Gareth Gale
3. Luke Briscoe
4. Joey Leilua
5. Craig Hall
6. Tom Holmes
7. Dane Chisholm
8. Craig Kopczak
9. Connor Jones
10. Junior Moors
11. Jesse Sene-Lefao
12. James Lockwood
13. Jack Bussey
14. Matty Wildie
15. Ben Hellewell
16. Brett Ferres
17. John Davies

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Bradford	W 41 - 16	Millennium	-
CC2	Batley	W 30 - 22	Millennium	-
1	Batley	W 28 - 18	Millennium	-
CC3	Hull FC	L 14 - 34	Millennium	-
2	Swinton	W 36 - 6	Heywood	-
3	Whitehaven	W 48 - 14	Millennium	-
5	York City Knights	W 16 - 12	LNER	-
6	Oldham	W 68 - 0	Millennium	1,684
7	Sheffield Eagles	W 50 - 18	Keepmoat	-
8	Halifax	W 16 - 8	The Shay	882
9	Bradford	W 44 - 0	Millennium	1,700
10	Dewsbury	W 68 - 24	Tetley's	792
11	Newcastle Thunder	W 68 - 12	Millennium	1,750
12	London	W 63 - 14	Millennium	1,750
13	Widnes	W 32 - 10	DCBL	-
14	Bradford	W 36 - 30	Odsal	3,708
15	Toulouse	L 6 - 23	Millennium	4,021
16	Batley	W 28 - 13	Fox's Bisc.	-
17	York City Knights	W 44 - 14	Millennium	2,183
18	Dewsbury	W 64 - 6	Millennium	2,115
19	Oldham	W 48 - 10	Bower Fold	-
20	Halifax	W 54 - 22	Millennium	3,063
21	London	W 48 - 28	Trailfinders	-
22	Sheffield Eagles	W 78 - 10	Millennium	1,750
S	Halifax	W 42 - 10	Millennium	-
F	Toulouse	L 12 - 34	Ernest Wallon	9,235

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

Established	1921
Home Ground	Post Office Road, Featherstone (current name: Millennium Stadium)
Championship	1979-80, 1992-93, 2011
- Runners Up	2010, 2012, 2014, 2019, 2021
Challenge Cup	1967, 1973, 1983
- Runners Up	1952, 1974

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 2nd | Challenge Cup: Third Round | Played 27, Won 24, Lost 3 | For 1082, Against 408 | Coach: James Webster (27 matches)

Most Points: Craig Hall (317) | Most Tries: Craig Hall (28)

Round	CC1	CC2	1	CC3	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	SF	GF	SEASON STATISTICS						
	Opponent	BRA	BAT	BAT	HUL	SWI	WHI	YOR	OLD	SHE	HAL	BRA	DEW	NWT	LON	WID	BRA	TOU	BAT	YOR	DEW	OLD	HAL	LON	SHE	HAL	TOU	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts
BECKETT, James										B					B													-	2	-	-	-	-
BLACKMORE, Ben	W	W	HB	W	W	W												FB	W	W	W	W						11	-	11	-	-	44
BROWN, Fa'amanu	FE	FE	L	B	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	FE	H	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	24	1	16	12	-	88	
BUSSEY, Jack	L	L	2R		L	L	L	L	L					L										B	B	B	9	3	5	-	-	20	
CHISHOLM, Dane	HB	HB	C	HB			FB	FB	FB	C				FE	HB	HB		FE	FE		HB	FE	HB	B	B	FE	17	2	6	31	1	87	
COOPER, Luke	B		B	B			B	B				B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B		B		B		-	16	2	-	-	8	
DAGGER, Will												FB	FB	FB	C	FB		FB									6	-	2	-	-	8	
DAVIES, John					B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	L	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	3	18	3	-	-	12	
DAY, Brad	2R	2R	FB	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R																11	-	3	-	-	12	
DOYLE, Jacob									W							W											2	-	2	-	-	8	
FERGUSON, Dale	B																			B	B				B		-	4	-	-	-	-	
FERRES, Brett		B		2R	2R	2R								2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	15	1	9	2	-	40	
FIELD, Callum				B			B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		FR	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	9	10	5	-	-	20	
GALE, Gareth	W	W	2R	W	W	W	W	W	W	C	W	W	W	W	W	W	W			FE	W	W	W	W	W	W	24	-	26	1	-	106	
HALL, Craig	FB	FB	C	FB	FB	FB	W	W	C	FB	W	C	C	FB		FB	W	W	C	C		C	W	W	C	W	24	-	28	102	1	317	
HALTON, Frankie	2R	2R	B	FR	B		B		2R	W	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	L	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	19	3	7	-	-	28	
HARDCASTLE, Josh	C	C	B	C		B	C	C				C	C	W	C	C	FE	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	19	2	7	-	-	28	
HARRISON, James	B	B	W	FR									FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	FR								7	4	6	-	-	24	
HOLMES, Tom				FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	FE				FE				C	FE	B	B	FE	FE	15	2	5	-	-	20	
JONES, Connor	H	H	W		H	H	H	B	H	B	H		H	H	H		H	H	H	B	B	H	H		H	H	18	4	13	-	-	52	
KOPCZAK, Craig	FR	FR	H		FR	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR		FR					FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	19	1	6	-	-	24	
LOCKWOOD, James	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	22	-	2	-	-	8	
LUSSICK, Darcy											L	FR															2	-	-	-	-	-	
McCONNELL, Loui				L					B	L		L	L		L	L											6	1	-	-	-	-	
MINNS, Thomas	C				C	C	C	C	C	W	C			W													9	-	4	-	-	16	
MOORS, Junior		B	B	B	B	FR	2R	2R		2R	B	2R	2R	2R	2R		B	2R				B	2R				10	7	3	-	-	12	
PARATA, Dean	B	B	FE	H	B	B	B	H	B	H	B	H	B	B			B	B	B	H	H			H		B	8	13	11	-	-	44	
SPENCE, Harvey												B			W	B											1	2	-	-	-	-	
SPRINGER, Gadwin																			B	B	FR	B	B	B	B		1	6	1	-	-	4	
SUMMERS, Joe																B											-	1	-	-	-	-	
SWEETING, Jake															B												-	1	-	-	-	-	
WALKER, Alex																		C	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	9	-	7	-	-	28	
WELHAM, Kris		C	FR	C	C	C										C	C	W	W	W	C	C	C	C	W	C	16	-	5	-	-	20	
WHITELEY, Perry												W	C														2	-	1	-	-	4	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	

HALIFAX PANTHERS

SEASON REVIEW

By Brad Hirons

Halifax have been doing a solid job of rebuilding following a disappointing 6th place finish in 2016. With only three of that squad still on the books of the playing side, and Simon Grix now coaching the side, the progression is clear to see. But it hasn't been without some hurdles.

Slowly but surely, Fax improved on the field. Especially in 2019, when they became the first non-Super League side to grace a Challenge Cup Semi-Final in 14 years despite a poor Championship campaign where they finished eighth.

2019 saw coach Richard Marshall leave the club, and Simon Grix became player-coach, leading the side out at Bolton, where St Helen's Super League class certainly told in the second half and Grix's side missed out on a trip to Wembley.

2020 saw the season wiped out after just four games, with Fax having been knocked out of the cup in Round 4, and losing to Dewsbury and Leigh a refresh was needed for 2021.

The Panthers arrived, but not in quite the fashion they'd have hoped after a 46-14 win over the Broncos was followed up by three close losses to Bradford, Toulouse and Oldham respectively.

What followed was 11 wins out of 12, with Featherstone Rovers being the only side Halifax failed to beat between May 9th and August 22nd, when a spectacular run was ended by four losses from their last five games.

Still, a third-place finish was much more than what some Fax fans would expect, and despite making the play-off semi-final, a hammering from the Rovers for the second time in a month was not an end to what was a fantastic Championship campaign The Panthers have made some marquee acquisitions and certainly improved their squad from 2021, providing their fans with plenty to look forward to in 2022.

Turning point

Round 4 vs Oldham - The Sharks had won just one game out of four in all competitions at this point and were coming off the back of a big home defeat to Toulouse were despite only losing by ten points, conceded 44 in a home loss. A third loss in a row, by a weak Oldham side meant fans were looking at a horrible season and looked to blame the rebrand as a distraction.

What followed was two fantastic wins away from home where not a single point was conceded, Dewsbury were dispatched 36-0 and Newcastle Thunder were brushed aside 32-0. Connor Robinson was outstanding from the boot, landing 14 goals, with Ed Barber playing outstanding in the centres.

Despite a narrow defeat to Featherstone in Round seven, the Panthers would not lose a game for the next nine rounds all but securing a play-off place.

What worked

The Panthers versatility - Simon Grix had plenty of injuries to deal with in 2021, but with players such as James Woodburn-Hall, Ed Barber, Scott Grix and more able to play multiple positions meant that Simon Grix was able to push players out of their comfort zones and still pick up vital wins when games seemed to be coming thick and fast.

What didn't work

Restrictions on the style of play - In most of the games throughout the season, The Panthers blew teams away with their dynamic style of play and unpredictability of the half-backs. However, when it mattered, especially towards the end of the season, teams had figured out how to defend against this, and Grix couldn't seem to come up with a second option that was good enough, which ultimately could have cost them second place and a home semi-final.

Best player

Brandon Moore - Halifax Panthers only ever-present player in 2021, and playing through a ruptured bicep at times. The hooker put his body on the line and despite only picking up four tries certainly set the platform for Connor Robinson, Liam Harris, Scott Grix and the like to play from. Defensively he was also one of the heaviest hitters for the Panthers last season.

Looking ahead

Despite nice players departing from the Panthers permanently, nine players have been brought in to replace them, and some top-quality players at that. Both Louis Jouffret and Lachlan Walmsley admitted Super League clubs were showing interest when announced at The Shay following a tremendous season at Whitehaven.

Joe Keyes and Corey Aston come in at half-back as Liam Harris and Connor Robinson both leave the club. Titus Gwaze, Brad Knowles, and Matty Gee add even more beef to a powerful pack as Joe Arundel and Liam Whitton will bring some much need quality to the outside backs.

I think with the strength of Featherstone and Leigh still having a quality side, a third-place finish must be a minimum for Simon Grix and the Panthers in 2022.

Also, Joe Martin and Alex Walker are both on trial with the club, so one, if not both of these young full-backs could yet join the club at some point before the season starts.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Louis Jouffret
2. Lachlan Walmsley
3. James Woodburn-Hall
4. Joe Arundel
5. James Saltonstall
6. Cory Aston
7. Joe Keyes
8. Adam Tangata
9. Brandon Moore
10. Daniel Murray
11. Ben Kavanagh
12. Matt Garside
13. Jacob Fairbank

14. Kyle Wood
15. Matty Gee
16. Kevin Larroyer
17. Ed Barber

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Batley	L 6 - 19	The Shay	-
1	London	W 47 - 14	The Shay	-
2	Bradford	L 26 - 27	Tetley's	-
3	Toulouse	L 34 - 44	The Shay	-
4	Oldham	L 12 - 16	Bower Fold	-
5	Dewsbury	W 36 - 0	Tetley's	-
7	Newcastle Thunder	W 32 - 0	Kingston	604
8	Featherstone Rovers	L 8 - 16	The Shay	882
6	Sheffield Eagles	W 46 - 12	The Shay	734
9	York City Knights	W 30 - 6	The Shay	828
10	Swinton	W 34 - 4	Heywood	-
11	Batley	W 22 - 12	Fox's Bisc.	-
12	Widnes	W 17 - 16	The Shay	1,232
13	Whitehaven	W 14 - 4	The Shay	877
14	Sheffield Eagles	W 40 - 28	Mob. Rkt.	-
15	Bradford	W 24 - 21	The Shay	2,696
16	Newcastle Thunder	W 14 - 12	The Shay	1,541
18	Widnes	L 6 - 25	DCBL	-
19	Swinton	W 48 - 12	The Shay	1,663
20	Featherstone Rovers	L 22 - 54	Millennium	3,063
21	Whitehaven	L 6 - 19	Rec. Gnd	1,258
22	Batley	L 10 - 12	The Shay	2,216
PS	Whitehaven	W 24 - 20	The Shay	-
S	Featherstone Rovers	L 10 - 42	Millennium	-

HALIFAX PANTHERS

Established	1873
Home Ground	The Shay Stadium, Halifax UK
Championship	1902-03, 1906-07, 1964-65, 1985-86
- Runners Up	1895-96, 1952-53, 1953-54, 1955-56, 1965-66
Challenge Cup	1902-03, 1903-04, 1930-31, 1938-39, 1986-87
- Runners Up	1920-21, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1948-49, 1953-54, 1955-56, 1987-88

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 3rd | Challenge Cup: First Round | Played 24, Won 14, Lost 10 | For 568, Against 435 | Coach: Simon Grix (24 matches)

Most Points: Connor Robinson (95) | Most Tries: James Saltonstall (11)

Round	CC1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	6	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	EF	SF	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	BAT	LON	BRA	TOU	OLD	DEW	NWT	FEA	SHE	YOR	SWI	BAT	WID	WHI	SHE	BRA	NWT	WID	SWI	FEA	WHI	BAT	WHI	FEA	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
BARBER, Ed	2R	C	B	2R	C	C	C	C	C						B	C	C	C	B	B	C	B				12	5	8	2	-	36
BOUROUH, Amir			B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B													-	10	2	-	-	8
BREARLEY, Paul		B	2R	2R																						2	1	-	-	-	-
CALCOTT, William	FR		B		FR				B		B	B	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR						8	4	-	-	-	-
DAVIES, Connor	B															B	B	B				B	B	B		-	7	-	-	-	-
DAVIES, Curtis	B	B												B	B	B	B	B	B	B						-	9	2	-	-	8
FAIRBANK, Jacob	B	B		B		FR	L	L	L	B			B	B	L	L	L	B	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	13	7	3	-	-	12
GARSDIE, Matt	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	21	-	7	-	-	28
GRIX, Scott	FB	FB	FB						FE	HB	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	FB	FB	FE	FE	FE	HB	19	-	6	-	-	24	
HARRIS, Liam	FE	HB	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	HB	HB	FE	HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	HB				HB	FE	21	-	8	28	1	89	
HEWITT, Sam		2R		B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R																	6	1	2	-	-	8
KAVANAGH, Ben				L	B	B			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	17	2	4	-	-	16	
LARROYER, Kevin	L	L	L		L	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	FR	B	2R				B	B	B	B	B	6	14	2	-	-	8
McCOMB, Zack		C	C	C						C	C	C	C	C	C	W	W	W	C	C	W	C	C	C	18	-	5	-	-	20	
McGRATH, Conor	W	W			W	W					W	W		W	W						W	W	W	W	13	-	8	-	-	32	
MOORE, Brandon	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	24	-	4	-	-	16	
MORRIS, Elliott		FR	FR	FR		B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		L				B	B	B	B	4	15	3	-	-	12
MURRAY, Daniel	FR	FR	FR	FR		L	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	21	2	-	-	-	-	-
RAWSTHORN, Nick	C		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W		W												11	-	5	4	-	28	
ROBINSON, Connor	HB	FE	HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	FE												FE	FE	B	HB	B	B	11	3	-	47	1	95
RUSSELL, Oliver								B																		-	1	-	-	-	-
SALTONSTALL, James	W	W	W	W			W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	21	-	11	-	-	44	
SPRINGER, Gadwin	B	B	B		B		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B													6	5	1	-	-	4
TANGATA, Adam				B	FR	FR	FR	FR		L	L	L	L	L	B	FR	B		B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	14	5	5	-	-	20	
TIBBS, Ben					B												B	B	W				B	1	4	2	-	-	8		
WOODBURN-HALL, James	C			FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	B	HB	HB	FB	FB	FB	21	1	10	2	-	44	
WORTHINGTON, Greg			C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	22	-	2	-	-	8	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	

LONDON BRONCOS

SEASON REVIEW

By Jonathan Burnett



Broncos just miss the six, and prepare to up sticks (again)

The story of rugby league in London is a colourful one – and that's not just from changing names and kit combinations every few years. Stadium moves aplenty, as well as a squad seemingly changing in perpetual motion for nigh-on 25 years, make up a turbulent history of rugby league in England's capital, but the club have always managed to get by, teetering on the finest of margins.

Recently though, those margins have tightened further. Relegated from Super League on points difference in 2019, 2021 saw the Broncos finally given a proper crack at the whip to get back up after the 2020 season was curtailed due to coronavirus. Danny Ward had done it before, but this season wasn't to be for his Broncos side, and Jermaine Coleman will be the next head coach looking to bring the Broncos back to the top division come 2022.

There were signs early on that 2021 was going to be a tough ride for the Broncos, as they saw their fixture in Toulouse, which they had requested to postpone due to coronavirus concerns, cancelled altogether, with the two points awarded to the French side. Although no other team travelled to the French city until the play-offs, London were the only side to suffer from this ruling, and it proved all the more crucial by the end of the season. Although it was highly unlikely for the capital club to beat Toulouse – no side the Olympique played all year did so – the automatic 24-0 loss meant that London's win per game percentage was 52.5%, rather than the 57% it would've been had that fixture been cancelled.

This cost them a play-off spot, and London fans will forever be wondering what could've been had they made the finals, particularly given the crushing news in September that the Broncos would be going part-time from 2022 onwards. After being fully professional since the inaugural Super League season in 1996, it was an unfortunate turn of events that sees the game take a big backwards step in the capital, and although the club's move to AFC Wimbledon's brand-new Plough Lane stadium could help to revitalise their fortunes, there's no denying that the next few years are going to be make-or-break for the South of England's flagship rugby league team.

Turning point

Round 12 v Featherstone – The Broncos had been on a steady march up the table after falling to 11th in round 4, and by the time they turned up at Post Office Road in July, Danny Ward's men were fourth in the league. High-flying Fev, however, proceeded to batter the Broncos 63-14, with Craig Hall alone scoring 30 points, including three tries. Although London won their next two games, they only won two more after that, losing four of their last eight as they slowly slipped down the table, culminating in a 32-22 loss at York which saw them finish seventh, just one place outside the play-offs.

What worked

Attack – Although the Broncos didn't make the top six, their fans (when allowed into the stadium) were treated to some free-flowing, attacking rugby in 2021. London scored 552 points in 20 games, the fourth highest in the division, and scored 38 points or more in seven of those games. Abbas Miski's 18 scores were closely followed by the 16 of opposite winger Gideon Bofo, and on-loan Wigan centre Chris Hankinson also crossed on 10 occasions.

What didn't work

Middle Defence – Despite their at-times electric attack, the Broncos still managed to have a negative points difference of minus 25! A large portion of those 579 conceded points in 2021 was down to the Broncos' defence in the middle of the field. Boasting one of the smaller packs in the league, teams routinely managed to break London down through the middle, and it's an issue that new coach Jermaine Coleman will have to address quickly if the side are to avoid slipping further down the league in 2022.

Best player

Abbas Miski – The Lebanon international winger was not only the club's top tryscorer with 18 tries in 2021, but also played in every game the Broncos played, a feat achieved by no other player. His hat-trick at Sheffield rescued a 20-20 draw for London in their only tied match of the season, and he will leave a big gap to fill when he moves up to the Super League with Wigan in 2022.

Rookies

The London academy has produced some real gems of late – see Kai Pearce-Paul, now of Wigan,

drawing comparisons to a certain Sonny Bill Williams for his performances in 2021 – and this season was no different, with a seemingly endless conveyor belt of local talent sprouting from in and around the capital. Part-time status in 2022 has seen a firesale of experienced players, but two rookies who really hit their straps could make up the Broncos' playmaking pair at the base of the scrum. Rian Horsman and Oli Leyland both debuted in 2021, playing 18 games between them, and with Jarrod Sammut, Cory Aston, James Meadows and Matty Fozard all departing in 2022, the two Londoners could become key cogs in the side for the next few seasons.

Looking ahead

London fans will have every finger, toe and eyelash crossed in the hope that 2022 will be a successful year, with their new, and hopefully permanent, home at Plough Lane becoming a fortress that re-kindles interest in rugby league in the capital. The brand-new, state-of-the-art stadium in the south-west of the city will, hopefully, become the ground which the Broncos can finally call home. Despite a flurry of departures, largely to teams still full-time, the Broncos have signed internationals Dean Parata, Declan O'Donnell, Lewis Bienek, Wellington Albert, Ronny Palumbo, Rob Tuilatu and Paul Ulberg, to beef up Jermaine Coleman's squad for the new season.

2022 will likely be a year of transition for the sport as a whole in London, but those who want the sport to survive and grow will be hoping that the Broncos can build back to Super League in the non-too distant future.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Ed Chamberlain
2. Paul Ulberg
3. Will Lovell
4. Ronny Palumbo
5. Tuoyo Egodo
6. Oli Leyland
7. Rian Horsman
8. Lewis Bienek
9. Dean Parata
10. Wellington Albert
11. Rhys Curran
12. Josh Walters
13. Daniel Hindmarsh
14. Declan O'Donnell
15. Rob Tuilatu
16. Jordan Williams
17. Will Blakemore

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Keighley	W 24 - 10	The Rock	-
CC2	York City Knights	L 2 - 14	The Rock	-
1	Halifax	L 14 - 47	The Shay	-
2	Toulouse	L 0 - 24	Ernest Wallon	-
3	Oldham	W 38 - 24	The Rock	-
4	Sheffield Eagles	D 20 - 20	SOLP	-
5	Newcastle Thunder	W 50 - 30	Trailfinders	-
6	Batley	W 40 - 6	Fox's Bisc.	-
7	Bradford	L 8 - 33	Trailfinders	500
8	Dewsbury	W 30 - 10	Trailfinders	280
9	Widnes	W 24 - 22	DCBL	1,211
10	Whitehaven	W 46 - 12	Trailfinders	250
11	Swinton	W 38 - 24	Trailfinders	240
12	Featherstone Rovers	L 14 - 63	Millennium	1,750
13	York City Knights	W 50 - 20	Trailfinders	200
15	Oldham	W 30 - 20	Bower Fold	-
16	Toulouse	L 6 - 66	Trailfinders	500
17	Whitehaven	L 18 - 32	Rec. Gnd	792
19	Sheffield Eagles	W 42 - 12	Trailfinders	350
20	Swinton	W 34 - 32	Heywood	542
21	Featherstone Rovers	L 28 - 48	Trailfinders	-
22	York City Knights	L 22 - 32	LNER	-

LONDON BRONCOS

Established	1980
Home Ground	Trailfinders Sports Ground, West Ealing UK
Championship	1982/83
- Runners Up	2018
Challenge Cup	None
- Runners Up	1999

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 6th | Challenge Cup: Second Round | Played 22, Won 12, Lost 9, Drawn 1 | For 578, Against 601 | Coach: Danny Ward (22 matches)
 Most Points: Chris Hankinson (206) | Most Tries: Abbas Miski (18)

Round	CC-1	CC-2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	KEI	YOR	HAL	TOU	OLD	SHE	NWT	BAT	BRA	DEW	WID	WHI	SWI	FEA	YOR	OLD	TOU	WHI	SHE	SWI	FEA	YOR	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts
ADEBIYI, Sadiq																				B	B	2R	1	2	1	-	-	4
ASTON, Cory	HB				FE	HB			FE	FE	FE	FE											7	-	2	-	-	8
BLAKEMORE, William			L										B		B								1	2	-	-	-	-
BOAFO, Gideon	W	W			B	B	W	W			B	B	W	W					W	W	W		9	4	16	-	-	64
CHAMBERLAIN, Ed	FB	FB	FB			FB		FB	FB													C	7	-	-	1	-	2
CURRAN, Rhys	2R					FR	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R				13	-	5	-	-	20
DAVIS, Sam	H	H			B	B	B	B	B	H	H	H											5	5	1	-	-	4
EGODO, Tuoyo			W		W	W			W						W	W	W			B		W	8	1	6	-	-	24
FOZARD, Matty			H		H	H	H	H	H	HB	HB							H	H	H	H	H	13	-	3	1	-	14
GWAZE, Titus	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	B		B	FR	B	B	B	FR	6	14	3	-	-	12
HANKINSON, Chris	C				C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	FE	C	C	FB	FB	FB	FB	19	-	10	83	-	206
HINDMARSH, Daniel		L	B		B	B	FR	L	L	B	B	B	L	B	L	B	B	L	L	L	L	B	10	10	1	-	-	4
HODSON, Joshua	B	C	C		C					W	W	W	W	W	C	C	C	C	B	C	C	C	15	2	4	-	-	16
HORSMAN, Rian		HB	FE													B	B	HB	HB	HB	HB		6	2	-	-	-	-
JONES, Jacob	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	B	B	L	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	H	H	B	B	2R	2R	B	14	6	5	-	-	20
KRASNIQI, Olsi	FR	FR	FR																				3	-	-	-	-	-
LATU, Paulos	B	B																					-	2	-	-	-	-
LEYLAND, Oliver		FE					FB						B	B	FB	FB	FB	FB			B	FE	7	3	1	-	-	4
LOVELL, Will	C	C	C		2R	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	2R	2R	2R		C	C		2R	19	-	3	-	-	12
MEADOWS, James	FE		HB		FB		HB	HB	HB	FB	FB	FB	FE	FE	FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	19	-	2	-	-	8
MISKI, Abbas	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	21	-	18	-	-	72
MORAN, Patrick											FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	FR	B	9	3	1	-	-	4
NAVARRETE, Romain	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR		FR	FR	B	B	B		L									8	3	2	-	-	8
OAKLEY, Robert												B	H	B	H			B	B		B		2	5	-	-	-	-
OGDEN, Jacob			B				B								B	C	B	W	C		C		4	4	1	-	-	4
RICHARDS, Greg	B	B	B		L	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	L	L	FR	2R	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	18	3	3	-	-	12
SAMMUT, Jarrod					HB	FE	FE	FE		B	B	HB	HB	HB	HB	B	HB					B	9	4	7	2	-	32
WALTERS, Josh	L	2R	2R		2R	2R	L	2R	2R	2R				H	2R	L	L	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	18	-	6	-	-	24
WILLIAMS, Jordan		B			FR		B	B	B	B			B	FR		B		B		B			2	9	-	-	-	-

Position Key
 FB = Fullback

W = Wing
 C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
 HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
 HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
 L = Lock

B = Bench

NEWCASTLE THUNDER

SEASON REVIEW

By Gavin Wilson



Thunder make the most of their unexpected promotion

Just two weeks before Christmas 2020, an independent panel chose progressive League 1 club Newcastle Thunder to take the final vacant spot in the 2021 Championship. It was judged that the North East club were best placed to bring the most competition and commercial value to the division, and despite the short notice they definitely delivered on both fronts.

Thunder successfully avoided immediate relegation by finishing in a respectable 11th position, with seven wins and one draw from their twenty league games. That one draw came on the opening day of the season when they memorably came back from 16 points down in the last ten minutes to finish 30-30 against Widnes Vikings.

Turning point

Thunder went on an impressive run of form from round 9 onwards, winning 4 out of 5 league games - including impressive away victories at Swinton and York - to steer themselves away from danger.

What worked

Director of Rugby Denis Betts and Head Coach Eamonn O'Carroll made some shrewd signings to make their squad competitive for the Championship at short notice, as highly rated young Wigan academy half back partnership Josh Woods & Jake Shorrock arrived to steer the team around the park, with huge Widnes twins Ted & Jay Chapelhow providing some beef in the pack.

Tongan powerhouse Ukuma Ta'ai made an eye-catching arrival from Huddersfield on the eve of the season, to put the rest of the division on notice.

What didn't work

Newcastle wouldn't use this as an excuse, but their late inclusion to the division certainly had them on the back foot with regards to pre-season preparations and missing out on possible Championship quality transfer targets. With a full pre-season and the step up to a full time environment for 2022, Thunder will be much more confident in their abilities.

Rookies

As part of the strategic development of the game in the North East of England, Newcastle run one of only two elite academies that fall outside the jurisdiction of a Super League club. That strategy is now starting to bear fruit Thunder take a very proactive approach to developing homegrown talent, with no less than four current first team players progressing through their own player pathways this season.

Jake Anderson, Evan Lowther, Alex Donaghy and Nathan Clemmitt are part of the next generation of local talent that give the club its north eastern heart, and will look to progress even further in a full time environment in 2022.

Looking ahead

Newcastle Thunder have one of the brightest futures in the European game. Since being taken under the wing of Newcastle Falcons rugby union club in 2015 the club have continued to make great strides forward, and that will continue in 2022 with the next logical step in their development: full time status.

With Leigh Centurions as the only other full time operation in the Championship next year (Featherstone and Bradford operate a hybrid squad system), Newcastle will be expecting to utilise the extra preparation time to get the edge over their better established but part time rivals in terms of fitness.

Another positive step is a dual registration agreement with Super League giants Wigan. Wigan's highly rated young talent will be able to get game time with the north-east club next term through the arrangement, while it will provide a boost to Newcastle's squad in turn.

The two clubs enjoy an excellent working relationship as Eamon O'Carroll and Denis Betts are two former Warriors players themselves.

With the popular Super League Magic Weekend finding a spiritual home in the Toon and the city hosting a number of high profile games in the 2021 Rugby League World Cup at the end of 2022, Rugby League fans in the North East of England have plenty to look forward to.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Jack Johnson
2. Craig Mullen
3. Jesse Dee
4. Thomas Minns
5. Gideon Boafo
6. Jake Shorrock
7. Josh Woods
8. Mitch Clark
9. Sam Hallas
10. Ukuma Ta'ai
11. Alex Foster
12. Brad Day
13. Connor Bailey
14. Josh Eaves
15. Ted Chapelhoe
16. James Chapelhow
17. Pat Moran

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Swinton	L 16 - 28	Heywood	-
1	Widnes	D 30 - 30	Kingston	-
2	Whitehaven	L 20 - 29	Rec. Gnd	-
3	Sheffield Eagles	W 24 - 16	Kingston	-
4	Batley	L 16 - 28	Kingston	-
5	London	L 30 - 50	Trailfinders	-
7	Halifax	L 0 - 32	Kingston	-
6	Bradford	L 12 - 31	Odsal	-
9	Swinton	W 36 - 30	Heywood	455
10	Oldham	W 40 - 6	Kingston	1,087
11	Featherstone Rovers	L 12 - 68	Millennium	1,750
12	York City Knights	W 28 - 26	LNER	-
13	Dewsbury	W 24 - 12	Kingston	-
14	Batley	L 12 - 42	Fox's Bisc.	932
15	Whitehaven	L 14 - 20	Kingston	1,647
16	Halifax	L 12 - 14	The Shay	1,541
17	Bradford	L 12 - 36	Kingston	1,168
19	Dewsbury	W 43 - 22	Tetley's	540
20	York City Knights	L 16 - 29	Kingston	922
21	Oldham	W 38 - 24	Bower Fold	-
22	Toulouse	L 12 - 82	Kingston	428

NEWCASTLE THUNDER

Established	1999
Home Ground	Kingston Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne UK
Championship	None
- Runners Up	None
Challenge Cup	None
- Runners Up	None

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 11th | Challenge Cup: First Round | Played 21, Won 7, Lost 13, Drawn 1 | For 447, Against 655 | Coach: Eamon O'Carroll (21 matches)
 Most Points: Josh Woods (119) | Most Tries: Kieran Gill (14)

Round	CC-1	1	2	3	4	5	7	6	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	SWI	WID	WHI	SHE	BAT	LON	HAL	BRA	SWI	OLD	FEA	YOR	DEW	BAT	WHI	HAL	BRA	DEW	YOR	OLD	TOU	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ANDERSON, Jake											B	B	B				B						-	4	-	-	-	-
ASPEY, Connor		H																					1	-	-	-	-	-
BAILEY, Connor	L	B			2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	H	2R	HB	L	2R	2R	2R	2R	16	2	5	-	-	20	
BESWICK, Robert			H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H						H	H	H		H	12	-	3	-	-	12	
BOWES, Harry															B								-	1	-	-	-	-
BROWN, Joe			C	C																		2	-	-	-	-	-	
CHAPELHOW, Edward	B	B	B	FR	B	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	15	4	1	-	-	4	
CHAPELHOW, James	B	B	B	B		B	B		B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	B		B		B		2	14	1	-	-	4	
CLARK, Mitch									B	B													-	2	-	-	-	-
CLEGG, Alex		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	W	W	W	W		19	-	5	-	-	20	
DEAN, Reece			B	B	B		HB	HB			FE		FE	FE						B	FB	6	4	1	2	-	8	
DONAGHY, Alexander				FB	FB							FB	FB	FB	FB			B	B	FB		7	2	2	-	-	8	
GILL, Kieran		C	C		C	C	C	2R			C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	15	-	14	-	-	56	
HALSALL, Samuel								C	C	C	C	C					C					6	-	1	-	-	4	
HARRISON, Owen								B	B	B	2R	B	B	L		B						2	6	1	-	-	4	
HODGSON, Evan	B		B		B																		-	3	-	-	-	-
HUDSON, Kieran														B	B					B			-	3	-	-	-	-
JOHNSON, Jack	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	18	-	12	-	-	48	
LONGSTAFF, Ellis					B	2R																1	1	-	-	-	-	
McAVOY, Liam		L	L				L	L	L	L				B	B	L	B	B	B		B	7	6	1	-	-	4	
NICHOLSON, Matthew																	2R					1	-	-	-	-	-	
NOKES, Isaac			C								B		B							C	C	3	2	1	-	-	4	
OAKLEY, Cole	B		2R	2R		B		B				B		2R	B	B					B	3	7	1	-	-	4	
ROEBUCK, Nathan																					W	1	-	2	-	-	8	
SHORROCKS, Jake	FE	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB		FE			FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE	17	-	4	-	-	16	
SIMONS, Evan	H	B	H	B	L	B		B	B	B	L	H	H		H	H	B	B	L	H	B	10	9	2	-	-	8	
SPENCER, Tom																			B	B	B		-	3	-	-	-	-
TAAI, Ukuma	2R	2R		B	B		B	B	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	2R	2R	2R	14	4	9	-	-	36	
TROUT, Kyle											B	L	L			B		FR	FR	L	FR	6	2	-	-	-	-	
TURNER, Calum	C	FB	C					FB	C	FB	FB					C	FB	FB	FB		C	12	-	2	-	-	8	
TYRER, Cian	W					W					W										W	4	-	1	-	-	4	
WILDE, Nathan	FR	FR	FR	L	FR	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	L	FR	FR		B	FR	L	18	2	3	-	-	12	
WILDE, Sam	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R				2R					2R	B	2R				10	1	1	-	-	4	
WILKINSON, Todd														B									-	1	-	-	-	-
WOOD, Mikey	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR														8	-	-	-	-	-	
WOODS, Josh	HB	HB	FE	FE	HB	HB			HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	18	-	3	53	1	119	
WRENCH, Connor						C	B															1	1	1	-	-	4	
WRIGHT, Matthew	C	C				C	C	W	C		C	C	C	C	W	HB	C	C				14	-	3	8	-	28	
YOUNG, Lewis	FB		FB			FB	FB															4	-	-	-	-	-	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	

OLDHAM RLFC

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Ferguson



In 2015, Oldham ended their near decade-long existence in England's third division, when dominated the league and earned promotion to Championship in 2016, but after a pair of struggling seasons they were relegated back to League 1.

After a pair of strong seasons, Oldham earned promotion yet again, however only managed to play 5 games in 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic. 2021 though proved to be a tough season for the Roughyeds as they lumbered their way to just a pair of wins for the year from 21 games, running dead last, sporting the worst attack and the worst defence in Championship and thus, relegated back to League 1 yet again.

The upside is that Oldham will be returning to Vestacare Stadium next year, which will be a delight for the Oldham supporters.

Turning point

Round 6. Oldham had won 2 of their opening 4 games (Against Swinton in Round 1 and Halifax in Round 4). After a 36-4 loss to Whitehaven in Round 5, Oldham came up against Championship heavyweights Featherstone and were duly thrashed. They trailed 40-0 at halftime, before going down 68-0. What followed was 14 losses, 1 draw and zero wins. A 62-4 flogging at the hands of Widnes in Round 20 sent Oldham, finally, into last place and relegation.

What worked

Young forward Tyler Dupree. The 21 year old big man was more often than not, spearheading Oldham's attack single-handedly with powerful runs. A proficient try scorer despite his side not being strong in attack, Dupree crossed the line for 10 tries in 2021, four more than the second-highest try scorer for Oldham – Martyn Reilly (who incidentally, played 3 games more than Dupree).

What didn't work

Oldham. Attack was largely one dimensional and pedestrian. Defence was atrocious and leaked points far too easily. Oldham averaged just 14 points per game in attack and conceded 35 points per game. It was abundantly clear that the step up to Championship from League 1, coupled with missing essentially a full season due to the Coronavirus, was too great a task for the Roughyeds.

Best player

Tyler Dupree – Not only was he Oldham's best player, but he was also named the Championship best young player for the year and was officially voted Oldham's player of the year. Martyn Reilly was a close second.

Rookies

Dupree was undoubtedly the standout, but Oldham unearthed a swathe of young players, among those were forward Matty Fletcher, outside back Tommy Brierley and centre Max Roberts whose line running and passing game improved nicely throughout the season.

Looking ahead

Relegation unfortunately means the loss of a huge chunk of players and staff and that is exactly what has happened to the Roughyeds in the 2021/22 offseason. The Roughyeds have a lost much of their top talent, notably Dupree, Ryan Ince, Dec Gregory and Liam Bent all to Widnes, Jack Spencer, Dan Abram and Matty Wilkinson to Swinton and Danny Langtree to Barrow.

It's not all bad news though, as they've signed a vast number of new players, headlined by Martyn Ridyard, Tom Spencer, Jordan Andrade and Jason Muranka, among a host of others.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

- 1 - Tommy Brierley
- 2 - Will Cooke
- 3 - Ben Heaton
- 4 - Cameron Leeming
- 5 - Calvin Wellington
- 6 - Martin Ridyard
- 7 - Dave Hewitt
- 8 - Phil Joy
- 9 - Gareth Owen
- 10 - Jordan Andrade
- 11 - Jason Muranka
- 12 - Emmerson Whittel
- 13 - Martyn Reilly
- 14 - Lewis Charnock
- 15 - Luke Nelmes
- 16 - Tom Spencer
- 17 - Liam Kirk

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Barrow	W 20 - 6	Bower Fold	-
CC2	Swinton	L 14 - 23	Heywood	-
1	Swinton	W 28 - 20	Bower Fold	-
2	Batley	L 10 - 48	Fox's Bisc.	-
3	London	L 24 - 38	The Rock	-
4	Halifax	W 16 - 12	Bower Fold	-
5	Whitehaven	L 4 - 36	Bower Fold	-
6	Featherstone Rovers	L 0 - 68	Millennium	1,684
7	York City Knights	L 6 - 34	LNER	1,000
8	Widnes	L 18 - 40	Bower Fold	-
9	Sheffield Eagles	L 28 - 32	Bower Fold	475
10	Newcastle Thunder	L 6 - 40	Kingston	1,087
11	Dewsbury	L 4 - 18	Bower Fold	-
13	Bradford	L 22 - 54	Bower Fold	-
14	Whitehaven	L 24 - 28	Rec. Gnd	920
15	London	L 20 - 30	Bower Fold	-
16	Swinton	D 22 - 22	Heywood	1,527
17	Sheffield Eagles	L 18 - 25	Keepmoat	379
18	Toulouse	L 6 - 34	Bower Fold	-
19	Featherstone Rovers	L 10 - 48	Bower Fold	-
20	Widnes	L 4 - 62	DCBL	-
21	Newcastle Thunder	L 24 - 38	Bower Fold	-
22	Dewsbury	L 14 - 21	Tetley's	827

OLDHAM RLFC

Established	1876
Home Ground	Bower Fold, Stalybridge UK
Championship	1904-05, 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57
- Runners Up	1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55
Challenge Cup	1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27
- Runners Up	1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 13th, Relegated | Challenge Cup: Second Round | Played 23, Won 3, Lost 19, Drawn 1 | For 342, Against 777 | Coach: Matt Diskin (23 matches)
 Most Points: Dan Abram (104) | Most Tries: Tyler Dupree (10)

Round	CC-1	CC-2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	BAR	SWI	SWI	BAT	LON	HAL	WHI	FEA	YOR	WID	SHE	NWT	DEW	BRA	WHI	LON	SWI	SHE	TOU	FEA	WID	NWT	DEW	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ABRAM, Dan	FB	FB	FB	FB			HB	FE	FE	FB	FB	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	W	FB	20	-	5	42	-	104	
ABRAM, Jamie									B			B		B	B	B	H							1	5	-	-	-	-	
BARRAN, James	HB	HB			B							FE	FE	HB	H	HB	HB	HB						9	1	1	-	-	4	
BENT, Liam	L	L	L	L	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	L	2R	2R	2R	L	L	2R	B	L	B	L	B	2R	2R	20	3	-	-	-	-	
BIBBY, Jack					B	B																		-	2	1	-	-	4	
BRIDGE, Daniel	2R	2R	2R	2R			B		C	2R	C			B	2R	L	L		L	FR	B	FR	FR	14	3	2	-	-	8	
BRIERLEY, Thomas	W	W		W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W		W	FB	C	19	-	5	-	-	20	
CHARNOCK, Lewis	FE	FE	HB	FE	HB	FE	FE			FE	FE	HB	H	FE	HB	H	FE	FE	B	B	B	FE	FE	18	3	3	-	-	12	
CROFT, Jack						C	C																	2	-	1	-	-	4	
DUPREE, Tyler	B	B	B	B	B				B	B	B		B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	6	12	10	1	-	42
FLETCHER, Matthew				B	L	B		B	B		B	B	B											1	7	-	-	-	-	
GREEN, Callum		B		B	FB	FB	FB	FB					FB											5	2	1	6	-	16	
GREGORY, Declan	B		B	B	B	B	B	B	H	B	B	H	B									B	B	B	2	13	-	-	-	-
HARTLEY, Joe					C			B						W			C			C	C			5	1	1	-	-	4	
HEATON, Ben	C	C	C	C				C					C											6	-	3	-	-	12	
HEWITT, Dave			FE	HB	FE	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB				FE	FE			FE	C	HB			13	-	2	-	-	8	
HOLCROFT, Ben			W		W	W	W						W	W	W	W			W	W	W	W	W	13	-	2	-	-	8	
HUTCHINGS, John								W																1	-	-	-	-	-	
INCE, Ryan	W	W	W	W				W	W	W	W	W	C	C	C	C	W	W	C	W	C	C	W	20	-	2	-	-	8	
JINKS, Bradley																			B				L	B	1	2	-	-	-	-
JOY, Phil												FR	FR						FR	FR	2R	FR		6	-	-	-	-	-	
KIRK, Liam	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR					B	L	15	1	2	-	-	8	
LANGTREE, Danny	2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	22	1	5	-	-	20	
NELMES, Luke	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	10	11	2	-	-	8	
NISBET, Tom									FB															1	-	-	-	-	-	
OWEN, Gareth	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H		HB	H				H	H	H	H	H	H	18	-	-	-	-	-	
PICK, Shaun	B	B	2R				B	B	2R	B		B	B	2R	B	B	2R	2R	2R					6	9	1	-	-	4	
REILLY, Martyn	B	FR	FR			B	B	FR	B	B	L	L	L	FR	FR	FR	B	B	B	B	L	B	B	10	11	6	-	-	24	
ROBERTS, Max	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	HB	2R	C	C	23	-	4	-	-	16
ROBY, Lloyd																	B	C						1	1	1	-	-	4	
ROGERS, Fenton																			B					-	1	-	-	-	-	
SENIOR, Louis										C														1	-	1	-	-	4	
SPENCE, Harvey																			HB	FE	FE	HB	HB	5	-	-	-	-	-	
SPENCER, Jack		B	B	FR	FR	L	L	L																5	2	-	-	-	-	

Position Key
 FB = Fullback

W = Wing
 C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
 HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
 HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
 L = Lock

B = Bench

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

SEASON REVIEW

By Jonathan Burnett



Nomadic Eagles fly just a bit too close to the drop

Sheffield Eagles' story has, sadly, been on a downwards trajectory in the past few years. After winning the Championship Grand Final, the equivalent of today's Million Pound Game (albeit with no promotion), in 2012 and 2013, the Eagles have slowly slipped further down the league, and before this year were had finished 7th or 8th every season since 2015.

2021 was different though, but not in the way Sheffield would've wanted. The curtailed 2020 season gave Mark Aston's side an extended time period to build a squad to challenge for promotion, however the lack of stability behind the scenes at the club meant that it was a far from peaceful period. Covid-19 delayed the completion of their new stadium in Sheffield, and their results on the pitch reflected their off-field woes.

Just five wins all season, two of which came in the first two rounds (and against sides that finished above them), bookended a miserable season for the Eagles, who faltered badly in all departments as they lost 12 of their 20 games, conceding 665 points in the process. An ageing squad, combined with poor off-season recruitment, saw the Eagles well beaten in every department most weeks, and they conceded over 40 points no less than seven times, including a walloping 78-10 loss to Featherstone to close out the season.

Whilst recruitment for 2022 is far from over, the changes thus far have been more positive, and with a permanent return to Sheffield on the horizon, the Eagles simply must improve if they're to playing in the third tier for the first time since 2006.

Turning point

Round 3 vs Newcastle – After a bright start to the season saw the Eagles win their first two games and top the table, including a 50-12 demolition of Bradford, the brakes were firmly put on after they agonisingly lost 24-16 to the Thunder in Newcastle. That set the wheels in motion for a truly awful run of form, with the Eagles winning just one of their next nine games and losing five. This included heavy losses to both Featherstone (50-18) and Toulouse (54-6) and saw Sheffield slip from first to ninth in the league.

What worked

The Back Three – Whilst the team wasn't exactly firing from back-to-front, the Eagles' regular fullback and wingers did provide some positive moments in 2021. Fullback Josh Guzdek chipped in with points from both hand and boot, whilst Rob Worrincy scored eight tries in his final season in professional rugby. Opposite winger Ryan Millar top-scored for the Eagles with 10 tries, and German-born winger departs to Bradford as one of the second division's most dangerous widemen.

What didn't work

Playing at Home – The term "Home Ground" has been a foreign concept for far too long for the long-suffering Eagles fans, as the side have moved from pillar to post since leaving Don Valley Stadium in 2013. It was just the three different home stadiums for Sheffield this year, with the soon-to-be completed Olympic Legacy Park in the city seeing just two games played on its new pitch. Doncaster (7) and Wakefield (2) played host to the Eagles' nine other home fixtures, and their record of just two wins, and seven losses, from these games highlights that the lack of a regular stadium, a situation not only affecting Sheffield, only causes damage to the team both on and off the field.

Best player

Izaak Farrell – The Jamaica half reached another level in his game in 2021. Alongside veteran scrum-half Anthony Thackeray, Farrell was a clear standout in the faltering Eagles side, scoring seven tries and kicking 52 goals to end the year as the Eagles' top pointscorer. His contributions proved crucial in the wins over York and Oldham respectively, and he will be the key man that Sheffield's new-look squad will be built around in 2022.

Rookies

With the points drying up seemingly by the week, the majority of the Eagles' rookies in 2021 came in wider positions. Olly Butterworth and Travis Corion both scored their first career tries on the wing, whilst centre-fullback Michael Adlard also impressed in his two cameos. Bullish bench forward Jordan Bull also made his presence felt, coming from the interchange to score against Batley on his professional debut for the Eagles.

Looking ahead

The club will say goodbye to stalwarts aplenty heading into 2022, with Rob Worrincy, Frankie Mariano, Scott Wheeldon and captain Matt James all retiring at the end of 2021. 13 other departures, including top-scorer Ryan Millar, means that it'll be another year of change at the Eagles with an overhauled squad. Handy acquisitions, in the form of Kris Welham, Ross Oakes, Jason Bass, Brandon Douglas and Jamaican international Ben Jones-Bishop, make up a nucleus of new signings, that will have to gel quicker than most if the Eagles are to avoid another relegation scare in 2022.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Josh Guzdek
2. Ben Jones-Bishop
3. Kris Welham
4. Ross Oakes
5. Connor Bower
6. Izaak Farrell
7. Anthony Thackeray
8. Mikey Wood
9. Vila Halafih
10. Brandon Douglas
11. Liam Johnson
12. Joel Farrell
13. Liam Kirk
14. Tyler Dickinson
15. James Davey
16. Blake Broadbent
17. Ryan Johnston

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	York City Knights	L 6 - 30	Keepmoat	-
1	Bradford	W 50 - 12	Keepmoat	-
2	York City Knights	W 20 - 14	LNER	-
3	Newcastle Thunder	L 16 - 24	Kingston	-
4	London	D 20 - 20	SOLP	-
5	Batley	L 18 - 30	SOLP	-
7	Featherstone Rovers	L 18 - 50	Keepmoat	-
8	Whitehaven	D 25 - 25	Keepmoat	-
6	Halifax	L 12 - 46	The Shay	734
9	Oldham	W 32 - 28	Bower Fold	475
10	Widnes	L 20 - 30	DCBL	-
11	Toulouse	L 6 - 54	Mob. Rkt.	292
12	Dewsbury	D 18 - 18	Tetley's	549
13	Swinton	W 30 - 22	Heywood	501
14	Halifax	L 28 - 40	Mob. Rkt.	-
17	Oldham	W 25 - 18	Keepmoat	379
18	Batley	L 12 - 56	Fox's Bisc.	859
19	London	L 12 - 42	Trailfinders	350
20	Dewsbury	L 20 - 24	Keepmoat	491
21	Swinton	L 28 - 34	Keepmoat	-
22	Featherstone Rovers	L 10 - 78	Millennium	1,750

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

Established	1984
Home Ground	Olympic Legacy Park, Sheffield UK
Championship	2012, 2013
- Runners Up	2011
Challenge Cup	1998
- Runners Up	None

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 12th | Challenge Cup: First Round | Played 21, Won 5, Lost 13, Drawn 3 | For 426, Against 695 | Coach: Matt Aston (21 matches)
 Most Points: Izaac Farrell (132) | Most Tries: Ryan Millar (10)

Round	CC1	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	6	9	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	22	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	YOR	BRA	YOR	NWT	LON	BAT	FEA	WHI	HAL	OLD	WID	TOU	DEW	SWI	HAL	OLD	BAT	LON	DEW	SWI	FEA	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ADLARD, Mike			C	FB																		2	-	-	-	-	-	
BALL, Chris									B			B											-	2	-	-	-	-
BOWER, Connor								C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	12	1	-	-	-	-	
BROADBENT, Blake	B	B		B				B	B	B	B	B					B	B	B		B	-	12	2	-	-	8	
BROWN, Aaron	L	L	L	L	L	L	HB	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	FE	FE	L	L	L	FE	21	-	6	-	-	24	
BULL, Jordan						B	B															-	2	1	-	-	4	
BURNS, Greg	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	H	H		B	H	B		B	B	B	B	B	H	11	7	2	-	-	8	
BURNS, Paddy	B	B	B		B		L			B	B	B	B			B	L	B				2	10	-	-	-	-	
BUTTERWORTH, Olly																				W		1	-	1	-	-	4	
CLARKE, Max												C										1	-	-	-	-	-	
CORION, Travis							W				W	W	W	B								4	1	2	-	-	8	
DAVEY, James		B	B	B	B	B	H	B	B	B			B	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	B	8	10	2	-	-	8	
DAVIES, Olly	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	21	-	4	-	-	16	
DICKINSON, Tyler	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	FR	FR	FR	B	FR		FR	FR	FR	B	8	12	3	-	-	12	
FARRELL, Izaac	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE				FE	FE		16	-	7	52	-	132	
FARRELL, Joel	2R	2R	2R	2R									2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	11	-	1	-	-	4	
GLOVER, James	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C			C	C	FE	C	C	C	18	-	8	2	-	36	
GUZDEK, Josh	FB	FB	FB	C	FB	FB	FB	FB						FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	16	-	2	9	-	26	
HODGSON, Evan										2R	2R	2R	B	B	B	2R	2R		B	B	L	6	5	-	-	-	-	
JAMES, Matt	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	FR		FR	L		FR		FR		16	1	1	-	-	4	
JOHNSTON, Ryan	C	C			C	C	C		FB	FB				C	C	B		C		C	C	12	1	2	-	-	8	
KNOWLES-TAGG, Brad	FR	FR		B	B	B	2R	2R	2R				B	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	B	FR	11	5	2	-	-	8	
MARIANO, Frankie			B		2R	2R												B				2	2	-	-	-	-	
MILLAR, Ryan	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	FB	FB	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W		W	19	-	10	-	-	40	
RENDER, Jack				W																		1	-	1	-	-	4	
THACKERAY, Anthony	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB					HB	HB	16	-	8	-	1	33	
TYSON-WILSON, Bobby							B	B			FR							B				1	3	1	-	-	4	
TYSON-WILSON, Harry							B				B	FE			B	HB	HB	HB			HB	5	3	-	1	1	3	
WARD, Robbie	B										H	H										2	1	-	-	-	-	
WHEELDON, Scott			FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR				B	B	B	FR	B	B	B	FR	10	6	-	-	-	-	
WORRINCY, Rob	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	20	-	8	-	-	32	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	

SWINTON LIONS

SEASON REVIEW

By Andrew Ferguson



After gaining promotion to Championship back in 2016, Swinton bucked the norm of most promoted teams, by avoiding relegation ever since. Until 2021. The Lions got off to a cracking start in the opening rounds of the Challenge Cup to start the year and then, well everything just petered out meekly.

The Lions went winless after the opening 14 rounds, before snaring a 4 point win against Dewsbury, followed by a draw with the now-relegated Oldham, before picking up a 6 point win over the 3rd last placed Sheffield in the penultimate round of the year. By seasons end, they had won just 2 of 22 games in Championship and they, along with Oldham (who also had just 2 wins), were relegated back to League 1 for the 2022 season.

Turning point

Round 1. This may seem harsh, but Swinton had beaten Newcastle and Oldham in the opening 2 Rounds of the Challenge Cup and just 5 days after beating the latter, they would square off again in the opening Round of the Championship season. Oldham were considered to be one of the weakest sides before a ball had even been kicked off, but the Roughyeds overcame a 20-10 deficit at halftime, to overrun the Lions and run out winners 28-20.

Swinton failed to beat Oldham the next time they met in Round 16, however fared better, playing out a 22 all draw.

What worked

Attack. This will seem odd for a side that failed to outscore their opponent 20 times from 22 games, but Swinton scored more points than Oldham and Dewsbury, while sitting less than 30 points adrift of Sheffield (420) and Newcastle (431). Whitehaven, who ran 6th, scored just 98 points more than Swinton. The Lions were kept to single digits just 3 times in the Championship season.

While not being good enough to remain in Championship, there is plenty to work with in the offence department.

What didn't work

Defence. This all sounds very simplistic, but the fact of the matter is, the good teams are great in defence, the poor teams just aren't. 22 of Swinton's last 23 games in 2021 (Including Challenge Cup), saw them concede at least 20 points per game. The one game where they kept a side under 20 was when they beat Dewsbury 22-18.

That consistently poor defence makes it so hard for the attack to keep up with. Swinton finished the year conceding 773 points, more than any other side in Championship.

Relegation always comes player churn, so trying to address this issue with a heap of new faces will make this problem that much harder to rectify.

Best player

Mike Butt was a real stand out for Swinton in 2021. The winger covered the roles of Fullback and Centre admirably, earning him the clubs player of the year award. Mitch Cox and captain Rhordi Lloyd were both very reliable all season long, while Martyn Ridyard provided good direction in the halves.

Rookies

Louis Brogan in just his second season, was very impressive, managing to cover roles in both the Front Row, Second Row and at Lock. A strong runner with a reliable tackling technique, Brogan

is set to become a regular at the Lions in their return to League 1 next season. Young back Luis Roberts crossed for 10 tries in 19 appearances in just his second season of football, which saw him attract the attention of Leigh, who have signed him for next season.

Looking ahead

Relegation is unfortunate, but it just may give the Lions a season to sort out their roster, correct issues with their defence and hopefully, get promoted back into Championship for 2023.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

- 1 – Dan Abram
- 2 – Mike Butt
- 3 – Liam Forsyth
- 4 – Max Roberts
- 5 – Richard Lepori
- 6 – Lewis Else
- 7 – Jack Hansen
- 8 – Will Hope
- 9 – Luke Waterworth
- 10 – Lewis Hatton
- 11 – Rhodri Lloyd
- 12 – Nick Gregson
- 13 – Louis Brogan
- 14 – Mitch Cox
- 15 – Matty Wilkinson
- 16 – Billy Brickhill
- 17 – Jack Spencer

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Newcastle Thunder	W 28 - 16	Heywood	-
CC2	Oldham	W 23 - 14	Heywood	-
1	Oldham	L 20 - 28	Bower Fold	-
CC3	Warrington	L 8 - 32	Heywood	-
2	Featherstone Rovers	L 6 - 36	Heywood	-
3	York City Knights	L 16 - 64	Heywood	-
4	Widnes	L 10 - 46	DCBL	-
5	Bradford	L 22 - 23	Heywood	-
6	Dewsbury	L 18 - 20	Heywood	-
7	Toulouse	L 18 - 66	Heywood	186
8	Batley	L 12 - 26	Fox's Bisc.	930
9	Newcastle Thunder	L 30 - 36	Heywood	455
10	Halifax	L 4 - 34	Heywood	-
11	London	L 24 - 38	Trailfinders	240
12	Whitehaven	L 22 - 36	Rec. Gnd	746
13	Sheffield Eagles	L 22 - 30	Heywood	501
14	York City Knights	L 10 - 46	LNER	-
15	Dewsbury	W 22 - 18	Tetley's	616
16	Oldham	D 22 - 22	Heywood	1,527
17	Batley	L 6 - 38	Heywood	842
18	Bradford	L 26 - 30	Odsal	2,819
19	Halifax	L 12 - 48	The Shay	1,663
20	London	L 32 - 34	Heywood	542
21	Sheffield Eagles	W 34 - 28	Keepmoat	-
22	Widnes	L 16 - 26	Heywood	1,358

SWINTON LIONS

Established	1866
Home Ground	Heywood Road, Sale UK
Championship	1926-27, 1927-28, 1930-31, 1934-35, 1962-63, 1963-64
- Runners Up	1924-25, 1932-33
Challenge Cup	1899-1900, 1925-26, 1927-28
- Runners Up	1926-27, 1931-32

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 14th, Relegated | Challenge Cup: Third Round | Played 25, Won 4, Lost 20, Drawn 1 | For 463, Against 835 | Coach: Stuart Littler (25 matches)
 Most Points: Martyn Ridyard (119) | Most Tries: Luis Roberts (10)

Round	CC1	CC2	1	CC-3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	NWT	OLD	OLD	WAR	FEA	YOR	WID	BRA	DEW	TOU	BAT	NWT	HAL	LON	WHI	SHE	YOR	DEW	OLD	BAT	BRA	HAL	LON	SHE	WID	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts
BRICKHILL, Billy		B	B				B	B	B	L	L	L	L	L	L	L				B	B	B	L	L	FR	10	8	2	-	-	8
BROGAN, Louis	B	2R	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B			B	B			FR	L	2R	2R	L	L	L	B	B	L	15	6	2	-	-	8
BROOKS, Sam	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR					B	FR	FR		FR	FR		15	3	1	-	-	4
BROWN, Jordan				B	B						FR		B		B		B								B	1	6	-	-	-	-
BROWN, Tayler		B	B	B							B	B		B	B	B				B						-	9	-	-	-	-
BUCKLEY, Owen																W	W	W	W							4	-	2	-	-	8
BUTT, Mike	W	FB	W	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	W				W	W	W	C	C	C	C	C	22	-	8	-	-	32
CLARE, Dan													W													1	-	-	-	-	-
COX, Mitch	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	25	-	9	-	-	36
DOYLE, Geronimo	FB		FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB				W	W	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	W	FB	FB	FB	20	-	4	-	-	16
FORSYTH, Liam	C																									1	-	-	-	-	-
GRANT, Sam		C			B	W																				2	1	1	-	-	4
GREEN, Cobi				B	B		B				B			HB	HB	HB	FE	HB		FE	B	HB				7	5	1	-	-	4
GREGSON, Nick	2R	FR	2R	2R		2R	FE			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		B	2R		19	1	3	1	-	14
HAMLETT, Reece												C										C	C	W	W	5	-	2	-	-	8
HANSEN, Jack	HB	HB	FE	HB	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FB	FB	FB	HB	FE	HB		HB	FB	HB	HB	HB	24	-	8	10	-	52
HATTON, Lewis	FR	2R																FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	10	-	4	-	-	16
HEYES, Ben										B		FB			B	B	W			W	W		W	W		6	3	4	1	-	18
HOPE, Will	L	H	L	L	2R	L	L	L	L			FR	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	L	L			FR	B	B	2R	19	2	4	-	-	16
HORN, Dom												B														-	1	-	-	-	-
JONES, Patrick	B		B	B	B	B			B	B	B	B	B	B			B	FR	FR	B	B	B		B		2	16	-	-	-	-
LEPORI, Richard	W	W	W	W	W																					5	-	-	-	-	-
LLOYD, Rhodri	2R	FR	C	C	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	C	2R	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	2R	2R	C	C	24	-	7	-	-	28
LUCKLEY, Sam						B	FR	FR	FR																	3	1	-	-	-	-
MEADOWS, Dean	B	B	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	B	B	FR	B	B	B	B						B	8	10	4	-	-	16
MICHAEL, Ronan											FR						FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	2	8	-	-	-	-
NASH, Paul	B	B				B	H	B		B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			B			B	1	14	1	-	-	4
RIDYARD, Martyn	FE	FE	HB	FE	HB	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE				FE	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	22	-	3	53	1	119
RIZZELLI, Nico							W	C	C																	3	-	2	-	-	8
ROBERTS, Luis		W		W	C	C	C	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	C			C	W	W	W	W		19	-	10	-	-	40
SPENCER, Tom			B		L	B	B	B	B				FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B								6	6	-	-	-	-
WATERWORTH, Luke	H	L	H	H	H	H		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	24	-	1	-	-	4

Position Key
 FB = Fullback

W = Wing
 C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
 HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
 HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
 L = Lock

B = Bench

TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE XIII

SEASON REVIEW

By Jonathan Burnett



Super League dream finally comes true in Toulouse blue

The awarding of Toronto Wolfpack's vacant Super League place to Leigh in late 2020 raised a fair few eyebrows, most of all from those who wish to see the RFL broaden their horizons beyond the game's heartlands. Toulouse Olympique seemed the obvious choice to many, but alas, a global city, with a strong rugby history (in both codes), and a top-flight ready squad, was overlooked in favour of the Centurions, with Toulouse left to battle it out for a place in the league in 2022 instead.

In one of the most unusual seasons in British rugby league history, the only non-English team in the Championship found themselves playing all but two of their games in England, as due to coronavirus restrictions, part-time sides were not permitted to travel to France for matches in Toulouse. With their home games scrapped entirely, Toulouse's season became a tour of England, and they travelled from team to team, sweeping aside all those who came before them.

The Olympique played a perfect season in 2021 – winning every single game and finishing atop the table on win percentage. 14 wins from 14, with 698 points scored at a rate of 49.86 per match, showed that Toulouse were more than ready for Super League, culminating in two comfortable wins over Batley and Featherstone in the play-offs to reach the top division of European rugby league for the first time in the club's history.

After initially being selected for the inaugural season of Super League in 1996 and quickly being chalked back off the drawing board, and losing out to Catalans Dragons for a licence in 2006, Toulouse will finally play in the Super League in 2022, and if this season of unsurpassed dominance is anything to go by, they won't just be there to make up the numbers.

Turning point

Semi-Final vs Batley – In a season of perfection, a turning point is difficult to find, but off the pitch, the semi-final against Batley gave a real flavour of what Super League rugby will look like in Toulouse. Their first game back in France, at the famous Stade Ernest-Wallon, drew a crowd of 6,871, and the Frenchmen played some champagne rugby to welcome back their supporters in demolishing Batley 51-12. Their 34-12 over Featherstone in the Million Pound Game a week later saw 9,235 locals enter the gates at Stade Ernest-Wallon, and these games, with higher gates than most top-flight teams, made the Toulouse 'experiment' finally seem real.

What worked

The Backline – With Toulouse beating all that came before them in 2021, and few matches being genuine contests, those who scored and kicked the points naturally grabbed the limelight. Centres Mathieu Jussaume and Junior Vaivai led the try-scoring charts for the Olympique, with 14 and 13 respectively, whilst the man pulling the strings from fullback, Mark Kheirallah, top-scored with 188 points from just 12 games, including seven tries.

What didn't work

Circumstance – It's a minor, and ultimately irrelevant, issue due to Toulouse's promotion, but the fact that the side were only able to fulfil 14 regular league fixtures throughout the year was testament to the lack of planning by the Championship and RFL bosses for the 2021 season. Part-time teams, made up of players heading into work the day after playing, could never have been put in the position to travel to France and isolate upon return, and the league knew this. As a result, Toulouse playing far less games than everyone else made the league look somewhat farcical. Placing Toulouse straight into Super League would have avoided these issues, as the 11 other fully professional teams would not have had the same problems, however the Olympique did ultimately vindicate the decision by winning promotion in the end.

Best player

Johnathan Ford – The Olympique captain has been an ever-present in the side since coming to

French shores in 2011, and the Cook Islands half was at his instrumental best once more in 2021. Playing equally adept at five-eighth or half-back, Ford scored four tries to aid Toulouse's cause, including a double in the 66-6 rout of London. If there's one player that will ensure that Toulouse are up to the level of Super League in 2022, it's Ford, and he will feel that his decade of service in south-west France all led to the moment the Olympique's place was secured.

Rookies

Five players debuted for Toulouse in the 2021 season, none more impressive than winger Jordan Flovie, who finished the season with 14 points from just two games. Ten of those came in the 66-0 win at Whitehaven, which also saw promising bench forward Hugo Salabio make an impact in his professional debut for the Olympique.

Looking ahead

Toulouse's construction of their 2022 roster is still in its infancy, but the club has already made some decent acquisitions. The retiring Remi Casty will leave a gaping hole in the front row, but the arrival of Gadwin Springer and Lambert Belmas should begin the process of filling the France legend's boots. Free-scoring Jy Hitchcox's departure has also seen a like-for-like replacement come in the form of Scotland international Matty Russell, whilst Wigan centre Chris Hankinson, who excelled on-loan at London this season, will also join up with the side for 2022.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Mark Kheirallah
2. Junior VaiVai
3. Mathieu Jussaume
4. Chris Hankinson
5. Matty Russell
6. Johnathan Ford
7. Tony Gigot
8. Harrison Hansen
9. Lloyd White
10. Romain Navarette
11. Dominique Peyroux
12. Andrew Dixon
13. Anthony Marion
14. Justin Sangare
15. Gadwin Springer
16. Eloi Pelissier
17. Joseph Paulo

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
1	York City Knights	W 21 - 6	LNER	-
2	London	W 24 - 0	Ernest Wallon	FORFEIT
3	Halifax	W 44 - 34	The Shay	-
5	Widnes	W 70 - 0	Heywood	-
6	Whitehaven	W 66 - 0	Rec. Gnd	-
7	Swinton	W 66 - 18	Heywood	186
9	Dewsbury	W 56 - 12	Tetley's	418
11	Sheffield Eagles	W 54 - 6	Mob. Rkt.	292
13	Batley	W 32 - 12	Fox's Bisc.	782
15	Featherstone Rovers	W 23 - 6	Millennium	4,021
16	London	W 66 - 6	Trailfinders	500
18	Oldham	W 34 - 6	Bower Fold	-
20	Bradford	W 60 - 6	Tetley's	2,445
22	Newcastle Thunder	W 82 - 12	Kingston	428
S	Batley	W 51 - 12	Ernest Wallon	6,871
F	Featherstone Rovers	W 34 - 12	Ernest Wallon	9,235

TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE XIII

Established	1937
Home Ground	Stade Ernest-Wallon, Toulouse France
Championship	2021
- Runners Up	None
Challenge Cup	None
- Runners Up	None

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 1st, Promoted | Challenge Cup: Did not participate | Played 16, Won 16, Lost 0 | For 759, Against 148 | Coach: Sylvain Houles (16 matches)
 Most Points: Mark Kheirallah (188) | Most Tries: Mathieu Jussaume (14)

Round	1	2	3	5	6	7	9	11	13	15	16	18	20	22	SF	GF	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	YOR	LON	HAL	WID	WHI	SWI	DEW	SHE	BAT	FEA	LON	OLD	BRA	NWT	BAT	FEA	Starts	Bench	T	G	FG	Pts
ALBERT, Lucas														B			-	1	-	-	-	-
ARMITAGE, Guy								W					C				2	-	3	-	-	12
BERGAL, Ilias	W		W				W	W	W			W	W	W			8	-	3	-	-	12
BOYER, Clément			FR														1	-	-	-	-	-
BREHERTON, Joe	FR		2R	2R	FR	2R			L		FR		2R	2R	2R	2R	11	-	8	-	-	32
CASTY, Rémi	B		L	L	2R	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR			FR	FR	FR	FR	12	1	5	-	-	20
DIXON, Andrew	2R		2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R					9	-	5	-	-	20
FLOVIE, Jordan				W	W												2	-	3	1	-	14
FORD, Jonathan	HB		HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB	FE	FE	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	FE	15	-	4	-	-	16
GARBUTT, Mitch	B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		B	B		B	B	-	13	6	-	-	24
GARCIA, Cedric				B		B	B										-	3	-	-	-	-
GARCIA, Maxime			B														-	1	-	-	-	-
GIGOT, Tony						HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	HB	FE	FE	HB	11	-	2	-	2	10
HANSEN, Harrison	FR			FR	FR	FR	2R	2R	FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	13	-	2	-	-	8
HITCHCOX, Jy				W	W	W	W			W	W		W	W	W	W	10	-	9	-	-	36
JUSSAUME, Mathieu	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	15	-	14	-	-	56
KHEIRALLAH, Mark	FB					FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	12	-	7	80	-	188
LAGUERRE, Benjamin			W														1	-	-	-	-	-
MARION, Anthony	FE		FE	HB	HB	L	L	L	H	L	L			L	L	L	13	-	6	27	-	78
NAVARRETE, Romain											B	B	B	B			-	4	2	-	-	8
PAULO, Joseph	L						2R	B	B	B	B	L	L	B	B	B	4	7	1	-	-	4
PÉLISSIER, Éloi	B		B	B	B	B	H	H	B	B	B	H	B		B	B	3	11	10	-	-	40
PEYROUX, Dominique	2R				L	2R				2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	11	-	9	-	-	36
PEZET, Hugo							B	B				B					-	3	1	-	-	4
PUECH, Maxime	B		FR				FR	FR			FR	B					4	2	-	-	-	-
SALABIO, Hugo				B	B												-	2	-	-	-	-
SANGARÉ, Justin			B	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	B	B	B	B	2	12	10	-	-	40
SCHAUMKEL, Latrell	W		FB	FB	FB	W			W	W	W	W			W	W	11	-	7	-	-	28
VAIVAI, Taioalo	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	14	-	13	-	-	52
WHITE, Lloyd	H		H	H	H	H				H	H		H	H	H	H	11	-	5	-	1	21

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench

WHITEHAVEN RLFC

SEASON REVIEW

By Jordan Weir



In the kindest possible way Covid was Whitehaven's best friend in 2020 when the RFL made the decision to null and void the Championship season. That decision probably saved Whitehaven from an uphill battle in their battle to stay in the Championship following promotion from the third tier as Champions of League 1 in 2019. Whitehaven lost all five of their league fixtures at the start of that season and also lost their last game before the season was halted in a rearranged Challenge Cup tie vs Dewsbury Rams.

That season may have only been six games long but it gave Gary Charlton and Jonty Gorley enough to see that changes were needed and that reinforcements were needed to ensure Whitehaven could compete and survive in 2021. The signings of Lachlan Walmsley, Nikau Williams and Ryan King all from Australia were inspired with Walmsley going on to be Haven's star man in 2021 and being named entertainer of the year with his acrobatic try finishes going viral on several occasions. The opening to Haven's season wasn't the best, only winning two of their opening ten league games with victories at home to Newcastle and away to Oldham. The Cumbrians also got a draw vs Sheffield Eagles but were denied the victory with a last minute field goal that saw them let slip a 13 point advantage.

But weirdly it seemed to be an emphatic defeat in Round 10 that got Haven back on track. A visit to the capital to take on London Broncos saw them lead 12-0 after 30 minutes. A Chris Hankinson try saw that gap reduced to eight at the break but the second half saw the pendulum swing in Broncos favour as they scored forty two unanswered points in a performance that left Gary Charlton seething. Following that however Whitehaven won eleven of their final thirteen games including eight on the bounce at home to secure not their survival but secured a unlikely play-off position following a final day victory vs Bradford in what was the club's first victory at Odsal since 1957.

This fantastic run saw victories over former world champions Widnes in a sixty point rout, Batley at Mount Pleasant and Halifax at the LEL Arena, the latter two ahead of the club and battling for play-off places themselves for the battle to Super League.

It was a fairytale run for Gary Charlton's side who in the run to the victory over Halifax announced that he would be stepping down as head coach and moving into a director of rugby role and it was announced that his assistant Jonty Gorley would take the head coaches role for 2022. Their reward for grabbing the final play-off position was a trip to the Shay to take on Halifax who they had defeated only two weeks earlier. But the fairytale came to an end as Haven fell to just their third defeat in only thirteen games narrowly in front of the television cameras and more importantly 500 travelling West Cumbrians who had followed their fairytale throughout the season.

Jonty Gorley lost the influential duo of Lachlan Walmsley and Louis Jouffret to Halifax Panthers for 2022 as well as club captain Marc Shackley who announced his retirement due to a long-standing knee issue but have strengthened throughout the squad to make sure that Whitehaven can compete in the Championship once again in 2022.

Turning point

The signing of Louis Jouffret. There's no big secret that a major factor in Whitehaven's turn of form mid-season was the signing of the French utility back following the completion of the Elite 1 season in France. Jouffret formed a fantastic partnership alongside Nikau Williams and was a key cog at half-back for Gary Charlton's side. Jouffret signed following the London defeat and had a number of pivotal moments including the victory securing the final try in their penultimate away fixture vs Batley. He will be a big miss for Haven in 2022 following him signing for Halifax.

What worked

Being able to name a settled side. Gary Charlton used in excess of 30 players in 2021 including the loan signings of Ronan Michael and Aiden Roden appearing in the early weeks of the season. Charlton lost vice-captain and Scottish international hooker Callum Phillips for the opening four rounds of the season following being sent off in the opening fixture of the season in the Challenge Cup vs Dewsbury. One of Haven's downfalls was not naming a settled side on a week to week basis but later on in the campaign being able to name a more settled side allowed that squad to flourish.

What didn't work

Playing behind closed doors. The opening fixtures for the 2021 season were played behind closed doors due to Covid and saw Haven's two challenge cup fixtures and opening six Championship fixtures played with only a handful of people in the stadiums and it's no surprise that once the passionate West Cumbrian fans were not only allowed back into the LEL Arena but also allowed to travel to support them away from home that Haven were able to get more victories.

Best player

Tom Wilkinson swept up at the club's end of season awards including Player's player and coaches player of the season but it was Lachlan Walmsley who entertained for Whitehaven in 2021 in his first season in the British game. The Australian who is of Scottish heritage which saw him called up to the Scotland squad for their end of season vs Jamaica was one of the main reasons that Whitehaven went on the run they did to end the season. He was in the top five point scorers in the division being the club's top try scorer and goalkicker. His acrobatic finishes meant he scored tries

from essentially nowhere whether on the wing and deputising at full back where he was equally at home meaning there were a number of clubs including Super League clubs looking for his signature for 2022.

Rookies

Guy Graham. The prop joined Haven firstly on a one-month trial having previously been at Newcastle Falcons RU and never played a game of Rugby League in his life to end the season being selected for the Scotland squad for their end of season international. Graham improved after each performance making his debut in the Round 3 debut away to eventual play-off finalists Featherstone Rovers.

Looking ahead

Whitehaven have looked to Australia once again to supplement their mainly Cumbrian squad. The signings of Alex Bishop, Will Evans and Josh Martin from down under look to be exciting new additions alongside Geronimo Doyle. The kiwi full back signed from Swinton Lions and has plenty of try scoring prowess. 2022 will see it be tough for Haven to replicate what they did last season but they have got the personnel to launch a challenge on the play-offs once again and should have enough strength to make sure a relegation battle will be far from their thoughts.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Geronimo Doyle
2. Dave Ecclestone
3. Chris Taylor
4. Will Evans
5. Andrew Bulman
6. Karl Dixon (C)
7. Nikau Williams
8. Liam McAvoy
9. Callum Phillips (VC)
10. Tom Walker
11. Ryan King
12. Liam Cooper
13. Dion Aiye
14. James Newton
15. Connor Holliday
16. Tom Wilkinson
17. Andrew Dawson
18. Guy Graham
19. Jake Moore.
20. Jake Bradley
21. Kieran Hudson
22. Josh Martin
23. Alex Bishop
30. Glenn Riley

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Dewsbury	W 23 - 16	Rec. Gnd	-
CC2	Widnes	L 10 - 34	DCBL	-
1	Dewsbury	L 8 - 17	Tetley's	-
2	Newcastle Thunder	W 29 - 20	Rec. Gnd	-
3	Featherstone Rovers	L 14 - 48	Millennium	-
4	Bradford	L 22 - 30	Rec. Gnd	-
5	Oldham	W 36 - 4	Bower Fold	-
6	Toulouse	L 0 - 66	Rec. Gnd	-
7	Widnes	L 6 - 44	DCBL	-
8	Sheffield Eagles	D 25 - 25	Keepmoat	-
9	Batley	L 20 - 24	Rec. Gnd	632
10	London	L 12 - 46	Trailfinders	250
11	York City Knights	W 37 - 12	Rec. Gnd	601
12	Swinton	W 36 - 22	Rec. Gnd	746
13	Halifax	L 4 - 14	The Shay	877
14	Oldham	W 28 - 24	Rec. Gnd	920
15	Newcastle Thunder	W 20 - 14	Kingston	1,647
16	Dewsbury	W 20 - 18	Rec. Gnd	730
17	London	W 32 - 18	Rec. Gnd	792
18	York City Knights	L 12 - 30	LNER	-
19	Widnes	W 64 - 6	Rec. Gnd	951
20	Batley	W 22 - 14	Fox's Bisc.	922
21	Halifax	W 19 - 6	Rec. Gnd	1,258
22	Bradford	W 36 - 22	Odsal	5,340
PS	Halifax	L 20 - 24	The Shay	-

In 2022, Jordan will be the voice of Whitehaven RLFC commentary for BBC Radio Cumbria, which can be found on the BBC Sport website for all of Haven's League and Cup Fixtures.

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 6th | Challenge Cup: Second Round | Played 25, Won 13, Lost 11, Drawn 1 | For 555, Against 598 | Coach: Gary Charlton (25 matches)
 Most Points: Lachlan Walmsley (211) | Most Tries: Lachlan Walmsley (15)

Round	CC1	CC2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	PS	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	DEW	WID	DEW	NWT	FEA	BRA	OLD	TOU	WID	SHE	BAT	LON	YOR	SWI	HAL	OLD	NWT	DEW	LON	YOR	WID	BAT	HAL	BRA	HAL	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts
AIYE, Dion	B									B	B	B		B		B		B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	-	14	1	-	-	4
BRADLEY, Jake							B	L	B	B	B	B					B			L	B	FR	B	B	B	3	11	4	-	-	16
BULMAN, Andrew	W	W		W		W	W				W	W	W			W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	18	-	14	-	-	56
COOPER, Liam	L	B	B	B		B	2R	2R	2R	FR	FR	2R	B	B	L	B		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	16	7	4	-	-	16
CROSTON, Sean		C			C			W					C		W										5	-	1	-	-	4	
DAWSON, Andy	FR		FR	FR		FR	FR		FR	B	B	FR	FR	B		B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	B	8	12	-	-	-	-
DIXON, Karl	FE	FE	HB	HB	FE	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		FE	C		FE	C	C	C	C		C	21	-	8	-	-	32
GILLAM, Ellis	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	2R						17	1	-	-	-	-	
GRAHAM, Guy					B			B			FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	FR		FR	FR		FR	FR	FR	11	2	-	-	-	-	
HOLLIDAY, Connor	B	2R		2R	2R	2R		2R		2R	2R		2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2R		2R			15	1	6	1	-	26	
JOUFFRET, Louis														FB	FE	HB	FE	FE		FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	11	-	6	6	-	36	
KELLY, Ethan		B			B			FR				B													1	3	-	-	-	-	
KING, Ryan															B	B	B		B	B	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	4	6	3	-	-	12
McNALLY, Gregg	FB		FB						FB	FB	FB					FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	14	-	3	-	3	15	
MICHAEL, Ronan					B	B	B	B																	-	4	-	-	-	-	
MOSSOP, Jason	C		C	W		W	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C			C	C	W	20	-	3	-	-	12
NANDYE, Jessie Joe		C		C	C	C	W	C	W	W		W	W	W	W								B		13	1	2	-	-	8	
NEWTON, James	H		H	B	B	B		B	B	H		H	H	H	H		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	15	5	3	-	-	12	
OLSTROM, Karl				B		B	B																		-	3	-	-	-	-	
PHILLIPS, Brett	2R		2R																						2	-	-	-	-	-	
PHILLIPS, Callum	B	H					B	FE			H					H	B	B	B		B	B	H		5	7	8	-	-	32	
PUREWAL, Aaron					W																				1	-	1	-	-	4	
RILEY, Glenn		FR			FR			FR							B										3	1	-	-	-	-	
RODEN, Aiden			B	H	H	H	H	H	H																6	1	1	-	-	4	
SHACKLEY, Marc	FR		FR											FR	FR	FR			FR	FR					7	-	1	-	-	4	
TAYLOR, Chris	C		C	C	B	C	C		C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C		C	19	1	3	-	-	12	
THOMAS, Oscar		B						FB	B	B	B	B	B	B	B					B					1	9	-	-	-	-	
THORNLEY, Andrew		B	B																	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	5	3	-	-	-	-	
WALKER, Tom	B		B	FR		FR	FR		FR	FR	FR					FR	FR	FR	FR					B	B	10	4	1	-	-	4
WALMSLEY, Lachlan	W	FB	W	FB	FB	FB	FB		W	W	W	FB	FB	W	FB		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	23	-	15	75	1	211	
WILKINSON, Tom		L	L	L	L	L	L		L	L	L	L	L	L		L	L	L	L		L	L	L	L	21	-	3	-	-	12	
WILLIAMS, Nikau	HB	HB	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	24	-	4	1	1	19	
WORTHINGTON, James		W	W		W			W																	4	-	1	-	-	4	
ZAMMIT, Dean		FR		B	FR			B				B		B											2	4	-	-	-	-	

Position Key	W = Wing	FE = Five-Eighth	PR = Prop	SR = Second Row	B = Bench
FB = Fullback	C = Centre	HB = Halfback	HK = Hooker	L = Lock	

WHITEHAVEN RLFC
 Established 1948
 Home Ground Recreation Ground, Whitehaven UK
 Championship None
 - Runners Up 2004, 2005
 Challenge Cup None
 - Runners Up None

WIDNES VIKINGS

SEASON REVIEW

By Jonathan Burnett



Vikings' hike back to top-flight looks unlikely on 2021 showing.

It's easy to forget that, less than four years ago, Widnes were a Super League club. Although they weren't pulling up any trees, particularly after the departure of Kevin Brown in 2016, the 'Cup Kings' of the 1980's had earned their seat at the table and had been a staple of the top-flight for nigh-on a decade. Fast-forward to the present-day though, and it appears the club has never been further from its former self.

The money troubles that saw them plummet are yet to subside, and the on-pitch performances in 2021 did little to spark any hope of a promotion push in the near future. Finishing the season in ninth, Simon Finnigan's side were unable to string together a winning run of more than three games – which they only did once, in their last three of the year.

A side with a seemingly solid blend of old heads and young prospect did not gel to the desired effect, and an increasingly passive (and dwindling) fanbase watched on as the Vikings suffered some heavy defeats, conceding 70 at home to Toulouse, and 64 at Whitehaven in one of the season's shock results. Should the club wish to turn their fortunes around and make a push to get back into Super League, this season doesn't provide much evidence that the club are heading in the right direction.

Turning point

Round 12 v Halifax – After a meagre start to the season, Widnes had picked up in May/June, and were on a run of four wins in five. Turning up to the Shay in early July saw a pulsating fixture play out, with Liam Harris' drop goal scuring a 17-16 win for the Panthers right at the death. It had a profound effect on the Vikings' form, as they lost their next four straight games to drop from 7th to 10th in the table, well out of play-off contention and with their season all but over before playing Halifax again in round 18. They won this clash 25-6, but by then it was already too late.

What worked

The Right Side – The combination of Deon Cross, Steve Tyrer and Adam Lawton, at right wing, centre and second-row respectively, was by far the most potent attacking weapon Widnes possessed in 2021. The trio crossed for 42 tries between them, with Cross grabbing 18 alone, and with fullback Jack Owens also supporting in tow, it's clear that this area of the team gives the Vikings something to build on going forward, despite being without Cross after this season.

What didn't work

Usage of Matty Smith – When you have a recent England international half-back in your ranks, the common-sense idea would be to use him in his preferred position to direct this relatively young side around the park. However, after starting the first five league games of the season in the halves, but winning only one, Smith was moved to lock to allow youngster Joe Lyons room at the base of the scrum. Lyons had a good season compared to many of his teammates, but the control over games surely would've been stronger had the experienced Smith been calling the shots from number seven.

Best player

Deon Cross – The flying Salford-bound winger was simply electric for Widnes in 2021, crossing for 18 tries and being a constant threat in attack, popping up in areas all over the pitch to break lines and look for offloads. Indeed, his 2021 highlight reel includes many long-range, runaway tries, suggesting that should he get into open space in the Super League in 2022, he'll be just as hard for even the country's best defenders to keep hold away from the tryline.

Rookies

Bleeding youngsters in the first-team early on in their careers has been the mantra at Widnes for the past few seasons, and 2021 was no different. Winger Ollie Brookes was their brightest spark,

scoring three tries in his nine appearances, five of which were starts. Furthermore, fullback Daniel Hill and hooker Aiden Roden also impressed whenever they appeared, with Hill scoring the Vikings' only try in their Challenge Cup defeat to Salford in April.

Looking ahead

The front-row stocks for 2022 are looking thin at Widnes, following the retirement of props Paul Clough, Lee Jewitt and captain Matt Cook, as well as hooker Logan Tomkins. Filling this void are a raft of signings, including Levy Nzoungou, Sam Wilde, Tyler Dupree and Brad Holroyd, whilst Wales international Matty Fozard will look to take some of the playmaking weight off the shoulders of Smith and Lyons.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Jack Owens
2. Matty Fleming
3. Steve Tyrer
4. Jake Spedding
5. Ryan Ince
6. Danny Craven
7. Joe Lyons
8. Kenny Baker
9. Matty Fozard
10. Owen Farnworth
11. Adam Lawton
12. Shane Grady
13. Matty Smith
14. Will Tilleke
15. Sam Wilde
16. Tyler Dupree
17. Levy Nzoungou

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	West Wales	W 58 - 4	Llanelli	-
CC2	Whitehaven	W 34 - 10	DCBL	-
1	Newcastle Thunder	D 30 - 30	Kingston	-
CC3	Salford	L 4 - 68	AJ Bell	-
2	Dewsbury	L 14 - 22	DCBL	-
3	Batley	L 16 - 48	Fox's Bisc.	-
4	Swinton	W 46 - 10	DCBL	-
5	Toulouse	L 0 - 70	Heywood	-
6	York City Knights	L 14 - 35	DCBL	-
7	Whitehaven	W 44 - 6	DCBL	-
8	Oldham	W 40 - 18	Bower Fold	-
9	London	L 22 - 24	DCBL	1,211
10	Sheffield Eagles	W 30 - 20	DCBL	-
11	Bradford	W 25 - 12	Odsal	3,153
12	Halifax	L 16 - 17	The Shay	1,232
13	Featherstone Rovers	L 10 - 32	DCBL	-
15	Batley	L 16 - 34	DCBL	-
16	York City Knights	L 20 - 34	LNER	-
17	Dewsbury	L 22 - 23	Tetley's	726
18	Halifax	W 25 - 6	DCBL	-
19	Whitehaven	L 6 - 64	Rec. Gnd	951
20	Oldham	W 62 - 4	DCBL	-
21	Bradford	W 10 - 9	DCBL	-
22	Swinton	W 26 - 16	SOLP	1,358

WIDNES VIKINGS

Established	1875
Home Ground	Halton Stadium, Widnes UK (current name: DCBL Stadium)
Championship	1977-78, 1987-88, 1988-89, 2001
- Runners Up	1935-36, 1979-80, 1990-91
Challenge Cup	1929-30, 1936-37, 1963-64, 1974-75, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1983-84
- Runners Up	1933-34, 1949-50, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1981-82, 1992-93

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 9th | Challenge Cup: Third Round | Played 24, Won 11, Lost 12, Drawn 1 | For 590, Against 616 | Coach: Simon Finnigan (24 matches)
 Most Points: Steve Tyrer (136) | Most Tries: Deon Cross (18)

Round	CC1	CC2	1	CC3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	SEASON STATISTICS					
Opponent	WWR	WHI	NWT	SAL	DEW	BAT	SWI	TOU	YOR	WHI	OLD	LON	SHE	BRA	HAL	FEA	BAT	YOR	DEW	HAL	WHI	OLD	BRA	SWI	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts
ASPEY, Connor																					B	B	B		-	3	1	-	-	4
BAKER, Kenny	FR	L			B	L	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	20	2	6	-	-	24
BROOKES, Ollie													B	B		B		B	W	W	W	W	W		5	4	3	-	-	12
BUCKLEY, Owen	W	W	W	W		W								B							B				5	2	1	-	-	4
CLOUGH, Paul		FR	L	B	L	FR	L	L		B	B	B	B	FR			B			B	B	B	B	B	7	11	-	-	-	-
COOK, Matt		B	FR						FR	FR	FR	B		B	B	B								B	4	6	1	-	-	4
CRAVEN, Danny	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	HB			FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE		21	-	8	-	1	33
CROSS, Deon	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	24	-	18	-	-	72
DORO, Eribe			FR		FR	FR																			3	-	1	-	-	4
DWYER, Connor	B	2R			B						B														1	3	-	-	-	-
EDGE, Joe							C	C	B			C	C					B	2R	B	2R	B	B	2R	7	5	2	-	-	8
ELSE, Lewis	B	B	H	H	H	B	B	B			B	H	B	H	H									FE	7	7	3	-	-	12
FARNWORTH, Owen	FR	FR				B	FR	FR		B	B	FR					B	B	FR		L	FR	FR		9	5	-	-	-	-
GRADY, Shane	2R		2R	FR	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	FR		FR	FR	FR	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R		20	-	5	-	-	20
HATTON, Jayden					W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W					W		14	-	4	-	-	16
HILL, Daniel				FB						B					B	B			B	FB					2	4	1	-	-	4
HULME, Lewis															B	H	B	H	H	H		H	H	H	7	2	1	-	-	4
JEWITT, Lee				FR	FR																				2	-	-	-	-	-
LAWTON, Adam	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B	B	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	2R	2R	2R	2R	19	5	12	-	-	48
LYONS, Joe	H	H	B	B		FB	FE	FE	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	21	2	2	-	-	8
O'NEILL, Bradley					B	H	H	H	H	H	H		H												7	1	2	-	-	8
O'NEILL, Callum	L						B	B																	1	2	-	-	-	-
OWENS, Jack	FB	FB	FB	L	FB		FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	FB	L	FB	FB	FB	23	-	11	44	-	132
ROBSON, Ellis						2R	2R	2R	2R																4	-	1	-	-	4
ROBY, Lloyd			B	C	C	C								C	C	C				B	C	C	C	C	10	2	2	-	-	8
RODEN, Aiden																	H	B	B	B	H			B	2	4	-	-	-	-
SMITH, Matty	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB	FE	HB	HB	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L			L	L	L	22	-	1	-	1	5
SPEEDING, Jake	C	C	C	C					C	C	C						C	C	C	C	C		B		12	1	3	-	-	12
TILLEKE, William	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	FR	FR	FR	FR	B	B	FR	5	19	2	-	-	8
TYRER, Steve	C	C	C	2R	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	23	-	12	44	-	136
WILDE, Josh	B	B	B	B								B	2R	2R	2R	2R									5	5	-	-	-	-

Position Key
 FB = Fullback

W = Wing
 C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
 HB = Halfback

PR = Prop
 HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
 L = Lock

B = Bench

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

SEASON REVIEW

By Gavin Wilson



Knights reboot after mixed bag 2021

York City Knights went into the 2021 season full of confidence and expectation after putting together a squad littered with big name Super League and NRL experience ready for the dawn of a new era in their brand new LNER Community Stadium home, but were dealt a cruel blow as new half back Morgan Smith suffered an ACL injury in the last week of pre-season, ruling their main organising playmaker out for the whole year.

Despite this huge setback, the Knights started the season on a positive note with away wins at Sheffield and London in the Challenge Cup, which earned them a glamour tie against Wigan and a semi-final spot in the 1895 Cup, but the injury curse struck again when Brendan O'Hagan hobbled off midway through the round 1 game against eventual undefeated Champions Toulouse. The Aussie half had a nightmare debut season, going on to make just six appearances.

Turning point

The 1895 Cup Final at Wembley - Despite losing the showpiece game to Featherstone on a hot July day, the rejuvenated Knights returned from the big smoke with their heads held high and started performing like a different team, with a much more settled starting line up winning six out of their final eight league games thanks to influential loan signings of Mikey Lewis, James McDonnell and Corey Hall.

What worked

The loan market - ravaged by an unprecedented injury list and repeated Covid protocols, the Knights turned to a number of short term deals, usually for young, hungry Super League fringe first teamers who were desperate to make a name for themselves. Mikey Lewis was a particular shining light and went on to star in Hull KR's late charge to the Super League play-offs. Honourable mentions also go to Riley Dean (Warrington), Connor Wynne (Hull FC), James McDonnell (Wigan), Aidan McGowan (Huddersfield) and Coreys Hall & Johnson (Leeds).

What didn't work

To much fanfare, the Knights recruited a squad packed full of big name players with over two thousand Super League and NRL appearances amongst them, but with all that experience also came with two thousand games of mileage in the legs, which definitely took its toll in the latter stages of games. There was certainly no lack of effort or desire from those players, but their bodies simply refused to provide them with that extra one percent when it was needed the most.

Best player

Matty Marsh was once again a shining light for York, the 2019 Player of the Year produced a significant number of class - and at times match-winning - displays at both full back and half back.

Rookies

AJ Towse, Toby Warren & Myles Harrison - Three bright young hometown talents shined brightly early on in the year against elite opposition in Wigan in the cup, then on loan at Leeds Rhinos under 20s and Rochdale in League 1, before deservedly earning their first team shirts for the last two games of the season. There will be much more to come from these exciting local lads in 2022.

Looking ahead

The Knights believe they have learned some tough lessons in 2021, which will ultimately stand them in good stead for 2022. With five players retiring and more moving on, James Ford has changed tactics and recruited a much younger looking team, all perhaps with a few points to prove.

There's raw talent in former London Broncos Jacob Ogden & Sam Davis, as well as former Parachute Regiment Bobsled champion Ollly Butterworth. There's solid Championship quality in James Glover, and there's explosive power in Pauli Pauli & Masi Matongo.

Crucially, the squad boasts more strength in depth down the spine, an essential component for a successful team in a long season.

Current Projected 2022 Lineup

1. Matty Marsh
2. Joe Brown
3. James Glover
4. Jacob Ogden
5. Will Oakes
6. Brendan O'Hagan
7. Jamie Ellis
8. Masi Matongo
9. Will Jubb
10. Jack Teanby
11. Chris Clarkson
12. Pauli Pauli
13. Jordan Thompson

14. Sam Davis
15. Ronan Dixon
16. Marcus Stock
17. Danny Kirmond

2021 SEASON RESULTS

Rnd	Opposition	Score	Venue	Crowd
CC1	Sheffield Eagles	W 30 - 6	Keepmoat	-
CC2	London	W 14 - 2	The Rock	-
1	Toulouse	L 6 - 21	LNER	-
CC3	Wigan	L 0 - 26	LNER	-
2	Sheffield Eagles	L 14 - 20	LNER	-
3	Swinton	W 64 - 16	Heywood	-
4	Dewsbury	W 30 - 20	Tetley's	-
5	Featherstone Rovers	L 12 - 16	LNER	-
6	Widnes	W 35 - 14	DCBL	-
7	Oldham	W 34 - 6	LNER	1,000
8	Bradford	L 18 - 37	Odsal	4,000
9	Halifax	L 6 - 30	The Shay	828
10	Batley	L 20 - 22	LNER	-
11	Whitehaven	L 12 - 37	Rec. Gnd	601
12	Newcastle Thunder	L 26 - 28	LNER	-
13	London	L 20 - 50	Trailfinders	200
14	Swinton	W 46 - 10	LNER	-
16	Widnes	W 34 - 20	LNER	-
17	Featherstone Rovers	L 14 - 44	Millennium	2,183
18	Whitehaven	W 30 - 12	LNER	-
19	Bradford	L 18 - 36	LNER	4,000
20	Newcastle Thunder	W 29 - 16	Kingston	922
22	London	W 32 - 22	LNER	-

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

Established	1868 (as York FC), 2002 (as York City Knights)
Home Ground	York Community Stadium, York UK (current name: LNER Community Stadium)
Championship	1980-81
- Runners Up	1973-74
Challenge Cup	None
- Runners Up	1931

2021 PLAYER RECORDS

Championship: 8th | Challenge Cup: Third Round | Played 23, Won 11, Lost 12 | For 544, Against 511 | Coach: James Ford (23 matches)

Most Points: Kieran Dixon (172) | Most Tries: Matty Marsh (13)

Round	CC1	CC2	1	CC3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16	17	18	19	20	22	SEASON STATISTICS						
Opponent	SHE	LON	TOU	WIG	SHE	SWI	DEW	FEA	WID	OLD	BRA	HAL	BAT	WHI	NWT	LON	SWI	WID	FEA	WHI	BRA	NWT	LON	Start	Int	T	G	FG	Pts	
ATKINS, Ryan	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C			C	C	C		C	18	-	7	-	-	28	
AYDIN, Yusuf					FR	FR	FR																	3	-	-	-	-	-	
BALDWINSON, Jordan	FR	FR	FR			B	L	FR	B	FR	FR	FR	B	B		B		B	B		FR			9	7	1	-	-	4	
BARCOE, Dan		B		B																				8	2	1	-	-	4	
BASS, Jason	C	W						W					B	C	W	W	FB				B		W	-	6	1	-	-	4	
BRINING, Kristian	B									B	B	B						B	B					20	-	6	-	-	24	
CLARKSON, Chris	2R	2R				L	2R	H	L	L	L	L	2R	H	HB	L	2R	L	L	L	L	L	L	3	10	-	-	-	-	
CUTHBERTSON, Adam		B	B	FR	B	B	B		B	B	B		FR	FR			B		B					8	-	3	-	1	13	
DEAN, Riley			FE			FE	HB	HB	HB	HB		HB					FE							18	-	11	64	-	172	
DIXON, Kieran	W	FB	W	W	W	W	W	FB	W	W	W	W	W	W	FB	FB	W				W			10	3	3	2	-	16	
DIXON, Ronan		FR		B	FR	FR	FR	FR		B					B	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR				11	-	4	-	-	16	
DOW-NIKAU, Tyme		W	C	C						C							C	C	C	C	C	C	C	2	-	-	-	-	-	
ELLIS, Jamie													HB	FE										-	2	-	-	-	-	
GANNON, Jacob																					B	B		6	10	1	1	-	6	
GREEN, James	B	B	B	FR	B		B	B	FR	FR	B	B			FR					B	B	FR	FR	3	-	-	-	-	-	
HALL, Corey																	C	C	W					3	-	-	7	-	14	
HARRISON, Myles				FB																		FB	FB	-	2	-	-	-	-	
HEPI, Tyla												B	B											5	2	-	1	-	2	
JOHNSON, Corey																B	B	HB	HB	HB	HB	HB		18	-	8	-	-	32	
JONES-BISHOP, Ben	FB		W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	FE			W	W	FB	W	W		19	2	4	-	-	16	
JUBB, Will	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	B	H	H	H	H		B	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		H	1	-	-	-	-	-	
KEYES, Joseph					FE																			14	2	3	-	-	12	
KIRMOND, Danny	2R	2R	2R			2R	2R	2R			2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		B	2R	FR	B	4	-	2	-	-	8	
LEWIS, Mikey									FB	FB	FB						HB							21	-	13	10	1	73	
MARSH, Matthew	HB	HB	FB	FE	FB	HB	FE	FE	FE	FE	FE	FB	FB	FB			FE	FB	FB	FE	FE	FE	FE	7	-	-	-	-	-	
McDONNELL, James									2R	2R								2R	2R	2R	2R	2R		2	1	2	-	-	8	
McGOWAN, Aidan																					FB	B	HB	8	-	3	-	-	12	
O'HAGAN, Brendan	FE	FE	HB		HB						HB	FE						FE	FE					1	1	-	-	-	-	
PEACHEY, Lewis					B	2R																		3	6	1	-	-	4	
PORTER, Joe	B	B	B	2R	2R			B	B			2R				B								16	-	3	-	-	12	
SALTER, Liam		C	2R	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C				W		C		14	2	3	-	-	12	
SCOTT, Sam				2R	2R			2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	2R	B	B	2R	2R			2R	8	6	-	-	-	-	
SPEARS, Tim		L	L	L				L				B	L	L	L	B	L	B	B			B	B	2	17	2	-	-	8	
STOCK, Marcus	B			B	L	B	B	B	FR	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			B	B	B	B	1	-	-	-	-	-	
SWEETING, Jake													H											14	-	2	-	-	8	
TEANBY, Jack	FR		FR								FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR	FR		FR	1	1	-	-	-	-	
TOWSE, AJ				B																			W	2	-	-	-	-	-	
WARREN, Toby																							2R	2R	6	8	2	-	-	8
WASHBROOK, Danny	L		B	HB	B	B	B		B				FE	HB	B	HB				B		H	B	8	-	6	-	-	24	
WHITELEY, Perry	W			W										W	W	W	W			W	W			2	-	1	-	-	4	
WYNNE, Connor						FB	FB																							

Position Key
FB = Fullback

W = Wing
C = Centre

FE = Five-Eighth
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PR = Prop
HK = Hooker

SR = Second Row
L = Lock

B = Bench

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE 2021 WRAP

Max Turner

@IntRFLfan

Only the keenest rugby league fans would be aware that international rugby league made a return in 2021, so here's some stuff you may have missed!

WORLD CUP NEWS

Disappointingly, the World Cup was postponed to 2022 after Australia and New Zealand chose to withdraw due to COVID-19. With any luck we'll be able to see every nation at full strength next year as travel restrictions and quarantine requirements gradually ease. Greek supporters can take comfort in knowing that another year of experience for up-and-comers Magoulas, Mamouzelos, Ilias, Mougios, and Robinson will do wonders for their chances of nabbing a win at the tournament.

DOWN UNDER

Two South American fixtures in Sydney opened the international calendar this year. Brazil scored eleven tries to win 60-0 over Uruguay, who are still looking for their first win after four matches, while in contrast, El Salvador won a close, hard fought game against Peru 18-10.

In the mid-season, former Melbourne Storm playmaker Paul Sheedy proved he's still got it at 40 years of age, scoring a try for the Philippines in their 40-8 win over Brazil. No other internationals were played in the Southern Hemisphere this year.

ENGLAND VS COMBINED NATIONS

The Exiles were revived as the Combined Nations All Stars for England's mid-season fixture this year. All Stars coach Tim Sheens had several obstacles to overcome when selecting his team, not least that the game was scheduled during a full Super League round, which prompted several clubs to withhold some of their players. Sam Tomkins and Tom Davies still saw value in the fixture, each driving sixteen hours from Perpignan to take their spot in the England line-up (supposedly this bypassed any requirement to quarantine). In the end, it was an embarrassing start to Shaun Wane's tenure with England, going down 26-24.

POINTS APLENTY IN SERBIA

The Euro Bs didn't turn out to be a happy return to the field for Russia, who have struggled with funding issues in recent years. The Bears suffered big losses to Serbia (66-10) and Ukraine (96-18), conceding a total of thirty-one tries. Remarkably, the 78-point margin in the latter game didn't break the record for either Ukraine's largest ever win, or Russia's largest ever loss. Serbia threw the ball around against Ukraine despite the rain and won the Euro B title with a convincing 54-18 win.

2025 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING BEGINS

After scoring a hat-trick of tries in the warm-up win over Germany (48-16), Dutch centre Joran Schoenmaker's rich vein of form continued at the Euro Bs as the Netherlands won the tournament and progressed to the next stage of World Cup qualification. They defeated Turkey (40-18) and the Czech Republic (36-10) comfortably to extend their winning streak to nine matches, with Schoenmaker scoring two and three tries, respectively.

Malta once again had their World Cup aspirations dashed early in the qualification process, relying heavily on domestic players and unable to field a full team. They went down to the Czech Republic (40-16) and Turkey (36-12) without scoring a point in the second half of either game.

Something you'll be glad to have missed was Czech forward Jiří Pecina's unsightly broken leg, suffered during the match against Malta. Play was halted for 30 minutes while he was moved into an ambulance.

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

France conceded four early tries to England, but they recovered well and were competitive for the remainder of the game. They finished with a respectable 30-10 loss, no doubt their best result against England since 2011 (in terms of points scored, points conceded, and losing margin).

Referee Ben Casty sent the wrong player to the sinbin in the 69th minute of the game after French fullback Mark Kheirallah was impeded chasing his own grubber. English five-eighth Jonny Lomax was assigned the blame by Casty and ordered from the field, but the actual culprit was Liam Farrell!

THRILLER FINISHES IN A DRAW

Hard-running back-rower Charlie Emslie and his golden mullet made a splash at Featherstone during his senior debut for Scotland. Jamaica jumped out to an early lead, however the Bravehearts hit back with five converted tries in the space of just twelve minutes, including

two for the 20-year-old Emslie. The Reggae Warriors clawed their way back in the second half, levelling the scores with minutes left on the clock thanks to an Alex Brown try in the corner. Halfback Izaac Farrell was unable to convert, and with Scotland unable to organise a field-goal attempt as the siren sounded, the score remained at 30-30.

Despite the encouraging result for Jamaica, their 56-4 loss to a young England Knights side might be a truer indicator of how they'll fare at the World Cup, especially against the Kiwis. England women go unchallenged

England have reaffirmed themselves as the top women's team in Europe after convincing wins over Wales (60-0) and France (40-4). They'll have to contend with wildcards Canada and Brazil at next year's World Cup, but their poor record against Asia-Pacific teams will pose a greater challenge.

GOAL-KICKING COST WALES WOMEN THE GAME

Welsh captain Ffion Lewis scored three tries but missed five conversions (including one from in front) as Wales women lost 26-24 to debutants Ireland. Kathryn Salter was given the chance to level the scores as the siren sounded, but her conversion from out wide also missed.

TIDBITS

A Serbian development selection were undefeated on tour, playing games against Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and Albania. The first two matches were sanctioned as full internationals for rankings points.

Welshman James Jones became a dual-code international this year when he refereed the Russia-Ukraine fixture in October. He had previously refereed four rugby union Tests and over 100 sevens matches before switching to rugby league in 2013. The Shane Flanagan-coached Macedonian Lions recorded a 58-0 win over Vietnam in a friendly match at Leichhardt Oval. The Lions were skippered by Guinness World Record holder James Mirceski, who scored a try 7.9 seconds after kick-off while playing for Serbia in 2019.

Joran Schoenmaker (Netherlands) and Djordje Krnjeta (Serbia) were nominated for the men's Golden Boot, which will be awarded at the end of 2022. Ffion Lewis (Wales) and Emily Rudge (England) were nominated for the women's award.

MEN'S INTERNATIONALS IN 2021

Date	Home team	Score	Away team	City
28 Feb	Brazil	60-0*	Uruguay	Sydney
6 Mar	Peru	10-18*	El Salvador	Sydney
6 Jun	Bosnia & Herzegovina	4-50	Serbia	Vitez
13 Jun	Brazil	8-40	Philippines	Sydney
19 Jun	Bulgaria	16-28	Serbia	Sofia
25 Jun	England	24-26*	Combined Nations	Warrington
27 Jun	Montenegro	16-24*	Serbia	Tivat
4 Jul	Albania	12-22*	Serbia	Shkodër
2 Oct	Germany	16-48*	Netherlands	Düsseldorf
3 Oct	Serbia	66-10	Russia	Paraćin
6 Oct	Russia	18-96	Ukraine	Belgrade
9 Oct	Serbia	54-18	Ukraine	Belgrade
14 Oct	Czech Republic	40-16	Malta	Bodrum
14 Oct	Turkey	18-40	Netherlands	Bodrum
15 Oct	Jamaica	4-56*	England Knights	Castleford
17 Oct	Czech Republic	10-36	Netherlands	Bodrum
17 Oct	Turkey	36-12	Malta	Bodrum
23 Oct	France	10-30	England	Perpignan
24 Oct	Scotland	30-30	Jamaica	Featherstone
19 Dec	Macedonia	58-0*	Vietnam	Sydney

*Non-sanctioned matches that did not contribute to world rankings.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONALS IN 2021

Date	Home team	Score	Away team	City
25 Jun	England	60-0	Wales	Warrington
17 Oct	Wales	24-26	Ireland	Colwyn Bay
23 Oct	France	4-40	England	Perpignan

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS 1904-2021

Year	Home		Away		City
1904	England	3	Other	9	Wigan
1905	England	26	Other	11	Bradford
1906	England	3	Other	3	Wigan
1908	Wales	9	New Zealand	8	Aberdare
1908	England	18	New Zealand	16	Wigan
1908	England	14	New Zealand	6	Leeds
1908	England	6	New Zealand	18	London
1908	England	5	New Zealand	8	Cheltenham
1908	Wales	35	England	18	Tonypandy
1908	Australia	10	New Zealand	11	Sydney
1908	Australia	12	New Zealand	24	Brisbane
1908	Australia	14	New Zealand	9	Sydney
1908	England	22	Australia	22	London
1908	England	31	Wales	7	Salford
1909	England	14	Australia	9	Huddersfield
1909	England	15	Australia	5	Newcastle
1909	England	17	Australia	17	Glasgow
1909	England	6	Australia	5	Birmingham
1909	England	14	Australia	7	Liverpool
1909	Australia	11	New Zealand	19	Sydney
1909	Australia	10	New Zealand	5	Brisbane
1909	Australia	25	New Zealand	5	Sydney
1909	England	19	Wales	13	Wakefield
1910	Wales	39	England	18	Ebbw Vale
1910	Australia	20	England	27	Sydney
1910	Australia	17	England	22	Brisbane
1910	New Zealand	20	England	52	Auckland
1910	England	39	Wales	13	Coventry
1911	Wales	8	England	27	Ebbw Vale
1911	Wales	20	Australia	28	Ebbw Vale
1911	England	6	Australia	11	London
1911	England	10	Australia	19	Newcastle
1911	England	5	Australia	3	West Bridgford
1911	England	11	Australia	11	Edinburgh
1912	England	8	Australia	33	Birmingham
1912	England	31	Wales	5	Oldham
1913	Wales	16	England	40	Plymouth
1914	England	16	Wales	12	St Helens
1914	Australia	5	England	23	Sydney
1914	Australia	12	England	7	Sydney
1914	Australia	6	England	14	Sydney
1914	New Zealand	13	England	16	Auckland
1919	New Zealand	21	Australia	44	Wellington
1919	New Zealand	26	Australia	10	Christchurch

1919	New Zealand	23	Australia	34	Auckland
1919	New Zealand	2	Australia	32	Auckland
1920	Australia	8	England	4	Brisbane
1920	Australia	21	England	8	Sydney
1920	Australia	13	England	23	Sydney
1920	New Zealand	7	England	31	Auckland
1920	New Zealand	3	England	19	Christchurch
1920	New Zealand	10	England	11	Wellington
1921	England	35	Wales	9	Leeds
1921	England	33	Other	16	Workington
1921	England	6	Australia	5	Leeds
1921	England	5	Australia	4	London
1921	England	2	Australia	16	Hull
1921	Wales	16	Australia	21	Pontypridd
1922	England	6	Australia	0	Salford
1922	England	12	Wales	7	London
1923	England	2	Wales	13	Wigan
1923	England	18	Wales	11	Huddersfield
1924	Australia	3	England	22	Sydney
1924	Australia	3	England	5	Sydney
1924	Australia	21	England	11	Brisbane
1924	New Zealand	16	England	8	Auckland
1924	New Zealand	13	England	11	Wellington
1924	New Zealand	18	England	31	Dunedin
1924	England	17	Other	23	Leeds
1925	England	27	Wales	22	Workington
1925	England	18	Wales	14	Wigan
1926	England	37	Other	11	Whitehaven
1926	Wales	22	England	30	Pontypridd
1926	England	28	New Zealand	20	Wigan
1926	England	21	New Zealand	11	Hull
1926	Wales	34	New Zealand	8	Pontypridd
1927	England	32	New Zealand	17	Leeds
1927	England	11	Wales	8	Salford
1928	England	20	Wales	12	Wigan
1928	Australia	12	England	15	Brisbane
1928	Australia	0	England	8	Sydney
1928	Australia	21	England	14	Sydney
1928	New Zealand	17	England	13	Auckland
1928	New Zealand	5	England	13	Invercargill
1928	New Zealand	5	England	6	Christchurch
1928	Wales	15	England	39	Cardiff
1929	England	27	Other	20	Leeds
1929	England	8	Australia	31	Hull
1929	England	9	Australia	3	Leeds

1930	England	0	Australia	0	Manchester
1930	England	3	Australia	0	Rochdale
1930	Wales	10	Australia	26	London
1930	England	19	Other	35	Halifax
1930	England	31	Other	18	St Helens
1931	England	23	Wales	18	Huddersfield
1932	England	19	Wales	2	Salford
1932	Australia	6	England	8	Sydney
1932	Australia	15	England	6	Brisbane
1932	Australia	13	England	18	Sydney
1932	New Zealand	9	England	24	Auckland
1932	New Zealand	14	England	25	Christchurch
1932	New Zealand	18	England	20	Auckland
1932	England	14	Wales	13	Leeds
1933	England	34	Other	27	Workington
1933	England	4	Australia	0	Manchester
1933	England	7	Australia	5	Leeds
1933	England	19	Australia	16	Manchester
1933	Wales	19	Australia	51	London
1933	England	13	Australia	63	Paris
1934	England	19	Australia	14	Gateshead
1934	England	32	France	21	Paris
1935	France	18	Wales	11	Bordeaux
1935	France	15	England	15	Paris
1935	England	24	Wales	11	Liverpool
1935	New Zealand	22	Australia	14	Auckland
1935	New Zealand	8	Australia	29	Auckland
1935	New Zealand	8	Australia	31	Auckland
1935	Wales	41	France	7	Llanelli
1936	England	14	Wales	17	Hull
1936	France	7	England	25	Paris
1936	Australia	24	England	8	Sydney
1936	Australia	7	England	12	Brisbane
1936	Australia	7	England	12	Sydney
1936	New Zealand	8	England	10	Auckland
1936	New Zealand	11	England	23	Auckland
1936	Wales	3	England	2	Pontypridd
1936	France	3	Wales	9	Paris
1937	England	23	France	9	Halifax
1937	New Zealand	8	Australia	12	Auckland
1937	New Zealand	16	Australia	15	Auckland
1937	England	5	Australia	4	Leeds
1937	England	13	Australia	3	Manchester
1937	England	3	Australia	13	Huddersfield
1938	France	6	Australia	35	Paris
1938	France	11	Australia	16	Marseille
1938	England	6	Wales	7	Bradford
1938	France	15	England	17	Paris

1938	Wales	18	France	2	Llanelli
1938	Wales	17	England	9	Llanelli
1939	England	9	France	12	St Helens
1939	France	16	Wales	10	Bordeaux
1939	England	3	Wales	16	Bradford
1940	England	8	Wales	5	Oldham
1941	England	9	Wales	9	Bradford
1943	England	15	Wales	9	Wigan
1944	England	9	Wales	9	Wigan
1945	England	18	Wales	8	Wigan
1945	Wales	11	England	3	Swansea
1946	England	16	France	6	Manchester
1946	France	19	Wales	7	Bordeaux
1946	Australia	8	England	8	Sydney
1946	Australia	5	England	14	Brisbane
1946	Australia	7	England	20	Sydney
1946	New Zealand	13	England	8	Auckland
1946	England	10	Wales	13	Manchester
1946	Wales	5	England	19	Swansea
1946	France	0	England	3	Bordeaux
1947	France	14	Wales	5	Marseille
1947	Wales	17	France	15	Swansea
1947	England	5	France	2	Leeds
1947	England	8	Wales	10	Wigan
1947	England	11	New Zealand	10	Leeds
1947	Wales	20	New Zealand	28	Swansea
1947	England	20	France	15	Huddersfield
1947	England	7	New Zealand	10	Manchester
1947	France	29	Wales	21	Bordeaux
1947	Wales	7	England	18	Swansea
1947	England	25	New Zealand	9	Bradford
1947	France	7	New Zealand	11	Paris
1948	France	25	New Zealand	7	Bordeaux
1948	Wales	12	France	20	Swansea
1948	France	10	England	25	Marseille
1948	Australia	19	New Zealand	21	Sydney
1948	Australia	13	New Zealand	4	Brisbane
1948	England	11	Wales	5	Wigan
1948	Great Britain	23	Australia	21	Leeds
1948	Wales	9	France	12	Swansea
1948	Great Britain	16	Australia	7	Manchester
1948	Wales	5	Australia	12	Swansea
1948	France	5	England	12	Bordeaux
1949	France	10	Australia	29	Marseille
1949	France	0	Australia	10	Bordeaux
1949	Great Britain	23	Australia	9	Bradford
1949	Wales	14	England	10	Swansea

1949	England	5	France	12	London
1949	France	11	Wales	0	Marseille
1949	New Zealand	26	Australia	21	Wellington
1949	England	7	Other	13	Workington
1949	New Zealand	10	Australia	13	Auckland
1949	Wales	5	Other	6	Abertillery
1949	Wales	16	France	8	Swansea
1949	France	5	England	13	Bordeaux
1950	France	8	Other	3	Marseille
1950	England	11	Wales	6	Wigan
1950	Australia	4	Great Britain	6	Sydney
1950	Australia	15	Great Britain	3	Brisbane
1950	Australia	5	Great Britain	2	Sydney
1950	New Zealand	16	Great Britain	10	Christchurch
1950	New Zealand	20	Great Britain	13	Auckland
1950	Wales	4	England	22	Abertillery
1950	England	14	France	9	Leeds
1950	France	16	Other	3	Bordeaux
1951	Wales	21	Other	27	Swansea
1951	England	10	Other	35	Wigan
1951	France	28	Wales	13	Marseille
1951	Australia	15	France	26	Sydney
1951	Australia	23	France	11	Brisbane
1951	Australia	14	France	35	Sydney
1951	New Zealand	16	France	15	Auckland
1951	England	35	Wales	11	St Helens
1951	Great Britain	21	New Zealand	15	Bradford
1951	Other	17	France	14	Hull
1951	Great Britain	20	New Zealand	19	Manchester
1951	France	42	England	13	Marseille
1951	Wales	11	Other	22	Abertillery
1951	Wales	3	New Zealand	15	Bradford
1951	Great Britain	16	New Zealand	12	Leeds
1951	France	8	New Zealand	3	Paris
1951	France	17	New Zealand	7	Bordeaux
1952	France	20	Wales	12	Bordeaux
1952	England	31	Other	18	Wigan
1952	France	22	Great Britain	12	Paris
1952	Australia	25	New Zealand	13	Sydney
1952	Australia	25	New Zealand	49	Brisbane
1952	Australia	9	New Zealand	19	Sydney
1952	England	19	Wales	8	Wigan
1952	Great Britain	19	Australia	6	Leeds
1952	England	12	Other	31	Huddersfield
1952	Wales	22	France	16	Leeds
1952	Great Britain	21	Australia	5	Manchester
1952	France	10	Other	29	Marseille
1952	Great Britain	7	Australia	27	Bradford
1952	France	12	Australia	16	Paris
1953	France	5	Australia	0	Bordeaux
1953	France	13	Australia	5	Lyon
1953	France	13	England	15	Paris
1953	Wales	18	Other	16	Warrington

1953	France	28	Great Britain	17	Lyon
1953	New Zealand	25	Australia	5	Christchurch
1953	New Zealand	12	Australia	11	Wellington
1953	New Zealand	16	Australia	18	Auckland
1953	England	24	Wales	5	St Helens
1953	Other	30	Wales	5	Bradford
1953	France	10	Other	15	Toulouse
1953	England	7	France	5	Bradford
1953	England	30	Other	22	Wigan
1953	France	23	Wales	22	Marseille
1954	France	31	USA	0	Paris
1954	Great Britain	17	France	8	Bradford
1954	Australia	37	Great Britain	12	Sydney
1954	Australia	21	Great Britain	38	Brisbane
1954	Australia	20	Great Britain	16	Sydney
1954	New Zealand	7	Great Britain	27	Auckland
1954	New Zealand	20	Great Britain	14	Greymouth
1954	New Zealand	6	Great Britain	12	Auckland
1954	France	22	New Zealand	13	Paris
1954	Australia	13	Great Britain	28	Lyon
1954	Australia	34	New Zealand	15	Marseille
1954	France	13	Great Britain	13	Toulouse
1954	France	15	Australia	5	Nantes
1954	Great Britain	26	New Zealand	6	Bordeaux
1954	France	12	Great Britain	16	Paris
1955	Australia	20	France	8	Sydney
1955	Australia	28	France	29	Brisbane
1955	Australia	5	France	8	Sydney
1955	New Zealand	9	France	19	Auckland
1955	New Zealand	11	France	6	Auckland
1955	England	16	Other	33	Wigan
1955	Great Britain	25	New Zealand	6	Manchester
1955	Other	32	France	19	Leigh
1955	Great Britain	27	New Zealand	12	Bradford
1955	France	17	Great Britain	5	Paris
1955	Great Britain	13	New Zealand	28	Leeds
1956	France	24	New Zealand	7	Toulouse
1956	France	22	New Zealand	31	Lyon
1956	France	24	New Zealand	3	Paris
1956	Great Britain	18	France	10	Bradford
1956	France	23	England	9	Lyon
1956	Australia	12	New Zealand	9	Sydney
1956	Australia	8	New Zealand	2	Brisbane
1956	Australia	31	New Zealand	14	Sydney
1956	France	8	Australia	15	Paris
1956	Great Britain	21	Australia	10	Wigan
1956	Great Britain	9	Australia	22	Bradford
1956	Great Britain	19	Australia	0	Manchester
1956	France	6	Australia	10	Bordeaux
1957	France	21	Australia	25	Lyon
1957	Great Britain	45	France	12	Leeds
1957	France	19	Great Britain	19	Toulouse
1957	Great Britain	29	France	14	St Helens

1957	Australia	25	New Zealand	5	Brisbane
1957	France	5	Great Britain	23	Sydney
1957	Australia	31	Great Britain	6	Sydney
1957	France	14	New Zealand	10	Brisbane
1957	Australia	26	France	9	Sydney
1957	New Zealand	29	Great Britain	21	Sydney
1957	France	14	Great Britain	25	Toulouse
1957	Great Britain	44	France	15	Wigan
1958	France	9	Great Britain	23	Grenoble
1958	Australia	25	Great Britain	8	Sydney
1958	Australia	18	Great Britain	25	Brisbane
1958	Australia	17	Great Britain	40	Sydney
1958	New Zealand	15	Great Britain	10	Auckland
1958	New Zealand	15	Great Britain	32	Auckland
1959	France	25	Wales	8	Toulouse
1959	Great Britain	50	France	15	Leeds
1959	France	24	Great Britain	15	Grenoble
1959	Australia	9	New Zealand	8	Sydney
1959	Australia	38	New Zealand	10	Brisbane
1959	Australia	12	New Zealand	28	Sydney
1959	Great Britain	14	Australia	22	Manchester
1959	France	19	Australia	20	Paris
1959	Great Britain	11	Australia	10	Leeds
1959	Great Britain	18	Australia	12	Wigan
1959	France	2	Australia	17	Bordeaux
1960	France	8	Australia	16	Roanne
1960	Italy	15	Australia	37	Padua
1960	Italy	22	Australia	67	Treviso
1960	France	20	Great Britain	18	Toulouse
1960	Great Britain	17	France	17	St Helens
1960	Australia	8	France	8	Sydney
1960	Australia	56	France	6	Brisbane
1960	Australia	5	France	7	Sydney
1960	New Zealand	9	France	2	Auckland
1960	New Zealand	9	France	3	Auckland
1960	Australia	13	France	12	Wigan
1960	Great Britain	23	New Zealand	8	Bradford
1960	Australia	21	New Zealand	15	Leeds
1960	Great Britain	33	France	7	Manchester
1960	Great Britain	10	Australia	3	Bradford
1960	New Zealand	9	France	0	Wigan
1960	France	22	New Zealand	11	Paris
1960	France	10	Great Britain	21	Bordeaux
1961	Great Britain	27	France	8	St Helens
1961	New Zealand	12	Australia	10	Auckland
1961	New Zealand	8	Australia	10	Auckland
1961	Great Britain	11	New Zealand	29	Leeds
1961	Great Britain	23	New Zealand	10	Bradford
1961	Great Britain	35	New Zealand	19	Manchester
1961	France	6	New Zealand	6	Bordeaux
1961	France	2	New Zealand	23	Perpignan
1961	France	5	New Zealand	5	Paris

1962	Great Britain	15	France	20	Wigan
1962	France	23	Great Britain	13	Perpignan
1962	Australia	12	Great Britain	31	Sydney
1962	Australia	10	Great Britain	17	Brisbane
1962	Australia	18	Great Britain	17	Sydney
1962	New Zealand	19	Great Britain	0	Auckland
1962	New Zealand	27	Great Britain	8	Auckland
1962	England	18	France	6	Leeds
1962	France	17	Great Britain	12	Perpignan
1963	France	23	Wales	3	Toulouse
1963	Great Britain	42	France	4	Wigan
1963	Australia	7	New Zealand	3	Sydney
1963	Australia	13	New Zealand	16	Brisbane
1963	Australia	14	New Zealand	0	Sydney
1963	Australia	34	South Africa	6	Brisbane
1963	Australia	54	South Africa	21	Sydney
1963	Great Britain	2	Australia	28	London
1963	Great Britain	12	Australia	50	Manchester
1963	Great Britain	16	Australia	5	Leeds
1963	France	8	Australia	5	Bordeaux
1963	France	9	Australia	21	Toulouse
1964	France	8	Australia	16	Paris
1964	France	5	Great Britain	11	Perpignan
1964	Great Britain	39	France	0	Leigh
1964	Australia	20	France	6	Sydney
1964	Australia	27	France	2	Brisbane
1964	Australia	35	France	9	Sydney
1964	New Zealand	24	France	16	Auckland
1964	New Zealand	18	France	8	Christchurch
1964	New Zealand	10	France	2	Auckland
1964	France	18	Great Britain	8	Perpignan
1965	Great Britain	17	France	7	Manchester
1965	New Zealand	8	Australia	13	Auckland
1965	New Zealand	7	Australia	5	Auckland
1965	Great Britain	7	New Zealand	2	Manchester
1965	Great Britain	15	New Zealand	9	Bradford
1965	Great Britain	9	New Zealand	9	Wigan
1965	France	14	New Zealand	3	Marseille
1965	France	6	New Zealand	2	Perpignan
1965	France	28	New Zealand	5	Toulouse
1966	France	18	Great Britain	13	Perpignan
1966	Great Britain	4	France	8	Wigan
1966	Australia	13	Great Britain	17	Sydney
1966	Australia	6	Great Britain	4	Brisbane
1966	Australia	19	Great Britain	14	Sydney
1966	New Zealand	8	Great Britain	25	Auckland
1966	New Zealand	14	Great Britain	22	Auckland
1967	France	13	Great Britain	16	Carcassonne
1967	Great Britain	13	France	23	Wigan
1967	Australia	22	New Zealand	13	Sydney
1967	Australia	35	New Zealand	22	Brisbane
1967	Australia	13	New Zealand	9	Sydney

1967	Great Britain	16	Australia	11	Leeds
1967	Great Britain	11	Australia	17	London
1967	Great Britain	3	Australia	11	Manchester
1967	France	7	Australia	7	Marseille
1967	France	10	Australia	3	Carcassonne
1968	France	16	Australia	13	Toulouse
1968	France	13	Great Britain	22	Paris
1968	Great Britain	19	France	8	Bradford
1968	Australia	25	Great Britain	10	Sydney
1968	France	15	New Zealand	10	Auckland
1968	Australia	31	New Zealand	12	Brisbane
1968	France	7	Great Britain	2	Auckland
1968	Australia	37	France	4	Brisbane
1968	Great Britain	38	New Zealand	14	Sydney
1968	Australia	20	France	2	Sydney
1968	England	17	Wales	24	Salford
1968	Great Britain	34	France	10	St Helens
1969	France	13	Great Britain	9	Toulouse
1969	France	17	Wales	13	Paris
1969	New Zealand	10	Australia	20	Auckland
1969	New Zealand	18	Australia	14	Auckland
1969	England	40	Wales	23	Leeds
1969	Wales	2	France	8	Salford
1969	England	11	France	11	Wigan
1970	France	11	Wales	15	Perpignan
1970	England	26	Wales	7	Leeds
1970	France	14	England	9	Toulouse
1970	Australia	37	Great Britain	15	Brisbane
1970	Australia	7	Great Britain	28	Sydney
1970	Australia	17	Great Britain	21	Sydney
1970	New Zealand	15	Great Britain	19	Auckland
1970	New Zealand	9	Great Britain	23	Christchurch
1970	New Zealand	16	Great Britain	33	Auckland
1970	Australia	47	New Zealand	11	Wigan
1970	Great Britain	11	Australia	4	Leeds
1970	France	15	New Zealand	16	Hull
1970	Great Britain	6	France	0	Castleford
1970	Great Britain	27	New Zealand	17	Manchester
1970	France	17	Australia	15	Bradford
1970	Australia	12	Great Britain	7	Leeds
1970	France	4	Australia	7	Perpignan
1970	France	16	New Zealand	2	Carcassonne
1971	France	16	Great Britain	8	Toulouse
1971	Great Britain	24	France	2	St Helens
1971	New Zealand	24	Australia	3	Auckland
1971	Great Britain	13	New Zealand	18	Salford
1971	Great Britain	14	New Zealand	17	Castleford
1971	Great Britain	12	New Zealand	3	Leeds
1971	France	11	New Zealand	27	Perpignan
1971	France	2	New Zealand	24	Carcassonne
1971	France	3	New Zealand	3	Toulouse
1972	France	9	Great Britain	10	Toulouse

1972	Great Britain	45	France	10	Bradford
1972	Australia	36	New Zealand	11	Sydney
1972	Australia	31	New Zealand	7	Brisbane
1972	France	20	New Zealand	9	Marseille
1972	Great Britain	27	Australia	21	Perpignan
1972	Australia	9	New Zealand	5	Paris
1972	France	4	Great Britain	13	Grenoble
1972	Great Britain	53	New Zealand	19	Pau
1972	France	9	Australia	31	Toulouse
1972	Australia	10	Great Britain	10	Lyon
1973	Great Britain	21	Australia	12	London
1973	Great Britain	6	Australia	14	Leeds
1973	Great Britain	5	Australia	15	Warrington
1973	France	9	Australia	21	Perpignan
1973	France	3	Australia	14	Toulouse
1974	France	5	Great Britain	24	Grenoble
1974	Great Britain	29	France	0	Wigan
1974	Australia	12	Great Britain	6	Brisbane
1974	Australia	11	Great Britain	16	Sydney
1974	Australia	22	Great Britain	18	Sydney
1974	New Zealand	13	Great Britain	8	Auckland
1974	New Zealand	8	Great Britain	17	Christchurch
1974	New Zealand	0	Great Britain	20	Auckland
1975	France	9	England	11	Perpignan
1975	Wales	21	France	8	Swansea
1975	England	12	Wales	8	Salford
1975	France	14	Wales	7	Toulouse
1975	England	20	France	2	Leeds
1975	Australia	36	New Zealand	8	Brisbane
1975	England	7	Wales	12	Brisbane
1975	Australia	30	Wales	13	Sydney
1975	New Zealand	27	France	0	Christchurch
1975	Australia	26	France	6	Brisbane
1975	New Zealand	17	England	17	Auckland
1975	Australia	10	England	10	Sydney
1975	New Zealand	13	Wales	8	Auckland
1975	Wales	16	England	22	Warrington
1975	New Zealand	8	Australia	24	Auckland
1975	France	2	England	48	Bordeaux
1975	France	12	New Zealand	12	Marseille
1975	Wales	6	Australia	18	Swansea
1975	England	27	New Zealand	12	Bradford
1975	France	2	Australia	41	Perpignan
1975	England	16	Australia	13	Wigan
1975	Wales	25	New Zealand	24	Swansea
1975	Wales	23	France	2	Salford
1975	England	0	Australia	25	Leeds
1977	England	2	Wales	6	Leeds
1977	France	13	Wales	2	Toulouse
1977	France	28	England	15	Carcassonne
1977	New Zealand	12	Australia	27	Auckland
1977	Papua New Guinea	37	France	6	Port Moresby
1977	France	4	Great Britain	23	Auckland

1977	Australia	21	France	9	Sydney
1977	New Zealand	12	Great Britain	30	Christchurch
1977	Australia	19	Great Britain	5	Brisbane
1977	New Zealand	28	France	20	Auckland
1977	Australia	13	Great Britain	12	Sydney
1978	Wales	29	France	7	Widnes
1978	France	11	England	13	Toulouse
1978	England	60	Wales	13	St Helens
1978	Australia	24	New Zealand	2	Sydney
1978	Australia	38	New Zealand	7	Brisbane
1978	Australia	33	New Zealand	16	Sydney
1978	Papua New Guinea	21	New Zealand	30	Port Moresby
1978	Wales	3	Australia	8	Swansea
1978	Great Britain	9	Australia	15	Wigan
1978	Great Britain	18	Australia	14	Bradford
1978	Great Britain	6	Australia	23	Leeds
1978	France	13	Australia	10	Carcassonne
1978	France	11	Australia	10	Toulouse
1979	France	15	Wales	8	Narbonne
1979	England	15	Wales	7	Widnes
1979	England	12	France	6	Warrington
1979	Australia	35	Great Britain	0	Brisbane
1979	Australia	24	Great Britain	16	Sydney
1979	Australia	28	Great Britain	2	Sydney
1979	New Zealand	8	Great Britain	16	Auckland
1979	New Zealand	7	Great Britain	22	Christchurch
1979	New Zealand	18	Great Britain	11	Auckland
1979	France	16	Papua New Guinea	9	Albi
1979	France	15	Papua New Guinea	2	Carcassonne
1980	Wales	7	France	21	Widnes
1980	England	26	Wales	9	Hull
1980	France	2	England	4	Narbonne
1980	New Zealand	6	Australia	27	Auckland
1980	New Zealand	6	Australia	15	Auckland
1980	Great Britain	14	New Zealand	14	Wigan
1980	Great Britain	8	New Zealand	12	Bradford
1980	Great Britain	10	New Zealand	2	Leeds
1980	France	6	New Zealand	5	Perpignan
1980	France	3	New Zealand	11	Toulouse
1981	France	23	Wales	5	Narbonne
1981	England	1	France	5	Leeds
1981	England	17	Wales	4	Hull
1981	New Zealand	26	France	3	Auckland
1981	New Zealand	25	France	2	Auckland
1981	Australia	43	France	3	Sydney
1981	Australia	17	France	2	Brisbane
1981	Papua New Guinea	13	France	13	Port Moresby
1981	Wales	15	England	20	Cardiff
1981	Great Britain	37	France	0	Hull
1981	France	19	Great Britain	2	Marseille
1982	Australia	11	New Zealand	8	Brisbane
1982	Australia	20	New Zealand	2	Sydney

1982	Papua New Guinea	5	New Zealand	56	Port Moresby
1982	Papua New Guinea	2	Australia	38	Port Moresby
1982	Wales	7	Australia	37	Cardiff
1982	Great Britain	4	Australia	40	Hull
1982	Great Britain	6	Australia	27	Wigan
1982	Great Britain	8	Australia	32	Leeds
1982	France	4	Australia	15	Avignon
1982	France	9	Australia	23	Narbonne
1983	France	5	Great Britain	20	Carcassonne
1983	Great Britain	17	France	5	Hull
1983	New Zealand	4	Australia	16	Auckland
1983	Australia	12	New Zealand	19	Brisbane
1983	New Zealand	60	Papua New Guinea	20	Auckland
1984	France	0	Great Britain	12	Avignon
1984	Great Britain	10	France	0	Leeds
1984	Australia	25	Great Britain	8	Sydney
1984	Australia	18	Great Britain	6	Brisbane
1984	Australia	20	Great Britain	7	Sydney
1984	New Zealand	12	Great Britain	0	Auckland
1984	New Zealand	28	Great Britain	12	Christchurch
1984	New Zealand	32	Great Britain	16	Auckland
1984	Papua New Guinea	20	Great Britain	38	Mount Hagen
1984	Wales	9	England	28	Ebbw Vale
1985	Great Britain	50	France	4	Leeds
1985	France	24	Great Britain	16	Perpignan
1985	Australia	26	New Zealand	20	Brisbane
1985	New Zealand	6	Australia	10	Auckland
1985	New Zealand	18	Australia	0	Auckland
1985	Great Britain	22	New Zealand	24	Leeds
1985	Great Britain	25	New Zealand	8	Wigan
1985	Great Britain	6	New Zealand	6	Leeds
1985	France	0	New Zealand	22	Marseille
1985	New Zealand	22	France	0	Perpignan
1986	France	10	Great Britain	10	Avignon
1986	Great Britain	24	France	10	Wigan
1986	New Zealand	8	Australia	22	Auckland
1986	Australia	29	New Zealand	12	Sydney
1986	Australia	32	New Zealand	12	Brisbane
1986	Papua New Guinea	26	New Zealand	36	Goroka
1986	Papua New Guinea	24	New Zealand	22	Port Moresby
1986	Papua New Guinea	12	Australia	62	Port Moresby
1986	Great Britain	16	Australia	38	Trafford
1986	Cook Islands	22	Niue	8	Avarua
1986	Western Samoa	34	Tokelau	12	Avarua
1986	Niue	16	New Zealand Maori	32	Avarua
1986	Tonga	34	Western Samoa	16	Avarua
1986	Cook Islands	10	New Zealand Maori	32	Avarua
1986	Tokelau	22	Tonga	26	Avarua
1986	New Zealand Maori	27	Tonga	18	Avarua
1986	Cook Islands	0	Western Samoa	48	Avarua
1986	Tonga	4	Western Samoa	46	Avarua
1986	New Zealand Maori	23	Western Samoa	6	Avarua
1986	Great Britain	4	Australia	34	Leeds

1986	Great Britain	15	Australia	24	Wigan
1986	France	2	Australia	44	Perpignan
1986	France	0	Australia	52	Carcassonne
1987	Great Britain	52	France	4	Leeds
1987	France	10	Great Britain	20	Carcassonne
1987	Papua New Guinea	22	New Zealand	36	Port Moresby
1987	Australia	6	New Zealand	13	Brisbane
1987	Great Britain	42	Papua New Guinea	0	Wigan
1987	France	21	Papua New Guinea	4	Carcassonne
1988	France	14	Great Britain	28	Avignon
1988	Great Britain	30	France	12	Leeds
1988	Papua New Guinea	22	Great Britain	42	Port Moresby
1988	Australia	17	Great Britain	6	Sydney
1988	Australia	34	Great Britain	14	Brisbane
1988	Australia	12	Great Britain	26	Sydney
1988	New Zealand	66	Papua New Guinea	14	Auckland
1988	New Zealand	12	Great Britain	10	Christchurch
1988	Australia	70	Papua New Guinea	8	Wagga Wagga
1988	New Zealand	12	Australia	25	Auckland
1988	Cook Islands	19	Tokelau	10	Apia
1988	New Zealand Maori	42	American Samoa	10	Apia
1988	Tonga	38	American Samoa	14	Apia
1988	Western Samoa	52	Cook Islands	16	Apia
1988	New Zealand Maori	42	Tonga	16	Apia
1988	Western Samoa	40	Tokelau	18	Apia
1988	Tokelau	26	American Samoa	16	Apia
1988	Western Samoa	52	Cook Islands	16	Apia
1988	New Zealand Maori	70	Cook Islands	20	Apia
1988	Western Samoa	40	Tonga	30	Apia
1988	New Zealand Maori	26	Western Samoa	16	Apia
1988	Tonga	19	Cook Islands	6	Apia
1989	Great Britain	26	France	10	Wigan
1989	France	8	Great Britain	30	Avignon
1989	New Zealand	6	Australia	26	Christchurch
1989	New Zealand	0	Australia	8	Rotorua
1989	New Zealand	14	Australia	22	Auckland
1989	Great Britain	16	New Zealand	24	Trafford
1989	Great Britain	26	New Zealand	6	Leeds
1989	Great Britain	10	New Zealand	6	Wigan
1989	France	14	New Zealand	16	Carcassonne
1989	France	0	New Zealand	34	Carcassonne
1990	France	4	Great Britain	8	Perpignan
1990	Great Britain	18	France	25	Leeds
1990	Papua New Guinea	20	Great Britain	18	Goroka
1990	Papua New Guinea	8	Great Britain	40	Port Moresby
1990	New Zealand	10	Great Britain	11	Palmerston North
1990	Australia	34	France	2	Parkes
1990	New Zealand	14	Great Britain	16	Auckland
1990	New Zealand	21	Great Britain	18	Christchurch
1990	Papua New Guinea	4	New Zealand	36	Goroka
1990	Papua New Guinea	10	New Zealand	18	Port Moresby
1990	New Zealand	6	Australia	24	Wellington
1990	New Zealand Maori	24	Aborigines	13	Nuku'alofa

1990	Papua New Guinea	16	Tonga XIII	14	Nuku'alofa
1990	Tokelau	26	Niue	16	Nuku'alofa
1990	Western Samoa	42	Tonga	8	Nuku'alofa
1990	Aborigines	def	Tonga XIII		Nuku'alofa
1990	New Zealand Maori	46	Papua New Guinea	14	Nuku'alofa
1990	Tonga	58	Niue	4	Nuku'alofa
1990	Western Samoa	66	Tokelau	8	Nuku'alofa
1990	Aborigines	28	Papua New Guinea	18	Nuku'alofa
1990	New Zealand Maori	20	Tonga XIII	4	Nuku'alofa
1990	Tonga	26	Tokelau	10	Nuku'alofa
1990	Western Samoa	52	Niue	2	Nuku'alofa
1990	Great Britain	19	Australia	12	London
1990	Tonga	20	New Zealand Maori	32	Nuku'alofa
1990	Western Samoa	22	Aborigines	16	Nuku'alofa
1990	Western Samoa	26	New Zealand Maori	18	Nuku'alofa
1990	Great Britain	10	Australia	14	Trafford
1990	Great Britain	0	Australia	14	Leeds
1990	France	4	Australia	60	Avignon
1990	France	10	Australia	34	Perpignan
1991	France	10	Great Britain	45	Perpignan
1991	Great Britain	60	France	4	Leeds
1991	New Zealand	60	France	6	Auckland
1991	New Zealand	32	France	10	Christchurch
1991	Australia	8	New Zealand	24	Melbourne
1991	Papua New Guinea	18	France	20	Goroka
1991	Australia	44	New Zealand	0	Sydney
1991	Australia	40	New Zealand	12	Brisbane
1991	Papua New Guinea	2	Australia	58	Goroka
1991	Papua New Guinea	6	Australia	40	Port Moresby
1991	France	26	Russia	6	Lyon
1991	Wales	68	Papua New Guinea	0	Swansea
1991	Great Britain	56	Papua New Guinea	4	Wigan
1991	France	28	Papua New Guinea	14	Carcassonne
1992	France	12	Great Britain	30	Perpignan
1992	Great Britain	36	France	0	Hull
1992	Wales	35	France	6	Swansea
1992	Papua New Guinea	14	Great Britain	20	Port Moresby
1992	France	38	C.I.S.	4	Lyon
1992	Australia	22	Great Britain	6	Sydney
1992	C.I.S.	8	France	28	Moscow
1992	Australia	10	Great Britain	33	Melbourne
1992	Australia	16	Great Britain	10	Brisbane
1992	New Zealand	66	Papua New Guinea	10	Auckland
1992	New Zealand	15	Great Britain	14	Palmerston North
1992	Australia	36	Papua New Guinea	14	Townsville
1992	New Zealand	16	Great Britain	19	Auckland
1992	American Samoa	26	Tokelau	18	Auckland
1992	New Zealand Maori	36	Aborigines	24	Auckland
1992	Tonga	24	Niue	8	Auckland
1992	Western Samoa	32	Fiji	18	Auckland
1992	Aborigines	46	Tokelau	18	Auckland
1992	New Zealand Maori	84	Norfolk Island	8	Auckland
1992	Cook Islands	23	Niue	22	Auckland
1992	Western Samoa	20	Tonga	12	Auckland
1992	Aborigines	74	Norfolk Island	2	Auckland

1992	New Zealand Maori	26	American Samoa	12	Auckland
1992	Niue	14	Fiji	0	Auckland
1992	Tonga	26	Cook Islands	6	Auckland
1992	American Samoa	94	Norfolk Island	2	Huntly
1992	Great Britain	6	Australia	10	London
1992	New Zealand Maori	38	Tokelau	14	Huntly
1992	Tonga	23	Fiji	20	Auckland
1992	Western Samoa	66	Cook Islands	12	Auckland
1992	Aborigines	32	American Samoa	14	Whangarei
1992	Fiji	58	Cook Islands	6	Auckland
1992	Tokelau	44	Norfolk Island	8	Whangarei
1992	Western Samoa	41	Niue	28	Auckland
1992	New Zealand Maori	6	Tonga	18	Auckland
1992	Western Samoa	44	Aborigines	26	Auckland
1992	New Zealand Maori	44	Aborigines	12	Auckland
1992	Western Samoa	18	Tonga	14	Auckland
1992	Wales	11	England	36	Swansea
1992	France	18	Wales	19	Perpignan
1993	France	6	Great Britain	48	Carcassonne
1993	Great Britain	72	France	6	Leeds
1993	Russia	14	France	30	Moscow
1993	Moldova	14	France	34	Kishinev
1993	Papua New Guinea	35	Fiji	24	Port Moresby
1993	New Zealand	14	Australia	14	Auckland
1993	New Zealand	8	Australia	16	Palmerston North
1993	Australia	16	New Zealand	4	Brisbane
1993	Wales	19	New Zealand	24	Swansea
1993	Great Britain	17	New Zealand	0	London
1993	Great Britain	29	New Zealand	12	Wigan
1993	Great Britain	29	New Zealand	10	Leeds
1993	France	11	New Zealand	36	Carcassonne
1994	Wales	13	France	12	Cardiff
1994	France	4	Great Britain	12	Carcassonne
1994	USA	22	Canada	0	Atlantic City
1994	Papua New Guinea	29	France	22	Port Moresby
1994	Australia	58	France	0	Sydney
1994	Fiji	20	France	12	Suva
1994	USA	12	Russia	19	San Francisco
1994	Canada	10	USA	22	Toronto
1994	Papua New Guinea	12	New Zealand	28	Goroka
1994	Fiji	14	Western Samoa	16	Suva
1994	Rotuma	17	Cook Islands	10	Suva
1994	Aborigines	64	Niue	10	Suva
1994	Fiji Pres. XIII	16	New Zealand Maori	28	Suva
1994	Great Britain	8	Australia	4	London
1994	Fiji	19	Cook Islands	11	Suva
1994	Western Samoa	30	American Samoa	10	Suva
1994	Fiji Pres. XIII	12	Aborigines	50	Suva
1994	Tonga	28	New Zealand Maori	8	Suva
1994	Papua New Guinea	16	New Zealand	30	Port Moresby
1994	Cook Islands	22	American Samoa	20	Suva
1994	Fiji	32	Rotuma	12	Suva
1994	Fiji Pres. XIII	10	Tonga	32	Suva
1994	New Zealand Maori	24	Niue	22	Suva
1994	Wales	4	Australia	46	Cardiff

1994	Fiji	16	American Samoa	14	Suva
1994	Western Samoa	50	Rotuma	14	Suva
1994	Aborigines	34	Tonga	16	Suva
1994	Fiji Pres. XIII	8	Niue	30	Suva
1994	Rotuma	32	American Samoa	32	Suva
1994	Western Samoa	60	Cook Islands	0	Suva
1994	Aborigines	38	New Zealand Maori	20	Suva
1994	Great Britain	8	Australia	38	Trafford
1994	Tonga	58	Niue	12	Suva
1994	Fiji	21	Aborigines	20	Suva
1994	Tonga	34	Western Samoa	16	Suva
1994	Western Samoa	29	Aborigines	22	Suva
1994	Fiji	11	Tonga	34	Suva
1994	Great Britain	4	Australia	23	Leeds
1994	France	0	Australia	74	Béziers
1995	Wales	18	England	16	Cardiff
1995	England	19	France	16	Gateshead
1995	France	10	Wales	22	Carcassonne
1995	New Zealand	22	France	6	Auckland
1995	New Zealand	16	France	16	Palmerston North
1995	Canada	32	France	72	Montreal
1995	Australia	26	New Zealand	8	Brisbane
1995	Australia	20	New Zealand	10	Sydney
1995	Australia	46	New Zealand	10	Brisbane
1995	Scotland	22	Ireland	26	Dublin
1995	USA	44	Canada	0	Baltimore
1995	England	20	Australia	16	London
1995	Fiji	52	South Africa	6	Bradford
1995	New Zealand	25	Tonga	24	Warrington
1995	Wales	28	France	6	Cardiff
1995	Australia	86	South Africa	6	Gateshead
1995	Papua New Guinea	28	Tonga	28	Hull
1995	England	46	Fiji	0	Wigan
1995	Western Samoa	56	France	10	Cardiff
1995	New Zealand	22	Papua New Guinea	6	St Helens
1995	Australia	66	Fiji	0	Huddersfield
1995	England	46	South Africa	0	Leeds
1995	Wales	22	Western Samoa	10	Swansea
1995	Cook Islands	64	USA	8	Featherstone
1995	Ireland	48	Moldova	26	Rochdale
1995	Scotland	34	Russia	9	Featherstone
1995	Cook Islands	58	Russia	20	Leigh
1995	Moldova	24	Morocco	19	Northampton
1995	Scotland	38	USA	16	Northampton
1995	Ireland	42	Morocco	6	Dewsbury
1995	Russia	28	USA	26	Warrington
1995	Scotland	10	Cook Islands	21	Castleford
1995	England	25	Wales	10	Trafford
1995	Australia	30	New Zealand	20	Huddersfield
1995	Cook Islands	22	Ireland	6	Bury
1995	Australia	16	England	8	London
1996	USA	12	Ireland	14	Washington D.C.
1996	France	14	Wales	34	Carcassonne
1996	England	73	France	6	Gateshead
1996	Wales	12	England	26	Cardiff

1996	Fiji	14	Cook Islands	8	Auckland
1996	Papua New Guinea	56	Tonga	19	Port Moresby
1996	Tonga	22	Western Samoa	17	Nuku'alofa
1996	Australia	84	Fiji (NRL)	14	Newcastle
1996	Scotland	26	Ireland	6	Glasgow
1996	Papua New Guinea	30	Great Britain	32	Lae
1996	Fiji	4	Great Britain	72	Nadi
1996	New Zealand	62	Papua New Guinea	8	Rotorua
1996	PNG (NRL)	6	Australia	52	Port Moresby
1996	New Zealand	64	Papua New Guinea	0	Palmerston North
1996	New Zealand	17	Great Britain	12	Auckland
1996	New Zealand	18	Great Britain	15	Palmerston North
1996	New Zealand	32	Great Britain	12	Christchurch
1997	USA	50	Canada	10	Philadelphia
1997	Australia (SL)	34	New Zealand	22	Sydney
1997	Cook Islands	22	Fiji	14	Auckland
1997	New Zealand Maori	46	Tonga	10	Auckland
1997	New Zealand XIII	21	Papua New Guinea	18	Auckland
1997	France	30	Ireland	30	Essonne
1997	New Zealand Maori	32	Fiji	12	Auckland
1997	New Zealand XIII	32	Tonga	10	Auckland
1997	Papua New Guinea	34	Cook Islands	12	Auckland
1997	New Zealand Maori	34	Papua New Guinea	6	Auckland
1997	New Zealand XIII	46	Cook Islands	2	Auckland
1997	Tonga	14	Fiji	14	Auckland
1997	Fiji	22	Tonga	20	Auckland
1997	New Zealand XIII	20	New Zealand Maori	15	Auckland
1997	Papua New Guinea	38	Cook Islands	14	Auckland
1997	Scotland	20	France	22	Glasgow
1997	New Zealand	30	Australia (SL)	12	Auckland
1997	Great Britain	14	Australia (SL)	38	London
1997	Great Britain	20	Australia (SL)	12	Trafford
1997	Great Britain	20	Australia (SL)	37	Leeds
1997	France	30	South Africa	17	Arles
1998	New Zealand	22	Australia	16	Auckland
1998	Tonga	20	Samoa	20	Nuku'alofa
1998	Tonga	24	Samoa	8	Nuku'alofa
1998	Tonga	14	Fiji	22	Nuku'alofa
1998	Samoa	22	Tonga	24	Apia
1998	Fiji	14	Papua New Guinea	16	Nadi
1998	Papua New Guinea	34	Fiji	12	Goroka
1998	Papua New Guinea	10	Fiji	14	Port Moresby
1998	New Zealand Maori	23	Tonga	12	Port Moresby
1998	Papua New Guinea	46	Cook Islands	6	Port Moresby
1998	Australia	30	New Zealand	12	Brisbane
1998	Cook Islands	16	New Zealand Maori	8	Port Moresby
1998	Papua New Guinea	44	Tonga	28	Port Moresby
1998	Papua New Guinea	46	New Zealand Maori	0	Port Moresby
1998	Tonga	30	Cook Islands	22	Port Moresby
1998	New Zealand	16	Australia	36	Auckland
1998	New Zealand Maori	28	Cook Islands	6	Port Moresby
1998	Papua New Guinea	54	Tonga	12	Port Moresby
1998	Great Britain	16	New Zealand	22	Huddersfield
1998	Ireland	22	France	24	Dublin
1998	Great Britain	16	New Zealand	36	Bolton

1998	France	26	Scotland	22	Perpignan
1998	Great Britain	23	New Zealand	23	Watford
1998	Japan	28	Lebanon	52	Fukuoka
1998	Scotland	10	Ireland	17	Glasgow
1999	Australia	20	New Zealand	14	Sydney
1999	Fiji	10	Samoa	6	Suva
1999	Tonga	42	Cook Islands	4	Nuku'alofa
1999	Fiji	22	Samoa	16	Suva
1999	Tonga	28	Cook Islands	13	Nuku'alofa
1999	Fiji	30	Samoa	4	Suva
1999	Tonga	34	Cook Islands	4	Nuku'alofa
1999	France	20	England	28	Carcassonne
1999	New Zealand	24	Australia	22	Auckland
1999	Wales	17	Ireland	24	Swansea
1999	Australia	42	Great Britain	6	Brisbane
1999	New Zealand	74	Tonga	0	Auckland
1999	Scotland	36	Wales	16	Glasgow
1999	England	50	France	20	Hull
1999	New Zealand	26	Great Britain	4	Auckland
1999	Ireland	31	Scotland	10	Dublin
1999	New Zealand	20	Australia	22	Auckland
1999	USA	54	Japan	0	Kissimmee
1999	France	80	Morocco	8	Perpignan
1999	Italy	16	Lebanon	36	Perpignan
1999	Japan	14	Canada	0	Kissimmee
1999	France	38	Lebanon	24	Toulouse
1999	Italy	34	Morocco	0	Toulouse
1999	USA	68	Canada	0	Kissimmee
1999	France	10	Italy	14	Avignon
1999	Lebanon	104	Morocco	0	Avignon
1999	USA	8	Lebanon	62	Kissimmee
2000	Australia	52	New Zealand	0	Sydney
2000	Tonga	23	Fiji	20	Nuku'alofa
2000	Fiji	10	Tonga	6	Suva
2000	France	82	Russia	0	0
2000	Australia	82	Papua New Guinea	0	Townsville
2000	England	2	Australia	22	London
2000	France	20	Papua New Guinea	23	Paris
2000	Ireland	30	Samoa	16	Belfast
2000	Tonga	66	South Africa	18	Paris
2000	Fiji	38	Russia	12	Hull
2000	New Zealand	64	Lebanon	0	Gloucester
2000	Scotland	16	New Zealand Maori	17	Glasgow
2000	Wales	38	Cook Islands	6	Wrexham
2000	Australia	66	Fiji	8	Gateshead
2000	England	76	Russia	4	St Helens
2000	France	28	Tonga	8	Carcassonne
2000	Ireland	18	Scotland	6	Dublin
2000	Samoa	21	New Zealand Maori	16	Workington
2000	New Zealand	84	Cook Islands	10	Reading
2000	Papua New Guinea	16	South Africa	0	Toulouse
2000	Wales	24	Lebanon	22	Llanelli
2000	Australia	110	Russia	4	Hull
2000	England	66	Fiji	10	Leeds
2000	Ireland	30	New Zealand Maori	16	Dublin

2000	Cook Islands	22	Lebanon	22	Cardiff
2000	France	56	South Africa	6	Toulouse
2000	Scotland	12	Samoa	20	Edinburgh
2000	Wales	18	New Zealand	58	Cardiff
2000	Papua New Guinea	30	Tonga	22	Toulouse
2000	Australia	66	Samoa	10	Watford
2000	England	26	Ireland	16	Leeds
2000	New Zealand	54	France	6	Castleford
2000	Wales	22	Papua New Guinea	8	Widnes
2000	BARLA	60	Morocco	2	Featherstone
2000	USA	52	Canada	10	Oxford
2000	Italy	66	Canada	6	Bradford
2000	Morocco	12	Japan	8	Hull
2000	BARLA	54	Japan	0	Whitehaven
2000	Italy	40	USA	16	Halifax
2000	England	6	New Zealand	49	Bolton
2000	Australia	46	Wales	22	Huddersfield
2000	BARLA	20	Italy	18	Dewsbury
2000	Canada	28	Japan	12	Wigan
2000	USA	50	Morocco	10	Wigan
2000	Australia	40	New Zealand	12	Trafford
2001	USA	56	Canada	6	Philadelphia
2001	New Zealand	36	France	0	Auckland
2001	Papua New Guinea	16	France	27	Port Moresby
2001	Papua New Guinea	34	France	24	Goroka
2001	France	56	Ireland	16	Albi
2001	France	20	Scotland	42	Lézignan
2001	New Zealand	10	Australia	28	Wellington
2001	Wales	33	England	42	Wrexham
2001	Papua New Guinea	12	Australia	54	Port Moresby
2001	France	12	Great Britain	42	Agen
2001	Great Britain	20	Australia	12	Huddersfield
2001	Great Britain	12	Australia	40	Bolton
2001	Great Britain	8	Australia	28	Wigan
2002	USA	26	Japan	10	Philadelphia
2002	Australia	64	Great Britain	10	Sydney
2002	New Zealand	24	Australia	32	Wellington
2002	Lebanon	36	France	6	Tripoli
2002	Wales	22	New Zealand	50	Cardiff
2002	Great Britain	16	New Zealand	30	Blackburn
2002	Great Britain	14	New Zealand	14	Huddersfield
2002	Great Britain	16	New Zealand	10	Wigan
2002	France	10	New Zealand	36	Perpignan
2003	Russia	44	USA	14	Moscow
2003	Russia	12	France	29	Moscow
2003	USA	78	Japan	6	Philadelphia
2003	Australia	48	New Zealand	6	Sydney
2003	Italy	26	Greece	24	Sydney
2003	New Zealand	30	Australia	16	Auckland
2003	France	72	Morocco	0	Tripoli
2003	Lebanon	102	Serbia	0	Tripoli
2003	France	120	Serbia	0	Beirut
2003	Lebanon	60	Morocco	0	Beirut
2003	Lebanon	26	France	18	Tripoli

2003	Morocco	58	Serbia	4	Tripoli
2003	Scotland	22	Ireland	24	Glasgow
2003	Wales	74	Russia	4	Port Talbot
2003	Ireland	18	France	26	Dublin
2003	English League	102	Russia	0	Bradford
2003	Wales	4	Australia	76	Bridgend
2003	Great Britain	18	Australia	22	Wigan
2003	English League	22	Wales	4	Leeds
2003	France	6	Scotland	8	Avignon
2003	Great Britain	20	Australia	23	Hull
2003	English League	68	France	6	Warrington
2003	Great Britain	12	Australia	18	Huddersfield
2004	Australia	37	New Zealand	10	Newcastle
2004	Ireland	74	USA	16	Moscow
2004	Russia	64	Ireland	6	Moscow
2004	Netherlands	24	Serbia	14	Rotterdam
2004	Cook Islands	36	Fiji	24	Auckland
2004	Cook Islands	22	Fiji	14	Auckland
2004	France	46	Morocco	6	Tripoli
2004	Italy	58	Greece	14	Sydney
2004	Lebanon	64	Serbia	6	Tripoli
2004	Tonga	38	Cook Islands	30	Auckland
2004	France	18	Serbia	4	Tripoli
2004	Lebanon	48	Morocco	14	Tripoli
2004	Lebanon	42	France	14	Tripoli
2004	Serbia	20	Morocco	20	Tripoli
2004	New Zealand	16	Australia	16	Auckland
2004	Russia	10	France	58	Moscow
2004	New Zealand Maori	54	Niue	4	Auckland
2004	Tonga	56	Fiji	6	Auckland
2004	Wales	12	Ireland	25	Port Talbot
2004	Cook Islands	18	Tonga	10	Auckland
2004	Samoa	36	Niue	18	Auckland
2004	Cook Islands	20	Fiji	12	Auckland
2004	New Zealand Maori	70	Samoa	10	Auckland
2004	Australia	32	New Zealand	12	London
2004	Cook Islands	46	New Zealand Maori	4	Auckland
2004	Fiji	34	Niue	24	Auckland
2004	Russia	4	England	98	Moscow
2004	Scotland	30	Wales	22	Glasgow
2004	Ireland	43	Scotland	10	Dublin
2004	France	4	England	42	Avignon
2004	Great Britain	8	Australia	12	Oldham
2004	Great Britain	22	New Zealand	12	Huddersfield
2004	England	36	Ireland	12	Warrington
2004	France	20	New Zealand	24	Carcassonne
2004	Great Britain	24	Australia	12	Wigan
2004	Great Britain	26	New Zealand	24	Hull
2004	Great Britain	4	Australia	44	Leeds
2005	Australia	32	New Zealand	16	Brisbane
2005	Netherlands	14	Georgia	34	Rotterdam
2005	Serbia	10	Netherlands	26	Belgrade
2005	Georgia	44	Serbia	12	Tbilisi
2005	Tonga	34	Samoa	20	Nuku'alofa
2005	Malta	24	Greece	22	Sydney

2005	Australia	28	New Zealand	38	Sydney
2005	France	80	Russia	0	Arles
2005	Wales	22	Scotland	14	Bridgend
2005	New Zealand	26	Australia	28	Auckland
2005	England	22	France	12	Leeds
2005	Russia	48	Georgia	14	Moscow
2005	Scotland	6	Ireland	12	Glasgow
2005	Ireland	10	Wales	31	Dublin
2005	Georgia	0	France	60	Tbilisi
2005	Great Britain	26	New Zealand	42	London
2005	France	38	Wales	16	Carcassonne
2005	Great Britain	6	Australia	20	Wigan
2005	France	12	Australia	44	Perpignan
2005	Great Britain	38	New Zealand	12	Huddersfield
2005	France	22	New Zealand	38	Toulouse
2005	Great Britain	14	Australia	26	Hull
2005	Australia	0	New Zealand	24	Leeds
2006	USA	40	Japan	10	Philadelphia
2006	Fiji	26	Samoa	4	Auckland
2006	Tonga	64	Tokelau	0	Auckland
2006	Fiji	40	Cook Islands	16	Auckland
2006	New Zealand Maori	14	Tonga	42	Auckland
2006	Cook Islands	44	Samoa	0	Auckland
2006	New Zealand Maori	64	Tokelau	4	Auckland
2006	New Zealand Maori	40	Cook Islands	14	Auckland
2006	Tokelau	34	Samoa	28	Auckland
2006	Tonga	22	Fiji	4	Auckland
2006	Netherlands	14	Russia	40	Rotterdam
2006	Australia	50	New Zealand	12	Brisbane
2006	Serbia	10	Georgia	45	Belgrade
2006	Georgia	57	Netherlands	16	Tbilisi
2006	Serbia	6	Russia	44	Belgrade
2006	Italy	6	South Africa	76	Rome
2006	Italy	20	South Africa	60	Rome
2006	Netherlands	38	Serbia	26	Rotterdam
2006	Russia	24	Georgia	0	Moscow
2006	Great Britain	46	New Zealand	14	St Helens
2006	Germany	38	Estonia	24	Tallinn
2006	Netherlands	34	Czech Republic	28	Rotterdam
2006	Czech Republic	28	Serbia	36	Prague
2006	Samoa	30	Fiji	28	Campbelltown
2006	Tonga	56	Cook Islands	14	Campbelltown
2006	Fiji	30	Tonga	28	Sydney
2006	Samoa	46	Cook Islands	6	Sydney
2006	Fiji	40	Cook Islands	4	Sydney
2006	Lebanon	36	Malta	10	Sydney
2006	New Zealand	18	Australia	30	Auckland
2006	Australia	20	New Zealand	15	Melbourne
2006	England	26	France	10	Leeds
2006	Russia	12	Ireland	50	Moscow
2006	Samoa	10	Tonga	18	Leeds
2006	Greece	44	Serbia	26	Athens
2006	Lebanon	22	Russia	8	London
2006	New Zealand	18	Great Britain	14	Christchurch
2006	USA	54	Japan	18	Philadelphia
2006	England	40	Tonga	18	London

2006	France	28	Samoa	6	Colomiers
2006	Wales	14	Scotland	21	Bridgend
2006	Australia	12	Great Britain	23	Sydney
2006	England	38	Samoa	14	Hull
2006	France	10	Tonga	48	Castres
2006	Ireland	18	Lebanon	18	Dublin
2006	New Zealand	34	Great Britain	4	Wellington
2006	England	32	Tonga	14	Widnes
2006	Australia	33	Great Britain	10	Brisbane
2006	Australia	16	New Zealand	12	Sydney
2007	Fiji	50	Cook Islands	12	Coffs Harbour
2007	Malta	82	Japan	0	Coffs Harbour
2007	Australia	30	New Zealand	6	Brisbane
2007	Great Britain	42	France	14	Leeds
2007	Germany	6	Serbia	38	Karlsruhe
2007	Czech Republic	22	Germany	44	Prague
2007	Serbia	56	Czech Republic	16	Belgrade
2007	New Zealand	0	Australia	58	Wellington
2007	Tonga	14	Fiji	12	Nuku'alofa
2007	Ireland	58	Russia	18	Dublin
2007	Estonia	38	Latvia	54	Tallinn
2007	France	46	Scotland	16	Perpignan
2007	Great Britain	20	New Zealand	14	Huddersfield
2007	Russia	0	Lebanon	48	Naro-Fominsk
2007	Ireland	16	Lebanon	16	Dewsbury
2007	France	38	Papua New Guinea	26	Avignon
2007	Great Britain	44	New Zealand	0	Hull
2007	Scotland	16	Wales	18	Glasgow
2007	Samoa	42	USA	10	Widnes
2007	Wales	26	Lebanon	50	Widnes
2007	France	22	Papua New Guinea	16	Bordeaux
2007	Great Britain	28	New Zealand	22	Wigan
2007	Lebanon	16	Samoa	38	Featherstone
2007	France	14	New Zealand	22	Paris
2008	Morocco	44	Serbia	6	Paris
2008	Australia	28	New Zealand	12	Sydney
2008	Italy	58	Germany	26	Padua
2008	France	8	England	56	Toulouse
2008	Estonia	10	Latvia	48	Tallinn
2008	Czech Republic	18	Italy	38	Prague
2008	Germany	62	Czech Republic	20	Karlsruhe
2008	Latvia	62	Estonia	10	Riga
2008	Serbia	4	Russia	30	Novi Sad
2008	Russia	80	Lebanon	0	Naro-Fominsk
2008	Lebanon	20	Serbia	14	Bhamdoun
2008	England	74	Wales	0	Doncaster
2008	New Zealand	56	Tonga	8	Auckland
2008	England	32	Papua New Guinea	22	Townsville
2008	Australia	30	New Zealand	6	Sydney
2008	Scotland	18	France	36	Canberra
2008	Tonga	22	Ireland	20	Sydney
2008	Samoa	20	Tonga	12	Sydney
2008	Fiji	42	France	6	Wollongong
2008	New Zealand	48	Papua New Guinea	6	Gold Coast
2008	Australia	52	England	4	Melbourne

2008	Ireland	34	Samoa	16	Sydney
2008	Scotland	18	Fiji	16	Gosford
2008	England	24	New Zealand	36	Newcastle
2008	Scotland	0	Tonga	48	Rockhampton
2008	France	10	Samoa	42	Sydney
2008	Papua New Guinea	6	Australia	46	Townsville
2008	Fiji	30	Ireland	14	Gold Coast
2008	New Zealand	32	England	22	Brisbane
2008	Australia	52	Fiji	0	Sydney
2008	Australia	20	New Zealand	34	Brisbane
2009	Australia	38	New Zealand	10	Brisbane
2009	Morocco	32	Italy	10	Paris
2009	France	12	England	66	Paris
2009	Czech Republic	30	Germany	4	Olomouc
2009	Italy	38	Czech Republic	8	Venice
2009	Germany	30	Italy	42	Cologne
2009	Papua New Guinea	54	Fiji	10	Port Moresby
2009	Latvia	6	Ukraine	40	Riga
2009	Papua New Guinea	14	Fiji	2	Port Moresby
2009	Estonia	0	Ukraine	86	Riga
2009	Estonia	4	Latvia	74	Tallinn
2009	Morocco	46	Belgium	12	Béziers
2009	New Zealand	40	Tonga	24	Rotorua
2009	Cook Islands	22	Samoa	20	Cairns
2009	Greece	34	Italy	14	Sydney
2009	Italy	0	Scotland	104	Padua
2009	Wales	12	England	48	Bridgend
2009	Ireland	82	Serbia	0	Tullamore
2009	England	34	France	12	Doncaster
2009	Australia	20	New Zealand	20	London
2009	Cook Islands	24	Fiji	22	Port Moresby
2009	Lebanon	86	Italy	0	Tripoli
2009	Serbia	8	Wales	88	Smederevo
2009	Papua New Guinea	44	Tonga	14	Port Moresby
2009	England	16	Australia	26	Wigan
2009	Fiji	26	Tonga	16	Port Moresby
2009	France	12	New Zealand	62	Toulouse
2009	Papua New Guinea	42	Cook Islands	14	Port Moresby
2009	Scotland	22	Lebanon	10	Glasgow
2009	Wales	42	Ireland	12	Pontypridd
2009	England	20	New Zealand	12	Huddersfield
2009	France	4	Australia	42	Paris
2009	Ireland	16	Lebanon	40	Bridgend
2009	Italy	42	Serbia	14	Bridgend
2009	Wales	28	Scotland	16	Bridgend
2009	England	16	Australia	46	Leeds
2009	USA	37	Jamaica	22	Jacksonville
2010	Australia	12	New Zealand	8	Melbourne
2010	Samoa	4	Fiji	24	Apia
2010	Malta	30	Norway	20	Hamrun
2010	England	60	France	6	Leigh
2010	Czech Republic	4	Serbia	56	Prague
2010	Russia	52	Ukraine	14	Naro-Fominsk
2010	Serbia	40	Germany	14	Belgrade
2010	Germany	96	Czech Republic	0	Kaiserslautern

2010	Latvia	4	Russia	54	Riga
2010	Ukraine	112	Latvia	0	Kharkiv
2010	USA	22	Canada	16	Toronto
2010	France	58	Ireland	24	Avignon
2010	Scotland	22	Wales	60	Glasgow
2010	France	26	Scotland	12	Albi
2010	New Zealand	50	Samoa	6	Auckland
2010	Wales	31	Ireland	30	Neath
2010	France	11	Wales	12	Albi
2010	New Zealand	24	England	10	Wellington
2010	Australia	42	Papua New Guinea	0	Sydney
2010	Ireland	22	Scotland	42	Dublin
2010	Samoa	22	Tonga	6	Sydney
2010	New Zealand	76	Papua New Guinea	12	Rotorua
2010	Sweden	20	Norway	20	Gothenburg
2010	Australia	34	England	14	Melbourne
2010	England	36	Papua New Guinea	10	Auckland
2010	New Zealand	20	Australia	34	Auckland
2010	Australia	12	New Zealand	16	Brisbane
2010	USA	36	Jamaica	26	Jacksonville
2010	Jamaica	32	Canada	12	Jacksonville
2010	USA	46	Canada	12	Jacksonville
2011	Germany	6	Serbia	90	Kaiserslautern
2011	Australia	20	New Zealand	10	Gold Coast
2011	Morocco	4	Lebanon	72	0
2011	Morocco	0	Lebanon	78	0
2011	Norway	32	Germany	28	Oslo
2011	Germany	36	Malta	12	Kaiserslautern
2011	Hungary	16	Czech Republic	38	Kecskemét
2011	Canada	40	Jamaica	10	Markham
2011	USA	18	Canada	2	Philadelphia
2011	Malta	64	Norway	24	St Julian's
2011	Ukraine	4	Russia	36	Kharkiv
2011	Canada	18	USA	16	Markham
2011	Serbia	10	Ukraine	4	Belgrade
2011	Denmark	28	Norway	8	Copenhagen
2011	Canada	22	South Africa	36	Markham
2011	USA	40	South Africa	4	Camden
2011	Australia	42	New Zealand	6	Newcastle
2011	Italy	92	Russia	6	Padua
2011	Lebanon	96	Serbia	4	Tripoli
2011	Scotland	26	Ireland	6	Glasgow
2011	South Africa	6	Jamaica	20	Camden
2011	France	18	England	32	Avignon
2011	Russia	0	Lebanon	32	Vereya
2011	Serbia	6	Italy	52	Belgrade
2011	USA	40	Jamaica	4	Camden
2011	Papua New Guinea	12	Fiji	26	Mount Hagen
2011	Australia	26	New Zealand	12	Warrington
2011	England	42	Wales	4	Leigh
2011	France	46	Scotland	10	Perpignan
2011	Italy	19	Lebanon	19	Belgrade
2011	Serbia	28	Russia	36	Belgrade
2011	England	20	Australia	36	London
2011	Ireland	16	France	34	Limerick
2011	Papua New Guinea	26	Fiji	0	Port Moresby

2011	Wales	0	New Zealand	36	London
2011	England	28	New Zealand	6	Hull
2011	Wales	14	Australia	56	Wrexham
2011	England	8	Australia	30	Leeds
2012	New Zealand	12	Australia	20	Auckland
2012	Denmark	122	Sweden	8	Copenhagen
2012	Germany	25	Serbia	24	Karlsruhe
2012	Germany	26	Russia	32	Karlsruhe
2012	Serbia	24	Italy	18	Belgrade
2012	Wales	16	France	28	Wrexham
2012	Italy	72	Germany	10	Bologna
2012	Czech Republic	42	Hungary	16	Prague
2012	Canada	18	Jamaica	12	Toronto
2012	Sweden	10	Norway	36	Stockholm
2012	Norway	36	Denmark	6	Oslo
2012	Canada	36	Lebanon	18	Toronto
2012	Canada	24	USA	28	Toronto
2012	Russia	32	Italy	18	Naro-Fominsk
2012	Russia	21	Serbia	20	Naro-Fominsk
2012	USA	36	Canada	14	Fairfield
2012	Denmark	12	Malta	74	Copenhagen
2012	Cook Islands	28	Lebanon	24	Sydney
2012	Australia	18	New Zealand	10	Townsville
2012	Scotland	18	Ireland	30	Edinburgh
2012	Ireland	4	England Knights	56	Belfast
2012	France	20	Wales	6	Lens
2012	Wales	12	England	80	Wrexham
2012	Scotland	24	England Knights	62	Edinburgh
2012	England	44	France	6	Hull
2012	England	48	France	4	Eccles
2013	Australia	32	New Zealand	12	Canberra
2013	Samoa	4	Tonga	36	Sydney
2013	Germany	28	Netherlands	22	Karlsruhe
2013	Serbia	46	Germany	10	Belgrade
2013	Serbia	10	Russia	24	Belgrade
2013	Italy	38	Russia	18	Monselice
2013	Netherlands	6	Belgium	22	Rotterdam
2013	Canada	36	USA	20	Toronto
2013	Ukraine	42	Norway	14	Kharkiv
2013	Norway	26	Czech Republic	14	Oslo
2013	Canada	38	Jamaica	14	Toronto
2013	Norway	22	Sweden	40	Oslo
2013	Germany	30	Italy	66	Karlsruhe
2013	Sweden	38	Denmark	12	Stockholm
2013	Russia	30	Germany	0	Naro-Fominsk
2013	Denmark	60	Norway	10	Copenhagen
2013	USA	44	Canada	16	Philadelphia
2013	Canada	20	USA	28	Toronto
2013	Italy	32	Serbia	20	Monselice
2013	Canada	22	USA	30	Toronto
2013	Czech Republic	4	Ukraine	68	Prague
2013	France	18	USA	22	Perpignan
2013	Lebanon	34	Fiji	4	Sydney
2013	Australia	28	England	20	Cardiff
2013	Wales	16	Italy	32	Cardiff

2013	Hungary	0	Greece	90	Budapest
2013	New Zealand	42	Samoa	24	Warrington
2013	Papua New Guinea	8	France	9	Hull
2013	Fiji	32	Ireland	14	Rochdale
2013	Tonga	24	Scotland	26	Workington
2013	USA	32	Cook Islands	20	Bristol
2013	New Zealand	48	France	0	Avignon
2013	Australia	34	Fiji	2	St Helens
2013	England	42	Ireland	0	Huddersfield
2013	Scotland	30	Italy	30	Workington
2013	Wales	16	USA	24	Wrexham
2013	Papua New Guinea	4	Samoa	38	Hull
2013	Tonga	22	Cook Islands	16	Leigh
2013	Scotland	22	USA	8	Eccles
2013	New Zealand	56	Papua New Guinea	10	Leeds
2013	Australia	50	Ireland	0	Limerick
2013	England	34	Fiji	12	Hull
2013	Tonga	16	Italy	0	Halifax
2013	Wales	24	Cook Islands	28	Neath
2013	France	6	Samoa	22	Perpignan
2013	New Zealand	40	Scotland	4	Leeds
2013	Australia	62	USA	0	Wrexham
2013	England	34	France	6	Wigan
2013	Samoa	4	Fiji	22	Warrington
2013	Australia	64	Fiji	0	London
2013	England	18	New Zealand	20	London
2013	Australia	34	New Zealand	2	Trafford
2014	Australia	30	New Zealand	18	Sydney
2014	Samoa	32	Fiji	16	Sydney
2014	Netherlands	16	Germany	70	Rotterdam
2014	Serbia	40	Ukraine	14	Niš
2014	Belgium	10	Spain	12	Brussels
2014	Russia	24	Ukraine	18	Vereya
2014	Spain	54	Belgium	10	Valencia
2014	Russia	20	Serbia	6	Naro-Fominsk
2014	Belgium	32	Netherlands	16	Brussels
2014	Malta	18	Greece	32	St Julian's
2014	Norway	10	Denmark	16	Oslo
2014	Italy	54	Ukraine	12	Trieste
2014	Czech Republic	8	Malta	34	Havlichkuv Brod
2014	Canada	24	Jamaica	20	Toronto
2014	USA	18	Samoa	12	Philadelphia
2014	Italy	22	Russia	18	Trieste
2014	Canada	52	USA	14	Toronto
2014	Denmark	44	Sweden	6	Copenhagen
2014	Sweden	24	Norway	12	Stockholm
2014	Serbia	45	Italy	6	Belgrade
2014	Greece	68	Czech Republic	16	Athens
2014	Bosnia-Herz.	4	Greece	58	Belgrade
2014	Serbia	50	Hungary	0	Belgrade
2014	Wales	18	Scotland	42	Workington
2014	Ireland	22	France	12	Dublin
2014	Fiji	40	Lebanon	28	Sydney
2014	Hungary	6	Bosnia-Herz.	32	Belgrade
2014	Papua New Guinea	32	Tonga	18	Lae
2014	Serbia	22	Greece	50	Belgrade

2014	Australia	12	New Zealand	30	Brisbane
2014	England	32	Samoa	26	Brisbane
2014	France	42	Wales	22	Albi
2014	Ireland	4	Scotland	25	Dublin
2014	Scotland	22	France	38	Edinburgh
2014	New Zealand	14	Samoa	12	Whangarei
2014	Australia	16	England	12	Melbourne
2014	Wales	14	Ireland	46	Wrexham
2014	New Zealand	16	England	14	Dunedin
2014	Australia	44	Samoa	18	Wollongong
2014	New Zealand	22	Australia	18	Wellington
2015	Belgium	50	Czech Republic	12	Brussels
2015	Fiji	22	Papua New Guinea	10	Gold Coast
2015	Samoa	18	Tonga	16	Gold Coast
2015	Netherlands	12	Belgium	60	Rotterdam
2015	Australia	12	New Zealand	26	Brisbane
2015	Lebanon	34	Malta	16	Sydney
2015	Latvia	12	Spain	32	Riga
2015	Serbia	20	Russia	15	Belgrade
2015	France	68	Serbia	8	Perpignan
2015	Sweden	16	Denmark	30	Belgrade
2015	Spain	16	Germany	32	Valencia
2015	Denmark	24	Norway	12	Copenhagen
2015	Germany	46	Netherlands	12	Karlsruhe
2015	Italy	14	Serbia	21	Trieste
2015	Belgium	34	Malta	35	Leeds
2015	Ukraine	20	Russia	34	Belgrade
2015	Ireland	34	Belgium	0	Dublin
2015	Ukraine	12	Italy	40	Kiev
2015	Czech Republic	12	Sweden	40	Havlichkuv Brod
2015	Serbia	16	Ireland	24	Belgrade
2015	Malta	22	Ireland	34	St Julian's
2015	Russia	26	Italy	6	Moscow
2015	Ukraine	4	Serbia	64	Lviv
2015	USA	28	Canada	36	Philadelphia
2015	Spain	40	Malta	30	Valencia
2015	Czech Republic	14	Belgium	4	Havlichkuv Brod
2015	Malta	30	Greece	0	Marsa
2015	Wales	18	Scotland	12	Wrexham
2015	France	31	Ireland	14	Albi
2015	Greece	4	Spain	76	Athens
2015	Norway	30	Sweden	20	Oslo
2015	Tonga	28	Cook Islands	8	Campbelltown
2015	USA	28	Canada	34	Philadelphia
2015	Scotland	22	Ireland	24	Edinburgh
2015	England	84	France	4	Leigh
2015	South Africa	12	Lebanon	40	Pretoria
2015	Wales	14	France	6	Cardiff
2015	South Africa	16	Lebanon	50	Pretoria
2015	England	26	New Zealand	12	Hull
2015	England	2	New Zealand	9	London
2015	France	32	Scotland	18	Roanne
2015	Ireland	4	Wales	30	Dublin
2015	England	20	New Zealand	14	Wigan
2015	USA	20	Jamaica	14	Jacksonville
2015	Canada	18	Jamaica	18	Stanford

2015	USA	34	Canada	24	Jacksonville
2016	Australia	16	New Zealand	0	Newcastle
2016	Papua New Guinea	24	Fiji	22	Sydney
2016	Samoa	18	Tonga	6	Sydney
2016	Cook Islands	30	Lebanon	20	Sydney
2016	Italy	22	Lebanon	26	Catania
2016	Ukraine	46	Czech Republic	6	Lviv
2016	Canada	38	Jamaica	2	Hempstead
2016	Sweden	24	Norway	40	Stockholm
2016	USA	54	Jamaica	4	Philadelphia
2016	Germany	12	Belgium	26	Dortmund
2016	Denmark	50	Sweden	18	Copenhagen
2016	Netherlands	6	Germany	8	Rotterdam
2016	Belgium	36	Netherlands	12	Brussels
2016	Canada	8	USA	14	Toronto
2016	Czech Republic	12	Norway	6	Krupka
2016	Spain	4	Serbia	64	Valencia
2016	USA	20	Canada	14	Philadelphia
2016	Czech Republic	12	Ukraine	62	Prague
2016	Ireland	58	Malta	10	Dublin
2016	Samoa	18	Fiji	20	Apia
2016	Australia	26	New Zealand	6	Perth
2016	Russia	40	Spain	6	Moscow
2016	Wales	50	Serbia	0	Llanelli
2016	Ireland	16	Jamaica	68	Dublin
2016	Wales	16	Jamaica	16	Wakefield
2016	France	6	England	40	Avignon
2016	Serbia	14	Italy	62	Belgrade
2016	Spain	6	Ireland	46	Valencia
2016	Scotland	12	Australia	54	Hull
2016	England	16	New Zealand	17	Huddersfield
2016	Italy	14	Wales	20	Monza
2016	Ireland	70	Russia	16	Dublin
2016	Italy	76	Russia	0	Leigh
2016	England	38	Scotland	12	Coventry
2016	New Zealand	8	Australia	14	Coventry
2016	Scotland	18	New Zealand	18	Workington
2016	England	18	Australia	36	London
2016	Australia	34	New Zealand	8	Liverpool
2017	Australia	30	New Zealand	12	Canberra
2017	Cook Islands	22	Papua New Guinea	32	Campbelltown
2017	England	30	Samoa	10	Campbelltown
2017	Lebanon	24	Malta	4	Sydney
2017	Tonga	26	Fiji	24	Campbelltown
2017	Lebanon	6	Italy	4	Beirut
2017	Italy	94	Spain	4	Turin
2017	Norway	38	Sweden	18	Oslo
2017	Hungary	6	Czech Republic	26	Budapest
2017	USA	48	Jamaica	6	Jacksonville
2017	Denmark	24	Norway	46	Copenhagen
2017	Germany	18	Netherlands	30	Munster
2017	Jamaica	28	Canada	14	Kingston
2017	Netherlands	28	Sweden	24	Amsterdam
2017	Canada	18	USA	36	Toronto
2017	Greece	68	Bulgaria	8	Belgrade

2017	Malta	24	Italy	24	Sydney
2017	Serbia	50	Greece	8	Belgrade
2017	Serbia	50	Bulgaria	20	Belgrade
2017	France	34	Jamaica	12	Perpignan
2017	Malta	48	Hungary	16	Sydney
2017	Czech Republic	26	Norway	30	Krupka
2017	Australia	18	England	4	Melbourne
2017	Fiji	58	USA	12	Townsville
2017	New Zealand	38	Samoa	8	Auckland
2017	Papua New Guinea	50	Wales	6	Port Moresby
2017	France	18	Lebanon	29	Canberra
2017	Ireland	36	Italy	12	Cairns
2017	Scotland	4	Tonga	50	Cairns
2017	Australia	52	France	6	Canberra
2017	England	29	Lebanon	10	Sydney
2017	New Zealand	74	Scotland	6	Christchurch
2017	Samoa	18	Tonga	32	Hamilton
2017	Fiji	72	Wales	6	Townsville
2017	Italy	46	USA	0	Townsville
2017	Papua New Guinea	14	Ireland	6	Port Moresby
2017	Fiji	38	Italy	10	Canberra
2017	Australia	34	Lebanon	0	Sydney
2017	New Zealand	22	Tonga	28	Hamilton
2017	Samoa	14	Scotland	14	Cairns
2017	England	36	France	6	Perth
2017	Papua New Guinea	64	USA	0	Port Moresby
2017	Wales	6	Ireland	34	Perth
2017	Australia	46	Samoa	0	Darwin
2017	Chile	54	Brazil	8	Los Angeles
2017	Colombia	22	Brazil	18	Los Angeles
2017	New Zealand	2	Fiji	4	Wellington
2017	Tonga	24	Lebanon	22	Christchurch
2017	England	36	Papua New Guinea	6	Melbourne
2017	Australia	54	Fiji	6	Brisbane
2017	Tonga	18	England	20	Auckland
2017	Australia	6	England	0	Brisbane
2018	Malta	40	Hungary	28	Sydney
2018	Czech Republic	20	Norway	12	Prague
2018	Papua New Guinea	26	Fiji	14	Campbelltown
2018	Tonga	38	Samoa	22	Campbelltown
2018	England	36	New Zealand	18	Denver
2018	Malta	24	South Africa	30	Sydney
2018	Hungary	0	Ireland	70	Budapest
2018	Malta	22	Ukraine	34	Marsa
2018	Czech Republic	64	Hungary	10	Chrudim
2018	Germany	24	Czech Republic	4	Munster
2018	Norway	76	Poland	0	Stavanger
2018	Netherlands	38	Germany	22	Rotterdam
2018	Ukraine	26	Greece	28	Kharkiv
2018	Greece	60	Malta	4	Athens
2018	Norway	40	Germany	22	Porsgrunn
2018	Sweden	4	Netherlands	24	Göteborg
2018	Poland	32	Hungary	0	Sydney
2018	Hungary	20	Greece	18	Windsor
2018	Malta	36	Philippines	10	Windsor
2018	Solomon Is	22	Turkey	30	Windsor

2018	Hong Kong	6	Poland	62	Sydney
2018	Hungary	18	Vanuatu	13	Sydney
2018	Japan	0	Turkey	60	Sydney
2018	Malta	16	Niue	26	Sydney
2018	Spain	32	Russia	24	Valencia
2018	Greece	38	Vanuatu	0	Sydney
2018	Japan	6	Poland	58	Sydney
2018	Philippines	12	Niue	24	Sydney
2018	Solomon Is	32	Hong Kong	12	Sydney
2018	Solomon Is	44	Japan	22	Windsor
2018	Hungary	10	Malta	20	Sydney
2018	Niue	16	Greece	8	Sydney
2018	Philippines	29	Turkey	16	Sydney
2018	Vanuatu	4	Poland	44	Sydney
2018	Hong Kong	30	Japan	32	Windsor
2018	Italy	18	South Africa	8	Sydney
2018	Greece	26	Hungary	18	Sydney
2018	Malta	24	Niue	16	Sydney
2018	New Zealand	26	Australia	24	Auckland
2018	Philippines	10	Poland	14	Sydney
2018	Russia	36	Serbia	18	Vereya
2018	Solomon Is	56	Hong Kong	14	Sydney
2018	Sweden	6	Norway	46	Göteborg
2018	Turkey	27	Vanuatu	26	Sydney
2018	England	44	France	6	Leigh
2018	Australia	34	Tonga	16	Auckland
2018	Serbia	24	Spain	20	Belgrade
2018	England	18	New Zealand	16	Hull
2018	France	54	Wales	18	Carcassonne
2018	Ireland	36	Scotland	10	Dublin
2018	Ireland	10	France	24	Dublin
2018	Scotland	12	Wales	50	Edinburgh
2018	England	20	New Zealand	14	Liverpool
2018	France	28	Scotland	10	Carcassonne
2018	England	0	New Zealand	34	Leeds
2018	Wales	40	Ireland	8	Wrexham
2018	Jamaica	38	Canada	8	Jacksonville
2018	USA	62	Chile	0	Jacksonville
2018	Canada	62	Chile	12	Jacksonville
2018	USA	10	Jamaica	16	Jacksonville
2018	Brazil	52	Colombia	14	São Paulo
2019	Greece	56	Norway	26	London
2019	Cook Islands	66	South Africa	6	Sydney
2019	Fiji	58	Lebanon	14	Sydney
2019	Jamaica	26	USA	24	Kingston
2019	New Zealand	34	Tonga	14	Auckland
2019	Papua New Guinea	6	Samoa	24	Sydney
2019	Germany	18	Netherlands	56	Bremen
2019	Turkey	24	Greece	38	Istanbul
2019	Serbia	36	Canada	8	Belgrade
2019	Poland	34	Czech Republic	18	Lodz
2019	Fiji	16	Lebanon	42	Sydney
2019	Cameroon	4	Morocco	8	Lagos
2019	Nigeria	25	Ghana	12	Lagos
2019	Ghana	10	Cameroon	4	Lagos
2019	Nigeria	38	Morocco	10	Lagos

2019	Malta	23	Italy	20	Sydney
2019	Poland	16	Sweden	50	Lodz
2019	Poland	0	Norway	68	Lodz
2019	Australia	26	New Zealand	4	Wollongong
2019	Malta	28	Turkey	12	Sydney
2019	Scotland	86	Serbia	0	Glasgow
2019	Spain	8	Ireland	42	Valencia
2019	Tonga Invitational	14	Great Britain	6	Hamilton
2019	Greece	24	Scotland	42	London
2019	Italy	34	Spain	4	Lignano Sabbiadoro
2019	New Zealand	12	Great Britain	8	Auckland
2019	Samoa	18	Fiji	44	Auckland
2019	Tonga Invitational	16	Australia	12	Auckland
2019	Fiji	22	Papua New Guinea	20	Christchurch
2019	Ireland	25	Italy	4	Dublin
2019	New Zealand	23	Great Britain	8	Christchurch
2019	Serbia	6	Greece	82	Belgrade

2019	Papua New Guinea	28	Great Britain	10	Port Moresby
2019	USA	16	Cook Islands	38	Jacksonville
2020	Netherlands	20	Germany	18	Zwolle
2021	Bosnia-Herz.	4	Serbia	50	Bosnia
2021	Bulgaria	16	Serbia	28	Sofia
2021	Serbia	66	Russia	10	Kragujevac
2021	Russia	18	Ukraine	96	Belgrade
2021	Serbia	54	Ukraine	18	Belgrade
2021	Czech Republic	40	Malta	16	Bodrum
2021	Turkey	18	Netherlands	40	Bodrum
2021	Czech Republic	10	Netherlands	36	Bodrum
2021	Malta	12	Turkey	36	Bodrum
2021	France	10	England	30	Perpignan
2021	Jamaica	30	Scotland	30	Featherstone

INTERNATIONAL STATS LEADERS (ALL TIME)

40+ Full International Appearances									
Player	Team(s)	P	W	D	L	I	G	FG	Pts
LOCKYER, Darren	Australia (SL), Australia	63	51	2	10	37	29	3	209
SULLIVAN, Jim	Wales, Great Britain, Other, England	60	34	1	25	3	160	-	329
SMITH, Cameron	Australia	56	49	1	6	9	67	-	170
WIKI, Ruben	New Zealand	55	31	3	21	15	-	-	60
GRAHAM, James	Great Britain, England	53	32	-	21	5	-	-	20
MORLEY, Adrian	England, Great Britain	53	27	-	26	4	-	-	16
BLAIR, Adam	New Zealand	51	24	2	25	2	-	-	8
CIVONICEVA, Petero	Australia, Fiji	51	39	2	10	1	-	-	4
SULLIVAN, Mick	Great Britain, England	51	30	3	18	45	-	-	135
SCHOFIELD, Garry	Great Britain, England	49	26	2	21	31	9	7	149
MENINGA, Malcolm	Australia	47	41	-	6	22	99	-	282
MILLWARD, Roger	Great Britain, England	47	26	2	19	20	23	2	110
PEACOCK, Jamie	England, Great Britain	47	23	1	23	12	-	-	48
FREEMAN, Gary	New Zealand	46	22	2	22	10	-	-	40
JONES, Stacey	New Zealand	46	27	2	17	16	47	2	160
MANTOULAN, Claude	France	46	16	4	26	8	17	1	60
PUIG, Robert	France	46	25	1	20	1	149	12	325
BENAUSSSE, Gilbert	France	45	21	5	19	17	57	-	165
FARRELL, Andrew	Great Britain, England	45	20	2	23	8	92	-	216
KEARNEY, Stephen	New Zealand	45	25	3	17	9	-	-	36
LANGLANDS, Graeme	Australia	45	30	3	12	20	73	-	206
MANNERING, Simon	New Zealand	45	22	-	23	7	-	-	28
LUKE, Issac	New Zealand	43	22	2	19	5	22	-	64
SENIOR, Keith	Great Britain, England	43	17	2	24	14	-	-	56
PRESCOTT, Alan	England, Great Britain	42	25	1	16	4	-	-	12
VAGANA, Nigel	New Zealand, Samoa	42	21	2	19	24	-	-	96
WARD, Ernest	England, Great Britain	42	26	2	14	7	51	-	123
EDWARDS, Shaun	Great Britain, England, Ireland	40	30	1	9	18	-	-	72
FITTLER, Bradley	Australia	40	34	1	5	19	1	1	79
HALL, Ryan	England, Great Britain	40	25	-	15	34	-	-	140
LEULUAI, Thomas	New Zealand	40	20	3	17	3	-	-	12
NICHOLLS, George	Great Britain, England	40	24	3	13	3	-	-	9
RAPER, John	Australia	40	27	2	11	11	-	-	33
SINFIELD, Kevin	England, Great Britain	40	21	1	18	6	106	-	236

150+ Points in Full Internationals						
Player	Team(s)	PI	I	G	FG	Pts
THURSTON, Johnathan	Australia	38	13	165	-	382
SULLIVAN, Jim	Wales, Great Britain, Other, England	60	3	160	-	329
PUIG, Robert	France	46	1	149	12	325
CRONIN, Michael	Australia	35	10	140	-	310
MENINGA, Malcolm	Australia	47	22	99	-	282
FOX, Neil	Great Britain, England	30	15	96	-	237
SINFIELD, Kevin	England, Great Britain	40	6	106	-	236
JOHNSON, Shaun	New Zealand	32	14	83	1	223
JOHNS, Andrew	Australia	25	12	86	-	220
FARRELL, Andrew	Great Britain, England	45	8	92	-	216
LOCKYER, Darren	Australia (SL), Australia	63	37	29	3	209
DAVIES, Jonathan	Great Britain, Wales	22	7	86	7	207
VUKANOVIĆ, Dalibor	Serbia	33	18	67	1	207
GRÉSEQUE, Maxime	France	24	21	61	-	206
LANGLANDS, Graeme	Australia	45	20	73	-	206
EL MASRI, Hazem	Lebanon, Australia	10	14	74	-	204
O'CONNOR, Michael	Australia	18	17	65	-	198
JONES, Benjamin	Wales, Great Britain, Other	21	6	85	-	188
FAIRBAIRN, George	England, Great Britain	32	4	87	1	187
WIDDOP, Gareth	England, Great Britain	32	7	77	1	183
LYSOKON, Aleksandr	Russia	22	12	62	-	172
SMITH, Cameron	Australia	56	9	67	-	170
FINN, Liam	Ireland	30	8	68	-	168
RIDGE, Matthew	New Zealand	25	6	71	2	168
ROGERS, Mathew	Australia	11	9	66	-	168
BENAUSSÉ, Gilbert	France	45	17	57	-	165
SKORBACH, Aleksandr	Ukraine	17	16	49	-	162
JONES, Stacey	New Zealand	46	16	47	2	160
WISHART, Rod	Australia	18	14	50	-	156

20+ Tries in Full Internationals			
Player	Team(s)	PI	I
SULLIVAN, Mick	Great Britain, England	51	45
IRVINE, Kenneth	Australia	36	40
LOCKYER, Darren	Australia (SL), Australia	63	37
HALL, Ryan	England, Great Britain	40	34
OFFIAH, Martin	Great Britain, England	38	34
INGLIS, Greg	Australia	39	31
SCHOFIELD, Garry	Great Britain, England	49	31
BOSTON, Billy	Great Britain, Other	34	30
GASNIER, Reg	Australia	39	28
SLATER, Billy	Australia	30	27
BEVAN, Brian	Other	16	26
FULTON, Robert	Australia	37	26
CONTRASTIN, Raymond	France	32	24

STEVANOVIĆ, Stevan	Serbia	29	24
VAGANA, Nigel	New Zealand, Samoa	42	24
MORRIS, Brett	Australia	18	23
VATUVEI, Manu	New Zealand, Tonga	30	23
HANLEY, Ellery	Great Britain, England	38	22
MENINGA, Malcolm	Australia	47	22
WILLIAMS, Rhys	Wales	29	22
GRÉSEQUE, Maxime	France	24	21
SAILOR, Wendell	Australia, Australia (SL)	22	21
ELLABY, Aif	England, Great Britain	22	20
LANGLANDS, Graeme	Australia	45	20
MILLWARD, Roger	Great Britain, England	47	20
SULLIVAN, Clive	Great Britain, Wales	32	20
TROYAN, Mykhailo	Ukraine	20	20

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2021

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2021 OFFICIALLY POSTPONED

RLWC Media Release, 5 August 2021

Rugby League World Cup 2021 (RLWC2021) and the UK Government have today announced their intention to stage the flagship event in the international Rugby League calendar in 2022.

The extremely difficult decision was taken by the RLWC2021 Board, which includes representation from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and the International Rugby League (IRL) Board.

This follows extensive and urgent consultation conducted by RLWC2021 Chief Executive Officer Jon Dutton and his team, which engaged players, competing nations, the Rugby League Players Association (Australia), UK Government, hosts, commercial and broadcast partners.

Tournament organisers faced several unique and complex challenges with the most significant being the non-release of up to 400 players, match officials and staff members from the NRL competition in Australia. This is despite all requests from international rugby league federations having been met which included the rigorous health measures that have been keeping thousands of elite athletes from around the world safe whilst competing in major sporting events across the UK over the last year.

Ultimately this decision has been detrimental to the plans and ambitions of many of the competing nations and potential replacement teams. A key factor was ensuring that fans of Rugby League are able to enjoy the best possible tournament, which was not possible under these circumstances.

We are working hard to confirm new tournament arrangements including ticket details and availability and will be providing updates as soon as can.

Jon Dutton, RLWC2021 Chief Executive Officer, said: "Today is a challenging moment for everyone involved in Rugby League, but most importantly the players and fans of the competing nations.

"Ultimately, time and competing priorities from others forced us to make the most difficult decision in our six-year history. However, we and the sport of Rugby League are resilient, and next year we will deliver our vision of the biggest and best Rugby League World Cup ever.

"We have always prioritised player voice and player choice. We have established a player working group, met with senior players and in the last few days commissioned a player survey to domestic players in Australia and New Zealand that showed more than 85% wanted to compete at RLWC2021 this year. However, following the disappointing decision of the ARLC and NZRL to withdraw, and the subsequent impact on player availability for other competing nations, it is apparent that delivering the tournament this year would not be feasible.

"The wellbeing of all those involved in the tournament, particularly players and team officials, has been our priority. I would like to thank the RLWC2021 Board and my team for the relentless hard work and extraordinary measures that had been undertaken to create a safe and secure environment in line with other major sports events that have been successfully hosted in the UK this year.

"I would also like to thank all our committed partners as well as the Rugby League community at large who have been so supportive of our trailblazing event. We appreciate the continued and unequivocal support of the UK Government, as well as the understanding of our competing nations.

Chris Brindley, RLWC2021 Chair, added: "This process has shown that the RLWC Board are responsible leaders who have put the solidarity and unity of the sport first. The Board will now seek the commitment and alignment of all key partners immediately to deliver a clear timetable for the tournament next year.

"Now is the time for everyone who loves our game to come together, to show that Rugby League deserves its place on the international stage, and that the RLWC is a tournament we can all be proud of."

Troy Grant, IRL Chair, said: "On behalf of the whole international Rugby League community, I must thank Jon Dutton, Chris Brindley and their team for their unstinting efforts. I know that their focus is now on 2022. I also place on record our thanks to the UK Government, our sponsors and partners for their support throughout this whole process. They have been outstanding and understanding friends and we look forward to continuing the journey with them.

"We must now move forward quickly from this point to build confidence in our sport internationally and to seize the opportunity which still presents itself; to deliver the best Rugby League World Cup ever. I look forward to 2022 and the future with optimism and a renewed focus on the importance of international Rugby League for all our members large and small.

"We have seen the success that the Olympic Games and the Euro 2020 championship experienced after their postponements, and we are all determined to deliver the best Rugby League World Cup ever in 2022."

Sports Minister Nigel Huddleston said: "I am disappointed that we've needed to take the decision to delay the Rugby League World Cup. Despite working tirelessly to explore solutions that would allow us to go ahead as planned, circumstances beyond our control have meant that postponing the Rugby League World Cup until next year is the strongest option for staging a successful tournament.

"In the best interests of the sport and its millions of supporters around the world, I look forward to the Rugby League authorities in all competing nations accommodating a rearranged tournament in 2022, so we can put on the spectacle the fans deserve."

Information on the rescheduling of the tournament and new dates will be released by organisers in due course. For the latest news and ticketing updates sign-up via rlwc2021.com/signup.

For existing ticket holders details regarding the next steps for ticket transfers and refunds will be provided directly by no later than 12 August 2021.

NEW DATES CONFIRMED FOR RLWC2021

RLWC Media Release, 26 August 2021

We can confirm the dates for the tournament that will now take place between Saturday 15 October - Saturday 19 November 2022.

RLWC2021 can also announce that the opening match as well as the men's and women's double header finals will be played, as originally planned, at St James Park Newcastle and Old Trafford Manchester respectively. We are delighted that these two iconic venues will remain in place to open and close the biggest and best Rugby League World Cup ever.

The new tournament dates have been confirmed following detailed consultation with a number of partners. In particular, RLWC2021 would like to thank Super League Europe and the member clubs who have been extremely accommodating.

The dates see the tournament move one week earlier than scheduled in 2021 to maximise attendance and viewership. Work now continues to release a full revised match schedule by no later than the end of the year.

The earlier start means RLWC2021 will fall between the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the 2022 FIFA World Cup meaning that existing broadcast partners, will continue to air all 61 games throughout the tournament.

Today, RLWC2021 would like to reaffirm to those who wish to retain their tickets for 2022, that there is nothing further to do, as tickets will be automatically transferred to the corresponding fixture next year.

As a thank you for continued fan support, RLWC2021 have created "The Foundation Fan Squad", this will be an exclusive group who will receive a thank you pack including an updated wall planner and the chance to win exclusive prizes, access to content and other benefits for the next year.

While it is hoped all ticket holders decide to stay with us and support the tournament in 2022 it is understood some fans may not be able to attend. Today the first general admission ticket refund window will open for a three-week period.

For those who have purchased a RLWC2021 ticket product through official platforms, please visit www.rlwc2021.com/tickets for specific ticket refund information.

RLWC2021 would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the process of confirming the dates for 2022 and we look forward to working closely with all nations, sponsors, partners, host cities and venues as we finalise the revised tournament schedule.

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2021 FIXTURES

Date	Match	Group	Venue
Saturday 15th October 2022	England v Samoa	Group A	St James' Park (Newcastle)
Saturday 15th October 2022	Australia v Fiji	Group B	Headingley (Leeds)
Sunday 16th October 2022	Scotland v Italy	Group B	Kingston Park (Newcastle)
Sunday 16th October 2022	Jamaica v Ireland	Group C	Headingley (Leeds)
Sunday 16th October 2022	New Zealand v Lebanon	Group C	Halliwell Jones Stadium (Warrington)
Monday 17th October 2022	France v Greece	Group A	Keepmoat Stadium (Doncaster)
Tuesday 18th October 2022	Tonga v Papua New Guinea	Group D	Totally Wicked Stadium (St Helens)
Wednesday 19th October 2022	Wales v Cook Islands	Group D	Leigh Sports Village (Leigh)
Friday 21st October 2022	Australia v Scotland	Group B	Ricoh Arena (Coventry)
Saturday 22nd October 2022	Fiji v Italy	Group B	Kingston Park (Newcastle)
Saturday 22nd October 2022	England v France	Group A	University of Bolton Stadium (Bolton)
Saturday 22nd October 2022	New Zealand v Jamaica	Group C	MKM Stadium (Hull)
Sunday 23rd October 2022	Lebanon v Ireland	Group C	Leigh Sports Village (Leigh)
Sunday 23rd October 2022	Samoa v Greece	Group A	Keepmoat Stadium (Doncaster)
Monday 24th October 2022	Tonga v Wales	Group D	Totally Wicked Stadium (St Helens)
Tuesday 25th October 2022	Papua New Guinea v Cook Islands	Group D	Halliwell Jones Stadium (Warrington)
Friday 28th October 2022	New Zealand v Ireland	Group C	Headingley (Leeds)
Saturday 29th October 2022	England v Greece	Group A	Bramall Lane (Sheffield)
Saturday 29th October 2022	Fiji v Scotland	Group B	Kingston Park (Newcastle)
Saturday 29th October 2022	Australia v Italy	Group B	Totally Wicked Stadium (St Helens)
Sunday 30th October 2022	Lebanon v Jamaica	Group C	Leigh Sports Village (Leigh)
Sunday 30th October 2022	Tonga v Cook Islands	Group D	Riverside Stadium (Middlesbrough)
Sunday 30th October 2022	Samoa v France	Group A	Halliwell Jones Stadium (Warrington)
Monday 31st October 2022	Papua New Guinea v Wales	Group D	Keepmoat Stadium (Doncaster)

Friday 4th November 2022	Quarter Final 1	Winner B v Runner-up C	John Smith's Stadium (Huddersfield)
Saturday 5th November 2022	Quarter Final 2	Winner A v Runner-up D	DW Stadium (Wigan)
Saturday 5th November 2022	Quarter Final 3	Winner C v Runner-up B	MKM Stadium (Hull)
Sunday 6th November 2022	Quarter Final 4	Winner D v Runner-up A	University of Bolton Stadium (Bolton)

Friday 11th November 2022	Semi Final 1	Winner QF 1 v Winner QF 3	Elland Road (Leeds)
Saturday 12th November 2022	Semi Final 2	Winner QF 2 v Winner QF 4	Emirates Stadium (London)

Saturday 19th November 2022	World Cup Final	Winner SF 1 v Winner SF 2	Old Trafford (Manchester)
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GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
England	Australia	Ireland	Cook Islands
France	Fiji	Jamaica	Papua New Guinea
Greece	Italy	Lebanon	Tonga
Samoa	Scotland	New Zealand	Wales

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP: 1954-2017

1954 WORLD CUP - Champions: Great Britain							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	France	22	New Zealand	13	C. Appleton	Princes	13240
	Australia	13	Great Britain	28	R. Guidicelli	Gerland	10250
	Australia	34	New Zealand	15	R. Guidicelli	Vélodrome	20000
	France	13	Great Britain	13	C. Appleton	Municipal	37471
	France	15	Australia	5	C. Appleton	Marcel-Saupin	13000
	Great Britain	26	New Zealand	6	R. Guidicelli	Stade Municipal	14000
Final	France	12	Great Britain	16	C. Appleton	Princes	30368
1957 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	Australia	25	New Zealand	5	V. Belsham	Lang Park	28765
	France	5	Great Britain	23	D. Lawler	SCG	50077
	Australia	31	Great Britain	6	V. Belsham	SCG	58655
	France	14	New Zealand	10	D. Lawler	Lang Park	28000
	Australia	26	France	9	V. Belsham	SCG	35158
	New Zealand	29	Great Britain	21	D. Lawler	SCG	14263
1960 WORLD CUP - Champions: Great Britain							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	Australia	13	France	12	E. Clay	Central Park	20278
	Great Britain	23	New Zealand	8	E. Martung	Odsal	20577
	Australia	21	New Zealand	15	E. Clay	Headingley	10773
	Great Britain	33	France	7	E. Martung	Station Road	22293
	Great Britain	10	Australia	3	E. Martung	Odsal	32773
	New Zealand	9	France	0	E. Clay	Central Park	2876
1968 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	Australia	25	Great Britain	10	J. Percival	SCG	62256
	France	15	New Zealand	10	C. Pearce	Carlaw	18000
	Australia	31	New Zealand	12	J. Percival	Lang Park	23608
	France	7	Great Britain	2	C. Pearce	Carlaw	15760
	Australia	37	France	4	J. Percival	Lang Park	32664
	Great Britain	38	New Zealand	14	C. Pearce	SCG	14105
Final	Australia	20	France	2	J. Percival	SCG	54290
1970 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	Australia	47	New Zealand	11	B. Thompson	Central Park	9805
	Great Britain	11	Australia	4	F. Lindop	Headingley	15169
	France	15	New Zealand	16	B. Thompson	Boulevard	3824
	Great Britain	6	France	0	F. Lindop	Wheldon Road	8958
	Great Britain	27	New Zealand	17	F. Lindop	Station Road	5609
	France	17	Australia	15	B. Thompson	Odsal	6654
Final	Australia	12	Great Britain	7	F. Lindop	Headingley	18776

1972 WORLD CUP - Champions: Great Britain							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	France	20	New Zealand	9	G. Jameau	Vélodrome	20748
	Great Britain	27	Australia	21	C. Teissiere	Gilbert Brutus	6324
	Australia	9	New Zealand	5	M. Naughton	Princes	8000
	France	4	Great Britain	13	F. Gril	Alpes	5321
	Great Britain	53	New Zealand	19	G. Jameau	Hameau	7500
	France	9	Australia	31	M. Naughton	Municipal	10332
Final	Australia	10	Great Britain	10	G. Jameau	Gerland	4231
1975 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - Champions: Australia							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	France	14	Wales	7	F. Lindop	Municipal	7563
	England	20	France	2	K. Page, H. Hunt	Headingley	10842
	Australia	36	New Zealand	8	F. Escande	Lang Park	12000
	England	7	Wales	12	D. Lancashire	Lang Park	6000
	Australia	30	Wales	13	F. Escande	SCG	25386
	New Zealand	27	France	0	L. Bruyeres	Addington	2500
	Australia	26	France	6	J. Percival	Lang Park	9000
	New Zealand	17	England	17	L. Bruyeres	Carlaw	12000
	Australia	10	England	10	J. Percival	SCG	33858
	New Zealand	13	Wales	8	L. Bruyeres	Carlaw	9368
	Wales	16	England	22	M. Caillol	Wilderspool	5034
	New Zealand	8	Australia	24	F. Lindop	Carlaw	18000
	France	2	England	48	J. Percival	Parc Lescure	1581
	France	12	New Zealand	12	B. Thompson	Vélodrome	10000
	Wales	6	Australia	18	J. Percival	Swansea	11112
	England	27	New Zealand	12	A. Lacaze	Odsal	5507
	France	2	Australia	41	B. Thompson	Gilbert Brutus	10440
	England	16	Australia	13	J. Percival	Central Park	9393
	Wales	25	New Zealand	24	G. Jameau	Swansea	2645
	Wales	23	France	2	F. Lindop	The Willows	2247
1977 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	New Zealand	12	Australia	27	B. Thompson	Carlaw	18000
	France	4	Great Britain	23	R. Cooper	Carlaw	10000
	Australia	21	France	9	B. Thompson	SCG	13231
	New Zealand	12	Great Britain	30	M. Caillol	Addington	7000
	Australia	19	Great Britain	5	M. Caillol	Lang Park	27000
	New Zealand	28	France	20	D. Lancashire	Carlaw	8000
Final	Australia	13	Great Britain	12	B. Thompson	SCG	24457
1985-88 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	New Zealand	18	Australia	0	J. Rascagneres	Carlaw	15327
	Great Britain	6	New Zealand	6	B. Gomersall	Elland Road	22209
	New Zealand	22	France	0	R. Campbell	Gilbert Brutus	5000
	France	10	Great Britain	10	K. Roberts	Parc des Sports	4000
	Australia	32	New Zealand	12	R. Whitfield	Lang Park	22811
	Papua New Guinea	24	New Zealand	22	K. Roberts	Lloyd Robson	15000

	Papua New Guinea	12	Australia	62	N. Kesha	Lloyd Robson	17000
	Great Britain	15	Australia	24	J. Rascagneres	Central Park	20169
	France	0	Australia	52	F. Lindop	d'Albert Domec	5000
	Great Britain	52	France	4	M. Stone	Headingley	6567
	Great Britain	42	Papua New Guinea	0	F. Desplas	Central Park	9121
	France	21	Papua New Guinea	4	J. Holdsworth	d'Albert Domec	5000
	Papua New Guinea	22	Great Britain	42	G. McCallum	Lloyd Robson	12107
	Australia	12	Great Britain	26	F. Desplas	SFS	15944
	New Zealand	66	Papua New Guinea	14	G. McCallum	Carlaw	8392
	New Zealand	12	Great Britain	10	M. Stone	Addington	8525
	Australia	70	Papua New Guinea	8	N. Kesha	Eric Weissel	11685
Final	New Zealand	12	Australia	25	G. Ainui	Eden Park	47363
1989-92 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	New Zealand	14	Australia	22	R. Tennant	Mt Smart	15000
	Great Britain	10	New Zealand	6	G. McCallum	Central Park	20346
	France	0	New Zealand	34	R. Whitfield	d'Albert Domec	4208
	Papua New Guinea	8	Great Britain	40	D. Hale	Lloyd Robson	7837
	Australia	34	France	2	G. Ainui	Pioneer	12384
	New Zealand	21	Great Britain	18	B. Harrigan	QEII Park	3133
	Papua New Guinea	10	New Zealand	18	B. Harrigan	Lloyd Robson	7837
	Great Britain	0	Australia	14	A. Sablayrolles	Elland Road	32500
	France	10	Australia	34	J. Holdsworth	Gilbert Brutus	3428
	France	10	Great Britain	45	G. McCallum	Gilbert Brutus	3965
	New Zealand	32	France	10	G. Ainui	Addington	2000
	Papua New Guinea	18	France	20	C. Morris	Danny Leahy	11485
	Australia	40	New Zealand	12	J. Holdsworth	Lang Park	29139
	Papua New Guinea	6	Australia	40	D. Hale	Lloyd Robson	14500
	Great Britain	56	Papua New Guinea	4	B. Harrigan	Central Park	4193
	France	28	Papua New Guinea	14	C. Morris	d'Albert Domec	1440
	Great Britain	36	France	0	E. Ward	Boulevard	5250
	Australia	16	Great Britain	10	D. Hale	Lang Park	32313
	New Zealand	66	Papua New Guinea	10	G. McCallum	Mt Smart	3000
	Australia	36	Papua New Guinea	14	D. Hale	T'ville Sports	12470
Final	Great Britain	6	Australia	10	D. Hale	Wembley	73631
1995 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	England	20	Australia	16	S. Cummings	Wembley	41271
	Fiji	52	South Africa	6	D. Manson	Cougar	4845
	New Zealand	25	Tonga	24	D. Campbell	Wilderspool	8083
	Wales	28	France	6	E. Ward	Ninian Park	10250
	Australia	86	South Africa	6	R. Smith	Gateshead	9181
	Papua New Guinea	28	Tonga	28	C. Alba	Boulevard	5121
	England	46	Fiji	0	D. Hale	Central Park	26263
	Western Samoa	56	France	10	K. Jeffes	Ninian Park	2173
	New Zealand	22	Papua New Guinea	6	S. Cummings	Knowsley	8679
	Australia	66	Fiji	0	E. Ward	Alfred McAlpine	7127
	England	46	South Africa	0	D. Manson	Headingley	14041
	Wales	22	Western Samoa	10	R. Smith	Vetch Field	15385

Semi Final	England	25	Wales	10	E. Ward	Old Trafford	30042
Semi Final	Australia	30	New Zealand	20	R. Smith	Alfred McAlpine	16608
Final	Australia	16	England	8	S. Cummings	Wembley	66540
2000 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	England	2	Australia	22	D. Pakieto	Twickenham	33758
	France	20	Papua New Guinea	23	S. Ganson	Charlety	7498
	Ireland	30	Samoa	16	T. Mander	Windsor Park	3207
	Tonga	66	South Africa	18	D. Hopewell	Charlety	7498
	Fiji	38	Russia	12	R. Smith	Craven Park	2187
	New Zealand	64	Lebanon	0	B. Harrigan	Kingsholm	2496
	Scotland	16	New Zealand Maori	17	S. Cummings	Firhill	2008
	Wales	38	Cook Islands	6	T. Alibert	Racecourse	5016
	Australia	66	Fiji	8	R. Connolly	Gateshead	4197
	England	76	Russia	4	B. Shrimpton	Knowsley	5736
	France	28	Tonga	8	S. Clark	d'Albert Domec	10288
	Ireland	18	Scotland	6	R. Smith	Tolka Park	1782
	Samoa	21	New Zealand Maori	16	B. Harrigan	Derwent Park	4107
	New Zealand	84	Cook Islands	10	T. Mander	Madejski	3982
	Papua New Guinea	16	South Africa	0	D. Hopewell	Sept Deniers	4313
	Wales	24	Lebanon	22	D. Pakieto	Stradey Park	1497
	Australia	110	Russia	4	S. Cummings	Boulevard	3044
	England	66	Fiji	10	T. Alibert	Headingley	10052
	Ireland	30	New Zealand Maori	16	B. Harrigan	Tolka Park	3164
	Cook Islands	22	Lebanon	22	B. Shrimpton	Millennium	17612
	France	56	South Africa	6	S. Clark	Municipal	7969
	Scotland	12	Samoa	20	D. Pakieto	Tynecastle	1579
	Wales	18	New Zealand	58	R. Smith	Millennium	17612
	Papua New Guinea	30	Tonga	22	S. Ganson	Municipal	3666
Quarter Final	Australia	66	Samoa	10	S. Cummings	Vicarage Road	5404
Quarter Final	England	26	Ireland	16	T. Mander	Headingley	15405
Quarter Final	New Zealand	54	France	6	B. Harrigan	Jungle	5158
Quarter Final	Wales	22	Papua New Guinea	8	D. Pakieto	AutoQuest	5211
Semi Final	England	6	New Zealand	49	T. Mander	Reebok	16032
Semi Final	Australia	46	Wales	22	R. Smith	Alfred McAlpine	8114
Final	Australia	40	New Zealand	12	S. Cummings	Old Trafford	44329
2008 WORLD CUP - Champions: New Zealand							
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	England	32	Papua New Guinea	22	S. Hayne	Dairy Farmers	10780
	Australia	30	New Zealand	6	A. Klein	SFS	34157
	Scotland	18	France	36	L. Williamson	Canberra Stadium	9287
	Tonga	22	Ireland	20	S. Ganson	Parramatta	6165
	Samoa	20	Tonga	12	S. Hayne	CUA Stadium	11787
	Fiji	42	France	6	A. Klein	WIN Stadium	9213
	New Zealand	48	Papua New Guinea	6	S. Ganson	Skilled Park	10780
	Australia	52	England	4	T. Archer	Etihad	36297
	Ireland	34	Samoa	16	T. Alibert	Parramatta	8602
	Scotland	18	Fiji	16	L. Williamson	Central Coast	9720
	England	24	New Zealand	36	T. Archer	EnergyAustralia	15145

	Scotland	0	Tonga	48	S. Hayne	Browne Park	5930
	France	10	Samoa	42	T. Alibert	CUA Stadium	8028
	Papua New Guinea	6	Australia	46	S. Ganson	Dairy Farmers	16239
Qualifying Final	Fiji	30	Ireland	14	A. Klein	Skilled Park	8224
Semi Final	New Zealand	32	England	22	S. Hayne	Suncorp	26659
Semi Final	Australia	52	Fiji	0	A. Klein	SFS	15855
Final	Australia	20	New Zealand	34	A. Klein	Suncorp	50509
	2013 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia						
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	Australia	28	England	20	H. Perenara	Millennium	45052
	Wales	16	Italy	32	A. Klein	Millennium	45052
	New Zealand	42	Samoa	24	R. Silverwood	Halliwel Jones	13965
	Papua New Guinea	8	France	9	B. Cummins	Craven Park	7481
	Fiji	32	Ireland	14	P. Bentham	Spotland	8872
	Tonga	24	Scotland	26	S. Hayne	Derwent Park	7630
	USA	32	Cook Islands	20	B. Thaler	Memorial Stadium	7247
	New Zealand	48	France	0	P. Bentham	Parc des Sports	17518
	Australia	34	Fiji	2	R. Silverwood	Langtree Park	14137
	England	42	Ireland	0	T. Alibert	John Smith's	24375
	Scotland	30	Italy	30	H. Perenara	Derwent Park	7280
	Wales	16	USA	24	B. Cummins	Glyndŵr Uni RS	8019
	Papua New Guinea	4	Samoa	38	S. Hayne	Craven Park	6871
	Tonga	22	Cook Islands	16	A. Klein	Leigh Sports	10554
	Scotland	22	USA	8	T. Alibert	AJ Bell Stadium	6041
	New Zealand	56	Papua New Guinea	10	A. Klein	Headingley	18180
	Australia	50	Ireland	0	P. Bentham	Thomond Park	5021
	England	34	Fiji	12	B. Cummins	KC Stadium	25114
	Tonga	16	Italy	0	B. Thaler	The Shay	10666
	Wales	24	Cook Islands	28	R. Silverwood	Gnoll	3270
	France	6	Samoa	22	H. Perenara	Gilbert Brutus	11576
Quarter Final	New Zealand	40	Scotland	4	B. Cummins	Headingley	16207
Quarter Final	Australia	62	USA	0	H. Perenara	Glyndŵr Uni RS	5762
Quarter Final	England	34	France	6	A. Klein	DW Stadium	22276
Quarter Final	Samoa	4	Fiji	22	R. Silverwood	Halliwel Jones	12766
Semi Final	Australia	64	Fiji	0	R. Silverwood	Wembley	67545
Semi Final	England	18	New Zealand	20	B. Cummins	Wembley	67545
Final	Australia	34	New Zealand	2	R. Silverwood	Old Trafford	74468
	2017 WORLD CUP - Champions: Australia						
	Home		Away		Referee	Venue	Crowd
	Australia	18	England	4	M. Cecchin	AAMI Park	22724
	Papua New Guinea	50	Wales	6	B. Cummins	National Stadium	14800
	Fiji	58	USA	12	H. Perenara	1300SMILES	5103
	New Zealand	38	Samoa	8	J. Child	Mt Smart	17857
	France	18	Lebanon	29	G. Sutton	GIO Stadium	5492
	Ireland	36	Italy	12	G. Atkins	Barlow Park	9126
	Scotland	4	Tonga	50	P. Bentham	Barlow Park	9216
	Australia	52	France	6	J. Child	GIO Stadium	12293
	England	29	Lebanon	10	B. Thaler	Allianz	10237
	New Zealand	74	Scotland	6	H. Perenara	RL Park	12130

	Samoa	18	Tonga	32	B. Cummins	Waikato	18156
	Fiji	72	Wales	6	C. Kendall	1300SMILES	7732
	Italy	46	USA	0	A. Klein	1300SMILES	7732
	Papua New Guinea	14	Ireland	6	M. Cecchin	National Stadium	14800
	Fiji	38	Italy	10	R. Hicks	GIO Stadium	6733
	Australia	34	Lebanon	0	J. Child	Allianz	21127
	New Zealand	22	Tonga	28	G. Sutton	Waikato	24041
	Samoa	14	Scotland	14	A. Klein	Barlow Park	4309
	England	36	France	6	P. Bentham	nib Stadium	14744
	Papua New Guinea	64	USA	0	A. Gee	National Stadium	14800
	Wales	6	Ireland	34	B. Thaler	nib Stadium	14744
Quarter Final	Australia	46	Samoa	0	P. Bentham	TIO Stadium	13473
Quarter Final	New Zealand	2	Fiji	4	M. Cecchin	Westpac	12713
Quarter Final	Tonga	24	Lebanon	22	G. Sutton	RL Park	8309
Quarter Final	England	36	Papua New Guinea	6	J. Child	AAMI Park	10563
Semi Final	Australia	54	Fiji	6	G. Sutton	Suncorp	22073
Semi Final	Tonga	18	England	20	M. Cecchin	Mt Smart	30003
Final	Australia	6	England	0	G. Sutton	Suncorp	40033

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP: PLAYER RECORDS

Player	Team(s)	P	W	D	L	T	G	FG	Pts
ABAVU, Josiah	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
ABBAS, Mohammed	Lebanon	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
ABLETT, Carl	England	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
ABOU-SLEIMAN, Daniel	Lebanon	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ACKLAND, Ronald	New Zealand	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
ADAMS, Michael	England	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
ADDY, Daniel	Scotland	7	2	2	3	2	4	-	16
ADER, Bastien	France	3	-	-	3	2	-	-	8
AFOA, Fa'ausu	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
AFOA, Iulio	Samoa	4	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
AH KUOI, Fred	New Zealand	6	2	1	3	-	-	-	-
AH MAU, Leeson	Samoa	7	2	1	4	-	-	-	-
AILA, Eddie	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
AILLERES, Georges	France	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
AILLERES, Pierre	France	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
AITON, Paul	Papua New Guinea	10	3	-	7	2	-	-	8
AIYE, Dion	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
AIZUE, Makali	Papua New Guinea	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
AKO, Bobby	Papua New Guinea	4	1	-	3	1	-	-	4
ALARD, Guy	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
ALBERT, Lucas	France	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	2
ALBERT, Stanton	Papua New Guinea	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
ALBERT, Wellington	Papua New Guinea	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	8
ALBERTS, Jaco	South Africa	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
ALESINA JR, Adolphe	France	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
ALESINA, Adolphe	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
ALEXANDER, Gregory	Australia	2	2	-	-	1	3	-	10
ALKEMA, Barend	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
ALLEN, David	Ireland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-

ALLEY, Jonathan	USA	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ALVARO, Daniel	Italy	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
ALVERNHE, Yves	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
AMBLER, Luke	Ireland	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
AMEAN, Stargroth	Papua New Guinea	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
AMONE, Aasaali	Tonga	2	-	1	1	-	6	-	12
AMOR, Kyle	Ireland	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
ANDERSON, Chris	Australia	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	3
ANDERSON, Jarred	Scotland	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
ANDERSON, Paul	England	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
ANDERSSON, Michael	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
ANDY, Noah	Papua New Guinea	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
ANGARA, Michael	Papua New Guinea	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
ANGLADE, Michel	France	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
ANSELL, Danny	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ANSELME, Éric	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
APELIAN, Antranick	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
ARKWRIGHT, Chris	Great Britain	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
ARMIT, Chris	Scotland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
ARNAUD, Olivier	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ARNOLD, Danny	Scotland	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
ARONA, Tinirau	Cook Islands	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
ARTACHINE, Viatcheslav	Russia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ASHCROFT, Kevin	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
ASHTON, Eric	Great Britain	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	3
ASOFA-SOLOMONA, Nelson	New Zealand	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
ASTON, Jay	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ASTON, Mark	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
ATCHESON, Paul	Wales	6	4	-	2	1	-	-	4
ATKINSON, Alister	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-

ATKINSON, John	Great Britain, England	14	9	2	3	6	-	-	18
ATOI, Lautu	Papua New Guinea	6	1	-	5	1	-	-	4
AUDOUBERT, Jean	France	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	3
AUROY, Christophe	France	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
AUSTIN, James	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
BABA, Abdrajah	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
BABAGO, Sauna	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
BACKO, Samson	Australia	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
BACO, Patrick	France	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
BAI, Marcus	Papua New Guinea	6	3	1	2	2	-	-	8
BAILE, Jean-Philippe	France	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
BAITIERI, Jason	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BAKALICH, Vernon	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
BALLEROY, Marc	France	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
BALLOT, Andrew	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BANET, Vincent	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BANNER, Peter	Wales	7	3	-	4	2	-	-	6
BANQUET, Frederic	France	6	2	-	4	2	18	-	44
BAPTISTE, Kurt	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
BARAKAT, Danny	Lebanon	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BARLOW, Sam	Scotland	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
BARNARD, Leon	South Africa	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
BARNES, Keith	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	5	-	10
BARNETT, Richard	New Zealand	8	6	-	2	7	-	-	28
BARNHILL, David	Ireland	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
BARRETT, Trent	Australia	4	4	-	-	4	-	-	16
BARRON, Matt	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BARTHOU, William	France	4	1	-	3	-	3	1	7
BARTHE, Jean	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BARTRIM, Wayne	Australia	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
BASNETT, John	Great Britain	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BATE, Bernard	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BATEMAN, Allan	Wales, Great Britain	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
BATEMAN, John	England	6	4	-	2	2	-	-	8
BAUDOIN, Cyril	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BAXENDALE, Raymond	New Zealand	8	2	2	4	-	-	-	-
BEALE, Gerard	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
BEARDMORE, Kevin	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
BEATTIE, Dudley	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
BEETSON, Arthur	Australia	14	10	2	2	1	-	-	3
BEGOU, Yves	France	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
BELCHER, Gary	Australia	6	5	-	1	1	1	-	6
BELL, Dean	New Zealand	8	5	1	2	1	-	-	4
BELL, Geoff	Scotland	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
BELL, James	Scotland	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
BELLA, Martin	Australia	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
BELSHAM, Selwyn	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
BEN-MOIDE, Daroa	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BENOUSSE, Gilbert	France	5	2	1	2	1	8	-	19
BENOUSSE, Patrice	France	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
BENNION, Gavin	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BENTLEY, Andrew	France, Scotland	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
BENTLEY, John	England	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	4
BENTLEY, Kane	France, Scotland	5	-	1	4	-	-	-	-

BERGAL, Ilias	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BERGE, Denis	France	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
BERNABE, Thierry	France	6	-	1	5	-	-	-	-
BERRYMAN, Steve	Cook Islands	2	-	1	1	2	2	-	12
BERTHOMIEU, Guy	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
BEST, Brian	South Africa	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
BESWICK, Robert	Ireland	6	1	-	5	-	-	-	-
BETHAM, Montgomery	Samoa	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
BETTS, Denis	Great Britain, England	12	7	-	5	3	-	-	12
BEVAN, John	Wales	4	2	-	2	2	-	-	6
BIENES, Denis	France	6	2	-	4	1	-	-	4
BIFFI, Roger	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
BIRD, Greg	Australia	5	5	-	-	2	-	-	8
BIRI, Ben	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BISHOP, Tommy	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
BLACKMORE, James	New Zealand	8	6	-	2	9	-	-	36
BLAIR, Adam	New Zealand	9	6	-	3	2	-	-	8
BLANCH, Damien	Ireland	6	1	-	5	6	-	-	24
BLANCHARD, David	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BLOEM, Jamie	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	6
BOAS, Ase	Papua New Guinea	4	2	-	2	-	1	-	2
BOAS, Watson	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	2	-	-	8
BODEN, Ronald	Australia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOGE, Phillip	Papua New Guinea	7	-	-	7	-	3	-	6
BOLAKORO, Jimi	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOLDINI, Angelo	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
BOM, Yer	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
BOMATI, Pascal	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BONAL, Ellie	France	5	1	-	4	1	-	-	3
BONAL, Jean-Marie	France	3	1	-	2	2	5	-	16
BOND, James	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
BOND, John	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	4
BONET, Floreal	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
BONET, Herve	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BONNAFOUS, Christophe	France	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
BOOYSEN, Jaco	South Africa	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
BORLIN, Jean-Christophe	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOSC, Jean-Marie	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOSC, Thomas	France	7	2	-	5	1	12	-	28
BOSHOFF, Willem	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BOSTON, Billy	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	6
BOTICA, Frano	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	8	-	16
BOTIKI, Peni	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOUDEBZA, Hadji	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOUDEBZA, John	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
BOURREL, Frederic	France	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	5
BOURRET, Jean-Marc	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOUSQUET, Julian	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BOUZER, Alain	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOWEN, Craig	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
BOWMAN, Eddie	Great Britain	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	3
BOYALS, Gerard	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
BOYD, Darius	Australia	6	6	-	-	4	-	-	16
BOYER, Clément	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

BRADBURY, David	Ireland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRADLEY-QALILAWA, Nick	Fiji	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
BRANIGHAN, Ray	Australia	9	5	1	3	2	8	-	22
BRANSON, Tony	Australia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRASHER, Tim	Australia	6	5	-	1	4	-	-	16
BRASS, John	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
BREERETON, Maurice	New Zealand	7	1	-	6	2	-	-	6
BRET, Serge	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BRETHEERTON, Liam	Ireland	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
BREYTENBACH, Coenraad	South Africa	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
BRIDGE, Daniel	Ireland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BRIDGES, John	England	6	4	2	-	-	-	1	1
BRIERS, Lee	Wales	5	3	-	2	4	-	2	18
BRISCOE, Tom	England	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	8
BRITT, Darren	Australia	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
BROADBENT, Paul	England	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	8
BROMWICH, Jesse	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	1	-	-	4
BROMWICH, Kenneath	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
BROOKE, Ian	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	6
BROOKS, Sam	Scotland	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
BROUGH, Danny	Scotland	8	3	1	4	-	19	-	38
BROWN, Andrew	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
BROWN, Fa'amanu	Samoa	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
BROWN, Gordon	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	6	-	-	18
BROWN, Kevin	England	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
BROWN, Nathan	Italy	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
BROWN, Peter	New Zealand	8	5	-	3	1	16	-	36
BRUNO, Joe	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BRUNTON, Sam	Cook Islands	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
BUCCHI, Guy	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BUDWORTH, Neil	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BUKO, David	Papua New Guinea	6	3	1	2	3	1	-	14
BUKUYA, Jayson	Fiji	9	4	-	5	2	-	-	8
BULL, Roy	Australia	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	3
BURGESS, George	England	5	3	-	2	1	-	-	4
BURGESS, Samuel	England	8	4	-	4	2	-	-	8
BURGESS, Thomas	England	8	5	-	3	1	-	-	4
BURGOYNE, William	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	3
BURKE, Joe	Wales	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
BURKE, Mick	Great Britain	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
BURROUGHS, Ryan	USA	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
BURROW, Rob	England	6	2	-	4	3	3	-	18
BURTON, Chris	Great Britain	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BURWELL, Alan	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	6
BUSBY, Dean	Wales	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
BUTLER, Brian	Wales	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
BUTLER, Chester	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
BUTTERFIELD, John	New Zealand	8	2	-	6	-	-	-	-
BUTTIGNOL, Thierry	France	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
CABERO, Jacques	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
CABESTANY, Didier	France	6	1	-	5	1	-	-	4
CAKACAKA, Tabuanitoga	Fiji	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
CALDERWOOD, Mark	England	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
CALEGARI, Christophe	Italy	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

CALLE, Jose	France	9	-	1	8	-	9	-	18
CAMPBELL-GILLARD, Reagan	Australia	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
CAMPBELL, Robert	Russia	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
CAMPESE, Terry	Australia, Italy	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
CAMPION, Kevin	Ireland	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
CANTONI, Mark	USA	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CANTONI, Vincent	France	4	2	1	1	2	-	-	6
CAPDOUZE, Jean-Pierre	France	7	3	-	4	2	13	1	34
CARAVACA, Manuel	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
CARDACE, Damien	France	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
CARLSON, Brian	Australia	6	5	-	1	6	16	-	50
CARMONT, George	Samoa	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	8
CARNE, Willie	Australia	5	5	-	-	5	-	-	20
CARNEY, Brian	Ireland	4	3	-	1	2	-	-	8
CARRASCO, Laurent	France	6	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
CARROLL, Mark	Australia	6	5	-	1	-	-	-	-
CARROLL, Tonie	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	4	-	-	16
CARSON, Eric	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
CARTER, Brett	Scotland	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	4
CARTWRIGHT, John	Australia	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARVELL, Garreth	Wales	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
CASAS, Andre	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
CASE, Brian	Great Britain	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
CASEY, Len	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
CASSIDY, Mick	England, Ireland	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
CASSIN, Jean-Emmanuel	France	4	2	-	2	2	-	-	8
CASSIN, Michel	France	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
CASTEL, Eric	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CASTEL, Jean-Louis	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
CASTELLARO, Justin	Italy	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
CASTY, Rémi	France	6	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
CAVUILATI, Orisi	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CAYLESS, Nathan	New Zealand	10	8	-	2	1	-	-	4
CENTRONE, Chris	Italy	4	2	1	1	2	-	-	8
CERRUTO, Mason	Italy	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
CHAHAL, Mohamed	Lebanon	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
CHALLINOR, Jim	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHAMBERLAIN, Ed	Ireland	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
CHAMBERS, Will	Australia	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHAMORIN, Pierre	France	5	1	-	4	1	-	-	4
CHAMOUN, Sami	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
CHAMSOUTDINOV, Rinat	Russia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CHAN, Jason	Papua New Guinea	6	-	-	6	1	-	-	4
CHANNING, Michael	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
CHANTAL, Max	France	4	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
CHARLTON, Harold	Great Britain, England	6	5	1	-	1	-	-	3
CHARNLEY, Josh	England	3	1	-	2	3	-	-	12
CHASE, Moutoa	England	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
CHAUVET, Patrick	France	3	-	1	2	2	-	-	6
CHERRY-EVANS, Daly	Australia	5	5	-	-	2	-	-	8
CHIRON, Philippe	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CHISNALL, Dave	Great Britain, England	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
CHISNALL, Eric	England	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	-

CHRISTIAN, Fletcher	New Zealand	6	1	-	5	1	-	-	3
CHURCHILL, Clive	Australia	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
CIRALDO, Cameron	Italy	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	4
CIVONICEVA, Petero	Australia, Fiji	9	5	-	4	-	-	-	-
CLAR, Jean Pierre	France	7	3	-	4	-	-	-	-
CLARK, Dean	New Zealand	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	8
CLARK, Jamie	Lebanon	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
CLARK, Mick	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
CLARK, Zane	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
CLARKE, John	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CLARKE, Phil	Great Britain, England	7	4	-	3	-	-	-	-
CLAWSON, Terry	Great Britain	3	2	1	-	-	10	-	20
CLAY, Brian	Australia	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
CLEAL, Noel	Australia	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	8
CLERGEAU, Philippe	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CLINCH, Gavin	Ireland	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
CLOETE, Francois	South Africa	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
CLOSE, Chris	Australia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CLYDE, Bradley	Australia	5	5	-	-	3	-	-	12
COLES, Brian	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
COLL, Anthony	New Zealand	13	3	2	8	2	-	-	6
COLLICOAT, Warren	New Zealand	11	2	2	7	-	22	-	44
COLOGNI, Jean-Jacques	France	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	6
COLTON, Dean	Scotland	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
CONESCU, Greg	Australia	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
CONNOLLY, Gary	Great Britain, England	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
CONROY, Thomas	New Zealand	8	2	2	4	1	-	-	3
CONTRASTIN, Raymond	France	4	2	1	1	5	-	-	15
COOK, Jamie	New Zealand Maori	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
COOK, Paul	England	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
COOKE, Melville	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	3
COOKSLEY, Graeme	New Zealand	4	1	-	3	1	-	-	3
COOKSON, Phil	England	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
COOMBE, Guy	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
COOPER, Shane	New Zealand	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
COOREY, Michael	Lebanon	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
COOTE, Ron	Australia	10	8	1	1	6	-	-	18
COOTES, John	Australia	3	2	-	1	5	-	-	15
CORCORAN, Ged	Ireland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CORDNER, Boyd	Australia	7	7	-	-	2	-	-	8
CORTALANO, Charles	USA	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
COSLETT, Thomas	Wales	6	1	-	5	1	2	-	7
COSTELLO, Ron	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
COSTIGAN, Neville	Papua New Guinea	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
COULMAN, Michael	England	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
COUPAR, Paddy	Scotland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
COURTY, Regis	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
COUSTON, Didier	France	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
COVERDALE, Robert	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
COWAN, Areakiki	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
COWAN, Gavin	Scotland	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
COWIE, Neil	Wales	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
COYNE, Gary	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
COYNE, Mark	Australia	4	3	-	1	2	-	-	8

CRAM, Scott	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
CREASSER, David	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
CREEDY, Patrick	New Zealand	4	1	-	3	-	1	-	2
CREMOUX, Gerard	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CREQUER, Martin	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
CRESPO, Joseph	France	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	3
CRITCHLEY, Jason	Wales	5	3	-	2	1	-	-	4
CROCKER, Harold	Australia	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
CROKER, Jason	Australia	4	4	-	-	2	-	-	8
CRONIN, Michael	Australia	11	9	1	1	4	48	-	108
CRONK, Cooper	Australia	10	10	-	-	5	-	-	20
CROOKS, Lee	Great Britain	5	2	2	1	-	6	-	12
CROS, Jean Claude	France	7	3	-	4	-	-	-	-
CROWTHER, Matt	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	4	-	8
CUDJOE, Leroy	England	5	3	-	2	1	-	-	4
CUNNINGHAM, Eddie	Wales	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
CUNNINGHAM, Keiron	Wales	7	5	-	2	2	-	-	8
CURRIE, Ben	Ireland, England	9	4	-	5	2	-	-	8
CURRIE, Tony	Australia	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
CURT, Bernard	France	5	1	-	4	1	-	-	3
CYGLER, Craig	Russia	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
DAHER, Ray	Lebanon	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
DAKI, Thomas	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
DAKUITOGA, Josaia	Fiji	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
DALEY, Laurie	Australia	5	5	-	-	4	-	-	16
DALEY, Phil	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
DALLAS, Brett	Australia	4	4	-	-	3	-	-	12
DAMES, Archer	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
DANIEL, Henri	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DANIELSON, Oscar	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DAVETAWALU, Samuela	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DAVIDSON, Les	Australia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
DAVIES, Alan	Great Britain	5	4	-	1	3	-	-	9
DAVIES, Brian	Australia	6	4	-	2	-	1	-	2
DAVIES, Courtney	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	6
DAVIES, Jonathan	Great Britain, Wales	7	4	-	3	-	27	1	55
DAVIES, Wes	Wales	5	3	-	2	2	-	-	8
DAYLIGHT, Matthew	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
DE MATOS, Maurice	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DE NADAI, Francis	France	13	4	-	9	-	-	-	-
DE VILLIERS, Quinton	South Africa	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
DEACON, Paul	England	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
DEACON, William	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
DEGEI, Apisalome	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
DEKKICHE, Yacine	France	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
DELAUNAY, Guy	France	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
DELAYE, Guy	France	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	3
DELHOSTE, Henri	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DELPECH, Lindsay	France	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
DENTON, Neville	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
DERMOTT, Martin	Great Britain	5	2	-	3	1	-	-	4
DESPIN, David	France	8	4	-	4	1	-	-	4
DEVECCHI, Fabien	France	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
DEVEREUX, John	Wales, Great Britain	6	3	-	3	1	-	-	4

DICKISON, Bruce	New Zealand	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
DIVAVESI, Iowane	Fiji	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
DIVERSI, Peter	Australia	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	3
DIVET, Daniel	France	5	2	-	3	1	-	-	4
DIVORTY, Ross	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DIXON, Colin	Great Britain, Wales	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
DIXON, John	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
DIXON, Paul	Great Britain	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
DJALOUT, Nabil	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
DONNELLY, John	Australia	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
DONOVAN, Matthew	Russia	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
DORAN, Lee	Ireland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
DOUEIHI, Adam	Lebanon	4	1	-	3	2	-	-	8
DOUGLAS, Luke	Scotland	7	2	2	3	1	-	-	4
DOWLING, Greg	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
DRUMMOND, Desmond	Great Britain	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
DUBON, Jacques	France	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	3
DUDSON, Gil	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
DUFFY, John	Scotland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
DUGAN, Josh	Australia	5	5	-	-	2	-	-	8
DULAC, Arnaud	France	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
DUMALKIN, Andrey	Russia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DUMAS, Andre	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
DUMAS, Gilles	France	10	2	1	7	2	11	-	30
DUNN, Ged	England	4	3	1	-	4	-	-	12
DUNN, Paul	Australia	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUNN, Spencer	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
DUPORT, Vincent	France	4	1	-	3	1	-	-	4
DUTHILL, Francis	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DUTTON, Ray	Great Britain	4	3	-	1	-	13	-	26
DYL, Leslie	England, Great Britain	10	5	2	3	1	-	-	3
DYMOCK, Angelo	Tonga	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
DYMOCK, Jim	Australia	5	4	-	1	1	-	-	4
EADE, Murray	New Zealand	9	2	1	6	2	-	-	6
EADIE, Graham	Australia	8	7	-	1	5	7	-	29
EAGAR, Michael	Ireland	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
EASTLAKE, Cyril	New Zealand	6	1	-	5	1	6	-	15
EASTWOOD, Greg	New Zealand	6	5	-	1	2	-	-	8
EASTWOOD, Paul	Great Britain	5	3	-	2	2	15	-	38
EATON, Barry	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ECKERSLEY, David	England	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
EDWARDS, Morvin	New Zealand	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
EDWARDS, Robert	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	3
EDWARDS, Shaun	Great Britain, England	11	8	1	2	6	-	-	24
EICHNER, Joseph	USA	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
EL CHAB, Fady	Lebanon	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
EL KHALOUKI, Abderazak	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
EL MASRI, Hazem	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	3	6	-	24
EL MASRI, Samer	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
ELAHMAD, Monah	Lebanon	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
ELARA, Matthew	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ELFORD, John	Australia	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
ELIA, Mark	New Zealand, Samoa	5	2	-	3	1	-	-	4
ELIAB, Israel	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

ELIAS, Ben	Australia	4	3	-	1	1	-	1	5
ELIAS, James	Lebanon	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
ELIMA, Olivier	France	6	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
ELLA, Stephen	Australia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ELLAZ, Ahmad	Lebanon	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
ELLIS, Gareth	England	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
ELLIS, Kevin	Wales	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
ELLIS, St John	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
ELLWOOD, John	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
ELWELL, Keith	Great Britain	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
EMELIO, Andrew	Tonga	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
EMIL, Aquila	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
EMMITT, Jacob	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ENGLAND, Keith	Great Britain	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
ENTAT, Patrick	France	11	2	1	8	1	-	-	4
ERAMOUSPE, Robert	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
ERASMUS, Hercules	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
ERIKSEN, Leonard	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	3
ERU, Sydney	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
ESCARÉ, Morgan	France	4	1	-	3	1	-	-	4
ESE'ESE, Herman	Samoa	4	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
ESPUGNA, Dominique	France	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
ETTINGSHAUSEN, Andrew	Australia	7	6	-	1	4	-	-	16
EVANS, Ben	Wales	5	-	-	5	1	-	-	4
EVANS, Dick	Wales	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
EVANS, Kane	Fiji	6	3	-	3	1	-	-	4
EVANS, Rhys	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
EVEI, Tuiyo	Papua New Guinea	6	-	1	5	-	-	-	-
EXTON, Trevor	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
EYRES, Richie	Wales, Great Britain	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
FA'AFILI, Henry	Samoa	4	2	-	2	2	-	-	8
FA'ALOGO, Daniel	New Zealand, Samoa	8	6	-	2	1	-	-	4
FA'AOSO, Richard	Tonga	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
FA'ASAVALU, Maurie	England	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
FAGES, Georges	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
FAGES, Pascal	France	6	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
FAGES, Théo	France	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
FAHEY, Terry	Australia	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
FAIMALO, Esene	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
FAINGA'A, Salesi	Fiji	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
FAIRBAIRN, George	England, Great Britain	11	6	2	3	2	43	-	92
FAIRBANK, Karl	Great Britain	4	4	-	-	1	-	-	4
FAKIR, Jamal	France	7	2	-	5	-	-	-	-
FALA, Max	Samoa	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
FALCONE, Ben	Italy	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
FARAH, Robbie	Australia, Lebanon	7	4	-	3	-	-	-	-
FARAIMO, Bureta	USA	7	2	-	5	1	2	-	8
FARLEY, Gabriel	USA	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
FARRAR, Andrew	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
FARRELL, Andrew	England	9	6	-	3	3	28	-	68
FARRELL, Anthony	Wales	5	3	-	2	1	-	-	4
FARRELL, Liam	England	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
FEKI, Sosaia	Tonga	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
FELLOUS, Adel	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

FEPULEAI, Daniel	Cook Islands	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
FERGUSON, Dale	Scotland	6	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
FERGUSON, John	Australia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
FERREN, Andre	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
FERRERO, Rene	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
FERRES, Brett	England	5	3	-	2	3	-	-	12
FIELDEN, Stuart	England	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
FIELDHOUSE, John	Great Britain	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
FIELDING, Keith	England, Great Britain	8	4	2	2	7	-	-	21
FIEN, Nathan	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	1	-	-	4
FIFITA, Andrew	Australia, Tonga	11	10	-	1	2	-	-	8
FILIPAINA, Olsen	New Zealand	6	2	1	3	-	8	-	16
FINAU, Salesi	Tonga	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	4
FINDLAY, Aaron	Russia	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
FINN, Liam	Ireland	9	3	-	6	2	12	-	32
FINNIGAN, Simon	Ireland	5	1	-	4	1	-	-	4
FISHER, Anthony	Great Britain, Wales	8	3	-	5	1	-	-	3
FISHER, Ben	Scotland	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	4
FISHER, Kevin	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	6
FISIIAHI, David	Tonga	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
FISIIAHI, Glen	Tonga	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	8
FISIIAHI, Paul	Tonga	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
FITTLER, Bradley	Australia	13	12	-	1	6	-	-	24
FITZGERALD, Denis	Australia	5	5	-	-	1	-	-	3
FITZGIBBON, Craig	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
FITZPATRICK, Karl	Ireland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
FITZSIMMONS, Brian	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLANAGAN, Peter	Great Britain	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
FLANNERY, Denis	Australia	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
FLEARY, Darren	England	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
FLETCHER, Bryan	Australia	5	5	-	-	5	-	-	20
FLOWER, Ben	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
FOLAU, Israel	Australia	5	4	-	1	2	-	-	8
FOLKES, Steve	Australia	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
FONUUA-BLAKE, Addin	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
FONUUA, Mahe	Tonga	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
FORAN, Kieran	New Zealand	6	5	-	1	-	-	-	-
FORD, Jonathan	Cook Islands	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
FORD, Phil	Great Britain	5	4	-	1	2	-	-	8
FORSHAW, Mike	England	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
FORSTER, Mark	Great Britain, Ireland	4	3	-	1	2	-	-	8
FORSYTH, Colin	England	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
FOSTER, Daniel	Tonga	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
FOURIE, Tim	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
FOURQUET, Philippe	France	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
FOUSSAT, Jean	France	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	6
FOX, Deryck	Great Britain	6	3	2	1	1	3	-	10
FOZARD, Matty	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
FRAISSE, David	France	5	1	-	4	3	-	-	12
FRANC, Jacques	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
FRANCIS, Bill	Wales, Great Britain	11	4	-	7	4	-	-	12
FRASER, Eric	Great Britain	2	2	-	-	-	10	-	20
FRATTINI, Marius	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	1	1
FRAYSINOUS, Laurent	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

FREED, Kristian	USA	7	2	-	5	1	-	-	4
FREEMAN, Gary	New Zealand	14	8	-	6	3	-	-	12
FRENCH, Raymond	Great Britain	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
FRIEND, Clayton	New Zealand	8	5	1	2	3	-	-	12
FRIZELL, Tyson	Wales, Australia	8	5	-	3	1	-	-	4
FULLERTON-SMITH, Wally	Australia	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
FULTON, Robert	Australia	15	10	2	3	13	-	2	42
FUSITU'A, David	Tonga	4	3	-	1	5	-	-	20
GAGAI, Dane	Australia	5	5	-	-	3	-	-	12
GAILEY, Douglas	New Zealand	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
GALE, Luke	England	6	4	-	2	-	-	-	-
GALLACHER, Ian	Wales	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
GALLEN, Paul	Australia	11	10	-	1	1	-	-	4
GALUVAO, Joseph	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
GARCIA, Benjamin	France	6	1	-	5	1	-	-	4
GARCIA, Guy	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
GARCIA, Jean-Marc	France	8	4	-	4	3	-	-	12
GARDEL, Sam	Italy	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GARDNER, Adrian	England	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
GARIFOULLINE, Roustem	Russia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GARRIGUES, Roger	France	5	3	-	2	-	1	3	8
GARTNER, Russel	Australia	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
GARVEY, Michael	USA	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
GARZINO, Jacques	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
GASNIER, Reg	Australia	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	6
GAUIS, David	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GAVRILIN, Igor	Russia	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
GAY, Andrew	Wales	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
GEIGER, Nick	Australia	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
GELA, Paul	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
GELLING, Anthony	Cook Islands	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
GENE, Stanley	Papua New Guinea	9	3	1	5	3	-	-	12
GEROS, Simon	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	2	-	4
GESTAS, Philippe	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GEYER, Mark	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GHIETTI, Ryan	Italy	6	2	1	3	1	-	-	4
GIBBS, Ian	Wales	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
GIBSON, Carl	Great Britain	4	2	-	2	2	-	-	8
GIDLEY, Kurt	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GIDLEY, Matthew	Australia	6	6	-	-	4	-	-	16
GIGOT, Tony	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GILL, Henderson	Great Britain	6	3	1	2	4	1	-	18
GILL, Ken	England, Great Britain	10	6	2	2	6	-	-	18
GILLESPIE, David	Australia	9	8	-	1	-	-	-	-
GILLET, Matt	Australia	5	5	-	-	1	-	-	4
GILMOUR, Lee	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
GIRDLER, Ryan	Australia	5	5	-	-	6	18	-	60
GISPE, Joe	Papua New Guinea	8	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
GLASSIE, Tere	Cook Islands	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
GLEESON, Martin	England	4	1	-	3	3	-	-	12
GLEESON, Sean	Ireland	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
GLENN, Alex	New Zealand	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
GLEYZES, Serge	France	7	2	-	5	-	-	-	-
GODDARD, Eben	Lebanon	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

GODINET, Pita	Samoa	6	2	1	3	2	-	-	8
GOIRGAS, Michael	Russia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GOMIA, David	Papua New Guinea	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
GONZALES, Antoine	France	5	-	1	4	-	-	-	-
GONZALES, Michel	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
GOODWAY, Andy	Great Britain	5	3	1	1	1	-	-	4
GOODWIN, Bryson	New Zealand	6	5	-	1	4	-	-	16
GOODWIN, Luke	New Zealand Maori	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	4
GORDON, Anthony	New Zealand	3	-	1	2	2	6	-	18
GOULDING, Bobbie	England, Great Britain	6	4	-	2	2	13	1	35
GOULDING, James	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GOWER, Craig	Australia	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	4
GRACE, Regan	Wales	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
GRAHAM, James	England	13	8	-	5	1	-	-	4
GRAHAM, Mark	New Zealand	8	4	1	3	3	-	-	11
GRAHAM, Nathan	Scotland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GRAHAM, Ngaroma	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
GRAHAM, Wade	Australia	6	6	-	-	4	-	-	16
GRANT, Dalton	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GRANT, John	Australia	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
GRAY, John	England	1	1	-	-	-	4	-	8
GRAYSHON, Jeff	England, Great Britain	5	4	1	-	1	-	-	3
GREAVES, Johnny	Australia	4	4	-	-	2	-	-	6
GRECHI, Jean-Francois	France	4	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
GREENGRASS, John	New Zealand	8	2	2	4	1	-	-	3
GREENOUGH, Bobby	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GREENSHIELDS, Clint	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
GREGORY, Andy	Great Britain	6	3	-	3	1	-	-	4
GREGORY, Brian	Wales	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	3
GREGORY, Michael	Great Britain	8	5	-	3	4	-	-	16
GRÉSÈQUE, Maxime	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
GREY, Ian	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GRIFFI, Mathieu	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GRIFFIN, Rodney	Papua New Guinea	5	1	-	4	2	-	-	8
GRIFFITHS, Reece	New Zealand	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRIX, Scott	Ireland	8	3	-	5	1	-	-	4
GROOM, Aaron	Fiji	9	4	-	5	1	-	-	4
GROVES, Paul	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRUNDY, Jack	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	3
GRUPPI, Raymond	France	6	1	-	5	2	-	-	6
GUASCH, Bruno	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GUERRA, Aidan	Italy	3	1	1	1	2	-	-	8
GUIGUE, Jacques	France	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	3
GUILHELM, Bernard	France	6	1	1	4	-	9	-	18
GUILHEM, Roger	France	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
GUIRAUD, Germaine	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GUIRAUD, Joseph	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
GUISSET, Jérôme	France	7	3	-	4	4	-	-	16
GUNNEY, Geoff	Great Britain	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
GURNICK, Peter	New Zealand	6	-	1	5	-	-	-	-
GUTTENBEIL, Awen	Tonga	3	-	1	2	2	-	-	8
HADDEN, Matt	Ireland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
HADFIELD, Bernard	New Zealand	6	2	-	4	4	-	-	12
HADLEY, Adrian	Wales	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

HAGGERTY, Gareth	Ireland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HAGGERTY, Kurt	Ireland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
HAGGERTY, Roy	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
HAIGH, Robert	Great Britain	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
HAILI, Darius	Papua New Guinea	7	1	-	6	2	-	-	8
HALAFUNGANI, Haveatama	USA	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
HALATAU, Dene	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
HALL, Duncan	Australia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
HALL, Martin	Wales	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
HALL, Ryan	England	10	6	-	4	10	-	-	40
HALLIGAN, Daryl	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	6
HAMBLY, Brian	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
HAMPSON, Steve	Great Britain	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
HANCOCK, Michael	Australia	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
HANLEY, Eillery	Great Britain	10	5	2	3	4	-	-	16
HANSEN, Harrison	Samoa	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
HANSEN, Liuaki	Tonga	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
HARRAGON, Paul	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
HARRIS, Iestyn	Wales	8	5	-	3	4	22	1	61
HARRIS, Mark	Australia	10	6	2	2	6	-	-	18
HARRIS, Percival	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
HARRISON, Ben	Ireland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HARRISON, Bronson	New Zealand	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	4
HARRISON, Karl	Great Britain, England	7	4	-	3	-	-	-	-
HARTLEY, Dennis	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
HARU, Stanley	Papua New Guinea	6	-	-	6	2	1	-	10
HARVEY, Barry	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
HASLER, Des	Australia	7	6	-	1	1	-	-	4
HASSON, James	Ireland	5	1	-	4	1	-	-	4
HAUGHTON, Simon	England	4	4	-	-	2	-	-	8
HAUMONO, Solomon	Tonga	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
HAVILI, Siliva	Tonga	6	4	-	2	1	-	-	4
HAWICK, Gregory	Australia	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	3
HAY, Andy	England	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	8
HAYNE, Jarryd	Fiji, Australia	14	11	-	3	14	-	-	56
HEATLEY, Edwin	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
HEBERT, Lilian	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
HECHICHE, Rachid	France	4	2	-	2	2	-	-	8
HECKENBERG, Daniel	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
HEIGHINGTON, Chris	England	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HELLEWELL, Ben	Scotland	7	2	2	3	2	-	-	8
HELME, Gerry	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	2	-	-	6
HENDERSON, Andrew	Scotland	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
HENDERSON, Ian	Scotland	6	2	1	3	-	-	-	-
HENDERSON, Kevin	Scotland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HENI, Roy	Papua New Guinea	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
HENRY, Whare	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
HENRY, Whetu	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HEPWORTH, Keith	Great Britain	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
HERMANSSON, Terry	New Zealand Maori	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HERMET, Didier	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HÉROLD, Maxime	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
HERRON, Ian	Ireland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
HESKETH, Christopher	Great Britain	6	4	1	1	2	-	-	6

HIBBS, John	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
HIFO, Nuko	Tonga	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
HIFO, Roman	USA	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HIGGS, Raymond	Australia	8	7	-	1	2	-	-	6
HIGHAM, Mick	England	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
HIGHTON, Paul	Wales	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
HIKU, Peta	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	12
HILL, Chris	England	11	7	-	4	-	-	-	-
HILL, Gavin	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
HILL, Scott	Australia	6	6	-	-	2	-	-	8
HILL, Terry	Australia	4	3	-	1	3	-	-	12
HINDMARSH, Nathan	Australia	4	4	-	-	4	-	-	16
HINGANO, Mafoa'aeata	Tonga	5	4	-	1	1	7	-	18
HOBBS, David	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
HOCK, Gareth	England	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HODGSON, Josh	England	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
HOFFMAN, Josh	New Zealand	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
HOFFMAN, Leslie	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
HOGAN, Brian	England	4	4	-	-	1	-	-	3
HOGAN, Phil	Great Britain	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	3
HOHAIA, Lance	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	3	-	-	16
HOLLIDAY, Les	Great Britain	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
HOLMAN, Keith	Australia	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HOLMES, John	Great Britain, England	11	8	1	2	6	10	-	38
HOLMES, Valentine	Australia	6	6	-	-	12	-	-	48
HOPE, Will	Ireland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
HOPKINS, Sam	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
HOPOATE, John	Australia	2	1	-	1	3	-	-	12
HOPOATE, William	Tonga	5	4	-	1	2	-	-	8
HOPPE, Sean	New Zealand, New Zealand Maori	6	4	-	2	3	-	-	12
HORNE, Richard	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
HORO, Mark	New Zealand	8	5	-	3	-	-	-	-
HORO, Shane	New Zealand	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	12
HOWARD, Daniel	USA	7	2	-	5	-	-	-	-
HOWARD, Harvey	England	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
HOWARD, Stephen	USA	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HOWIESON, Jack	Scotland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
HOWLETT, Phil	Tonga	5	1	1	3	1	-	-	4
HUGHES, Eric	England	3	3	-	-	3	-	-	9
HULME, David	Great Britain	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
HULME, Paul	Great Britain	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
HUMAN, Kost	South Africa	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
HUNT, Ben	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
HUNT, Karmichael	Australia	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
HUNTE, Alan	Great Britain	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
HUNTER-PAUL, Robert	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	5	-	-	20
HURRELL, Konileti	Tonga	7	5	-	2	1	-	-	4
HURST, Alex	Scotland	4	2	1	1	2	-	-	8
HURTER, Chris	South Africa	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
HUSSON, Guy	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
HYNES, Syd	Great Britain	4	3	-	1	2	-	2	10
ILYASOV, Robert	Russia	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
IMBERT, Jacky	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

IMBERT, Jean-Marie	France	9	1	1	7	-	-	1	1
INGLIS, Greg	Australia	9	8	-	1	8	-	-	32
INU, Krisnan	New Zealand	2	2	-	-	1	6	-	16
IRO, Kevin	New Zealand, Cook Islands	14	6	1	7	7	-	-	28
IRO, Tony	New Zealand	6	4	-	2	2	-	-	8
IRVINE, Kenneth	Australia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRVING, Bob	Great Britain, England	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
IRWIN, Shaun	Great Britain	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ITAM, Chris	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
JAAVUO, Karl	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
JACK, Garry	Australia	8	6	-	2	5	-	-	20
JACKSON, Lee	Great Britain, England	7	5	-	2	-	-	-	-
JACKSON, Michael	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	8
JACKSON, Paul	Scotland	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
JACKSON, Peter	Australia	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
JACKSON, Phil	Great Britain	6	4	1	1	5	-	-	15
JACKSON, Phil	England	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
JAMES, Brian	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
JAMES, Jordan	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
JAMES, Mel	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
JAMPY, Pascal	France	6	2	-	4	4	-	-	16
JARVIS, Robert	New Zealand	7	2	2	3	3	-	-	9
JEAN, Rene	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
JEANES, David	Great Britain	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	3
JELLYCOCK, Brian	New Zealand	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	8
JENKINS, Mick	Wales	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
JENNINGS, Justin	South Africa	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
JENNINGS, Michael	Tonga, Australia	8	6	-	2	9	-	-	36
JILTSOV, Igor	Russia	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	2
JIMINEZ, Antoine	France	6	2	1	3	-	-	-	-
JOE, Leroy	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	1	-	-	4
JOHN, Isaac	Cook Islands	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
JOHNS, Andrew	Australia	9	9	-	-	5	27	-	74
JOHNS, Chris	Australia	5	5	-	-	1	-	-	4
JOHNS, Jack	Italy	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
JOHNS, Matthew	Australia	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
JOHNSON, Clifford	New Zealand	8	2	-	6	1	-	-	3
JOHNSON, Mark	South Africa	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
JOHNSON, Shaun	New Zealand	10	7	-	3	6	48	-	120
JOHNSTON, Martwain	USA	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
JONES-BUCHANAN, Jamie	England	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
JONES, Benjamin	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	1	10	-	23
JONES, Clive	Wales	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
JONES, Danny	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
JONES, Fred	Australia	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
JONES, Ken	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
JONES, Mark	Wales	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
JONES, Stacey	New Zealand	8	6	-	2	2	6	-	20
JORDAN, Christopher	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	1	8	-	19
JOSEPH, August	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
JOSEPH, Philip	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
JOYNT, Chris	England, Ireland	7	5	-	2	2	-	-	8
JULLIEN, Benjamin	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-

KAHL, Raymond	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
KALACHKINE, Pavel	Russia	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
KAMBO, Richard	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
KAMBRA, Mathias	Papua New Guinea	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
KAMIAK, Elias	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KAMIKAMICA, Erevonu	Fiji	5	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
KAMINSKI, Fernand	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
KAPIA, James	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KARALIUS, Tony	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
KARALIUS, Vince	Great Britain	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
KARARA, Sam	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
KARU, Tuksy	Papua New Guinea	4	-	-	4	-	4	-	8
KASIANO, Sam	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
KASSIS, Nick	Lebanon	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
KATA, Solomone	Tonga	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
KATRIB, George	Lebanon	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
KATSIR, Joe	Papua New Guinea	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
KAUFUSI, Antonio	Tonga	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
KAUFUSI, Felise	Australia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
KAUFUSI, Mal	Tonga	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KAUNAIVALU, Malakai	Fiji	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
KAVANAGH, Ben	Scotland	7	2	2	3	-	-	-	-
KAY, Liam	Ireland	3	2	-	1	3	-	-	12
KAZZI, Andrew	Lebanon	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
KEAR, Elliot	Wales	6	-	-	6	1	-	-	4
KEARNEY, Kenneth	Australia	6	4	-	2	2	-	-	6
KEARNEY, Stephen	New Zealand	9	7	-	2	2	-	-	8
KEARNS, Robbie	Australia	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
KELLY, Noel	Australia	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	3
KEMBLE, Gary	New Zealand	5	2	1	2	1	-	-	4
KEMP, Anthony	New Zealand	8	5	-	3	4	-	-	16
KENNEDY, Ben	Australia	3	3	-	-	3	-	-	12
KENNY, Brett	Australia	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	8
KEPPA, George	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	8
KEREKERE, Mafu	Papua New Guinea	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
KEREOPA, Elliot	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
KERR, Wayne	Ireland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
KEYES, Joseph	Ireland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
KHATABI, Younes	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KHEDIMI, Mathieu	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
KHEIRALLAH, Mark	France	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
KHOURY, Paul	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
KIDWELL, David	New Zealand Maori, New Zealand	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
KIKAU, Viliame	Fiji	5	4	-	1	3	-	-	12
KILA, Tony	Papua New Guinea	6	1	-	5	-	-	-	-
KILKELLY, Trevor	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KIMMORLEY, Brett	Australia	5	5	-	-	1	-	-	4
KING, George	Ireland	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
KING, Johnny	Australia	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	6
KINO, Vaine	Cook Islands	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KISS, Les	Australia	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	8
KITCHEN, Frank	Great Britain	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	9
KITE, Brent	Tonga, Australia	10	7	-	3	-	-	-	-

KITIMUN, Mathias	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KLEMMER, David	Australia	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
KNEISLY, Andrew	USA	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KNIGHT, Stephen	Australia	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
KNOWLES, Morgan	Wales	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
KOHE-LOVE, Toa	New Zealand Maori	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
KOKO, Lolani	Samoa	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
KOLA, Johannes	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KOLC, John	Australia	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	3
KOLO, Nickson	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KOLOI, Paul	Tonga	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
KOLOLO, Vae	Samoa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KOLOTO, Emosi	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
KOOPU, Dane	New Zealand Maori	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
KOPCZAK, Craig	Wales	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
KOPS, James	Papua New Guinea	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
KOROI, Sevanaia	Fiji	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
KOROIBETE, Marika	Fiji	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
KOROIBULEKA, Kiniviliame	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KOROISAU, Apisai	Fiji	9	6	-	3	-	14	-	28
KOROVATA, Niumaia	Fiji	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
KOSEF, Nik	Australia	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	4
KOSTJASYN, Rory	Ireland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
KOULYOMIN, Kirill	Russia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KOUORU, Gideon	Papua New Guinea	7	-	1	6	-	-	-	-
KOUORU, Haoda	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
KOUORU, Joshua	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KOVAE, Dairi	Papua New Guinea	7	1	-	6	4	6	-	28
KRAWZYCK, Joseph	France	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	3
KREWANTY, Alex	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
KREWANTY, Arnold	Papua New Guinea	8	-	-	8	1	-	-	4
KRILETICH, Anthony	New Zealand	6	1	-	5	1	-	-	3
KUCHUMOV, Andrei	Russia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KUI, Anton	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KUITI, Michael	New Zealand	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
KUNO, Andrew	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
KURADUADUA, Jone	Fiji	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
KURU, Patrick	Cook Islands	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
LACAZE, Andre	France	3	-	-	3	-	5	-	10
LACOSTE, Jean-Pierre	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	1	1
LADNER, Gordon	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	-	10	3	26
LAFAI, Timoteo	Samoa	7	2	1	4	1	3	-	10
LAFFARGUE, Michel	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LAFFRANCHI, Anthony	Australia, Italy	7	4	1	2	2	-	-	8
LAFORGUE, Francis	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LAFORGUE, Guy	France	4	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
LAISENI, Toshio	Tonga	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
LALOATA, Shane	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	3	-	6
LAM, Adrian	Papua New Guinea	6	3	1	2	2	-	1	9
LAM, Lachlan	Papua New Guinea	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	8
LAMB, Terry	Australia	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
LANG, John	Australia	5	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
LANGER, Allan	Australia	7	7	-	-	4	-	-	16
LANGI, Samisoni	Tonga	3	2	-	1	-	7	-	14

LANGLANDS, Graeme	Australia	11	8	2	1	3	4	-	17
LANGLEY, Jamie	England	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LAPAN, Ngala	Papua New Guinea	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
LAROCHE, Pascal	France	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
LARROYER, Kevin	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
LARSON, Gary	Australia	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	4
LASAGAVIBAU, Josefa	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
LASKAWIEC, Christian	France	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
LAUAKI, Epalahame	Tonga	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
LAUGHTON, Charles	Great Britain	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	3
LAUGHTON, Dale	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
LAUITITI, Alaimatagi	New Zealand, Samoa	5	4	-	1	2	-	-	8
LAUMATIA, Brian	Samoa	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
LAUNA, Nere	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LAVEA, Tasesa	New Zealand	2	2	-	-	2	14	-	36
LAVULO, Judah	USA	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
LAWLESS, Johnny	Ireland	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
LAYOUN, Anthony	Lebanon	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
LAZARUS, Glenn	Australia	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
LEAFA, Mark	Samoa	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
LEAUMA, Brian	Samoa	4	2	-	2	4	-	-	16
LECOMPTE, Jean Pierre	France	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
LEDGARD, Jim	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	1	13	-	29
LEDRU, Jean	France	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	3
LEE, Brian	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
LEILUA KELEMETE, Joseph	Samoa	8	2	1	5	1	-	-	4
LEO-LATU, Tevita	Tonga	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
LEOTA, Francis	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
LEPORI, Richard	Italy	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LEULUAI, A'au	New Zealand	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	4
LEULUAI, Kylie	New Zealand Maori, Samoa	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
LEULUAI, Phillip	Samoa	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
LEULUAI, Thomas	New Zealand	8	6	-	2	-	-	-	-
LEUTELE, Ricky	Samoa	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
LEVI, Daniel	New Zealand	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
LEVY, Francis	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
LEWIS, Luke	Australia	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
LEWIS, Peter	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
LEWIS, Walter	Australia	9	7	-	2	5	-	-	20
LI'AVAA, Talite	Tonga	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
LICHAA, Joe	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
LICHAA, Michael	Lebanon	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
LIDDELL, Wade	Scotland	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
LIKILIKI, Siuatonga	Tonga	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
LIKU, Tau'alupe	Tonga	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	4
LIMA, Peter	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
LIMONGI, Patrick	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LINDNER, Bob	Australia	9	8	-	1	2	-	-	8
LINNETT, Kane	Scotland	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	4
LISONE, Sam	Samoa	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
LITTLE, Sid	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	3
LITTLER, Stuart	Ireland	6	1	-	5	-	-	-	-
LIU, Isaac	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4

LLONG, Bernard	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LLOYD, Rhodri	Wales	5	-	-	5	2	-	-	8
LO, Garry	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	2	-	-	8
LOCKE, Kevin	New Zealand	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
LOCKWOOD, Brian	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
LOCKYER, Darren	Australia	9	8	-	1	5	4	-	28
LOGAN, Scott	Scotland	6	1	-	5	-	-	-	-
LOLOHEA, Tuimoala	Tonga	5	4	-	1	3	1	-	14
LOMAX, John	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LOMAX, Jonathan	England	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
LOMI, Nelson	Tonga	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
LOMU, Andrew	Tonga	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
LOMUTOPA, Ati	Papua New Guinea	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
LONERGAN, Dean	New Zealand	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	4
LONG, Sean	England	5	3	-	2	2	5	-	18
LOPE, Francis	France	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
LOUGHLIN, Paul	Great Britain	4	3	-	1	1	12	-	28
LOUW, Richard	South Africa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LOVODUA, Josaia	Fiji	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
LOW, Drury	Cook Islands	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
LOWE, Neil	Scotland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
LOWE, Phil	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	3	-	-	9
LOWRIE, Jason	New Zealand	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
LOWTHER, Bernard	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
LUAI, Jarome	Samoa	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
LUBBE, Elmar	South Africa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LUCAS, Ian	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
LUCKWELL, David	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LUDIC, Edwin	South Africa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
LUKE, Issac	New Zealand	10	9	-	1	2	6	-	20
LULIA, Keith	Cook Islands	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
LULIA, Lulia	Cook Islands	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
LUPTON, Peter	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
LYDON, Joe	Great Britain	8	3	1	4	2	10	-	28
LYONS, Cliff	Australia	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
LYSENKOV, Aleksandr	Russia	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
McCAFFERY, Ken	Australia	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	6
McCARTHY, Robert	Australia	5	2	-	3	1	-	1	4
McCARTHY-SCARSBROOK, Louie	Ireland	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
McCARTHY, Tyrone	Ireland	5	1	-	4	1	-	-	4
McCONNELL, Dave	Scotland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
McCRACKEN, Jarrod	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
McCURRIE, Steve	England	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
McDADE, Wayne	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
McDERMOTT, Barrie	Ireland	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
McDONALD, George	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
McDONALD, Wayne	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
McDONNELL, Shannon	Ireland	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
McGAHAN, Hugh	New Zealand	9	4	1	4	3	-	1	13
McGAW, Mark	Australia	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	8
McGILLVARY, Jermaine	England	6	4	-	2	7	-	-	28
McGINTY, Billy	Great Britain	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
McGREGOR, Paul	Australia	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	8

McGUINN, Robert	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
McGUIRE, Bruce	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
McGUIRE, Danny	England	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
McGUIRE, Josh	Australia	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
McILORUM, Mike	Ireland, England	8	5	-	3	1	-	-	4
McKAY, Ronald	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	1	9	-	21
McKINNEY, Tom	Great Britain	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
McLEAN, Jordan	Australia	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
McLENNAN, William	New Zealand	5	1	-	4	1	-	-	3
McMAHON, Allan	Australia	5	5	-	-	4	-	-	12
McMASTER, Colin	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
McMEEKEN, Mike	England	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
McNAMARA, Steve	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
McTAGGART, Barry	Australia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
McTIGUE, Brian	Great Britain	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
MacDOUGALL, Adam	Australia	6	6	-	-	5	-	-	20
MacGILLIVRAY, Duncan	Scotland	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
MAARBANI, Bilal	Lebanon	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MACDONALD, Bosam	Papua New Guinea	7	3	-	4	4	-	-	16
MACILAI, Jone	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MACKAY, Brad	Australia	4	4	-	-	5	-	-	20
MACKAY, Graham	Australia, Scotland	2	1	-	1	2	1	-	10
MACKAY, Ian	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
MAEA, Des	Samoa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MAGNAC, Jean-Pierre	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MAIDEN, David	Scotland	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
MAIQUE, Michel	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
MAITUA, Reni	Samoa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MAKELIM, Corey	USA	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MAKI, Enock	Papua New Guinea	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
MALONEY, James	Australia	1	1	-	-	1	4	-	12
MALU, Fotukava	USA	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MALU, Hikule'o	Cook Islands	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MAMANDO, Bruce	Papua New Guinea	6	3	1	2	-	-	-	-
MAMARY, Mitchell	Lebanon	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
MANN, Donald	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
MANN, Duane	New Zealand, Tonga	13	6	1	6	3	1	-	14
MANN, Esau	Tonga	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
MANN, George	New Zealand, Tonga	6	3	1	2	-	-	-	-
MANNAH, Tim	Lebanon	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
MANNERING, Simon	New Zealand	13	9	-	4	4	-	-	16
MANSOUR, Josh	Australia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
MANTEIT, Dennis	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
MANTELLATO, Josh	Italy	6	2	1	3	3	19	-	50
MANTESE, Yannick	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MANTLE, John	Wales	8	3	-	5	1	-	-	3
MANTOULAN, Claude	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MANU, Viliami	New Zealand, Tonga	10	7	-	3	4	-	-	16
MANU, Willie	Tonga	9	5	-	4	2	-	-	8
MANUEL, Odell	New Zealand Maori	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
MANUMALEALII, Penani	Samoa	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
MANUOKAFOA, Manase	Tonga	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
MAORI, Tu'u	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MARABE, Larsen	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

MARANDO, Dave	USA	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
MARAYAWA, Samuela	Fiji	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
MARGALET, Thibaut	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MARGINET, Patrick	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
MARGINET, Rémy	France	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
MARIA, Antoni	France	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
MARIANO, Frankie	Scotland	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	4
MARJORIBANKS, Robert	Australia	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
MAROON, Darren	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
MARRACQ, Henri	France	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
MARSH, Bill	Australia	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
MARSHALL, Benjamin	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	2	3	-	14
MARSOLAN, Serge	France	6	2	-	4	4	-	-	12
MARTIN, Rhyse	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	2	16	-	40
MARTIN, Te Maire	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	3	-	-	12
MARTYN JR, Thomas	Ireland	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
MARTYN SR, Thomas	England	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
MARUM, Michael	Papua New Guinea	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
MASELLA, Alfons	Tonga	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
MASELLA, Martin	Tonga	5	1	1	3	1	-	-	4
MASOE, Mose	Samoa	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
MASON, William	Tonga	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
MASSAM, Rob	Wales	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
MATAGI, Suaia	Samoa	6	2	-	4	2	-	-	8
MATAI, Stephen	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	2
MATAITONGA, Nesiasi	Tonga	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
MATAKAMIKAMICA, Roger	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MATAORA, Sam	Cook Islands	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
MATAPUKU, Joseph	Cook Islands	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
MATA'UTIA-LEIFI, Peter	Samoa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MATA'UTIA, Vila	Samoa	2	1	-	1	3	-	-	12
MATEO, Feleti	Tonga	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
MATETE, Paul	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MATHER, Barrie-Jon	England	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
MATHEWS, Steve	New Zealand Maori	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
MATHIAS, Roy	Wales	7	3	-	4	-	-	-	-
MATHIUO, Jamie	Ireland	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
MATMILLO, Michael	Papua New Guinea	8	-	-	8	1	-	-	4
MATULINO, Ben	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
MA'U, Manu	Tonga	5	4	-	1	1	-	-	4
MAUMALO, Ken	Samoa	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
MAURY, Alain	France	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
MAXWELL, Henry	New Zealand	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
MAYES, Johnny	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
MAYORGAS, Jean-Claude	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MAZARD, Herve	France	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
MAZARE, Michael	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MEAD, David	Papua New Guinea	10	3	-	7	4	-	-	16
MEDLEY, Paul	Great Britain	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	8
MEDUS, Robert	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
MELI, Francis	Samoa	6	3	-	3	2	-	-	8
MENDEIKA, James	Ireland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MENINGA, Malcolm	Australia	13	12	-	1	9	21	-	78
MENINGA, Moses	Papua New Guinea	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

MENZIES, George	New Zealand	7	2	-	5	2	-	-	6
MENZIES, Steve	Australia	4	3	-	1	6	-	-	24
MERCER, Gary	New Zealand	8	4	-	4	3	-	-	12
MERQUEY, Jacques	France	9	3	1	5	2	-	-	6
MEXICO, Mark	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MEZARD, Yves	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MILES, Gene	Australia	4	4	-	-	2	-	-	8
MILFORD, Anthony	Samoa	4	2	-	2	1	9	-	22
MILFORD, Laloa	Samoa	4	2	-	2	3	-	-	12
MILLARD, Daryl	Fiji	7	3	-	4	-	-	-	-
MILLARD, Ryan	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MILLER, Gavin	Australia	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	8
MILLS, Jared	New Zealand Maori	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MILLS, Jim	Wales	5	2	-	3	1	-	-	3
MILLWARD, Roger	Great Britain, England	14	8	1	5	4	2	-	16
MILNE, Taane	Fiji	5	4	-	1	4	8	-	32
MILONE, Nathan	Italy	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
MINCHAM, Robert	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MINICHELLO, Anthony	Italy	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	4
MINICHELLO, Mark	Italy	6	2	1	3	1	-	-	4
MINOGA, Willie	Papua New Guinea	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
MISKI, Abbas	Lebanon	4	1	-	3	2	-	-	8
MITROFANOV, Mikhail	Russia	3	-	-	3	-	3	-	6
MOA, Sam	Tonga, New Zealand	8	7	-	1	-	-	-	-
MOALA, Fifta	Tonga	3	1	-	2	3	9	-	30
MOANA, Martin	New Zealand Maori	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
MOHI, Mita	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MOI, Danny	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MOIMOI, Fuifui	Tonga	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
MOIR, Ian	Australia	4	3	-	1	3	-	-	9
MOLINER, Jacques	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
MOLINER, Michael	France	11	5	-	6	-	-	-	-
MOLY, Christophe	France	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
MOM, Mark	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
MONAGHAN, Joel	Australia	5	4	-	1	4	-	-	16
MONDO, Michael	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
MONI, George	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
MONS, Pascal	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MONTGAILLARD, Pierre	France	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
MONTOYA JNR., Marcelo	Fiji	5	4	-	1	2	-	-	8
MOORE, Billy	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
MOORE, Danny	Australia	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	8
MOORS, Junior	Samoa	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
MOREA, Mea	Papua New Guinea	5	-	-	5	1	-	-	4
MORGAN, Arnold	Great Britain	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
MORGAN, Justin	Wales	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
MORGAN, Lionel	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
MORGAN, Michael	Australia	5	5	-	-	2	-	-	8
MORGAN, Michael	Ireland	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
MORGAN, Mick	England	4	1	2	1	1	-	-	3
MORIARTY, William	Wales, Great Britain	6	4	-	2	2	-	-	8
MORLEY, Adrian	England	6	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
MORLEY, Chris	Wales	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
MORRIS, Ben	Wales	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4

MORRIS, Brett	Australia	5	5	-	-	9	-	-	36
MORRIS, Josh	Australia	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
MORRISON, Iain	Scotland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
MORTIMER, Chris	Australia	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
MORTON, Gareth	Scotland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
MOSES, Glyn	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
MOSES, Mitchell	Lebanon	4	1	-	3	1	8	1	21
MOSSOP, Lee	England	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MOSSOP, Rex	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
MOUJALLI, Ray	Lebanon	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MOUNIS, Grégory	France	7	2	-	5	-	-	-	-
MOUSSARD, Michel	France	4	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
MOYA, Jose	France	3	-	-	3	-	4	-	8
MUDGEWAY, John	South Africa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MUIR, Adam	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
MUIR, Barry	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
MULDER, Hendrik	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MULLALLY, Anthony	Ireland	6	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
MUNRO, Donald	New Zealand	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
MUNSTER, Cameron	Australia	2	2	-	-	4	-	-	16
MURDOCH-MASILA, Ben	Tonga	6	4	-	2	1	-	-	4
MURPHY, Alexander	Great Britain	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
MURPHY, Justin	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
MURPHY, Mick	Wales	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
MUSGROVE, Zane	Samoa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
MYLER, Frank	Great Britain	6	5	-	1	2	-	-	6
MYLER, Tony	Great Britain	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
MYLES, Nate	Australia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
NA'AWI, Duncan	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
NADRUKU, Noa	Fiji	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
NAHI, Christopher	New Zealand Maori	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
NAIPO, James	Papua New Guinea	6	-	-	6	1	-	-	4
NAIQAMA, Kevin	Fiji	10	6	-	4	4	-	-	16
NAIQAMA, Waisele	Fiji	8	4	-	4	2	25	-	58
NAISORO, Kalaveti	Fiji	4	1	-	3	1	-	-	4
NAJJARIN, Bilal	Lebanon	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
NAKUBUWAI, Petero	Fiji	5	4	-	1	1	-	-	4
NAKUBUWAI, Pio	Fiji	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
NALAGILAGI, Livai	Fiji	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
NANDYE, Jessie Joe	Papua New Guinea	6	-	-	6	1	-	-	4
NANYN, Mick	Scotland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
NAPA, Dylan	Cook Islands	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
NASH, Steve	Great Britain, England	11	5	3	3	1	-	-	3
NASSO, Raymond	Italy	3	1	1	1	2	-	-	8
NAUGHTON, Albert	Great Britain	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
NAVALE, Eparama	Fiji	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
NAVARRETE, Romain	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
NAVUGONA, Mesake	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
NAYACAKLOU, Noa	Fiji	3	1	-	2	-	3	-	6
NAYLOR, Scott	England	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
NECHAEV, Viktor	Russia	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
NEL, Corne	South Africa	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
NELSON, Boycie	New Zealand Maori	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	8
NEWLIN, Nicholas	USA	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

NEWLOVE, Paul	Great Britain, England	7	5	-	2	5	-	-	20
NEWTON, Clint	USA	4	2	-	2	2	-	-	8
NGAFFIN, Kera	Papua New Guinea	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
NGAMU, Gene	New Zealand, New Zealand Maori	5	3	-	2	-	4	1	9
NICHOLLS, George	Great Britain, England	14	9	3	2	2	-	-	6
NIEBLING, Bryan	Australia	4	4	-	-	1	-	-	4
NIGHTINGALE, James	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
NIGHTINGALE, Jason	New Zealand	4	4	-	-	3	-	-	12
NIKAU, Tawera	New Zealand, New Zealand Maori	8	5	-	3	1	-	-	4
NIKORIMA, Kodi	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
NIXON, Mark	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
NOBLE, Ian	South Africa	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
NOHRA, Charlie	Lebanon	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
NOONAN, Derek	England	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
NOOVAO, Meti	Cook Islands	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
NORMAN, Andrew	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
NORTON, Steve	England	7	4	2	1	1	-	-	3
NUMAPO, Bal	Papua New Guinea	9	1	-	8	2	11	-	30
NU'UAUSALA, Frank-Paul	New Zealand	6	5	-	1	3	-	-	12
OAKES, William	Scotland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
O'CARROLL, Eamon	Ireland	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
O'CONNOR, Michael	Australia	9	8	-	1	9	36	-	108
O'CONNOR, Terry	Ireland	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
O'DAVIS, Robbie	Australia	3	3	-	-	5	-	-	20
O'DONNELL, Michael	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
OFAHENGAE, Joseph	Tonga	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
OFFERDAHL, Mark	USA	7	2	-	5	1	-	-	4
OFFIAH, Martin	Great Britain, England	11	5	-	6	8	-	-	32
O'HARA, Dane	New Zealand	6	2	1	3	-	-	-	-
O'HARE, Hefin	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
OKESENE, Hitro	New Zealand	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
OKUL, John	Papua New Guinea	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
OLAM, Justin	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	4	-	-	16
OLARI, Andrei	Russia	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
OLIFF, Laurie	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
O'LOUGHLIN, Sean	England	9	7	-	2	2	-	-	8
O'NEIL, Colin	New Zealand	6	1	-	5	-	-	-	-
O'NEILL, Dennis	Great Britain	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
O'NEILL, John	Australia	8	5	1	2	2	-	-	6
ONGUGO, Gigmai	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
ORCHARD, Phillip	New Zealand	11	2	2	7	5	-	-	15
O'REGAN, Ron	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
O'REILLY, Robert	Australia	7	4	1	2	-	-	-	-
O'REILLY, Tom	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
O'SHEA, Kelvin	Australia	5	4	-	1	5	-	-	15
O'SHEA, Tim	South Africa	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
O'SULLIVAN, John	New Zealand	5	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
O'TOOLE, Joshua	Ireland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
OTTIO, Benkato	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
PACKER, Russell	New Zealand	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
PAEA, Edmond	Tonga	2	1	-	1	1	1	-	6
PAEA, Lopini	Tonga	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-

PAEA, Mickey	Tonga	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
PAGE, Luke	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
PAGLIPARI, Kes	Papua New Guinea	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
PAIYO, Elias	Papua New Guinea	5	2	1	2	2	5	-	18
PALANGAT, Liprin	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
PALANQUE, Marc	France	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
PALISSES, Roger	France	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
PALLARES, Serge	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PAMBRUN, Jean	France	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
PANAPA, Sam	Samoa, New Zealand	5	4	-	1	2	-	-	8
PANDIA, Sebastian	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PANGAI JR, Tevita	Tonga	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
PANIU, Francis	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
PAPALII, Josh	Australia, Samoa	8	4	1	3	2	-	-	8
PARATA, Dean	Italy	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
PARCELL, Gary	Australia	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
PARENT, Augustin	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
PARKER, Corey	Australia	5	5	-	-	-	4	-	8
PARRY, Steve	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
PATERSON, Lee	Scotland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PATRICK, Larne	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
PATTON, Michael	New Zealand	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
PAU, Tyrone	Cook Islands	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
PAUL, Henry	New Zealand	8	6	-	2	1	24	1	53
PAUL, Robert	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
PAULO, Aukuso	USA	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
PAULO, Joseph	Samoa, USA	10	4	1	5	3	8	-	28
PAULO, Junior	Samoa	4	-	1	3	1	-	-	4
PAY, Dean	Australia	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
PEACOCK, Jamie	England	8	4	-	4	7	-	-	28
PEARCE, Kevin	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PEARCE, Wayne	Australia	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
PEARD, John	Australia	8	7	-	1	3	-	-	9
PECH, Jacques	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PÉLISSIER, Éloi	France	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
PELLERIN, Daniel	France	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
PELO, Dimitri	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
PENNY, Lee	Scotland	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
PERCIVAL, Mark	England	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
PERCY, Rex	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PERELINI, Apollo	Samoa	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
PERENARA, Henry	New Zealand Maori	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	2
PEREZ, Andre	France	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	4
PERRETT, Mark	Wales	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
PERRETT, Sam	New Zealand	4	3	-	1	3	-	-	12
PERRY, Josh	Australia	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
PETERS, Keith	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
PETERSEN, Fred	Samoa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PETERSEN, Matt	USA	4	2	-	2	2	-	-	8
PETTYBOURNE, Eddy	USA	7	2	-	5	-	-	-	-
PEWHAIRANGI, Apirana	Ireland	5	2	-	3	1	-	-	4
PEYROUX, Dominique	Cook Islands	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
PHILBIN, Barry	England	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
PHILBIN, Joseph	Ireland	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4

PHILLIPS, Brett	Scotland	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	4
PHILLIPS, Callum	Scotland	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
PHILLIPS, Gary	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
PHILLIPS, Rowland	Wales	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
PIAKURA, Richard	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	-	3	-	6
PICKUP, Tim	Australia	4	3	1	-	1	-	-	3
PIDDING, Noel	Australia	3	1	-	2	-	8	-	16
PIEL, John	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PIERCE, Greg	Australia	5	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
PIGGINS, George	Australia	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
PILLON, Marcel	France	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
PINKNEY, Nick	England	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	8
PINNER, Harry	Great Britain	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
PITCHFORD, Steve	Great Britain	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	3
PITTARD, Denis	Australia	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
PITTMAN, Rea	Cook Islands	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
PLANAS, Sebastien	France	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
PLANTE, Bernard	France	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
PLATT, Andy	Great Britain, England	11	7	-	4	2	-	-	8
PLATT, Michael	Ireland	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
PLATZ, Lew	Australia	6	5	1	-	2	-	-	6
POCHING, Willie	Samoa	6	3	-	3	-	2	-	4
POLETTI, Louis	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
POLITONI, Pat	Tonga	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
PONGIA, Quentin	New Zealand	9	7	-	2	2	-	-	8
PONS, Cyril	France	10	3	-	7	3	-	-	12
POOLE, Herbert	Australia	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
PORA, Rodney	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PORTER, James	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
POSTNIKOV, Vadim	Russia	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
POTTER, Ian	Great Britain	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
POUGEAU, Jean-Philippe	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
POWELL, Daryl	Great Britain, England	9	6	-	3	2	-	-	8
POWELL, Eugene	South Africa	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
POWELL, Roy	Great Britain	6	3	-	3	1	-	-	4
PRESCOTT, Alan	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
PRESCOTT, Steve	Ireland	4	3	-	1	1	17	-	38
PRICE, Gary	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRICE, Steve	Australia	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRIESTLEY, Craig	USA	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
PRINCE, Scott	Australia	2	2	-	-	2	8	-	24
PRIOR, Kevin	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
PRITCHARD, Frank	New Zealand, Samoa	6	3	-	3	1	-	-	4
PROCTOR, Lyndsay	New Zealand	8	3	2	3	1	-	-	3
PROHM, Gary	New Zealand	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
PROVAN, Norm	Australia	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	3
PRYCE, Leon	England	5	2	-	3	1	-	-	4
PUARA, Wartovo	Papua New Guinea	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUIG, Robert	France	4	2	1	1	-	12	1	26
PULETUA, Frank	Samoa	7	4	-	3	1	-	-	4
PULETUA, Tony	New Zealand, Samoa	7	5	-	2	1	-	-	4
PURCELL, Andrew	Scotland	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
PURDHAM, Robert	England	2	-	-	2	-	4	-	8
PUTT, Nixon	Papua New Guinea	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

QUAGLIO, Aldo	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
QUAYLE, John	Australia	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
QUINNELL, Leon	Wales	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
RABOT, Jean-Luc	France	6	1	1	4	-	-	-	-
RADLINSKI, Kris	England	9	6	-	3	3	-	-	12
RAGUIN, Sébastien	France	7	2	-	5	1	-	-	4
RAIWALUI, Henry	Fiji	5	4	-	1	3	-	-	12
RAKABULA, Seteriki	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
RALPH, Josh	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
RANDALL, Terry	Australia	11	9	1	1	3	-	-	9
RAPANA, Jordan	Cook Islands, New Zealand	5	1	-	4	2	2	-	12
RAPER, Aaron	Australia	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
RAPER, John	Australia	6	6	-	-	2	-	-	6
RAPIRA, Sam	New Zealand	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
RASMUSSEN, Elton	Australia	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
RATCHFORD, Stefan	England	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
RATIER, Hugues	France	5	1	-	4	1	-	-	4
RAUDONIKIS, Tom	Australia	9	7	1	1	3	-	-	9
RAUHIHI, Paul	New Zealand Maori	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
REDDY, Rod	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
REDFEARN, David	Great Britain, England	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
REEKA, David	Papua New Guinea	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
REID, Tom	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	3
REIHANA, Tahī	New Zealand Maori	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
REILLY, Malcolm	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
REMA, Joe	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
REMIREZ, Eric	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
RENILSON, Charlie	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
RENOUF, Steve	Australia	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
REY, Roger	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
RHODES, Austin	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	2	2	-	10
RHODES, Johnny	Australia	10	8	1	1	2	-	-	6
RHODES, Scott	Scotland	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
RIBOT DE BRESAC, John	Australia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
RICE, Joshua	USA	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
RICHARDS, Maurice	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
RICHARDS, Pat	Ireland	6	1	-	5	3	9	-	30
RICHTER, Makasini	Tonga	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
RICKETSON, Luke	Ireland	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
RIDDELL, Jim	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
RIDGE, Matthew	New Zealand	6	5	-	1	2	23	1	55
RIETHMULLER, Joel	Italy	6	2	1	3	-	-	-	-
RINALDI, Francois	France	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
RINALDI, Julien	France	4	3	-	1	-	1	-	2
RISMAN JR, Augustus	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	-	10	-	20
RIVES, André	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
ROACH, Steve	Australia	8	7	-	1	2	-	-	8
ROBARTS, Freddie	Fiji	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
ROBERTS, Ben	Samoa	10	4	-	6	4	7	-	30
ROBERTS, Ian	Australia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
ROBERTS, Keith	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
ROBERTS, Oliver	Ireland	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	8
ROBERTSON, Michael	Scotland	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4

ROBINSON, Don	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
ROBINSON, Jason	England	4	3	-	1	3	-	-	12
ROBINSON, Travis	Lebanon	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
ROBY, James	England	12	6	-	6	1	-	-	4
ROCCI, Patrick	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
RODRIGUEZ, Guy	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
RODRIGUEZ, Sebastian	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ROETS, Christiaan	Wales	3	-	-	3	4	-	-	16
ROGERS, Darren	England	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	8
ROGERS, Mathew	Australia	4	4	-	-	4	27	-	70
ROGERS, Steve	Australia	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	6
ROMANO, Franck	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ROMANOV, Maxim	Russia	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
ROMBUK, Thomas	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
ROOSEBROUCK, Joel	France	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	3
ROP, Isaac	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
ROPATI, Jerome	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	4	-	-	16
ROPATI, Joe	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
ROPATI, Tangi	Samoa	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
ROPATI, Tea	Samoa, New Zealand	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
ROQICA, Vitale	Fiji	9	5	-	4	1	-	-	4
ROSE, David	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	4	-	-	12
ROUCH, Mickaël	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
ROUQUEIROL, Jean	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ROWE, Peter	Wales	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
ROWLEY, Paul	England	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	8
RUA, Matt	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	1	-	-	4
RUAPORO, Raymond	Cook Islands	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
RUBIN, Ian	Russia	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
RUIZ, Andre	France	12	1	1	10	2	-	-	6
RUIZ, Jean	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
RULLIS, Joel	Russia	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
RUSHTON, Alan	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	3
RUSSELL, Danny	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
RUSSELL, Matthew	Scotland	7	2	2	3	4	-	-	16
RUTGERSON, Sean	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
SA, Setaimata	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
SAAB, Chris	Lebanon	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SABATIE, Christian	France	7	3	-	4	-	-	-	-
SADAOUJ, Teddy	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
SADRAU, Osea	Fiji	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
SAEA, Kepi	Papua New Guinea	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
SAIFITI, Jacob	Fiji	5	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
SAIGATU, Ian	Fiji	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
SAILOR, Wendell	Australia	5	5	-	-	10	-	-	40
SAIT, Paul	Australia	9	6	-	3	2	-	-	6
SALEH, Hassan	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	3	-	-	12
SALEH, Nadol	Lebanon	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
SALEM, Chris	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
SALUSALU, Kaiava	Fiji	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
SALVATORI, Craig	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
SAMAU, Smith	Samoa	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
SAMOA, Tuisegasega	USA	7	2	-	5	2	-	-	8
SAMPSON, Dean	England	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	4

SAMUEL, Anthony	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
SANDS, Jason	France	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
SANTI, Brenden	Italy	6	2	1	3	-	-	-	-
SARGENT, Mark	Australia	4	4	-	-	1	-	-	4
SA'U, Tafeaga	Samoa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SAUMITOU, Jean-Bernard	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SAURET, Jean-Pierre	France	7	-	1	6	-	-	-	-
SAVE, Armand	France	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
SCHOFIELD, Don	Australia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
SCHOFIELD, Garry	Great Britain	12	5	2	5	9	-	2	38
SCHUBERT, Ian	Australia	4	3	-	1	7	-	-	21
SCHULTZ, Paul	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	3	-	-	9
SCHUSTER, Nesetorio	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	11	-	22
SCICCHITANO, Christian	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SCOTT, David	Scotland	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
SCOTT, Matthew	Australia	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
SCULTHORPE, Paul	England	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SEAMARK, Matt	Wales	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
SEGEYARO, James	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
SELUINI, Nafe	Tonga	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
SEMRANI, Anthony	Lebanon	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
SENIOR, Keith	England	8	3	-	5	1	-	-	4
SERFONTEIN, Nico	South Africa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SERRANO, Victor	France	6	2	-	4	-	5	-	10
SERU, Filimoni	Fiji	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
SETU, Lagi	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
SEUSEU, Jerry	Samoa	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
SEUSEU, Terence	Samoa	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
SEVE-DERBAS, Jaleel	Lebanon	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHAW, Brian	Great Britain	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHAW, Darren	Scotland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
SHAW, John	Great Britain	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHEARER, Dale	Australia	7	7	-	-	8	-	-	36
SHELFORD, Adrian	New Zealand	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
SHELFORD, Kelly	New Zealand	4	2	-	2	2	4	-	16
SHEPHERD, Sonny	Cook Islands	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
SHERIDAN, Ryan	Ireland	4	3	-	1	2	-	-	8
SHERLOCK, Kurt	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	3	-	6
SHIPWAY, Matt	USA	6	2	-	4	1	-	-	4
SHOEBOTTOM, Mick	Great Britain	6	4	-	2	1	-	-	3
SIMMONS, Royce	Australia	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
SIMMS, Eric	Australia	8	6	-	2	1	37	5	87
SIMON, Mickaël	France	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
SIMS, Ashton	Fiji	14	8	-	6	-	-	-	-
SIMS, Korbin	Fiji	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
SIMS, Tariq	Fiji	5	2	-	3	1	-	-	4
SINEL, Ray	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
SINEMAU, Korul	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
SINFIELD, Kevin	England	11	6	-	5	3	23	-	58
SINGLETON, Brad	Ireland	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
SIO, Michael	Samoa	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
SIRONEN, Paul	Australia	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
SIRVENT, Claude	France	4	2	-	2	3	-	-	12
SKELTON, Sean	South Africa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

SKERRETT, Kelvin	Great Britain, Wales	8	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
SLAIN, Nico	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SLATER, Billy	Australia	13	12	-	1	16	-	-	64
SMITH, Alan	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
SMITH, Antony	England	8	5	-	3	5	-	-	20
SMITH, Billy	Australia	8	6	-	2	3	-	3	15
SMITH, Cameron	Australia	17	16	-	1	1	29	-	62
SMITH, Chris	Wales	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
SMITH, Craig	New Zealand	6	5	-	1	1	-	-	4
SMITH, Garry	New Zealand	6	1	-	5	2	-	-	6
SMITH, Jason	Australia	5	4	-	1	1	-	-	4
SMITH, Jeremy	New Zealand Maori	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SMITH, Jeremy	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	1	4	-	12
SMITH, John	New Zealand	6	1	1	4	3	-	-	9
SMITH, Lee	England	2	1	-	1	3	-	-	12
SMITH, Peter	Great Britain	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
SMITH, Sam	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
SMITH, Stephen	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
SMITH, Tyran	New Zealand Maori	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
SNOWDEN, Kade	Italy	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
SOGA, Opoe	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
SOKOLOV, Petr	Russia	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
SOLBAT, Lucas	Papua New Guinea	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	4
SOLIOLA, Iosia	Samoa	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
SOLOAI, Les	USA	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
SOLOMONA, David	Samoa	6	3	-	3	3	-	-	12
SOLOMONA, Se'e	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
SONGORO, Alfred	Papua New Guinea	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
SOPOAGA, Tupou	Cook Islands	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
SORENSEN, Dane	New Zealand	8	3	2	3	-	11	-	22
SORENSEN, Kurt	New Zealand	12	3	1	8	1	-	-	4
SORENSEN, William	New Zealand	7	1	-	6	1	10	-	23
SORT, Romain	France	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
SOUTHERN, Paul	Ireland	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
SOVATABUA, Waisale	Fiji	6	2	-	4	3	-	-	12
SPRUCE, Stuart	England	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
STACUL, Cyril	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
STANTON, Jason	Lebanon	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
STARLING, Geoff	Australia	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
STEADMAN, Graham	Great Britain	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
STEEL, Jonathan	Scotland	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	8
STEIN, Lachlan	Scotland	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
STEPHENSON, David	Great Britain	6	4	-	2	1	7	-	18
STEPHENSON, Francis	England	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
STEPHENSON, Mike	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	3	-	-	9
STERLING, Paul	Wales	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
STERLING, Peter	Australia	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
STEVENS, Gary	Australia	6	4	2	-	-	-	-	-
STEVENS, Jason	Australia	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
STEVENSON, Jeffrey	Great Britain	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	3
STEWART, Glenn	Australia	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
STEWART, Sam	New Zealand	7	3	-	4	-	-	-	-
STIRLING, Ken	New Zealand	7	2	2	3	2	-	-	6
STORER, James	Fiji	9	5	-	4	-	-	-	-

STORER, Yves	France	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
STRINGER, Mitch	Scotland	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
STRUDWICK, Ross	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
STUART, Brent	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4
STUART, Ricky	Australia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUE, Sauaso	Samoa	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
SUKANAWEITA, Waisale	Fiji	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
SUKKAR, Elias	Lebanon	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
SULLIVAN, Anthony	Wales, Great Britain	9	6	-	3	5	-	-	20
SULLIVAN, Clive	Great Britain, Wales	11	5	1	5	9	-	-	27
SULLIVAN, Gary	Australia	5	1	1	3	-	-	-	-
SULLIVAN, Mick	Great Britain	10	7	1	2	5	-	-	15
SWAIN, Richard	New Zealand	6	5	-	1	-	-	-	-
SWANN, Anthony	Samoa	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
SWANN, Logan	New Zealand	4	3	-	1	2	-	-	8
SWANN, Willie	Samoa	6	3	-	3	2	-	1	9
SYKES, Paul	England	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
SZOSTAK, Alex	Scotland	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
T'AI, Ukuma	Tonga	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
TADULALA, Semi	Fiji	6	3	-	3	2	-	-	8
TAGA, Saveneca	Fiji	3	1	-	2	1	3	-	10
TAGALOA, Lelauloto	USA	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
TAGATAESE, Sam	Samoa	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TAIA, John	Cook Islands	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
TAIT, Alan	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
TAIT, Roger	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
TAKAIRANGI, Brad	Cook Islands, New Zealand	7	3	-	4	2	-	-	8
TAKAYAWA, Amani	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TALANOA, Fetuli	Tonga	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
TALAPEAU, Albert	Samoa	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TALAU, Willie	New Zealand, Samoa	7	5	-	2	6	-	-	24
TALI, Jason	Papua New Guinea	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
TALIPEAU, Albert	Samoa	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
TALLEC, Gael	France	5	2	-	3	1	-	-	4
TALLIS, Gorden	Australia	5	5	-	-	1	-	-	4
TALLON, Liam	Ireland	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TAMANI, Joe	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TAMATI, Howard	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TAMATI, Kevin	New Zealand	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
TAMER, Kandy	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
TAMOU, James	Australia	6	6	-	-	1	-	-	4
TANDY, Ryan	Ireland	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
TANGATA, Adam	Cook Islands	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
TANI, Alipate	Fiji	5	3	-	2	-	1	-	2
TANI, Kaliova	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TANI, Kini	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
TAPINE, Joseph	New Zealand	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
TARIPO, Chris	Cook Islands	2	1	-	1	3	6	-	24
TASSELL, Kris	Wales	4	3	-	1	4	-	-	16
TATANA, Henry	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
TATE, Brent	Australia	7	7	-	-	2	-	-	8
TATUPU, Kuripitone	Samoa	6	3	-	3	2	-	-	8
TAUFAAO, Joel	Tonga	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	4

TAUFUA, Jorge	Tonga	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
TAUFUA, Mark	Samoa	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
TAUFUA, Una	Tonga	2	-	1	1	2	-	-	8
TAUKEIAHO, Sio Siua	Tonga	4	3	-	1	-	16	-	32
TAULAPAPA, Misi	Samoa	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	8
TAUMAKU, Arebo	Papua New Guinea	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
TAUMALOLO, Vaai	Tonga	7	5	-	2	2	-	-	8
TAUPAU, Martin	New Zealand	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
TAYLOR, Elijah	New Zealand	7	6	-	1	2	-	-	8
TAYLOR, Jared	France	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
TAYLOR, Scott	England	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TE MATA, Karl	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	1	-	-	4
TE RANGI, Hare	New Zealand Maori	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
TEDESCO, James	Italy	6	2	1	3	3	-	-	12
TEISSEIRE, Claude	France	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
TEIXIDO, Frederic	France	6	2	-	4	-	-	-	-
TELA, Robert	Papua New Guinea	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TEMU, Jason	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
TE'O, Ben	Samoa	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	8
TEP, Joe	Papua New Guinea	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
TEREPO, Peni	Tonga	5	4	-	1	3	-	-	12
TERRATS, Rene	France	10	1	1	8	1	-	-	3
TETEH, Thompson	Papua New Guinea	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TETEVARO, Zane	Cook Islands	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
TEVAGA, Jazz	Samoa	4	-	1	3	1	-	-	4
THAIDAY, Sam	Australia	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
THENEGAL, Charles	France	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
THOMAS, Mark	Australia	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
THOMAS, Oscar	Scotland	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	4
THOMPSON, Jimmy	Great Britain, England	9	6	-	3	-	-	-	-
THOMPSON, Ray	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
THORLEY, John	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
THORNETT, Richard	Australia	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
THURSTON, Johnathan	Australia	9	8	-	1	5	52	-	124
TIERNEY, Lewis	Scotland	3	-	1	2	1	-	-	4
TIRI, Max	Papua New Guinea	7	-	1	6	-	-	-	-
TISSEYRE, Marc	France	3	-	-	3	-	2	-	4
TITEUX, Serge	France	4	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
TOA, Tiri	Cook Islands	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	4
TOAL, Shane	Scotland	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOCHTERMAN-TALBOTT, Sam	USA	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
TODD, Brent	New Zealand	10	6	-	4	-	-	-	-
TOGA, Illiesa	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOKAREI, Farasiko	Fiji	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
TOMKINS, Sam	England	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
TONGA, Esikeli	Tonga	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	4
TONGA, Taukolo	Tonga	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TONGIA, Tangia	Cook Islands	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
TONUMAIPEA, Yee-Huang	Samoa	4	-	1	3	1	-	-	4
TOOPI, Clinton	New Zealand Maori	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
TOOVEY, Geoff	Australia	5	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
TORA, Semisi	Fiji	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
TORREILLES, Patrick	France	4	1	-	3	1	4	-	12

TOUJAS, Roger	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
TOUMA, Travis	Lebanon	3	-	1	2	1	-	-	4
TRACEY, Brian	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
TRAMONTANA, Joseph	Italy	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
TRAMONTE, Ryan	Italy	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
TRANIER, Francis	France	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
TRBOJEVIC, Jake	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRBOJEVIC, Tom	Australia	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4
TREASURE, David	Wales	4	1	-	3	1	-	-	3
TREMOUILLE, Jean-Pierre	France	4	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
TUAKURA, George	Cook Islands	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
TUIABAYABA, Kalaveti	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TUIGAMALA, Va'aiga	Samoa	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	8
TUIMAVAVE, Evarn	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TUIMAVAVE, Paddy	Samoa, New Zealand	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	4
TUIMAVAVE, Tony	Samoa	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TUIVASA-SHECK, Roger	New Zealand	10	7	-	3	11	-	-	44
TUNKS, Peter	Australia	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TUPOU, Anthony	Australia	5	4	-	1	1	-	-	4
TUPOU, Daniel	Tonga	8	6	-	2	2	-	-	8
TUQIRI, Lote	Fiji	3	1	-	2	4	5	-	26
TURNER, Derek	Great Britain	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
TURNER, George	New Zealand	5	2	-	3	2	-	-	6
TURNER, Glyn	Wales	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
TURNER, Ron	Australia	3	2	-	1	1	-	-	3
TUUTA, Brendon	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TWAL, Alex	Lebanon	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
UAISELE, Etuate	Tonga	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	8
UASI, Eliakim	Tonga	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
UATE, Akuila	Fiji	13	8	-	5	9	-	-	36
ULCH, David	USA	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
UNAGI, John	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
URADOK, Jack	Papua New Guinea	3	-	-	3	2	-	-	8
UTAI, Matt	Samoa	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	8
UTIA-KATO, Sione	Tonga	5	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
VACCARI, Frédéric	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
VADON, Andre	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
VAEALIKI, David	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	8
VAGANA, Joe	Samoa, New Zealand	8	6	-	2	-	-	-	-
VAGANA, Nigel	New Zealand, Samoa	7	5	-	2	5	-	-	20
VAIKONA, Tevita	Tonga	5	1	1	3	4	-	-	16
VAINIKOLO, Lesley	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	9	-	-	36
VAIVAI, Taioalo	USA	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
VAKARARAWA, Niko	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
VAKATAWA, Etuate	Fiji	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
VALELALA, Samu	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
VALENTINE, David	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
VALERO, Thierry	France	7	-	-	7	-	-	-	-
VAN DEVENTER, Kobus	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
VAN NIEKERK, Jaco	South Africa	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
VAN WYKE, Pierre	South Africa	5	-	-	5	-	4	-	8
VATUBUA, Jioji	Fiji	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
VATUBUA, Waisale	Fiji	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
VATUVEI, Manu	New Zealand, Tonga	10	8	-	2	8	-	-	32

VAUGHAN, Paul	Italy	6	2	1	3	1	-	-	4
VAUTIN, Paul	Australia	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
VAVE, Siosaia	Tonga	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
VEIKOSO, Jimmy	Tonga	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	4
VEIVERS, Greg	Australia	6	6	-	-	1	-	-	3
VELLA, Michael	Australia	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
VERDES, Daniel	France	7	2	-	5	1	-	-	4
VERDIÉ, Gilbert	France	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
VIDOT, Daniel	Samoa	4	2	-	2	1	-	-	4
VIGOUROUX, Guy	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
VILONI, Yves	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
VISCAV, Robert	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
VISSER, Jaco	South Africa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
VONOMATEIRATU, Ilisoni	Fiji	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
VORON, Maurice	France	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
VOWLES, Adrian	Scotland	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
VUNA, Kerry	Tonga	3	2	-	1	3	-	-	12
VUNAKECE, Eloni	Fiji	10	6	-	4	2	-	-	8
VUNIVALU, Atunasia	Fiji	3	1	-	2	3	1	-	14
VUNIVALU, Suliasi	Fiji	5	4	-	1	9	1	-	38
VUNIYAYAWA, Peceli	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
WABO, Charlie	Papua New Guinea	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
WADDELL, Hugh	Great Britain	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
WAAREA-HARGREAVES, Jared	New Zealand	9	6	-	3	-	-	-	-
WAGAMBIE, Richard	Papua New Guinea	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
WAINE, Goie	Papua New Guinea	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
WAINIDROA, Ulaiasi	Fiji	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
WAKEMAN, Shannon	Italy	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
WAKETSI, Bernard	Papua New Guinea	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
WALKER, Adam	Scotland	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
WALKER, Alex	Scotland	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
WALKER, Anthony	Wales	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
WALKER, Chev	England	5	3	-	2	2	-	-	8
WALKER, Jayden	Italy	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
WALKER, Jonathan	Scotland	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
WALKER, Rodney	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
WALLACE, Dick	Wales	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
WALLACE, Peter	Scotland	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
WALLACE, Wayne	New Zealand	6	3	1	2	2	-	-	8
WALMSLEY, Alex	England	5	4	-	1	1	-	-	4
WALSH, John	Great Britain, England	7	4	3	-	-	-	-	-
WALTERS, Elwyn	Australia	8	4	1	3	1	-	-	3
WALTERS, Kerrod	Australia	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
WALTERS, Kevin	Australia	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
WALTERS, Steve	Australia	4	4	-	-	1	-	-	4
WANBON, Robert	Wales	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
WANE, Shaun	Great Britain	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
WANEGA, Ipisa	Papua New Guinea	6	-	-	6	-	5	-	10
WAQA, Sisi	Fiji	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
WAQAVATU, Semi	Fiji	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
WARD, David	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
WARD, Dennis	Australia	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	3
WARD, Kevin	Great Britain	6	3	-	3	-	-	-	-

WARLOW, Douglas	Great Britain	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
WATENE, Adam	Cook Islands	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
WATENE-ZELEZNIAK, Dallin	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
WATKINS, David	Wales	8	3	-	5	-	26	-	52
WATKINS, Kallum	England	10	6	-	4	5	-	-	20
WATKINSON, David	Great Britain	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
WATMOUGH, Anthony	Australia	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
WATSON, Alex	Australia	5	3	-	2	3	-	-	9
WATSON, Clifford	Great Britain	7	4	-	3	1	-	-	3
WATSON, Dave	New Zealand	4	3	-	1	5	-	-	20
WATSON, Ian	Wales	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
WATTS, Basil	Great Britain	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
WATTS, Gideon	South Africa	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
WAWAVANUA, Peceli	Fiji	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
WEBB, Jaco	South Africa	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
WEBCKE, Shane	Australia	6	6	-	-	1	-	-	4
WEBSTER, Ian	Wales	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
WEHBE, Jason	Lebanon	4	1	-	3	1	-	-	4
WELCH, Taylor	USA	3	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
WELLENS, Paul	England	9	4	-	5	2	-	-	8
WELLS, Harry	Australia	8	6	-	2	5	-	-	15
WESELE, Jone	Fiji	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
WEST, Graeme	New Zealand	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
WESTLEY, David	Papua New Guinea	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
WESTWOOD, Ben	England	7	3	-	4	1	-	-	4
WHARE, Dean	New Zealand	8	5	-	3	3	-	-	12
WHATUIRA, Paul	New Zealand Maori	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
WHITE, Brett	Ireland	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
WHITE, Lloyd	Wales	3	-	-	3	1	5	-	14
WHITEHEAD, Elliott	England	5	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
WHITELEY, John	Great Britain	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
WHITTAKER, John	New Zealand	11	3	1	7	4	-	-	12
WHITTLE, Dave	Wales	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
WIDDOP, Gareth	England	9	5	-	4	2	17	1	43
WIGGS, Ernie	New Zealand	3	-	-	3	-	12	-	24
WIKI, Ruben	New Zealand	9	7	-	2	3	-	-	12
WILIAME, Brayden	Fiji	4	3	-	1	1	-	-	4
WILKES, Oliver	Scotland	7	3	1	3	2	-	-	8
WILKIE, Colin	Italy	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
WILKIN, Jon	England	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
WILKINSON, Brandon	Scotland	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
WILKINSON, Jack	Great Britain	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	3
WILLIAMS, Danny	Ireland	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
WILLIAMS, Darrell	New Zealand	9	4	1	4	4	-	-	16
WILLIAMS, David	Australia	2	1	-	1	4	-	-	16
WILLIAMS, Dennis	New Zealand	14	3	2	9	3	-	-	9
WILLIAMS, George	England	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
WILLIAMS, Gerald	South Africa	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
WILLIAMS, Jason	New Zealand	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
WILLIAMS, Rhys	Wales	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
WILLIAMS, Sonny Bill	New Zealand	5	4	-	1	3	-	-	12
WILLIAMS, Tony	Tonga	3	2	-	1	1	10	-	24
WILLIAMSON, Lionel	Australia	6	4	-	2	5	-	-	15
WILLICOMBE, David	Wales	6	3	-	3	2	-	-	6

WILSHERE, John	Papua New Guinea	7	3	-	4	2	16	-	40
WILSON, Frank	Wales	7	3	-	4	1	-	-	3
WILSON, John	New Zealand	2	-	-	2	-	3	-	6
WILSON, John	France	3	1	-	2	2	-	-	8
WINTERSTEIN, Antonio	Samoa	4	2	-	2	5	1	-	22
WINTERSTEIN, Frank	Samoa	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
WISHART, Rod	Australia	5	4	-	1	3	2	-	16
WITHERS, Michael	Ireland	4	3	-	1	4	-	-	16
WITTENBERG, John	Australia	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
WOLFRAMM, Greg	Tonga	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
WOLFRAMM, Willie	Tonga	4	1	1	2	3	-	-	12
WOODS, Aaron	Australia	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
WOODS, John	Great Britain	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
WOODS, Mark	New Zealand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
WOOLLARD, Gary	New Zealand	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-

WOSNIAK, Patrick	France	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
WRIGHT, David	Australia	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
WRIGHT, Matthew	Samoa	2	-	1	1	1	1	-	6
WRIGHT, Owen	New Zealand	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
WRIGHT, Stuart	England, Great Britain	5	3	-	2	4	-	-	12
WULF, Vincent	France	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
WYNN, Peter	Australia	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
WYNNE, James	France	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
YAHA, Fouad	France	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
YATES, John	New Zealand	5	1	-	4	-	-	-	-
YER, Nande	Papua New Guinea	4	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
YERE, Menzie	Papua New Guinea	4	-	-	4	1	-	-	4
YOUNG, David	Wales	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
ZALDUENDO, Charles	France	7	1	1	5	-	-	-	-

WOMEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2021 FIXTURES

Date	Match	Group	Venue
Tuesday 1 November 2022	England v Brazil	Group A	Headingley Stadium (Leeds)
Tuesday 1 November 2022	Papua New Guinea v Canada	Group A	Headingley Stadium (Leeds)
Wednesday 2 November 2022	New Zealand v France	Group B	LNER Community Stadium (York)
Wednesday 2 November 2022	Australia v Cook Islands	Group B	LNER Community Stadium (York)
Saturday 5 November 2022	England v Canada	Group A	DW Stadium (Wigan)
Saturday 5 November 2022	Papua New Guinea v Brazil	Group A	MKM Stadium (Hull)
Sunday 6 November 2022	New Zealand v Cook Islands	Group B	LNER Community Stadium (York)
Sunday 6 November 2022	Australia v France	Group B	LNER Community Stadium (York)
Wednesday 9 November 2022	Canada v Brazil	Group A	Headingley Stadium (Leeds)
Wednesday 9 November 2022	England v Papua New Guinea	Group A	Headingley Stadium (Leeds)
Thursday 10 November 2022	France v Cook Islands	Group B	LNER Community Stadium (York)
Thursday 10 November 2022	Australia v New Zealand	Group B	LNER Community Stadium (York)

Monday 14 November 2022	Semi Final 1	1st Group B v 2nd Group A	LNER Community Stadium (York)
Monday 14 November 2022	Semi Final 2	1st Group A v 2nd Group B	LNER Community Stadium (York)

Saturday 19 November 2022	World Cup Final	Winner SF 1 v Winner SF 2	Old Trafford (Manchester)
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GROUP A

England
Papua New Guinea
Canada
Brazil

GROUP B

Australia
New Zealand
France
Cook Islands



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