

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

8th June 2016

Newsletter #125

Vodafone Warriors Victorious

In the Changing Room after the Game



Ben Matulino and Bodene Thompson.



Manu Vatuvei and Thomas Leuluai.



Ryan Hoffman and Simon Mannerling.



Shaun Johnson and Jacob Lillyman.



Tuimoala Lolohea, David Fusitu'a and Blake Ayshford.



Albert Vete, Sam Lisone and Charlie Gubb.



Nathaniel Roache all smiles after the game.

Watch the boys celebrate their win on my Facebook page.

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Vodafone Warrior v Brisbane Broncos - Photos by Ra Pomare



Celebrations in the dressing room after beating the Broncos 36-18. Vodafone Warriors v Brisbane Broncos. www.photosport.nz



Can We Fix It?

By David Kemeys



IT WAS not the Manu Vatuvei comeback, the battering of the Broncos or even Konrad Hurrell set to debut for the Titans that had my attention last week.

Instead it was another controversy, and not one for a change involving the Warriors.

The prospect that matches in the NRL have been fixed is appalling.

The fact it involves Manly is no surprise- but I say that only because I hate the Sea Eagles more than any other club. Don't know why, just do.

And it turns out, having flogged the Broncos, there is pretty much nothing to moan about.

Throw into the mix the fact we have named an unchanged side, and I will confess to being very upset the Vodafone Warriors have not left a festering soar to pick at.

I was though also pretty unimpressed when Souths prop Nathan Brown gave one-time Warrior, and one, in my humble view who we let get away, Agnatius Paasi, one in the goollies.

But I'm willing to bet I was not as unimpressed as Agnatius, who is lucky he was not left auditioning for the Vienna Boys Choir.

The fact that he got away with it, totally, is a bit hard to fathom, especially when players are getting banned for looking sideways at refs.

Brown's foot stamped down on the Titans' bench forward as he was held in a tackle during golden point in the Rabbitohs' 29-28 loss in Perth on Sunday.

The incident prompted former NSW State of Origin halfback Brett Kimmorley to suggest Brown should receive at least three weeks.

But the match video review committee did not charge him on Monday. That would have happened if it was a Warrior, yeah right?

Now personally I think Kimmorley is a bit of a goose, but I found myself agreeing with him. "It should have been a penalty and put on report. It's a dog act isn't it? It's not an accidental high shot where it's a timing issue. I don't want that in the game."

So I also got to laugh wholeheartedly when Brown gave away the penalty that meant South's winning field goal in golden point turned out to be not the winning field goal, and the Titans marched down, kicked one, and stole the points.

But getting back to the betting scandal, our boss Jim Doyle came to us from the NRL, where he was in charge of the integrity unit.

Doyle reckons the NRL should revisit its protocols around the naming of teams, to limit the risk of inside information being passed on for gambling purposes.

Big Jim never got the chance to get through the one change he really wanted - proposing the naming of teams be delayed so it was more likely the run-on side would be as named.

It failed when Doyle came to us, and there were concerns Big League magazine would be affected.

To which I would say – tough titty.

Our game just does not need maggots profiting from leaks. It is bad enough to have all the usual upheaval. Dickhead behaviour, consorting with villains, pill popping, booze-fuelled incidents...

Continued on next page...

As you know, the team is named at 5pm on Tuesday. But there is no rule that says that is the team you have to put out. There are no penalties for playing a different side.

More importantly, there is the prospect results were being manipulated. Where there is money- especially gambling money – there is the potential for problems.

It was gut-wrenching to see 335-game veteran Corey Parker saying the wealth of betting options meant he wasn't surprised by the claims in a world where you could “pretty much bet on two ants running up a wall”.

Not too many of us will have forgotten Bulldog Ryan Tandy attempting to fix a game in 2010.

We need this like we need a hole in the head. Clean it up –and clean up goolly-stompers while you are at it. Just no place for it.

Is That The Flicker Of Hope I See?

The Vodafone Warriors thrashing of the Broncos has taken us somewhere we are incredibly familiar with – to the top of the roller coaster ride again.

Considering we weren't even second best in getting humbled by the Raiders, this game was one where we dared only hope –and our wishes came true.

But we have all been here before.

Now we must surely go to Newcastle and win.

Our 38-16 triumph at Mt Smart was a massive turnaround, but long time fans will now plenty about false dawns.

Our attack was miles better than it has been, though we still dodged a few bullets and had some calls go our way for a change, and Brisbane, for all their reputation, were not great.

“We knew we were the only people that can change what's going on so I guess that performance was the first step in doing that,” coach Andrew McFadden said.

Indeed, but the second step has to be that roadie to Newcastle. The knockers will have a field day if we can't win that one, and even the optimists might bring out the “seen it all before around Origin time” line.

Bu nothing short of a win this weekend is acceptable. And given how up and down that roller coaster has been, and where it is sitting now, how much confidence we can have going into facing the poorest side in the competition remains open for debate.

Origin Hangovers

You could have scripted it couldn't you. Haters go to hate!

The knockers were all over the radio as usual with cries about the Broncos being depleted because of Origin, with claims the Vodafone Warriors always promise much at this time of the year only to fade later, and with the same every week bevy of insults about our players and their capabilities.

You know what? I don't care. You can only beat what is in front of you, and I can only imagine how much worse it would have been if our under-fire side had lost.

A win is a win, and I will take it for sure.

A Little Johnson Magic

Bagging Shaun Johnson seems to have become a national past-time. And to be fair, some of the criticism that has come his way has been deserved – some, but certainly not all. It is hard to be magic behind a pack that is going backwards.

But on Saturday night he was the Johnson of old, skipping through the line, firing accurate passes to send players in and pretty good off the kicking tee too – despite twice hitting the upright.

It is often said that when Shaun plays well so do the Warriors, and that was the case on Saturday.

He scored a good try of his, twice deceiving defenders with dummies, set up two others and was generally a thorn in the Broncos side.

Let's hope it is the confidence boost so many have said he needs.

Not much talk of dropping him now is there?

Forwards With Grunt At Last

If bagging Johnson has become a national sport, firing off at an underwhelming forward pack isn't far behind.

Just like Shaun, much of the criticism has been justified, and it is impossible to deny that we have been comprehensively outplayed upfront more than one.

Which made it all the more pleasant to watch the forwards rip into their work on Saturday.

You do not have to be a league genius to know that when the forwards dominate, the backs get the time and room they need to work their magic.

New signing Issac Luke has taken a lot of the heat for the forwards failing to win the up-front battle but he reminded us all of why we went shopping for him in the first place.

I thought it was his best game in our colours. He was elusive, brutal in the tackle, determined, dynamite out of dummy-half, and best of all, seemed to be playing with a spark in his game that has been lacking.

The Fun Factor

Just as Luke seemed to be enjoying himself, so did many others.

Sure, it's hard to enjoy it when you are getting flogged, but the turnaround on Saturday seemed to restore the passion in the side, and undoubtedly gave them a lift.

Luke, Johnson, Thomas Leuluai and Jacob Lillyman had good games, but it was Tuimoala Lolohea, who ran for more than 180 metres from fullback, who really put on a show.

"It was a real focus from us, playing our type of footy and getting back to having fun with it," Johnson said after the game. "I thought our forwards were terrific tonight, they did a really good job setting that platform and some offloads came off the back of that."

Hard to disagree – so have more fun boys, because every time you do, the fans have a lot more of too.

Knights Then Roosters

No point denying that inconsistency has dogged us.

So after Newcastle we face the Roosters, and those have to be games we have targeted for the points.

The Knights –and I will go out on a limb here and tell you I have a soft spot for a club that is having such an awful time, yet can still attract good crowds.

They remind me of us. More downs than ups, yet they do one thing better – and that is the level of support. Those crowds would be unheard of if any other club was getting the battering they are.

We could learn a lot from them.

Predictably, captain Ryan Hoffman is warning not to get too excited. "Newcastle's a hard road trip, regardless of how they're going it's a tough place to go and play. It's another good opportunity for us to go out there and back up a good performance."

And just as predictably, our old friend at the Herald, Chris Rattue, is also warning fans about the perils of hoping a corner has been turned. "It's too early for predictions of a Warriors turnaround, after they smashed the Broncos. Don't be fooled again - that's the best advice. We've been through this so many times before. The poor Warriors, under siege, burst into life to defy the critics. Yawn."

Hard to criticise the bloke when he's spot on, and we all know it.

Manu Shows His Worth

Michael Burgess, who is the league writer for the Herald on Sunday, and I have to say I think a pretty good one, was impressed with what he saw from returning Manu Vatuvei.

We all know how tough it has been on the big fellah, so there is no need to go back over it, but how good was it to see him back out there. Sure he made an error or two, but his commitment and go forward can't be questioned.

"Manu is back, and so is that trademark grin. After enduring one of the most difficult periods of his career, perhaps second only to the weeks following the infamous Parramatta display in 2007, the popular winger made a strong return in last night's 36-18 win over Brisbane," Burgess wrote.

"Vatuvei ran with purpose all night, and some trademark charges laid the foundation for the Warriors' territorial dominance in the first half. It was impressive stuff, especially with the focus on him before the match."

Manu himself summed it up: “I was nervous the whole week. I tried to keep a straight face the whole time but when I got home I was telling the family how nervous I was ... but they said it was a good thing. I was happy to get my first carry out of the way and everything went off that.”

Burgess absolutely nailed it in one single sentence. “He will continue to polarise fans but remains a vital component of the Warriors' best 17.”

Sir Graham Earns Praise

Coach Andrew McFadden says former All Blacks World Cup winning coach Sir Graham Henry has given him confidence.

Henry has spent a month mentoring him at the Warriors and was in the coach's box against Brisbane.

McFadden has come out and said Henry's work has helped McFadden maintain his focus and self-belief.

I don't care how that happens, or makes it, but I sure as hell like it better when we win, so whatever works is fine by me.

McFadden is contracted until the end of next season but even this weekend there was a story in The Australian newspaper that Brad Arthur has been tapped up about leaving the Eels for Penrose.

Johnson Signed

We have exercised an option in Shaun Johnson's contract for next season - although his long term future can't be negotiated until the salary cap is set for 2018.

Our boss Jim Doyle said the Warriors were taking up the final year of Johnson's current contract – which will surprise no one.

But Doyle said it was prudent to wait until the 2018 cap levels were confirmed before finalising his next contract. The current cap is \$6.88 million but could rise as high as \$11.67 million under the new broadcasting deal.

Johnson confirmed his desire for a seventh year with us. “I love being a part of this club. I know what the Warriors playing exciting footy can do for league in this country and I want to be a part of that.”

Thanks To Everyone In The Lounge

Thank you for your support of the Kidz First Children's Hospital Jammies in June appeal buckets going around the lounge on Saturday. That bloody dodgy Lorna Warrington won the spot prize of a signed Charlie Gubb Warriors onesie, so nice to see one of the volunteers getting a prize.

We collected about \$300 in the lounge, which is not to be sneezed at. Much appreciated.

And to all those who missed the striptease and my performance in the nightie, I can be booked for parties – just call Pete.



Lorna Warrington wins David Kemeys ONESY leaving David a little bit exposed

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In the Stacey Jones Lounge



A Bronco Supporter getting a hard time from Sir Peter



Ali Lauitiiti being interviewed by Sir Peter



Ali Lauitiiti, Jazz Tevago and coaching staff Ricky Henry and Stacey Jones



Brett and Glen Shield who was celebrating his birthday.



Dayton Campbell and Rehia Howare (player of the day for Mangere Hawks)



Deborah and Graham Bond, Cameron Bond and Murray Bond, from Waikanae both Graham and Murray played for Mangere Hawks



Diana, Susana and Leone Leaver ex Silver Fern netballer.



Graeme Lee T.K.Harris, Trevor Warrington and m8 displaying the Warriors Flag.



Jack Matson (monkey) about to draw a spot prize for Sir Peter Leitch.



Julie and Vicky Thornley from Christchurch



Monty Beatham with Lorraine McKee and Lorna Warrington



In the Stacey Jones Lounge



Mason Lino, All Black Coach Steve Hansen, Ben Henry and John Palavi



Sir Peter interviews All Black Coach Steve Hansen



The pommie bastards sing happy birthday to Mike Brown, Cris Steiner, Glen Shield



Sir Peter's resident Pommie Bastards Steve, Peter, Lee, Adam and Neil. They are loved by all



Peter Taylor checks out the writing on the back.



Peter Taylor presented Sir Peter with his Union Jack vest and hat to celebrate Queens Birthday



Sir Peter Interviews club legend and Warriors NSW Cup coach, Stacey Jones



Sir Peter Leitch interviews Jazz Tevaga



Trevor Warrington and M8 wins a spot prize presented by Lady Janice Leitch



Sir Peter talking with a Warrior Legend Ruben Wiki

Watch the interview with Ruben Wiki on my Facebook page.
[Or click here to watch.](#)

Greatest Hits

As Shaun Johnson passes a half century of NRL tries, we ask him to look back on some of his favourites. By **MICHAEL BURGESS**

SHAUN Johnson is an excitement machine. The Warriors halfback has his critics – who feel he isn't consistent enough – but there's still no greater attacking weapon in the sport.

From his second game – when he ran from inside his own half to score his first NRL try – to his 50th four-pointer a few weeks ago where he beat three Dragons defenders in the space of five metres, Johnson has always had a license to thrill, with blinding pace, unbelievable balance, a wicked sidestep and lightning acceleration.

Few halves have matched his capacity for spectacular tries – except maybe Phil Blake, Allan Langer and more recently Benji Marshall. Though Johnson is more closely marked than ever, he still averages almost a try every other match and few are run-of-the-mill touchdowns.



vs Wests Tigers, Round 14, 2011

"It's Johnson the halfback – in only his second game in first grade. Shaun Johnson has arrived in the NRL." – **Fox Sports commentary**

A baby-faced Johnson broke from inside his own half, beats fullback Wade McKinnon with a goose-step to cross for his first NRL try.

Johnson: "I was pushing up on the play and Feleti [Mateo] threw a pass across the line. I caught it in space and took off. I came to the fullback and put on a goose-step to go around him. I was buzzing – I couldn't believe it – and I slid in and slammed it down, not the safest way. There had been a lot of talk, but to actually do it in first grade was a special moment."

vs Broncos, Round 22, 2011

"Johnson steps straight through. Support on the inside but he decides against it. Has he got the legs? He certainly does! What about that? A touch of magic."

– **Fox Sports commentary**

Still spellbinding on every watch, the rookie halfback beat seven defenders on his way to the line.

Johnson: "That was a crazy moment. Growing up I'd always watched games at Suncorp but that was my first time playing there. To do it against the likes of Darren Lockyer and Sam Thaiday was amazing. My mates were in disbelief that I was able to do it at that level and I probably surprised myself a bit. A framed photo of that try sits in my garage."

vs Panthers, Round 24, 2011

"[Johnson] will go all the way to the other end of the field – can you believe that? They talk about his blinding speed...there it was on display."

– **Fox Sports commentary**

A 90-metre special, highlighted by a wicked side-step at full pace to beat the covering winger.

Johnson: "I got a ball from Kevin Locke as he poked his nose through the line. I tried to gas it but there was some cover coming across, so I went off my left foot and pinned my ears back for the corner."

vs Sea Eagles, Round 1, 2012

"Shaun Johnson – steps right, steps left...he's over. The wonder kid. Johnson has lit up the stadium."

– **Channel Nine commentary**

Johnson beats four defenders from close range in front of a huge Eden park crowd.

Johnson: "It's a try I appreciate more than most. I scored a few long-distance tries, but to muscle my way over like that was different. To do it tough, come off both feet and charge over and spin, that was really cool. It was my first try from 10 metres out."

Courtesy of Big League Magazine. See what you miss when you don't subscribe?

Shaun Johnson

Year	Games	Tries	Strike rate	Try assists
2011	16	6	37.5%	18
2012	22	12	54.5%	20
2013	24	10	41.6%	21
2014	21	9	43%	15
2015	18	8	44.4%	15
2016	11	6	54.5%	9
Total	112	51	45.5%	98



vs Raiders, Round 25, 2013

"He could dodge raindrops, this kid...he's that good!"

- Fox Sports commentary

Johnson scores three tries in the space of six minutes against a shell-shocked Canberra.

Johnson: "It happened so quick and they were all quite opportunistic. I got an intercept, put a grubber through for another and for the first one I got a pass off Sam Rapira and stepped through. It was crazy to happen so fast - and it's the only hat-trick I've scored in my career."



vs Australia, Four Nations Final, 2014

"New Zealand move inside the Kangaroos' half. Johnson...look at the speed, the roadrunner is away. I don't know what was going to stop him. He's half-human, half-cheetah."

- Fox Sports commentary

The try of the 2014 Four Nations tournament - Johnson slips through the Australian defensive line, then burns past Greg Inglis down a narrow corridor.

Johnson: "A great night and a great memory. Greg Inglis is one of the best players in the world so when you take on someone like that and get him...he's got me before so there is a running battle. Every Test try is special."

vs Sharks, Round 9, 2015

"Johnson comes back inside. Johnson gets dancing - he dances through...no way, no way! Johnson has run over to score. This is ridiculous. This is 15 out of 10 on the incredible-meter!"

- Fox Sports commentary

An enduring memory of the 2015 season, as Johnson scythes through the Cronulla line for a 79th-minute match-winner.

Johnson: "Ryan Hoffman gave us the chance with a massive play to charge down. After that it's easy to gravitate towards the ball but I hung out a few passes wide. The ball came my way but they rushed to that side so I cut back off my right foot, ran along the line and found a hole. I want to be a player who steps up in big moments and that was one moment where I did."



vs Storm, Round 18, 2015

"No one is shutting up shop. They're open for business. Johnson, Johnson...oh wow, Shaun Johnson."

- Fox Sports commentary

Possibly the highest point of the Warriors' 2015 season, as Johnson's 40-metre run - stepping past Cameron Smith on the way - seals a famous victory.

Johnson: "That's my favourite try. It was a tight game against quality opposition but I felt really confident. I backed myself - there wasn't too much space but I was able to dance my way through. Beating someone like Cameron Smith is never easy."

Courtesy of Big League Magazine. See what you miss when you don't subscribe? 



By John Coffey QSM

The Mountain SBW Could Not Climb

NZ Rugby CEO Steve Tew, Sonny Bill Williams and Steve Hansen during a press conference after SBW re-signs with NZ Rugby. Photo: www.photosport.nz

NOW THAT Sonny Bill Williams has pledged his allegiance to the All Blacks and Auckland Blues for the last three years of his cross-codes rugby career, it is timely to assess this most controversial character's contribution to his original game. The man known universally as SBW will go down as a very fine NRL club player but one who failed to make much impact in the international arena.

I vividly recall watching Williams make his NRL debut for Canterbury-Bankstown against Parramatta in 2004. After covering the Warriors' season opener against the Broncos at Suncorp Stadium the previous night, I was comfortably seated in front of a large television screen at the Brisbane Easts Leagues Club, a frothy XXXX at hand. In quick time I was sitting on the edge of that seat and calling for another schooner.

Williams, only 18 and playing in the centres, carved up the Eels time and time again. All the hype which preceded his NRL debut proved to be accurate. In fact, he was better than the hype. Before the year was out he had displaced Kurt Sorensen as New Zealand's youngest Test forward and was wearing a grand final winner's ring. This man would star for his country for years to come, right? Wrong.

Since then the Kiwis have triumphed in the 2005 Tri-Nations in Britain, the 2008 World Cup in Australia, the 2010 Four Nations in Australia and the 2014 Four Nations in New Zealand. Williams missed them all. In 2005 he was undergoing off-season surgery and during the 2008 season he deserted the Bulldogs and the Kiwis for French rugby union. He was still absent in 2010 and was heading back to the All Blacks in late 2014.

His second NRL stint produced another grand final victory, for the Roosters in 2013, after which he apparently rediscovered his enthusiasm for international rugby league and belatedly made himself available for the World Cup in Britain. Williams displaced the already-chosen Tahu Harris. On reflection, it was not one of New Zealand coach Stephen Kearney's smartest decisions. Harris handled his rejection brilliantly and is now a Test regular.

Between his debut in 2004 and swansong in the 2013 World Cup final, Williams played only 12 times for the Kiwis. His seven matches against the Kangaroos produced one draw and six losses – the worst trans-Tasman Test record of any of our 796 Kiwis. His other appearances resulted in a Tri-Nations loss to Great Britain and 2013 World Cup wins over England, Samoa, Scotland and Papua New Guinea.

SBW's Test record in summary is:

2004 -- Debut in Anzac Test at Newcastle, Australia won 37-10. 2004 Tri-Nations, drew with Australia 16-16 at North Harbour, before losing to Australia 32-12 and Great Britain 22-12 in England. Missed second Great Britain game because of a shoulder injury.

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2005 – Not available for Anzac Test because of an ankle injury. Not available for 2005 Tri-Nations because of off-season surgery.

2006 – Played in Anzac Test at Brisbane, Australia won 50-12. Not available for Tri-Nations in Australia later in the year because of off-season surgery.

2007 – Played in Anzac Test at Brisbane, Australia won 30-6. Not available for the NZRL Centenary Test in Wellington or tour to Britain because of arm injury and off-season surgery.

2008 – Played in Australian Centenary Test at Sydney, Australia won 28-12. Not available for World Cup after mid-season switch to French rugby union.

2013 – Not available for Anzac Test because of injury. A late inclusion in World Cup team, playing in wins over Samoa 42-24, Papua New Guinea 56-10, Scotland 40-4 and England 20-18. Australia won the final 34-2 at Old Trafford. Scored three tries against PNG but slid over dead-ball line in the act of scoring against Scotland.

2014 – Not considered for Anzac Test or Four Nations tournament because of his pending return to the All Blacks for the 2015 World Cup.

In between times Williams has fashioned a most creditable rugby union record with French club Toulon, the Belfast club in Christchurch, the Crusaders, Chiefs, Counties, the All Blacks and the All Black Sevens, with the Blues next on his list. His new contract is timed to provide him with a third World Cup winner's medal, while allowing him to resume a semi-comical, semi-serious boxing career and to dabble in Sevens.

With Toulon's billionaire owner and the struggling Roosters having also chased Williams' signature, one can imagine Blues coach Tana Umaga was relieved to get the job done. So, too, All Blacks counterpart Steve Hansen, who appears to have already selected SBW for the 2019 World Cup team even before he is confirmed as coach. But I have a sneaking suspicion Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney will not be losing any sleep either.

In Memory of Speedy Reidy's Famous Try-Scoring Treble

By John Coffey QSM



BRIAN REIDY, who died in Auckland last week at the age of 77, scored one of the most famous try-scoring trebles in New Zealand rugby league history during the 16-13 victory over Australia at Brisbane's Lang Park in 1963. It was the high point of an international career which spanned 19 Test matches, 46 other appearances and two tours to both Australia and Britain and France from 1959 to 1965.

Reidy was not known as "Speedy" for nothing. Although he was chosen for his first tour, to Australia in 1959, as a fullback, the fast and elusive Reidy found his niche on the wing and made his Test debut there during the tied two-match home series against the 1961 Kangaroos. His first 18 Tests were at wing before, ironically, he made his swansong as fullback in the second Test against the 1966 British tourists.

The 1963 Test series in Australia still grates with the Kiwis who played in it. Australia won the first Test 7-3 in the Sydney Cricket Ground mud after referee Gorge Bradley awarded the home team 22 of the 29 penalties. The last and most vital penalty was against Kiwis halfback Bill Snowden, who had come from behind Bradley to intercept an Australian pass and was haring off to score what, with the conversion, would have been the match-winning try.

The series ended back in that SCG mud when Australia won 14-0 in the deciding third Test. In hindsight, the Kiwis probably erred by choosing champion loose forward Mel Cooke at scrum-half to replace an injured Snowden. But Snowden still swears that should have been a dead rubber, and the Kiwis should have been 2-0 up. Safe to say, none of the 1963 Kiwis ever sent referee Bradley a Christmas card.

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Australia fielded one of its greatest attacking backlines in wings Mike Cleary and Ken Irvine (both renowned track sprinters) and Immortal centres Reg Gasnier and Graeme Langlands. Formidable fullback Ken Thornett had returned to Sydney after playing for Leeds. They were expected to dominate on a firm Lang Park, more so when it became 12-a-side for the last 55 minutes after Bradley ordered off rival props Maunga Emery and Peter Gallagher.

Against them the Kiwis fielded outstanding three-quarters of their own in wings Reidy and Ken McCracken (who came in for an injured Neville Denton) and centres Roger Bailey and West Coaster Graham Kennedy. But they were down on pace without Denton, and also because regular Test fullback Gary Phillips was injured. Phillips' place was taken by the highly reliable Jack Fagan.

Reidy scored New Zealand's first three tries, twice running off rampaging second-rower Brian Lee and backing up again after hooker Jock Butterfield had bamboozled the Australian defence. But even after all that the scores were locked at 13-13 late in the second half. Reidy seemed clear for a fourth try, only for airborne fullback Thornett to tackle him into touch within a metre of the try-line.

But Reidy played a role in the winning try-scoring move, which covered 80 metres. Jimmy Bond picked up a loose ball and linked with Cooke, Reidy and Bailey before Butterfield got within one metre of the Australian posts. The wily hooker switched play, wrong-footed the remnants of the cover defence and McCracken loomed up to take his pass and score wide out. Fagan's conversion missed but the Kiwis comfortably held their 16-13 advantage.

Reidy was a rugby league poster boy in an era when the Kiwis won the Courtney Trophy as the most successful international team. He joined the Marist club as an eight-year-old in 1947, was a Schoolboy Kiwi in 1953, toured Australia with the 1957 Auckland juniors and made his senior club debut in 1958. From there he attended the 1959 national coaching school and was the Kiwis second-string fullback to Phillips in Australia.

On the 1965 tour to Britain Reidy equalled Vern Bakalich's New Zealand all-time try-scoring record of 34, only to be overtaken by Bailey when the Kiwis moved on to France. Three of his eight Test tries came in the home series against the 1962 Lions, when the Kiwis won both tests by 19 points. Unfortunately, Reidy played only six Tests on home soil, injuries keeping him out against France in 1964 and Australia in 1965.

Brian Reidy stayed heavily involved after playing for the champion Marist teams of the mid-sixties, having clocked up more than 400 games for the club. He was secretary-treasurer of the New Zealand Kiwis Association for more than 45 years and a life member, a co-founder of the NZRL Museum – where his old-style aluminium-studded boots are on display -- and served on the NZRL and ARL judiciaries. He was made a life member of the NZRL last year.

Rest in peace.



Brian receiving life membership last year from Howie Tamati (NZRL President) & Garry Fissenden (NZRL Chairman).

If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephan Maier at stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz



By John Deaker

Lillyman's Drought-Breaking Try Puts The Icing On The Cake In The Warriors' Victory



*Players celebrate Jacob Lillyman's try. Vodafone Warriors v Brisbane Broncos,
Photo: www.photosport.nz*

IT WASN'T an important milestone at the time but the fact that Jacob Lillyman scored his first try in three years was indicative of the way that for most of Saturday night's match against Brisbane everything the Warriors touched turned to gold.

Lillyman's converted try took the Warriors out to an 18-0 lead after just 22 minutes and was set up by Issac Luke's deft grubber kick that appeared to be aimed at the upright. Lillyman isn't certain that Luke was aiming for the post but the two of them had definitely chatted about the possibility of the Kiwis hooker helping the Queenslander to end his try-scoring drought.

"When Issac first signed with the club I said to him at one of his first training sessions 'You need to put me across for a try because it's been a bit of a lean period'. So it's been in the back of our minds and funnily enough before the game on Saturday he actually said to me 'I think today's the day'. I didn't think too much of it but when he put the kick through I just reacted and couldn't believe my luck," says Lillyman.

The try may have had an element of luck but Lillyman abides by the theory that you create your own luck.

"We seem to get the rough end of the stick with a lot of things as a team but we had a few things run our way on Saturday night," he says.

"Sometimes you make your own luck - or whatever it is. We certainly turned up with the right attitude and frame-of-mind at the weekend. Our attitude was aggressive and I think when you turn up with that mind-set it helps you get the rub-of-the-green."

Last week Lillyman had been in Australia as the 18th man for the Queensland team before he rejoined the Warriors for the Brisbane clash. He immediately sensed a change of attitude within the camp when he returned for the Warriors' captain's run. Everyone seemed to be having more of a good time at training and speaking to his team-mates confirmed to him that coach Andrew McFadden had intentionally tried to create this environment with a slightly different approach.

Lillyman believes having a bye after the disappointing Canberra match was also an important factor in turning things around. It gave the players a few days off but also gave them a chance to regroup. He'd been carrying frustrating hand and knee injuries through the start of the season so his body appreciated the recovery time.

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Any time that Lillyman can also spend with his 7 month-old daughter currently is something he appreciates as well. He's grateful to Kevin Walters for allowing him to join the Queensland squad later than the main players in the squad did.

Backing up to play club football a few days after State of Origin can be challenging and Lillyman has some sympathy for the large number of players Brisbane had doing that against the Warriors on Saturday.

"It is tough backing up. I've done it many times and it's probably a bit tougher mentally than physically. Obviously you're sore but you've just come off a pretty big high and having to play again a couple of days later is hard."

At 32 years-old Lillyman's career still has a few years left but if his career was to finish tomorrow it would be playing 11 times for Queensland through such a phenomenally successful era that is something he should be immensely proud of. He says it's not till his career's over that it will probably sink in what a great honor this has been.

"You don't necessarily understand the magnitude of achievements while you're still playing but definitely when it's all done and dusted I think I'll look back on my career and especially my Origin career with great pride," he says.

As for the Warriors, he's keen to see their playing group retain the type of confidence and enjoyable flavor in the camp that they had going into the Brisbane game as they move forward now, leaving behind one of the toughest times he's had at the club and hopefully a try-scoring drought he'll never experience again.

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One Woman... 270 League Jerseys!

By John Deaker



AUSTRALIAN NICKI Styles must surely possess more rugby league jerseys than any other woman in the world. She has 270 jerseys currently and the scary thing is that the collection she started in the early 1990's continues to grow just as quickly more than 20 years later. In fact, she openly admits that over time her love of acquiring rugby league jerseys has become much more than a hobby.

"I'm addicted to it," Styles says. "And at work for instance, if a new person starts they'll refer to me as 'The lady that's got all the jerseys. If you want to talk rugby league go and talk to her,' people say."

Nicki lives in Rockhampton, central Queensland and naturally supports the Maroons in State of Origin. For someone with so many jerseys it's no surprise that she has more than one NRL club she supports : the Cowboys, Broncos, Warriors and Storm - in that order of preference.

Her passion for these teams means though Nicki was a bit disappointed at the weekend to see her Brisbane side lose but she certainly wasn't heart-broken considering it was the Warriors that put them to the sword.

She stayed with Sir Peter Leitch and Lady Janice while in Auckland to watch Saturday night's match and after originally meeting them in England at the 1995 rugby league World Cup she's stayed with the Leitch's most times she's been in Auckland since then.

It was on that tour in 1995 that Nicki secured her favourite jersey: A Kiwis jersey that she obtained with the assistance of the wife of the President of the NZRL at the time. Ironically, that jersey came with one of the smallest price-tags in her collection; she paid just 20 pound for it. Most of the jerseys she tends to pay nearly full price for (one regular store she shops at gives her \$10 off per jersey) and this year in Australia the jerseys have gone up from \$159 to a whopping \$179 per jersey!

The fact that Styles has never married helps her to justify purchasing so many jerseys and it's helped that she's been on good money working at Queensland Rail for the last 39 years. So what does she do with them all?

"I wear them," she says. "I've got about 60 or 70 hanging up in my cupboard and the rest are stored in crates in my shed."

The New Zealand Warriors are the club that Styles estimates she has the most jerseys of in her collection.

"I must have about 60 or 70 Warriors jerseys. Every year they seem to put out some phenomenal jerseys. They just blow your mind what they come out with," she says.

The Warriors' orange training jersey was actually one of her most recent purchases. But it's the most recent jersey Styles bought , a New South Wales one , that can lead us to believe that her self-confessed "addiction" to jerseys runs even stronger through her than her love for her favourite teams.

"I bought a New South Wales one. It's got Paul Gallen, Laurie Daley and Andrew Johns on it. I don't like New South Wales of course but they put it out and I loved it and I just had to have it."



Nicki modelling one of her Jerseys in the lounge on Saturday.



By John Deaker



Photo: www.photosport.nz

The Lessons Learnt are Paying off for Lolohea

EVERYTHING SEEMS to be falling in to place for Tuimoala Lolohea in 2016. After some strong form last year his game has gone to a new level this season. Moving to fullback after Roger Tuivasa-Sheck's season-ending injury has admittedly seen him shuffled into a position where he has the space to show-case his skills but it's also been great timing for him after he learnt some valuable lessons on the Kiwis tour last year.

"I've got more experience behind me now especially from the end-of-year tour," he admits.

"I might have only played one game but just being round the boys in camp and seeing how they operate helped me a lot. I was rooming with Roger [Tuivasa-Sheck] on tour so just being around him was massive for me... So I came back after New Year's feeling like I'd learned a lot since last year."

Monitoring his diet and dealing with injuries have been two specific areas that Lolohea has learnt to handle better since he joined the Warriors in 2013. He was the club's NYC Young player of the year that year but the following year he didn't push on the way he'd like to have.

"My first year in 20's I was skinny so I could get away with what I was eating. Then I got injured and I think that's when it hit me and I chucked on the weight. I went back to the finals series that year and struggled when I should have been a standout player having played at a higher level," he says.

It's testament to Lolohea's love of rugby league that he came right through the rugby-mad Kelston Boys High School system without being talked into playing the 15 man game.

"They kept bugging me 24/7 to come and play for the first XV but I didn't do that. I played two years of sevens though. It was good to be part of history because we won the sevens competition four years in a row and I was part of that two times," he says.

Tui still lives with his father Paul who has raised him on his own since his mother passed away when he was only 1 year old. The sacrifices his father has made to give him the opportunity to realize his great potential as an athlete is a big part of what inspires Lolohea to be successful in his profession.

"He's been a huge part of my career. I think if it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here talking to you today. The sacrifices he's made in his life have been huge. He used to go to work [as a security guard] on Friday nights and come home at 7 o'clock in the morning to take me to my footy games. Sometimes on the drive to the games he'd start to fall asleep so we'd have to throw some water on his face to keep him awake."

Paul grew up in Tonga and played rugby when he'd moved to New Zealand. However, a serious injury in a car crash ended his playing days. Needless to say he's become Tui's number one fan and attends all of his home games at Mount Smart Stadium.

Barring injuries, it's obvious now that Lolohea has a long career in the NRL ahead of him. At just 21 he already has 37 first-grade games behind him. With his great versatility and the shortage of classy playmakers coming through the NZRL system the Warriors fortunately have him locked down till the end of 2018 currently.



By Barry Ross

Worlds Best Player?

*Shaun Johnson scores a try. Vodafone Warriors v Brisbane Broncos
Photo: www.photosport.nz*

IT IS always a pleasure to watch one of Rugby League's most skilful players. At his best, Shaun Johnson is one of game's top men and he was certainly at his best at Mt. Smart on Saturday. The full range of his skills were evident- from his electric speed off the mark and his ability to set up his support players, through to his clever passing and kicking games. He also did his share of tackling, while his goal kicking helped to keep the scoreboard ticking. Earlier this year, as he began his comeback after the horrible injury he suffered against Manly last July, there were those that predicted he would not be able to reach the level at which he had played before the problem. On Saturday that was certainly put to bed as the Warriors halfback dominated the highly ranked Broncos. Another player that excites me and all League fans with his blockbusting runs is Solomone Kata. Only 22 years of age, the Tongan-born centre has a big future. He always runs straight and his nine line breaks this season, puts him in the top half dozen or so in the NRL. Against the Broncos his 157 running metres indicated how damaging he was. Fullback Tuimoala Lolohea caused constant problems for the Brisbane boys. His 183 running metres and two line breaks was a huge boost for the Warriors.

There were many positives for coach Andrew McFadden from the game. Towards the middle of the second half, Brisbane received three successive penalties while they were close to the Warriors try line. Under extreme pressure, the Warriors defence held and this was a major contribution to the victory. Congratulations to the 32 years old evergreens, Jacob Lillyman and Ryan Hoffman for collecting their first tries of the season. Jacob now has nine tries from his 219 NRL matches, while Ryan has 63 four pointers from his 275 NRL games.

Another player who is right up there as one of the game's best players is the Cowboys' Johnathan Thurston. He turned 33 six weeks ago but is still a dominating figure in all of his games. His calmness and skill under pressure played a major role in Queensland's tight 6-4 win in Origin One. Three days later he was doing the same in his side's 46-16 win over Newcastle. His seven goals from eight attempts against the Knights, gives him a success rate of more than 87 percent from his 12 club games this year. He has totalled 115 points this season from a try, 55 goals and a field goal and is approaching 2,000 NRL points. After Saturday's game he had scored 1,909 points from his 280 first grade matches. All but 40 of these points have come in his 250 games with the Cowboys. Thurston is now seventh all-time on the NRL points scored table, just eight points behind sixth placed, Graham Eadie (Manly).

Jonathan is also the highest Test point scorer for Australia with 334 points (12 tries, 143 goals) in his 33 Tests, while is also the highest scorer in Origin football with 202 points from five tries, 90 goals and two field goals from his 34 games with Queensland.

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Australian and Melbourne Storm captain, Cameron Smith has scored 1,874 points from his 321 games and sits in eighth place on the all-time NRL table. The Australian captain has scored 120 points (nine tries, 42 goals) in his 44 Tests and 52 Origin points for Queensland in his 37 games. Smith set the new Origin game record for both States when he played his 37th match last week in the 6-4 win. He had held the previous record of 36 jointly with Darren Lockyer. Smith has his 33rd birthday on 18 June, when the Storm play the Dragons in Wollongong.

Fox TV commentator and former Kiwi, Daryl Halligan (20 Tests, 137 Test points), is fourth on the all-time list with 2,034 points. Halligan, who celebrates 50 years on the planet in seven weeks (25 July), played with the North Sydney Bears and the Canterbury Bulldogs. Daryl's birthday falls on a Monday and I can't wait for the big extravaganza he is staging at Mt. Smart Stadium before the Warriors-Panthers clash a few days after his birthday. Free beer for everyone Daryl?

After the win against the Broncos, the Warriors sit in 11th place on the table using their points differential, but they are only one win out of the top eight. That victory could come at Newcastle on Saturday but the New Zealanders must not be complacent. The Knights will be desperate to notch up their second win of the year and at home they will feel they can defeat the Warriors. This match will not be similar to the last time the two teams met, which was on Monday night 28 March at Mt. Smart when the Warriors finished with seven tries to three in their 40-18 win. Before I finish I would like to give a wrap to Stacey Jones' NSW Cup side. They were impressive on Saturday in their 32-20 win over Wentworthville. Six tries to four wasn't a true indication of the difference between the teams, although the halftime score of 12-10 to the Warriors was tight. The home town forwards did the job in the second half and they picked up four of the team's six tries. The front row of Tofoafoa Siple, Jazz Tevaga and James Gavet all crossed for a try, while rugged second rower Shaun Lane also deserved his four pointer. The team sits in second place on the ladder behind the Mounties who have only been beaten once this year and that was by the Wyong Roos back on 12 March. This week the Warriors NSW Cup side meet the Knights, who like their NRL team, sit on the bottom of the points table.

The Monday night game showed the Sharks are a definite Premiership this year. They didn't play as well as they can but still picked up a 20-18 victory, even if they left it to the last minute to do so.

In Memory of Billy Snowden

By John Coffey QSM



FORMER NEW Zealand scrum-half and captain Billy Snowden died in Sydney last Saturday, aged 81. Between 1959 and 1965 Snowden twice toured Australia and Britain and France, captaining his country in the drawn 1965 home series against the Kangaroos and when the Kiwis travelled to Britain and France later that year.

A product of the Ponsonby club, Snowden served his international apprenticeship on the 1959 tour to Australia and represented New Zealand Maori against the 1960 French tourists before making his Test debut in the second 1961 Test against Australia. That was the first of 18 consecutive Test appearances and he played in 39 other tour matches.

Though small in stature, Snowden was a tough competitor, renowned for his sturdy tackling, crisp passing and alertness to attacking opportunities from the scrum base. He moved permanently to Sydney for employment reasons in 1971 and linked up with the Eastern Suburbs club. Snowden was chairman of selectors when the Roosters won the 1974 and 1975 Sydney minor premierships and grand finals under master coach Jack Gibson. Rest in Peace.





High-Tackle Holloway... I'll give ya the tip mate!

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 14

Date/ Venue		Game	Sue Phelan	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Bill Hayward	High-Tackle Holloway
			<i>Maloney's Barber Shop - The best haircut in town.</i>	<i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	<i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran Leagueie</i>	<i>Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...</i>	<i>The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife</i>	<i>Link Business - Buying or Selling a Business</i>	<i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Richmond Leagueie</i>
9/06 - Suncorp	Broncos v Raiders	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos
10/06 - ANZ	Tigers v Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Tigers	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Tigers	Rabbitohs
11/06 - Hunter	Knights v Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
11/06 - TIO	Eels v Titans	Titans	Eels	Titans	Titans	Titans	Titans	Titans	Eels
11/06 - ALLIANZ	Roosters v Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Roosters	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm
12/06 - Brookvale	Sea Eagles v Panthers	Panthers	Sea Eagles	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
13/06 - ANZ	Dragons v Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Dragons	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs
13/06 - Shark Pk	Sharks v Cowboys	Sharks	Sharks	Cowboys	Sharks	Cowboys	Sharks	Sharks	Cowboys

How they're traveling....

Picks last week	4/8	5/8	7/8	5/8	6/8	7/8	7/8
Total picks	53/100	56/100	62/100	60/100	61/100	65/100	67/100

ALRIGHT...ROUND 13 was unlucky for some but not the Warriors, the faithful left Mt Smart with a big smile on the dial Saturday night and not even Chris Rattues somewhat dim view of the victory in Mondays Herald can change that. Yes the Broncos did look a bit flat but that view can be a distorted by the contrast to our boys energy and enthusiasm. It was great to see a concerted and cohesive go forward effort from the Warriors as it provided that platform that Bo Thomson, Johnson, Lolohia, Fusitua and Kata etc need to operate on. Mannering and young guns Lisone, Vette and Gubb right in it. 36/18 on the scoreboard! As an aside if you want to know where Cult packman Gubb gets his non-stop up-tempo attitude from just spend 5 minutes talking to his Dad a very happy and positive guy. Also noted a few seats along the row from our Boys-Trip box... "Steve Hansen" Coach of the mighty All Blacks was an interested spectator, using his day off to see how the other half lives I guess. The Butcher was on the case and in his ear smartly to give his rigger mate a few handy tips.

Most other matches went to plan with the ever improving Raiders moving to 6th on the ladder with a clear home win 30/18 over Manly. Injuries to key players seem to be playing a big part this season and the Sea Eagles are another victim, their list makes hard reading for their fans, Stewart barely back but Tapau, DCE, Matai, Taufua, Lawrence and captain Jamie Lyon now on the sideline. The sharp-shooting (and injury-free) Cowboys stay in 2nd with a runaway 46/16 over the unfortunate try-hard Knights. The Newcastle cupboard laid bare also with influential components Mullen, Snowden, McManus, Rochow and a pair of Matautias on the casward. A single win and a draw the sorry return for the season so far in CoalTown. Bad weather caused havoc in Sydney but the Storm in Melbourne did the damage to the Panthers 24/6.

Continued on next page...

Bellamys Belters retain top spot with the iconic Billy Slaters absence well covered by the combative Cameron Munster, the Blue Mountain boys stay on 5 wins but could easily have had a few more....their notable absentees Hiku and Whare are out for the season and will be missed. The Roosters danced thru the downpour to tame the Tigers 32/18. Ex Warrior second rower Taukeiaho outstanding from the boot, slotted six from six from everywhere. The never say die Titans edged an unruly Rabbits outfit with only a golden point the final say, 29/28 at the whistle. The Gold Coasters ran up an 18 zip lead and had control most of the way but a late second half burst got the Southsiders even till boom colt Ashley Taylors devastating droppie. A long lonesome hop home for the Bunnies.

The Monday niter was yet another knife edge beauty with the Ben Barba Show Sharks only just getting past the belligerent Bulldogs. The 20/18 difference came off a last minute sideline conversion from Maloney who had missed all 3 previous kicks. Dessy will not be happy as his men had this one in the bag for the most part.

Tippin Talk: old-head JC, wily Bill Hayward and yours truly all hit 7s this week, just one off the bonus bugger!!! Montz right in it with a cool 6, Big Joe and Fast Eddie 5s and SuperSue of Maloneys Barbers the short backsides with a 4.

What a Difference a Week Makes!

By Shontayne Hape



WELL, IN our case, make that a fortnight. Two weeks after a disappointing showing against the Raiders in New Plymouth, the Vodafone Warriors responded in emphatic fashion by putting the Brisbane Broncos to the sword in Auckland.

As far as performances go, this one was right out of the top drawer.

On a crisp Saturday night at Mt Smart Stadium, over 15,000 loyal fans turned up to cheer us on.

And finally they were rewarded with a performance they've been waiting to see all year.

I've said it here before but it's worth repeating. We have the best members in the NRL. It'd be fair to say they've been through a bit this season but yet, there they were in their thousands – on a long weekend, no less – to will us home.

Of course, and despite the fantastic win, we are not getting carried away.

The NRL is a tough competition and it's back to the drawing board this weekend for a game against the Knights in Newcastle.

While they've have a tough year so far, they are still a dangerous prospect for the Vodafone Warriors and it's crucial we back up our performance on Saturday.

After the Knights, we are back at home for a clash

against the Roosters on Sunday, June 19 before the Sharks beckon in Sydney.

Speaking of the Cronulla game, we are putting on a meet the team event afterwards.

Spots are limited so if you live in Sydney and want to meet the boys, you'll never get a better chance than on Saturday June 25.

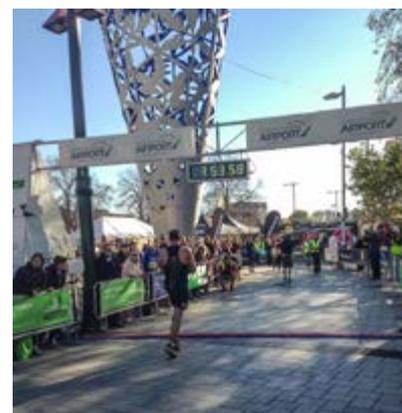
To get a booking form, contact our membership team on memberships@warriors.kiwi.

On another note, I'd like to give a shout out to my colleague Leighton Corbett (aka The Corpedo) who completed the Christchurch Marathon last week in his home town on a supposed "busted calf".

Corpedo, a proud Cantabrian and staunch Crusaders fan, is the Vodafone Warriors' graphic designer and also, as Butch would say, a bloody good bloke.

Now the marathon is over hopefully we won't have to see him limping around in the office in his compression socks.

Well done mate!



Leighton Corpedo Corbett in Christchurch

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Muhammad Ali - The Greatest of All Time

By Ben Francis



MOMENTS BEFORE kick off in the Warriors v Broncos game, the news come through that Muhammad Ali had passed away at age 74 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Many people were shocked with the news and a moments silence was given before the game started.

With me being 20 I was not around when Ali was the most popular athlete on the planet, but I know the legacy he has left on sport, culture and society.

Muhammad Ali came up twice in my studies in high school, firstly when studying 1960's America and the Vietnam War and also the Thriller in Manila.

What I learnt about Ali during my studies was that he was a man who was never afraid to speak which we learnt through his quotes and trash talking. Also in 1967 when Ali refused induction into the armed forces on the grounds of his Muslim beliefs. Ali was convicted of draft evasion, stripped of his world heavyweight belt and not allowed to box for three years. Many people who were around at the time would have been scared to stand up and fight for what they believe in and Muhammad Ali was not one of them. The African American community believed he was unfairly stripped of his title during his prime years as an athlete.

During his run in the early - mid 70's when Ali was facing the likes of George Foreman, Joe Frazier, his words became more aggressive for example in the build up to the Rumble in the Jungle in Zaire (now a part of the Congo), Ali was learning how to say "kill him" (referring to Foreman) in the countries spoken language which is French. Also calling Joe Frazier a gorilla, which we learnt from Steven Adams recently is an awful word to use. Many saw Ali as a villain for this, including me when studying the topic.

But despite that it was impossible to dispute his greatness.

Watching Ali fight was magical, the way he punched, to the way he could dance around the ring was outstanding. Standing at 6ft 3 and 98Kgs and the speed he had was scary. He literally used to float like a butterfly and sting like a bee. No other way to describe it.

The thing I admire about Ali is the way he has influenced many athletes today. Cleveland Cavillers Small Forward LeBron James spoke to the media about Ali and his influence saying "As a kid I gravitated towards him, because he was a champion,"

"I knew only as a kid what he'd done inside the ring. "But as I got older, I started to be more knowledgeable about sport in general and he paved the way for guys like myself. "I understood that he is the greatest of all time because of what he did outside of the ring."

In my opinion Ali is the greatest because of what he had to overcome to be the greatest, his path to fame, fortune and success was difficult. His record in the ring was impressive 61 fights, 56 wins, 37 by knockout and five losses. A man who lost everything for years for standing up for his beliefs to ultimately coming back to reclaim his world heavy weight title was remarkable. At a young age, Ali called himself the greatest. Nearly 50 years on, it is safe to say, he is truly the greatest athlete to step on this earth.



Muhammed Ali (Cassius Clay) punches Joe Frazier during their boxing match, 1971. Photo: www.photosport.nz

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Northland Rugby League

Town V Country

By Ben Francis



THE SCOTT Electrical Premiership took a back seat this weekend, for the inaugural 'It's not Ok' Town v Country match at Otaika Park over the weekend. The match was a trial for players to try make the Northern Swords squad which is named in August.

Players from the Takahiwai Warriors, Horahora Broncos, Portland Panthers and Otangarei Knights kitted up for Town whilst players from the Northern Wairoa Bulls, Moerewa Tigers and Hokianga Pioneers represented Country.

The final score in this encounter was Town winning 50-20. In an exciting first half, Town got an early lead and never looked back leading 26-10 at the break. Country did try close the gap, but Town were too good at the end of the day running away with victory. The players who took part will now have to show their skills and leadership both on and off the field to ensure they get selected come August.

The Scott Electrical Premiership will resume this weekend. With only five rounds to go, it will be a tough battle to the end. Games this weekend will see Takahiwai host Portland, Northern Wairoa face off against Horahora and Moerewa will travel to Otangarei. All games will kick off at 2:30pm

Reader Mail

Well Known Rugby League Identity has Triple Bypass

FOR THOSE of you who know Norm Stephens he has had a bit of a stint in Auckland hospital. On May 30th he underwent an operation for a heart valve replacement and a triple bypass. He has had a bit of a rocky time in Intensive care for over a week and won the title of one of the longest staying patients in that particular unit. Thankfully he has also stunned the team there and should be off to one of the wards as this goes to publication. His determination to get to his 80th Birthday in August and to see many more successful Warriors games has him wanting to hang around a lot longer. We believe he will be in ward 42 but check with the hospital if you want to visit to ensure he is still there because his beloved Waiheke Island is also calling. And Warriors – it was great to see my dad smile at your victory on Saturday so keep the winning spirit up.

Sarndra - proud daughter



DEXTER AND his wife Denise with the prize he won at the game on Saturday. He is so pleased with it and can't wait to clean THEIR BBQ.

THANK YOU for a great evening, we could not have asked for anything more. What a great group of people. Thank you so much Peter. Had the best birthday ever. And went home with this as well as some great photos and memories. **Glen Shield**



More Reader Mail

HERE ARE a couple pictures of us being hearty supporters at this weekends massive game. Thanks for doing what you do, no doubt you enjoyed the win as much as we did.

Have a good one mate, WARRIORS ALL DAY!!

Cheers

Kyle Kingi, Nikita Flett, Jamie Kingi and Karl Rogers



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Now drawn on the 1st of July!

Your chance to support a local Rugby League club.

1st Prize - Suzuki Splash (value \$12,000)

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3rd Prize - \$1500 Pak'nSave vouchers

4th Prize - \$1000 fuel vouchers

5-14 prizes - \$100 Nigel Thompson Service Centre vouchers

15-24th prizes - \$100 grocery vouchers

Drawn under police supervision on 1st June 2016. Winners will be contacted, published in the Press Newspaper 3rd June and on the Papanui Tigers Facebook page.

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BIG LEAGUE

THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 14 ISSUE...

Jam-packed with FEATURES and NEWS, plus columnist **DANNY BUDERUS** and game analysis by **BEN IKIN**; plus **NRL**, **HOLDEN CUP**, **NSW CUP**, **QLD CUP** and **RON MASSEY CUP** team lists and a **FULL NRL DRAW**.

FEATURES

- After losing a close friend and team-mate to suicide in 2013, Wests Tigers' **Sauaso Sue** was determined to learn more about how to help those doing it tough. We spoke to the talented prop about his role as a beyondblue ambassador as well as the club's commitment to this important cause.

- **Dylan Walker**'s departure from South Sydney last year was far from smooth, but the Origin utility has found a happy home in Manly. Walker tells us he's moved on from the drama of 2015 and is enjoying learning from one of the game's great five-eighths in coach Trent Barrett.

- The heartache of the 2015 Grand Final loss lingers for Broncos flyer **Jordan Kahu**, but the 25-year-old has endured heartbreak before. Two consecutive ACL injuries early in his career have taught him to live in the moment.

- It's one of the greatest spectacles in our game and, once again, **State of Origin** opened with the passion we have come to expect. In this issue, we take a look at Game One and consider the likelihood of re-selection for the Blues' debutants.

Also, we break down the **salary cap** and its intricacies; **Connor Watson** talks about his off-field pursuits; and we get out the crystal ball for **Nathan Peats**' match-up against former team-mate **Isaac De Gois**.

PLUS... we look back on the Top 8 players who came back to haunt their former club.

AND: Little League, lower grade previews and an Origin poster.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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Team Named for trip to Newcastle

by Richard Becht

AN UNCHANGED Vodafone Warriors side has been named to face Newcastle for Issac Luke's 200th career appearance in Saturday's 14th-round NRL match at Hunter Stadium (3.00pm kick-off local time; 5.00pm NZT).

The 29-year-old Kiwi hooker will be playing his 12th game for the Vodafone Warriors after a 188-match career with South Sydney from 2007-2015.

Vodafone Warriors head coach Andrew McFadden has retained the same 17 players used in Saturday night's 36-18 win over Brisbane, the club's best performance of the season so far.

It's only the second time this year that McFadden has been able to pick the same team in consecutive games, the last being for the encounters with Newcastle and the Sydney Roosters in the fourth and fifth rounds.

While the Vodafone Warriors have now improved to a five wins-seven losses record to sit just two points outside the top eight, assistant coach Andrew Webster said the challenge remained for the side to back up after success.

VODAFONE WARRIORS

- 1 Tuimoala LOLOHEA
- 2 David FUSITU'A
- 3 Blake AYSHFORD
- 4 Solomone KATA
- 5 Manu VATUVEI
- 6 Thomas LEULUAI
- 7 Shaun JOHNSON
- 8 Jacob LILLYMAN
- 9 Issac LUKE
- 10 Ben MATULINO
- 11 Bodene THOMPSON
- 12 Ryan HOFFMAN (c)
- 13 Simon MANNERING

Interchange

- 14 Nathaniel ROACHE
- 15 Sam LISONE
- 16 Albert VETE
- 17 Charlie GUBB

VODAFONE WARRIORS

v

NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS

Hunter Stadium, Newcastle

3pm, Saturday, June 11

Referee: Dave Munro

Assist Referee: Alan

Shortall

Touch Judges: Russell

Turner & Clayton

Sharpe

Standby: Peter Gough

Review Officials: Ben

Galea, Jason

Robinson



A big thanks to the team at the Manukau Live Steamers. They put on a fantastic weekend for kids and adults alike, over the long weekend. Check them out at: <http://manukaulivesteamers.co.nz/home-new/>



Awesome to see these ladies fundraising for a great cause Ronald McDonald Charity House. It was also great to see the Mad Butcher continuing to support the community.



Good to catch up with Wayne Pivac last week at the Warriors Game. He is now coaching Scarlets in Wales. One good bugger



I caught up with Stephen Jones who played 104 games for Wales plus | British and Irish Lions

If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephan Maier at stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

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