



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter 4 June 2015 #75

To subscribe or unsubscribe email: stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

Vodafone Warriors : 24 VS Newcastle Knights : 20



Simon Mannering on the run



Simon Mannering leads the Warriors out



Shuan Johnson going for it.



Cheerleaders and crowd at the game



Jonathan Wright scores a try



Bodene Thompson on the attack



Jacob Lillyman



Shuan Johnson getting ready to take a kick



Bodene Thompson makes a break

THE VODAFONE Warriors win on Sunday over the Knights came at a good time for me because

I have been a little low of late.

My new friend, a brave little 11-year-old boy, is dealing with not one but two types of cancer, and one is so rare that I am told it is the only case in New Zealand. It was a privilege to have him as my special guest at the game.

And a very good mate of mine in Invercargill has been diagnosed with motor neuron disease.

And you will recall recently we told you about Linwood Keas stalwart Teni Tuli, who was set to make his 300th premier appearance.

It was a special target for him to retire on, but tragedy has struck. A stalwart of our game, he suffered an accident at training, was knocked unconscious in a tackle, and later died.

On top of it all he'd announced he was retiring for good after two previous attempts.

Friends describe him as one of the humblest, and bravest guys they've been fortunate enough to know and play with.

Teni started on the wing at 19, and moved closer and closer to the pack, as he got older.

I have to say this is just unbelievably sad, and my thoughts are with all who knew him.

What I take out of that is that if you wake up in the morning you are a lucky man or woman.

If your footy team wins too, well that's just a bonus.

The lesson is to live life today because you never know what fate

has in store for you tomorrow.

19-Man Squad Named

Vodafone Warriors head coach Andrew McFadden has added Dominique Peyroux and Ken Maumalo to travel to Perth for the game against the Rabbitohs on Saturday (7.30pm NZT). McFadden otherwise named the same side used on Sunday.

After picking up their third win on end, the Warriors can achieve their best winning streak since the 2013 side put together five in a row, and McFadden is confident of being able to use an unchanged team in Perth, with fullback Sam Tomkins and wing Manu Vatuvei set to line up again.

"Both Sam and Manu were a bit sore after the game but they've pulled up really well. With it being such a long trip to Perth we're taking two extra players to cover us."

Vodafone Warriors: Tomkins, Johnathan Wright, Tuimoala Lolohea, Solomon Kata, Vatuvei, Chad Townsend, Shaun Johnson, Jacob Lillyman, Nathan Friend, Ben Matulino, Bodene Thompson, Ryan Hoffman, Simon Mannering. Interchange: Siliva Havili, Sebastine Ikahihifo, Sam Lisone, Albert Vete, Peyroux, Maumalo

Contract Extensions For Four Young Guns

The Vodafone Warriors have confirmed contract extensions for Tuimoala Lolohea, Solomon Kata and Sam Lisone, as well as promising prop Toafofoa Sipley.

Lolohea, Kata and Lisone have been ever-present this season, appearing in all 11 matches so far.

Vodafone Junior Warriors captain Sipley played his first New South Wales Cup match against the Knights on Sunday.

Lolohea, Kata and Lisone have all

been secured to the end of 2018, while Sipley has been signed to 2017.

Fusitu'a Back

Vodafone Warriors utility David Fusitu'a has been cleared to make his return from injury with the club's New South Wales Cup side this week.

After recovering from off-season shoulder surgery, the 20-year-old first came back with two appearances for the NSW Cup side in April, leading to his NRL return in the Anzac Day clash against Gold Coast. He had another outing with the NSW Cup side against Manly on May 9 – scoring two tries in a 36-22 win – but has been sidelined since with a groin injury.

Fusitu'a has scored six tries in his four games so far – one in his only NRL appearance and five in three NSW Cup matches.

While he is back this week fellow outside backs Glen Fisiiahi and Matt Allwood, prop Sam Rapira and back rower John Palavi, plus the suspended centre Konrad Hurrell, are all set to come back from injuries next week.

Another Nail-biter

My heart can hardly take it, a third nail-biting win in as many games.

The Vodafone Warriors clung on to beat Newcastle 24-20 on Sunday at Mt Smart and the win has us at sixth on the table.

First it was that Shaun Johnson magic to snare victory against Cronulla, then Bodene Thompson provided a golden point try against Parramatta, and on Sunday the difference was we were trying to close out a contest we had led all the way, rather than frantically chasing a win.

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But the tension was high nevertheless.

My heart was in my mouth during the final seconds as the Knights mounted one last challenge to our line.

It was our ninth home win in the last 10 meetings against Newcastle at Mt Smart.

Great Start For The Boys

I thought we started really well on Sunday, striking in the opening minutes off a great carry out of defence from the returning Manu Vatuvei.

When we went wide Thompson threw in some footwork and shifted to Johnson, who exploded down the edge and fed Tuimoala Lolohea outside, who sped in for his third try of the season.

Six minutes later it was Vatuvei's turn, climbing to snare a Chad Townsend bomb and shrugging off defenders for his eighth try of the season.

Johnson's conversion was off target but I really thought we were on course to blow the Knights off the park. How wrong was I. They fought back and all credit to them, especially given they were missing a number of first line players.

Dane Gagai, who I think is an incredible talent, sliced through to score and a second would-be Newcastle try soon after was disallowed, and I was beginning to wonder what was happening.

But big Ben Matulino crossed from close range and it was nice that one that got sent upstairs finally went our way, and we were out to 14-4 after 23 minutes.

Newcastle's Akuila Uate got it back to eight when he went over, leaving the score 14-8, where it remained until halftime.

And what a way to start the second half, with Solmone Kata carving right through for a superb solo effort from 35 metres out, his ninth try of the year - keeping him just ahead of Vatuvei in the club's try-scoring race. Johnson converted for a 20-8 lead.



Solmone

Kata

To be fair, that should have been all they wrote, but the Knights would not quit and kept hanging tough, winger James McManus sliding in. The conversion put the game in the balance at 20-14.

You could feel peoples' nerves ease when Jonathan Wright raced on to a Johnson kick for a vital try, his fourth of the season, but the conversion hit the post for us to lead 24-14 heading into the last 10.

By the 75th minute everyone's nerves were were jangling again, with Uate burrowing his way over and Randell converting to make it 24-20.

With two minutes to go the Vodafone Warriors - and the crowd - thought, or hoped, the result had been put beyond doubt when Lolohea skipped, stepped and sped across from a standing start but the try was ruled out on referral for obstruction.

So it was a penalty to Newcastle with a minute to play. The Knights threw everything they could into

the last furious set, but Chad Townsend got hold of it and dotted it down over the line - much to my relief, and that of his teammates, the coaching staff and the frazzled fans.

Welcome Back Sam And Manu

It was great to see my smiling friend Manu Vatuvei back in action on Sunday, and his try was his eighth of the season, so he's now just two short of scoring 10 or more tries in 10 consecutive seasons. His career tally is up to 143, 14th-equal on the all-time list.

It was also good to see Sam Tomkins back at fullback, although he would be the first to admit he had a pretty quiet game by his standards.



Manu Vatuvei on the run.

Photo: www.photosport.co.nz

Origin Bonus

Sunday was just the third time since 2011 that we have achieved a run of three or more consecutive wins, all coming in the Origin period. We had five midway through the 2013 campaign, and three at a similar stage last year.

All The Way To Perth

We now prepare for the competition's most challenging away trip, all the way to Perth, where we will take on South Sydney next Saturday. It is our fourth journey to Western Australia in the last four seasons.

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It is one game that even I, as mad keen on the Warriors as I am, do not go to.

That's because it is an eight-hour flight if you are lucky enough to be going direct, and longer if you have to factor in stopovers.

Reigning Premiers the Rabbitohs started with a hiss and a roar this year but have fallen in a few games of late. Despite that, they are still very comfortably inside the eight, and in fact are ahead of us on the ladder.

Still Time To Grab A Kiwis Long Lunch Ticket

There is still time to secure a ticket to the Kiwis Long Lunch, rapidly drawing near, to be held at the Ellerslie Event Centre.

It has to be the hottest ticket in town, because we are now up to 700 people attending. For just \$100 you will be superbly entertained from noon until 4pm, but if you want the full details visit my website at: www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz, or just contact Shandall@madbutcher.co.nz to buy tickets.

NSW Cup Side Magnificent

We are third on the ladder after a superbly come from behind win over Newcastle at Mt Smart on Sunday.

We were behind 16-4 at halftime but played magnificently in the second 40 to run out 28-22 winners.

It was our seventh win of the campaign and we sit two points behind the top two sides, Penrith and the Mounties.

It was also our fifth straight win at home

If we were off the mark in the first half we could hardly have been better in the second.

Raymond Faitala-Mariner was inspirational, and Ken Maumalo had a fine game.

Vodafone Warriors 28 (Faitala-Mariner 2, Maumalo, Paul Ulberg, Sam Cook, Viliami Kaveinga tries; Maason Lino 2 conversions). Newcastle Knights 22 (Honeti Tuha, Chanel Mata'utia, Jake Finn, Jaelen Feeney tries; Kerrod Holland 3 conversions).



Paki Afu on the charge for the Warriors.

Photo: www.photosport.co.nz



Ken Maumalo scores a try.

Photo: www.photosport.co.nz

Take Charge At The Warriors

Vodafone's Fantastic Fridays is looking for someone to be Deputy CEO for a few days, to give big boss Jim Doyle a hand.

Applications are open from all passionate fans who think they have what it takes. The successful applicant will get a rare behind-the-scenes look at the club.

Matt Williams, Vodafone's Consumer Director encourages Vodafone's customers to apply.

"This latest experience from Vodafone Fantastic Fridays is our best yet. The winner won't just get alongside their favourite team, but take on New Zealand's ultimate sports apprenticeship."

Some of the responsibilities for the Deputy CEO include:

The winner will meet, motivate and help prep the team for game day, attend the Vodafone Warriors v Roosters game, help Doyle make important decisions about the team and meet and greet important team stakeholders.

However, it's not all hard work. Job benefits include a Vodafone Samsung Galaxy S6 loaded with \$100 credit, a suit fitting from Barkers; a personal car park at Mt Smart, a personalised Vodafone Warriors jersey, accommodation at SkyCity, and perks from Vodafone Fantastic Fridays.

Hopefuls can apply for the role at fantasticfridaysceo.vodafone.co.nz. Entries close June 7

Stadium Lifeline Offered

Apparently we are being offered a lifeline to stay at Mt Smart. The Auckland Council has been attempting to force us out to Eden Park or Albany but Chris Brooks, who has been charged with sorting out the mess, says he has an open mind about the Warriors staying.

"I don't think anything is off the table," he told the Herald. The council has given him 12 months to undertake a review of the stadium strategy. It is no secret that I hate the stadium strategy and Warriors chief executive Jim Doyle has made it clear the fans want to stay.

Writer Offers Advice

Like you, I read the papers, and I saw the Herald's league writer David Skipwith had three key points on our win over the Knights.

He says our combinations are beginning to click, especially Shaun Johnson and Chad Townsend, but also our right-side attack.

He was less impressed though that sloppy defence allowed the Knights to stay in the hunt. It's hard to disagree with his opinion that better sides will make us pay if it continues.

His last point was something we all know – our ball control is still not good enough, and on Sunday we ended the match with a 69 percent completion rate, just 24 of 35.

Though beaten, the Knights had an 89 percent rate, getting through 32 of their 36 sets.

Hoffman Knows What Needs To Be Done

The Warriors must learn to shut the door on teams earlier, our NSW Origin player and back-row signing this season, Ryan Hoffman, says.

"I think we're the ugliest team with the way we've had our wins," he said. "We need to finish a lot better. As a team and for us to go forward we need to be a bit cleaner with how we finish."

But he also knows winning ugly is better than losing pretty. "Come the end of the season we won't be looking at how we got the points, just that we got them. Two points is two points."

Hoffman played a full 80 in the first Origin game and backed up superbly for us on Sunday.

"You've got a responsibility to your club to back up and they're the blokes that help you get rep jumpers in the first place, so you've got a responsibility to them to make sure you get there."



Ryan Hoffman on the burst.
www.photosport.co.nz

Good Ticket Offer Announced

Fans who buy a ticket to the State of Origin in Melbourne can buy a ticket to a Melbourne Storm game for \$10. The NRL announced the offer this week. It will allow fans who buy a ticket to the Origin match at the MCG to buy a ticket to the June 15 Storm clash against the Parramatta Eels for an extra \$10 or even a ticket to the June 21 top-four match-up against the Brisbane Broncos for \$20.

To purchase the special bundle tickets go to www.nrl.com/tickets

New Contract Rule Outlined

Players will be given a maximum 10 day "cooling off period" for any contract they sign under a new rule proposed by the NRL. Head of Football Todd Greenberg said the current rule, introduced to allow clubs until round 13 to retain players who have signed with a rival club, will be scrapped.

Instead, a contract signed with a rival club will be registered once a 10 business day cooling off period expires. Greenberg said fans and clubs were frustrated with the "round 13" rule because it can create uncertainty and speculation for a long time after a contract has been signed.

If approved, the rule will also stipulate a player can sign an extension with his existing club at any time, can sign with a new club only during the final year of his contract, and that the club signing a player is prohibited from making an announcement until the cooling off period has expired.



Sol Mokdad

By Duane Fyfe

IF YOU recall in the Newsletter#72 we featured a disturbing article about the Sol Mokdad the President of the UAE Rugby League who was being detained in a Dubai prison. His crime; using the word 'Rugby' in Rugby League. Charged with Fraud!

After three weeks of confinement we are pleased to pass on this report from the RLIF.

The Rugby League International Federation is pleased to confirm that Mr Sol Mokdad has been released from custody following the withdrawal of charges made by the UAERF (United Arab Emirates Rugby Federation). Mr Mokdad has now departed from the UAE.

Following discussions with GAYSW (General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare), the RLIF is now pursuing all necessary approvals for the appropriate representation of Rugby League in accordance with UAE law and process and consistent with the Constitution and Membership criteria of the Rugby League International Federation. The RLIF is grateful to GAYSW for their review of the position concerning the sport of Rugby League.

All the best to Sol Mokdad and his colleagues who remain in the Middle East to champion our game.

Winners - FairFax Media and Suburban Newspapers



My guest with the Legend Awen Guttenbeil.



Toni SINGER, Boston SMITH, Josh BIGLEY, Jayden GUY, Carleen LALANDE, Sean ADAMS, Peter BUXTON and Max LALANDE.



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Auckland Fall Just Short Against NZ Maori Residents

THE NEW Zealand Maori Residents survived a late Auckland comeback on Saturday night to record a 36-32 victory at Rotorua's Puketawhero Park.

After trailing 36-8 with 20 minutes remaining in the match Auckland looked set for an ugly loss, only for a miraculous turnaround which very nearly saw them take the win.

Four tries in the final 15 minutes took Auckland back to within four points with a minute and half remaining, but the hosts mustered just enough to defend one final set and win the mid-season representative clash.

The Maori forward pack had set the platform for points in the first half, consistently punching through the Auckland line and producing some stinging hits on the other side of the ball.

The game, which was livestreamed free by the Auckland Rugby League on www.aucklandleague.co.nz, was less than 10 minutes old when prop Kouma Samson went over under the posts.

Maori centre Jono Carl added the extras for a 6-0 lead.

The sides traded scores over the next 20 minutes, first Auckland getting back through Raymond Talimalie, before Dillon Rota and Jeremiah Pai took the Maoris out to an 18-4 lead.

Marist Saints winger Corey Seator scored just before the break to bring it back to 18-8 and give the visiting side plenty of hope of a second stanza comeback.

But Ricky Henry's Maori side had other ideas, dominating possession for the first 20 minutes of the second period and scoring further tries through interchange forward Trent Wallace, Samson for the second time, and then Carl after he scooped up a dropped Siua Otunuku bomb.

Carl continued his perfect night with the boot and the hosts were cruising at 36-8.

Tries to Willie Peace and Herman Retzlaff inside the final 15 appeared to be mere consolation efforts for Auckland

But after hooker Mikaere Beattie added the extras on each occasion, and then crossed for a try of his own, the gap was back to 10 with a few minutes remaining.

The game appeared over when Talimalie attempted to find touch off a penalty, kicking short and having the ball batted back into play by Maori wing Jarrod Tua, only for it to bounce fortuitously to Seator who kicked forward and scored to make it 36-32 after Beattie's conversion.

In the end the spirited Maori outfit defended a final set and ran the ball out to ensure a famous 36-32 victory.

The clash marked the return of the full Auckland representative side for the first time since 2009, with coach Richie Blackmore keen to see them involved in more games.

"Any rep footy we can muster together is great. There were two quality footy teams out there on Saturday night. If we can carry that on that's the important thing, to make sure we continue this," he said.

"The supporters that were here enjoyed that game."

Counterpart Henry agreed, stating the need for more meaningful representative opportunities at the grass-roots level.

"I think it's something that needs to happen more, we need more games for Auckland and also the Maori," he said.

NZ Maori Residents 36 (Samson x2, Rota, Pai, Wallace, Carl tries; Carl 6/6 conversions. BEAT Auckland 32 (Talimalie, Seator x2, Peace, Retzlaff, Beattie tries; Talimalie 0/1, Beattie 4/5 conversions. HT: 18-8.



Jeremiah Pai attempts to run over Auckland fullback Siua Otunuku.

ARL Draw and Game of the Round

WITH THE Warriors away from home this week it's a great chance to get down to a local Auckland match and catch your footy fix. Click here to view all ARL competition draws. Click here.

The Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Game of the Round sees the third placed Papakura Sea Eagles take on the Otahuhu Leopards who sit fifth. Papakura will have a number of players backing up from the Auckland representative weekend, with five players and their coach involved with the Auckland side last weekend. The Leopards meanwhile have been on a strong run since a sluggish start to 2015, and a win will see them inch closer to a top four playoff spot.



Auckland Vulcans Development Defeat Canterbury Selection

Canterbury Selection went down 32-8 to an impressive Auckland Vulcans Development side in a spirited clash at Crosbie Park on Queen's Birthday Monday.

The touring Under-21s outfit, who warmed up with a comprehensive 48-6 win over West Coast on Saturday, led 18-4 at halftime and went on with the job to complete a seven-tries-to-two result.

The Vulcans were quick out of the blocks, capitalising on a string of early penalties. Left winger Johnny Faletagoai produced an acrobatic finish to score in the corner and five-eighth Andrew Holani dotted down after a series of slick offloads near the try-line, giving Auckland a handy 8-0 lead before Canterbury had even enjoyed a set in possession.

Ill discipline continued to haunt Canterbury, providing the visitors with more territory and possession. Auckland centre Alamoti Finau blazed over out wide after another penalty and Niuleve's conversion opened up a 14-0 advantage.

Canterbury received a fortuitous break when Auckland made a hash of the ensuing restart, ultimately fumbling the ball on their try-line and allowing centre Benaiah Crichton to pounce for a bizarre four-pointer.

The home side began to enjoy a more even share of possession and put plenty of pressure on Auckland's goal-line defence, but a follow-up try proved elusive.

Auckland landed a crucial blow towards the end of the first half when right winger Allan Niuleve's powerful charge to the corner restored their 14-point buffer.

Canterbury came back out of the sheds with far greater purpose, dominating the opening stages of the second stanza. Hard-running second-rower Matt Sauni was held up over the try-line after a strong charge.

But Canterbury finally turned their field position into points when Auckland interchange forward Afatasi Collins was sin-binned and hooker Tom Kavaliku was taken off following a head knock in quick succession.

Fullback Kolone Fa'alilo, one of Canterbury's more enterprising attacking players, sliced through out wide for an 18-8 scoreline and a sniff of a comeback.

Canterbury captain Chris Bamford then produced arguably the two highlights of the afternoon in the space of 10 minutes. Defying his front-row giant status, Bamford broke the defensive line and made an incredible 50-metre charge from the kick-off. Soon afterwards, the skipper regathered his own impromptu grubber kick and set sail for the try-line, only to be pulled down just metres short.

Continued on next page...

Auckland weathered the storm, however, and posted their first points of the second half via a sizzling 30-metre solo try by halfback Howard Brown.

The momentum swung dramatically as the Canterbury side began to tire, and Niuleve completed a hat-trick of tries by finishing off a slick backline move and then sneaking over from dummy-half at the end of another Auckland raid.

Despite the convincing final scoreline, Canterbury coach Darrell Coad extracted plenty of positives from his new-look team's first hit-out of 2015.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game today playing against these young guys, but I've taken a lot out of today and I thought our guys represented the jersey well and it was good to give them the opportunity," Coad said.

"They all impressed me. I thought the young prop Pat (Patella Tou), he played really well; Phil Nati, back in the representative jersey, he played well; and (Isaac) Misky and Taina (Tamou), the boys that came up from down south, they did themselves no harm either – they represented themselves really well."

Coad was also full of praise for his captain Bamford's second-half heroics.

"Chris is carrying a bit of an injury, but there was no way he wasn't going to play today."

The coach of the Bulls' 2014 national title success admitted discipline cost his side dearly, putting them on the back foot from the outset.

"Yeah it did. They had a lot of ball early and we used a lot fuel up in defence. When you play against Auckland sides and you turn the ball over in your half, you're going to get points put against you," Coad lamented.

"It's all a bit of a learning curve and the players will take a lot out of today."

However, Coad was buoyed by his team's improvement in the second half – even if their period of dominance was not entirely reflected on the scoreboard.

"We improved once we started to shift the ball a bit more. We talked about it at halftime. Again it was a learning curve for some of these guys – the speed of the game, around the ruck and defensively, slowing them down – once they picked up on that to start with in the second half it was a bit better," he said.

"In the back end with our fitness, their younger guys just got over us. But it was a good effort."

"It's onwards an upwards from here, and I'm sure we'll keep improving once get back into training in about five weeks' time. After today, we can sit down and refocus, and set some goals for the end of the year."

Sauni, lock Kyle Leka and nuggetty winger Anaru Donnelly were the other standout performers for Canterbury Selection.

Auckland Vulcans Development 32 (Allan Niuleve 3, Johnny Faletagoai, Andrew Holani, Alamoti Finau, Howard Brown tries; Niuleve 2 goals) defeated Canterbury Selection 8 (Benaiah Crichton, Kolone Fa'alilo tries) at Crosbie Park, Monday, June 1.

Canterbury Selection: Kolone Fa'alilo, Anaru Donnelly, Benaiah Crichton, Taina Tamou, Sioeli Otufangavalu, Tanu Suavine, Darren Tonihi (vc), Chris Bamford, Isaac Misky, Johnathon Lima, Phil Nati, Matt Sauni, Kyle Leka. Interchange: Alani Kakoi, Patella Tou, Alex Ioane, Junior Maiava. Coach: Darrell Coad.

Auckland Vulcans Development: George Edwards, Johnny Faletagoai, Francis Toetu, Alamoti Finau, Allan Niuleve, Andrew Holani, Howard Brown, Aaron Swan, Tom Kavaliku, Sala Falelua, Michael Ki, Paea Manukia, Robbie Nathan. Interchange: Casey Lafaele, Polima Siaki, Jonah Sofele, Afatasi Collins. Coach: Grant Pocklington.

Canterbury v West Coast - 100th Anniversary

TODAY MARKS the 100th anniversary of the first Rugby League match between Canterbury and West Coast. On June 3rd, 1915, Canterbury defeated West Coast 30-16 at Victoria Park in Greymouth – thus beginning the most storied provincial association in New Zealand Rugby League history.

It was an arduous trek for the Canterbury side, who had to take a steam train to Arthur's Pass and a stage-coach to cross the Southern Alps, before a final painstaking train journey from Otira to Greymouth.

But the landmark match proved to be a pivotal moment in the establishment of Rugby League in the region. After an address from Canterbury secretary W.S.E. Moyle, the West Coast Rugby League was formed at Greymouth's Club Hotel on the evening of that inaugural match.

Canterbury's gospel-spreading continued with matches against Blackball and Hokitika – winning 23-10 and 33-8 respectively – over the ensuing two days.

The trailblazing Canterbury side included 1907-08 New Zealand 'All Golds' tourist Joseph Lavery; utility-back William Mitchell, who represented New Zealand in 1911, '13 and '19-20; centre Charles Manning, who toured Australia with the New Zealand side in 1913 from Hawke's Bay; and loose forward William King, who went on to play a Test against Australia in 1919.

The groundbreaking visit had an immediate impact. The Kohinoor club left the West Coast Rugby Union less than two weeks later and a triangular competition with Blackball and Hokitika was hastily organised. The Grey club joined West Coast Rugby League that July.

The teams for the historic encounter at Victoria Park, as they appeared in the Greymouth Evening Star, were as follows:

Canterbury: F. King, J.A. Lavery, G. Ashton, V. Boon, W.J. Mitchell, C. Manning, F. Matthews, F. Kirton, W.H. King, R. Shanks, S. Trudgeon, V. Timms, W. Brunsden.

West Coast: H. Lawrence, L. Smith, L. Hunter, A. Hobson, W. Kirk, Hay, R. Watts, J. Rear, S. Bligh, A. Kells, D. McCann, T. Todd, J. Stenhouse.

Source: Canterbury XIII - A Rugby League History (1987), by John Coffey.



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Black Sticks Men take 4-1 first-up win

A CONVINCING 4-1 win against Egypt has given the Black Sticks Men a good start at the FIH World League Semi-Final in Buenos Aires this morning.

Head coach Colin Batch said that although a win is always nice, the team are disappointed with the way they played and will be looking at areas of improvement ahead of their game against Japan tomorrow (5am NZ time).

“The win is good but we are disappointed with the way we executed it, there was a bit of frustration out there. We never underestimated Egypt, they had some good players that came forward, and defensively they limited the shots we had on goal, especially in that first half.”

“I think the area we need to improve is our transferring and passing to create more opportunities – and we will look at that ahead of tomorrow’s game. We know more about the way Japan play, we have played them and had some good results recently, it’s just about getting out there and doing the business tomorrow.”

In today’s match, it was the first time these two countries had met and the 20th ranked Egyptians came onto the park full of vigour and energy to secure a win against the seventh ranked Black Sticks.

In the first half, the Black Sticks had the majority of possession and territory and although they held Egypt out of the game, the Kiwis were unable to get many clear shots at goal.

Veteran midfielder Ryan Archibald took a good shot in the first quarter, but it was well saved by the keeper who was outstretched to his left to bat it away.

With three minutes remaining in the second half, the Kiwis were awarded their first penalty corner of the game and drag flicker Kane Russell rocketed the ball over the line to give his side their first goal of the tournament.

The momentum really picked up in the third quarter when captain Simon Child won a tackle at the top of the circle and took a clinical reverse stick shot which flew past the keeper. The Egyptians lost their video referral when they asked for the tackle to be checked upstairs, but it was given the all clear and Child’s goal remained.

Only 90 seconds later, Southern’s striker Hugo Inglis stretched the lead to 3-0 thanks to a brilliant touch from a Kane Russell cross in the circle.

In the fourth quarter, as Egypt tired the Kiwis created more opportunities but it was some nice individual play from Mamdouh who caught the Kiwi defenders off guard and slotted it home.

The game was put beyond reach when New Zealand won a video referral for their second chance at a penalty corner and this time Nick Haig flicked it across the line giving the Kiwis a 4-1 win.

The top three finishers from the tournament automatically qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics, with the top four progressing to the World League Final in India (28 Nov – 6 Dec, 2015). The Black Sticks Men play 16th ranked Japan tomorrow at 5am (NZ time), they then face the Dutch at 5am on Monday (NZ time) ahead of Korea at 9am on Wednesday before progressing to a must win quarter-final game on Friday 12 June.

RESULTS

Full time: 4-1 (NZ win)

Half time: 1-0 (NZ led)

Black Sticks goal scorers: Kane Russell, Simon Child, Hugo Inglis, Nick Haig

Egypt goal scorers: Mamdouh



Simon Child

Limiting The Number Of Tacklers Would Cement Rugby League As The Greatest Game Of Them All

By John Deaker



RUGBY LEAGUE fans have always taken great pride in the belief that their game is a superior product to rugby union. As the 15 man game currently struggles with it's rules as much as it ever has, rugby league has a chance to solidify it's claims to being the greatest game of all by allowing only 2 players to make each tackle.

This is not a totally unique idea - but what's stunning when you weigh up the pros and cons of the concept is that it hasn't been discussed more extensively or even experimented with on the field. This change would go a long way towards eliminating 2 of the biggest problems modern day rugby league faces: The speed of the ruck and the dangerous tip-tackles.

The only role the third tackler often plays is that of assisting to ensure a dominant tackle is completed so his team's defence gets more time to set itself. When players get injured badly in tackles it's often clear that the third man in the tackle has played a key role in the tackle becoming dangerous.

There may be a belief from some people that this would be a hard rule to police ; this seems like one of the few logical reasons people might be so reluctant to make the change. There are also some teams like the Melbourne Storm that have clearly been better than other teams at executing the wrestling tactics all teams now use at the ruck. It would be sad if these team's tried to block attempts to change the rules – especially when a few years ago it was 3 Melbourne players that were involved in the tackle that tragically ended Alex McKinnon's playing career.

Limiting the number of tacklers would be a fairly easy rule to enforce and if administrators wanted to allow more than 2 people in tackles when teams were defending their try lines they could clearly mark a 5 metre zone to show where teams could then switch to using additional tacklers to defend their line.

It shouldn't take players much to adjust to this rule. During the Auckland Nines players seemed to accept that more than 2 men in a tackle was tactically unwise so we hardly ever saw more than 2 of them involved at one time.

It's exciting just contemplating the rugby league product that fans would view if we ever saw this rule change. Admittedly it would be a major move away from tradition to limit the number of tacklers – but players were much smaller traditionally and wrestling wasn't even a term people associated with rugby league for most of last century. Instigating this positive change rather than worrying about the past could ensure that rugby league clearly separates itself as the greatest game of them all.



John Palavi, John Green and Sione Lousi were at Takanini Primary School to support the charity FeedTheNeed. Check out their [website](#).



Sarah Hopkins and Jason Macwilliam won two tickets to the game just by reading this newsletter.

Families are stronger when they're together
help us to keep them that way



This is Jodie and Aaron Green. They stayed in our Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital, while their twins, Mitchell and McKenzie, grew strong enough to go home. You can read more about their journey [here](#).

If you would like to make a difference to families like the Greens [donate now!](#)

These are two charities that I would dearly love you to support. Firstly Bowel Cancer, my brother passed away from it and these guys do some great work. Secondly Ronald McDonald house. These guys do a great job! I am currently supporting a kid with cancer and he is staying at the Ronald McDonald house.

Bottom Lines newsletter

BOWEL CANCER NEW ZEALAND
www.beatbowelcancer.org.nz

DONATE



June is Awareness Month and this year we want to build real momentum by sharing with New Zealand some of the key facts around bowel cancer. Throughout June we will use radio, print and social media to build understanding and support within NZ.

As you will soon see, the symbols of this campaign will be a variety of empty chairs. These chairs will not only contain our messages but also remind us that bowel cancer affects New Zealanders from all walks of life and sees too many people leave their families and loved ones, too soon!

Please support us and help us get the message out there - that too many Kivis are dying of bowel cancer.

Our Appeal is tomorrow!



NATIONAL STREET APPEAL
FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2015

There will be friendly volunteers located across the South Island tomorrow collecting donations for our Street Appeal, so if you see one please pop your loose change into the collection buckets. A little really does do a lot - last year we raised \$100,000 - help us to do it again in 2015! If you aren't out and about, you can also donate [here](#).

Get your Entertainment Book today!



When you purchase an Entertainment Book you not only get lots of amazing deals for yourself, you support us at the same time. Get yours [here!](#)

[Donate online now to help us keep families together](#)



Bowel Cancer New Zealand was the recipient charity for the Te Rapa Charity Golf tournament in May. What fantastic support from the teams with an amazing \$6500 raised towards our ongoing awareness and support programmes.

A huge thank you to our Executive member, Sue Soper, for her dedication to this relationship with Rotary and attending this event and presenting our awareness messages.

BOWEL CANCER SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of bowel cancer can include:

- Bleeding from the bottom
- A persistent change in bowel habit
- Abdominal pain, especially if severe
- Any lumps or mass in your abdomen
- Weight loss and tiredness (symptoms of anaemia)

Talk to your GP about your symptoms if you are at all concerned.

[Click here to read the rest of the Bowel Cancer Newsletter](#)

New Zealand Born

By Barry Ross



WATCHING JAMES Tamou brilliantly put Josh Dugan away in the 21st minute of last week's first State of Origin, had me thinking of two other Kiwis, who contributed to the success of Australian Test teams over the past few years.

Tamou's pass under pressure last Wednesday night, put Dugan in the clear and allowed him to kick across field and set up the memorable try by Josh Morris. Tamou, who was born in Palmerston North on 13 December 1988, has played 11 Tests for Australia. NSW coach, Laurie Daley, only used the powerful prop for 49 minutes but in that time he made 33 tackles, as well as gaining 96 metres from his 11 runs.

Everyone knows how much Brad Thorn has achieved in Rugby Union. He was a key member of the World Cup winning All Blacks and the Crusaders Super Rugby championship teams. As well as this, he won a Heineken Cup in Europe and just last Sunday (31 May), he played for the Barbarians against an England

XV at Twickenham. Born at Mosgiel in Otago on 3 February 1875, Brad played the first of his 10 seasons with the Brisbane Broncos in 1994. He went on to play 214 first grade matches for the club and was a member of three Premiership winning teams. These were 1997 in Super League, plus 1998 and 2000 in the NRL. During this period he also played three Tests for Australia (all against New Zealand in 1998), five Super League Tests for Australia and 11 State of Origin matches for Queensland.

Tony "Tunza" Carroll was born at Christchurch on 17 February 1976. He had a stellar club career in 13 seasons with the Broncos. He played 227 first grade games and won three Premierships, in 1997 (Super League), 1998 and 2000.

In 2000 he played five Tests for the Kiwis at the World Cup in England (scoring four tries) and then four years later became the first man in 90 years to represent both Australia and New Zealand at Rugby League. This occurred at North Harbour Stadium on 16 October 2004, when he played for Australia in their 16-all draw with New Zealand in a Tri-Nations Test.

Toni went on to play five more Tests for the Kangaroos in 2004, one with New Zealand and France, plus three against Great Britain. He added another Test against New Zealand in 2005 to finish with seven Tests for the Aussies along with his five with New Zealand. He is the only man to have scored Test match tries for both Australia and New Zealand.

Admired for his devastating defence, Toni was brought into the Australian Test side by coach, Wayne Bennett, who knew how good the Christchurch native was, as his club coach at the Broncos. When he was selected for Australia, Toni received plenty of criticism on both sides of the Tasman. He had turned down a chance to play a Test for New Zealand in 2001 but to be fair to him, he had been told the rules were different in World Cups and Test matches. He had lived most of his life in Brisbane and was worried that if he played a Test for New Zealand, he would then become ineligible for State of Origin.

From 1998 to 2007, Toni played 18 State of Origin games for Queensland. It should be pointed out that Luke Ricketson (Ireland), Lote Tuqiri (Fiji) and Hazem El Masri (Lebanon), represented other countries in World Cup games and then played in Test matches for Australia.

Before Toni, the last man to play for both countries was Bill Kelly back in 1914. Born in Westport in 1892, Bill played four Tests for New Zealand in 1912-1913 and then sailed across the Tasman to join Balmain in 1914.

The next year Bill was a key member of Balmain's first ever Premiership win. In fact in 1915, the club became the first club to win all three grades. In 1914 Bill played his solitary Test for Australia, at the Royal Agricultural Ground against Great Britain on 27 June. Twenty years later, in the 1930s, Bill was known in Sydney as the Prince of Coaches. He took Balmain to the 1939 Premiership and in his 12 coaching seasons in Australia, guided University, St. George, Canterbury and Newtown. In 1932, he went back to New Zealand where he coached both the Kiwis and Auckland against the touring Great Britain team. In recent years, Australia and New Zealand play for the Bill Kelly Cup. Bill passed away in Sydney, in July 1975, aged 83.

There are many other New Zealand born men who have contributed to the popularity of Rugby League on the Australian east coast. But there have also been some who have done the same in New Zealand. Australian fans are quick to point out that two members of the Kiwi team who beat Australia 26-12 at Brisbane on 3 May, were born in Australia. They are Jason Nightingale and Shaun Kenny-Dowall.

Week in Northland Sport

By Ben Francis



Always something going on in Northland sport

Rugby Union

A QUIET WEEK in Northland sports this week due to Queens Birthday Weekend. It was a essentially a bye week for the Premier division rugby clubs as we head into the backend of the season. As a Replacement though the Bayless Harding Shield Final was played at Farmlands Park in Dargaville. It was the 101st edition of this great event, where players showcase their talents to try crack the Northland ITM Cup development squad. The Harding Shield Final was played between Northern Wairoa/Rodney and Mangonui. Northern Wairoa/Rodney led 21-10 at halftime but ran away with the game behind their 2014 ITM Cup players winning 50-10 and securing their first Harding Shield since 1978. Head along to www.taniwha.co.nz to check out highlights of the game. All premier games resume this weekend.

Rugby League

NO CLUB Rugby League in Northland happened on the weekend. However trials for the Northern Swords trials in U15 and U17 took place in Kaikohe which had 80 boys trailing. Games resume this weekend in the Scott Electrical Premiership.

Football

OF COURSE the big competition on in New Zealand right now is the U20 FIFA World Cup, the second biggest football tournament in the world. Whangarei has rights to four games which two have already been played. The first game was played between the United States and Myanmar which ended in the U.S. Winning 2-1. Organisers say the stadium was at 75 per cent capacity. On Tuesday Myanmar played once again in Whangarei and ended up going down this time to Ukraine who won 6-0. On Sunday 7th June will see Fiji play Uzbekistan in Whangarei and finally Whangarei gets to host a round of 16 game on June 11 which will be played between the team who finishes second in Group B and Group F.

Legacy V Dynasty The 2015 NBA Finals

By Ben Francis



THE 2015 NBA finals start on Friday Afternoon (NZT) and will be played between LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers against Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors. LeBron James will be trying to deliver on what he promised to the city of Cleveland; a championship, one thing the Cavaliers have never done nor the city of Cleveland has done since 1964, the third longest drought from a city without winning a major sporting championship. LeBron led a fairly average Cavaliers team to the NBA finals in 2007 but they get swept by the San Antonio Spurs.

Standing in the way is The Golden State Warriors who have surprised many people this season finishing with a 67-15 record (sixth best record of all time) led my 2015 season MVP Stephen Curry. Golden State have won three championships in franchise history 1947, 1956 and 1975 which was their last appearance in the NBA Finals. No player in the Golden State lineup has ever played in the NBA Finals. However coach Steve Kerr has five championships to his name so his previous experience will be key.

In 2010 LeBron James shocked the basketball world and announced he would be leaving Cleveland to join the Miami Heat in a quest to win a title. James spent four years with the Heat going to the finals every year and collecting two titles along the way.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Under the guidance of Heat GM and Heat guard Dwyane Wade, LeBron learnt what it takes to win a championship and decided to take what he learnt back to his home team and bring them a championship. LeBron James is hands down the most marketable athlete in the world, probably one of if not the most loved and probably one of if not the most hated. LeBron's legacy of greatness is on the line, he is always compared to Michael Jordan who went a perfect 6-0 in NBA finals. LeBron is currently 2-3, another finals loss and many will question LeBron's greatness, however he wins and brings Cleveland a title he will be right back in the discussion.

This is where the legacy debate rolls in against a future dynasty we will see with Golden State. As I said earlier they were the surprise team this season, people expected this from the Warriors three seasons down the road not right now and also this team and no Finals experience, which their lack of experience was noticeable in games four+five against Houston.

Both these teams played twice during the regular season with both teams winning a game each. This will be the first NBA finals since 1999 that won't feature either the Los Angeles Lakers, San Antonio Spurs or the Miami Heat we have a new generation of teams and players coming through. What intrigues me more about this matchup is off the court both coaches (Steve Kerr – Warriors and David Blatt – Cavaliers) are both rookie coaches in the NBA, Kerr came right out if broadcasting had never coached a day in his life and Blatt was a successful coach in Israel.

I hate to admit this but I said at the start of the season Cleveland would not win the title party cause I was disappointed that LeBron left Miami and for the first half of the season I was right, 19-20 record they looked awful. Two trades later they went off. Looking at the numbers, statistics and even the bookies Golden State Warriors are favourites to win which surprised me considering everything I said. But as I love my statistics I'm going to go with what they say. I'm backing the Golden State Warriors in seven games. NBA finals start this Friday, I'm looking forward to it.

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Tony Feasey with Sir Peter.



Yvonne and Derek enjoying their day at the Warriors.



Dave from Grab a Seat and Bert Ricketts who we sang happy birthday to



Dr Tom who brought along 30 other doctors.



Game Day Ambassadors for the Vodafone Warriors.



Westie Jack with Sir Peter. Bit of a hard case Jack.



Jim Doyle MD of Auckland Warriors addresses the Mad Butcher lounge.



John Palavi, Thomas Leuluai, Matt Allwood with Noah and Rylie.



John Palavi, Thomas Leuluai, Mathew Allwood.



Monty Betham, Willie Swann and Stacey Jones.



Monty Betham with Mad Butcher while Willie Swann looks on..



Lorraine McKee drew Ben Matilino to be the First Try scorer. Courtesy of the TAB.



Pia from Finland guest of Don Graham with Sir Peter.



Nat Upchurch and Lance Hadfield from Waihake Island..



Noah Thomas and Rylie Gulliver.



Mt Smart Rocket Brendan Watson his son Keaton with Jim Doyle and Jim's wife Jo and daughter Teri.



President of Otahuhu Club Graeme Snookes.



Rebecca with Sir Peter.



Pete the pom with his new mate.



Sir Peter with Thomas Leuluai.



Lorna and Dexter were both happy with the win on Sunday.



Steve the AEG insurance agent.



Thomas Leuluai talking to Rylie.



Tom Sharplin singing.



Dale and Mark Rayner from Tauranga won their visit to the lounge through the Mad Butchers newsletter draw..



Dave and Marie MacDonald from Hamilton won tickets and their visit to the lounge through the Mad Butchers newsletter draw..



Tonight's Guests:

NIALL WILLIAMS

NZ Touch

MITA GRAHAM

NZ Touch

HARRY NGATA

Former All White

GREG SMITH

Black Ferns Coach

VICTORIA SUBRITZKI

Black Fern



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If you know any one down this way let them know I'm in town this Saturday night. I will be supporting the local school. No im not getting paid its just me supporting the kids

Image provided by: <http://www.photosport.co.nz>

Sir Peter Leitch "The Mad Butcher"

Date:

Saturday 6th June, 2015

Time:

Doors Open at 7pm

Seated by 7:30pm

Venue:

Stratford High School Hall

Cost:

\$30 per person

Auction of sports memorabilia and donated goods

Light supper provided

Beverages available for purchase

Taxis arranged

Eftpos available

Tickets on sale from the Stratford High School Student Office, the Stratford Information Centre or by emailing kd@stratfordhigh.school.nz

Please Note:

This event is restricted to those 16 years and over
Content contains explicit language

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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 13 ISSUE...

Halfway mark of 2015 – we reveal the best in each position from across the competition

FEATURES

- Opinions are everywhere these days, so we crunched the numbers to determine who's been a standout in each position so far this season and have created a 2015 dream team... to date;
- Everyone is asking **Moses Mbye** the same questions, but the young Bulldogs playmaker is happy to bide his time, learn from the best and knows he'll cement that spot one day;
- He's a defensive workhorse but **Nathan Peats** is working hard on his overall game, including his leadership, with the aim of captaining the club one day;
- You can hear many of the same stories about rugby league players, but **Dylan Walker's** family history goes a long way to explaining where his drive and determination come from;
- The **Warriors** face the toughest road trip in rugby league this weekend and they've pulled out all the stops to make sure they leave Perth with a win for the first time;

PLUS... **Greg Alexander** puts the line through some teams for season 2015; **Matt Elliott** explains why this period of the season is the make or break time for many; **Nathan Brown** names his five most influential players of 2015.

AND: Official team lists, Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of South Sydney v Warriors, lower grade reviews, News: Jason Nightingale's future still in the air, Aaron Woods top of the props, Adam Docker's long road to recovery, Chris Sandow's supporters; Top 8 contract dramas; and Origin I poster and full match review from Game One; Broncos cheerleaders.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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The Newsletter Team

Here is the team that help me make the newsletter each week. Between us we make the newsletter happen - and like everything it's a team effort.



Sir Peter Leitch
Editor



David Kemeys
Editor at Large



Hayden Woodhead
Graphic Designer



John Deaker
Correspondent



John Coffey
Southern
Correspondent



Barry Ross
Australian
Correspondent



Ben Francis
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