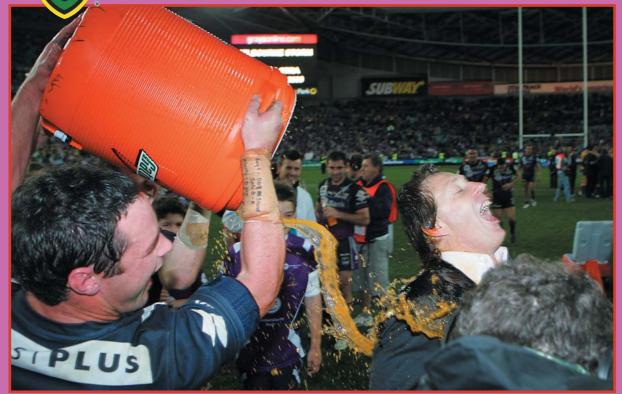
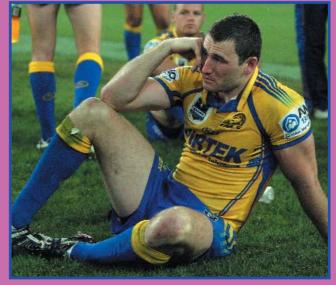


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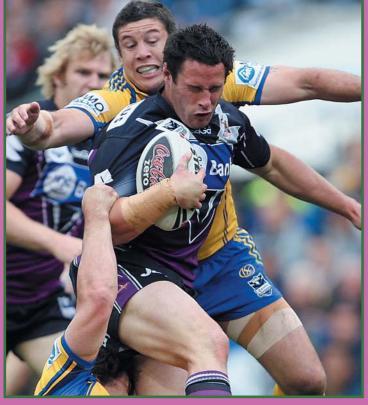


GRAND FINAL 2009





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Parramatta's Ben Smith; Melbourne celebrate Adam Blair's try; Eels full-back Jarryd Hayne tries to escape the tackle of Cooper Cronk; Cameron Smith (left) and Billy Slater with the NRL trophy; Brett White feels the full force of the Parramatta defence; Melbourne Storm coach Craig Bellamy receives the traditional Gatorade soaking. PHOTOS: ACTION PHOTOGRAPHICS





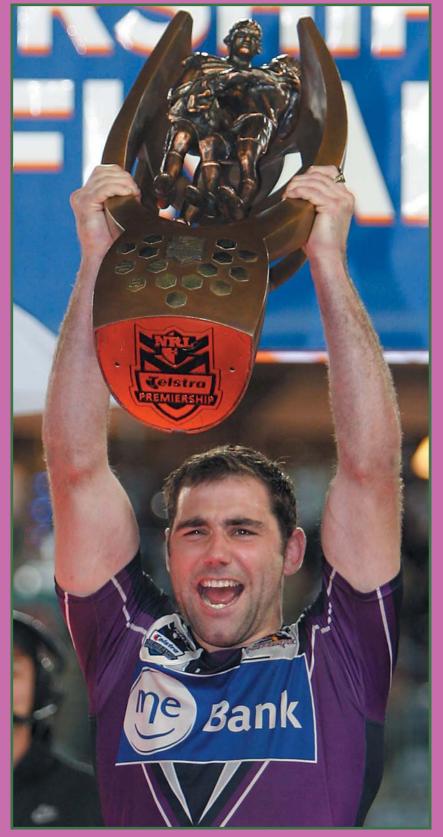






PARRAMATTA vs MELBOURNE









CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Melbourne skipper Cameron Smith holds up the NRL Trophy; Melbourne Storm players celebrate in the dressing room; Cameron Smith, Brett White and Greg Inglis hug each other after the final siren; The Melbourne Storm line up before the game. **PHOTOS: ACTION PHOTOGRAPHICS**



MELBOURNE

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2009 PREMIÈRS URNE STORM



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PERFECT STORM



BY TERRY LIBEROPOULOS

After the Melbourne Storm lost to Manly 20-16 at Olympic Park in Round 24, they were only two competition points away from being out of the top eight.

And many people thought that the Storm were only making up the numbers. Everyone was talking about St George Illawarra and the Bulldogs. Everyone believed that those two clubs would play in the grand final. In the end, they both missed out.

And when the play-offs were looming, Manly and Parramatta were listed as dark horses. Not so much for the Melbourne Storm.

They finished the regular season with wins over the Sydney Roosters and the New Zealand Warriors to secure a home final.

And what a final that was as they blew Manly off the park by 40-12 at Etihad Stadium in Melbourne.

They then outclassed the Brisbane Broncos 40-10 before beating the Parramatta Eels 23-16 in the grand final.

And one man that was always going to be proud of the Melbourne club was coach Craig Bellamy.

"I have never been prouder of what the club has done this season. Even if we lost (the grand final), I would have still been proud of the team," said Bellamy.

"Our experienced players - Slater, Turner, Cronk, Smith, Inglis and Johnson - produced the goods when it mattered the most.

"Our younger blokes grabbed their chances this year and they made the club proud of what

they achieved. This win is very sweet for me." Melbourne Storm captain Cameron Smith said that the club showed plenty of character to finish on a high.

"There wasn't much expectation from everyone outside of the club at the start of the year," said Smith.

And who could blame them

The Melbourne Storm lost the services of Matt Geyer, Israel Folau, Michael Croker, Jeremy Smith and Antonio Kaufusi.

Five very high quality players were gone before the 2009 season started, yet the Storm produced some wonderful players.

The emergence of players like Will Chambers, Dane Nielsen, Aiden Tolman, Joseph Tomane and Ryan Tandy showed that the club has the ability to bring out the best in many

players.

Melbourne is the sleeping giant of Rugby League. Sure they have the Aussie Rules, and they always will, but there is a strong following beginning to emerge from the Victorian public.

And it will only be a matter of time before many of their NRL players will be home grown talent.

The Melbourne Storm reached the final of the SG Ball Cup (Under 18s) competition this season. Three quarters of their squad were local players.

The Toyota Cup Under 20s side won the grand final after edging out the Wests Tigers at ANZ Stadium. They will ensure that the Melbourne Storm will have plenty of talent around for years to come.

Melbourne's feeder club in the NSW Cup, the Central Coast Storm, also enjoyed a good season, falling short of a grand final appearance.

Imagine if the Central Coast Storm did make the NSW Cup grand final and won the game as well. All three winners would have been from the Storm.

In 2010, the Storm have decided to field their own team in the NSW Cup and will play out of Melbourne. It's a wise decision considering they were flying 10 or so players every week up to the Central Coast.

I hear and read that nobody in Melbourne cares about Rugby League. How wrong they are. Almost one million Melbourne viewers tuned in to watch the NRL grand final between the Storm and the Eels.

Sure, it would be nice to have some more support but they did average 12,000 this season to Olympic Park.

From next season, the Storm will play their home games at a new purpose built \$267.5 million 31,500 seat state-of-the-art rectangular stadium, funded by the Victorian Government.

It is a wonderful venue and definitely will help give the Melbourne Storm average crowds nearer to 20.000.

For anyone that has been to Olympic Park, the ground is in my opinion, the worst ground in the NRL. You are too far from the action, there is a running track and the facilities are ancient.

But all that will change in 2010 when the defending champions aim for a fifth consecutive grand final appearance.

STORM YEAR IN REVIEW

POSITION: Premiers (Won 16, Lost 9) AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 11,979 HIGHLIGHT: The Melbourne Storm

bounced back from their 40-0 Grand Final loss to Manly in the best possible fashion, making it back to the premiership decider. As they have for the past three years, the Storm were the benchmark early but flew under the radar as the Dragons and Bulldogs stole the limelight. To come back and reach the grand final and then beat the Parramatta Eels in the decider was a great achievement. Many pundits were ready to brush aside Melbourne Storm as a genuine grand final contender until they thrashed defending champions Manly Sea Eagles in the opening week of the play-offs.

LOWLIGHT: The club struggled at the back end of the regular season, losing four from six matches and struggling to win the other two games. The Melbourne Storm were struggling to make the top four and nobody gave them any real chances of going all the way to the grand final. Not many lowlights when your team wins the grand final.

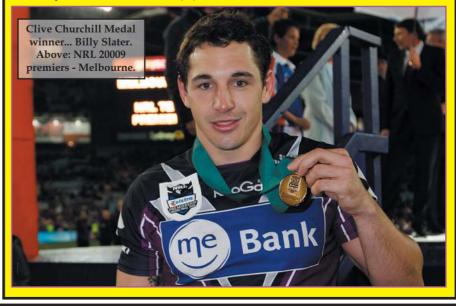
MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Will Chambers, Cooper Cronk, Aiden Tolman (27) TOP TRYSCORER: Billy Slater (18) TOP POINTSCORER: Cameron Smith (142) RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Billy Slater PLAYER TO WATCH: Luke Kelly BIGGEST WIN: 48-4 vs Brisbane Broncos,

Round 13 BIGGEST LOSS: 10-26 vs Bulldogs, Round

HOME RECORD: 10/2/1

2010 EXPECTATIONS: How long can the Storm maintain such a high level of performance? 2010 will see the Storm confirmed as the team of the decade and one of the greatest of all-time. The club will lose a number of players and it will be up to the youngsters to step up to the mark and try and get the Melbourne Storm into their fifth consecutive grand final.

DID YOU KNOW? Melbourne are the first team to play in four consecutive Grand Finals since 1984. The last team to do that was their Grand Final opponents, Parramatta. If the Melbourne Storm make the grand final 2010, it will be their fifth consecutive grand final appearance. The last time a club appeared in five straight grand finals was South Sydney from 1967-71.



YOUR CLUB'S SEASON IN REVIEW - PAGE 10 -11

The game keeps **bouncing back**

Rugby League can be very resilient. Despite getting belted from all corners, the game gets back on its feet.

Rugby League took a huge battering after the Super League of the mid-1990s and took a number of years to recover. But recover it did and in 2005, the game recorded its highest ever crowd average.

After off-field incidents in 2009 that put Rugby League on the front page for the wrong reasons, the game has finished strongly. But there is still plenty of hard work to be done to make it a truly great spectacle.

We need to make sure that Rugby League is a truly family sport and that as many NRL players are sent out to schools and juniors around Australia to promote the game.

Kids want to see their heroes in the flesh and when they do, they instantly become huge fans of the player and the team he is associated with

With many clubs finishing their commitments for the year, players should be out and about spreading the word about Rugby League

The eight clubs that missed out on the play-offs and the clubs that are eliminated in the first two weeks of the finals should enlist players to travel throughout Australia and New Zealand

The Parramatta Eels had a great run at the back end of the 2009 season but failed at the last hurdle, beaten by a more experienced Melbourne Storm outfit.

It just goes to show that you can't beat experience. Even though the Eels hit back in the second half, the Storm never panicked and finished up with their second premiership in three vears.

In last month's issue, I wrote in my editorial that the NRL should promote games under

the heading 'The Big One' That was clearly evident when the Bulldogs took on Parramatta in the grand final gualifier at ANZ Stadium in front of a crowd of 74.549

It was the biggest attendance for a single NRL match (aside from the grand final) since the competition commenced in 1908

One of the reasons that such a huge crowd turned up was the amount of publicity the game received leading up to the match.

The atmosphere was nothing short of incredible and both teams delivered a magnificent performance.

I am pretty sure that if the game was played in front of 20-25,000 people, the game would not have been as good as it was with almost 75,000 in attendance

The players all admitted that the crowd lifted them even when they had little petrol left in the tank Let's hope that the NRL promotes more

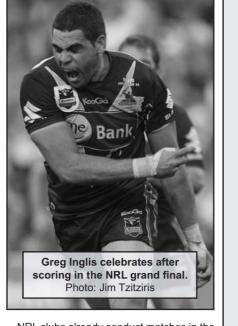
ship drive.

major NRL matches and that the NRL and all clubs continue their push with their memberary

Now that we are looking towards the 2010 season, the NRL should conduct a tour of country areas showing off the grand final trophy. The tour should also include a number of prominent NRL players.

Such a venture would bring plenty of publicity and awareness of the game to many people and help create new supporters to the game.

I have said it before but I believe that a preseason competition should be contested and played around Australia and New Zealand.



NRL clubs already conduct matches in the bush via the country carnival but a fair dinkum competition would really attract more interest A 16-team knock-out competition would

mean that eight teams would be eliminated after the first round. Those clubs could then organise their own trial matches

This competition would be played over three or four weeks, kicking off in mid-Febru-

Finally, there is still plenty of Rugby League to go with the Four Nations, European Cup and Aus-Med Cup to look forward to.

As always, we will be bring you all the action in our popular Summer Special. Make sure you pick up a copy when it comes out on November 24

TERRY LIBEROPOULOS

Editor

If it's Rugby League - we've got it covered

All Stars match to kick-off 2010

The NRL's inaugural Indigenous All Stars match, against an NRL All Stars team selected by the public and coached by Wayne Bennett, will kick off the 2010 Rugby League season.

The brainchild of Preston Campbell and his Gold Coast Titans chief executive Michael Searle, the February 13 clash will be played at Skilled Park and mark the second anniversary of Australia's apology to the Stolen Generation.

Campbell captained the DreamTime team which defeated the NZ Maori in a memorable World Cup curtain-raiser last vear, and believed it meant so much to the Aboriginal community it should be repeated

"I was so proud to put the jumper on last year and traditionally we don't do that stuff any more when you get together and celebrate (being Aboriginal) and personally I look at it as a corroboree," said Campbell, who will again captain his team.

"You do that with your own people but that's the way I see it as being with my people."

Searle applauded the efforts of Indigenous players for driving the concept which was quickly embraced by the NRL and appears set to be an annual showcase of the game North Queensland skipper Johnathan Thurston, likely to partner Scott Prince in the halves, looked upon representing the Indigenous All Stars as big an honour as playing Test or Origin football.

"Equal to an Australian team, definitely," he said

"I've played in Origins and they're all special, but you're representing your people and your family and it means so much to them

Thurston admitted to feeling great disappointment at missing last year's Indigenous game due to his World Cup commitments.

"To see the pride in their faces it made me feel like I needed to be there as well," he said

Proceeds from the match go to community programs and grass-roots Indigenous

The public will vote on 16 vacant posi-



Kiwis skipper Benji Marshall, who grew up on the Gold Coast, said it would complete a life-long dream to partner fellow fiveeighth Lockyer in the NRL All Stars' halves.

Possible Indigenous All Stars team: Matt Bowen, Nathan Merritt, Greg Inglis, Justin Hodges, Jamal Idris, Scott Prince, Johnathan Thurston, Carl Webb, Preston Campbell (capt), George Rose, Tom Learoyd-Lahrs, Sam Thaiday, Willie Tonga. Reserves: Jamie Soward, Wendell Sailor. Yileen Gordon, Cory Paterson, Rhys Wesser, Chris Sandow, Daine Laurie

UO gue Review

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COVER PHOTOS

Main photo: Dallas Johnson (left) and Cameron Smith hold up the NRL trophy. Insets (left to right): Bankstown City's Danny Williams, Melbourne Under 20s winners Dane Chisholm (left) and Kevin Proctor and Wentworthville's Brett Sargent. THE INDEPENDENT RUGBY LEAGUE

NEWSPAPER

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RUGBY LEAGUE A X Players with Italian background wanted to represent Italy in 2009. Have the opportunity to play Rugby League in Italy as well as the Mediterranean Cup in Sydney.

Website: www.italiarugbyleague.it

Contact Mick Pezzano at mpezzano@bigpond.com for more information

activities

tions in both 20-man squads for the match, which will feature an unlimited interchange The NRL All Stars teams will contain the

captain and vice-captain of the Australian and New Zealand Test sides plus one player from each of the 16 NRL clubs.

October 2009



BY GEOFF STEVENSON

They've lost their coach and their most respected player and gained the dreaded and unwanted wooden spoon.

Now the Sydney Roosters will spend the off season trying to work out how they can replicate the efforts of cross city rivals Canterbury and fight their way into the finals in 2010.

Despite a late season surge, with a string of wins, the Roosters narrowly secured the wooden spoon on for-and-against after losing to the Cowboys in Round 26. It has been 23 years since the eastern suburbs club had last held the spoon.

And while the wooden spoon is well regarded as the most despised of titles for any club, fans and club administrators will be looking towards 2010 with renewed enthusiasm with key changes, most notably the arrival of coach Brian Smith, having many believing the club can turn things around in the short term.

Smith, pinched by the Roosters from Newcastle mid-season, has restyled himself as the man to reinvent a tired, stale club after successfully breathing life into the post-Andrew Johns Knights. After Johns retired early due to a neck injury, Smith sunk his teeth into adjusting the culture of the Knights starting with their playing squad, training facilities and support staff.

With this precedent in Smith's recent history, it will be expected that the Roosters will purge a number of players on this year's roster with further cuts expected over the next 12 months.

The Roosters have already lost Iosia Soliola (St Helens), Craig Fitzgibbon (Hull), Shane Shackleton (Parramatta Eels), Setiamata Sa (released) and Mark O'Meley (Hull) this year. Such losses (particularly the late season departure of Sa) should free up some room under the salary cap for the Roosters to enter the market over the off season or pick up a mid-season bargain, something that is common behaviour for coach Smith.

Brian Smith also likes to bring in his own support staff and he didn't delay in personalising his staff by releasing veteran Roosters trainer Ron Palmer. Smith has since attempted to coax his assistant at Newcastle Trent Robinson down the F3. The Knights have, however, refused to release Robinson and he appears to be staying in the Hunter for one more season.

Rumours suggested that the loss of high profile players such as O'Meley and Sa would allow the Roosters to make a play at former Wallaby Lote Tuqiri. This failed to materialise. Likewise the Roosters were linked to Jarryd Hayne before he re-signed with the Eels.

That's not to say the club has not been active in

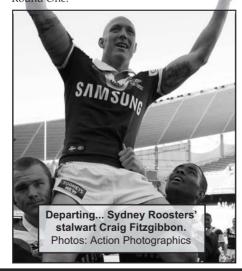
the player market. The Roosters have signed Manly rookie Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Titans forward Daniel Conn and experienced (and in form) Canberra back Phil Graham.

Two of the NRL's most controversial and intriguing signings for 2010 are the Roosters acquisitions Todd Carney and JP du Plessis. Carney has spent the year playing for the Atherton Roosters and recovering from several alcohol fuelled indiscretions. Carney appears to have moved on from his irresponsible ways and the Roosters will hope he can provide creative support for the now well established Mitchell Pearce.

du Plessis is Australian Rugby League's first foray into South Africa's professional rugby ranks since the Super League aligned Cronulla Sharks signed Tiaan Strauss in 1996. The Roosters have signed the 18 year old centre for three years from one of South Africa's premium rugby schools. Roosters recruitment officer Peter O'Sullivan has spoken enthusiastically of du Plessis' skills and has openly discussed further scouting missions to South Africa.

As per usual the Roosters will maintain a stable front office leading into the 2010 season, although the club remains without a principal sponsor for next year. The club has been rocked by suggestions of a betting scandal where Roosters players were alleged to have thrown their Round 26 clash after big money was placed on the Cowboys to win 13+. No charges have been laid since the allegations have been made.

Roosters fans will be hoping their club can replicate the fortunes of 2008 wooden spooners Canterbury and all will be revealed when they kick off their campaign against the Rabbitohs in Round One.



NRL crowds on the up and up IRL crowds increased by 3.8 per cent in the ing poorly in the later stages of the season,

NRL crowds increased by 3.8 per cent in the past 12 months with an average of 16,349 attending the matches in 2009.

The average attendance was the second highest ever average attendance after the 2005 season that attracted 16,466.

The overall attendance for Telstra Premiership matches this season was 3,139,186. That figure surpassed the previous best of 3,061,338, set in the 20-team ARL competition in 1995. It also surpassed the previous NRL record of 3,024,149, set in 2007.

The Bulldogs experienced the biggest turnaround with an increase of more than 32 per cent from last year when they finished with the wooden spoon.

The New Zealand Warriors, despite finish-AVERAGE CROWDS

| | 2009 | 2008 | +/-% |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Brisbane Broncos | 34,587 | 33,436 | + 3.3 |
| Bulldogs | 22,608 | 15,344 | + 32.2 |
| Gold Coast Titans | 19,178 | 21,618 | - 12.7 |
| Wests Tigers | 17,943 | 16,386 | + 8.7 |
| North Qld Cowboys | 17,309 | 18,102 | - 4.6 |
| Newcastle Knights | 15,882 | 18,750 | - 18.1 |
| New Zealand Warriors | 15,486 | 11,444 | + 26.2 |
| St George Illawarra Dragons | 15,299 | 12,596 | + 17.7 |
| South Sydney Rabbitohs | 14,715 | 14,644 | + 0.5 |
| Manly Sea Eagles | 13,782 | 13,694 | + 0.6 |
| Penrith Panthers | 13,719 | 10,899 | +20.6 |
| Sydney Roosters | 13,594 | 13,970 | - 2.8 |
| Parramatta Eels | 13,127 | 13,528 | - 3.0 |
| Melbourne Storm | 11,979 | 12,474 | - 4.1 |
| Cronulla Sharks | 11,364 | 12,965 | - 14.1 |
| Canberra Raiders | 11,027 | 11,913 | - 8.0 |
| | | | |

Wooden wins Country Player of the Year for second successive year

Former Northern Eagles and Manly NRL forward Grant 'Squasher' Wooden has taken out the prestigious NSW Country Player of the Year Award for the second successive year.

Wooden (pictured right) became the first player since 1968 to win the title twice. Former Australian international Allan Thomson won the award in 1967 and 1968 before joining Manly the following season.

But Wooden has no plans of heading back to the NRL and is happy to remain in the bush and help the Wagga Kangaroos to another premiership in 2010.

"It is a big shock to win. I didn't think I would win it twice-in-a-row. I thought there were a couple of other players that deserved it," said Wooden.

Wooden capped off a magnificent season by being named as man of the match for Wagga Kangaroos in their grand final win over Gundagai Tigers in the Group 9 competition.

He led the Bidgee Bulls to the final of the Country Championships and led NSW Country to a 28-24 win over Qld Rangers.

St George Illawarra forward Ben Creagh was named the Country Origin Player of the Year.

Group 20 club Yenda are expected to be named Clayton Cup winners later this month as the best country side in 2009.

still had an increase of 26 per cent from 2008

while Penrith Panthers averaged almost 21

Minor premiers St George Illawarra

The Newcastle Knights had the biggest

The 2009 season also created a record for

drop with more than 18 per cent while

attendances in the final series. A total of

351,448 witnessed the play-offs, the highest

since 317,659 watched the 1999 final series.

The 2009 crowds represent the highest atten-

dance for the final series since the game com-

Cronulla Sharks had a 14 per cent drop.

capped off a successful season with crowds

per cent more to their matches

increasing by almost 18 per cent.

menced in 1908.







RIFLE RANGE RD WINDSOR

For the information of members and guests

Hills Sports produce comeback of the year

BY TERRY LIBEROPOULOS at Toyota Stadium

Hills Sports High came from 40-18 down with 23 minutes remaining to beat Endeavour Sports High 46-40 in the final of the University Shield.

Endeavour Sports High were cruising along at 24-0 after just 18 minutes before tries from Tim Crellin, Jason Webhe and Sam Ahofono reduced the deficit to just six points.

Joseph Leilua scored for Endeavour Sports with five seconds remaining before half-time. Tries from Kane Gillies and Ethan Eulo in the opening five minutes of the second half gave Endeavour Sports a 40-18 lead

With Endeavour Sports' key player Cameron King off the field because of injury, the Mark Horo-coached Hills Sports High piled on three tries in seven minutes to get back in the game at 40-34.

Ahofono crashed over for his second try with seven minutes remaining to get to within two points and they hit the front for the first time two minutes later when Ethan Mafi raced over to score

Since 2007, the University Shield has been split into two groups - Sports High Schools and Comprehensive High Schools. With Sports High schools dominating the competition, it was decided that non-Sports High schools would compete in another competition.

In the Comprehensive High School University Shield final, Bass Hill thrashed Dubbo Senior College 58-4 with Siu Lapauho, Nathan Mare and Dale Finicuane each scoring a brace of tries.

UNIVERSITY SHIELD Sports High Schools

Hills Sports High School 46 (Sam Ahofono 2, Tim Crellin, Jason Webhe, Jorge Taufa, Jason Havea, Charles Bonanno, Ethan Mafi tries; Webhe 7 goals) d. Endeavour Sports High 40 (Kane Gillies 3, Tori Tuiletufuga, Dj Lokeni-Purcell, Joseph Leilua, Ethan Eulo tries; John Nicholas 6 goals) at Toyota Stadium, September 29. Referee: Scott Murray. Touch Judges: Aaron Moller, Glen Reece. Penalties: Hills Sports 7-6. Crowd: 1100.



Comprehensive High Schools

Bass Hill High School 58 (Siu Lapauho 2, Nathan Mare 2, Dale Finicuane 2, Tui Paiuau, David Minute, Josh Rainbow, Uafu Lavaka tries; TJ Taotua 8, Brayden Motti goals) d. Dubbo Senior College 4 (Mason Williams try) at Toyota Stadium, September 29. Referee: Aaron Moller. Touch Judges: Scott Murray, Daymon Wyners.

In the Buckley Shield Final, Westfield Sports High were too strong for Hills Sports High, running out 40-0 winners.

Tifa Iuta led the way for the winners with two tries while Faimanifo Seve finished the game with 10 points from a try and three goals. In the Comprehensive High Schools

final, Bass Hill High School overpowered Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School 44-22

Bass Hill High led 20-0 after 18 minutes before Farrer posted their first try of the game when Tremyne Sandbrook barged over in the 21st minute.

Mohamad Hijazzi cruised over for a try to give Bass High a 26-6 half-time lead. Farrer Memorial scored three tries in

the first eight minutes of the second half to get back in the game at 26-22. But Bass hit back with tries to James

Kupa, Willy Soloa, Logan Fahd and Jake Kamire to run out convincing winners.

BUCKLEY SHIELD Sports High Schools

Westfields Sports High School 40 (Tifa Iuta 2, John Tohi, Brendan Cox, Faimanifo Seve, Jai Wineera, Ireland Keleopa, Matthew Whitehouse tries; Seve 3, Cox goals) d. Hills Sports High School 0 at Toyota Stadium, September 29. Referee: Todd Smith. Touch Judges: Aaron Moller, Glen Reece.

Comprehensive High Schools

Bass Hill High School 44 (Logan Fahd 3, Jake Kamire 2, James Taioroa, Mohamad Hijazzi, James Kupa, Willy Saloa tries; Kaupulu Poleo 2, Addison Demetriou 2 goals) d. Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School 22 (Tremyne Sandbrook 2, Brad Capello, James Mapperson tries; Alex Smith 3 goals) at Toyota Stadium, September 29. Referee: Scott Murray. Touch Judges: Todd Smith, Daymon Winters.

In the final of the Classic Shield competition, Rutherford Public School from the Maitland region defeated Murrumburrah Public School from the Riverina district 20-6

Rutherford got off to a flying start when Lachlan Vaughan scored after just two minutes of action.

It was 10-0 by half-time after Jake Morris used his huge frame to barge over to score under the sticks

Murrumburrah gave themselves some chance of winning when five-eighth Jared Prosser scored a wonderful 45-metre individual try.

But it was Rutherford Public School that finished the game strongly with tries to Ben Van der Meeden and Jordan Burton

CLASSIC SHIELD

Rutherford Public School 20 (Lachlan Vaughan, Jordan Burton, Ben Van Der Meeden, Jake Morris tries; Cody Campbell, Burton goals) d. Murrumburrah Public School 6 (Jared Prosser try; Tyler Allen goal) at Toyota Stadium, September 29. Referee: Daymon Wynters. Touch Judges: Aaron Moller, Glen Reece.

Gower crowned NSW Cup player of the year

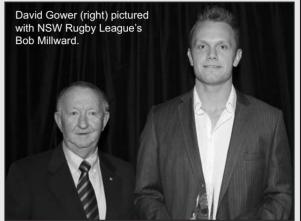
Balmain Ryde's David Gower has taken out the NSW Cup Most Valuable Player award at the New South Wales Rugby League annual presentation dinner last month.

Season 2009 has been an exceptional year for Gower who, in July, was selected in the NSW Residents team and won the Apprentice of the Year at the Central and Northern Sydney Regional Training Awards night.

In September he made his NRL debut for the Wests Tigers in their round 26 victory over the Bulldogs and he is also highly regarded by Wests Tigers and Kangaroos coach Tim Sheens

Gower beat out a host of prestigious talent including Hep Cahill (Storm), Samu Wara (North Sydney), Danny Williams (Bankstown City Bulls) and Ben McFadgean (Windsor).

The 2009 NSW Cup club Players of the year were Sione Tongia (Auckland), Samu Wara (North Sydney), Dean Rysko (Wests), Khalid Deeb (Newtown), David Gower (Balmain Ryde-Eastwood), Scott Sablowski (Shellharbour), Brendan Oake (Wentworthville), Hep Cahill (Central Coast), Daniel Rauicava (Cronulla), Danny Williams (Bankstown City) and Ben McFadgean (Windsor)



Small wins Bundy Red Cup player of the year

Cabramatta's Jamie Small has taken out the Bundaberg Red Cup Most Valuable Player award at the New South Wales Rugby League annual presentation dinner.

He was man of the match in the club's preliminary final match against the Bankstown City Bulls and was Cabramatta's best player in their 24-20 Grand Final defeat at the hands of Wentworthville

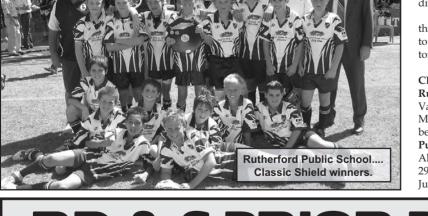
Small (pictured below) believes the club has the right mix of outh and experience to become a dominant force in future Bundaberg Red Cup competitions.

"Obviously it was disappointing not winning the competition this season but the club has a great platform for 2010," Small said





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PTS

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ROUND 25 August 31 Score 30-14 Canberra vs Newcastle **ROUND 26** September 4-6 W Tigers vs Bulldogs 34-12 Dragons vs Parramatta 37-0

9,400

17,375

17,974

| Warriors vs Melbourne | 0-30 | 14,734 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| Manly vs Gold Coast | 38-4 | 14,165 |
| Cronulla vs Souths | 26-24 | 14,879 |
| Roosters vs North Qld | 16-32 | 14,879 |
| Newcastle vs Penrith | 35-0 | 22,152 |
| Brisbane vs Canberra | 22-10 | 35,112 |
| | | |
| FINALS WEEK 1 | | |
| Melbourne vs Manly | 40-12 | 21,155 |
| Gold Coast vs Brisbane | 32-40 | 27,227 |
| Bulldogs vs Newcastle | 26-12 | 21,369 |
| Dragons vs Parramatta | 18,174 | 18,174 |
| | | |
| FINALS WEEK 2 | | |
| Parramatta vs Gold Coast | 27-2 | 28,524 |

| Brisbane vs Dragons | 24-10 | 50,225 |
|------------------------|-------|--------|
| FINALS WEEK 3 | | |
| Bulldogs vs Parramatta | 12-22 | 74,549 |
| Melbourne vs Brisbane | 40-10 | 27,687 |

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

| 80 |
|----|
| 75 |
| 75 |
| 66 |
| 63 |
| 61 |
| 58 |
| 56 |
| 54 |
| 53 |
| 51 |
| 50 |
| 49 |
| 47 |
| 30 |
| 26 |
| |

RESULTS

ROUND 25

James Tamou (North Qld) vs Brisbane at

Dairy Farmers Stadium. Careless High Tackle

in 56th minute. Grade 1 - 67 points. No sus-

. Colin Best (South Sydney) vs St George

Illawarra at ANZ Stadium. Tripping in 75th

Luke Douglas (Cronulla) vs Manly at Brook-

vale Oval. Careless High Tackle in 26th

minute. Grade 1 - 84 points. No suspension.

Steve Simpson (Newcastle) vs Canberra at

Canberra Stadium. Dangerous Throw in 56th

minute. Grade 1 – 93 points. No suspension.

Ben Rogers (Newcastle) vs Canberra at Can-

berra Stadium. Striking in 62nd minute. Grade

4 – 382 points (plus 15 carry-over points. Total:

Daniel Vidot (Canberra) vs Newcastle at Can-

berra Stadium. Contrary conduct - attempted

use of knees in 62nd minute. Grade 3 - 243

Bronson Harrison (Canberra) vs Newcastle

397 points). Three match suspension.

points. Two match suspension

minute. Grade 1 - 56 points. No suspension.

pension



Parramatta's Jarryd Hayne has produced perhaps the most brilliant run of form ever seen in the Telstra Premiership to claim the 2009 Dally M Player of the Year Medal

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd presented the Eels fullback with the Award at Sydnev's State Theatre last month as the final counting showed the extent to which Hayne dominated the closing rounds of the competition.

In six weeks of wreaking havoc with opposition defences, Hayne picked up three points in every match from Round 19 to Round 24 to overtake two-time Dally M Player of the Year Johnathan

Thurston The full list of 2009 Dally M Award

winners were: Fullback: Jarryd Hayne (Eels) Winger: Taniela Tuiaki (Wests Tigers) Centre: Josh Morris (Bulldogs) Five-eighth: Jamie Soward (Dragons) Halfback: Johnathan Thurston (Cowboys) Lock: David Stagg (Bulldogs) Second Row: Anthony Watmough (Sea Eagles)

Knights at Canberra Stadium. Unnecessary

Arm/Shoulder pressure in 63rd minute.

ROUND 26

Ben Lowe (South Sydney) vs Cronulla at Toy-

ota Stadium. Careless High Tackle in 22nd

Adam Blair (Melbourne) vs Warriors at Mt

Smart Stadium. Unnecessary Head/Neck

Pressure in 67th minute. Grade 1 - referred to

FINALS WEEK 1

Richard Fa'aoso (Newcastle) vs Bulldogs at

ANZ Stadium. Careless High Tackle in 21st

minute. Grade 1 – 56 points. No suspension.

Matt Hilder (Newcastle) vs Bulldogs at ANZ

Stadium. Dangerous Throw in 49th minute.

Grade 2 - 292 points. Two match suspension.

Steve Simpson (Newcastle) vs Bulldogs at

ANZ Stadium. Dangerous Throw in 76th

minute. Grade 1 - 140 points. One match sus-

pension.

judiciary. Not guilty. No suspension.

minute. Grade 1 - 56 points. No suspension.

Grade 1 - 75 points. No suspension.

Prop: Ben Hannant (Bulldogs) Hooker: Michael Ennis (Bulldogs) Captain: Andrew Ryan (Bulldogs) Coach: Kevin Moore (Bulldogs) Rep Player: Greg Inglis (Storm) Rookie: Jamal Idris (Bulldogs)

Peter Frilingos Memorial Award: Nathan

Top Point-scorer: Hazem El Masri (Bull-

Toyota Cup Player of the Year: Beau Henry (Dragons)

Sam Tagataese (Gold Coast) vs Parramatta at Sydney Football Stadium. Dangerous Contact with kicker in 4th minute. Grade 1 - 75 points. No suspension.

Karmichael Hunt (Brisbane) vs St George Illawarra at Suncorp Stadium. Tripping in 31st minute. Grade 1 – 56 points. No suspension. Beau Scott (St George Illawarra) vs Brisbane at Suncorp Stadium. Dangerous Throw in 77th minute. Ĝrade 1 - 178 points (plus 60 carry over points. Total: 238 points). Two match suspension.

FINALS WEEK 3

Jarryd Hayne (Parramatta) vs Bulldogs at ANZ Stadium. Dangerous leg contact in 4th minute. Grade 1 - 90 points. No suspension. Matthew Keating (Parramatta) vs Bulldogs at ANZ Stadium. Unnecessary Arm/Shoulder pressure in 38th minute. Grade 1 - 75 points. No suspension.

GRAND FINAL

Fui Fui Moi Moi (Parramatta) vs Melbourne at ANZ Stadium. Careless High Tackle in 7th minute. Grade 1 - 67 points. No suspension.



COMPETITION TABLE

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24 17 0 7 2 548 329

St Geo Illaw

L в F

| | Т | G | FG | PTS | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|--|
| Hazem El Masri (Bulldogs) | 14 | 96 | 0 | 248 | |
| Jamie Soward (Dragons) | 12 | 90 | 6 | 234 | |
| Luke Burt (Parramatta) | 15 | 77 | 3 | 217 | |
| Johnathan Thurston (North Qld) | 11 | 79 | 0 | 202 | |
| Scott Prince (Gold Coast) | 7 | 77 | 0 | 182 | |
| Benji Marshall (Wests Tigers) | 8 | 69 | 0 | 170 | |
| Corey Parker (Brisbane) | 5 | 75 | 0 | 170 | |
| Kurt Gidley (Newcastle) | 5 | 70 | 0 | 160 | |
| Luke Covell (Cronulla) | 8 | 51 | 0 | 134 | |
| Matt Orford (Manly) | 3 | 59 | 3 | 133 | |
| Chris Sandow (South Sydney) | 3 | 60 | 1 | 133 | |
| Cameron Smith (Melbourne) | 3 | 65 | 0 | 132 | |
| Terry Campese (Canberra) | 4 | 56 | 1 | 129 | |
| Michael Gordon (Penrith) | 3 | 57 | 0 | 126 | |
| Craia Fitzaibbon (Roosters) | 3 | 47 | 0 | 106 | |

TOP TRYSCORERS

| | 0.5 |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Brett Morris (St George Illawarra) | 25 |
| Josh Morris (Bulldogs) | 22 |
| Taniela Tuiaki (Wests Tigers) | 21 |
| Bryson Goodwin (Bulldogs) | 20 |
| Nathan Merritt (South Sydney) | 19 |
| Billy Slater (Melbourne) | 18 |
| Michael Jennings (Penrith) | 17 |
| Israel Folau (Brisbane) | 17 |
| Greg Inglis (Melbourne) | 16 |
| Luke Burt (Parramatta) | 15 |
| Hazem El Masri (Bulldogs) | 14 |
| Shaun Kenny-Dowall (Roosters) | 14 |
| Antonio Winterstein (Brisbane) | 14 |
| Jarryd Hayne (Parramatta) | 14 |
| Kevin Gordon (Gold Coast) | 13 |
| Beau Ryan (Wests Tigers) | 13 |
| Wendell Sailor (St George Illawarra) | 13 |
| Manu Vatuvei (Warriors) | 13 |
| Matt Bowen (North Qld) | 12 |
| Jarrod Croker (Canberra) | 12 |
| Jamie Soward (St George Illawarra) | 12 |
| Tim Moltzen (Wests Tigers) | 12 |
| Joel Reddy (Parramatta) | 12 |
| Johnathan Thurston (North Qld) | 11 |
| | |

TOP GOAL-KICKERS

| | Goals | Att. | % |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|----|
| Michael Gordon (Penrith) | 57 | 61 | 93 |
| Kurt Gidley (Newcastle) | 70 | 85 | 82 |
| Hazem El Masri (Bulldogs) | 96 | 117 | 82 |
| Johnathan Thurston (Nth Qld) | 79 | 99 | 80 |
| Luke Burt (Parramatta) | 77 | 99 | 78 |
| Craig Fitzgibbon (Roosters) | 47 | 60 | 78 |
| Scott Prince (Gold Coast) | 77 | 99 | 78 |
| Matt Orford (Manly) | 59 | 77 | 77 |
| Jamie Soward (Dragons) | 90 | 120 | 75 |
| Chris Sandow (South Sydney) | 60 | 81 | 74 |
| Cameron Smith (Melbourne) | 65 | 90 | 72 |
| Corey Parker (Brisbane) | 75 | 106 | 71 |
| Luke Covell (Cronulla) | 51 | 74 | 69 |
| Terry Campese (Canberra) | 56 | 82 | 68 |
| Benji Marshall (Wests Tigers) | 69 | 103 | 67 |



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Provan-Summons People's Choice: Jamie Soward (Dragons) Merritt (Rabbitohs) dogs) Top Try-scorer: Brett Morris (Dragons)

FINAL STANDINGS Jarryd Hayne (Eels) 30

Jonathon Thurston (Cowboys) 27 Jamie Soward (Dragons) 26 Robbie Farah (Tigers) 24 Anthony Watmough (Sea Eagles) 24 Kurt Gidley (Knights) 23 John Sutton (Rabbitohs) 23 Billy Slater (Storm) 21 Brett Kimmorley (Bulldogs) 20 Michael Ennis (Bulldogs) 19

FINALS WEEK 2



POSITION: Last, 16th, (Won 5, Lost 19) AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 13,594

HIGHLIGHT: Craig Fitzgibbon's courage and leadership during a season which can only be described as tumultuous stamped him as one

of the Sydney Roosters' all-time greats LOWLIGHT: There is no doubt 2009 will be a season the Sydney Roosters have already erased from the memory bank, thanks largely to the multiple off-field scandals which derailed any hopes they had of playing finals football. MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Sam Perrett, Mitchell Pearce, Frank-Paul Nuuausala, Shaun Kenny-Dowall (24)

TOP TRYSCORER: Shaun Kenny-Dowall (14) TOP POINTSCORER: Craig Fitzgibbon (106) RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Craig Fitzgibbon

BIGGEST WIN: 24-6 vs Parramatta, Round 4

PLAYER TO WATCH: Iwi Hauraki club, which was 1997 at Parramatta

CRONULI

POSITION: 15th, (Won 5, Lost 19) AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 11,364

HIGHLIGHT: If competition points were awards for tenacity and guts, the Sharks would have been runaway minor premiers. The rot started from round one when Brett Kearney was sidelined for the season. They then, for one reason or another, lost experienced players Reni Maitua, Ben Ross, Trent Barrett and Brett Sevmour.

LOWLIGHT: Nine straight losses between round two and 10 had the Sharks' season on life support and their finals aspirations were never revived when they lost Maitua and Seymour.

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Luke Douglas, Luke Covell (24)

TOP TRYSCORER: Blake Ferguson (9) TOP POINTSCORER: Luke Covell (134) RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Luke Douglas PLAYER TO WATCH: Brett Kearney

won the wooden spoon was 1966. They also ran last in 1963; second last (9th) in 1964 and last in 1965. Also, Brian Smith has only made the finals once in his first year at an Australian

BIGGEST LOSS: 6-48 vs Pen-

2010 EXPECTATIONS: The only way is up for

the SydneyRoosters but the question is how

quickly. Expect 2010 to be a rebuilding year for

the Club, but they will have a strong desire to

better the Bulldogs' efforts in finishing second

the year after picking up the spoon. If the big

names stay injury free and knuckle down to

what they do best, playing football, then expect

the Roosters to threaten for the bottom half of

DID YOU KNOW? The last time the Roosters

rith, Round 11

the eight

HOME RECORD: 2/10

BIGGEST WIN: 46-12 vs Bris-

bane, round 15 BIGGEST LOSS: 10-56 vs W Tigers, round 23 HOME RECORD: 3/9

2010 EXPECTATIONS: Adversity builds character and the lessons the likes of Scott Porter. Blake Ferguson and Luke Douglas learnt during 2009 will serve them well in 2010. If they can reproduce their determination and improve their application to the task of winning football games they'll give the top eight a shake, provided they have with all troops on deck. The addition of Paul Aiton will add spark in the ruck area as the Sharks look to bounce back to the top half of the table.

DID YOU KNOW? The Sharks haven't won a premiership since joining the competition in 1967 despite playing three grand finals (1973, 1978 and 1997 Super League). The Sharks have also been eliminated in preliminary finals in 1988-89, 1996, 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2008.

TH QLD COWBO

POSITION: 12th, (Won 11, Lost 13) AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 17,309

HIGHLIGHT: Johnathan Thurston was once again outstanding for the Cowboys in 2009 and Willie Tonga returned to some of the form which saw him play rep football earlier in his career. The form of Anthony Watts while filling in for the injured Aaron Payne also gave Cowboys fans cause for optimism.

LOWLIGHT: The Cowboys struggled to string back to back wins together down the back end of the season and it cost them a finals berth in the end after dropping four of their last five games

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Scott Bolton, Shane Tronc (24)

TOP TRYSCORER: Matt Bowen, Willie Tonga (12)

NZ WARRIORS

POSITION: 14th. AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 15,486

HIGHLIGHT: The return of Stacey Jones gave the Warriors faithful hope of a fairytale finish for a club legend. The experience the young Warriors gained by playing with Jones will be priceless

LOWLIGHT: The Warriors were widely touted as premiership contenders after beating Melbourne from 8th in the first week of the 2008 finals but bowing out the next week. The tradic loss of Sonny Fai ripped the heart out of the tight-knit club

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Jacob Lillyman (24)

TOP TRYSCORER: Manu Vatuvei (13) TOP POINTSCORER: Manu Vatuvei (52) TOP POINTSCORER: Johnathan Thurston (202)RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Johnathan Thurston

PLAYER TO WATCH: Anthony Watts

BIGGEST WIN: 46-12 vs Souths, round 13 BIGGEST LOSS: 14-34 vs Wests Tigers, round 19

HOME RECORD: 7/5

2010 EXPECTATIONS: For the Cowboys to make the finals for the fourth time in their history they will need all key players Thurston, Bowen and Payne to be fit and close to the top of their game

DID YOU KNOW? Despite running 12th the Cowboys finished with a points differential of +84 which was fifth best in the NRL behind only the Dragons, Bulldogs, Storm and Manly.

RI R PI AYER OF THE YEAR WARRIORS Michael Luck PLAYER TO WATCH: Kevin Locke

BIGGEST WIN: 14-0 vs W Tigers, round 12 BIGGEST LOSS: 4-40 vs Parramatta, round 23

HOME RECORD: 5/7

2010 EXPECTATIONS: The giant will wake from its slumber in 2010 and the Warriors will be genuine premiership threats provided they can keep their Australian contingent on the football field.

DID YOU KNOW? The Warriors have been eliminated in preliminary finals twice (2003 and 2008). They then finished 14th in 2004 and 2009. They are yet to win a premiership since entering the competition in 1995.

CANBERRA RAIDERS

POSITION: 13th, (Won 9, Lost 15,) AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 15,486

HIGHLIGHT: The Raiders continued to play entertaining football in 2009 and produced one of the plays of the season from a scrum against Parramatta. The scrum packed down about 40 metres from the Parramatta line, the Raiders put the ball in and split the scrum down the middle. Raiders' winger Justin Carney raced to the goal line but the try was not awarded. It was an example of the free spirited footy they played and good to watch. The Club also unearthed some more young talent with Vidot, Dugan and Croker amongst the pick of the new crop

LOWLIGHT: The Raiders dropped games at home which they would have pencilled in as victories including Sharks (Rd 20) Panthers (Rd 8) and Wests Tigers (Rd 20). Victories in those games would have had them one point outside the top eight.

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Josh Miller, Bronson Harrison (24)

TOP TRYSCORER: Jarrod Croker (12) TOP POINTSCORER: Terry Campese (129)

RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Bronson Harrison

PLAYER TO WATCH: Travis Waddell BIGGEST WIN: 56-0 vs Brisbane, round 21 BIGGEST LOSS: 6-46 vs Melbourne, Rd10

HOME RECORD: 6/5

PENRITH PANTHERS DIVINERS

POSITION: 11th, (Won 11, Lost 12, Drew 1) AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 13,719

HIGHLIGHT: The acquisition of Luke Walsh from Newcastle turned Penrith's season around immediately, suddenly they had direction and a genuine number seven who didn't panic when it was the fifth tackle on the opposition goal line. Trent Waterhouse also had an outstanding season and deservedly returned to representative football. The workaholic second rower also stamped himself as a true leader after taking the captaincy in the absence of Petero Civoniceva.

LOWLIGHT: Penrith's season collapsed over the final six weeks of the minor premiership. They registered just one win and one draw during their spiral from fifth down to 11th and meekly surrendered eighth position to Newcastle in the last round.

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Paul Aiton (24) **TOP TRYSCORER:** Michael Jennings (17) TOP POINTSCORER: Michael Gordon (126)



POSITION: 10th, (Won 11, Lost 12, Drew 1) AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 14,715

HIGHLIGHT: South Sydney's unsung heroes stood up to be counted in 2009 with the likes of Eddy Pettybourne and Luke Stuart enjoying bumper seasons. Issac Luke also continued to now important he will be for the Ra bitohs in the coming years with his versatility and creativity at dummy half and first receiver. However many Rabbitohs fans would say the highlight of 2009 was the round one smashing of the Roosters, a game that will stay fresh in the memory bank for many years to come.

LOWLIGHT: Missing the finals again after such a promising start to the season; and the events that led to the sacking of Jason Taylor after mad Monday celebrations turned sour. MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Colin Best, Eddy Pettybourne, Luke Stuart (24) TOP TRYSCORER: Nathan Merritt (19) TOP POINTSCORER: Chris Sandow (133) RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: John Sutton PLAYER TO WATCH: Malcolm Webster

2010 EXPECTATIONS: Canberra stadium will continue to be the National Rugby League's house of pain but that will not mean much if they can't rectify their recent away record. Alan Tongue will again lead by example and the Raiders' outside backs will be exciting to watch with the likes of Joel Monaghan, Jarrod Croker and Josh Dugan set to form a formidable combination for the next three or four years. DID YOU KNOW? Canberra hasn't missed consecutive semi finals since 1985-86. Since then the Raiders have won premierships in 1989, 1990 and 1994.



RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Trent Waterhouse

PLAYER TO WATCH: Tim Grant

BIGGEST WIN: 48-6 vs Sydney Rooster, Round 11

Biggest loss: 0-35 vs Newcastle, round 26 Home record: 7/5/1

2010 expectations: For many Penrith supporters it will be a case of no expectations, no disappointments. Talent is not an issue with names like Jennings, Civoniceva, Waterhouse, Coote, Gordon and Pritchard in the squad and they have also picked up Daine Laurie from the Tigers who could realise his potential over the next two years. They are a big hope of finals football in 2010 but may not have the staying power when the whips are cracking come August.

DID YOU KNOW? With the Gold Coast Titans finishing in 4th position Penrith become the only team in the NRL not to have played finals football since 2004.

RABBITOHS BIIGGEST WIN: 5212 vs Sydney Rooster, Round 1

South Sydn

BIGGEST LOSS: 20-54 vs Wests Tigers, Round 17

HOME RECORD: 5/7

2010 EXPECTATIONS: With premiership winbitohs will have a little bit more freedom with the football and the individual brilliance of Nathan Merritt, Chris Sandow, John Sutton, Issac Luke and Rhys Wesser will come to the fore. South Sydney will return to finals football in 2010 provided injuries are kind to them. They have the experience in key positions on and off the field and will be a surprise packet in the competition

DID YOU KNOW? Since the South Sydney Rabbitohs returned to the NRL in 2002, the club has had seven different NRL coaches; John Lang (present); Jason Taylor (2007-2009), Shaun McRae (2005-2006), Arthur Kitinas (2004), Paul Langmack (2003-2004), Craig Coleman (1998-2002).

WESTS TIGERS

POSITION: 9th, (Won 12, Lost 12) **AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 17,943**

HIGHLIGHT: The razzle dazzle Rugby League came back to the Tigers' game in 2009 with Benji Marshall returning to some of his best form since 2005. Robbie Farah's consistent Club form saw him rewarded with an Origin jersey and the Tiger cubs showed that the future is bright. The Tigers Toyota Cup side also made the Grand Final with a host of future stars on their way up.

LOWLIGHT: Despite recording five wins against Top eight teams, the Tigers missed the finals for the fourth year running, this time by one competition point.

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Todd Payten, John Morris (24)

TOP TRYSCORER: Taniela Tuiaki (21) TOP POINTSCORER: Benji Marshall (170)

RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Robbie Farah

PLAYER TO WATCH: Jay Florimo BIGGEST WIN: 56-10 vs Cronulla, round 23 BIGGEST LOSS: 14-42 vs North Queensland, Round 2

HOME RECORD: 7/5

2010 EXPECTATIONS: Benji Marshall and Robbie Farah will be the key men again for the Tigers, but their real weapon is the back-row. Experienced campaigners in Chris Heighington, Todd Payten and Gareth Ellis will be dangerous on both sides of the football and form a monster pack when coupled with Keith Galloway and Bryce Gibbs. As for finals aspirations, they can get there if they learn to grind games out instead of looking for the Hail Mary plays.

DID YOU KNOW? The Wests Tigers are unbeaten in finals since entering the NRL in 2000.

POSITION: Quarter Finalists, (Won 13, Lost

AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 15,882

HIGHLIGHT: Newcastle were the surprise packet of the season early on with wins over the Dragons, Sea Eagles, Broncos and Bulldogs which sat them comfortably in the top eight. They were well served by underrated contributors including Chris Houston and Matt Hilder who both played more than 20 NRL games

LOWLIGHT: The mid-season departure of Brian Smith derailed the Knights' season for a number of weeks before Rick Stone took over and got the Novacastrians going again. All the hard work early in the season was undone when they fell into eighth spot and were elmnated by the Bulldogs in week one.

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Junior Sau, Isaac De Gois, M Hilder, Richie Fa'aoso (25) **TOP TRYSCORER:** Jarrod Mullen (10)

Gidley (160) RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Kurt Gidley PLAYER TO WATCH: Constantine Mika BIGGEST WIN: 35-0 vs Penrith, round 26 BIGGEST LOSS: 10-36 vs North Queensland, round 11

HOME RECORD: 10/2

2010 EXPECTATIONS: With a full off-season under Rick Stone the men from the Hunter are shaping as a genuine top four contender. They play hard and have big men all over the park. Their forward pack must be respected and is a throw back to the mid 1990s; they are big and fast and skilful with the football. Jarrod Mullen and Kurt Gidley will be the two key players they look to in attack but the number seven jersey still hasn't found a permanent owner.

DID YOU KNOW? Newcastle had a team in the 1908 and 1909 Sydney premiership before forming their own domestic competition.



POSITION: Qtr Finalists, (Won 14, Lost 11) AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 13,782

HIGHLIGHT: The resurgent Sea Eagles were written off after the first four weeks of the competition having dropped every game in their title defense. Once they got going towards the middle stages of the season they sent a warning to the rest of the NRL that they were back in a big way.

LOWLIGHT: Manly's start to 2009 was awful, they lost their first four games then Brett Stewart was sidelined for an extended period which seemed to jolt the Sea Eagles and rob them of confidence. Although they finished fifth, they will be disappointed at being eliminated after Parramatta and Brisbane caused upsets.

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Michael Robertson, Matt Orford, Matt Ballin, (25) TOP TRYSCORER: Ben Farrar, David

Williams (11) TOP POINTSCORER: Matt Orford (133)

RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Anthony Watcharge and that was in 2004.

Gordon (13)

appointing.

HOME RECORD: 11/1

GOLD COAST TITANS POSITION: Semi Finalists, (Won 16, Lost 10) TOP TRYSCORER: Kevin

AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 19.178 HIGHLIGHT: The Titans broke through for

their first finals appearance and they got there in style, finishing third, two points behind the minor premiers. Scott Prince and Luke Bailey led the Titans around the football field and the rookies also put their hand up when asked to contribute Kevin Gordon Preston Campbel David Mead and William Zillman were exciting to watch in the air and on the round as they sniffed tries out from nothing. Nathan Friend. Mark Minichiello and Anthony Laffranchi were also impressive in the middle of the ruck. The home ground support was also a key factor in the Titans' success on home soil in 2009

LOWLIGHT: John Cartwright's men will feel as though the job was only half done after bowing out of the finals in straight sets. They lost their first home final to Brisbane before succumbing to the Parramatta juggernaut without crossing the tryline.

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Nathan Friend (26)

PLAYER TO WATCH: Jared Waerea-Hargreaves BIGGEST WIN: 38-4 vs Gold Coast, round 26

BIGGEST LOSS: 18-48 vs St George-Illawarra, round 18 HOME RECORD: 8/4 2010 EXPECTATIONS: The Sea Eagles re-

tain the nucleus of their 2008 premiership winning side with Watmough, Matai, Perry, and the Stewart brothers in close to career best form. This proud club will be desperate to fly high again in 2010 and with their Toyota Cup side finishing on top of the table, the future looks promising. They have shown ease under pressure, having clawed their way from the bottom of the table to run fifth. Brookvale Oval will again be a house of pain for visitors coming in search of two competition points.

DID YOU KNOW? Manly has missed the finals once since Des Hasler has been in

TOP POINTSCORER: Scott Prince (182)

PLAYER TO WATCH: Jordan Rankin

2010 EXPECTATIONS: Winning

RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Scott Prince

BIGGEST WIN: 30-10 vs Warriors, Round 22

BIGGEST LOSS: 4-38 vs Manly, Round 26

ship takes a lot of hard work over a number of

years and the good news for the Titans is that

the wheels are in motion and they are heading

in the right direction. Now that they have

tasted finals football they will be hungry for

more and have the squad to return to the prestigious top four in 2010. They may have suf-

fered a bit of stage fright but will be hardened

by the experience as will John Cartwright.

Anything less than fourth position will be dis-

DID YOU KNOW? The Titans' third place fin-

ish is the highest of any Gold Coast side dat-

ing back to 1988. Previous Gold Coast teams

played a total of 246 games with a record of

53 wins, 184 losses and 9 draws.

PARRAMATTA EELS

POSITION: Runners-up, (Won 15, Lost 12) AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 13,127

HIGHLIGHT: Parramatta's fairytale run to the Grand Final was the highlight of the season. To fight tooth and nail to resurrect their season and fall into seventh spot was a big effort in itself, then to steamroll the first, second and third placed teams in consecutive weeks was a herculean effort. Jarryd Hayne was the hottest property in the game and the Eels' brand of football was a very close second. LOWLIGHT: Consecutive losses between

rounds four and seven had the Eels' season looking shaky and their form was patchy at best. Things looked grim when they were still a mathematical chance of making the Top eight after losing to the Titans in round 18 as the race for sixth, seventh and eighth became congested.

MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Matthew Keating, Luke Burt, FuiFui MoiMoi, Tim Mannah, Joe Galuvao (27)

TOP TRYSCORER: Luke Burt (15) Jarryd Hayne (pictured right) (14)

TOP POINTSCORER: Luke Burt (217) RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Jarryd Hayne PLAYER TO WATCH: Kris Keating

BIGGEST WIN: 48-6 vs Penrith, Round 26 BIGGEST LOSS: 0-37 vs St George-Illawarra, Round 26

Home record: 7/4/1

2010 expectations: Are we about to see a return to the golden era for Parramatta with Jarryd Hayne set to stay with the Eels for another four years. He is the player Daniel Anderson will want to build his team around and he has some handy senior players

DID YOU KNOW? Jarryd Hayne is the third Parramatta player to win the Dally M Medal. Ray Price was the club's first recipient in 1982, followed by Peter Sterling in 1986 and 1987.



BRISBANE BRONCOS

POSITION: Preliminary Finalists, (Won 16, Lost 11)

AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 22,608 HIGHLIGHT: The Broncos proved there is life

after Wayne Bennett and they showed the former coach just as much during their semi finals victory over the Dragons in week two of the finals. They upped the intensity to Origin level and were too good for the then raging hot premiership favorites.

Lowlight: The thumping 56-0 loss to the Raiders in the national capital sent shock waves through the NRL and many people dismissed the Broncos as a premiership threat thereafter. They managed to bounce back but the loss of Peter Wallace with a broken ankle all but ended their season as they were floqged by Melbourne in the preliminary final. MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Antonio Winterstein, Corey Parker (27)

TOP TRYSCORER: Israel Folau (17)

BULLDOGS

POSITION: Preliminary Finalists, (Won 19, Lost 7)

AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 22,608 HIGHLIGHT: The Bulldogs remarkable form

reversal was one of the biggest talking point of the 2009 season. To go from wooden spooners to within a whisker of a minor premiership was a big achievement and another ticket in the box for the Greenburg administration. The Bulldogs also recruited well with Eastwood, Stagg, Morris, Goodwin, Kimmorley, Ennis, Hannant and Hodges having big seasons. LOWLIGHT: There were two standout incidents that cost the blue and whites a more pronounced tilt at the minor premiership. The first was in round two against Penrith when they were ruled to have fielded a 14th plaver during a try scoring movement. They were docked two competition points as a result. The second came at Kogarah Oval with only seconds left onthe clock and the Bulldogs were disallowed

Parker (170) RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Corey Parker PLAYER TO WATCH: Ben Hunt

TOP POINTSCORER: Corey

BIGGEST WIN: 58-24 vs Penrith, Round 23 BIGGEST LOSS: 0-56 vs Canberra, round 21 HOME RECORD: 9/4

2010 EXPECTATIONS: The perennial semi finalists will be there again in 2010 with their stable of Origin and Test players leading the way in search of the Club's seventh premiership. Nothing phases the Broncos because they have a wealth of experience across the park and a tremendous self belief. They can grind out the tough games and they can turn on the razzle dazzle when it matters most.

the first Brisbane Broncos player to reach 300 games for the Club in 2009 since making his debut in 1995. He has scored 1,159 points from 115 tries, 341 goals and 17 field goals.



a try after it was ruled that Jamie Soward was taken out of the play by a Bulldogs player. MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Andrew Ryan, Hazem El Masri (26)

TOP TRYSCORER: Josh Morris (22) TOP POINTSCORER: Hazem El Masri (248) RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: David Stagg

PLAYER TO WATCH: Steve Turner BIGGEST WIN: 48-18 vs Parramatta, round 6 BIGGEST LOSS: 12-34 vs Wests Tigers, round 26

HOME RECORD: 11/1

2010 EXPECTATIONS: The Bulldogs are a big chance of taking home the title, they have established stars across the paddock and a healthy mix of youth and experience. They will have to find a new goal-kicker with the retirement of El Masri.

DID YOU KNOW? 2009 is the second time the Bulldogs have made the preliminary final after running last the previous year.

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA

AVERAGE HOME CROWD: 15 299 HIGHLIGHT: The Dragons were breathing fire

all year with Michael Weyman and Justin Poore leading from the front. Jamie Soward had a brilliant season, contributing some brilliant individual performances. Wayne Bennett's coaching effort to get the Dragons to the top of the table should also be commended.

LOWLIGHT: The chokers tag returned to haunt the Dragons in 2009 after they were arquably the best performing team in the NRL. However it didn't help them in the finals when they were rolled out in straight sets by the Parramatta juggernaut and a brutal Brisbane side. MOST 1ST GRADE GAMES: Jamie Soward, Ben Hornby, Dean Young, Dan Hunt (26) TOP TRYSCORER: Brett Morris (25)

POSITION: Semi Finalists, (Won 17, Lost 9) TOP POINTSCORER: Jamie Soward (234) RLR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Jamie Soward PLAYER TO WATCH: Beau Henry BIGGEST WIN: 37-0 vs Parramatta, Round

> 26 BIGGEST LOSS: 6-41 vs South Sydney, round 25

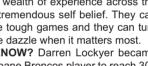
HOME RECORD: 11/1

2010 EXPECTATIONS: The Dragons will again start the season as premiership favourites, with many people blaming their exit on the McIntyre system which saw them travel to Brisbane after finishing first and los-

DID YOU KNOW? Wayne Bennett's coaching record speaks for itself with the Dragons mentor taking teams to the finals every year since 1992

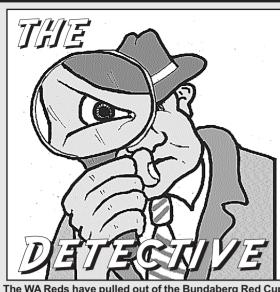


DID YOU KNOW? Darren Lockyer became





October 2009



The WA Reds have pulled out of the Bundaberg Red Cup for 2010 but are keen on putting a side in the SG Ball Cup Under 18s competition.

The WA Reds would not only save money by playing in the nine-round competition but will help bring through Perthbased youngsters as they aim for an NRL licence in 2013.

The WA Reds - who will only play in the SG Ball Cup have yet to be given the green light by the NSW Rugby League but they are expected to replace the Gold Coast, who will play in the Queensland competitions from next season.

The SG Ball Cup will still have 17 teams in 2010 but I am hearing that the Harold Matthews Cup will be down to 15 teams - two less than in 2009. Aside from the Titans, the South West Sydney Academy look like they'll be missing from the competition next year.

With the WA Reds out of the Bundaberg Red Cup, the 2010 competition is set to have between 10-12 teams.

I hear that The Entrance Tigers are certain starters for next season and could be joined by UTS Tigers and a side from the Navy.

The 2010 NSW Cup is expected to have 12 teams with Mounties to become Manly's feeder club in the NSW Cup. I am hearing that the Cabramatta side will be the feeder side for the Cronulla Sharks.

Meanwhile, expect the Illawarra Steelers to return as part of the NSW Rugby League Challenge Cup in 2010.

Many of the players, officials and media that attended the Dally M Awards came away from the ceremony a little disappointed.

In previous years, it has been a sit down dinner and players and partners were given the red carpet treatment in what was a glamorous night for the game.

But the 2009 event looked like the guests were at a cinema watching a movie while wearing their Sunday best.

A number of clubs and officials from the Student Rugby League have been protesting all year about UTS Tigers using ineligible players in their squads.

The UTS side have an affiliation with the Balmain club and have been using a number of contracted players to play in the Student Rugby League because they don't have a Junior League to cater for their surplus players.

No contracted player is allowed to play in the Student Rugby League but because the rules stated no paid contracted player, the Tigers have been able to get around this loophole by fielding contracted players who are not getting paid. The rule will be changed for 2010.

The recent brawl at a Sydney first grade Rugby Union that involved a spectator at Warringah Rugby Park is not the first time that these incidents have been happening at Rugby Union matches.

It was only reported because it was shown live on ABC Television. The matter would have been hushed up pretty quickly had it not been broadcast.

And it is far worse at Aussie Rules matches throughout Australia. Brawls and bad behaviour are common practise but it is Rugby League that gets all the bad publicity even though they have much fewer incidents than other sports such as Rugby Union, Soccer and Aussie Rules.

CLAMPTON'S CORNER: A former Rugby League player, who was now a very successful businessman had a meeting with his new son-in-law. "I love my daughter, and now I welcome you into the family," said the man. "To show you how much we care for you, I'm making you a 50-50 partner in my business. All you have to do is go to the factory every day and learn the operations."

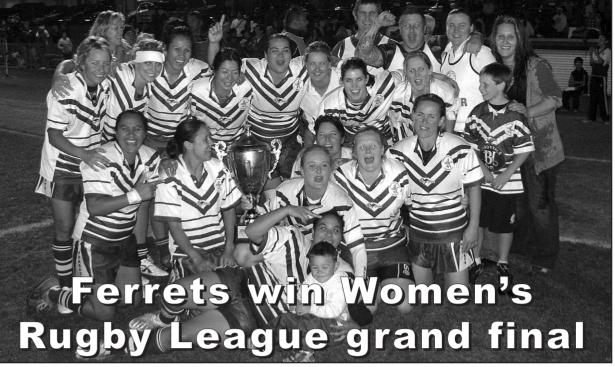
The son-in-law interrupted. "I hate factories. I can't stand the noise."

"I see," replied the father-in-law. "Well then you'll work in the office and take charge of some of the operations."

"I hate office work," said the son-in-law. "I can't stand being stuck behind a desk all day."

"Wait a minute," said the father-in-law. "I just made you half owner of a moneymaking organisation, but you don't like factories and won't work in an office. What am I going to do with you?"

"Easy," said the young man. "Buy me out."



BY TERRY LIBEROPOULOS at McCredie Park, Guildford

The Forestville Ferrets (pictured above) retained the Women's Rugby League premiership after they held off East Campbelltown Eagles 24-16 in the grand final at Guildford's McCredie Park.

Played before a small but vocal crowd on a Friday night, it was a high quality game that was played at a frantic pace.

The Ferrets shocked the opposition by establishing an 18-0 lead after 20 minutes of action before the Eagles staged a fight back.

Forrestville opened the scoring in the eighth minute after Heidi Rees scored after getting a pass from Lisa Fiola.

Kasey Campbell, a referee in the Junior Reps, went close to scoring in the 14th minute but was bundled into touch.

It didn't matter as much as hooker Jessica Palmer scored a minute later when she did well to beat three defenders and plant the ball over the line. Palmer has Rugby League in her blood and it is no wonder, she is the daughter of ex-Sydney Roosters trainer Ron Palmer.

East Campbelltown's Samantha Brincat failed to get to a kick from Chelsea Reyroux that would have given them their first try.

From the ensuing 20-metre tap, Forestville's Samatha Neader split the defence up the middle. A couple of tackles later, Ash Alcon off-loaded to put Campbell away for the try.

The Eagles hit back before the break when Renee Gloss did it all herself when she raced up the middle and went through Jamie Blazejewski and Palmer to race 30 metres to score under the posts. She converted her own try to make the score line 18-6 at the half-time break.

East Campbelltown had a number of chances to add points to their tally but were let down by mediocre handling and poor options.

Eagles captain Teina Clark was held up over the line in the 39th minute but in a wave of possession, it was only a matter of time before they scored. It came in the 43rd minute when Donna Mahanga burrowed over from dummy half to make it 18-12.

East Campbelltown were coming home strongly and Forestville were beginning to tire. The Ferrets went into the game with just two interchange players while the Eagles had a full bench to choose from.

Forestville Ferrets needed something special to stop the flow. And it came from Palmer.

With eight minutes remaining, Palmer took off from dummy-half, raced up the middle and then stepped the Eagles fullback to score a 40-metre try. She added the conversion to give the Ferrets a 12-point buffer.

It wasn't over as East Campbelltown hit back when Clark scored adjacent to the posts but Gloss missed an easy attempt at goal.

The game finished with a brawl that was quickly extinguished by the match officials. At the end of it all, Gloss was given 10 minutes in the sin bin but it didn't matter as the full-time siren had sounded.

Forestville reached the grand final after they defeated Canley Heights 20-12 in the preliminary final.

Forestville 24 (Jessica Palmer 2, Heidi Rees, Kasey Campbell tries; Palmer 4 goals) d. East Campbelltown 16 (Renee Gloss, Donna Mahanga, Teina Clark tries; Gloss 2 goals) at McCredie Park, Guildford, September 12. Referee: Todd Smith. Touch Judges: Dominic Payton, Damon Winters. In-goal judges: Doug Keen, Josh Keen. Crowd: 500. Penalties: Forestville 6-5. Half-time: Forestville 18-4. Goal-kickers: Jessica Palmer (Forestville) 4 from 4, Renee Gloss (East Campbelltown) 2 from 3. Two 30-minute halves.

East Campbelltown: Samantha Brincat, Donna Mahanga, Chloe Caldwell, Polly Roberts, Royce Amaru-Wilkinson, Chelsea Peyroux, Renee Gloss, Poihaere Clark, Teina Clark (c), Caroline Peyroux, Patrici-Uri, Thea Purukamu, Sharlene Neemia. Interchange: Jamie Ngapeka, Pania Brown, Farlane Wineera, Tata Hona, Maryann Faalavaau. Coach: Brian Mackie. **Forestville:** Jamie Blazejewski, Heidi Rees, Lisa Fiola (c), Ash Alcon, Kasey Campbell, Kylie Hilder, Gloria Berryman, Hariata Ahipene, Jessica Palmer, Emily Robinson, Natalie Maupapa, Nicole Backhause, Samantha Neader.

Interchange: Lynda Robertson, Maruka Takahasht. Coach: Melissa Vayro.

WHEN THEY SCORED

8th min: Forestville 6-0 (Rees try; Palmer goal) 15th min: Forestville 12-0 (Palmer try;

goal) 21st min: Forestville 18-0 (Campbell try;

Palmer goal) 24th min: Forestville 18-6 (Gloss try; goal) 43rd min: Forestville 18-12 (Mahanga try; Gloss goal)

52nd min: Forrestville 24-12 (Palmer try; goal)

55th min: Forestville 24-16 (Clark try)

The Australian Women's Rugby League team made up of 10 debutants has ended New Zealand's 10-year winning streak with a spectacular 18-16 win against the World Champions last month in Auckland.

A 10-6 halftime deficit wasn't enough to stop the rampaging Jillaroos side unperturbed at facing a Kiwis side fresh from their 2008 World Cup success and boasting an unbeaten record since 1999.

Australian hooker Jess Palmer opened the scoring after 15 minutes of play before New Zealand hit back with two tries to take a 10-6 lead going into half time.

A flash of individual brilliance from Hilder saw her carve through the Kiwi defence to score Australia's second try, with Teina Clark kicking her second goal to take Australia to a 12-10 lead.

Fiaola's effort and subsequent Clark conversion then put the Jillaroos further ahead at 18-10 before the Kiwis went over for a consolation try in the dying seconds of the match.





3

3

Newtown Jets

Cronulla Sharks







Benji Marshall's school Keebra Park High have won their first ever grand final of the Arrive Alive Cup, beating Matraville Sports High 18-12 at ANZ Stadium.

Keebra Park went into the match as underdogs against last year's runners-up appearing in their third successive grand final, but the West Tigers feeder school held their nerve in the dying minutes to record a thrilling three tries to two win over the competition favourites.

Keebra Park didn't have it all their own way, Matraville fought back from a 12-0 halftime deficit, to be within a converted try with possession in the dying seconds.

But Keebra Park held on to claim the premiership, after coming up short in 2005 and 2006.

Matraville, with NRL player manager Sam Ayoub's son Liam at halfback, got off to a nervous start, sending the ball out on the full

MATRAVILLE SPORTS HIGH

Luke Akauola

Faleula Finau

Haliano Saluka

Arthur Takapu

Jacob Miller

Liam Ayoub

Teni Waipouri

Mitchell Burke

Judah Lavulo

Boyd Cordner

David Uhi

Kyle Fraser

Arda Dalcik

Chris Thomas

Kane Evans

Coach: Scott Murray

Manasseh Watene

Michael Mizrahie

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17

18

Interchange

from kickoff. Keebra Park were quick to capitalise and scored their opening try through winger Henere Wells in the sixth minute.

Fullback Jordan Kahu converted from the sideline for a 6-0 lead. Massive second rower Ben Murdoch beat five defenders to score Keebra Park's second try and Kahu made no mistake with the conversion to go to the break with a 12-0 lead after the opening 25 minute half.

Murdoch's try undoubtedly would have impressed West Tigers coach Tim Sheens who was keenly watching his 2010 Toyota Cup signing from the crowd.

Matraville used the break to regather and immediately fought back in the second half with their opening try to lock Kyle Fraser in the 29th minute, and five-eighth Jacob Miller made the conversion.

Keebra Park centre Sione Akaula extended his side's lead in the 32nd minute and Kahu

KEEBRA PARK HIGH

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7

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13

5

14

15

16

Interchange

17

Jordan Kahu

Henere Wells

Sione Akaula

Hemi Boynton

Danny White

Connor Toia

Matt Beddow

Agnatius Paasi

Ben Murdoch

Sam Bartie

Michael Kai

Regan Ropati

Brandon Tago

Coach: Greg Lenton

Peter Wharerau

Isaac Lui

Jade Gage-Nepia

Mosese Fotuaika

But Matraville wouldn't lie down and a converted try to centre Haliano Saluka in the 45th minute set up an exciting finish.

nailed his third conversion of the match.

Keebra Park High 18 (Henere Wells, Ben Murdoch, Sione Akaula tries; Jordan Kahu 3 goals) d. Matraville Sports High 12 (Kyle Fraser, Haliano Saluka tries; Jacob Miller 2 goals) at ANZ Stadium, September 25. Referee: Jon Stone. Touch Judges: Jay Farlow, Jimmy Oliveira. Crowd: 10,000. Half-time: Keebra Park High 12-0. Two 25-minute halves.

Quarter-finals: Matraville Sports High d. Patrician Brothers Blacktown 24-12, Westfield Sports High d. Holy Cross Ryde 24-12, Endeavour Sports High d. Hills Sports High 36-12, Keebra Park High d. Kirwan State High 34-18

Semi-finals: Matraville Sports High d. Westfields Sports High 33-0, Keebra Park High d. Endeavour Sports High 16-10.

The New South Wales Rugby League Young Achievers Under 16s toured Papua New Guinea for a three-game programme. They opened the tour with a 38-22 loss to the Papua New Guinea Under 16s at Lloyd Robson Oval in Port Moresby. The game was

played as the curtain-raiser to the Australian Prime Minister's XIII and Papua New Guinea match The Young Achievers defeated Central

Province 20-4 in Port Moresby. The NSW boys led 10-4 at the break after tries from Arnold Woulf and Brendan Plunckett. The tourists finished the tour with a 16-all

draw with Southern Zone. The NSW Achievers led 16-4 at half-time before the home side stormed home in the second half.

Cabramatta wins **Coca-Cola Challenge**

A grand final could not have been more exciting for 40 U/13's players from Cabramatta and Greenacre, who took to the field at Sydney Football Stadium prior to the Parramatta v Titans NRL Final Series match.

With the score tight right up until the final whistle, Greenacre thought they had the game under wraps when they scored a field goal, taking the score to 13-10 with minutes left.

Determined not to give up, Cabramatta turned the score board around in the dying seconds of the match - scoring from a pass out wide to win the match 14-13.

The second annual Under 16s Youth Development Cup will be held on Saturday, October 10 at Western Weekender Stadium.

Players that have played in the 2009 Harold Matthews Cup competition are not eligible to play. The aim of the competition is to develop an appreciation for cultural diversity and assist the international development of Rugby League.

Nine teams are expected to compete in the tournament. They are the NSW Rugby League Young Achievers, NSW Indigenous Australians, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Fiji, Maoris, Italy and Lebanon.

In last year's event, Fiji might have won the final of the inaugural New South Wales Rugby League Under 16s Youth Development Cup by beating Tonga 22-4 but they didn't take home the trophy after being disqualified for fielding an ineligible player.

The rules of the tournament stated that any player that had participated in any Harold Matthews Cup was not allowed to play.

The drama commenced when Lebanon finished in second place but were banned from playing in the semi-finals after fielding no less than three players that had played junior representative football.

Italy, who finished in third position, were elevated to the semi-finals. But with an injury plagued side, the Italians were no match for the Fijians, losing 40-4.

But the soap opera continued when allegations that one of their players, Will Raqica, had played Harold Matthews for Illawarra were raised. A few quick calls to Steelers officials confirmed what everyone knew.

St John's Woodlawn have completed a memorable season by convincingly winning the Under 14 championship John Cochrane Cup Grand Final at Leichhardt oval over Aquinas College Menai. The country boys jumped straight to the front and were never seriously threatened, winning 24 - 6.

In its 17th season, the state wide competition is open to all Catholic and Independent country schools and city based teams that do not play in a regular schoolboy competition. Tournament founder Mr Bob Cochrane was on hand to present the winner's trophy.

Keebra Park High in action against Matraville Sports High.



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GRAND FINAL 2009

SUNSHINE COAST 32 **NORTHERN PRIDE** 18

THE Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles capped a fairytale debut season in the Queensland Cup with a dominant 32-18 grand final victory over the Northern Pride.

Boosted by the late inclusion of Manly contracted hooker Heath L'Estrange, the Sea Eagles were rarely troubled on their way to a memorable victory in front of more than 3000 spectators at Stockland Park.

After taking a 12-8 lead into the break, the Sea Eagles clicked into top gear in the second half as the one time wooden spoon favourites completed a stunning season in breathtaking fashion.

Giant Sea Eagles five-eighth Tony Williams led the charge in a performance that saw him take out the prestigious Duncan Hall medal at the post-match presentation.

"The boys put in for each other all year," Williams said.

"To make the grand final is something special and to win it is even better." On a perfect day for Rugby League, the Pride opened the scoring in the fifth minute when Jamie Frizzo found himself on the end of a perfectly orchestrated backline

movement. Frizzo crossed untouched to silence the Sea Eagles' large contingent of vocal supporters

Eels bound five-eighth Tom Humble added the extras for a 6-0 lead.

But the remainder of the half belonged to the Sea Eagles, who hit back immediately through classy centre Shane

- Michael Hiller reports from Stockland Park **Trent Hodkinson celebrates** scoring for the Sea Eagles.

QLD CUP

Neumann. Neumann snuck over in the left corner

after brilliant lead up work from Sunshine Coast man mountain Williams Further tries from Michael Chapman

and Ryan Walker extended the Sea Eagles' lead to 12-6. With the penalty count in their favour

and their big forwards leading the charge, the Sea Eagles dominated field position against a rattled Pride outfit.

But the Coast couldn't extend their lead beyond a converted try and by half-time it had been cut back to four points after Humble kicked a penalty goal.

The Pride came out firing in the second half but they couldn't hurt the Sunshine

Sunshine Coast 32 (Shane Neumann 3, Trent Hodkinson, Tony Williams, Michael Chapman, Ryan Walker tries; Hodkinson 2 goals) d. Northern Pride 18 (Rod Jensen, Tom Humble, Jamie Frizzo tries; Humble 3 goals) at Stockland Park. Referee: Clayton Sharpe. Touch judges: David Shaw, Steve Kanowski. Penalties: Sunshine Coast 8-5. Crowd: 3200. Half-time: Sunshine Coast 12-8. Goal-kickers: Tony Williams (Sunshine Coast) 0 from 3, Trent Hodkinson (Sunshine Coast) 2 from 4. Tom Humble (Northern Pride) 3 from 4.

SUNSHINE COAST **NORTHERN PRIDE Dennis Sandow** Chey Bird Michael Chapman 2 2 Josh Vaughan 3 Shane Neumann 3 Rod Jensen 4 Andrew Suniula Jamie Frizzo 4 Ryan Walker 5 5 Germaine Paulson 6 **Tony Williams** Tom Humble 6 Trent Hodkinson 7 Chris Sheppard (c) 8 Phil Morwood 8 Ben Laity 9 Cameron Joyce (c) 9 Jason Roos Junior Palau 10 Alex Starmer 10 11 Vic Mauro 11 Nick Slyney Jon Grieve 12 12 Mark Cantoni Joel Riethmuller 13 Jon Muir 13 Interchange Interchange Luke Millwood 14 Tim Browne 14 Greg Byrnes 16 Rob Godfrey 15 Steve McPhee 18 16 Chris Riesen 19 Heath L'Estrange 17 Rod Griffin Coach: Andrew Dunemann Coach: Brandon Costin 18



Coast where it mattered most - on the scoreboard. In contrast, the Sea Eagles turned their

half chances into points.

Williams brought Sunshine Coast supporters to their feet when he strolled through a huge gap to score a try that appeared to break the spirits of the Pride.

Trent Hodkinson landed the Sea Eagles' first conversion of the day to take the lead to 18-8.

It became 22-8 when a clever blindside raid saw Neumann cross for his second. The Pride breathed some much needed life into the game when veteran centre Rod

Jensen found the try line. But any comeback plans by the Pride were dashed when Hodkinson speared through a tiring Northern Pride line to score

Humble scored a late consolation try against the run of play, but the last laugh belonged to the Sea Eagles, who fittingly scored the final try of the game when Neumann found space and crossed for his third.

WHEN THEY SCORED

5th min: Northern Pride 6-0 (Frizzo try; Humble goal)

9th min: Northern Pride 6-4 (Neumann try) 26th min: Sunshine Coast 8-6 (Chapman try)

31st min: Sunshine Coast 12-6 (Walker try) 40th min: Sunshine Coast 12-8 (Humble goal)

47th min: Sunshine Coast 18-8 (Williams try; Hodkinson goal) 54th min: Sunshine Coast 22-8 (Neumann

try) 70th min: Sunshine Coast 22-12 (Jensen try)

74th min: Sunshine Coast 28-12 (Hodkinson try; goal)

77th min: Sunshine Coast 28-18 (Humble try; goal)

80th min: Sunshine Coast 32-18 (Neumann try)



A SUPERB hat-trick from Western Districts flyer Adam Breen sparked the Panthers to a memorable FOGS Cup grand final victory over fierce rivals the Redcliffe Dolphins at Stockland Park.

Breen, the competition's leading try-scorer with 20 touch downs in the regular season, completed his hat-trick at a crucial stage in the second half as the Panthers went on to record a stunning 30-24 victory

With his side trailing 20-18 midway through the second half, Breen pounced on a handling mistake from the Dolphins and sprinted 70m to put the Panthers on their way to a fairytale grand final victory.

The Panthers did, however, have to come from behind in the concluding stages of a gripping contest after Marty Hatfield's second try of the afternoon put Redcliffe in front 24-22.

The Dolphins lost their lead when inspirational Panthers fullback Matt Church calmly stepped up and slotted a penalty goal.

Western Districts hit the front with six minutes remaining and never relinquished the lead again after centre Ben Demmel scored in the right corner after the Dolphins spilt a high kick.

The win capped off another great season for Western Districts coach Craig Ingebrigtsen, who last year guided the Panthers Colts to premiership glory.

Ingebrigtsen's team led 18-14 at half-time following Breen's double and a superb try from halfback Andrew McCrohon

The Panthers did well to lead at the break after the Dolphins led 6-0 early and then 14-12 just before half-time. A slashing break from back-rower Dean Sheppard ensured the

Panthers went into half-time in front on the scoreboard. Sheppard charged through the Dolphins' line and then did won-

derfully well to find Breen in support.

Western Districts 30 (Adam Breen 3, Ben Demmel, Andrew McCrohon tries; Matt Church 5 goals) d. Redcliffe 24 (Marty Hatfield 2, Mick Roberts, Gene Vaafusuaga tries; Jed Fuller 4 goals) at Stockland Park. Referee: Brendon Rose. Touch Judges: Rod Spain, Ron Greentree

COLTS CHALLENGE

THE Easts Tigers held out a fast-finishing Souths Logan Magpies outfit to register a thrilling 30-28 FOGS Colts victory in the grand final at Stockland Park.

In an enthralling finish to a spectacular contest, the Magpies launched one last attacking raid at the Tigers inside the final minute. But Easts held firm on their own line and then closed out the game with a series of safety first runs from dummy half.

The sound of the final siren sparked wild celebrations from Easts players and supporters. Tigers supporters were given a massive scare, despite watching their side shoot out to a commanding 30-18 lead with just 13 minutes remaining.

On the back of a string of penalties, Souths Logan fought their way back into the contest with two tries inside the final 10 minutes to set up a grand stand finish.

Souths Logan speedster Chris Medcalf gave the Magpies hope when he was on the spot to pounce on a grubber kick.

Medcalf then kicked the conversion from the sideline to narrow the deficit to six points.

It became two points when the Magpies threw the ball wide and giant centre Whitmer Tuputala powered over the line.

Medcalf's conversion attempt just missed to the left, leaving the Magpies with only three minutes to score a match-winner.

On a warm morning Easts made the early running in the opening minutes of the first half, with a slick backline movement creating space for centre Max Dudley who crossed untouched in the left corner. But explosive Souths Logan lock Ron Geia evened the ledger two minutes later when he used his strength to power his way over the line

The 6-all deadlock was broken midway through the first half when Tigers hooker Kerryn Blake found space in the middle of the field with a scintillating run from dummy half.

Blake stood up the fullback to plant the ball down near the posts for a spectacular try that was converted by Tyson Brookes for a 12-6 lead

That man Geia was there to capitalise and when he carried two defenders over the line to score and Medcalf landed the conversion, proceedings were all locked up at 12-all.

Easts went into the half-time break leading 14-12 after Brookes kicked a penalty goal following a terrible mistake from the Magpies.

Easts 30 (Tyson Brookes 2, Charlie Jones, Kerryn Blake, Max Dudley tries; Tyson Brookes 5 goals) d. Souths Logan 28 (Ron Geia 2, Chris Medcalf 2, Whitmer Tuputala tries; Chris Medcalf 4 goals) at Stockland Park. Referee: Nick Morel. Touch Judges: Andrew Wareham, Peter Anderson.

BRISBANE SECOND DIVISION: The final Grand Finals for the year, in Premier Grade, Under 22 Albert Bishop Shield and Under 20 Arthur Sparks Shield were played at Davies Park in front of a crowd of more than 3000 spectators.

In Premier Grade, Deception Bay led Easts Juniors 10-8 at half time, with both teams scoring two tries. Easts Juniors came back strongly in the second half, to score five tries to four overall and win the match, and the premiership, 26-22.

In the Under 22 Albert Bishop Shield, Logan Brothers led Easts Juniors 14-4 at half time, having scored three tries to one. Logan Brothers held on to win the match, and the premiership, 22-20, scoring five tries to four overall.

In the Under 20 Arthur Sparks Shield, Carina scored five tries to two in the first half to lead Aspley 28-10 at half time. Carina finished up scoring six tries to five overall, to win the match, and the pre-miership, 36-24.

BUNDABERG RED CUP

GRAND FINAL - Terry Liberopoulos reports from Leichhardt Oval

WENTWORTHVILLE 24 **CABRAMATTA** 20

The Wentworthville Magpies captured their first Bundaberg Red Cup title since the competition commenced in 2003 when they held out a second half comeback from Cabramatta to win 24-20 in the grand final at Leichhardt Oval.

The Two Blues managed to get back to 20-all late in the game but Wentworthville broke the dead-lock when winger Ken Sio raced 40 metres down the sideline to score with nine minutes remaining.

Wentworthville opened the scoring in the 10th minute when centre Aaron Fluke split the defence and then found Nadim Couri looming in support.

The Magpies half-back raced 40 metres, swerving away from the desperate defence of Ben Ellis to score.

Cabramatta opened their account in the 27th minute when quick passing along the back line resulted in winger Louis Vaiotu scoring in the corner.

The Two Blues had a great chance to hit the front when Wentworthville failed to collect a grubber kick but Cabramatta were penalised for holding back a player.

From the ensuing penalty, Wentworthville scored when Trent Rose collected an off-load from Brett Sargent in



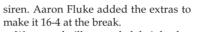
the 35th minute.

Rose went close to scoring minutes earlier but was held up by the Cabramatta defence.

Ahead 10-4, Cabramatta were attacking the Wenty try line when Couri intercepted a pass from Andrew Dallalana. He raced 40 metres before the Cabramatta defence started to converge. He threw the pass inside for Karl Filinga to race away and score after the half-time

Wentworthville 24 (Ken Sio 2, Nadim Couri, Karl Filiga, Trent Rose tries; Aaron Fluke 2 goals) d. Cabramatta 20 (Louis Vaiotu 2, Ross Brown, Andrew Dallalana tries; Dallalana 2 goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Chris Sutton. Touch Judges: Melissa Yates, Peter Sciberras. In-goal judges: Mat Hawkins, Jay Farlow. Penalties: Wentworthville 7-1. Crowd: 3211. Half-time: Wenty 16-4. Goal-kickers: Aaron Fluke (Wenty) 2 from 5. Andrew Dallalana (Cabramatta) 2 from 4. Official man of the match: Jacob Byrne (Wentworthville)

| Wei | Wentworthville (Minutes played) | | | Cabramatta (Minutes played) | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|----|-------|-----------------------------|----|--|--|--|
| 1 | Brent Rae-Millar | 80 | 1 | Samuel Aiga | 80 | | | |
| 2 | Ken Sio | 80 | 2 | Cruise Iosefa | 80 | | | |
| 25 | Karl Filiga | 80 | 3 | James Trotter | 80 | | | |
| 4 | Aaron Fluke | 80 | 4 | Josh McIllvenny | 80 | | | |
| 5 | Astro Waetford | 80 | 5 | Louis Vaiotu | 80 | | | |
| 6 | Jacob Byrne | 80 | 6 | Trent Trotter | 80 | | | |
| 7 | Nadim Couri | 80 | 7 | Andrew Dallalana | 80 | | | |
| 8 | Valu Nasio | 45 | 8 | Jamie Small | 80 | | | |
| 9 | Ben Bailey | 50 | 9 | Brett Rimmer | 45 | | | |
| 10 | Brad Capovilla | 48 | 10 | Keith Heckenberg | 55 | | | |
| 11 | Ben Taia | 80 | 11 | Francis Vaiotu | 45 | | | |
| 12 | Brett Sargent (c) | 61 | 12 | Ross Brown | 38 | | | |
| 13 | Mitch Stanfield | 51 | 13 | Ben Ellis (c) | 80 | | | |
| Inte | rchange | | Inter | change | | | | |
| 14 | Tom Vainga | 28 | 16 | James Roche | 41 | | | |
| 15 | Danny Howard | 61 | 17 | Casey Ellis | 38 | | | |
| 16 | Steve Bristow | 26 | 18 | Si'ikaeha Teaupa | 58 | | | |
| 19 | Trent Rose | 30 | (Dar | (Daniel Cray not used) | | | | |
| Coa | ich: Brett Cook | | Coa | ch: Len Stacker | | | | |



Wentworthville extended their lead to 20-4 in the 46th minute when Fluke and Brent Rae-Millar combined to put Sio over in the corner.

Cabramatta were unable to break through the Wenty defence and they almost let the Magpies in for another try when skipper Brett Sargent raced down the sideline and instead of passing inside. He decided to go for the try himself and was bundled into touch.

The Two Blues bounced back with three tries in six minutes to draw level at 20-all.

The first came in the 57th minute when second-rower Ross Brown crashed over to score adjacent to the posts.

Four minutes later, Dallalana backed himself and raced over to score next to the posts and it was all level when Louis Vaiotu collected a kick and raced down the sideline to score in the corner.

WHEN THEY SCORED

10th min: Wenty 6-0 (Couri try; Fluke goal)

27th min: Wenty 6-4 (L Vaiotu try) 35th min: Wenty 10-4 (Rose try) 40th min: Wenty 16-4 (Filiga try; Fluke

goal) 46th min: Wenty 20-4 (Sio try) 57th min: Wenty 20-10 (Brown try; Dal-

lalana goal) 61st min: Wenty 20-16 (Dallalana try; goal)

63rd min: 20-all (L Vaiotu try) 71st min: Wenty 24-20 (Sio try)



Cabramatta 28 (Samuel Aiga 2, Josh McIllvenny, Cruise Iosefa, Casey Ellis tries; Andrew Dallalana 4 goals) d. Bankstown City 16 (Adam Tippett, Dean Vicelich, Sene Tala tries; Tippett 2 goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Chris Sutton. Touch Judges: Peter Sciberras, Melissa Yates. Penalties: 7-all. Crowd: 400.

| Wentworthville Bankstown City Cabramatta Mounties Windsor Penrith Brothers Southern Districts Campbelltown WA Reds Chester Hill | P 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 | W 13 12 11 11 10 7 6 3 3 | D 1 0 2 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 | L 6 5 6 7 8 10 12 14 15 | 48: 54: 50: 48: 46: 46: 40: 304 | 3 3 2 3 6 3 7 4 8 4 1 4 2 6 2 4 9 5 | 4 62 24 44 17 52 25 12 80 50 98 | PTS 27 24 23 20 15 12 7 6 |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| TOP POINTSCORERS | | | | | | | | |
| Andrew Dallalana (Cabramatta) Drew Dalton (Mounties) Craig Trindall (Windsor) Adam Tippett (Bankstown City) David Farkas (Brothers) Aaron Fluke (Wentworthville) Stephen Harding (Campbelltown) Eddie Paea (Southern Districts) Gareth Morton (WA Reds) Wayne Dargan (Mounties) Sharlon Taki (Southern Districts) Astro Waetford (Wentworthville) | | | | T 9 3 5 5 8 6 3 5 4 17 16 15 | G 74 77 65 61 44 48 49 38 26 0 0 0 | FG 1 4 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | PT 18 16 15 14 12 12 12 11 9 6 6 6 6 | 35 57 54 13 20 20 10 6 8 8 8 4 |
| TOP TRYSCORERSWayne Dargan (Mounties)17Sharlon Taki (Southern Districts)16James Trotter (Cabramatta)15Astro Waetford (Wentworthville)15Amano Tovio (Campbelltown)14Michael Pickerd (Southern Districts)13Channarath Ly (Mounties)12Danny Barakat (Bankstown)11Tuki Jackson (Chester Hill)11Grant Lahey (Mounties)11Brendan Randall (Penrith Brothers)11 | | | | | | | | |



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SCOREBOARD

FINAL SERIES

PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINALS

Mounties 33 (Wayne Dargan, Channarath Ly, Drew Dalton, Matt Marshall, Dean Loder, Anthony Farah tries; Dalton 4 goals, field goal.) d. Windsor 20 (Victor Penitani 2, Luke Narden, Hutch Maiava tries; Craig Trindall 2 goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Chris Sutton. Touch Judges: Melissa Yates, Peter Sciberras. Crowd: 1100.

Cabramatta 39 (Trent Trotter 2, Sam Aiga 2, James Trotter, Josh McIllvenny, Crusie Iosefa tries; Andrew Dallalana 5 goals, field goal) d. Bankstown 26 (Sene Tala 2, Chris Salem, Danny Barakat, Brent Beddy tries; Adam Tippett 3 goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Robert Bowen. Touch Judges: Andrew Zapantis, Jimmy Oliviera. Crowd: 1100.

SEMI-FINALS

Bankstown City 32 (Adam Tippett, Arthur Little, Toufic Nicolas, Adnan Saleh, Charlie Farah tries; Tippett 6 goals) d. Mounties 26 (Jamie Burns 2, Matthew Marshall, Chan Ly, Drew Dalton tries; Dalton 3 goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Robert Bowen. Touch Judges: Melissa Yates, Peter Sciberras. Crowd: 600.

Wentworthville 34 (Danny Howard 2, Ken Sio, Trent Rose, Jacob Byrne, Valu Nasio tries; Aaron Fluke 5 goals) d. Cabramatta 12 (Josh McIllvenny, Sam Aiga tries; Andrew Dallalana, Trent Trotter goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Chris Sutton. Touch Judges: Jimmy Oliveira, Andrew Zapantis. Crowd: 600.

PRELIMINARY FINAL

TOYOTA CUP

GRAND FINAL 2009 - Matt Encarnacion reports from ANZ Stadium

MELBOURNE WESTS TIGERS

Grand final day was billed as a battle of the game's best two fullbacks, and in the under 20s, Melbourne's Gareth Widdop and Wests' Jake Mullaney showed they too could set the stage alight.

24

22

The Storm took out the second National Youth Cup with a thrilling 24-22 grand final win over the Tigers in Homebush , Widdop starring with a brace of tries and a hand in two others.

The lead changed five times during the game, with the result not decided until a 79th minute penalty against the Tigers, sending the Storm troopers into jubilation.

As Billy Slater-like as Widdop was, Wests' Mullaney was just as brilliant, the competition's leading point-scorer also notching two tries and two try assists to go with his three goals.

His first four-pointer came in the 12th minute when the dynamic fullback won the race to a grubber by halfback Darren Nicholls. He failed to convert his own try, however, leaving the score at 4-0.

But it didn't take long for Widdop to answer, the Englishman providing a perfect cut-out pass for winger Matt Duffie to cross in the 20th minute after second-rower Robert Rochow was twice held up over the line in the same set. Widdop also missed the conversion, locking the scores up at 4-4.

Melbourne then took an 8-4 lead

through a soft try to lock Billy Rogers, who strolled through untouched close to the line. But the Tigers quickly regained the ascendency when five-eighth Robert Lui produced a neat short ball for rampaging forward Rhys Curran to carry four defenders over the try line. It came after centre Joel Wiseby was crunched in the hit of the game by Storm giant Sam

when he lost his footing and gifted Widdop an easy passage to the line before he supplied a superb flick pass for centre Justin O'Neill to race to the line. Widdop's conversion gave Melbourne an 18-

Melbourne Storm 24 (Gareth Widdop 2, Matt Duffie, Billy Rogers, Justin O'Neill tries; Widdop 2 goals) d. Wests Tigers 22 (Jake Mullaney 2, Rhys Curran, Robert Lui tries; Mullaney 3 goals) at ANZ Stadium, October 4. Referee: Gavin Reynolds. Touch Judges: Richard Daizli, Jason Walsh. In-goal judges: David Munro, Michael Laverty. Penalties: Melbourne 7-5. Crowd: 25,000. Halftime: Melbourne 18-10. Goal-kickers: Gareth Widdop (Melbourne) 2 from 5, Jake Mullaney (Wests Tigers) 3 from 4.

| | | ge.e, ee | | | |
|-------|-------------------|--------------|-------|-----------------|------------------|
| MEL | BOURNE STORM | (Min played) | WES | STS TIGERS | (Minutes played) |
| 1 | Gareth Widdop | 80 | 1 | Jake Mullaney | 80 |
| 2 | Sam Joe | 80 | 2 | Joel Jackson | 80 |
| 3 | Justin O'Neill | 80 | 3 | Joel Wiseby | 80 |
| 4 | Pita Maile | 80 | 4 | Jake Clarke | 80 |
| 5 | Matt Duffie | 80 | 5 | Sama Sauvao | 80 |
| 6 | Dane Chisholm | 80 | 6 | Robert Lui | 80 |
| 7 | Luke Kelly (c) | 80 | 7 | Darren Nicholls | (c) 80 |
| 8 | Pulou Vaituutuu | 43 | 8 | Andrew Fifita | 52 |
| 9 | James Woolford | 61 | 9 | Chris Corby | 47 |
| 10 | Jesse Bromwich | 46 | 10 | Aaron Woods | 42 |
| 11 | Rob Rochow | 80 | 11 | Simon Dwyer | 80 |
| 12 | Theo Stuart | 32 | 12 | Jason Schirnacl | k 67 |
| 13 | Billy Rogers | 47 | 13 | Matt Hyland | 80 |
| Inter | change | | Inter | change | |
| 14 | Jai Jones-Weigold | 54 | 14 | Jay Florimo | 34 |
| 15 | Jordon McLean | 16 | 15 | Monikura Tikina | u 0 |
| 16 | Kevin Proctor | 52 | 16 | David Fifita | 37 |
| 17 | Fred Makimare | 49 | 17 | Rhys Curran | 41 |
| Coad | ch: Brad Arthur | | Coa | ch: Grant Jones | |





Wiseby's horror night continued then missed a simple tackle on Joe, who 10 lead at the break.

Whatever Wests coach Grant Jones said at halftime must've worked as his side broke the game open with two tries in three minutes. Mullaney completed his brace - his 29th try in 27 games - in the 53rd minute when he was on the end of a 30 metre break by second rower Simon Dwver.

The speedster was again in the thick of the action in just the next set as his 40m break from dummy half helped his team go the length of the field for Lui to cross under the posts. Mullaney added the extras as the Tigers took all the momentum and a 22-18 lead.

As the decider headed into crunch time. Wests searched hard for the killer blow and looked to have sealed the match when Dwyer lunged over the line in the 65th minute but was denied by a double movement.

However the day - and the trophy belonged to Widdop and the Melbourne Storm, the Slater clone diving on a grubber by halfback Luke Kelly with his torso before kicking the match-winning goal.

Kelly won the Jack Gibson medal for man-of-the-match.

WHEN THEY SCORED

12th minute: W Tigers 4-0 (Mullaney trv)

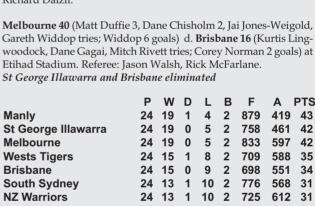
20th minute: 4-all (Duffie try) **27th minute:** Storm 8-4 (Rogers try) 32nd minute: W Tigers 10-8 (Curran try; Mullaney goal) **35th minute:** Storm 12-10 (Widdop try)

39th minute: Storm 18-10 (O'Neill try; Widdop goal)

53rd minute: Storm 18-16 (Mullaney try; goal) 56th minute: W Tigers 22-18 (Lui try;

Mullaney goal) 74th minute: Storm 24-22 (Widdop try;

goal)



| | | | | | _ | | • • | | |
|----------------------------------|----|-------|----|----|----|-----|-----|------|----|
| Canberra | 24 | 11 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 70 | 6 6 | 85 2 | 28 |
| North Qld | 24 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 66 | 8 6 | 83 2 | 28 |
| Newcastle | 24 | 9 | 1 | 14 | 2 | 59 | 6 7 | 56 2 | 23 |
| Bulldogs | 24 | 9 | 1 | 14 | 2 | 65 | 1 8 | 67 2 | 23 |
| Parramatta | 24 | 8 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 60 | 2 6 | 98 2 | 20 |
| Penrith | 24 | 8 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 57 | 3 7 | 53 2 | 20 |
| Gold Coast | 24 | 8 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 54 | 2 7 | 38 2 | 20 |
| Sydney Roosters | 24 | 6 | 0 | 18 | 2 | 44 | 3 7 | 36 1 | 16 |
| Cronulla | 24 | 4 | 0 | 20 | 2 | 39 | | 38 1 | 12 |
| TOP POINTSCORERS | | | | | | | | | |
| Torrontioeonino | | | | | т | G | FG | РТЯ | 5 |
| Jake Mullaney (Wests Tiger | s) | | | | 29 | 103 | 0 | 322 | |
| Gareth Widdop (Melbourne) | | | | | 16 | 105 | 0 | 274 | |
| Beau Henry (St George Illawarra) | | | | ÷ | 18 | 85 | 0 | 242 | , |
| Shaun Johnson (Warriors) | | , | | | 17 | 78 | 1 | 225 | 5 |
| Stirling Seijka (Penrith) | | | | | 6 | 76 | 0 | 176 | 5 |
| Mitchell Porter (Manly) | | | | | 9 | 69 | 0 | 170 |) |
| Peter Mata'utia (Newcastle) | | | | | 11 | 58 | 0 | 160 |) |
| Michael Picker (Canberra) | | | | | 10 | 59 | 0 | 158 | 3 |
| Taioalo Vaivai (South Sydne | | | | | 21 | 33 | 0 | 150 | |
| Jordan Rankin (Gold Coast) | | | | | 6 | 60 | 0 | 144 | F |
| TOP TRYSCORERS | | | | | | | | | |
| Jake Mullaney (Wests Tigers) | | | | | 29 | | | | |
| Kane Morgan (South Sydne | y) | | | | 26 | | | | |
| Matt Duffie (Melbourne) | | | | | 25 | | | | |
| Taioalo Vaivai (South Sydne | | | | | 21 | | | | |
| Kane Linnett (St George Illa | | | | | 20 | | | | |
| Joe Vickery (St George Illaw | | | 20 | | | | | | |

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Obadiah Geia (North Qld)

Beau Henry (St George Illawarra)

SCOREBOARD

FINAL SERIES

WEEK ONE

Melbourne 54 (Dane Chisolm 5, Justin O'Neill 2, Jesse Bromwich, Matt Duffie, Fred Makimare tries; Gareth Widdop 7 goals) d. South Sydney 18 (Jason Clark, Taioalo Vaivai, Josh Mansour tries; Adam Reynolds 3 goals) at Etihad Stadium. Referee: Gavin Reynolds. Touch Judges: Luke Potter, Brendan Wood.

Brisbane 46 (Ben Hunt, Dane Gagai, Corey Norman, Todd Murphy, Rhys Matsen, David Hala, Josh McGuire, Tariq Sims tries; Norman 7 goals) d. Wests Tigers 22 (Joel Jackson, Jake Mullaney, Simon Dwyer, Joel Wisbey tries; Mullaney 3 goals) at Skilled Park. Referee: Chris Butler. Touch Judges: Shane Spicer, Tim Rutherford.

Canberra 32 (Drury Low 2, Jarrad Kennedy, Zach Merritt, Micthell Kennedy, Sam Mataora tries; Michael Picker 4 goals) d. Manly 28 (Mitchell Porter, Liam Higgins, Gary Riccardi, Josh Portlock, Jamie Buhrer, John Grey tries; Porter 2 goals) at ANZ Stadium. Referee: Gavin Morris. Touch Judges: Grant Atkins, David Ryan.

St George Illawarra 48 (Kane Linnett 2, Nathan Jones, Kalifa Fai Fai Loa, Jake Marketo, Kyle Stanley, Dean Whare, Joe Vickery, Chase Stanley tries; Beau Henry 6 goals) d. NZ Warriors 24 (Kurt Kara, Michael Afioga, Shaun Johnson, Alehana Mara tries; Johnson 4 goals) at WIN Jubilee Oval. Referee: Adam Devcich. Touch Judges: Jason Walsh, Matt Damaso.

NZ Warriors and South Sydney eliminated

WEEK TWO

Wests Tigers 42 (Jake Mullaney 3, Patrick Politoni, Andrew Fifita, David Fifita, Jay Florimo tries; Mullaney 7 goals) d. Canberra 34 (Matt Britt, Steve Noughton, Michael Picker, Sam Mataora, Mark Nicholls, Michael Cullen, Daniel Vidot tries; Picker 3 goals) at Sydney Football Stadium. Referee: Gavin Reynolds. Touch Judges: Jason Walsh, Richard Daizli.

Brisbane 24 (Dane Gagai 2, Josh Williams, Josh McGuire, Mitch Rivett tries; Corey Norman 2 goals) d. Manly 10 (Shane Grey, Matt Grieve tries; Mitchell Porter goal) at Suncorp Stadium. Referee: Adam Devcich. Touch Judges: Chris Butler, Shane Spicer. Canberra and Manly eliminated

WEEK THREE

Wests Tigers 36 (Simon Dwyer 2, Sama Sauvao 2, Andrew Fifita, Jake Mullaney tries; Mullaney 6 goals) d. St George Ilawarra 12 (Mitchell Rein, Chris Astill tries; Beau Henry 2 goals) at ANZ Stadium. Referee: Gavin Reynolds. Touch Judges: Brendan Wood, Richard Daizli.

Melbourne 40 (Matt Duffie 3, Dane Chisholm 2, Jai Jones-Weigold, Gareth Widdop tries; Widdop 6 goals) d. Brisbane 16 (Kurtis Lingwoodock, Dane Gagai, Mitch Rivett tries; Corey Norman 2 goals) at Etihad Stadium. Referee: Jason Walsh, Rick McFarlane.

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GRAND FINAL 2009 - Terry Liberopoulos reports from ANZ Stadium

NSW CUP

BANKSTOWN CITY 32 **BALMAIN RYDE** 0

Bulldogs feeder club, the Bankstown City Bulls, won the NSW Cup after defeating Balmain Ryde-Eastwood 32-0 in the grand final at ANZ Stadium.

Bankstown, playing their first season in the NSW Cup, have been the dominant side of the competition all year and never looked like losing the game.

Balmain Ryde-Eastwood went close to opening the scoring after two minutes of action but hooker Ryan Carr was held up over the line.

On the back of two penalties, the Bankstown City Bulls worked their way to the other side and were rewarded when prop-forward Fred Briggs crashed over to score adjacent to the posts. Leading point-scorer Brent Crisp added the extras to make it 6-0.

Bankstown were beginning to get some good field position but were unable to break through the Tigers defence.

Balmain Ryde-Eastwood had a great chance to get on the scoreboard in the 27th minute when Sean Meaney raced down the sideline but the ball to an unmarked Willie Mataka went forward.

A 40/20 kick from Crisp gave the Bulls another chance to attack but once again they couldn't break through to score.

Josh Lewis almost collected his chip kick late in the first half but the score remained at 6-0 at the half-time break. Bankstown went close to scoring in

the 49th minute when Billy Callaway

Tigers' Sioelo Makaui tries to escape the tackle of Ben Barba.

knocked on in his own in-goal but Meaney was able to get his foot to the ball and kick it over the dead-ball line.

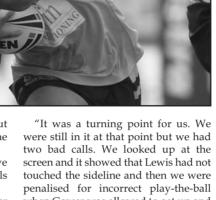
A penalty to Bankstown City gave Crisp the opportunity to give the Bulls an 8-0 advantage.

After an hour of action, Bulls winger Nick Taylor dived over in the corner but couldn't hang on to the pass. It was justice after Lewis was judged to have put his foot into touch when replays showed he had stayed in-field.

A penalty for an incorrect play-theball handed Crisp another goal to put Bankstown City ahead 10-0 in the 62nd minute.

Bankstown City 32 (Ben Barba 3, Fred Briggs, Nick Taylor tries; Brent Crisp 6 goals) d. Balmain Ryde-Eastwood 0 at ANZ Stadium. Referee: Adam Gee Touch judges: David Ryan, Brendan Wood. In-goal judges: Matt Hawkins, Grant Atkins. Penalties: Bankstown 9-7. Crowd: 12,000. Half-time: Bankstown 6-0. Goal-kickers: Brent Crisp (Bankstown) 6 from 7.

| BAN | IKSTOWN CITY (Minu | tes played) | BALMAIN RYDE-EASTWOOD | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Brent Crisp | 80 | 1 | Sean Meaney | 80 | |
| 2 | Heka Nanai | 80 | 2 | Billy Callaway | 80 | |
| 3 | Tim Winitana | 80 | 3 | Lee Bennett (c) | 80 | |
| 4 | Matt Utai | 80 | 4 | Matthew Ryan | 80 | |
| 5 | Nick Taylor | 80 | 5 | Junior Rogica | 80 | |
| 6 | Peewee Moke | 66 | 6 | Gavin Cowan | 80 | |
| 7 | Ben Barba | 80 | 7 | Josh Lewis | 80 | |
| 8 | Charlie Leaeno | 36 | 8 | Al Schirnack | 52 | |
| 18 | Trent Cutler | 18 | 9 | Ryan Carr | 58 | |
| 10 | Fred Briggs | 58 | 10 | David Gower | 80 | |
| 11 | Danny Williams (c) | 80 | 11 | Dean Webster | 47 | |
| 12 | Brad Morrin | 52 | 12 | Willie Mataka | 80 | |
| 13 | Lee Te Maari | 46 | 13 | Jared Farlow | 65 | |
| Inter | change | | Inter | change | | |
| 9 | Nathan Smith | 61 | 14 | Fletcher Hawkins | 44 | |
| 14 | John Kite | 66 | 15 | Eloni Vunakece | 24 | |
| 16 | Jake Foster | 48 | 16 | Brett Lane | 10 | |
| 19 | Nathan Benny | 29 | 19 | Sioeli Makaui | 20 | |
| Coa | ch: Terry Lamb | | Coa | ch: Paul Fletcher | | |



when Gower was allowed to get up and play-the-ball," said Tigers skipper Lee Bennett

The Bankstown City Bulls made sure that the premiership was in the bag when Ben Barba intercepted a Lewis pass and raced 70 metres to score. Crisp failed to add the extras but the Bulls had a comfortable 14-0 lead.

The game had to be stopped for a few minutes after Balmain lock-forward Jared Farlow misjudged a tackle and left the field heavily concussed.

Barba intercepted another Lewis pass to score in the 70th minute and then started the move for the Bulls' next try just three minutes later.

From his own half, Barba put secondrower Danny Williams in the clear. The Bulls skipper raced down the sideline and put Taylor over for the try.

"We played poorly in the first half but we came out firing for the second half," said Barba.

WHEN THEY SCORED

6th min: Bankstown 6-0 (Briggs try; Crisp goal) 51st min: Bankstown 8-0 (Crisp goal) 62nd min: Bankstown 10-0 (Crisp goal) 66th min: Bankstown 14-0 (Barba try) 70th min: Bankstown 20-0 (Barba try; Crisp goal) 73rd min: Bankstown 26-0 (Taylor try; Crisp goal) 78th min: Bankstown 32-0 (Barba try; Crisp goal)



SCOREBOARD

FINAL SERIES

WEEK ONE

Balmain 32 (Josh Lewis 2, Sean Meaney 2, David Gower, Brett Lane tries; Lewis 4 goals) d. Wentworthville 26 (Brendan Oake 2, Taulima Tautai, Anthony Mitchell, Broderick Wright tries; Tim Robinson 3 goals) at Ringrose Park. Referee: David Munro. Touch Judges: Peter Sciberras, Richard Daizli. Crowd: 600.

North Sydney 35 (Justin Hunt 2, Bladen Baird, Chris Trembath, David Tyrelll tries; Hunt 7 goals, Jarryd Hogan field goal) d. Cronulla 8 (Ben Orcher, Daniel Rauicava tries) at North Sydney Oval. Referee: Adam Gee. Touch Judges: Steve Ellison, Shaun Evans. Crowd: 2013.

Western Suburbs 64 (Andrew Everingham 2, Faitotoa Asa 2, Andrew Everingham 2, Charlie Herekotukutuku, Daine Laurie, Rhys Pritchard, Duan Poaneki, Luke Young tries; Levi Freeman 10 goals) d. Central Coast 4 (Joseph Tomane try) at Morrie Breen Oval. Referee: Rick McFarlane. Touch Judges: Paul Mellor, Melissa Yates. Crowd: 500.

Bankstown City 52 (Heka Nanai 3, Brent Crisp, Nick Taylor, Ben Barba, Charlie Leaeno, Brad Morrin, Lee Te Maari, Jake Foster tries; Crisp 6 goals) d. Newtown 30 (Don Thompson, Smith Samau, Nick Kouparitsas, James Koloamatangi, Tavite Vatuvei tries; Tu'U Maori 5 goals) at Crest Stadium. Referee: Gavin West. Touch Judges: Andrew Zapantis, Jason Higgins. Crowd: 400. Cronulla and Newtown eliminated

WEEK TWO

Wentworthville 26 (Mark Luland, Taniela Lasalo, Ken Sio, Justin Horo, Brendan Oake tries; Ken Sio 3 goals) d. Western Suburbs 16 (Dean Rysko, Nathan Waters, Andrew Everingham tries; Levi Freeman 2 goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Gavin West. Touch Judges: Brendan Wood, David Ryan. Crowd: 3024.

Balmain Ryde-Eastwood 24 (Al Schirnack, Sean Meaney, Dean Webster, Ryan Carr tries; Josh Lewis 4 goals) d. Central Coast 18 (Joseph Tomane, Alan Munro, Rory Kostjasyn tries; James Maloney 3 goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Adam Gee. Touch Judges Steve Ellison, Matt Damaso. Crowd: 3024. Western Suburbs and Central Coast eliminated

WEEK THREE

Sione Tongia (Auckland)

Balmain Ryde-Eastwood 21 (Billy Callaway, Matthew Ryan, Ryan Carr, Junior Roqica tries; Josh Lewis 2 goals, field goal) d. North Sydney 20 (Justin Hunt, Bladen Baird, Curtis Johnstone, Greg Nichols tries; Hunt 2 goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Gavin West. Touch Judges: David Ryan, Shaun Evans. Crowd: 4611.

Bankstown 40 (Nick Taylor 2, Ben Barba 2, Daniel Holdsworth 2, Lee Te Maari, John Kite tries; Brent Crisp 4 goals) d. Wentworthville 14 (Etu Uaisele, Weller Hauraki, Justin Horo tries; Horo goal) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Adam Gee. Touch Judges: Matt Damaso, Andrew Zapantis. Crowd: 4611.

| Bankstown City Central Coast Wentworthville North Sydney Cronulla Balmain Ryde-Eastwood Western Suburbs Newtown Shellharbour Windsor Auckland | P 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 | W 15 13 12 12 11 10 8 7 5 4 | D 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 | L 5 6 8 9 9 9 12 13 14 15 | B 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 | F 734 520 534 577 529 480 560 408 447 410 380 | 6 40 4 34 1 42 5 42 6 45 6 54 7 52 6 68 | 34 31 16 28 29 28 20 26 53 26 18 25 20 20 21 18 39 15 |
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Melbourne halt the Eels juggernaut

BY LACHLAN MURRAY at ANZ Stadium, Sydney

MELBOURNE Storm exorcised the memory of last year's embarrassing grand final thrashing by Manly to win their second **Premiership in three seasons in a nail-bit-** in the Storm territory. ing encounter with Parramatta.

But they first had to hold off a remarkable ate recovery by the Eels.

The season's finale seemed safely in the Storm's hands when they led 22-6 with 11 loomed up and raced away for his side's minutes left in the match against the side second try. which had put together 10 victories in 11 games to scrape into the play-offs and then make it through to the decider.

However the Storm were suddenly faced or with a Parramatta revival. Two tries in as dogs a real chance of an upset. The Eels were one converted try from forcing the match into 'golden point' extra time.

It was only a field goal by Test star Greg players lurking offside went unrewarded. Inglis from 20 metres out in the 77th minute that sealed victory.

"We did well to get to where we did," said veteran Parramatta star Nathan Hindmarsh. "But with that field goal we knew we were done and dusted."

"I got a bit nervous towards the end," Melbourne captain Cameron Smith admit- In one of the first tackles after resumption goal) ted. "We were playing quality opposition, of play Moi Moi rattled Brett White with a **70th min:** Melbourne 22-12 (Reddy try; Burt but the boys dug deep. We've played some real bone-crusher. And the shock among the good footy on the way to the grand final. This is our just desserts."

The match lived up to all the hype. A line team in its fourth straight grand final (Melbourne) against a side that had won substitute Feleti Mateo produced a piece of VIDEO REFEREE through from eighth spot in the play-offs brilliance, waltzing past several Melbourne (Parramatta)

in which the giant stadium is located had Park

But there was an omen when the Parraleft boots. Officials managed to get a right a hand being laid on him. boot in time for him to run onto the pitch feeling comfortable.

It was much more comfortable than after spor full-time, when he sat with his head in his hands, crying his eyes out.

It was obvious from the start about what the players felt. Adam Blair and Dallas Johnson ferociously crashed Parramatta cult Reddy gave his side a faint chance of recov- COMPLETED SETS: Melbourne 32/39, hero Fui Fui Moi Moi to the ground in the opening tackle.

The Storm threw everything at Parraencounter that the Eels' defence cracked.

Parramatta's former stand-off Brett Finch slipped a wonderful pass to a rampaging Ryan Hoffman who danced out of a desconversion had the Storm ahead 6-0.

Parramatta dug deep and with some tackles. He did not deserve to be on the loswonderful defence kept the Melbourne ing side. players at bay and spent considerable time

Then, midway through the half, a controversial penalty by referee Tony Archer gave the Storm some hope. And after a great

came into contact a with hip when tackling Finch. Although groggy, Reddy continued

many minutes suddenly gave the under- back refereeing which allowed players to Churchill Medal: Billy Slater (Melbourne stray offside for most of the first half. Whatever happened to the 10 metres? Runs from dummy half which should have caught out

> The Storm must have been feeling confident with the 10-nil lead at the interval and their 86 per cent completion rate of six tackles. In the most recent 52 times when they were ahead at half-time, they had only been beaten once.

Storm was shown when Slater uncharacter- **72nd min:** Melbourne 22-16 (Moi Moi try) istically threw a pass straight over the touch 77th min: Melbourne 23-16 (Inglis field

Moments later the enigmatic Parramatta players to set up the chance for Eric Grothe It was fitting that the part of Homebush to score off an overhead pass from Hayne.

But the good work was all in vain. Minonly days before been proclaimed as the utes later Cronk put in what seemed an in- 13th min: Eels 2-0 (High Tackle) new Sydney suburb of Sydney Olympic nocuous bomb. The Parramatta players 23rd min: Eels 2-1 (Stealing the ball) vere mesmerized and held off. But big Greg Inglis never took his eyes off the ball, leaped matta star Jarryd Hayne turned up with two up to take it and was across to score without 67th min: Eels 4-2 (Touching within 10 me

And talking about future legends...next GOALKICKERS: to score was Slater who ran onto a pass by Cameron Smith (Melbourne) 3 from 4 Blair and, as it turned out, ensured a victory. With 11 minutes remaining the injured

ering by leaping high to take a Jeff Robson bomb and score.

Then Moi Moi charged 20 metres to the matta 29 matta and it was only four minutes into the line to score a remarkable try and the Eels LINE BREAKS: Melbourne 5, Parramatta were back within six points and eight minutes remaining

But, as history now shows, it was not enough

peration tackle by Nathan Hindmarsh to Moimoi turned in one of the great grand score wide on the left. Cameron Smith's final displays of recent years with some 150 metres in surges down the pitch and 22

> Neither did Hindmarsh whose 63 tackles were a grand final record that could last for many years.

Melbourne 23 (Ryan Hoffman, Adam Blair, break by scrum half Cooper Cronk, Blair Greg Inglis, Billy Slater tries; Cameron Smith 3 goals, Inglis field goal) d. Parramatta 16 (Eric Grothe, Joel Reddy, Fui Fui Just before the break, Joel Reddy's head Moi Moi tries; Luke Burt 2 goals) at ANZ Stadium, Sydney, October 4. Referees: Shayne Hayne, Tony Archer. Touch Judges: Paul Holland, Paul Abood. Video referee: Both sides had been victims of some laid- Bill Harrigan. Crowd: 82,538. Clive Storm)

WHEN THEY SCORED

5th min: Melbourne 6-0 (Hoffman try; Smith goal) 24th min: Melbourne 10-0 (Blair try)

45th min: Melbourne 10-6 (Grothe try; Burt

49th min: Melbourne 16-6 (Inglis try; Smith

The Eels weren't interested in statistics. **55th min:** Melbourne 22-6 (Slater try; Smith

go

72nd min: Fui Fui Moi Moi - TRY

PENALTIES: 9th min: Eels 1-0 (Stripping)

32nd min: Eels 3-1 (Stealing the ball) 42nd min: Eels 3-2 (Marker Not square) tres of drop-out)

That's what happens when you are play- 68th min: Eels 5-2 (Marker not square) ing against one of the future legends of the 76th min: Eels 5-3 (Hand in play-the-ball)

Luke Burt (Parramatta) 2 from 3

Parramatta 29/39 MISSED TACKLES: Melbourne 29, Parra-

ERRORS: Melbourne 7, Parramatta 10 **POSSESSION:** Melbourne 52%, Parramatta 48%



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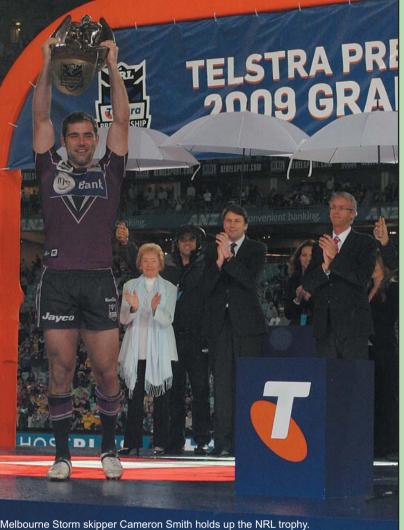
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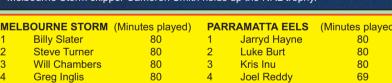
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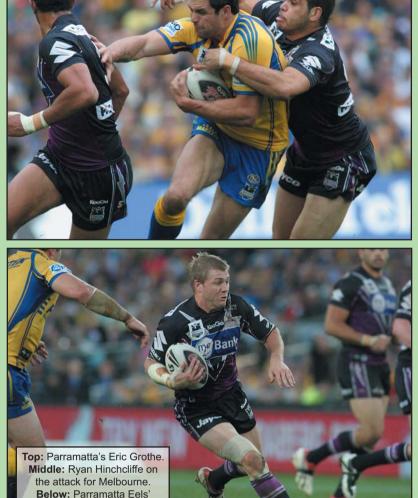
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| nglis | 80 | 4 | Joel Reddy | 69 |
| lielsen | 80 | 5 | Eric Grothe | 80 |
| nch | 80 | 6 | Daniel Mortimer | 80 |
| Cronk | 80 | 7 | Jeff Robson | 80 |
| Tolman | 36 | 8 | Nathan Cayless (c) | 45 |
| on Smith (c) | 80 | 9 | Matthew Keating | 55 |
| /hite | 52 | 10 | Fuifui Moimoi | 56 |
| Blair | 70 | 11 | Nathan Hindmarsh | 80 |
| loffman | 80 | 12 | Ben Smith | 71 |
| Johnson | 69 | 13 | Todd Lowrie | 50 |
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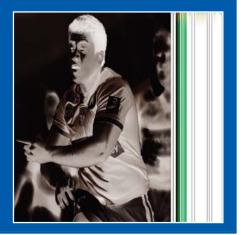
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NSW COUNTRY



Western Suburbs captured the Illawarra premiership since 1991 when they defeated Thirroul 14-4 in the grand final held at WIN Stadium.

The Red Devils celebrated their 60th anniversary by leading 12-0 at the half-time break after tries from Damien Kennedy in the seventh minute and Blake Dureau in the 30th minute.

The Thirroul Butchers registered what would be their only points in the game early in the second half when a loose ball in the Wests in-goal area was pounced on by winger Sean Jenkins.

The rest of the half was a tight battle between both sides with the only points coming from a penalty goal to Dureau in the 78th minute.

Wests coach and ex-Australian international Paul McGregor capped off a great season by winning the premiership in his first season as coach.

"I would like to thank the club for giving me the opportunity to coach. I am glad that I was able to bring home the title for them on such a special occassion," said McGregor.

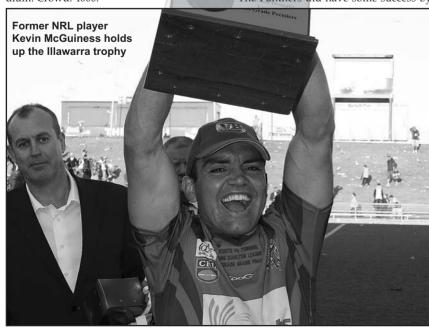
Former NRL player Kevin McGuinness skippered the Red Devils and led by example while Adam Shepherd capped off a great game in his 100th first grade game for Wests.

Thirroul defeated Wests 42-12 in the Reserve Grade grand final after they led 18-6 at the break.

Five-eighth Joel Willoughby led the way for the Butchers with a 20-point haul from two tries and six goals.

Shellharbour celebrated their first season in the Illawarra competition by winning the Under 18s title after they beat Thirroul 20-10 in the grand final.

Western Suburbs 14 (Nathan Dureau, Blake Dureau tries; Blake Dureau 3 goals) d. Thirroul 4 (Sean Jenkins try) at WIN Stadium. Crowd: 4000.



winning the Youth League grand final with a 32-18 win over Gulgong.

Coonamble 32 (Lewis Murphy 3, Steven Roworth, Ben Powers, Nathan Walker, Neville Suey tries; Roworth 2 goals) d. **Gilgandra 26** (Shaun Reynolds, Daniel Riley, Adam Hazelton, Mark Batten, Chris Herbig tries; Riley 3 goals) at Gilgandra Showground. Crowd: 3000.

The Greta Branxton Colts registered their first ever Group 21 premiership after beating the Singleton Greyhounds 22-16 in front of more than 3500 spectators at Greta Central Oval.

The game was won on defence with Greta Branxton producing a magnificent tackling display to hold out Singleton's raids in the final quarter of the match.

The Greyhounds skipped away to an early lead after five-eighth Trent Green beat four defenders to score.

But it was level minutes later when former NRL player Roy Bell split the defence and then sent centre Ben Russell over for the try. Singleton re-captured the lead after a Colts error resulted in Tom Hurst scoring to make it 12-6.

But Greta Branxton hit back before the break to square up proceedings at 12-all when Group 21 Player of the Year Ron Davis scored.

The Colts grabbed an 18-12 lead in the second half when Clark raced over but the deficit was reduced to two points when Daniel Kissi scored wide out for the Greyhounds.

Clark scored again to extend the advantage for the Colts and then held on in the final quarter as Singleton continued to attack their line on numerous occasions.

Goulburn Workers Bulldogs beat West Belconnen Warriors 29-24 in extra-time in the grand final of the Canberra Raiders Cup.

The Warriors led 14-12 at the break but the Bulldogs bounced back to lead 22-18 with five minutes left on the clock.

But with three minutes remaining, West Belconnen scored a converted try to grab a two point lead. With seconds left on the clock, Goulburn received a penalty and were able to land the goal to make it 24-all.

Goulburn five-eighth Jeremy Braun put Goulburn ahead in extra-time when he potted over a field goal.

The Cargo Blue Heelers scored 26 unanswered points against Eugowra to win back-to-back Woodbridge Cup premierships.

The Blue Heelers came from 14-0 down to score four tries and finish the game with a 26-14 win at Cowra's Sid Kallas Oval.

Full-back Steve Maere scored two tries while hooker Adam Clunes and captaincoach Tim Shepherd each scored a try.

The Lower Clarence Magpies ended a 25year premiership drought to beat Northern

United 21-20 in the grand final of the Northern Rivers Regional Rugby League at Maclean Showground. With the scores locked at 20-all, Grant

Brown slotted over a field goal in the 75th minute to secure the premiership title.

Northern United, with former NRL player Roy Bell in great form, had the opportunity to break the dead-lock but their attempted field goal missed its target.

The Entrance Tigers proved they are streets ahead of their competitors when they thrashed Northern Lakes 52-14 in the grand final of the Central Coast Rugby League.

Tigers captain Alex Moore was in scintillating form, scoring no less than five tries to be named the man-of-the-match.

The Entrance led 12-6 in the opening half hour but stepped up a gear to score three tries to lead 30-6 at the interval.

Aside from Moore, Coedi Towney, Matt Gibson, Jay Hemming and Nathan Ward were the pick for the Tigers.

Wagga Kangaroos outclass the Tigers

Wagga Kangaroos came from last-placed in 2008 to winning the premiership after they thrashed Gundagai Tigers 42-4 in the Group Nine grand final.

With captain-coach Grant 'Squasher' Wooden leading from the front, the Roos led 18-4 at half-time before running away with the game in the second half.

Gundagai were aiming for their first Group Nine title since 1983 when Cliff Lyons was playing for the club.

The Tigers were level at 4-all after Peter Magnone crossed in the 11th minute before Adam McCallum, Billy Goode and Brett Ridley scored for the Kangaroos to give them an 18-4 lead at half-time.

The Wagga Kangaroos increased their lead when Ridley scored his third try of the game in the 56th minute. The Kangaroos finished the game with three tries in eight minutes.

Wagga Kangaroos 42 (Brett Ridley 3, Billy Goode 2, Adam McCallum, Jaden Kelly, Steve McDonnell tries; Baden Power 4, Chris Jordan goals) d. Gundagai 4 (Peter Magnone try) at Equex Centre. Crowd: 5000.

Albion Park Oak Flats survived a fight-back from Warilla-Lake South to win a heart-stopping South Coast Rugby League first grade grand final 25-22 at Centenary Field.

Albion Park Oak Flats led 10-0 early on after tries from Aaron Lucas and Daniel Sartori before the Gorillas hit back with a try from Aaron Henry.

Warilla-Lake South hit the front when Tyson Brown scored but the Sea Eagles led 14-12 by half-time after an 80-metre intercept try to centre Matthew Leabeater. The Eagles extended their advantage when Derek Gray crashed over and it was 24-12 soon after when Matt Stone scored in the 50th minute.

Matt Carroll added a field goal five minutes later before Warilla replied with a try to winger Liam Watson in the 69th minute.

Watson scored again with four minutes remaining to make the scoreline 25-22 but the Sea Eagles held on to win.

Albion Park Oak Flats Eagles 25 (Danny Sartori, Matt Stone, Aaron Lucas, Matt Leadbeater, Derek Gray tries; Matt Carroll 2 goals, field goal) d Warilla-Lake South Gorillas 22 (Liam Watson 2, Tyson Brown, Aaron Henry tries; Chris Henry 3 goals). Crowd: 4000.

Red Devils thrash Cooma Stallions

The Narooma Red Devils came from 10-0 down after just seven minutes to defeat Cooma 56-32 in the Group 16 grand final.

The Devils picked themselves up and piled on the points to lead 26-10 at the interval.

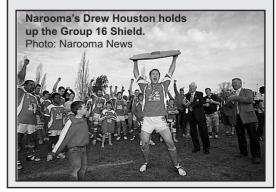
Simon Hodge got Narooma on the scoreboard after lead-up work from Troy Beecham and Pat Willis.

Willis then scored one himself after taking a Clint Wright bomb and it was 16-10 when Todd Ayers raced over to score.

Narooma continued where they left off in the first half with Willis latching onto an intercept and then racing the length of the field to score.

Jeff Rapley and Lance Wright scored further tries to give the Red Devils a 42-10 lead before Cooma stormed home to make the score line more respectable.

Narooma 56 (Pat Willis 4, Todd Ayers 2, Clint Wright, Lance Wright, Simon Hodge, Jeff Rapley tries; Willis 8 goals) d. Cooma 32 (Steve Dunn 2, Sam Gilbert, Jake Whitehead, Mike Taleapa, Mitch Simpson tries; Ty Fallins 4 goals) at Bega Showground. Crowd: 3000.



Castlereagh Cup competition continued
after they recorded their fifth consecutive
premiership success with a thrilling 32-26Belconnen W
the grand fin
Cup.win over Gilgandra in the grand final.
The Coonamble Bears led 16-14 at half-
time thanks to a try from Ben Powers late inThe Warrio
the Bulldogs
with five minu

the

the first half. The Gilgandra Panthers bounced back early in the second half when tries from Mark Batten and Adam Hazelton gave them

The University of Wollongong (UOW) Ti-

tans finished the season undefeated in the VB Cup after beating Western Suburbs 28-

10 in the grand final held at WIN Stadium.

time leading 16-0 after tries from Andrew

Barnes, Sam Belo and Elliott Capner.

gave them a 28-4 lead.

grand final.

The UOW Titans were in control by half-

Wests hit back early in the second half

when winger Shane van de Mossdyk scored

in the corner but two tries from the Titans

The Red Devils finished the game with a

Meanwhile, Greenwell Point claimed the

Regan Cup after beating Warilla 26-14 in the

consolation try to winger Dean Hearden.

Coonamble's domination of

a 26-16 lead after 50 minutes of action. Behind on the scoreboard, Coonamble began to throw the ball and were rewarded

with two tries to Lewis Murphy and one to Nathan Walker to grab a 28-26 lead with 10 minutes remaining. Gilgandra compounded their problems

by kicking out on the full after the Walker try and they found themselves pinned in their own half.

With three minutes remaining, Coonamble centre Neville Suey forced his way over for a 32-26 advantage.

In the nine years since the formation of the Castlereagh Cup, the Coonamble Bears have featured in eight of them and have won seven.

on seven. The Lo year pr

RUGBY LEAGUE REVIEW

NSW COUNTRY Lions outclass the Bears Wyong Roos win

BY GRANT ROBERTSON

West Lions finally scored a Group 4 premiership after going close on so many occasions since their last title in 2001

The Lions have played second fiddle to Tamworth rivals North Tamworth for several seasons but after dominating the competition in 2009 they made no mistake in the grand final.

North was going for a record-breaking fifth title in a row but was not good enough this time. The Bears did put up a pretty good fight though. They scored first and despite letting in three consecutive tries the champions came back to level at 16-all at halftime and even led 28-24 during the second half.

But the Lions got on top thanks to a try to captain and man of the match Brendan Hunt and Kyle Cochrane then raced away to score his fifth touch-down of the game. A Matt Nean intercept gave him a double and the Lions blew the score out to 52-28 by the end.

West Lions 52 (K Cochrane 4, M Nean 2, B Hunt, W Jerrard, N Hamlin, M Watton tries; Nean 4, Hunt 2 goals) d. North Tamworth 28 (L Taylor, S Spencer, T Morris, B Surtees, B McManus tries; Taylor 4 goals) at Scully Park. Crowd: 4000.

Dungowan Cowboys won the Group 4 Shield competition after they held on to beat Bendemeer 18-16 in the grand final.

There was plenty of controversy in the game after Bendemeer's Shane Rule was denied a try right on full-time after the match officials deemed that he had knocked on.

The Cowboys dedicated the win to the passing of Steve Mamae, who died earlier this season in a car accident.

Tingha won its first Group 19 first grade premiership when it beat Guyra 46-14 in the grand final at Tingha last month.

The Tigers' only previous grand final appearance in the competition came in 1988 when they lost to Guyra but this time the home side was far too good in front of a huge, partisan home crowd that numbered in the thousands, even though the town is only home to 800 residents.

Tingha captain-coach David Walls led the way for his side with a man of the match performance while Dave Kent scored two tries and Jeremy Tickle booted seven goals. Justin McIlwain and player of the year

Nathan Guan were also strong for the home side while Luke Hutton and Jeff Richardson tried hard for the Spuds, who led 10-6 early before letting in 22 unanswered second half

Tingha 46 (D Kent 2, J Tickle, R Schuman, P Leitinger, J McIlwain, C Curtin, N Guan tries; Tickle 7 goals) d. Guyra 14 (R Bull, B Orchard, C Torrens tries; L Berger goal) at Tingha. Crowd: 3000.

Dubbo CYMS are the 2009 Group 11 Rugby League premiers after they beat the Parkes Spacemen 26-22 in front of a big crowd at Apex Oval.

Parkes looked set for victory when they led 22-14 midway through the second half and had all the momentum.

The Spacemen looked like they had extended the lead when former NRL and Super League player Dennis Moran linked up with Danny Read and Semisi Tora to put Brendon Sense over the line. But the winger was deemed to be held up.

It was the turning point of the game. Dubbo CYMS received their first penalty of the second half soon after and second-rower Simon Yeo barged over to score in the 72nd minute. Tim Ryan converted to reduce the deficit to just two points

Dubbo CYMS began to sense victory and they managed to break through for the winner with two minutes remaining when Max Rey scored to give the home side victory and the premiership.

Former Balmain Tigers player Justin Yeo, who is also co-coach of Dubbo CYMS announced his retirement after the game.

Dubbo CYMS 26 (E Navale, S Townsend, J Yeo, S Yeo, M Ray tries; T Ryan 3 goals) d. Parkes 22 (D Read, D Moran, A Thorne, E Neiyoko tries; Moran 3 goals) at Apex Oval. Crowd: 5000.

In the Group 2 decider, a field goal to captain-coach Rohan Loudon enabled the Sawtell Panthers to pip the Macksville Sea Eagles 21-20.

After trailing 20-10 at the break, the hosts levelled it up at 20-all with 14 minutes left on the clock. However, Loudon sealed the Sea Eagles'

fate in the dying stages of the match.

Sawtell 21 (Rob Tulenew, Mark Pledger, Adam Loudon, Dan Waterson tries; Rohan Loudon 2 goals, field goal) d.

Last second try wins it for the Dragons

A last second try from Corin Smith gave the Mudgee Dragons a 32-29 win over Lithgow Workies in the Group 10 Rugby League grand final.

The Dragons were behind for most of the game and trailled Lithgow 27-14 with 15 minutes left on the clock.

A knock-on from Workies gave Mudgee captain Warrick Colley the chance to score ext to the nosts. Steve I are scored soon after to reduce the deficit to just one point.

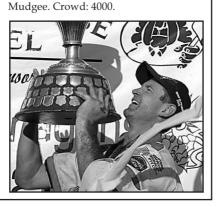
Former NRL player William 'Bubba' Kennedy was sin binned for fighting and Colley was penalised for holding down in front of the sticks. Jonathan Van Veen kicked the penalty goal to give Workies a 29-26 advantage with only a few minutes remaining.

But with the large Mudgee crowd cheering them on, Mudgee produced a great Houdini act when centre Kurt Beahan raced down the sideline and found Smith in support. The latter stepped inside the Lithgow defender to score and send the crowd into raptures.

Lithgow Workies led 8-2 at the half-time

sin bin. break after tries from Scott Fittler and Van Veen. They extended that advantage to 14-2 early in the second stanza with a con-

verted try. Mudgee 32 (Warrick Colley 2, Steve Lane 2, Corin Smith tries; Colley 6 goals) d. Lithgow Workies 29 (Scott Fittler, Brendan Van Veen, Michael Doggett, Kip Maranda Brent Ranse tries goals, Ranse field goal) at Jubilee Oval,





Macksville 20 (Nev Donovan, Garry Jarrett, Chris Martin, Jesse McEwen tries; Mick Ronan 2 goals) at Allen Gillett Oval, Macksville. Crowd: 3000.

Wyong capped off a great season by winning the A-grade grand final of the Newcastle/Hunter Rugby League competition. Wyong defeated Cardiff 42-22 in the decider played at St John's Oval.

In the B-grade decider, the Tea Gardens Hawks edged out the Wangi Warriors 26-24 at Charlestown.

With Wangi hanging on to a 24-22 lead, the Hawks hit the front in the final minute of the game when Jason Purdon set up a try for Brooke Roach to score wide out.

In the C-grade grand final, Thorton Beresfield Bears beat Hinton Hornets 32-16 at St John's Oval.

The Bears looked in control when they led 20-4 late in the first half but the Hornets bounced back with tries to Mick Williams and Brendan Wood to make it 20-16 early in the second half.

But it was no fairytale for the Hornets as Jordan Eckford and Scott Hill added tries for the Bears to give them the premiership. In the D-grade decider, Gateshead edged out Fingal Bay 19-16.

Picton won the Group 6 premiership after beating arch-rivals Thirlmere/Tahmoor 26-12 under lights at Kirkham Park.

It was a fiery start to the game with a brawl erupting in the opening minute. It ended with Picton's Kiel Sheppard and Thirlmere's Nathan Sutton being sent to the

Ex-NRL player Troy Wozniak scored the opening try of the game but Picton bounced back when former Wests and Newcastle first grader Leo Dynevor was sin-binned. Tries from Nigel Daniels and Gary Dowse gave the Magpies an 8-6 lead by half-time.

Picton extended their lead in the second half when Jai Taylor dived over in the corner before Luke Turner replied for the Roosters to make it 14-12.

But the Magpies skipped away with tries from Ben Digger and Mark Brasington to secure the premiership.

In the reserve grade grand final, Valley United went through the season undefeated after they shut-out East Campbelltown Eagles 31-0.

Meanwhile, Camden's Chris Browne has won this season's coveted Group 6 Country Rugby League first grade Player of the Year award.

Browne beat Moss Vale's Elliott Esquillant by one point, polling 22 votes.

An electrician from Monday to Friday, Browne's electrifying pace on the Rugby League field has helped him get over the line to win the prestigious title.

controversial final

WYONG Roos are Newcastle Premiers after a controversial grand final that saw three players from the Cessnock Goannas sent from the field.

Prop Sione Finefeuiaki got his marching orders for a high tackle with 19 minutes left on the clock. And five minutes later five-eighth Joby Patten and winger Willie Pole'o followed, the former also for a high shot and Pole'o for instigating a brawl.

Wyong hooker Mitch Williams was sent to cool his heels in the sin-bin for his part in the fracas.

After the dismissals, the Roos ran riot at the Newcastle No 1 Sportsground to post a 36-4 victory. It was their first Premiership success since joining the competition from the Central Coast in 2003.

A fuming Cessnock coach Todd Edwards claimed that the game needed an experienced referee to make sure the game didn't get out of hand.

"We weren't great. Don't get me wrong. But we lost Sione and the boys' heads went down. And then the other two got sent off. It's a joke! ," said a disappointed Edwards.

The Cessnock Goannas had suffered only one previous loss during the season – to Central Charlestown in Round Two. And they had easily accounted for Wyong Roos 46-20 in the major semi-final a fortnight earlier.

But the Cessnock players couldn't reproduce that form when it mattered.

Wyong captain Jamie Davis admitted the controversy took some of the gloss off the Roos' success but was still elated by the result.

"It [the storm over the send-offs] probably tainted the game a little bit," the classy centre said. "But I don't think it made any difference to the outcome. I thought we were on top pretty much for the whole game.'

It was an observation that Edwards did not dispute: 'For the first 50 minutes we struggled and struggled. And Wyong were pretty good for that time.'

Williams capped off a great game for the Wyong Roos when he won the JJ 'Mo' Williams Medal as Man of the Match in the grand final. But Davis must have run him close.

The Wyong Roos halves Mark Miller and Matt Sharp were also prominent throughout the grand final clash.

A week earlier the Roos had prevented the grand final from being a coalfields local derby when they outplayed Kurri Kurri 26-14 in the preliminary final at Cessnock Sports Ground. Wyong winger Jayson Mackenzie snared a brace of tries in that game as well as in the grand final.

Wyong 36 (Josh Mantellatto 2, Jayson Mackenzie 2, Marc Reed, Rowen Kelly, James Arnesen tries; Mantellatto 4 goals) d. Cessnock 4 (Chris Pyne try). Crowd: 7,600

JJ 'Mo' Wilson Medal (Man of the Match): Mitch Williams (Wyong)

Reserve grade: South Newcastle Lions d Macquarie Scorpions 19-18 (in extra time)

Under-19s: Western Suburbs d. South Newcastle Lions 26-20

The Yenda Blueheelers finished the season undefeated after beating the Griffith Waratah Tigers 24-20 in the Group 20 grand final held at EW Moore Oval in Griffith.

Despite losing five-eighth Chris Richards early in the game to an ankle injury, they opened the scoring with a try to Steve Richards.

The Tigers hit back with a try to Ricardo Davis but Yenda replied with Andrew Lavaka scoring. The Waratahs reduced the deficit prior to half-time when Josh Charles crossed

Group 20 player of the year and Yenda half-back David Rauluni strolled over after the interval to give his a side an 18-10 lead.

The Waratahs hit back but Davis crossed for his second try of the game to lead 24-20. The Griffith side had a chance to level the scores late in the game but Michael Mogliotti was held up over the try line.

In the reserve grade decider, a try 10 seconds from full-time from John Payne, converted by Jamie Woods, gave the Hay Magpies a 28-26 win over Griffith Black and Whites.

Yenda 24 (D Rauluni, S Richards, A Lavaka, V Ngu tries; N George 4 goals) d. Griffith Waratahs 20 (R Davis 2, J Williams, J Charles tries; Williams 2 goals) at EW Moore Oval. Crowd: 4000

NSW COUNTRY SCOREBOARD

ILLAWARRA Grand final: Wests d. Thirroul 14-4

NEWCASTLE Grand final: Wyong d. Cessnock

36-4Final: Wyong d. Kurri Kurri 26-14

CENTRAL COAST Grand Final: The Entrance d. Northern Lakes 52-14 Final: Northern Lakes d. Erina 34-

24 Major semi: The Entrance d. Erina 43-16

Elimination semi: Northern Lakes d. Ourimbah 38-28

NORTHERN RIVERS

Grand final: Lower Clarence d. Northern United 21-20 Final: Northern United d. Mullumbimby 22-14 Major semi: Lower Clarence d. Mullumbimby 30-10 Elimination semi: Northern United d. Grafton Ghosts 21-18

GROUP 2

Grand final: Sawtell d. Macksville 21-20

Final: Sawtell d. Bellingen 24-18 Major semi: Macksville d. Sawtell 56-22 Elimination semi: Bellingen d. Port Macquarie 16-8

GROUP 4

Grand final: West Lions d. North Tamworth 52-28 Final: North Tamworth d. Wee Waa 46-32

GROUP 6 Grand final: Picton d. Thirlmere 26-12

Final: Picton d. Oakdale 32-26 Major semi: Thirlmere d. Picton 44-12

Minor semi: Oakdale d. Moss Vale 25-24

SOUTH COAST GROUP 7 Grand final: Albion Park Oak Flats d. Warilla-Lake South 25-22 Final: Warilla Lake South d. Jam-

beroo 34-20 Major semi: Albion Park Oak Flats d. Warilla-Lake South 26-10

Minor semi: Jamberoo d. Berry 38-18

CANBERRA GROUP 8 Grand final: Goulburn Workers d. West Belconnen 29-24

Final: Goulburn Workers d. Woden Rams 29-22 Major semi: West Belconnen d.

Goulburn 24-16 Minor semi: Woden Rams d. Queanbeyan Blues 30-20

GROUP 9

Grand final: Wagga Kangaroos d. Gundagai 42-4 Final: Wagga Kangaroos d. Lavington 38-26

Major semi: Gundagai d. Wagga Kangaroos 30-18 Minor semi: Lavington d. Tumut 40-

26 Elimination semis: Tumut d. South City 32-28, Lavington d. Wagga Brothers 26-10.

GROUP 10

Grand final: Mudgee d. Lithgow Workies 32-29 Final: Lithgow Workies d. Bathurst Panthers 32-18

GROUP 11 Grand final: Dubbo CYMS d. Parkes 26-22 Final: Parkes d. Dubbo Macquarie 38-14

GROUP 16 Grand final: Narooma d. Cooma 56-32

GROUP 19 Grand final: Tingha d. Guyra 46-14 Final: Guyra d. Inverell 46-20

GROUP 20 Grand final: Yenda d. Griffith Waratahs 24-20 Final: Griffith Waratahs d. Yanco Wamoon 50-36

GROUP 21 Grand final: Greta Branxton d. Sin-

Damien Kennedy takes the ball up for Illawarra Wests in the grand final. A DESCRIPTION OF Bendemeer 18-16 **GEORGE TOOKE SHIELD** Grand final: Harden d. Bungen-**CASTLEREAGH CUP** dore 16-11 Final: Bungendore d. Southwest

Brahmans 35-16 Major semi: Harden d. Southwest Brahmans 24-10 Minor semi: Bungendore d. Braidwood 22-6 Qualifying semi: Southwest Brahmans d. Braidwood 24-20 Elimination semi: Bungendore d. Goulburn Exchange 24-10

VB CUP Grand final: UOW Titans d. Wests 28-10

REGAN CUP Grand final: Greenwell Point d. Warilla 26-14 Final: Greenwell Point d. Albion Park Outlaws 40-6 Major semi: Warilla d. Greenwell Point 16-16 Minor semi: Albion Park Outlaws d. Robertson 34-16

GROUP 4 SHIELD

Grand final: Coonamble d. Gilgandra 32-26

NEWCASTLE / HUNTER RUGBY LEAGUE

A-GRADE Grand final: Wyong d. Cardiff 42-22 **B-GRADE** Grand final: Tea Gardens d. Wangi Wangi 26-24

C-GRADE Grand final: Thorton/Beresfield d. Hinton 32-16

D-GRADE Grand final: Gateshead d. Fingal Bav 19-18

WOODBRIDGE CUP Grand final: Cargo d. Eugowra 26-

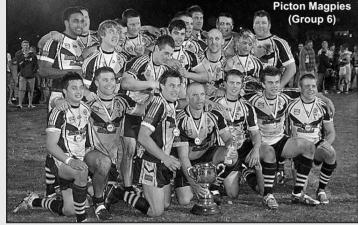
14 Grand final qualifiers: Cargo Blue Heelers d. Canowindra Tigers 40-26, Eugowra Golden Eagles d. Peak Hill Roosters 30-18 Week 2 play-offs: Eugowra d. Condobolin 13-12, Canowindra d. Manil-

Grand final: Dungowan Cowboys d. dra 26-24 aleton 22-16 Victor Sports supplies all representative Rugby League in NSW including the Kangaroos, **NSW Blues State of Origin, NSW City and Country teams.**

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QLD COUNTRY Wallaroos hold out **Brothers fightback**

Maryborough's Wallaroos defeated Brothers 40-38 to win the Bundaberg Rugby League premiership.

The Wallaroos looked like they were cruising to a comfortable victory when they led 38-16 with 20 minutes remaining on the clock

But Brothers finished the game strongly and in the end, it was a penalty goal that proved the difference.

Bundaberg dominated the early stages of the game when they led 12-0 courtesy of tries to Brent Kuskey and Ryan McGoldrick.

The Wallaroos were finally able to click into gear and with Nigel Williams leading the way, they went into the break leading 20-16.

Brothers made it back-to-back titles after beating the Atherton Roosters 30-18 in the Cairns Rugby League grand final last month.

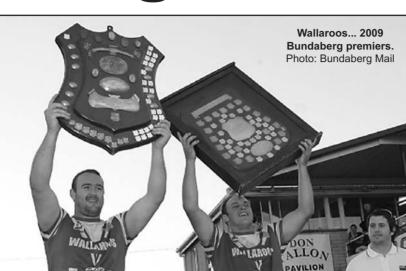
Brothers looked like missing out on the finals before stringing together enough victories to scrape into fourth place.

Brothers skipped away to a 14-0 lead through tries from Fred Fauid and Ben Fitzpatrick before the Roosters hit back with new Sydney Roosters signing Todd Carney leading the way.

Two tries before the break and one early in the second half to Wally Guivarra put the Roosters ahead 18-14.

Brothers grabbed a two point lead when five-eighth Dane Kepa scored in the 57th minute but had to produce a defensive brilliance to stop the Atherton attacks.

After holding out the Roosters, Brothers worked their way up the other end and scored through Ben Fitzpatrick. They made sure of the win when Ben Kerr scored with two minutes remaining.



Brothers are the 2009 Ipswich Rugby League premiers after defeating Goodna 35-22 in the grand final clash held at North **Ipswich Reserve.**

The game was held up for more than 30 minutes after Goodna's Scott Berrell was in-

jured in a tackle early in the second half. The Brethren led 22-10 at the half-time break and were leading 30-10 when the serious injury occurred. Both teams retreated to the dressing room and both sides returned as darkness began to set in.

Goodna hit back with tries to Roger Eliu and Sione Piuta to get back in the game at 30-22 before Shane Gibson kicked a field goal to give Brothers a nine point advantage.

Brothers finished the game with two penalty goals, the second coming after Goodna's William Bernard was sent from the field in the 76th minute for fighting.

The Caloundra Sharks grabbed the Sunshine Coast Rugby League title after beating the Maroochydore Swans 16-10 in the grand final.

The Swans opened the scoring in the 16th minute when Dean Franklin dived over in the corner

The Caloundra Sharks got on the scoreboard when Chris McGill split the defence and raced 70 metres to score. Ben Roberts added the extras and then kicked a penalty goal to give Caloundra an 8-4 lead by halftime.

There was no change to the score line for the majority of the second half and it wasn't until the 72nd minute when Jason Wardrop beat three defenders to score for the Caloundra Sharks.

The Swans never gave up and finished the game with a consolation try to Kris Boyce.

Craig Frawley, Brody McGuire tries; Dave

Grand Final: Caloundra Sharks 16 (Chris

McGill, Jason Wardrop tries; Ben Roberts

4 goals) def Maroochydore-Coolum Swans

2, Freddy Fauid, Nathan Kepa, Ben Kerr

tries; Eric Smith 5 goals) d. Atherton 18

(Todd Carney 2, Waylon Joseph, Wally:

Valleys 18 (Gus McKellar, Jake Ryals,

McKerihan 4, Ross Sammut goals).

SUNSHINE COAST/GYMPIE

McGlynn goal).

TOOWOOMBA

CAIRNS & DISTRICT

Giuvarra tries; Carney goal).

Tigers pluck the Roosters

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A late try from Terry Baira gave the Mulga Tigers a 36-34 win over the Roosters in the Kaiwalagal Rugby League grand final on Thursday Island.

A crowd of more than 700 were on hand at Ken Brown Memorial Oval to see a match filled with plenty of attack and hard hitting defence.

The Roosters led 34-32 until the final seconds of the game until Baira barged over for his match-winner. The Roosters led 16-10 at half-time and extended their

advantage by a further six points when Maiah Mosby scored. But the Tigers hit back to level the scores at 22-all after

tries from Peter Eseli and Solomon Ahmat. The Roosters re-captured the lead with 17 minutes re-

maining when Mosby scored. But it has 26-all when Sergio Ahmat scored a minute later.

Both sides exchanged tries to bring the scoreline to 32all before the Roosters received a penalty with three minutes remaining. Sam Wasaqa added the goal to give his side a two point lead.

Valleys Roosters held on to beat Brothers 18-16 in the Toowoomba Rugby League grand final.

Valleys opened up a 12-0 lead thanks to a 22nd minute try from Gus McKellar and Jake Ryals. Brothers got on the scoreboard when Sam Hannant raced over in the 32nd minute.

Brothers reduced the deficit to just two points when Chris Hartshon crossed in the 58th minute and continued to hamper the Valleys try line.

A grubber kick from Brothers centre Kristin Green was collected by Nathan Murphy, who raced 85 metres to score in the 66th minute to make it 18-10.

Hannant gave Brothers some hope when he scored with four minutes remaining and had a couple of chances to grab the lead but failed to break the Valleys defence.

Valleys' chances of lifting a record fifth straight Toowoomba Rugby League title have skyrocketed yesterday with confirmation English Super League star Justin Murphy would captain-coach the team in 2010.

The Roosters dropped a post grand final bombshell by announcing the Valleys junior would return to Australia and take the reins from Russell Bailey next season.

Having spent time with NRL clubs Brisbane, Canterbury and the New Zealand Warriors, Murphy has now had stints in the English Super League with Widnes and Catalans Dragons.

Souths edge out the Miners

A crowd of more than 2000 were at the Mackay Junior Rugby League Grounds to watch Souths edge out Moranbah 37-34 in the Mackay Rugby League grand final.

The Southern Suburbs Sharks led 10-0 after as many minutes thanks to tries to full-back Tommy Ryan and

But the Moranbah Miners fought back when half-back Justin McKay put Craig Frawley over.

but two tries in three minutes from Ryan Peterson and

points when Chapman dived over from dummy half.

ond half before both sides exchanged tries that saw Souths leading 32-30.

Chapman made it 37-30 before Josh Reynolds scored with 40 seconds remaining.

Burleigh Bears hooker Scott Smith won the 2009 Courier-Mail Best and Fairest Award, edging out three players by one point.

Cullen (Easts) and Ian Lacey (Ipswich).

ing up 35 votes. He beat Brad Davis (33), Cullen (28) and Tom Humble (27).



Maryborough 58-0 at Eskdale Park, Maryborough in the Centennial representative match. The game marked the centenary of the

first clash between Maryborough and Brisbane which was played in Maryborough on September 18, 1909. Brisbane won that match 32-20.

In the 2009 match, Brisbane Second Division led 26-0 at the break and finished the game with 11 tries, three of those to Michael Gillett.

Brisbane Second Division 58 (Michael Gillett 3, Steve Franciscus, Stephen Sparke, Nic Franciscus, Dean Madders, Shane Hayden, Clancy Fallon, Brenton Stonier James Mackney tries; Gillett 3, Franciscus, Madders, Stonier, Todd Wilson goals) d. Maryborough 0 at Eskdale Park, Maryborough.

IPSWICH

Grand Final: Brothers 35 (Shane Gibson 3, Fili Notoa, Jack Boettcher tries; Fili Notoa 6, Brett Turner goals; Shane Gibson field

BUNDABERG Grand Final: Wallaroos 40 (Gordon Fonua

TOWNSVILLE & DISTRICT

Grand Final: Herbert River 26 (B Seri, T Cockburn, B Spina, L Guidicatti tries; M Seri 5 goals) d. Brothers 4 (J Richards try).

Grand Final: Southport 12 (Dean Vinson, Tu Whakatiki tries; Scott Mulligan 2 goals) d. Bilambil 6 (Tim Mason try; Matt Oving-

Craig Chapman 2, Hayden McElrov, goals).



goal) def Goodna 22 (Ezra Lemafa, Max Michael Pearce, Peter Hassall tries; Craig Brisbane Second Division thrashed Seumanutafa, Roger Eliu, Sione Piutau Chapman 4 goals, Chapman field goal) d. tries; Craig Wehrman 3 goals). Moranbah 34 (Daniel Sorbello, Josh Reynolds, Ryan Peterson, Justin McKay,

> 2, Mark Saltner 2, Stafford Saltner, Shaun Collins, Justin Prior tries; Bernard Hopkins 6 goals) d. Brothers 38 (Matt Hall 2, Lewis Williams 2, Reece Watton, Ryan Mc-Goldrick, Brent Kuskey tries; Steve Irwin 5 goals).

GOLD COAST

ton goal).

Nathan Murphy tries; Matt Duggan 3: **MACKAY & DISTRICT** goals) d. Brothers 16 (Sam Hannant 2, Grand Final: Souths 37 (Tom Ryan 2,

Chris Hartshorn tries; Liam Cullen 2

10 (Dean Frankom, Kris Boyce tries; Daniel centre Michael Pearce. Grand Final: Brothers 30 (Ben Fitzpatrick

Souths led 14-6 when winger Hayden McElroy scored

Brody McGuire gave Moranbah an 18-14 lead. But Souths went into the half-time break ahead by two

ed his second try a minute into

A try from Peter Hassell, followed by a field goal from

Smith (25 points) beat Nat Bowman (Central), Ryan

Lacey was named the Qantas Player of the Year, chalk-

Souths Logan's Paul Bramley was named coach of the year while Norths' Matt Gillett was rookie of the year.

KIWINEWS Brown called up Warriors second rower Lewis Brown has

been added to the Kiwis' train-on squad for the Four Nations Rugby League tournament.

Kiwi coach Stephen Kearney said Brown had been brought in to provide cover for the squad's back row options.

"We've lost some of our second row contenders like Simon Mannering, Sika Manu and Zeb Taia so we've called Lewis in to give us some more depth there," he said.

Brown joined the Warriors after the 2008 season from Wests Tigers, earning his NRL debut against St George Illawarra in May and going on to make a total of 15 appearances

His inclusion boosts the train-on squad to 39. Those players not involved in finals football have been training at various locations since last month.

The world champion New Zealanders assemble in Auckland early this month to prepare for the Test against Tonga in Rotorua on October 14 before flying out to London two days later for their opening Four Nations clash against the Kangaroos in London on October 24.

Successful Canterbury coach Brent Stuart was named head coach of the Bartercard Premiership Selection to face the Samoan Residents at Mount Smart Stadium on October 10.

Stuart, who played 14 Tests for the Kiwis from 1992-95, earned the appointment after the Canterbury Bulls clinched top ranking for the Bartercard Premiership play-offs.

The New Zealand Warriors have signed Parramatta and Wentworthville prop Jeremy Latimore.

The 22-year-old broke into first-grade against South Sydney in round 11 this season, the last of his seven interchange appearances for Parramatta coming against the Vodafone Warriors in Round 23 on August 15.

Born and raised in Port Macquarie, Latimore represented the Junior Kangaroos in 2005 and New South Wales Residents last year.

Warriors coach Ivan Cleary said the young Parramatta front rower provides more depth in the club's front row options

Combined Services Rugby League

The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) won the annual Combined Services Rugby League tournament last month at the Randwick Army Barracks.

3RAR stepped in after Army were unable to field a representative side in the tournament.

3RAR defeated Air Force 40-34 in the opening game of the tournament after they led 34-0 at half-time.

Air Force then thrashed Navy 56-0 after they led 24-0 at the interval. 3RAR captured the championship when they defeated Navy 28-10.



for the 2010 season.

"We were in the market for a prop and we knew a bit about Jeremy after seeing him play in the New South Wales Cup and also against us in the NRL," he said.

The New Zealand Rugby League named the five directors for the second of seven new zones created to administer the game at regional level.

Following confirmation of the Auckland directors last month, NZRL chairman Scott Carter announced that Southland's Rex Capil would chair the southern zone board. The other directors are John Brimble, of

Otago, and Canterbury's Carolyn Harkess, Reon Edwards and Craig McGuigan. The zone comprises the district leagues of Tasman, West Coast, Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

In the Auckland Fox Memorial grand final, Mt Albert were too strong for the Papakura Sea Eagles, running out 32-10 winners at Mt Smart Stadium No 2.

In the Sharman Cup decider, Howick Hornets beat Glenora Bears 19-12 and Manukau Magpies defeated Waiheke Rams 24-16.

Canterbury won the National Provincial Competition after they defeated Auckland 26-20 in the final held in Christchurch.

Auckland dominated the first half and created a 16-6 advantage by half-time but the Canterbury Bulls bounced back to draw level at 20-all

The game looked set to be heading into extra-time when full-back Johnny Aranga split the defence and raced over to score the

match-winner. In the semi-finals, Canterbury held out Wellington to win 20-17 at Rugby League

Park in Christchurch. Wellington led 10-6 at half-time but Canterbury fought back with three tries in the second half.

the other semi-final, Auckland In thrashed Waikato 60-4 after leading 26-4 at the break

Henry Heta led the way with three tries while James Blackwell and Cody Walker finished with two tries each.

Canterbury Bulls 26 (Jonny Aranga 2, Junior Salevao, Craig Smith, Jermahl Carroll tries; Simon Mounga 3 goals) d. Auckland 20 (William Heta, James Blackwell, Henry Heta, Sione Taka tries; Cody Walker, William Heta goals) at Rugby League Park. HT: 6-16. Referee: Leon Williamson (Auckland).

Final points: Canterbury 10, Auckland 8, Waikato 6, Wellington 4, Taranaki 2, Bay Of Plenty 0.

UNDER 18s KIWI CUP: Auckland won the Under 18s final, outclassing Auckland 34-10 win over Wellington.

Final points: Auckland 8, Wellington 8, Canterbury 8, Taranaki 4, Waikato 2.Bay of Plenty 0.

UNDER 16s FOUNATION CUP: Auckland were crowned champions after edging out Taranaki 11-10 in the final.

Final points: Auckland 10, Taranaki 8, Waikato 4, Bay of Plenty 4, Wellington 2, Canterbury 2.

In the annual New South Wales Maori Rugby League Tournament, Norths defeated Wests 34-26 in the final held at St Mary's Leagues Stadium in Sydney's western suburbs.

Wests beat Easts 42-10 and Norths thrashed Souths 44-16 in the group matches. In the play-off for third, Souths beat Easts 40-22.

A number of NRL players featured in the Maori tournament including Anthony Cherrington, Shaun Kenny-Dowall and Iwi Hauraki.

Nationwide

NORTHERN TERRITORY: Brothers proved too strong for the University Sharks to run out convincing 44-10 winners over University 44-10 in the Darwin grand final.

Played before a crowd of 3914 at Richardson Park, Brothers skipped away to a 14-0 lead after tries from Rodney Barba, Daniel Good and Ryan Whyte.

University scored their opening try of the game late in the first half when Jason Criddle crossed to make it 14-6 at half-time.

But any hope the Sharks had quickly evaporated when Liam Philpott scored early in the second half. Further tries followed to Leon Rotumah, Danny Miskin and Barba to see Brothers clinch their 12th first grade title.

Alice Springs: Wests are the 2009 Central Australian Rugby League premiers after they beat United 44-38 in the grand final played before a crowd of 1200 at Anzac Oval.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: The Eels pulled off the great escape when they scored in the final 20 seconds of the game to beat South Adelaide 30-26 in the grand final.

VICTORIA: The Sunbury United Tigers won their first premiership when they outclassed the Casey Sharks 48-10 in the grand final.

Tries from Brendan Train, Michael Faamausili, Josh Jerome, Terry Constantinou and Matt Croker gave the Tigers a handy 30-10 advantage. James Barker had a

wonderful game and was named the man of the match. In the Division Two decider, the Werribee Bears created history when they won the premiership in the inaugural season.

The Bears led the Altona Roosters 22-6 at the break before the Roosters hit back in the second half with two tries to get to 22-18 with 10 minutes remaining. The Bears defended magnificently to win the grand final.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: A Paul Sheedy field goal 20 seconds from full-time gave the South Perth Lions a 23-22 victory over the Central Bulldogs in the Western Australian Rugby League grand final.

The Bulldogs opened the scoring with a try from Josh Benjamin before the Lions replied with tries to Sheedy and Jack Greenwood to lead 12-4 at the interval.

A try from Ben McCrone early in the second half made it 16-4 but the Bulldogs hit back with two tries of their own to level the scores at 16-all. A 71st minute try from Clint Fraser gave South Perth a six-point advantage but the Bulldogs squared up proceedings with a try from Jared Young four minutes later.

South Perth advanced to the grand final after beating Central Bulldogs 32-12 in the major semi-final. The Bulldogs bounced back to beat North Beach Sea Eagles 30-16 in the preliminary final. The Sea Eagles had outclassed Joondalup 43-4 in the minor semi-final.

Pilbara: Port Hedland Hawks defeated Wickham Wasps 26-24 in the grand final.





For those who want rational discussion not rants !

St Helens to take on Leeds in grand final

BY DAVE MAKIN at Headingley

The Leeds Rhinos booked their place in the Super League grand final at Old Trafford after beating the Catalans Dragons 27-20 at Headingley.

Even though the Dragons had the better of play in the opening stages, it was Leeds that drew first blood when Danny McGuire scored in the 13th minute.

Catalans replied immediately with Vincent Duport scoring in the corner but two tries from Ryan Hall in four minutes gave Leeds a 16-4 advantage.

Leeds led 22-4 by half-time after Scott Donald broke clear and sent McGuire on his way to his second try of the game.

It took just two minutes of the second half for the Rhinos to go further ahead when Donald raced over to score.

The Dragons replied with two tries from Duport to make it 26-14 but Leeds made sure of the win when Kevin Sinfield added a field goal. The visitors finished the game with a consolation try to Adam Mogg.

Leeds 27 (Ryan Hall 2, Danny McGuire 2, Scott Donald tries; Kevin Sinfield 3 goals, Sinfield field goal) d. Catalans Dragons 20 (Vincent Duport 3, Adam Mogg tries; Thomas Bosc 2 goals) at Headingley. Crowd: 13,409.

Leeds: Brent Webb, Scott Donald, Lee Smith, Keith Senior, Ryan Hall, Danny McGuire, Robert Burrow, Kylie Leuluai, Matt Diskin, Jamie Peacock, Jamie Jones-Buchanan, Carl Ablett, Kevin Sinfield.

Interchange: Ryan Bailey, Ian Kirke, Luke Burgess, Simon Worrall.

Catalans: Clint Greenshields, Vincent Duport, Sebastien Raguin, Jean Phillipe Baile, Dimitri Pelo, Adam Mogg, Thomas Bosc, Jason Ryles, Casey McGuire, Jerome Guisset, Olivier Elima, Cyril Gossard, Greg Bird.

Interchange: David Ferriol, Dane Carlaw, Julien Touxagas, Remi Casty.

Former dual-code international lestyn Harris has been appointed as head coach of Wales for the autumn internationals.

The ex-Leeds, Cardiff and Bradford five-eighth, who is the record scorer for Wales with 165 points in 20 appearances, succeeds Australian John Dixon after being his assistant for last year's international against England.

Harris' first match will be the return clash with England in Bridgend on October 17, which is a warm-up for the Four Nations series and the European Cup in which Wales face group matches against Serbia and Ireland.

The Scottish squad to compete in this year's European Cup has been announced and will be coached by Steve McCormack.

The squad is James Nixon (Barrow), John Steel (Featherstone), Dean Colton (Doncaster), Kevin Henderson (Wakefield), Mick Nanyn (Leigh), Lee Paterson (Widnes), John Duffy (Widnes), Gareth Moore (York), Paul Jackson (Huddersfield), Mitch Stringer (Sheffield), Alex Szostak (Sheffield), Jack Howieson (Sheffield), Neil Lowe (Hunslet), Ben Fisher (Hull KR), Andrew Henderson (Gateshead), Rhys Lovegrove (Hull KR), Dexter Miller (Whitehaven), Rob Lunt (Workington), Mark Dack (Gateshead), Dave Vernon (Gateshead), John Cox (Edinburgh), Dave Arnott (Scotland Students), Crawford Mathews (Gateshead), •



BY TERRY HOLMES at GPW Recruitment Stadium

St Helens held out the Wigan Warriors 14-10 to go through to the Super League grand final.

The Saints led 10-6 at the break thanks to a 33rd minute try from Sean Long. The veteran half-back will play his last game for St Helens in the decider before joining Hull next season.

Francis Meli scored in the 44th minute to make it 14-6. Wigan's Joel Tomkins found the gap from his own half before finding Carmont in support before Richards finished off the move in the corner, touching

down his own grubber kick. But St Helens were able to hang on for the final 10 minutes of the game.

St Helens 14 (Francis Meli 2, Sean Long tries; Kyle Eastmond goal) d. **Wigan 10** (Pat Richards, George Carmont tries; Richards goal) at GPW Recruitment Stadium. Crowd: 13,087.

St Helens: Paul Wellens, Francis Meli, Matt Gidley, Leon Pryce, Ade Gardner,

NEWS ROUND-UP by Terry Holmes

Jamie Benn (Castleford Panthers), Paddy Coupar (Workington), Brendon Lindsay (Sheffield), Iain Morrison (Widnes).

Former Great Britain international James Lowes is to stay with Challenge Cup winners Warrington after agreeing to a new contract.

The ex-Bradford hooker lost his position as Wolves head coach in March when England boss Tony Smith assumed control with Lowes moved aside to become first-team coach.

Ireland coach Andy Kelly has included 10 players from the domestic competition in his initial 28-strong squad for the European Cup.

The squad is Scott Grix (Wakefield), Sean Gleeson (Wakefield), Bob Beswick (Halifax), Liam Harrison (Barrow), Karl Fitzpatrick (Salford), Liam Finn (Dewsbury), Luke Ambler (Leeds), Sean Hesketh (York), Pat Richards (Wigan), Mick Mcllorum (Wigan), Gareth Haggerty (Harlequins), Tyrone McCarthy (Warrington), Jason Golden (Harlequins), Eamon O'-Carroll (Wigan), Wayne Kerr (Oldham), Dave Allen (Barrow), Marcus St Hilaire (Oldham), James Coyle (Barrow), John Coleman (Dublin City Exiles), Brendan Guilfoyle (Treaty City Titans), Paddy BarSean Long, Kyle Eastmond, James Graham, Keiron Cunningham, Tony Puletia, Lee Gilmour, Jon Wilkin, Chris Flannery.

Interchange: Paul Clough, James Roby, Bryn Hargreaves, Maurie Fa'asavalu. **Wigan:** Amos Roberts, Pat Richards, Martin Gleeson, George Carmont, Cameron Phelps, Sam Tomkins, Thomas Leuluai, Paul Prescott, Mark Riddell, Andy Coley, Sean O'Loughlin, Joel Tomkins, Harrison

Hansen. Interchange: Mark Flanagan, Lee Mossop, Stuart Fielden, Iafeta Paleaaesina.

Barrow ended a 26-year wait for a cup final success when they edged out Halifax 26-18 in a thrilling Championship Grand Final played before a crowd of 11, 398 at Warrington's Halliwell Jones Stadium.

The Raiders, whose last triumph was their Lancashire Cup win over Widnes in 1983, came from 10-0 down to win the game.

Meanwhile, Keighley clinched promotion to the Championship next year after beating Oldham 28-26 in the Championship One grand final.

coe (Carlow Crusaders), Tim Bergin (Laois Panthers), Stevie Gibbons (Carlow Crusaders), Shane Mullay (Treaty City Titans), Shane Kelly (Tullamore Knights), Mark Toohey (Treaty City Titans), Alan MacNamara (Treaty City Titans), Tommy Ratahi (Carlow Crusaders).

France have included Catalans Dragons' Australian-born trio Clint Greenshields, Casey McGuire and Adam Mogg in their provisional squad for the Gillette Four Nations series, subject to final approval from the International Federation.

The three players have spent the last three seasons in Perpignan and hope that will be enough to make them eligible to represent France.

Widnes winger Dean Gaskell has been banned by a national anti-doping panel for three months following overuse of his prescribed asthma medication.

Meanwhile, Wigan have not offered Brian Noble a new contract. leaving the way for Shaun Wane or Michael Maguire to take over as coach.

Halifax have won the race to sign Hull KR's veteran Papua New Guinea international Stanley Gene.

The 35-year-old utility player has agreed a one-year deal - with a 12-month option - with Halifax, who have high hopes of securing promotion to Super League in 2012.

SCOREBOARD

Round 26 (September 4-6): Bradford d. Salford 44-18, Wakefield Trinity d. Catalans Dragons 34-20, Huddersfield d. Celtic Crusaders 42-16, Castleford d. Harlequins 48-0, Hull KR d. Warrington 40-16, Leeds d. St Helens 18-10, Wigan d. Hull 34-22.

Round 27 (September 11-13): Castleford d. Celtic Crusaders 35-22, Huddersfield d. Wigan 48-16, Bradford d. Hull 21-18, Leeds d. Salford 30-24, Catalans Dragons d. St Helens 24-12, Wakefield Trinity d. Hull KR 24-10, Warrington d. Harlequins 44-34.

Qualifying play-offs (September 18-19): Leeds d. Hull KR 44-8, St Helens d. Huddersfield 15-2.

Elimination play-offs (September 19-20): Catalans Dragons d. Wakefield Trinity 25-16, Wigan d. Castleford 18-12. Final Eliminators (September 25-26): Catalans Dragons d. Huddersfield 16-6, Wigan d. Hull KR 30-16. Grand final qualifiers (October 2-3): Leeds d. Catalans

| 27-20, St Helens of | d. W | igan | 14 | -10. | - | | |
|---------------------|------|------|----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | Ρ | W | D | L | F | Α | PTS |
| Leeds | 25 | 19 | 0 | 6 | 757 | 419 | 38 |
| St Helens | 25 | 19 | 0 | 6 | 711 | 424 | 38 |
| Hull KR | 25 | 16 | 1 | 8 | 600 | 476 | 33 |
| Huddersfield | 25 | 16 | 0 | 9 | 600 | 384 | 32 |
| Wigan | 25 | 14 | 0 | 11 | 609 | 481 | 28 |
| Wakefield | 25 | 14 | 0 | 11 | 627 | 579 | 28 |
| Catalans | 25 | 12 | 0 | 13 | 569 | 614 | 24 |
| Castleford | 25 | 12 | 0 | 13 | 562 | 680 | 24 |
| Warrington | 25 | 11 | 0 | 14 | 589 | 631 | 22 |

| 24 |
|----|
| |
| 22 |
| 22 |
| 21 |
| 20 |
| 14 |
| 6 |
| |

CHAMPIONSHIP

Elimination play-offs (Sept 10-11): Featherstone d. Sheffield 32-8, Widnes d. Whitehaven 26-21.

Qualifying semi-final (Sept 17): Barrow d. Halifax 35-12. Elimination semi-final (Sept 18): Featherstone d. Widnes 32-24

Final eliminator (Sept 24): Halifax d. Featherstone 36-30 Grand final (October 4): Barrow d. Halifax 26-18 *Final competition points:* Barrow 44, Halifax 43, Sheffield

42, Widnes 39, Whitehaven 39, Featherstone 37, Gateshead 32, Batley 32, Leigh 32, Toulouse 30, Don-caster -1.

CHAMPIONSHIP ONE

Elimination play-offs (Sept 13): Oldham d. Swinton 31-26, Hunslet d. Blackpool 21-18. Qualifying semi-final (Sept 20): Keighley d. York City 32-

18 Elimination semi-final (Sept 20): Oldham d. Hunslet 54-

30 Final Eliminator (Sept 27): Oldham d. York 44-14

Grand final (October 4): Keighley d. Oldham 28-26.

Final competition points: Dewsbury 54, Keighley 42, York City 40, Oldham 35, Blackpool 33, Hunslet 33, Swinton 27, Rochdale 15, Workington 11, London Skolars 5.

RESERVE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Elimination play-offs: Bradford d. Warrington 32-10, Leeds d. Huddersfield 38-14

Elimination semi-final: Leeds d. Bradford 46-26 Qualifying semi-final: Wigan d. St Helens 22-16 Final Eliminator: St Helens d. Leeds 59-28

Grand final: Wigan d. St Helens 34-6

Final competition points: Wigan 38, St Helens 34, Huddersfield 29, Bradford 24, Warrington 22, Leeds 19, Hull KR 18, Hull 17, Harlequins 16, Castleford 15, Salford 10, Wakefield 10, Celtic Crusaders 6.

ACADEMY CHAMPIONSHIP

Elimination play-offs: Castleford d. Hull KR 30-16, Bradford d. Warrington 27-16.

Elimination semi-final: Bradford d. Castleford 40-36 Qualifying semi-final: Wakefield Trinity d. Wigan 12-4

Final Eliminator: Wigan d. Bradford 23-22

Grand final: Wakefield Trinity d. Wigan 30-4

Final competition points: Wakefield Trinity 31, Wigan 28, Castleford 27, Warrington 26, Bradford 26, Hull KR 22, St Helens 18, Hull FC 14, Widnes 12, Leeds 11, Salford 9, Huddersfield 8, Harlequins 2.

RUGBY LEAGUE CONFERENCE NATIONAL

Elimination play-offs: Nottingham Outlaws d. Hemel Stags 24-22, Featherstone Lions d. Warrington Wizards 40-34

Elimination semi-final: Nottingham Outlaws d. Featherstone Lions 32-24

Qualifying semi-final: Bramley Buffaloes d. Huddersfield Underbank 30-24

Final Eliminator: Underbank d. Nottingham 44-10

Grand final: Bramley d. Huddersfield Underbank 38-22 *Final competition points:* Bramley Buffaloes 55, Huddersfield Underbank 50, Featherstone Lions 46, Nottingham Outlaws 45, Hemel Stags 44, Warrington Wizards 38, Liverpool Buccaneers 31, Dewsbury Celtic 18, Carlisle Centurions 16, East Lancashire 11, Gateshead Storm 8.

Comeback win against FijiAll syfor the Cook IslandsMomentum is gate

BY TERRY LIBEROPOULOS at Mascot Oval, Sydney

The New South Wales Cook Islands side came from 20-0 down to defeat the Fiji Australians 42-26 at Mascot Oval last month.

The match was part of the inaugural KooGa Shield that both nations hope to play for on an annual basis with organisers looking at also including the likes of Tonga and Samoa in the future.

The Fijians were on fire in the opening 35 minutes of the game and threatened to race away with the game before the Cook Islands stormed home to win.

The Fijians had a number of chances to score in the opening stages of the game but it wasn't until the 19th minute that they managed to cross the line when winger Junior Rika scored after they decided to run the ball on the last tackle.

It was 10-0 after 24 minutes when former first grade player James Langaloa scored wide out. Two minutes later, Sam Raniga brushed off three defenders and then raced 70 metres to score.

Ben Takaiwai swooped on a grubber kick that Cook Islands winger junior Paeru failed to collect to bring the scoreline to 20-0. It looked like a thrashing was on the cards but Cook Islands finished the half with a try to John Dean.

With Wentworthville's Ben Taia and former Hull KR (Super League) and Newtown player Byron Ford leading the way, the Cook Islands came out firing in the final 40 minutes.

Three tries in five minutes saw them come from 20-6 down to lead 22-20 in the 50th minute.

They began their comeback in the 45th minute when AJ Abel scored and three minutes later, Taia scored after receiving a great off-load from Ford.

COWBOYS PREMIERS IN FIJI

Namatakula Cowboys are the 2009 Fiji National Rugby League champions after they beat defending champions Nadera Panthers 14-8.

Led by dual international Alipate Tani, the Cowboys started strongly but couldn't break through the Panthers defence. Fiji Bati player Seva Koroi gave Nadera

a 4-0 lead at half-time after scoring in the 34th minute.

But one minute into the second half, the Cowboys hit back when Tani set up a try for Jo Ravueta.

Nadera Panthers re-claimed the lead in the 55th minute to Isoa Naulumatua and almost scored again through Pio Loco but the try was disallowed.

The Cowboys levelled at 8-all thanks to a 76th minute try fom Eparama Rokoyaya and they snatched the lead with a minute remaining when Kini Qeretabua scored.

Nadera Panthers did manage some silverware, winning the reserve grade grand final with a 42-16 win over the Nabua Broncos.

Meanwhile, Eastern Conference won the Fijian State of Origin clash after they thrashed Western Conference 38-12 at Lautoka Methodist Ground.



Aaron Turia then collected a well placed kick from TK Amosa on the full and scored behind the posts. Abel increased the Cook Island's advantage to six points when Abel scored.

Fiji managed to stem the flow and levelled up at 26-all after Lapani Waqa scored adjacent to the posts in the 66th minute.

But three minutes later, the Cook Islands re-captured the lead when a great in and away from Ford resulted in Turia scoring.

Taia used his great strength to beat three defenders to score in the 74th minute and the Cook Islanders finished the scoring two minutes later when Abel registered his third try of the game.

The Cook Island won all three matches after beating Fiji A 28-12 in the Under 19s and 34-26 in the Under 16s.

NSW Cook Islands 42 (AJ Abel 3 ,Aaron Turia 2, Ben Taia 2, John Dean tries; Taia 5 goals) d. Fiji A 26 (Junior Rika, James Langaloa, Sam Raniga, Ben Takaiwai, Lapani Waqa tries; Langaloa 3 goals) at Mascot Oval, Sydney, September 19. Referee: Zbigniew Przeklasa-Adamski. Touch Judges: Domenic Patton, James Vella. Penalties: Cooks Islands 9-2. Crowd: 1200. Half-time: Fiji A 20-6.

FIJI A: Lapani Waqa, Junior Rika, Darrell Jang, Sam Raniga, Nacaieli Kinikini, Cyrian Ale, Ben Takaiwai, Suli Koroibaweka, Viliame Qereqeretabua, Billy Baleilomaloma, Donas Gock, James Langaloa, Joe Swamy. Interchange: Francis Elia, John Koro, Gilbert Mondrau, Paul Rokolati, Wasea Cakau, William Sauliga, Luke Warwick-Smith, Phil Samuels, Rod Tagiutu. Coach: Darryl Neville. NSW Cook Islands: Byron Ford (c), Aaron Turia, John Dean, Aj Abel, Junior Paeru, Teariki Noovao, TK Amosa, JP Viiga, Damien Takarua, Chris Mene, Timirau Arona, Clint Stowers, Ben Taia.

Interchange: Jonathan Tuaupu, Eazra Howe, Albert Boaza, Blakie Tua, Graeme Jeffries. Coach: Nathan Ford.

The Australian Fijians toured Fiji for a two-match series against the local Fijians early this month.

The Australian Fijians won the opening match 38-22 at Ratu Cakobau Park.

In the second clash, a try to Kaliova Tani eight minutes before time helped the Fiji Residents pull off a 36-32 win over Australian Fijians.

Australian Fijians led 22-12 at halftime after tries to Hamilton Hughes, Ryan Millard, Tevita Vatuvei and Eparama Navale before the home side hit back in the second half.

The Fiji squad to play in the Pacific Cup is Osea Sadrau, Iowane Divavesi, Puna Rasaubale, Donas Gock, Tevita Vatuwai, Hamilton Hughes, Sitiveni Ralogaivau, Lepani Waqa, Sevanaia Koroi, Alipate Tani, Ryan Millard, Wes Naiqama, Meli Koliniavu, Mike Ratu, Akuila Uate, Jo Ravueta, Jone Macilai, Kevin Naiqama, Jone Wesele, Kaliova Tani.

Malta has held off English amateur side Bamber Bridge by 36-28 at Malta's Hamrun's Victor Tedesco Stadium in early October.

A crowd of 120 saw former Sharks hooker Luke Sant and Cardiff Demons centre Paul Bartlett both race over to score two tries-apiece.

FIJI WINS GOLD IN PACIFIC MINI GAMES

Fiji won the gold medal of the League
Sevens in the Pacific Mini Games held in
the Cook Islands late last month after they
defeated the host nation 20-14 in the final.Semi-finals: C
Fiji d. Tonga 10
Play-off for thi
Final: Fiji d. Co

Cook Islands led 8-6 at half-time but three tries from the Fijians put them ahead 20-8 before Sema Mataora scored a consolation try for the home side.

In the Bronze Medal match, Samoa edged out Tonga 26-24 after being down 12-10 at the break.

Samoa led 26-20 when Tonga scored a late try to Tevita Okati but couldn't add the conversion.

RESULTS

Day 1: Samoa d. Tonga 18-12, Fiji d. Cook Islands 24-18, Tonga d. Fiji 24-20. Day 2: Samoa drew with Cook Islands 16all, Tonga d. Cook Islands 28-22, Fiji drew with Samoa 20-all.

Semi-finals: Cook Islands d. Samoa 16-6, Fiji d. Tonga 16-14 Play-off for third: Samoa d. Tonga 26-24 Final: Fiji d. Cook Islands 20-14



All systems go in Norway

Momentum is gathering in Norway as Rugby League begins to take a hold. The first bespoke club has been formed, with Lillestrom Lions RLK set to form part of a four team domestic competition in 2010, alongside three Rugby Union outfits who have expressed a desire to try the 13-a-side code.

The Lions have been formed by internationals Magne Kleven and Bjørn Mikkelsen who commented, "We both live in Lillestrøm but have been playing for Oslo RUK so to have the chance to play for our home town is an exciting challenge and we look forward to building the club into a Rugby League force in Scandinavia".

The Lions are inviting anyone who would like to become a signatory member of this historic venture to pledge their support by contacting mr_bjoern@hotmail.com with their name, address and date of birth. For more information go to www.norskrl.com

Meanwhile, last month the Norwegian national team, 'The Vikings' played a friendly match against a Barbarians side made up of players originally from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the UK.

The Norwegians' second contest on home soil was a huge success with the Vikings recording a comprehensive 76-16 win.

The new season kicked off last month with Northern and Eastern group commencing.

In the Northern Bulls division, Silverbacks thrashed the Playmakers 54-8, Kunkweni Scorpions beat Northern Barbarians 34-16 and Centurian Lions edged out Tuks Bulls 28-24.

In the Eastern Eagles Division, Bears A defeated Vultures A 42-32 and Kempton Wolves outclassed Boksburg Hooters 56-0.

The NSW Tertiary Students became the first Australian Rugby League side to tour Serbia with a three-match programme this month.

The NSW Students opened their tour with a 38-1 win over the Serbian Students after leading 10-0 at the break. With the Aussies leading 38-0, the Serbians finished the game with a last-minute field goal to Ivan Susnjara.

The NSW Students were also scheduled to take on a Serbina Representative XIII and a Serbian Residents XIII before heading home.

Meanwhile, Dorcol dominated the Serbian Championship after going through the season undefeated. They piled on some big scores, including a 112-6 thrashing of Red Star.

They thrashed Podbara 82-0 in the Championship final played before 400 spectators.

Dorcol and Podbara met in the final of the Serbian Cup in early October with Dorcol outclassing their opponents

92-10 with Dalibor Vukanovic scoring four tries. In the semi-finals, Dorcol thrashed NIS 68-0 while Podbara shut out Red Star 88-0.



ELITE 1

Round 1 (October 3-4): Carcassonne d. Avignon 52-10, Limoux d. St Gaudens Bears 34-10, Pia Donkeys d. Carpentras 50-24, Lezignan d. Villeneuve Leopards 44-34. UTC bye.

ELITE 2

Round 1 (September 20): Lescure d. Cavaillon 48-8, Baho d. Palau 50-28, Albi d. Lyon-Villeurbanne 20-0, Montpellier d. Villefranche-de-Rouergue 25-16, Le Carbades d. Entraigues 23-18. Toulouse JJ vs Corbeil postponed.

Round 2 (September 27): Lescure d. Toulouse JJ 56-6, Baho d. Le Cabardes 26-14, Albi d. Entragues 36-24, Montpellier d. Lyon-Villeurbanne 36-16, Villefranche d. Palau 35-14, Corbeil d. Cavaillon 32-8.

Round 3 (October 4): Baho d. Montpellier 27-22, Palau d. Lescure 28-10, Albi d. Corbeil 78-10, Villefranche-de-Rouergue d. Le Cabardes 37-16, Entraigues d. Toulouse JJ 37-27, Cavaillon d. Lyon-Villeurbanne 20-16.

Competition points: Albi 9, Baho 69, Lescure 7, Villefranche-de-Rouergue 7, Montpellier 7, Entraigues 5, Palau 5, Le Cabardes 5, Cavaillon 5, Corbeil 4, Lyon-Villeurbanne 3, Toulouse JJ 2.

NATIONALE

Round 1 (October 4): Tonneins d. Gifi Bias 30-20, Le Barcares d. Salses 44-24, Realmont d. Pia Baroudeurs 30-12, Marseille XIII d. Apt 28-20. Sauveterre bye.



Italy, Greece, Malta and Portugal will do battle in the inaugural Aus-Med Shield Four Nations tournament this month.

The tournament will be held over two weekends at Marconi Stadium in Sydney's west with the opening matches commencing on October 10.

Greece will take on Portugal at 3pm and Italy will then do battle with Malta at 5pm. On October 17, the two winners will take on each other at 5pm with the play-off for third at 3pm

While all players will be coming from Australia and England, the aim of the tournament is to help develop the game in the Mediterranean nations.

"The bottom line is that all the Nations struggle to get any financial help from the International and European Federation. You need money to keep the game going in these countries and the only way to do it at this stage is by having these tournaments," said Greek Rugby League Founder Colin Mylonas

"There is now regular activity in Italy, Malta and Greece and that has come from Australian players and officials. That is because we are financing this from Australia because there is no money in those countries to do so."

"Look what has happened to Russia. They pulled out of the European Cup Under 16s and seniors competition because of lack of money. Why didn't the Federation help them?"

Greece will go into the first game understrength with skipper Michael Korkidas unavailable for the first game.

With Nick Kouparitsas, George Gatis and David Georgiou all unavailable due to injury, Greece will be looking towards the likes of Petros Thanos, Kosta Kouparitsas, Nick Nikitaras, Alex Pattalis and former

FOUR NATIONS

October 23

October 24

October 31

October 31

November 7

November 7

November 14

October 17

October 18

October 24

October 25

November 1

November 1

November 8

October 17

October 24

October 25

October 31

November 1

PACIFIC CUP

(Play-off for fourth)

New Zealand and England.



Penrith player Jamie Theoharous to lead the

"We are still hopeful of getting John Skandalis to play in the second game," said Greek Rugby League coach Steve Georgallis.

Portugal could be the surprise packets after selecting the likes of Victor Penitani, Blake Austin, Eddie Sua, Chester Paselio and Demetrius Ainuu.

All the players have been playing in either the Toyota Cup or Bundaberg Red Cup and will add some much needed experience to the side. Italy have been installed as favourites to

win the AMS Four Nations with former Cronulla first grade players Andrew Dallalana and Paul Franze selected.

Newcastle Knights first grader Cameron Ciraldo has also been selected to play for the Italians as has Wests Tigers Toyota Cup player Jay Florimo.

Jay is the son of former North Sydney legend Greg Florimo, who is still part of the Bears set-up. Greg represented Italy in 2003 when they played Greece.

Other key players that have been selected for the Italians include NSW Cup/Bundaberg Red Cup players Rhys Lenarducci, Ben Stewart, Ray Nasso, Andrew Kaleopa, Rvan Tremonte and Alex Ranieri.

Malta have selected Iarrod Sammut in their squad. The Penrith NRL player has also represented Malta both in Australia and overseas and will be the key weapon during the tournament.

Malta will be skippered by Brad Clews and have selected Simon Micallef, Ian Catania, Luke Vella, Guy Borgas, Dane Snelson and Pat Galea for their squad.

Locomotiv are set to add another premiership title in the Russian competition after beating nearest rivals Strella Kazan 40-20.

Meanwhile, the Rostov area will host the 2010 Student European Cup next summer. Competition points: Lokomotiv 19, Kazan Arrows 13, Krystal 8, Treshers 8.

The Vauxhall Vultures defeated the Jamaican Defence Forces (JDF) Warriors 52-18 in the grand final of the Jamaican Rugby League.

The Vultures led 28-14 at the break and extended their lead in the second half with tries to Andrew Fong and Clifford Clarke.

Tyrone Rowe finished the game with three tries while Kemar Gray finished the game with 18 points from a try and seven goals.

Saints retained the title in the Samoan Rugby League after they defeated the Maroons 18-10 in the grand final held at Marist Ground.

Samoan international Lepupa Taualagi led the way for the winners.

Portugal will take on Japan in February 2010 in an international in Sydney.

Japan will be touring Australia for the International Nines Tournament and will take

on Portugal in 13-a-side football. Portugal are also looking at touring

Africa in May-June 2010.

Papua New Guinea

The Island Gurias are through to the B-Mobile Cup grand final after edging out Goroka Lahanis 25-24 in the major semi-final at Lloyd Robson Oval. Goroka led 10-0 early on before three tries from the

Gurias gave them a 16-10 lead at the break. The game finished at 24-all after 80 minutes before

Gurias' five eighth Dion Aiye potted over a field goal. Meanwhile, the Resident Kumuls vs Overseas Kumuls Place of Origin match will be played on October 10 in Port Moresby.

Round 12 (Sept 6): Lae Bombers d. Port Moresby Vipers 10-4, Island Gurias d. Mt Hagen Eagles 36-2, Enga Mioks d. Mendi Muruks 18-7, Goroka Lahanis d. Capital City Rangers 19-16.

Round 13 (Sept 13): Goroka Lahanis d. Port Moresby Vipers 24-12, Mendi Muruks d. Island Gurias 13-4, Lae Bombers d. Mt Hagen Eagles 17-16, Enga Mioks d. Capital City Rangers 30-14.

Round 14 (Sept 20): Capital City d. Island Gurias 22-14, Goroka d. Lae 18-10, Enga Mioks d. Port Moresby Vipers 40-8, Mendi Muruks d. Mt Hagen Eagles 38-18. Elimination semi-final (Sept 27): Capital City Rangers d. Mendi Muruks 18-14

Qualifying semi (Sept 27): Goroka Lahanis d. Enga Mioks 11-8

Major semi-final (Oct 4): Island Gurias d. Goroka 25-24 Minor semi-final (Oct 4): Enga Mioks d. Capital City Rangers 28-24.

Brothers defeated Magani 19-10 in the Port Moresby Rugby League grand final played before a crowd of 8000 at Lloyd Robson Oval.

Magani led 4-0 at the break after Spencer Akali scored under the sticks in the 20th minute.

Brothers scored early in the first half through captain Wilfred Henry but Brothers re-claimed the lead when Stanley Pararu made it 10-6. Brothers then scored two converted tries and Henry kicked a field goal.

| | Ρ | W | D | L | F | A | PTS |
|-----------------|----|---|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Island Gurias | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 286 | 196 | 20 |
| Enga Mioks | 14 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 332 | 231 | 19 |
| Goroka | 14 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 305 | 265 | 19 |
| Capital Rangers | 14 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 260 | 231 | 18 |
| Mendi | 14 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 222 | 206 | 13 |
| Lae Bombers | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 155 | 253 | 9 |
| PM Vipers | 14 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 200 | 257 | 7 |
| Mt Hagen | 14 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 157 | 278 | 7 |
| | | | | | | | |

USA to take on Jamaica in Florida

The United States will do battle with Jamaica in an international at the University of North Florida on November 14.

It is hoped that the game will be the first of an annual 'Atlantic Cup' that will see additional teams joining in future years.

Event coordinator Spinner Howland commented on the importance of the game, "It is important that everyone in Jacksonville understands the full meaning of this game. It is a real international competition that will see the best athletes from each country take the field to do battle under their nation's flag.

The game will affect the international rankings of each country and could well have an effect on future World Cup qualification plans.

"Representing your country is the biggest honour anyone can be asked and the adrenalin that flows on game day always means that meetings like this are played with incredible intensity that proves to be an amazing spectacle for the fans. There is no feeling in the world like running onto the field dressed in your nation's colours and having thousands of screaming fans supporting you," said Howland.

AUS-MED SHIELD

Marconi Stadium, Sydney. Entry: \$10. Children Under 16: Gold Coin donation







MRL



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 **Greece vs Portugal** Malta vs Italy

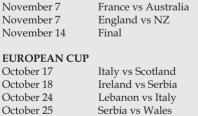
Kick-off: 3pm Kick-off: 5pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 Plate final **Aus-Med Cup Final**

Kick-off: 3pm Kick-off: 5pm

England vs France Keepmoat Stadium, Doncaster Twickenham Stoop, London Australia vs NZ England vs Australia DW Stadium, Wigan France vs NZ Ernest Wallon, Toulouse

INTERNATIONAL FIXTURES



Scotland vs Lebanon

Samoa vs Cook Islands

Fiji vs Samoa/Cook Islands

* The winner of the Pacific Cup will qualify for the 2010 Four Nations against Australia,

Wales vs Ireland

PNG vs Tonga

Play-off for third

Finals

Final

Elland Road, Leeds Stadio Del Plebiscito, Padova

Tullamore RUFC, Tullamore Olympic Stadium, Tripoli FK Smedervi Stadium, Smederevo Hughenden, Glasgow Pontypridd RUFC, Pontypridd Brewery Field, Bridgend

Galpharm Stadium, Huddersfield

Barlow Park, Cairns

Charlety Stadium, Paris

Lloyd Robson Oval, Port Moresby Lloyd Robson Oval, Port Moresby Lloyd Robson Oval, Port Moresby Lloyd Robson Oval, Port Moresby

October 2009

Under 14s: (Div 1) St Marys d. St Clair 32-4. (Div 2) Colyton/Mt Druitt

d. St Marys II 20-0. (Div 3) Western

City Tigers d. Lower Mountains 36-

8. (Div 4) Penrith Waratahs d. Black-

town Workers 22-18. (Div 5) Windsor

Under 13s: (Div 1) Windsor d. St

Marys 22-10. (Div 2) St Patricks d.

Quakers Hill 26-20. (Div 3) Ka-

toomba d. Penrith Waratahs 44-4.

(Div 4) St Marys III d. St Clair IV 54-

6. (Div 5) Blacktown Workers d.

Riverstone 26-16. (Div 5) Rooty Hill

Under 12s: (Div 1) Minchinbury d. St

Marys 28-16. (Div 2) Quakers Hill d.

Colyton/Mt Druitt 28-12. (Div 3)

Colyton/Mt Druitt II d. St Patricks

22-0. (Div 4) Penrith Waratahs d. Quakers Hills II 14-6. (Div 5) Black-

town Workers d. Windsor III 10-0.

Under 11s: (Div 1) St Clair d. St

Marys 24-6. (Div 2) Minchinbury d.

St Marys II 18-12. (Div 3) Lower

Mountains d. Patricks 22-16. (Div 4)

Colvton/Mt Druitt d. Minchinbury II

42-12. (Div 5) St Clair III d. Brothers

Under 10s: (Div 1) Western City

Tigers d. Minchinbury 18-12. (Div 2)

Emu Plains d. Windsor 16-12. (Div 3)

St Marys III d. Quakers Hill 24-6.

(Div 4) Penrith Waratahs d. PCYC Mt

Druitt 24-6. (Div 5) St Patricks d.

Windsor II 36-12. (Div 6) Emu Plains

Under 9s: (Div 1) St Marys d. St Clair

16-12. (Div 2) Emu Plains d. Doon-

side 16-12. (Div 3) Lower Mountains

d. Blacktown City 12-6. (Div 4) Quak-

ers Hill II d. PCYC Mt Druitt 6-4. (Div

5) Minchinbury III d. Quakers Hill III 20-0. (Div 6) Colyton/Mt Druitt II d.

Under 8s: (Div 1) Brothers d. Minch-

inbury 24-0. (Div 2) Henry Law-

son/Cambridge Park d. PCYC Mt

Druitt 24-12. (Div 3) Colyton/Mt

Druitt d. Lower Mountains 34-30.

(Div 4) Windsor III d. Blacktown City

22-4. (Div 5) Penrith Waraths II d. St

Patricks 20-12. (Div 6) Lower Moun-

tains II d. Colyton/Mt Druitt II 38-28.

Under 7s: (Div 1) St Marys d. Minch-

inbury 24-12. (Div 2) PCYC Mt Druitt

d. Emu Plains 24-18. (Div 3) St

Patricks d. Penrith Waratahs 36-16.

(Div 4) Riverstone d. Doonside 18-12.

(Div 5) Hawkesbury City d, Glemore

Under 16s: Berowra d. Asquith 30-20.

Under 14s: Berowra d. Hills Hawks

Under 13s: Pennant Hills/Cherry-

Under 12s: Pennant Hills/Cherry-

Under 11s: North Sydney Brothers d.

Under 10s: North Sydney Brothers d.

Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Blue 18-

Under 9s: Asquith d. Berowra 18-12

Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook 30-12

III d. Glenmore Park III 24-12.

Riverstone 24-16.

Park III 26-22.

12-8

12

NORTH SYDNEY

brook d. Berowra 46-14

brook d. Asquith 14-4

IV 18-6.

RSL d. Penrith Waratahs II 22-14.

II d. Minchinbury III 28-18.

JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE GRAND FINAL RESULTS

CANTERBURY

A-grade: Greenacre d. Berala 10-8 Under 19s: Greenacre d. East Hills 28-16

Under 17s: Berala d. St George Dragons 26-16 **Under 16s:** Bankstown Sports d. Be-

rala 36-16 **Under 15s:** St Johns d. East Hills 20-

16. **Under 14s:** Bankstown Sports d.

Milperra Colts 36-8. (Div 2) Brothers d. Greenacre 21-8 **Under 13s:** (Div 1) St George Dragons d. Greenacre 30-20. (Div 2)

ons d. Greenacre 30-20. (Div 2) Revesby Heights d. Moorebank 30-16 **Under 12s:** (Div 1) St George Dragons d. Greenacre B 22-10. (Div 2) Revesby Heights d. Berala B 34-30

Under 11s: (Div 1) Bankstown Sports d. St Christopher's 20-18. (Div 2) St George Dragons d. Chester Hill 24-20. (Div 3) St Christopher's d. Berala 30-16.

Under 10s: (Div 1) Bankstown Bulls d. Chester Hill 28-12. (Div 2) St George Dragons d. Chester Hill 24-20.

Under 9s: (Div 1) Berala d. St George Dragons 26-16. (Div 2) Bankstown Bulls d. St Johns 22-20. (Div 3) Greenacre d. Brothers 40-6.

Under 8s: (Div 1) St Johns d. Chester Hill 16-14. (Div 2) Chester Hill d. Bankstown Bulls 16-12. (Div 3) St George Dragons d. Chester Hill 18-14.

Under 7s: (Div 1) Bankstown Sports d. St Johns 38-4. (Div 2) Berala d. East Hills 20-12.

CRONULLA

A-grade: De La Salle d. Como Jannali 20-16

A-Reserve: Renown United d. Cronulla-Caringbah 48-46

Under 21s: Cronulla-Caringbah d. St John Bosco 32-8

Under 19s: Cronulla Caringbah d. Gymea 24-12

Under 17s: (A) De La Salle Caringbah d. Como Jannali 30-6. (B) Gymea d. St Josephs 10-0.

Under 16s: (A) Cronulla Caringbah d. De La Salle 36-22. (B) Cronulla-Caringbah II d. De La Salle II 8-6.

Under 15s: (A) Aquinas Holy Family Colts d. Gymea 28-12. (B) Menai Dis-

trict d. Cronulla-Caringbah 8-6. **Under 14s:** (A) Gymea d. De La Salle

14-6. (B) Engadine d. Cronulla-Caringbah 30-14.

Under 13s: (A) St John Bosco d. Yarrawarrah 28-10. (B) Menai District d. Engadine 26-24.

Under 12s: (A) Yarrawarrah d. Cronulla-Caringbah 18-0. (B) St Josephs d. Yarrawarrah 18-4.

Under 11s: (A) Aquinas Holy Family Colts d. Gymea 20-0. (B) Engadine d. Aquinas Holy Family Colts 18-12. (C) Cronulla-Caringbah d. Gymea 12-0. Under 10s: (A) Yarrawarrah d. De La Salle 24-6. (B) Taren Point d. Como Jannali 16-12. (C) Como Jannali d. Gymea 28-6.

Under 9s: (A) Gymea d. Cronulla-Caringbah 12-0. (B) Cronulla-Caringbah II d. Yarrawarrah 10-0. (C) Cronulla-Caringbah III d. Engadine 10-6.

Under 8s: (A) Gymea d. Yarrawarrah 24-6. (B) Taren Point d. St John Bosco 18-4. (C) Menai District d. Kurnell 30-18.

MANLY

A1: Belrose d. Asquith 40-20 A2: Narraweena d. Manly Christian Brothers 24-16

A-reserves:Berowra d. Valley Un-
oted 18-16gUnder 19s:Manly Cove d. BerowraU

30-18

Under 17s: Cromer d. Avalon 40-24 **Under 16s:** Harbord United d. Mona Vale 20-10 **Under 15s:** Manly Cove d. Mona Vale 45-10

Under 14s: Narraweena d. Mona Vale 22-10 Under 13s: (Div 1) Harbord United d.

Mona Vale M 40-12. (Div 2) Belrose d. Forestville 36-18. **Under 12s:** (Div 1) Harbord United

M d. Manly Christian Brothers 12-6. (Div 2) Mona Vale W d. Belrose 16-12.

Under 11s: (Div 1) Manly Cove d. Harbord United M 34-24. (Div 2) Belrose M d. Cromer W 24-6.

Under 10s: (Div 1) Mona Vale M d. North Curl Curl M 30-22. (Div 2) Harbord United W d. Forestville 34-16.

Under 9s: (Div 1) Narrabeen d. Beacon Hill 18-12. (Div 2) Cromer W d. Avalon 16-12

Under 8s: (Div 1) Narrabeen d. Harbord United M 18-6. (Div 2) Forestville d. North Curl Curl 24-6.

BALMAIN

Under 14s: North Ryde d. Leichhardt Wanderers 40-10

Under 13s: Leichhardt Wanderers d. Holy Cross Ryde 40-10 **Under 12s:** (Div 1) Leichhardt Wan-

derers d. Dundas Shamrocks Y 46-6. (Div 2) Strathfield Raiders d. Leichhardt Juniors 18-4.

Under 11s: (Div 1) Strathfield Raiders d. Concord Burwood Blue 18-16. (Div 2) Five Dock RSL d. North Ryde White 18-16.

Under 10s: (Div 1) Holy Cross Ryde d. North Ryde 28-0. (Div 2) Dundas Shamrocks Green d. Holy Cross White 18-12.

Under 9s: (Div 1) Leichhardt Wanderers Red d. Dundas Shamrocks Yellow 30-12. (Div 2) Strathfield Raiders d. Leichhardt Wanderers Black 22-0. (Div 3) Dundas Shamrocks Green d. Carlingford Cougars 18-10.

ST GEORGE/BALMAIN

Under 21s: North Ryde d. Dundas Shamrocks 30-22 Under 19s: Concord Burwood d.

Kingsgrove Colts 38-6 **Under 17s:** (Pool A) Arncliffe Scots d. Leichhardt Juniors 30-12. (Pool B)

Kingsgrove Colts d. Holy Cross Ryde 24-22. **Under 16s:** (Pool A) Dundas Sham-

rocks d. Hurstville United 36-14. (Pool B) Penshurst RSL d. Kingsgrove Colts 28-8. **Under 15s:** (Pool A) Leichhardt Wan-

derers d. Dundas Shamrocks 44-6. (Pool B) Hurstville United 14s d. Holy Cross Maroon 14s 16-4.

ST GEORGE

Under 14s: Earlwood Saints d. Penshurst RSL 52-10

Under 13s: Hurstville United d. Kingsgrove Colts 20-8

Under 12s: Kingsgrove Colts Blue d. Ealrwood Saints 48-6

Under 11s: Renown United Green d. Brighton Seagulls 26-6

Under 10s: Kingsgrove Colts d. Renown United 28-12

Under 9s: Brighton Seagulls Blue d. Hurstville United 22-12

WESTERN SUBURBS

Under 16s: (Div 1) All Saints d. Eaglevale St Andrews (ESA) 20-18. (Div 2) Minto d. East Campbelltown 32-30.

Under 15s: (Div 1) Liverpool Catholic Club (LCC) d. ESA 26-18. (Div 2) Ingleburn RSL d. Macarthur Saints 20-6. (Div 3) ESA d. Collegians II 44-8. Under 14s: (Div 1) ESA d. Ashcroft 26-22. (Div 2) Campbelltown City d. Ingleburn RSL 18-16. (Div 3) East Campbelltown d. Warriors 30-10. <complex-block>

Under 13s: (Div 1) Macarthur Saints d. Collegians 30-12. (Div 2) Ashcroft d. Valley United 46-20. (Div 3) East

Campbelltown d. Warriors 42-22 **Under 12s:** (Div 1) LCC d. Macarthur Saints 30-4. (Div 2) Collegians d. ESA 34-0. (Div 3) Ashcroft d. Hinchinbrook 42-6.

Under 11s: (Div 1) LCC d. Collegians 24-10. (Div 2) Ingleburn RSL d. Macarthur Saints 34-0. (Div 3) LCC d. Valley United 24-18

Under 10s: (Div 1) ESA drew with LCC 18-all. (Div 2) Campbelltown City d. East Campbelltown 14-6. (Div 3) All Saints d. Hinchinbrook 16-10. **Under 9s:** (Div 1) LCC d. Ashcroft 30-10. (Div 2) Warriors d. Ingleburn Bulldogs 30-6. (Div 3) Hinchinbrook d. ESA 16-6.

Under 8s: (Div 1) ESA d. Collegians 34-6. (Div 2) Ingleburn Bulldogs d. Campbelltown City 34-24. (Div 3) Campbelltown City II d. Macarthur Saints II 24-4.

SOUTH SYDNEY

A-grade: Coogee Randwick d. Moore Park 16-6

A-Reserves: Coogee Randwick d. La Perouse 24-6 **Second Division:** Mascot d. South

Eastern 22-14 **Under 19s:** Mascot d. Coogee Rand-

wick 30-12 **Under 17s:** Mascot d. La Perouse 46-

Under 16s: La Perouse d. St Charles 30-28

Under 15s: Mascot d. Alexandria Rovers 28-18

Under 14s: South Eastern d. Coogee Randwick 10-4

Under 13s: (Div 1) Alexandria Rovers d. South Eastern 32-4. (Div 2) Saints d. Bondi United 46-24.

Under 12s: (Div 1) Mascot B d. South Eastern W 22-0. (Div 2) South Eastern R drew with Mascot W 10-all. **Under 11s:** (Div 1) Mascot B d. South

Eastern 36-0. (Div 2) Mascot V d. Botany 14-10. **Under 10s:** (Div 1) Matraville B d.

Mascot B 12-0. (Div 2) St Charles B d. Newtown Junior Jets 30-18. (Div 3) Mascot J d. Botany 14-10. **Under 9s:** (Div 1) Mascot B d. South Eastern W 18-10. (Div 2) Maroubra d.

Mascot J 24-18. (Div 3) Botany W d. Clovelly R 42-36.

PARRAMATTA

A-grade: (Div 1) Wentworthville d. Hills District 28-24. (Div 2) Cabramatta d. Wentworthville 24-18. (Div 3) Canley Heights d. Merrylands 28-16.

C-grade: (Div 1) Guildford d. Cabramatta 18-16. (Div 2) Kellyville d. Cabramatta 32-22.

Under 18/19s: Canley Heights d. All Saints Toongabbie 32-26 **Under 17s:** (Div 1) Wentworthville d. Cabramatta 17-10. (Div 2) Hills Districts d. Parra Junior Eels 50-6.

Under 16s: (Div 1) Fairfield United d. Wentworthville 24-20. (Div 2) Canley Vale d. Cabramatta 34-22. (Div 3) III d. Minchinbury II 34-26. Grevstanes d. Mounties 20-10. **Under 14s:** (Div 1) St Ma

Under 15s: (Div 1) Cabramatta d. Wentworthville 26-16. (Div 2) Fairfield Patrician Brothers d. Merrylands 30-10. (Div 3) Canley Heights d. Parra Junior Eels 32-12.

Under 14s: (Div 1) Cabramatta d. Mounties 20-14. (Div 2) Cabramatta drew with Rouse Hill 20-all. (Div 3) Greystanes d. Canley Heights 36-28. Under 13s: (Div 1) Wentworthville d. Cabramatta 18-12. (Div 2) Parra City Titans d. Wentworthville 30-5. (Div 3) Guildford d. Winston Hills 10-8.

Under 12s: (Div 1) Cabramatta d. Wentworthville 24-10. (Div 2) Greystanes d. Hills District II 22-8. (Div 3) Canley Heights d. Mounties 26-0. (Div 4) Wentworthville d. CVD Cobras 16-14.

Under 11s: (Div 1) Mounties d. Cabramatta 36-16. (Div 2) Hills District II d. Wentworthville II 18-12. (Div 3) Guildford d. Wentworthville III 18-10. (Div 4) CVD Cobras d. Mounties II 22-18. (Div 5) Wentworthville IV d. Kellyville II 28-24. Under 10s: (Div 1) Cabramatta d. Hills District 24-0. (Div 2) Hills District II d. CVD Cobras 28-18. (Div 3) Marconi d. Fairfield United 28-24. (Div 4) All Saints Toongabbie d. Hills District IV 26-24.

Under 9s: (Div 1) Wentworthville d. Cabramatta 30-24. (Div 2) Guildford d. Seven Hills 20-18. (Div 3) Merrylands d. Seven Hills 20-18. (Div 4) Merrylands d. Parra Junior Eels 40-22. (Div 4) Blacktown PCYC d. Kellvville III 46-6.

Under 8s: (Div 1) Hills District d. Wentworthville 16-12. (Div 2) Cabramatta II d. All Saints 34-16. (Div 3) All Saints II d. Seven Hills 34-16. (Div 4) Wentworthville IV d. Parra Junior Eels II 18-16.

PENRITH

Park 34-32.

inbury

12

A-grade: (Tier A) Emu Plains d. St Marys 16-12. (Tier B) Windsor d. Colyton/Mt Druitt 50-26. A-grade Division Two: Lower

Reserve grade: (Tier A) St Patricks d.

St Clair 28-18. (Tier B) Colyton/Mt

Druitt d. Henry Lawson/Cambridge

Under 19s: (Tier A) St Clair d. Broth-

ers 34-4. (Tier B) Windsor d. Minch-

Hawkesbury City d. Katoomba 14-

Under 17s: (Tier A) St Clair d. St

Marys 28-26. (Tier B) Windsor d.

Henry Lawson/Cambridge Park 64-

4. (Division Two) Blacktown Work-

Under 16s: (Tier A) St Marys d. Glen-

more Park 26-24. (Tier B) Lower

Mountains d. Blacktown City 22-4.

(Division Two) Riverstone d.

Under 15s: (Div 1) St Marvs d. St

Clair 24-8. (Div 2) Óuakers Hill d. St

Marys II 16-10. (Div 3) St Clair II d.

Rooty Hill RSL 32-4. (Div 4) St Clair

ers d. St Clair II 26-8.

Hawkesbury City 26-10.

20-16. (Division Two)

Mountains d. Doonside 52-12

RUGBY LEAGUE REVIEW

| Mail Win A JERSEY OF YOUR CHOICE INFRANCE | |
|---|--|
| | 5 |
| Box Send your letters to PO Box 98, Peakhurst NSW 2210 or email info@rugbyleaguereview.com | 34,587 22,608 19,178 17,943 17,309 15,882 |
| *** STAR LETTER *** Stage An End of Season *** Star Letter ** *** Star Letter ** ances, and this would also help fringe representative players that are part of the Kangaroo train-on squad. The letter we judge as the best The letter we judge as the best The letter we judge as the best | 15,486 15,299 15,099 14,715 13,782 |
| Tournament in the bush COREY RICHARDS for the month will win an 12 Penrith Panthers Australia NRL should stage an end of seater tournament for the eight clubs that as out on the finals. Bulldogs should return to Belmore for the month will win an 14 Sydney Roosters Australia With clubs chill powers and train Bulldogs should return to Belmore words and no more than 400 words. 16 Parramatta Eels Australia | 13,719 13,695 13,594 13,226 13,127 |
| during the month of September, such a npetition could be played over three I was so happy to read about the Bull- dogs returning to their original name of All matches should be played on a NI matches should be played on a I was so happy to read about the Bull- dogs returning to their original name of All matches should be played on a I was so happy to read about the Bull- dogs returning to their original name of I was so happy to read about the Bull- dogs returning to their original name of I matches should be played on a | 11,979 11,364 11,027 10,880 9,677 9,228 |
| Construction </td <td>9,104 8,527 8,301 7,490 5,891</td> | 9,104 8,527 8,301 7,490 5,891 |
| y and rederal government to upgrade the ground into a showpiece that would be able to accommodate NRL matches. wds and most importantly, help pro- te Rugby League in areas that need it the NRL clubs and they can play the ma- | nea 4,500 nea 4,000 4,251 nea 4,000 |
| st. jority of their matches at Belmore Sports Clubs can spend a couple of days in the region helping with coaching clinics at giving many kids the opportunity to et their stars. dia tap into sports in the formation of their matches at Belmore Sports Stadium and four or five at ANZ Stadium. State in the formation of the state in the state in the formation of the state in the formation of the state in the state in the state in the state in the formation of the state in the state in the formation of the state in the state i | nea 3,000 |
| Players such as Benji Marshall, Willie Games against St George Illawarra, Par- son, Nathan Merritt, Paul Gallen, shael Jennings, Terry Campese, Stacey les and Johnathan Thurston are some he players that would have been avail- It would not only be great for Bulldogs | nea 2,500 nea 2,500 2,387 2,372 |
| e had a tournament been played this ir.fans but for Rugby League in general.of Nould Harte Six Matches that Full Sure42 HalifaxEnglandur.Mould play between one to three tches, depending on their perform-DAVID DAVIDSON Parramatta NSWSHANE BRISTOW Panania NSW44 FeatherstoneEngland44 FeatherstoneEngland45 LezignanFrance46 Central CometsAustralia | 2,352 1,984 1,809 1,800 1,800 |
| Aboriginal Rugby League knock-out champions Walgett. Photo: Grant Robertson Vided an estimate and much is open to debate. If that any clubs are missing or the crowd figures ab correct then get in touch with us and we will inves remember that we are looking at the average crow | ou believe ove are in- igate. Please |

UARIES

The game of Rugby League lost an icon last month with the passing of John Quinn at the age of 87.

North Shore in 1946 after returning from service in New Guinea as an ambulance driver in WW2. Over the next 60 odd years he never lost his enthusiasm to work in the game that he loved so much.

ation, the North Sydney District Rugby League Football Club, the NSWRL Junior Leagues Association and the North Sydney Junior Rugby League for over 50 years.

Not many people can claim the honour of life membership to one association but to be made a life member of all 4 of the above organisations is testament to the hard work that he has done.

it was as a referee that he made his mark. After almost 50 vears as a referee, he finally hung up his whistle in 1994 at the tender age of 72! Quinn taught a local junior how to play the ball correctly. His name was Greg Florimo.

the age of 57 after losing his battle with cancer.

The Leeds-born five-eighth made his debut for the club as a 16-year-old and went on to make 625 appearances from 1968-89 in which time he gained 16 winners' medals.

With 1,554 points, he is fourth in Leeds' all-time scoring records and was a member of their Challenge Cup-winning teams of 1977 and 1978.

Holmes won 20 caps for Great Britain and played in the 1972 and 1977 World Cups. He also played seven times for England and made eight appearances for Yorkshire.

Former Chairman and President of the Canterbury (New age of 96 last month.

The NRL should stag son tournament for th miss out on the finals

With clubs still paying ing during the month of competition could be weeks.

All matches should knock-out basis with a staged in country towns

There would be a matches and they co towns such as Dubbo, I Wagga, Lismore, Tamw Albury.

Such a competition crowds and most impo mote Rugby League in most.

Clubs can spend a each region helping with and giving many kids meet their stars.

Players such as Bei Mason, Nathan Meri Michael Jennings, Terry Jones and Johnathan of the players that would able had a tournament year

Clubs would play bet matches, depending



BY GRANT ROBERTSON in Armidale

WALGETT BAC had to wait 19 years to win its fourth Aboriginal Knockout title but it finally came at Armidale Rugby League Park at the end of a very long weekend that attracted a crowd of 10.000.

The final against Mindaribba Warriors felt like it went for another 19 years but after golden point extra time the Walgett boys collected the trophies and \$44,000 with a 48-44 win

"We've been close a few times," captain Matt Rose said.

d hard to put this side "We've worke gether over the last eight or nine years and we finally did it.

"I think the two best teams made the I final. It feels good to win.′

The final see-sawed with Walgett breaking away to a 28-12 lead in the first half before Mindaribba fought back to trail 28-24 at the break.

Walgett stayed in front early in the second half but Mindaribba took the lead when Joey Griffiths scored and went further ahead after Ryan Walker's third try of the match.

Walgett scored next but South Sydney half Chris Sandow booted a penalty goal to put the Warriors up 44-38.

Walgett needed to find something and

looked to Manly prop George Rose. He strolled over under the posts and Steven Lane converted to tie the game.

Sandow had a long range field goal shot on the bell but it missed to the right. The first period of extra time handed

both sides chances with Matt Rose's duffed field goal and a missed penalty goal shot from Sandow giving both sides something to lament.

But Shaun Daylight raced over after 14 minutes of extra time for his second try and Walgett celebrated.

Walgett had put together a formidable team with The Rose boys joined by Rod and eter Jensen, player of the carnival Michael Lett, who also scored two tries in the final, and former NRL players Robbie Simpson and William "Bubba" Kennedy as well as Papua New Guinea World Cup winger George Keppa.

Mindaribba's players, led by skipper Mick Young, were devastated to lose their first ever final but the side had a great run to make the decider.

FINAL

Walgett BAC 48 (Shaun Daylight 2, Michael Lett 2, Matt Rose 2, Rod Jensen, Tohi Lehi, George Rose tries, Trent Rose 4, Steven Lane 2 gls) d. Mindaribba Warriors 44 (Ryan Walker 3, Joev Griffiths, Chris Sandow, Dennis Sandow, Jarvis Watton

tries, C Sandow 7, D Sandow goals) Women's Final: Waterloo Storm 16 d North Casino 10.

Under 17's Final: Moree Boomerangs 26 d Narwan 14.

SEMI FINALS

Mindaribba Warriors 28 (Kane Phillips, Joey Griffiths, Chris Sandow, Shannon Tanner, Ben Young, Cody Walker tries; C Sandow, Dennis Sandow goals) d. Narwan 14 (Tyrone Cohen, Bobby Cutmore tries, Cohen 3 goals).

Walgett BAC 32 (Michael Lett 2, Lewis Murphy, Kod Jensen, Gerrard Dennis, Mat Rose tries; Trent Rose 3, Steven Lane gl) d Nulla Sunrise 26 (Troy Robinson, Sean Nean, Adam Dixon, Albert Kelly, Blake Ferguson tries, Matt Nean 3 goals).

There were plenty of other NRL stars on show, too. Brad Tighe was a big influence for the Original Moree Boomerangs before their exit.

Former first graders like Ian Lacey also starred for Wollumbin while old stagers like Ewan McGrady still had something to offer for Toomelah. One of the highlights was the appearance of Parramatta signing Timana Tahu in his first game of league since switching back from union but his side was knocked out in the early stages.

attracts and not one-off matches. If you have any information, either email us at info@rugbyleaguereview.com or drop us a note at PO Box 98, Peakhurst, Sydney NSW 2210.

John started his involvement with Rugby League on the

John was involved in the North Sydney Referees Associ-

Quinn played Rugby League for De La Salle, Ashfield but

Leeds and Great Britain player John Holmes has died at

Zealand) Rugby Football, Leslie Huston, passed away at the

LEAGUE CROSSWORD CROSSWORD NUMBER 69

ACROSS

2. Club that took on Manly in the 1987 World Club Challenge.

4. Number of premierships won by Parramatta in the 1980s. 5. Club that played in the 1980 grand final.

7. First name of former Australian player Hey.

8. Qld Cup side.

10. State that hosted an NRL trial match this year between Gold Coast and Cronulla

Sharks. 11. Former Cronulla and South Sydney

full-back/winger 1973-83.

12. Club that won the premiership in 1967. 15. Australian Test half-back on the 1978

Kangaroo Tour. 17. Club that reached the semi-finals for the

first time in 1985. 19. Nation that Ian Rubin played for in the

2000 World Cup.

20. Sydney Roosters utility player. 21. Central Coast club that formerly played

in the Jim Beam Cup.

22. Club that won the 1979 Amco Cup.

DOWN

1. Club that won the competition in 1948. 3. St George and Gold Coast lock-forward 1988-95.

4. Number of grand finals that the

Melbourne Storm have featured in.

6. Jersey number worn by Chris Close in the 1982 grand final.

9. Ex-Cronulla and Eastern Suburbs player that represented New Zealand.

11. First name of former Canberra, Manly and Newcastle forward Kennedy.

13. Number of grand finals won by Penrith. 14. Former Wests and Canterbury forward 1989-2001, played for Australia.

16. Number of Tests played by Angelo

Crema. 18. Club that formerly played in the Group 17 competition.

21. State that is home to Bundaberg Red Cup side, the Reds.

ANSWERS NEXT ISSUE SOLUTION NO 69 ON THE RIGHT

BOOK REVIEW Auckland: 100 years of Rugby League

By John Coffey and Bernie Wood

The New Zealand Rugby League was formed in 1909 and the city of Auckland became the first to play the game on a regular basis

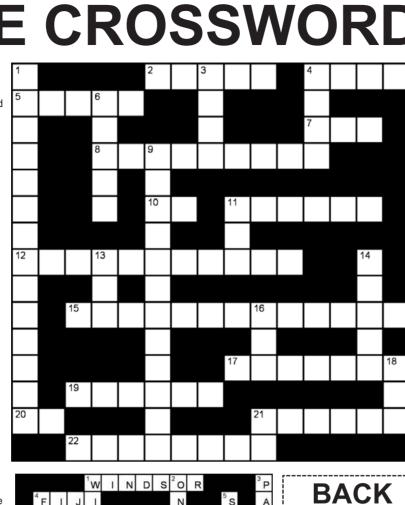
City won the competition in 1910 and 1911 before Newton won the title in 1912. North Shore collected the spoils in 1913 and 1914. In 1919, Ponsonby became the first club to

win the Auckland premiership three years in succession. The Fox Memorial is awarded to the grand

final winner of Premier One and is considered the most prestigious trophy in Auckland club Rugby League

There have been so many trophies that have been contested by Auckland clubs including the prestigious Roope Rooster Trophy that was first played for in 1915.

Auckland has played against several touring teams over the years and was one of the david.b@aucklandleague.co.nz





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hold of some back issues.

1. Who was South Sydney's leading pointscorer in 2008?

2. Who was named the 2008 Toyota Cup player of the year? **3.** Who coached the Roosters in 1973?

4. Who skippered Parramatta in the 1981 grand final?

5. Who did Canterbury beat in the 1988 grand final?

6. Which club came last in 1982? 7. Who captained Australia in the 1981 Test

Series against France?

8. Who coached Manly in 1989? 9. Which club won the reserve grade pre-

miership in 1996? 10. Who am I? I joined Parramatta from

Forbes in 1960 and went on to play 194 games for the Eels until 1971. I then had two seasons with Penrith. I made my Test debut in 1961 against New Zealand and went on to play 12 Tests for Australia, my last in 1970 against Great Britain.

9. Cronulla 10. Ron Lynch 7. Steve Rogers 8. Allan Thompson 4. Steven Edge 5. Balmain 6. Canberra 2. Ben Hunt (Brisbane) 3. Tony Paskins ANSWERS: 1. Issac Luke (108 points)

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D Braybrook

G Hartley D MacDonald B Bradstock

K Roberts

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| 30 28 | Wests d. Easts | 8-5 | Lidcombe Oval | J Danzey | 8538 | Canterbury drew with Norths | 10-all | Belmore SG | D MacDonald | 8845 |
| 27 | Newtown d. Parramatta Manly d. Cronulla | 28-25 27-15 | Cumberland Oval Endeavour Field | G Hartley G Cook | 7159 7629 | Manly d. Easts Cronulla d. Penrith | 17-12 16-15 | Brookvale Oval Endeavour Field | G Cook K Roberts | 23,005 6121 |
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June 12 North Sydney d. Penrith

June 13

June 14

Easts d. Wests

St George d. Souths

North Sydney Oval

Belmore SG

Henson Park

Sports Ground

Kogarah Oval

Brookvale Oval

19-13

26-9

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| Manly Parramatta St George Eastern Suburbs Canterbury Balmain Western Suburbs Cronulla Penrith South Sydney North Sydney Newtown | P 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 | W 16 14 13 12 12 11 9 8 8 6 3 | D 0 2 0 1 3 1 2 1 1 0 1 0 | L 6 8 7 9 12 13 14 15 19 | F 499 347 328 399 361 318 379 378 352 297 272 264 | A 252 238 298 250 337 287 313 393 333 421 526 546 | PTS 32 30 28 27 27 25 24 19 17 16 13 6 |
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| Graham Eadie (Manly) Don Moseley (Canterb John Brass (Easts) John Peard (Parramatt Ken Wilson (Penrith) Henry Tatana (St Geor Greg Purcell (South Sy Greg Cox (Balmain) Mark Levy (Parramatta | ury) a) ge) /dney) | | | T 9 2 6 9 3 1 2 5 3 | G 103 77 69 62 60 51 49 41 36 | FG 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 | PTS 233 160 156 151 130 105 104 97 81 |
| Bob Fulton (Manly) Tom Mooney (Manly) Terry Fahey (South Sy Martin Raftery (Cronull Bob McCarthy (Canterl Ray Price (Parramatta) Bruce Walker (North S Russell Mullins (Wests | dney) a) bury)) ydney) | P TRY | SCOR 21 18 16 14 12 12 12 12 | ERS | | | |
| | P RE | ESER\ W | /E GR | ADE L | F | А | PTS |
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| Prelim. semi-finals: S Semi-finals: St Georg Final: Cronulla d. Man Grand final: St Georg bert 4 goals) d. Cronull goals) at Sydney Crick Turner, G Benson. | e d. Cro ly 29-1 e 17 (B a 12 (E | onulla 2 Hulbe 3 Andro 1nd. Re | 14-3, I ert, K G ews, S | Manly d Bibson, Edmor : G Har | . Parrar M Sorrie nds tries | matta 15 dimi trie | 5-11 s; Hul- ws 3 |
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| Preliminary semi-finals: Canterbury d. Parramatta 19-15, Cronulla d. Balmain 18-10. Semi-finals: Easts d. Canterbury 29-2, Parramatta d. Cronulla 21-15 Final: Canterbury d. Parramatta 18-17 Grand final: Easts 20 (R Farrugia, B Markou, G Metcalfe, M Connor tries; E Ferguson 4 goals) d. Canterbury 5 (G Robinson try; R Kear goal) at Sydney Cricket Ground. Referee: K Roberts. Touch Judges: J Reynolds, E Pepper. | | | | | | | |
| CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 246, Canterbury 242, Cro 174, South Sydney 132, N | nulla 24 North Sy | 2, Balr /dney 1 | main 21 | 8, Weste wtown 6 | ern Subu | | |
| Sydney, May 15 Sydney Firsts 47 (Terry F Terry Randall, Ray Higgs, try Firsts 0 at Sydney 0 son, M Tomsett. Crowd: 1 | Max K Cricket (| rilich, S | Steve La | avers trie | es; Eadie | 7 goals |) d. C oun- |
| Sydney Seconds 37 (Jo John Peard, Glen West tri goal) at Sydney Cricket G son. | es; Pea | rd 8 go Referee | als) d. (| Country ard. Tou | 5 (Jamie | e Jones t | ry; J Batey |
| Sydney, May 22 NSW 33 (T Raudonikis 2, 6 goals) d. QLD 9 (J Lang Referee: D Lancashire. To | try; I Pe | ahon 2, arce 2, | T Fahe J Rhod | y, S Rog es goals |) at Sydr | ney Crick | et Ground. |
| Brisbane, May 26 NSW 10 (A McMahon, M 9 goal) at Lang Park. Refe Crowd: 20,172. | | | | | | | |
| Brisbane, May 30 NSW 15 (T Fahey, A McM 13 (G Platz, J Lang tries; Park. Referee: G Cook. T | J Payr | ne 2, J | Rhode | s goals, | Payne f | ield goal | s) at Lang |
| WILLS CUP Round 1: Balmain d. Cro 2, Penrith d. Souths 11-10 Round 2: Cronulla d. Wes 5, Canterbury d. North Sy |), St Ge sts 13-7 | orge d. , Manly | . Canter d. Pen | rbury 16 rith 18-1 | -9. 0, Balma | ain d. Par | |

COMPETITION TABLE

W D L F A

Round 2: Cronulla d. Wests 13-7, Manly d. Penrith 18-10, Balmain d. Parramatta 6-5, Canterbury d. North Sydney 19-2, St George d. Newtown 21-13. Round 3: Manly d. Canterbury 11-7, Balmain d. Wests 16-4, Parramatta d. Cronulla 9-8, Souths d. Newtown 12-8, St George d. Easts 25-17, Penrith d. Norths 18-11. Final: Balmain 17 (Alan McMahon, David Edwards tries; Keith Cook 5 goals, Les Mara field goal) d. Manly 5 (Ian Martin try; Graham Eadie goal) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Keith Page. Crowd: 3558.

| Manly d. Cronulla | 27-15 | Endeavour Field | G Cook |
|--|---|--|--|
| Penrith d. North Sydney | 43-9 | Penrith Park | R Humphreys K Roberts |
| Canterbury d. Balmain | 25-24 | Leichhardt Oval | K Roberts |
| March 27 | | | |
| North Sydney d. Newtown | 19-10 | Henson Park | D MacDonald |
| March 28 Easts d. Penrith | 16-12 | Sports Ground | G Cook |
| Canterbury drew with Cronulla | 20-all | Belmore SG | K Roberts |
| Balmain d. St George | 22-9 | Kogarah Oval | R Humphreys |
| Manly d. Wests Parramatta d. Souths | 17-13 21-4 | Brookvale Oval Cumberland Oval | G Hartley J Danzey |
| Parramatta u. souulo | 21-4 | Cumberiand Cya. | J Danzey |
| April 3 Balmain d. Parramatta | | 10 1 0 1 | |
| Balmain d. Parramatta April 4 | 28-12 | Leichhardt Oval | G Hartley |
| St George d. Cronulla | 15-12 | Kogarah Oval | D MacDonald |
| Easts d. Newtown | 17-13 | Henson Park | C Turnell |
| Souths d. North Sydney | 19-14 | North Sydney Oval | G Cook |
| Manly d. Canterbury Penrith drew with Wests | 31-21 18-all | Belmore SG Penrith Park | R Humphreys J Danzey |
| | 10-01. | Pennuiraik | J Danzey |
| April 10 | | | |
| Wests d. Canterbury | 19-12 | Lidcombe Oval | G Cook |
| April 11 Manly d. St George | 30-4 | Brookvale Oval | J Danzey |
| Balmain d. North Sydney | 18-10 | Leichhardt Oval | R Humphreys |
| Souths d. Easts | 16-15 | Redfern Oval | G Hartley |
| Penrith d. Newtown Parramatta d. Cronulla | 22-17 | Penrith Park | D MacDonald |
| Parramatta d. Cronulla | 28-9 | Endeavour Field | K Roberts |
| April 17 | | | |
| Cronulla d. North Sydney | 32-18 | North Sydney Oval | J Danzey |
| April 18 Parramatta d. Manly | 0 e | C Lorland Oval | a Traday |
| Parramatta d. Manly Wests d. Newtown | 8-5 28-4 | Cumberland Oval Henson Park | G Hartley D MacDonald |
| Wests d. Newtown Souths d. Penrith | 28-4 26-15 | Henson Park Redfern Oval | D MacDonald K Roberts |
| Balmain d. Easts | 13-8 | SCG | G Cook |
| April 19 | | | |
| Canterbury d. St George | 10-8 | Kogarah Oval | C Turnell |
| April 24 | | | |
| Canterbury d. Parramatta | 20-13 | Belmore SG | G Cook |
| April 25 | | | |
| Manly d. North Sydney | 38-13 | Brookvale Oval | C Turnell |
| Balmain d. Penrith Wests d. St George | 18-4 23-13 | Leichhardt Oval Lidcombe Oval | G Hartley D MacDonald |
| Wests d. St George Easts d. Cronulla | 23-13 22-11 | Lidcombe Oval Endeavour Field | D MacDonald J Danzey |
| April 26 | | | |
| Souths d. Newtown | 28-10 | Redfern Oval | R Humphreys |
| · · | | | |
| May 1 Easts d. Manly | 19-18 | SCG | K Roberts |
| May 2 | | | |
| Cronulla d. Penrith | 28-20 | Penrith Park | R Humphreys |
| Balmain d. Newtown | 26-13 | Henson Park | C Turnell |
| Canterbury d. North Sydney | 30-13 17-13 | North Sydney Oval | K Page |
| Wests d. Souths St George d. Parramatta | 17-13 24-8 | Lidcombe Oval Kogarah Oval | G Cook D MacDonald |
| - | Z4~0 | Kogaran O | D Macoo |
| May 8 | | | |
| Manly d. Penrith | 27-14 | Brookvale Oval | D MacDonald |
| May 9 | 12 | -t-Oval | |
| St George d. North Sydney Balmain d. Souths | 16-13 22-5 | Kogarah Oval Leichhardt Oval | R Humphreys G Hartley |
| Newtown d. Cronulla | 22-18 | Henson Park | K Page |
| Parramatta d. Wests | 8-4 | Cumberland Oval | K Roberts |
| Easts d. Canterbury | 11-10 | Belmore SG | G Cook |
| - | | | |
| May 16 Manly d. Newtown | 57-6 | Henson Park | R Humphreys |
| Manly a. INCOME. | 15-12 | Kogarah Oval | K Roberts |
| St George d. Easts | | Penrith Park | K Page |
| St George d. Easts Penrith d. Canterbury | 17-0 | | C Turnell |
| St George d. Easts Penrith d. Canterbury Cronulla d. Souths | 39-5 | Endeavour Field | |
| St George d. Easts Penrith d. Canterbury Cronulla d. Souths Parramatta d. North Sydney | 39-5 41-5 | North Sydney Oval | D MacDonald G Cook |
| St George d. Easts Penrith d. Canterbury Cronulla d. Souths | 39-5 | | D MacDonald G Cook |
| St George d. Easts Penrith d. Canterbury Cronulla d. Souths Parramatta d. North Sydney | 39-5 41-5 | North Sydney Oval | |
| St George d. Easts Penrith d. Canterbury Cronulla d. Souths Parramatta d. North Sydney Balmain drew with Wests May 23 Canterbury d. Newtown | 39-5 41-5 13-all 23-20 | North Sydney Oval SCG Belmore SG | G Cook G Cook |
| st George d. Easts Penrith d. Canterbury Cronulla d. Souths Parramatta d. North Sydney Balmain drew with Wests May 23 Canterbury d. Newtown Cronulla d. Balmain | 39-5 41-5 13-all 23-20 17-14 | North Sydney Oval SCG Belmore SG Endeavour Field | G Cook G Cook R Humphreys |
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Judges: B Barry, M Tomsett. Crowd: 31,381.

SEMI-FINALS Parramatta 23 (John Moran, John Peard, Fari analta 22 Onin Notali, 2001 Featu, Graeme Atkins tries; Peard 5, Mark Levy 2 goals) d. Manly 17 (Bob Fulton 2, Alan Thompson tries; Graham Eadie 4 goals) at Sydney Cricket Ground, September 4. Referee: G Hartley. Touch Judges: B Barry, M Tomsett, Crowd: 30,999

Canterbury 25 (Bob McCarthy 3, Bill Noonan, Eric Hughes tries; Don Moseley 5 goals) d. **St George 9** (R Cox try; Henry

Noel Kelly (Coach).

| Dval | J Danzey | 9019 | St George u. Souths | 24-10 | Kogaran Ovar | | | K Hull | ipmeys | | 11,904 |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|-------------|----------------------------------|------|-----|--------|----------|-----|--------|
| Jvar | 5 Danzey | 5015 | June 19 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Cronulla d. Canterbury | 24-8 | Endeavour Field | d | | B Brac | istock | | 7688 |
| val | G Hartley | 10,029 | June 20 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Parramatta d. Souths | 18-4 | Redfern Oval | | | D Bray | | | 6912 |
| l | D MacDonald | 10,083 | North Sydney d. Newtown | 27-22 | North Sydney C | Oval | | K Rob | | | 2577 |
| 0.1 | C Turnell | 5379 | Easts d. Penrith | 12-5 | Penrith Park | | | | Donald | | 7434 |
| Oval | G Cook | 5941 | Manly d. Wests | 37-15 | Lidcombe Oval | | | G Har | ley | | 12,713 |
| | R Humphreys | 16,046 11,744 | June 26 | | | | | | | | |
| | J Danzey | 11,744 | Easts d. Newtown | 40-4 | Sports Ground | | | D LLun | anhearia | | 6023 |
| | | | St George d. Cronulla | 14-13 | Sports Ground Endeavour Field | đ | | G Coo | nphreys | | 10,415 |
| - 1 | G Cook | 9075 | June 27 | 14=15 | Endeavour Field | u | | 0.000 | r. | | 10,415 |
| al | G COOK | 9075 | Penrith d. Wests | 25-2 | Lidcombe Oval | | | B Brac | letock | | 7158 |
| al | J Danzey | 18,077 | Canterbury d. Manly | 13-9 | Brookvale Oval | | | K Rob | | | 15,446 |
| val | R Humphreys | 9152 | Souths d. North Sydney | 24-3 | Redfern Oval | | | G Har | | | 6092 |
| | G Hartley | 13,617 | Parramatta d. Balmain | 14-10 | Cumberland Ov | /al | | K Page | | | 18,544 |
| | D MacDonald | 8747 | | | | | | | | | , |
| eld | K Roberts | 7609 | July 3 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | St George d. Manly | 13-5 | Kogarah Oval | | | G Coo | k | | 10,388 |
| | | | July 4 | | | | | | | | |
| Oval | J Danzey | 4293 | Canterbury d. Wests | 18-9 | Belmore SG | | | D Mac | Donald | | 18,177 |
| | | | Parramatta d. Cronulla | 23-0 | Cumberland Ov | /al | | | ybrook | | 13,393 |
| Oval | G Hartley | 14,543 | North Sydney d. Balmain | 15-5 | North Sydney C | Oval | | K Rob | | | 5457 |
| | D MacDonald | 5173 | Easts d. Souths | 22-12 | Sports Ground | | | G Har | | | 14,853 |
| | K Roberts | 10,610 | Penrith d. Newtown | 16-9 | Henson Park | | | R Hun | nphreys | | 1860 |
| | G Cook | 26,385 | | | | | | | | | |
| | C Turnell | 12 700 | July 10 | 12.7 | Laishbergh Oreal | , | | C C | 1. | | 11 205 |
| l | C Turnell | 13,700 | Balmain d. Easts | 13-7 | Leichhardt Ova | 1 | | G Coo | K | | 11,395 |
| | | | July 11 Wasta d. Navitawa | 18-7 | Lidcombe Oval | | | D Duoi | the old | | 5020 |
| | G Cook | 13,010 | Wests d. Newtown Parramatta d. Manly | 14-10 | Brookvale Oval | | | B Bray | Donald | | 23,211 |
| | O COOK | 15,010 | Cronulla d. North Sydney | 19-8 | Endeavour Field | | | B Brac | | | 4325 |
| al | C Turnell | 13,057 | Souths d. Penrith | 23-17 | Penrith Park | u | | | nphreys | | 8834 |
| val | G Hartley | 13,208 | Canterbury d. St George | 11-10 | Belmore SG | | | G Hart | | | 22,113 |
| al | D MacDonald | 14,536 | Canterbary a. Br George | 11-10 | Bennole BG | | | 0 114 | icy | | 22,113 |
| eld | J Danzey | 15,380 | July 17 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Manly d. North Sydney | 28-5 | North Sydney C | Oval | | R Hun | nphreys | | 6475 |
| | R Humphreys | 13,803 | Parramatta drew with Canterbury | | Cumberland Ov | | | K Rob | | | 15,642 |
| | | | July 18 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Balmain d. Penrith | 12-5 | Penrith Park | | | B Brac | istock | | 8789 |
| | K Roberts | 22,861 | St George d. Wests | 23-15 | Kogarah Oval | | | G Har | lley | | 11,963 |
| | | | Easts d. Cronulla | 33-13 | Sports Ground | | | D Mac | Donald | | 10,054 |
| | R Humphreys | 9053 | Souths d. Newtown | 20-5 | Henson Park | | | D Bray | ybrook | | 3500 |
| | C Turnell | 5720 | | | | | | | | | |
| Oval | K Page | 5188 | July 24 | | | | | | | | |
| al | G Cook | 17,425 | St George d. Balmain | 17-16 | Leichhardt Ova | 1 | | G Coo | k | | 12,763 |
| | D MacDonald | 7689 | July 25 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Cronulla d. Newtown | 28-11 | Endeavour Field | d | | J Goch | | | 4184 |
| 1 | D MaaDanald | 0214 | Easts d. Canterbury | 30-7 | Sports Ground | | | K Rob | erts | | 18,055 |
| al | D MacDonald | 9314 | July 31 | | | | | | | | |
| | R Humphreys | 5619 | Penrith d. Manly | 16-15 | Penrith Park | | | G Hart | tlev | | 6260 |
| val | G Hartley | 17,306 | August 1 | 10-15 | I CHITUI I ark | | | Onar | icy | | 0200 |
| | K Page | 2497 | Balmain d. Souths | 20-10 | Redfern Oval | | | K Rob | erts | | 9758 |
| Oval | K Roberts | 12,966 | North Sydney d. St George | 17-10 | North Sydney C | Dval | | K Page | | | 5295 |
| | G Cook | 18,129 | Wests d. Parramatta | 17-5 | Lidcombe Oval | | | G Coo | | | 13,311 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | August 7 | | | | | | | | |
| | R Humphreys | 2825 | Souths d. Cronulla | 19-16 | Redfern Oval | | | R Hun | nphreys | | 4282 |
| l | K Roberts | 13,034 | St George d. Easts | 5-2 | Sports Ground | | | G Coo | k | | 15,417 |
| | K Page | 8556 | August 8 | | | | | | | | |
| eld | C Turnell | 8253 | Manly d. Newtown | 20-12 | Brookvale Oval | | | K Page | | | 8643 |
| Oval | D MacDonald | 4009 | Penrith d. Canterbury | 22-18 | Belmore SG | | | | Donald | | 10,866 |
| | G Cook | 21,151 | North Sydney d. Parramatta | 11-5 | Cumberland Ov | | | K Rob | | | 8490 |
| | | | Balmain d. Wests | 13-12 | Leichhardt Ova | 1 | | G Hart | ley | | 12,160 |
| | G Coch | 9161 | August 14 | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4 | G Cook | | | 12.0 | Kaganah Qual | | | D Hum | | | 5022 |
| eld | R Humphreys C Turnell | 11,410 11,918 | St George d. Penrith August 15 | 13-8 | Kogarah Oval | | | к нun | nphreys | | 5022 |
| | G Hartley | 12,542 | Manly d. Souths | 26-3 | Brookvale Oval | | | B Brac | letock | | 10,532 |
| Oval | K Roberts | 3907 | Canterbury d. Newtown | 31-15 | Henson Park | | | G Hart | | | 3197 |
| d | K Page | 13,698 | Wests d. North Sydney | 24-15 | Lidcombe Oval | | | G Coo | | | 4307 |
| | | | Parramatta d. Easts | 14-7 | Cumberland Ov | /al | | | Donald | | 15,982 |
| | | | Balmain d. Cronulla | 11-9 | Leichhardt Ova | | | K Rob | erts | | 7973 |
| l | D Braybrook | 4430 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | August 21 | | | | | | | | |
| /al | G Hartley | 25,876 | Canterbury d. Souths | 21-9 | Redfern Oval | | | K Rob | erts | | 8770 |
| al | D MacDonald | 10,550 | August 22 | | | | | | | | |
| Oval | R Humphreys | 13,570 | Parramatta d. Penrith | 11-10 | Penrith Park | | | G Har | ley | | 15,342 |
| | K Roberts | 16,100 | Cronulla d. Wests | 20-17 | Endeavour Field | | | | nphreys | | 6265 |
| d | B Bradstock | 7280 | Manly d. Balmain | 30-11 | Leichhardt Ova | 1 | | | Donald | | 17,360 |
| | | | St George d. Newtown | 28-11 | Henson Park | | | B Brac | | | 4840 |
| 1 | D II | (248 | Easts d. North Sydney | 39-8 | North Sydney | | | G Coo | K | | 7461 |
| val | R Humphreys | 6248 | | | | | | _ | | | |
| | goals) at Sydney | METROPOL | LITAN LEAGUE | | P | | w | DL | F | | PTS |
| | ber 5 Referee: G | | | | astwood 16 | | 5 | 0 1 | 385 | 161 | |
| | Benson, J Turner. | | final: University of NSW d. | St Windsor | r 16 | | | 1 4 | 387 | 195 | |
| 61. | | Marys 19-3. | | St Mary | | |) | 1 6 | 336 | 256 | 5 19 |
| A DV ODA | EDIALC | | final: Ryde-Eastwood d. Winds | or Uni of N | SW 1 | 5 7 | 7 | 0 8 | 237 | 258 | 14 |
| ARY SEMI | | 27-10 | | Sydney | University 16 | 6 5 | ; | 2 9 | 256 | 343 | 12 |
| | foran, Ray Price, | Final: Univer | rsity of NSW d. Windsor 24-21. | | | 5 ′ | í – | 0 14 | 140 | 427 | 2 |
| | iggs, Jim Porter k Levy goals) d. | Grand final: | Ryde-Eastwood 10 (A Tilbrook, | Р | | | | | | | |
| unu /, ividi | a Levy goais/ d. | a 1 a | G.D | _ | | | | | | | |

Grand final: Ryde-Eastwood 10 (A Tilbrook, P Schaefer tries: G Presser 2

Schafer tries; G Brennan 2 goals). University Reserve grade grand final: St Marys d. Ryde-East-of NSW 8 (B Hilliard, P Begaj tries; K Kraft wood 6-3. goals) at Windsor.

AMCO CUP

22 (Gary Dowling, Keith Aortimer, B McCarthy tries; 5 goals) d. **Easts 13** (John 21-11. goals) at Sydney Cricket st 29. Referee: G Cook. M Tomsett, B Barry

D SYDNEY TOUR OF W ZEALAND

o 41-3, beat New Zealand at North Island 54-8, lost to 8-17, lost to Auckland 17-7. Squad: Tom Raudonikis (Wests) (c), Bill Squad: Tom Raudonikis (Wests) (c), Bill Annabel (Souths), Glen Boatswain (Norths), P Charlton (Canterbury), Greg Cox (Balmain), John Donnelly (Wests), John Dorahy (Wests), Steve Edge (St George), Terry Fahey (Souths), Ted Good-win (St George), David Grant (Souths), Paul Hayward (Newtown), John King (Penrith), Steve Lavers (Balmain), Les Mara (Balmain), Alan McMahon (Bal-main). Don Moseley (Canterbury). Arthur main), Don Moseley (Canterbury), Arthu Mountier (Balmain), Neil Pringle (Bal-main), Martin Raftery (Cronulla), Bruce Walker (Norths), Glen West (Penrith) and Preliminary final: Ryde-Eastwood d. Ipswich 29-13, Toowoomba d. Northern Territory 39-7, North Qld d. Wide Bay

Round 1: Souths d. Brisbane Souths 17-8, Manly d. Newcastle 35-17, Norths d. Easts 5-4, Brothers d. Penrith 19-8, Can terbury d. North Old 40-0, Cronulla d. Toowoomba 28-5, Auckland d. Redcliffe 30-5, Wests d. Monaro 21-9, Parramatta d. North Coast 20-4, Newtown d. Ryde-Eastwood 32-6, Brisbane Easts d. Canterbury (NZ) 38-7, Riverina d. Valleys 36-2, Balmain d. Southern Division 26-9, St George d. Western Division 34-10. Northern Division d. Illawarra 16-8. Brisbane

Wests d. Brisbane Norths 17-2. Round 2: North Sydney d. Newtown 19-7, Brisbane Brothers d. Northern Division 12-6, Riverina d. South Sydney 16-11, St George d. Cronulla-Sutherland 17-12, Manly-Warringah d. Brisbane Wests 24-8, Balmain d, Auckland 21-8, Parramatta d, Western Suburbs 22-2, Canterbury-Bankstown d. Brisbane Easts 13-7.

Quarter-finals: Norths d. Riverina 44-15, Balmain d. Brothers 19-3, Canterbury d. Manly 8-7, Parramatta d. St George 22-20.

Semis: Balmain d. Canterbury 11-10, North Sydney d. Parramatta 10-9

Final: Balmain 21 (Dennis Tutty, Neil Pringle, Dennis Bendall tries; Greg Cox 6 goals) d. North Sydney 7 (Bruce Walker try; John Gray 2 goals) at Leichhardt Oval. Referee: Greg Hartley, Crowd: 21,660.

➤ The Cray-1, the first commercially developed supercomputer, was released by Seymour Cray's Cray Research; The first commercial Concorde flight took off; The 1976 Winter Olympics opened in Innsbruck, Austria: In Guatemala and Honduras an earthquake killed-more than 22,000. ➤ Apple Computer Company was formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak; Czechoslova-kia beat West Germany 5–3 on penalties to win Euro 76, when the game had ended 2–2 after extra time; The CN Tower was built in Toronto; the tallest free-standing land structure opens to the public; The first laser printer is introduced by IBM; Neville Wran became NSW Premier » North Vietnam and South Vietnam united to form the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; The 1976 Summer Olympics begin in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; The Irish rock band U2 was formed; Bob Marley and his manager Don Tay-

To were short in an assassination attempt in Kingston, Jamaica; Jimmy Carter defeated in-cumbent Gerald Ford in the US elections; 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' won the Acad-emy Award for best picture; Mining on Fraser Island ended.

WORLD IN REVIEW - 1976



BY TERRY LIBEROPOULOS at McCredie Park, Guildford

The First Division Student Rugby League grand final went down to the wire with the UTS Tigers edging out the Lewisham Old Boys 24-22 at a warm McCredie Park in Guildford.

With the Tigers leading 24-18, the Lewisham Old Boys had one final chance to level the scores. With under a minute remaining, a Damien Braumann cross field bomb was taken on the full by winger James Ellender. The latter was able to outjump the opposition and score wide out.

Braumann had the opportunity to send the game into extra-time his kick, although straight, fell short of the mark.

The game was a classic struggle as both teams tried to overcome the 30 degree heat that had swept Sydney. The Lewisham Old Boys got off to a flying start when full-back Jack Byrne raced through to score in the fifth minute.

The Old Boys were almost in again when second-rower Jack Burke lost the ball in the process of scoring in the 10th minute.

The UTS Tigers looked dangerous when they had their limited chances and they broke through in the 21st minute when half-back Marcus Bower put Ben Phillips in the clear

with a well timed pass. The Tigers centre then passed for an unmarked Jack Cahill to score in the corner.

Old Boys' prop forward Luke Kelley crashed over in the 28th minute but knocked on over the line

The failed attempt cost them dearly as the UTS Tigers finished the half with two tries to lead 16-6 at the break

The first four pointer came in the 32nd minute when full-back Simon Smith did it all himself when he ran the angle and cut through for an 80metre try Five minutes later, Daniel O'Neill

beat three defenders and then stretched out to score under the sticks.

Lewisham Old Boys, playing in their inaugural season, had to score first in the second half and that is exactly what happened when hooker Angus Collins burrowed over from dummy-half to score.

The UTS Tigers reclaimed their 10-point buffer when five-eighth Selwyn Bridger-Wharepapa raced over from a scrum win

Old Boys five eighth Thomas Giatsos, who has placed international Rugby League for Greece, put in a kick that bounced awkwardly for Smith. The bounce was enough for Paul Speight to race through and collect the ball for the try.

With nine minutes remaining, a

late tackle on Bower after he had kicked the ball resulted in a penalty. Winger Vincent McDougall kicked the penalty goal, which would turn out to be the difference between the two sides.

SECOND DIVISION

Charles Sturt University (CSU) Bathurst captured their first premiership since 1998 when they held out a fast finishing UTS Tigers 34-28 in the grand final of the Second Division competition. CSU Bathurst Mungoes looked

like they were cruising to an easy win when they led 34-10 with 16 minutes remaining.

But the UTS Tigers never stopped trying and piled on three converted tries in 14 minutes to get within a whisker of sending the game into extra-time

Trevor Potts began the comeback with a 54th minute try that saw him split the defence before stretching over to score.

Five minutes later, a short pass from full-back Anton Arumainathan resulted in Christian Jantzen racing 30 metres to score.

With two minutes left on the clock, Arumainathan then raced 30 metres to score but time beat them in the end.

The Mungoes opened the scoring in the 14th minute when Jack Ramage put Joel Mewburn over for a try in the corner.

The Tigers levelled up at 4-all soon after when a great break from Tony Phillips resulted in winger Tim Dempster scoring in the corner.

But the Bathurst boys piled on three tries in five minutes to lead 22-4 at half-time.

Simon Parr began the onslaught in the 30th minute when he beat two defenders to score under the posts.

Mitchell Crebert crashed over soon after and a great break from Ben Peckering saw Lachlan Adams score after the half-time siren.

The Mungoes took just six minutes of the second half to extend their lead when Ramage went through a huge gap to score.

Lachlan Ingram got one back for the Tigers when he barged over in the 44th minute before Pickering was first to a kick from Anthony Salmon to score four minutes later

FIRST DIVISION

UTS Tigers 24 (Jack Cahill, Simon Smith, Daniel O'Neill, Selwyn Bridger-Wharepapa tries; Vincent McDougall 4 goals) d. Lewisham Old Boys 22 (Jake Byrne, Angus Collins, Paul Speight, James Ellender tries; Byrne 2, Damien Braumann goals) at McCredie Park, Guildford, September 12. Referee: Frank Reale. Touch Judges: Peter Brown, George Jankowski. In-goal judges: David Wilson, Glen Reece. Crowd: 400. Penalties: Lewisham 6-4. Half-time: UTS Tigers 16-6. Goal-kickers: Vincent McDougall (UTS Tigers) 4 from 5. Jake Byrne (Lewisham) 2 from 2, Damien Braumann (Lewisham) 1 from 2. 'Rugby League Review' official man of the match: Luke Kelley (Lewisham Old Boys).

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UTS TIGERS Simon Smith

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- Jack Cahill **Dean McGlinchey**
- **Ben Phillips** Vincent McDougall
- Selwyn Bridger-Wharepapa
- Marcus Bower **Brad Rilev**
- 8 Paul Fraser 9
- 22 David Shutte
- 11 Alan Emerson (c) David Hartimarkos 12
- Marcel De Maringny 14
- Interchange Daniel O'Neill
- 13 **Mick Taylor** 15
- Johan Cullen 16
- Sebastien Vourlos 17 18
- Kevin Levi Manesh Redhi 19
- **Coach: Phil Foster**

LEWISHAM OLD BOYS Jake Byrne 14 James Ellender 3

- Michael Takau (c) Viliami Politoni
- Shane Coppell
- **Thomas Giatsios**
- Damien Braumann Noah Sete
- Angus Collins
- 9 10 Luke Kelley
- Jack Burke 11
- 12 **Paul Speight**
- Travis Cuscuna 13 Interchange
- Robbie Dixon **Ben Wilding**
- Talakai Fauonuku 16
- Michael Holland 17
- 18 Keith Weston Sean Doherty 20
- Coach: Matt Olsen

SECOND DIVISION

CSU Bathurst 34 (Joel Mewburn, Simon Parr, Mitchell Crebert, Lachlan Adams, Jack Ramage, Ben Pickering tries; Sam Price 5 goals) d. UTS Tigers 28 (Tim Dempster, Lachlan Ingram, Trevor Potts, Christian Jantzen, Anton Arumainathan tries; Aaron Turia 4 goals) at McCredie Park, Guildford, September 12. Referee: Rocky Musolino. Touch Judges: Darrell Alexander, Ian Burge. In-goal judges: David Wilson, Glen Reece. Penalties: CSU Bathurst 5-3. Crowd: 400. Half-time: CSU Bathurst 22-4. Goal-kickers: Aaron Turia (UTS Tigers) 4 from 5, Sam Price (CSU Bathurst) 5 from 6. 'Rugby League Review' Official Man of the match: Mitchell Crebert (CSU Bathurst). Two 35-minute halves.

| BATHURST |
|--------------|
| Sam Price |
| Joel Mewburn |
| Lachlan Adam |

CSU

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- Jason Goodwin
- Alec McSpadden
- Joel Begnell (c)
- Anthony Salmon
- 25 **Ben Pickering** Jack Ramage
- 9 10 Nick Sharah
- Lachlan Blaikie 11
- 12 Simon Parr Alistair Murphy
- 13 Interchange
- Kurt Dickson 8
- Pat Cleal 14
- **Mitchell Crebert** 15 **Trent Hile** 16
- 18 Pat McGarry
- Chris Doyle 19
- Coach: Joel Begnel

Ben DeCruz Aaron Turia Tim Dempster 5 6

UTS TIGERS

lan Bridegr-Wharepapa Vinh Tran

Anton Arumainathan

Amante Decana

- 7 **Andrew Perrett** 8
- 9 Hady Kara-Ali
- 10 Lachlan Ingram
- 11 Anthony Moses 12 **Sebastien Maury**
- Tony Phillips (c) 13
- Interchange
- **Trevor Potts** 15 Lionel Iheanacho 16
- 17 Leo Kriketos
 - **Christian Jantzen**
- 19 **Anthony Cricchiola** 22 Matthew Guarrera
- Coach: Anthony Turner



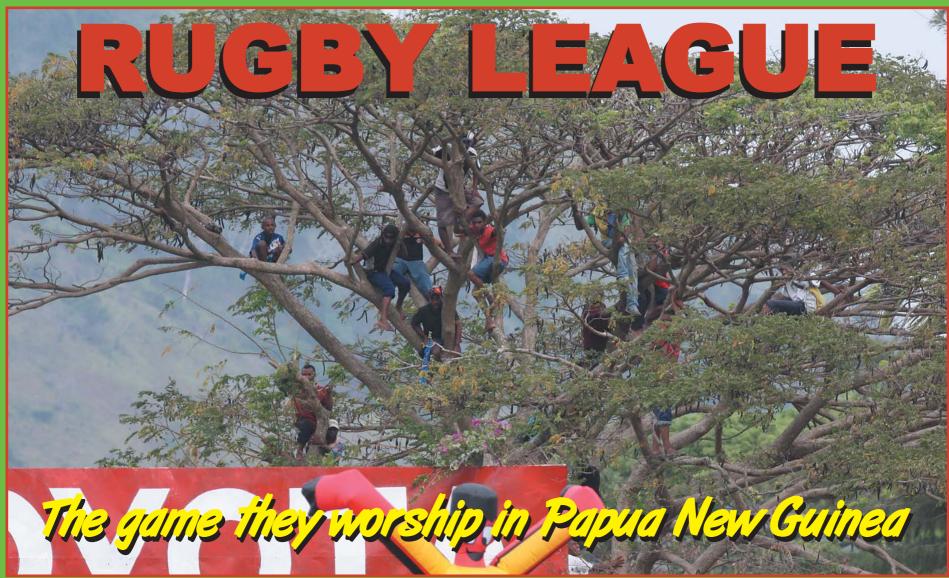
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AUSTRALIANS DEFEAT GALLANT KUMULS SIDE

BY DOUG McDOUGALL at Lloyd Robson Oval

The Australian Prime Minister's XIII were too strong for the Papua New Guinea Kumuls, running out 42-18 winners in front of 10,000 fans at Port Moresby's Lloyd Robson Oval.

The Aussies began the scoring in the eighth minute when David Shillington scored before a double from Michael Jennings had the visitors leading 18-0 after 17 minutes of action.

The Kumuls bounced back with tries to Tony Butterfield and Sigfred Gande to make the score 18-12 at half-time.

The Australians bounced back in the second half with George Rose crashing over in the 42nd minute.

But Papua New Guinea replied with a try to Jesse Joe Parker after a great break from five-eighth Dion Aiye. Glen Nami added the extras to make it 24-18 to the Aussies.

But with the Kumuls beginning to get back into the game, the Australians stepped up a gear to score three converted tries.

Glenn Stewart crossed first in the 55th minute and was followed with tries to Matt Scott and Jennings recorded his third touchdown for the game.

"Full credit to Papua New Guinea. They

Josh Dugan (Canberra)

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AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER'S XIII

never stopped and our boys ended up battered and bruised," said Australian Prime Minister's XIII coach Mal Meninga.

PNG coach Adrian Lam was disappointed at the result, saying the scores could have been closer had the boys kept their mistakes to a minimum and tackled hard throughout the match

Meanwhile, former Papua New Guinea international Rugby League player Marcus Bai has joined the NRL Bid as an ambassador to deliver a series of community development and talent opportunity programmes around the nation.

Bai, who played first grade football for Gold Coast and Melbourne before heading to play in England, is keen to see a team from Papua New Guinea playing in the NRL in the future.

A side from Port Moresby is being considered for inclusion in the Qld Cup competition.

Australian Prime Minister's XIII 42 (Michael Jennings 3, David Shillington, George Rose, Glenn Stewart, Matt Scott tries; Johnathan Thurston 7 goals) d. Papua New Guinea 18 (Sigfred Gande, Tony Butterfield, Jesse Joe Parker tries; Glen Nami 3 goals) at Lloyd Robson Oval, September 27. Referee: Brett Suttor (Australia). Crowd: 10,000. Half-time: Australian Prime Minister's XIII 18-12.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Jesse Joe Parker

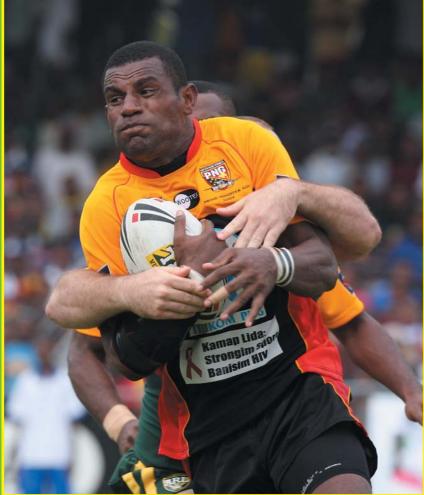


Michael Robertson (Manly) Michael Jennings (Penrith) 3 Joel Monaghan (Canberra) 4 David Williams (Manly) 5 Terry Campese (Canberra) 6 Johnathan Thurston (Nth Qld) (c) 7 David Shillington (Canberra) 8 Robbie Farah (Wests Tigers) 9 10 Matt Scott (North Qld) 10 Trent Waterhouse (Penrith) 11 11 Luke O'Donnell (North Qld) 12 12 Glenn Stewart (Manly) 13 13 Interchange Chris Heighington (Wests Tigers) 14 14 Nate Myles (Sydney Roosters) 15 15 16 Tom Learoyd-Lahrs (Canberra) 16 17 George Rose (Manly) 17 Ben Jones (Sydney Roosters) 18 18 Tyson Martin Coach: Mal Meninga Coach: Adrian Lam

Eliza Rigon Anton Jui Larsen Marable **Kevin Frank** Dion Aiya Keith Peters Rodney Pora Benjamin John Nixon Kolo George Moni Sigfred Gande Rod Griffen Interchange Simon Young Glen Nami Tom Butterfield Kerry Topako



Top: Supporters watch the game from the comfort of the trees. Middle: Australian centre Joel Monaghan is upended by the Kumuls defence. Bottom: Australian captain Johnathan Thurston is mobbed by a Papua New Guinea supporter.









PHOTOS (Clockwise from below): Fans line the street as the Australian Prime Minister's XIII team bus arrives; A PNG and Wests Tigers fan runs alongside the Australian team bus; PNG on the attack; Australian Prime Minister's XIII full-back Josh Dugan; Australian forward Chris Heighington. PHOTOS BY DOUG McDOUGALL

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AUSTRALIA D) I DE RIRIANNE/A IM (E) SHIE **4 NATIONS RUGB** 5]5 **DOUBLE HEADER** Saturday 10 October Marconi **GREECE VS PORTUGAL and ITALY VS** Stadium **Kick off DOUBLE HEADER** Saturday 17 October **3pm** INAL AND **M PLATE FINAL**

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